

Update from Surrey Police Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave

August 2017



In my previous bulletins I have made it very clear the importance Surrey Police place on visible local policing but I thought I'd take the opportunity in this month's bulletin to give you a glimpse into some of the areas that may not be as visible to you but which are also a critical part of how we keep you safe.

Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave



Putting the intelligence in crime fighting

To track down any type of gang or criminal network or to provide fast time information to rescue someone at risk of harm will normally require some type of research and this is where our highly specialist analysts come in.

A good example is our 24/7 team who search for and normally find that golden nugget of information that cracks a case:

- We were asked to help another Force dealing with a nasty aggravated burglary involving someone being attacked with a hammer and badly hurt. We were able to find the location of the offenders and when officers arrived they also found the axe, some CCTV and a gun.
- On another case the team used suspects' mobile phones and car number plates details to collect data to identify three suspects of a stranger-rape to be identified and arrested. Whilst in a different stranger-rape case we only had a very basic description of someone living in an area of about 40 properties. Our analyst worked to produce a shortlist of three potential people which led to a successful arrest.

Tackling serious and organised crime

We have a number of operations running to make sure that criminals from London can't get away with coming into Surrey to commit crime.

A recent success was an investigation by the Serious and Organised Crime Unit into a crime group trying to deal a range of drugs into North Surrey. The investigation team used overt and covert policing tactics to disrupt the group leading to the arrest and imprisonment of five men for a number of drug supply offences. The operation seized drugs, money and a 'stun gun' disguised as an iPhone. Now they are locked up we are undertaking a financial investigation so we can confiscate what they earned from their drug dealing and ensure crime doesn't pay.

Stopping exploitation

Specialist Crime officers held a day of action in response to potential sexual exploitation within two brothels in Woking. On entering, women in both premises were spoken to by our officers and charity partners, and signposted to support that can be offered.

Following the money

Sometimes one operation leads to another and in this case one that demonstrates the changing face of crime, the rise in fraud offences and the use of technology to try to evade law enforcement.

On responding to a kidnap Major Crime officers discovered a cannabis factory and seized a significant amount of money. The investigation was then taken on by the Economic Crime Unit who discovered many fraudulently obtained bank accounts, and assets secured in safety deposit boxes, and bitcoin accounts. The suspect is currently awaiting trial.

Protecting you online so you aren't vulnerable offline

'Ethical intervention' is a new process being developed by the Cyber Crime Unit that looks to protect a victim of stalking, harassment, or domestic abuse by working with the victim to ensure their digital persona is a safe as can be, and not vulnerable to being exploited by perpetrators who want to find them.

An example of how this has been put into practice is a Surrey case where the victim had been physically tracked and confronted by the perpetrator in Surrey, Tehran, Glasgow, and most recently in Surrey for a second occasion. The Cyber team has worked with the victim to ensure her online profile is as secure as can be to prevent the offenders accessing information from it or abusing her via it.

Looking ahead to emerging threats

Crime keeps changing and we are making sure we evolve to meet the new challenges. My July bulletin had a focus on organised immigration crime and we continue to tackle this growing area with our partners. We are seeing some positive successes both in disrupting those exploiting the vulnerable and in leading the national approach to policing these threats.

There are many other really fascinating parts of our response to protecting Surrey that I would love to share with you but which would undermine the effectiveness of what we do if I did, but hopefully this bulletin gives you a small snapshot of the very many ways we are working across different local and centrally based teams to keep you safe.

Operational Successes

More great results to share with you in addition to those I've described in the sections above this month:

- Another good example of where we are stopping criminals coming into Surrey to offend is the sentencing of an Albanian drug dealer this month for four and a half years imprisonment as part of our crack down on cross border drug dealing. He tried to pretend he was Portuguese when we stopped him, as he thought he might confuse us and not get caught out, but when he couldn't understand Portuguese he gave himself away!
- A burglary gang has pleaded guilty and been sentenced to almost 28 years in jail for a string of high value offences across Surrey and Sussex. They stole in the region of £600,000 of items from seven different homes.
- Our crack down on burglars continues to see success with a Farnham man being sentenced to three years and four months in prison after he pleaded guilty to two burglaries in Ash and Eashing, with him asking for 13 others across Farnham, Woking and Farnborough to be taken into consideration by the judge.



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