

# **Annual Report**

# 2022-23

# (DRAFT CONTENT FOR POLICE & CRIME PANEL CONSIDERATION)

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## **1. Introduction**

Welcome to the Annual Report for 2021/22, my second full year in office as your Police and Crime Commissioner. It has been an incredibly exciting 12 months for policing in Surrey with several key achievements which I believe will put the Force in a strong position for years to come.

### More police officers than ever before

I was overjoyed that we were able to announce that Surrey Police managed to exceed its target for extra police officers under the Government's three-year uplift programme to recruit 20,000 officers across the country.

This means that since 2019 an extra 395 officers have been added to its ranks - 136 more than the target the government had set for Surrey. This makes Surrey Police the biggest it's ever been which is fantastic news for residents!

I was very fortunate to attend an attestation ceremony at Mount Browne HQ with the final 91 new recruits joining as part of operation uplift and to wish them the best of luck before they commenced their training courses.

Surrey Police has done an amazing job recruiting the extra numbers in a tough job market and I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked so hard over the last three years to achieve this target.

That hard work does not stop here of course. As well as training and supporting these new recruits so we can get them out in our communities as soon as possible, Surrey Police face a big challenge over the next year in maintaining those extra numbers. The retention of officers and staff is one of the biggest issues policing is dealing with across the country and with Surrey being one of the most expensive places to live we are certainly not immune.

I am committed to offering whatever support my office can give in not only welcoming these new officers into the Force but also keeping them in our communities taking the fight to criminals for years to come.

## Recruitment of a new Chief Constable

One of the key roles I have as Commissioner is hiring the Chief Constable and in January this year I was delighted to appoint Tim De Meyer to the top job in Surrey Police.

Tim was selected as my preferred candidate for the post following a thorough selection process to replace his predecessor Gavin Stephens who was elected as the next head of the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC).

Tim was the outstanding candidate in a strong field during the interview process and his appointment was approved by the county's Police and Crime Panel later that same month.

Tim brings with him a wealth of experience having begun his police career with the Metropolitan Police Service in 1997 before joining Thames Valley Police in 2008 where he

rose to the rank of Assistant Chief Constable. He is already settling into the role and I have no doubt will be an inspirational and committed leader who will guide the Force into an exciting new chapter.

### More money for vital projects in Surrey

People often focus on the 'crime' side of being a Police and Crime Commissioner, but it is really important that we do not forget the amazing work my office does on the 'commissioning' side.

Since I took office in 2021, my team has helped fund vital projects that support vulnerable victims of sexual and domestic abuse, reduce violence against women and girls and prevent crime in communities across Surrey.

Our dedicated funding streams aim to increase community safety, reduce re-offending, support young people and help victims to cope and recover from their experiences.

Over the last two years my team has successfully bid for millions of pounds of extra funding from government pots to support services and charities around the county.

In total, just under £9m has been secured which has helped support many vital projects and services across the county that provide a real lifeline for some of our most vulnerable residents.

They really do make a huge difference to a wide range of people whether that be tackling anti-social behaviour in one of our communities or supporting a victim of domestic abuse in refuge who has nowhere else to turn. I am really proud of the hard work and dedication that my team puts into this – much of which happens behind the scenes.

## Improved Transparency

At a time when trust and confidence in policing has been understandably damaged by highprofile and often horrific revelations in the media, it is more important than ever that we demonstrate complete transparency to residents and a willingness to have difficult conversations.

During 2021/22 my team developed a new, first of its kind, Data Hub - to provide the public with convenient access to up-to-date local policing data in a format that can be easily understood.

The platform features more information than was previously made available from my public performance meetings with the Chief Constable, with regular updates that make it easier to understand progress and trends.

The Hub can be found on our new website that launched in October and includes information on emergency and non-emergency response times and data for specific crime types including burglary, domestic abuse and road offences. It also provides more information on Surrey Police's budget and staffing, as well as information about the work of my office.

The Data Hub can be accessed at the following web address: <u>https://data.surrey-pcc.gov.uk</u>.

