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Update from Surrey Police Chief Constable Lynne Owens



Issue 37: July 2015

June was a busy month for us, policing three high profile events for the county: the Epsom Derby, Magna Carta anniversary and Armed Forces day. The three events passed off without major issue and I was particularly proud when one of our Guildford PCSOs and one of our Youth Affairs Officers were presented with their HM Armed Forces Veteran Badges by the Prime Minister.

With summer holidays upon us there will be some well-deserved time off for many of the officers and staff who worked extra hours during June, but I am very conscious that the work needs to continue regardless to keep the county safe, as you can see from the snapshot of operational activity below. In the meantime, for those of you taking a break I hope you have a relaxing one, and don't forget to give us a bit of help by making sure you leave everything secure whilst you are away!

Lynne Owens

A focus on custody

This month Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) published a very positive report on police custody in Surrey reflecting the amount of work that we do to provide the best possible levels of care for detainees. A significant focus for the Force has been working to ensure that police custody is not used as a 'secure A&E' for children or those in mental health crisis. You'll be aware from my previous updates that we have been undertaking a lot of work in this area and have seen progress, but of course we remain reliant on partners in providing the necessary accommodation and services.

Scrutiny of this important area will continue, with the Home Secretary announcing last week that she is launching a national independent review into deaths and serious incidents in custody. One of the areas that the review will consider is the availability and effectiveness of mental health facilities to avoid vulnerable people being taken to police custody when they need crisis mental health care. I hope that the findings of this review will recognise our collective hard work to address these issues, as well as the compassion, care and determination of our custody teams.

Body worn cameras

Thank you to those of you who have taken the time to give me your opinions about body worn cameras. The majority of respondees are in favour of us adopting this technology, while some of you expressed mixed views, particularly regarding the prospect of filming in people's homes and what happens if the cameras have not been switched on in time to capture a full incident. I am

still keen to gather as many views as possible before I report on my recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner, so please email campaigns@surrey.pnn.police.uk by Friday, 7 August. As a reminder of some of the key issues around body worn cameras, we have some information on our website [here](#).

Keeping the roads safe

Drivers who flouted the law and have been successfully brought to justice feature strongly in this month's successes after a crackdown on drink and drug-drivers resulted in 65 motorists being charged. A further 31 people who were arrested for drink or drug-related driving offences were bailed pending further inquiries needing to be made. In total 110 people were arrested for these offences throughout June, compared to 91 in the same month last year. As in the December campaign, to help deter offending we proactively released the names of those who were charged.

Some of the most notable drink-drive cases included:

- A cab driver, who gave a reading of nearly four times the drink-drive limit, has been disqualified for three years. A roadside breath test gave a reading so high that he was initially admitted to St Peter's Hospital for assessment. Following his release into custody, some six hours after he had been stopped, he gave a reading of 134mg - the legal limit being 35mg. He was also given a 20-week prison sentence suspended for 12 months and a 12 month supervision order. He was ordered to pay court costs of £87, a victim surcharge of £80 and a criminal court charge of £150.
- Another drink-driver who crashed at the Hindhead Tunnel, causing a road worker to run to safety, has been disqualified for two years. He was also fined £900 and ordered to pay a £60 victim surcharge and £620 costs.
- A 21-year-old was charged with drink driving, dangerous driving, driving while disqualified and without a licence, and assault after he rammed one of our officer's cars while attempting to get onto the A23. He was banned from driving for a year and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £100 and a criminal courts charge of £90. Having rammed the police vehicle and driven his car at the officer the man ran off, but was tracked down with the help of our National Dog Trials champion Police Dog Chester and his handler PC Graham Lightfoot.
- A woman who crashed in Dunsfold after drinking half a bottle of wine during a drive from Exeter has been banned from driving for two years. She was also ordered to carry out 120 hours of unpaid work, pay £85 court costs, a £60 victim surcharge and a £150 criminal courts charge.

Operational successes

Other examples of how we have pursued offenders and kept the Surrey public safe this month include:

- A London man has been sentenced to life, with a minimum term of 23 years, after being found guilty of the murder of 24-year-old Daniel Sommerville during a violent altercation in Guildford in February.
 - Activating a speed camera on the M25 in Surrey on three successive days landed a Maidstone woman with a six month driving ban, 18 points on her licence, a £500 fine for each offence, £620 costs and a £50 victim surcharge. From the outset the woman had been evasive and obstructive and had been warned that her failure to co-operate would result in a more severe penalty.
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- A man has been found guilty and sentenced to eight years in prison for the manslaughter of Richard Stroud in Guildford earlier this year. Mr Stroud was assaulted outside the Guildford City Social Club and subsequently sadly died.
- Taking a moped without consent, a knife point robbery, possession with intent to supply Class A drugs and a theft from the Co-op in Farncombe were admitted by persistent offender Daniel Durrant, who has been given a 22-month prison sentence.
- Multiple drug-related offences – including possession with intent to supply Class A and B drugs and possession of Class A, B and C drugs – have led to a 45 month prison sentence for an Aldershot woman. This follows numerous stop checks as well as drugs warrants executed at a Farnham address.
- Dene Frederick Searle, who assaulted a man in Redhill before stealing his headphones, £50 cash and a sports bag has been sentenced to 30 months' imprisonment.
- Officers successfully tracked down a man in Chertsey who had breached the strict conditions of his release licence, then failed to appear at North Surrey Magistrates Court, just days after an arrest warrant was issued. He had previously been sentenced to 20 months imprisonment in August 2014 after pleading guilty to having an offensive weapon and possession of a prohibited weapon in Surrey and to driving and vehicle offences in Kent.

Key diary dates

- Ride London: 1 & 2 August

For details of Neighbourhood Panel meetings, Police Surgeries and 'Meet the Beat' sessions in your neighbourhood, visit our [website](#)

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