

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)**

**DATE: 22 MARCH 2019**

**LEAD OFFICER: INSPECTOR 3042 GARY SMITH**

**SUBJECT: OVERVIEW OF POLICING IN WAVERLEY**

**DIVISION: ALL DIVISIONS IN WAVERLEY**



**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This report is designed to provide an overview of the current policing picture in the Borough of Waverley.

By no means does it cover all issues faced across the Borough, but provides an overview of crime trends, current issues faced and of ambitions around policing the Borough moving forward.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked:**

- (i) To note the overview of policing in Waverley, for information.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

The Committee is asked to note the report which will enable committee members to gain an overview of policing in Waverley.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

Waverley has historically been one of the Safest Boroughs in one of the safest Counties in England and Wales, and this remains the case today.

Modern day policing faces a number of challenges and Surrey Police has developed a clear policing style that manages the demands faced whilst also allowing different approaches for each of the Boroughs to meet their unique demands. This is key in ensuring that officers can address issues affecting the local community and ensures a policing focused on the neighbourhoods policed.

## 2. ANALYSIS:

Surrey Police moved to a more Borough based policing model in 2016 through the implementation of Policing in Your Neighbourhood (PIYN). This move saw a smaller dedicated Specialist Neighbourhood Team running across the 11 Boroughs, but an increased level of response officers dedicated to each Borough.

In Waverley, this means that the police presence now seen in the Borough consists of:

### **Specialist Neighbourhood Team:**

- Borough Commander
- 2 x Specialist Neighbourhood Sergeants
- 2 x Specialist Neighbourhood Constables
- 10 x Police Community Support Officers
- 1 x Youth Intervention Officer

### **Neighbourhood Patrol Team (Response):**

- 5 x NPT Sergeants
- 49 x NPT Police Constables

In addition, there are **Divisional teams** forming specialist departments managing bespoke crime investigations, such as CID, SIU and **Force Based teams** tackling issues and crimes that require specialist skillsets, such as Major Crime and the Road Policing Team.

## 3. CURRENT CRIME TRENDS:

Waverley has, as have all areas across the country, seen an increase in crime being reported. A large piece of work was undertaken at the bequest of the Home Office to ensure that a consistent approach is taken across all police forces, resulting in better recording of reported crimes.

The below analysis relates to key crime types recorded over the Financial Year to Date between April 2018 and February 2019.

### **Criminal Damage.**

This relates to damage caused to another person's property. This can include breaking a cup belonging to a partner during a domestic argument to wanton destruction of a building. Over the past year there has been an increase of 74 (10%) offences recorded in Waverley.

### **Domestic Burglary.**

Under Home Office recording rules, Domestic Burglary is defined to include break-ins to garages and sheds, in addition to the traditional concept of a house

or home being broken into. Over the report period, there has been an increase of 28 (7.7%) offences reported.

### **Drug Offences**

An additional 23 (19.8%) offences have been recorded over the report period. The presence of County Line Drug Supply chains have been a focus of the police team over the past year and many of the additional crimes are a result of tackling and disrupting an Organised Crime Group.

### **Robbery**

Waverley continues to remain one of the safest places in the Country. Whilst Robbery has increased in Waverley by a single crime, compared to last year, this is one of the least likely crimes to occur across the Borough.

### **Theft/Handling**

Theft and handling incorporates one of the biggest areas of criminality faced across the Borough, with over a thousand crimes reported. Over the report period there has been a reduction in crimes of this nature being reported across the Borough of 2.2% (or 24 offences).

### **Vehicle Crime**

Vehicle crime has seen the largest increase across the Borough, with an increase of 134 crimes being recorded (39.6%). Investigations have shown that there has been an increase in reporting interference offences through the use of remote monitoring systems and individuals travelling into the Borough and committing multiple offences over a short space of time. Cranleigh recently saw 20 offences occur over a period of an hour (none of which were reported until 6+ hours later - a suspect has been identified for these offences and the investigation is currently ongoing).