I would like to thank everyone who has been in contact over the last year and I am keen to hear from as many people as possible about their views on policing in Surrey so do please keep getting in touch. I launched a monthly newsletter for residents this year which provides key monthly updates on what my office has been doing. If you want to join the growing number of people that are signing up to it - please visit: <u>Newsletter | OPCC for Surrey (surrey-pcc.gov.uk)</u>

My continued thanks go to all those who work for Surrey Police for their efforts and achievements in keeping our communities safe during 2022/23. I would also like to thank all the volunteers, charities, and organisations we have worked with and my staff in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for their help over the last year.

# 2. Year-in-Brief

April Commissioner Lisa Townsend extends vital funding for young people affected by sexual violence by three years The Commissioner condemns the actions of protesters after fuel stations on both sides of the M25 in Surrey are damaged by members of Just Stop Oil	May Extra security measures along the canal in Woking are finalised after the Commissioner's office secured £175,000 from the Home Office to improve safety The Office's new brand is launched after a total redesign is led by a student from Camberley	June Deputy Commissioner Ellie Vesey- Thomson announces dedicated funding to support and protect young people as half of the Commissioner's Community Safety Fund is ringfenced for 2022-25 The Commissioner praises 'outstanding' crime prevention but says there is room for improvement elsewhere following annual inspection of Surrey Police
July First Community Safety Assembly in Surrey is held as the Commissioner rallies over 30 organisations to improve the response to issues including mental health and anti-social behaviour Commissioner's team secures £700,000 in Safer Streets funding for additional community safety projects in Epsom, Sunbury-on- Thames and Addlestone	August The Commissioner welcomes tougher sanctions for police officers who face misconduct proceedings, including those who commit violence against women or girls Commissioner Lisa Townsend says Surrey Police were on the scene quickly as 20 more people are arrested during new Just Stop Oil protests on the M25	September Commissioner Lisa Townsend praises hundreds of officers involved in the Surrey Police and Sussex Police operation to ensure the funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is commemorated safely The Commissioner's team secures £1 million to boost education and support for young people affected by violence against women and girls through Surrey schools
October Surrey residents are invited to share views on 101 performance as project is launched with Surrey Police to improve the service they receive Commissioner Lisa Townsend says mental health takes officers off the frontline, as she calls to improve health and social care services on World Mental Health Day	November Commissioner Lisa Towns end begins her search for a new Chief Constable of Surrey Police after Gavin Stephens QPM announces move to the National Police Chiefs' Council Deputy Commissioner welcomes applications from young people as first Surrey Youth Commission on policing and crime is announced	December Commissioner Lisa Townsend joins the first volunteers as a new Animal Welfare Scheme is launched at the Surrey Police and SussexPolice Dog Training School in Guildford The Commissioner welcomes 390 participants to a series of webinars by the Surrey against Domestic Abuse Partnership to help raise awareness of the role of domestic abuse in homicide
January More than 3,000 people have their say in the Commissioner's annual council tax survey, that informs her proposed budget for Surrey Police for the year ahead Commissioner meets with new Surrey Police Vanguard team created to tackle the 'fatal five' offences on Surrey's roads	February The launch of a dedicated online Data Hub means residents can see detailed performance information that the Commissioner uses to scrutinise the Force Frontline policing is protected in Surrey after the Commissioner's proposal for the amount that residents will paytowards the Surrey Police budget is agreed by the county's Police and Crime Panel	March A partnership surveyon anti-social behaviour led by the Commissioner's Office receives over 1000 responses and 300 sign-ups to victim focus groups in 2023 Commissioner praises Surrey Police recruitment drive as Force welcome over 300 new officers since 2019, making it the biggest it has ever been

# 3. Progress Against the Police & Crime Plan

### Priority 1: Reducing violence against Women and Girls

As Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, I have made a firm commitment to combat all forms of violence against women and girls. To achieve this, my office has been collaborating closely with Surrey Police, partner agencies and local charities to bring attention to the inappropriate behaviour of some men, to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions, and to ensure that victims of these heinous crimes receive the best possible assistance and support.

