

Update from Surrey Police

T/Chief Constable

Nick Ephgrave



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Domestic abuse is one of the most corrosive crimes within our society, yet still remains under-reported. New legislation now exists which widens the definition of domestic abuse and earlier this month, I had the privilege of closing the 'Understanding Coercive Control' event in Dorking, which featured a presentation by Professor Evan Stark.

Professor Stark was directly responsible for developing the definition of 'coercive and controlling behaviour', that now closes a gap in the law, allowing us to tackle perpetrators for a repeated pattern of abusive controlling behaviour that can be as damaging to a victim as a single violent incident.

We can and will get to grips with this crime and so domestic abuse will remain a continuing high priority for me and my officers. We will be launching our next awareness campaign on 24th May, aimed at increasing reporting and understanding of coercive and controlling behaviour. The campaign will launch with an event at Sandown Racecourse, called 'Behind Closed Doors'. The event features some influential speakers, as well as a powerful dramatisation depicting the unfolding of an abusive relationship.

It is not to be missed, so please register your place here and encourage members of your staff and networks to attend.

T/Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave

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National award winners

I am delighted to report that Surrey Police, Surrey Fire & Rescue Service and South East Coast Ambulance Service have won national recognition for their partnership working, taking the 'working together' gold award at the annual Improvement and Efficiency Awards, which celebrate new ways of working across the public sector. The judges commended Surrey's emergency services for innovative, ongoing projects aimed at better serving communities while ensuring maximum value for money. **These include:**

- In 2015 Surrey Fire & Rescue responded to over 600 incidents where SECAMB needed help getting into a property – for example where there was a critically ill person unable to open their door – a role that we used to fulfil. This initiative is not only freeing our officers up for policing tasks, but it is also saving on boarding up costs as our SFRS colleagues have access to more specialist equipment which enables them to gain entry, often without causing damage.
- SFRS colleagues are now able to work with us on searching for high risk missing people, making use of their thermal imaging equipment where needed.
- Firefighters are also taking part in a co-responding scheme whereby they can give medical help to patients while an ambulance is on its way. Firefighters participating in the scheme are trained in giving some emergency care and carry kit including defibrillators.

This collaborative work is continuing and together we are exploring a range of further options.

Managing protest at Horse Hill

Some of you may be aware that over the last couple of months there has been significant protest at Horse Hill about the shale and gas exploration occurring on the Horley site.

This has created additional demand on our operational resources. Since the end of January, between 30 and 40 officers have been deployed each day at the site, facilitating legal protest whilst intervening where criminality is occurring.

The local policing team have been speaking with local residents and businesses and are happy to be contacted if people have any questions or concerns. At this stage, a number of protestors have been arrested at the site for offences such as obstructing the highway, resisting arrest and criminal damage. Officers have also had to deal with difficult situations where offenders have climbed on top of tankers entering the site.

We are continuing to do our best to balance the different rights, needs and wishes of everyone involved at the Horse Hill site and will keep officers in the area for as long as they are needed.

Operational successes

Here is this month's round up of just some of our operational successes:

- A Guildford man has been sentenced to 14 years imprisonment for a brutal attack on a vulnerable man. The attack left the victim with a 14cm scar across his throat and neck and severe mental trauma.
- A man has been charged with three assaults on lone women in the Guildford area after detectives trawled CCTV images to identify the offender, subsequently tracking him down and effecting an arrest.
- In another result linked to CCTV, a review of footage around an alleyway by Woodbridge Road led to a possible identification of a sexual assault suspect. We identified the same person had previously been stopped for unrelated reasons by Response officers who had taken his full details. He was swiftly arrested and charged with two sexual assaults.
- The dogged determination of officers led to a Registered Sex Offender being successfully tracked down for breaching the conditions his Sexual Offences Prevention Order. He was duly arrested and it transpired that the woman he was staying with was unaware that he was a Registered Sex Offender.
- A man has been imprisoned for seven years for causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink. Jason Taylor admitted causing the death of a cyclist in East Molesey, two counts of driving while disqualified and two counts of driving while uninsured. In addition to the prison sentence he was disqualified from driving for nine years.
- A prison sentence has also been handed out to a man who flouted a driving ban just hours after being convicted of a drug-driving offence. He found himself back in court two hours after his original sentencing and was sentenced to 24 weeks in prison and a driving ban increased from 12 to 28 months.
- Two men have been charged with 25 counts of burglary across Surrey and Kent between September and December 2015. High value items were stolen during the crime spree, including jewellery, electrical items and vehicles.

Key diary dates

Behind Closed Door Conference: 24 May



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