### **Violent Crime**

This incorporates crimes which have resulted in injury and violent crimes which have not resulted in injury. Nationally, there has been an increase in this crime type, with knife crime in particular now being seen as a national problem. Waverley has seen an increase in violent crime of 10.4% (185 offences); knife crime remains rare within the Borough with no increase noted in this crime type.

### **Total Notifiable Offences**

Waverley has seen an increase in reported offences over the past year of 11% equating to an increase in 528 offences being recorded.

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Whilst figures provide an oversight, it is important to put these into perspective.

Policing has evolved and continues to do so with better recording of offences by all police forces and greater willingness to report crime by the public.

It should also be noted that police activity does not solely relate to crime detection and prevention, but also incorporates other activity and officers are tasked away from this core crime orientated responsibility to undertake other work, such as ensuring the safeguarding of the most vulnerable people in society, policing protest, counter terrorism, to name a few areas of work that officers have been, and continue to be, involved in.

#### **4. POLICE ACTIVITY:**

Surrey Police and partners have, over the past year, strengthened and improved working practices, providing a more integrated approach to problem solving issues faced across the Borough.

Improved joined up work has seen a decrease over the past 12 months of Unauthorised Encampments, and those that have located in Waverley have been tackled jointly by the Police and Council to ensure the wellbeing of the people in the UE and ensuring minimal disruption to the local communities.

The introduction of a working group, chaired by Surrey Police but involving key partner agencies, has challenged the presence of Organised Crime Groups operating in the Borough and as a result of this combined approach we have reduced the influence and activities of OCGs throughout Waverley.

This is most clearly seen by the disruption of a County Line Drug Group operating in the West area of Waverley; from operating extensively in and around the Borough, this group no longer is an effective crime organisation within Surrey. This work has only been possible through a joint approach, tackling the criminal elements whilst also safeguarding people who are affected by such activity.

There has also been recognition that policing is not purely around detection of crime, and more emphasis has been placed on the prevention of crime and improving community engagement. The Specialist Neighbourhood Team (SNT):

- now has a programme of visiting schools across the Borough to work with children;
- has developed engagement events with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), known as the Safer Waverley Partnership, to improve opportunity for the community to feedback to the police and partners;
- continues to increase its visible presence within the community both in person and via social and traditional media.

#### **5. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

The nature of policing is that there will always be a need to continue evolving police activity to tackle emerging crime trends.

It is also a reality that financial implications will always affect what the police can and cannot do and Surrey Police is committed to ensure that the communities within Surrey receive the best possible service that can be provided.

In Waverley, the Borough Policing Team (SNT and NPT) will continue to ensure that officers are deployed to tackle the key problems faced in the community, placing available resources in areas where they can have the maximum impact in preventing and detecting crime, supporting the most vulnerable members of

society and providing a visible presence within the towns and villages across the Borough.

With the recent agreement to increase Police Funding from the Council Tax, the PCC outlined his ambition to double the number of officers engaged in the SNTs. If this is the case, there will be scope to not only increase the visible presence of officers across the Borough (thereby deterring criminal activity whilst also providing reassurance to the community at large) but to also increase the amount of proactive work that can be undertaken to prevent crimes occurring.

As the Borough Commander, my key ambitions for the year ahead are to:

- Continue to work with partner agencies to ensure we are tackling issues across the Borough in a joined up manner.
- Ensure we have the right distribution of officers across the Borough to tackle crime and provide help and support when we are needed.
- To maintain the safety of Vulnerable members of the Community.
- Increase the number of officers trained to tackle key issues raised by the community – such as speeding, fly tipping and Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Continue to work with Schools and Educational Establishments across the Borough to create meaningful engagement opportunities.
- Continue to tackle Organised Crime Groups with input and assistance from partners.
- Improve the visible presence of Surrey Police within the communities across the Borough.

This all falls under the overarching aim that the Waverley Borough Policing Team has:

**To ensure that Waverley is the Safest Place it can be.**

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