#### Key achievements during 2022/23:

- Award Winning Interventions: Our unwavering focus on tackling Violence Against Women and Girls received national recognition in October 2022 when Surrey Police won the annual Tilley Award, set up by the Home Office in 1999 to celebrate problem-oriented projects that have achieved success in resolving issues faced by the police, partners and the community. The award was in recognition of work undertaken to ensure the safety of women and girls using the Basingstoke Canal in Woking, following several indecent exposures and suspicious incidents since 2019. Funding for this project was made available by my office after a successful bid to the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund.
- Targeting Perpetrators: In March my team secured £2 million in government funding to launch a ground-breaking initiative to tackle domestic abuse and stalking in the county. This innovative project involves the creation of a county-wide Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Hub, staffed by expert intervention navigators who will work together to reduce the risks faced by survivors of abuse. By targeting perpetrators early, the Hub aims to address the root causes of their behaviour and provide support to survivors and their families. Additionally, the Hub will prioritise the needs of children and young people who are already showing signs of violent or abusive behaviour in their relationships, helping to break the cycle.
- Strengthening Local Partnerships: In December I welcomed 390 participants to a sobering webinar on domestic abuse, homicide and victim support. The webinar included talks from experts including Professor Jane Monckton-Smith of the University of Gloucestershire, who spoke about the ways in which all agencies can recognise the links between domestic abuse, suicide and homicide, in order to improve the support provided to survivors of abuse and their families before harm escalates. Participants also heard from Dr Emma Katz of Liverpool Hope University, whose ground-breaking work highlights the impact of perpetrators' coercive and controlling behaviour on mothers and children. The seminar is part of a series of events I am running, focused on strengthening Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) that are carried out to identify learning to prevent new homicides or suicides in Surrey. It complements the embedding of a new process for reviews in Surrey, with the aim that every organisation understands the role they play.
- **Teacher Training:** Schools in Surrey have been invited to apply for a new teacher training programme which has been fully funded by my office. The programme commenced in March and aims to build self-confidence in children to enable them to live safe and fulfilled lives and to better recognise inappropriate behaviour. It comes

after my team secured almost £1million from the Home Office's What Works Fund. Teachers will join key partners from Surrey Police and domestic abuse services for three days of training, which will explore how best to embed these concepts within the PSHE curriculum.

• Embedding understanding of Violence Against Women & Girls: Legally Qualified Chairs (LQCs) are independent individuals who oversee police misconduct hearings. The management of LQCs is one of the roles of my office and we have begun looking at how we embed specific training around Violence Against Women and Girls into both the recruitment and CPD process.

# For further data concerning Surrey Police progress against this priority, please visit:

#### https://data.surreypcc.gov.uk/priority\_one.php?nav=plan&data=pcc&plan=1&sub=1



## Priority 2: Protecting people from harm in Surrey

Crime and fear of crime can have a long-lasting detrimental impact on a person's health and wellbeing. I am therefore committed to doing everything possible to protect children and adults from harm, placing a firm focus on understanding the experiences of victims and practitioners, listening to their voices and ensuring that feedback is acted upon.

#### Key achievements during 2022/23:

- Keeping Children Safe: This year saw the launch of the Safer Communities Programme in Surrey schools. Developed in partnership with Surrey County Council, Surrey Police and Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, the programme provides community safety education to year six pupils, aged between 10 and 11 years old. The programme includes new materials for teachers to use as part of their Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) classes, which students receive to help them stay healthy and prepare for later life. The digital teaching resources will enhance the education that young people receive on themes including keeping themselves and others safe, protecting their physical and mental health, and being a good community member. The programme is being rolled out across all Surrey boroughs and districts in 2023.
- More Police Officers: Despite a challenging recruitment market, we were able to meet the Government's Officer Uplift target. Further work is required to ensure numbers are maintained during the year ahead, but Surrey Police has made good progress, and this is helping to ensure a visible police presence on our streets. Equally, the Police and Crime Panel's agreement of my proposed precept for 2023/24 will mean Surrey Police can continue to protect frontline services, enabling policing teams to tackle those issues important to the public.
- A Renewed Focus on Mental Health Demand: This year we have been collaborating with colleagues at Surrey Police to appropriately manage policing demand related to mental health concerns, with the aim of supporting individuals in crisis and diverting them into appropriate services while only resorting to emergency

powers when necessary. We are working towards a national partnership agreement that incorporates the "Right Care, Right Person" model, which prioritises a health-led response to mental health incidents. I am in active discussions with the Deputy Chief Constable and Surrey & Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to improve the situation and ensure that individuals in crisis receive the right care and support they need.

