

Update from Surrey Police T/Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave

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Surrey safer*

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If we are to make Surrey the safest it can be, we all have a part to play. In the words of the founder of modern policing, Sir Robert Peel: “the police are the public and the public are the police – the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen”. Recent events have really emphasised this to me....

T/Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave

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The public are the police

The most obvious example of this in action is the recent Police and Crime Commissioner election, when almost a quarter of a million Surrey residents turned out to vote, with victory going to David Munro as the person to set the priorities for the Force and hold it to account. This choice will shape policing in Surrey for the next four years, so congratulations and best of luck to David in his new and critical role.

At the opposite end of the spectrum many people directly contribute to policing on a regular basis, either as volunteers in a variety of roles within the Force or as Special Constables who work alongside our full time officers. Look out for the opportunities we will be promoting in June during National Volunteers Week about how you and your staff can get involved more.

The public also help us enormously though responding to our witness appeals. Just last month important witnesses – one to a violent assault and another to a collision on the A3 – came forward following our appeals. Public engagement is also critical when we ask for support in finding missing people. People calling in to report sightings can make the difference between us finding people alive or dead.

Maybe less obviously, the importance of public participation in the criminal justice system should not be underestimated. Justice cannot be done without the willing support of the public, not simply as victims, but as witnesses and jurors. From providing statements to giving evidence in court to weighing the evidence, we rely on the public to play their part in helping us to bring offenders to justice.

The final area in which the public have a crucial role to play is preventing crime and protecting vulnerable people. One mum fed back to us that she saw our recent communications about online grooming and realised she didn't know what her nine-year-old was doing online. As a result of the campaign she checked and found her child was communicating with people she shouldn't have been and was able to intervene before any harm could be done. What a great example of where all of us can personally take crime prevention advice and make a real difference.

So please help Sir Robert Peel's words resonate in Surrey by sharing our messages within your organisation, working with us in our protection and prevention activity and encouraging your staff to be actively involved and engaged. We really appreciate the difference your support can bring.

Summer of sport

Next month sees us enter a busy time of year for summer sporting events in Surrey with the Epsom Derby in early June, followed by Ride London-Surrey in July. The event organisers have the responsibility for the security and safety of the events, with police there primarily in a supporting role. As you'd expect we will be asking everyone to remain vigilant during these significant events and play their part in helping make sure they all run safely.

If you are interested in finding out more please follow the communications from the organisers to keep up-to-date with how these events may impact you and your organisation.

Operational successes

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

- A sentence of 28 years behind bars has been handed down to a Guildford man for sexual offences against children over two decades. He was found guilty of 31 counts of rape and sexual assault on four young girls who were aged between three and 23 when the offences took place. The man has also been put on the sex offenders register for life and has a permanent restraining order.
- A sentence of six years and six months in prison was given to a Slough man for the rape of a woman in Virginia Water last year. The man had taken advantage of his position of trust as a taxi driver when he assaulted the victim in his car.
- Thanks to the hard work of many officers and staff in East Surrey a high risk missing teenager who was at risk of child sexual exploitation was successfully located in London and placed in police protection. Arrests have been made for child abduction and enquiries are ongoing.
- A man who conned vulnerable people out of tens of thousands of pounds has been jailed for three years. Supposedly assisting disabled people with collecting money owed as a result of unfair dismissal claims, he conned his victims out of huge sums, having a devastating effect on their lives.
- Four convicted criminals have had to hand back over £170,000 obtained by illegal means following confiscation and forfeiture orders made under the Proceeds of Crime Act. The four had pleaded guilty to fraud and money laundering offences. These orders are often the final piece of the jigsaw following convictions and mean that victims are compensated in part for their losses.
- A teenage driver has been sentenced to five years imprisonment for causing death by dangerous driving following a fatal collision on the A24 in Capel in 2015. He has also been disqualified from driving for five years and will face an extended re-test.
- Another driver has been given a 16-month jail sentence following a fatal collision on the M3 near Sunbury-on-Thames. He had pleaded guilty to causing death by driving without due care and attention at an earlier hearing. He was also disqualified from driving for three years and will have to take an extended driving test before being allowed to get back behind the wheel.

Key diary dates

National Volunteers Week:

1 to 12 June

EU Referendum:

23 June

Prudential Ride London-Surrey:

30 to 31 July

Epsom Derby:

3 to 4 June

Euro 2016:

10 June to 10 July



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