- Reducing Violence: The UK government has committed to a programme of work to
  prevent and reduce serious violence, taking a multi-agency approach to understand
  its causes and consequences, focusing on prevention and early intervention. The
  Serious Violence Duty requires specified authorities to collaborate and plan to
  prevent and reduce serious violence, and Police and Crime Commissioners are
  encouraged to take a lead convener role for local partnership arrangements. During
  2022/23 my office has been laying the foundations for this work and will prioritise this
  in the year ahead.
- Improved Oversight of Professional Standards: Surrey has not been immune to the reputational damage caused to policing by recent, high-profile incidents in other forces. Recognising public concern, I have increased my office's oversight of our professional standards functions, and we now hold regular meetings with the Head of Professional Standards and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) to better monitor emerging complaint and misconduct data. My team also now have direct access to complaint management databases, allowing us to conduct regular dip checks on cases, with a specific focus on investigations that have exceeded 12 months.
- Police Appeal Tribunals: My team continue to manage Police Appeals Tribunals appeals against the findings of gross (serious) misconduct brought by police officers or special constables. We have been working closely with our regional colleagues to standardise processes, ensure better coordination and improve our approach to the recruitment and training of our Legally Qualified Chairs – who oversee proceedings.

# For further data concerning Surrey Police progress against this priority, please visit:

https://data.surreypcc.gov.uk/priority\_two.php?nav=plan&data=pcc&plan=2&sub=1



## Priority 3: Working with Surrey communities so that they feel safe

My commitment is to make certain that every resident feels secure within their local community. To achieve this goal, I believe in collaborating and taking early measures to address the common factors that result in individuals coming into contact with the police and the criminal justice system. This approach will aid in decreasing crime rates, anti-social behaviour and will have a positive impact on victim outcomes.

#### Key achievements during 2022/23:

- Shining a Light on Anti-Social Behaviour: In March I launched a county-wide survey in Surrey to better understand the impact and experiences of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the area. The survey was an essential component of our Anti-Social Behaviour Plan, which prioritises the views of residents and uses their feedback to improve services. The initial data is being used to support resident focus groups and to identify areas of focus for policing.
- Ensuring a Unified Response to Community Safety: In May we ran the county's first-ever Community Safety Assembly, bringing together a wide range of partner organisations from across Surrey. The event marked the launch of a new Community Safety Agreement, a shared vision of how all local agencies will work together to improve community safety, by enhancing the support for individuals affected by crime or at risk of harm, reducing inequalities and strengthening collaboration between different services.
- Meaningful Engagement with Young People: My team has worked with the organisation 'Leader's Unlocked' to establish a Youth Commission on Policing and Crime in Surrey. The Commission is made up of young people aged between 14-25yrs old, who will help my office and Surrey Police to include the priorities of children and young people in policing Surrey. It will be overseen by my Deputy Commissioner Ellie Vesey-Thompson, as part of her focus on enhancing the opportunities and support for young people in Surrey. In the last year, we have ringfenced almost half of my Community Safety Fund for this purpose and Ellie has continued to regular visit and take part in a range of activities with young people across the county.
- Making Funding Available to Communities: My Community Safety Fund supports services which improve safety in Surrey's neighbourhoods. With it we promote joint working and effective partnerships across the county. During 2022/23 we have made available almost £400,000 from this funding stream, supporting numerous community safety initiatives.

# For further data concerning Surrey Police progress against this priority, please visit:

https://data.surreypcc.gov.uk/priority\_three.php?nav=plan&data=pcc&plan=3&sub=1

# **Priority 4:** Strengthening relationships between Surrey Police and Surrey residents

My aim is for all residents to feel that their police force is visible in tackling the issues that matter to them and that they can engage with Surrey Police when they have a crime or antisocial behaviour problem, or need other police support.

#### Key achievements during 2022/23:

- Finding Solutions with the Public: In October I launched a public survey to gather resident opinions on Surrey Police's response to non-emergency calls to the 101 service. Although Surrey Police has historically been one of the best forces at answering calls quickly, staff shortages in the police Contact Centre meant that performance had started to dip. Conducting the survey was a step towards enhancing performance and ensuring that the views of residents were incorporated into work being taken forward by Surrey Police.
- Public Surgeries: As part of my commitment to enhance the voice of local people in policing I have established a regular schedule of public surgeries. Held on the first Friday of every month, these one-to-one meetings provide a valuable opportunity for me to hear feedback from residents.
- Stakeholder Engagement: I have continued to engage with various local organisations, community groups, and support services during 2022/23. This has enabled us to gain a deeper understanding of the concerns and opinions of local communities, as well as the resources accessible to victims of crime in Surrey. Additionally, my deputy has continued to undertake attachments with front-line police teams to obtain insights from officers and staff, as well as to ensure that we have a comprehensive understanding of the daily practicalities and obstacles they confront.
- **Community Meetings:** More broadly, I have been visiting communities around the Surrey to discuss the policing issues that matter most to residents. For more information, please see the dedicated Engagement section in this report, which sets out the meetings I and my Deputy have attended throughout the year.
- Open Data: I believe that residents should have access to key performance data concerning both my office and Surrey Police. As outlined, we have therefore developed an online Performance Hub to provide the public and stakeholders with convenient access to data in a format that can be easily understood, helping to improve transparency and confidence in local policing.

# For further data concerning Surrey Police progress against this priority, please visit:



https://data.surreypcc.gov.uk/priority\_four.php?nav=plan&data=pcc&plan=4&sub=1

## Priority 5: Ensuring safer Surrey roads

Surrey is home to some of the busiest stretches of motorway in the UK with significant numbers of vehicles using the county's road network every day. Road safety is understandably a significant concern for Surrey residents, and a key focus of the Police and Crime Plan.

#### Key achievements during 2022/23:

- National Role: In early 2023 I was appointed as the national lead for roads policing and transport by the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, encompassing rail and maritime travel, and road safety. I am committed to pursuing greater penalties for those who endanger lives while operating vehicles, bicycles or escooters, and will be focussing on improving the safety of transport across the country.
- New Team: I have been very pleased with Surrey's new Vanguard Road Safety Team, a newly formed unit dedicated to lowering the number of serious and fatal collisions on Surrey's roads. This team comprises two sergeants and ten PCs who utilise a combination of visible policing and unmarked vehicles to target motorists committing the 'Fatal 5' offences, which include driving under the influence of drink or drugs, distracted driving, such as using a mobile phone, careless driving, inappropriate speed, and not wearing a seatbelt. Ultimately, the emphasis is to change drivers' behaviours and reduce the number of road accidents.
- Safe Drive Stay Alive: In November I pledged over £100,000 in funding for the Safe Drive Stay Alive initiative, to support delivery until 2025. The initiative, aimed at safeguarding young drivers in the county, recently held its first live performance in three years at Dorking Halls. Since its inception in 2005, the performance has reached over 190,000 teenagers aged 16 to 19, emphasising the perils of drink and drug-driving, speeding, and distracted driving. The program features testimonies from frontline personnel of Surrey Police, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, and the South Central Ambulance Service, as well as individuals who have lost loved ones or been involved in fatal road accidents. By focusing on newer drivers who face a higher risk of accidents, Safe Drive Stay Alive aims to reduce collisions among young motorists in Surrey.
- Combatting Drink and Drug Driving: A total of 145 arrests were made in Surrey in just four weeks as part of Surrey Police's annual drink and drug drive campaign, with my Deputy undertaking an attachment with the Roads Policing team to see the work in action. Out of these, 136 arrests were made on suspicion of drink and drug driving, with the remaining 9 being for other offences such as drug possession, theft and failure to stop at the scene of a road traffic collision.

For further data concerning Surrey Police progress against this priority, please visit:

https://data.surreypcc.gov.uk/priority\_five.php?nav=plan&data=pcc&plan=5&sub=1



# 4. Commissioning of Local Services

One of the key roles of Police & Crime commissioners is commissioning projects, services, and activities geared towards promoting community safety, mitigating offending behaviour, and providing support for victims of crime, to help them manage and recover from their experiences.

During 2022/23, my office allocated almost £5.4 million in funding to fulfil these duties. A considerable portion of this budget was channelled to small-scale community charities and organisations, enabling us to offer support that aligns with the requirements of Surrey's residents and fosters local resilience.

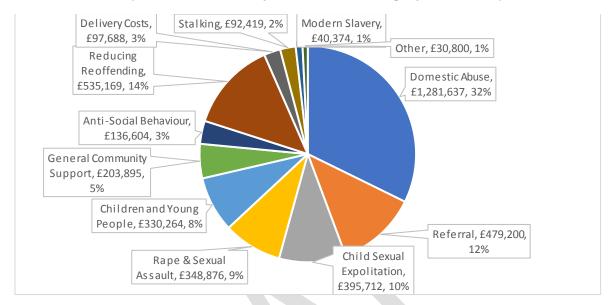
Whilst Surrey receives a fixed annual settlement from government to fund this local provision, staff in my office pursued additional funding throughout the year to extend our services, securing £2.4 million in the process.

This additional funding has allowed us to enhance the safety of women and girls through the provision of community safety initiatives, establish a local programme to address stalking and perpetrators of domestic abuse, and considerably increase the number of local Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors, thereby providing better assistance to the survivors of these horrific crimes.

A few key services funded by my office during 2022/23 include:

- Universal support for all victims of crime: The Victim and Witness Care Unit, located at Guildford Police Station, offers support to victims of crime in their recovery process by developing personalized care plans. Upon reporting a crime, all victims in Surrey are referred to the Unit, and further communication is based on individual needs and vulnerability.
- Supporting victims of domestic abuse: Surrey Domestic Abuse Services provides confidential and independent support, free of cost, to anyone affected by domestic abuse. Their staff not only offer immediate practical and emotional assistance, but also provide guidance on housing, safety planning, benefits, and the well-being of children impacted by domestic abuse. Additionally, they aid in accessing safe refuge accommodation.
- Supporting Children and Young People: A good proportion of our funding supports
  projects which help children and young people to lead safe and fulfilling lives and
  protect them from harm. These include the 'Active Surrey Friday Night Projects',
  which offer drop-in sessions for young people aged 11-18 who have had limited
  opportunity to take part in sport and physical activity before, as well as the 'Step OUT
  to Step IN project', which is a sports-based initiative for young people at risk of
  offending or engaged in anti-social behaviour.
- **Reducing re-offending:** We regularly award funding to reduce the risk of future offending behaviour. One such service to benefit is the 'Amber Foundation', which provides accommodation and support to transform the lives of young people aged 17-30. Their residential training programme works with marginalised young people to get their lives back on track and move on to sustainable and independent futures that are free from crime.

When it comes to the use of public money, the PCC wants the public to have confidence funding is allocated fairly, transparently and services provide good value for money. To support this, we continue to make available live funding data on our website, allowing the public to understand our key areas of investment and the organisations in receipt of funding. Longer term funding trends can also be found on our Data Hub.



#### The chart below provides a summary of commissioning by area of expenditure:

\*This chart currently only includes core commissioning budgets. We will review how best to present the data and likely update for final publication of the annual report.

#### The table below provides a summary of our various funding streams during 2022/23:

Additional funding secured through competitive bids to Government				
Home Office Safer Streets Fund	£610,570			
Home Office Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls and Supporting Children – What Works Fund	£237,508 (a total of £1m was secured for 3 years and this reflects the first-year allocation)			
Perpetrator Interventions Fund	£502,600			
Uplift funding for domestic abuse and sexual violence services, including Independent Advisors	£1,053,972			
Grant allocation from Central Government				
Ministry of Justice Victims Fund 22/23	£1,509,979.15			
Police and Crime Commissioner Funds				
Reducing Re-offending Fund	£270,000			
Community Safety Fund	£383,000			
Children and Young People Fund	£275,000			
Commissioner's budget	£530,000			

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# 5. Surrey Police Overview

[INFOGRAPHIC DETAILING A TYPICAL DAY FOR SURREY POLICE TO BE INCLUDED IN FINAL PUBLISHED DOCUMENT. TO INCLUDE DAILY CRIME VOLUMES, CALLS ANSWERED ETC]

### Surrey Police Inspections

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) independently assesses the effectiveness and efficiency of police forces and fire & rescue services.

As Police & Crime Commissioner, I provide a response to all HMICFRS inspections relating to Surrey Police, and these can be viewed on our Data Hub, along with the original report and any recommendations.

To view all recent HMICFRS inspection reports and my accompanying response please use the following link:

https://data.surreypcc.gov.uk/inspections.php?nav=inspections&data=police



# 6. Engagement

When I was elected in May 2021, I promised to keep the views of residents at the heart of my plans for policing in Surrey.

Over the last year, I've been out and about in our communities to hear your views and concerns in local meetings and through my regular surgery sessions available to residents. My Deputy Commissioner and I have engaged with a wide variety of partners, the public and members of Surrey Police on the beat and during special operations, at events and training days, at clubs, in prison, on farms and in a variety of other places too.

During the winter, I consulted with you again on the amount that you would be prepared to pay from your council tax to maintain improvements to the service that Surrey Police provide – receiving over 3,000 responses and 1,600 comments that will continue to shape the service you receive. Earlier in the year, my office also supported the consultation by Surrey Police on 101 performance.

My team have continued to update people with my latest news, attracting many new followers on social media and introducing a brand-new newsletter that includes more information on what my office has been up to each month.

I've been regularly featured by local and national media, speaking on the key issues that affect our communities such as trust in policing, Violence Against Women and Girls and the policing of protests that have used illegal means to disrupt everyday life.

My team has also worked hard to make the information about my role and the work of the office easier to find and understand, with a complete redesign of the website. Created to be much more accessible, the website can now be translated into over 200 languages and adjusted for a variety of needs.

<b>1,918</b> Emails and phone calls received, with 92.47% of issues respond to within 1 working day.	<b>34</b> Freedom of Information requests responded to	<b>7</b> Public Surgeries held
<b>137</b> Formal Complaint Reviews Conducted	<b>30k</b> Visits to the PCC website	<b>813</b> Unique users of the new PCC Data Hub (since Dec 2022)
<b>150</b> Media appearances	<b>24</b> Resident meetings attended by the PCC or DPCC	<b>4,712</b> Responses to PCC surveys, including the Council Tax consultation.
7 Formal responses to HMICFRS inspections	800 New followers on social media	<b>20</b> PCC & DPCC attachments with front-line Police teams

# 7. Volunteering

Our vibrant volunteering programme includes members of Surrey's communities from diverse backgrounds who collectively offer their valuable knowledge, skills, and experience to the Force and OPCC.

Young people can join the policing family from as young as 13 as a volunteer police cadet, from the age of 16 as a police support volunteer and the age of 18 as a special constable (or volunteer police officer). With no upper age limit for volunteering, many of the Force's volunteers have a long service history and their commitment and contribution are hugely valued.

### **ICV Scheme**

Our Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) have continued to provide an essential service in the county over the last year by giving up their time to check on the welfare and treatment of people held in custody.

Currently 38 Surrey residents are involved in the ICV scheme, and during 2022/23 they volunteered over 404 hours of their time visiting custody on 172 separate occasions. During these random visits, the ICVs directly checked on the welfare of 725 detainees, ensuring their rights and entitlements (as laid out in law) were being met and the conditions in which they were held satisfactory.

During 2022/23, over 92% of all visits witnessed either very minor or no issues requiring further action. Minor issues can include finding an out-of-date food item in a cupboard or slight disorganisation of a store cupboard.

The more serious 8% of issues raised by ICV volunteers related to challenges custody suites have faced due to staffing shortages, and these have subsequently been thoroughly followed up by the with Surrey Police to put in place improved custody management processes.

The management and oversight of the scheme is a statutory responsibility of my office, and our ICVs are entirely independent from the police and come from a variety of backgrounds and sections of the community.

Throughout the year we welcome applications from anyone interested in volunteering for this scheme who is over the age of 18 and lives, studies or works in Surrey. For more information please visit: <a href="https://www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk/performance/independent-custody-visiting/">https://www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk/performance/independent-custody-visiting/</a>

## Special Constables (Volunteer Police Officers)

The Special Constabulary has continued to provide crucial support to policing teams across Surrey over the last year. Surrey's special constables collectively volunteered over 42,000 hours in 2022/3. Most special constables are integrated within Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Safer Neighbourhood Teams, providing valuable support to help ensure their communities are safe and feel safe. In addition to these core roles, special constables also volunteer in specialist areas such as roads policing, drone piloting, public order and professional standards.

## **Police Support Volunteers**

Police support volunteers can be found within policing teams across the county and the Force continues to develop new opportunities. During the last year, Surrey Police has welcomed new volunteers into roles including vehicle maintenance, safer neighbourhoods, fraud prevention, chaplaincy and the newly formed ethics committee. The Community Events Team of volunteers continues to provide a police presence at events across Surrey, providing positive engagement with communities.

## Volunteer Police Cadets

Surrey's Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme offers young people a safe environment in which they can learn new skills, develop positive relationships with the police and actively support their community. Young people from any background are welcomed into the scheme, including those who may have previously been in trouble with the police or may feel disconnected from their peers or community.

Cadets commit to a programme of learning and volunteering activity within their communities. Over the last year, cadets have supported charity, community and policing events across the county and have continued to support police-led test purchase operations by attempting to purchase age-restricted items such as knives and alcohol.

### Work Experience

Over the last year, the Force has offered short-term volunteering options such as work experience and placements which provide a unique insight into policing. Due to the popularity and success of these opportunities, they will be integrated into the Force's volunteering programme in the future.

# 8. Strategic Policing Requirement

### Statement

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out those threats which, in the Home Secretary's view, are the biggest threat to public safety and must be given due regard by Police & Crime Commissioners when issuing or varying Police and Crime Plans.

It supports PCCs as well as Chief Constables to plan, prepare and respond to these threats by clearly linking the local response to the national, highlighting the capabilities and partnerships that policing needs to ensure it can fulfil its national responsibilities.

A revised version of the SPR was published in February 2023 which provided strengthened detail around the action required from policing at the local and regional level to the critical national threats.

The 2023 SPR sets out seven identified national threats. These are as follows:

- Violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- Terrorism
- Serious and organised crime
- National cyber incidents
- Child sexual abuse
- Public disorder
- Civil emergencies

These remain from the 2015 version with the addition in 2023 of VAWG, reflecting the threat it presents to public safety and confidence.

Given this annual report is for the year April 2022 to March 2023, I have not responded in detail to the revised SPR due to the timing of its publication. However, as Police and Crime Commissioner, I am confident I have given due regard to the six threat areas identified in the previous SPR in my Police and Crime Plan, and in my role holding my Chief Constable to account. VAWG, while not previously contained in the SPR, nonetheless is a key focus of my Police and Crime Plan and has seen significant focus during 2022/23.

# 9. Contact Us

If you have any comments on this Plan or would like to know more about the work of the Commissioner, please contact:

surreypcc@surrey.police.uk 01483 630200

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner PO Box 412 Guildford Surrey GU3 1BR surrey-pcc.gov.uk facebook.com/SurreyPCC twitter.com/SurreyPCC instagram.com/surreypcc instagram.com/deputypcc

To sign up to the In the Know community message system, visit in <u>https://theknow.community</u>

For police news, crime prevention advice, help for victims of crime and ways to contact Surrey Police please visit <u>https://surrey.police.uk</u>

Always call 999 if you have a genuine emergency requiring the attendance of the police or if a crime is in progress. Call Surrey Police on 101 or use the online reporting system at <a href="https://surreypolice.uk/contact-us">https://surreypolice.uk/contact-us</a> for non-emergency matters only.

If you are hard of hearing or speech impaired, you can textphone Surrey Police on 18001 101 (non-emergency) or 18000 (emergency) or text on 07967 987249 or 999 (register at emergencysms.org.uk)

To report crime anonymously - call CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111

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