Surrey Police tackling drug-dealers

Surrey Police marked **County Lines Intensification Week** (3-9 October) by targeting and disrupting violent county lines gangs and engaging with those most vulnerable to exploitation by these criminals.

The intensification week, which is run nationally, aims to make life as difficult as possible for members of county line gangs, who often use violence and intimidation to exploit children and the vulnerable and to force them to store and 'run' drugs for them.

Over the week, officers focused on visiting local communities to raise awareness of the signs of exploitation and what to do if you think a loved one is at risk. They carried out 31 cuckooing prevention visits, safeguarded 40 vulnerable adults, engaged with over 460 people at local community events, and completed almost 120 prevention and education visits at secondary schools, taxi firms, leisure centres and youth groups.

A total of 11 people were also arrested for various drugs offences, 76 people were proactively stopped and searched, over 250 wraps of heroin and crack cocaine were seized, and more than £2000 in cash and assets were confiscated.

This latest activity was carried out by the neighbourhood and proactive teams and is on top of the 119 county lines that Centurion, our dedicated county lines team, have successfully shut down since their creation in September 2020. This works out at just over one drugs line being closed per week.

DCI Debbie White said: "County lines gangs can cause untold misery to their victims as they often utilise violence (including sexual violence), and intimidation to exploit the most vulnerable in our society. Working closely with our partners in neighbouring forces and the South East Regional Crime Unit (SEROCU), we have become very effective at using intelligence to identify and target those who may be involved in this criminal activity and bringing them to justice. Your information is vital in allowing us to keep on closing down these drug lines, so if you have any information regarding drug dealing or violent crime in your area, or you are worried that someone is being exploited, we need you to tell us. If you'd rather not speak to police, please reach out to the anonymous and fully independent charity Crimestoppers. Together we can stop the flow of drugs into our county."

Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey **Lisa Townsend** said: "Driving county lines gangs out of Surrey remains a key priority for me as your Commissioner and this kind of targeted police action is vital in helping take dangerous people and drugs off our streets. These networks are ruthless and actively groom young and vulnerable people in our communities to act as drug couriers or dealers. It is so important we all work together to prevent them falling into the clutches of these gangs. That is why I would ask everyone to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police so they can take immediate action and disrupt this criminal activity in our county."

Surrey Police news

Surrey social media sex fiend gets 18 years

A man who used multiple personas to target children online has been sentenced to 18 years behind bars in a case the Guildford Judge called 'the worst I've seen for some while'. **Jonathan Woodward**, 22, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to 39 child sex offences on 22 August and was sentenced 28th September, at Guildford Crown Court.

Surrey Police image of the offender

The extensive investigation into Woodward first began when he was reported to police after a suspected indecent image of a child was seen on his mobile phone. Woodward, who was living in Ashford at the time, was arrested and multiple digital devices seized from him.

During the course of the investigation, examination of his devices revealed contact with children from across the world on multiple social media platforms. He used fake profiles pretending to be a woman to lure children into sexual activity online, which he then recorded.

Woodward also used software to identify the areas where his victims lived and then used this information and the recordings, to threaten the young victims and obtain more graphic material.

Woodward pleaded guilty to:

Two charges of rape of a child under 13

- 20 charges of causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity
- 14 charges of causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity
- One charge of making indecent images of a child Category A
- One charge of making indecent images of a child Category B
- One charge of making indecent images of a child Category C

The offences took place between 2015 and 2021.

Woodward must serve two thirds of his 18-year custodial sentence with a further eight years extended license. He has a life-time Sexual Harm Prevention Order.

Detective Inspector Antony Preston, from the Paedophile Online Investigation Team, said:

"Woodward's behaviour has impacted countless lives, and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the bravery and courage of these young victims who have helped put this man behind bars for a long time.

"I would urge those using social media to speak out should they feel threatened or intimidated online, using online reporting functions or contacting Police to report such behaviour.

"This investigation and sentencing shows that there is no place for such vile behaviour. We will work tirelessly to ensure child sex abusers face the consequences of their actions.

"If there is anyone reading this who has been a victim of child sex abuse, I would encourage you to speak to us. We will do everything we can to support you."

If you have concerns that someone you know may have a sexual interest in children, please contact Stop It Now, a UK-wide charity focused on stopping child sexual abuse.

For more information about online sexual abuse and how to spot it, please visit CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command).

No immunity for CoVid vaccination thief

A Tadworth man who stole empty CoVid vaccination vials and sold them on Ebay gets a suspended prison sentence. What do you do when you get given one of those proof of postage receipts in your local post office? Crumple it up and stuff it in the bottom of your bag? Pop it in the recycling pile by the back door when you get home? Diligently file it away somewhere safe?

Luckily for our investigators convicted thief and fraudster **Steven Flint** took the last approach, but unluckily for him, his neat and tidy admin was eventually his downfall.

Flint was working as a contract security guard at three vaccination sites in the county during the peak of the Covid vaccination roll-out in January and February 2021 when he stole a large quantity of empty Covid vaccine vials to sell them on eBay.

Investigators initially used Post Office CCTV footage and eBay account details to connect Flint to the crimes and he was arrested on suspicion of theft and fraud at one of the sites he worked at in February 2021. Flint had completed 13 shifts before he was arrested.

During a subsequent search of his house, police officers found empty vaccine vials and multiple receipts for packages posted to Flint's eBay buyers.

Surrey Police detectives also discovered that Flint had fraudulently used the details of an acquaintance to set up a new eBay account to cover his tracks.

Steven Flint, 34 of Bidhams Crescent, Tadworth was found guilty of theft on 19 July at **Staines Magistrates Court**. He had previously pleaded guilty to fraud by false representation. He was sentenced to one year imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, at Staines Magistrates Court on **Wednesday, 17 August.**

Flint was also ordered to complete 150 hours of unpaid work.

Detective Inspector Paul Gordon from Surrey Police's proactive investigation team said: "Covid vaccine vials remain the property of the NHS. Due to their sensitive medical nature, this ownership is maintained before, during and after the vials are

used. Taking these items could only have been theft.

"Flint's crimes took place when the very successful national vaccine programme was in its infancy and any actions which jeopardised public confidence in the vaccine roll-out were treated with the utmost seriousness. We, along with our health service partners and the vaccine manufacturers, reacted extremely quickly to the situation, working together to identify and arrest Flint."

Lorna Hart, Surrey Heartlands Covid Vaccination Programme Director said: "The NHS will never charge for a Covid-19 vaccination and patients should only ever accept a vaccine from an NHS vaccination service.

"Thanks to the success of our NHS vaccination programme, frontline teams have done an incredible job, delivering over 2.2 million Covid-19 vaccines to people across Surrey Heartlands.

"As part of the autumn booster programme many people, including everyone aged 50 and over, will be offered a Covid-19 booster, as well as a flu jab, to help increase people's protection against respiratory viruses ahead of winter so we would encourage anyone who is invited to get vaccinated. We also continue to offer the Covid-19 vaccine to anyone who is eligible."

Written by Karen Parker of Surrey Police

Surrey's Police Chief cracks down on cover-up

A **Surrey Police officer** who "deliberately concealed" her friend's criminal damage to a car has been barred from policing. The officer told her friend she had put her in "an awkward position", and an accelerated hearing at the force's **Mount Browne headquarters** heard she would be dismissed without notice.

The hearing, in Guildford on August 1, heard that Special Constable 6846 **Leigh Beams** did not report her knowledge of the incident until several weeks later, when she was questioned by her supervisor.

SC Beams was present, though off duty, on April 13 2021, when a friend of hers committed criminal damage to a vehicle - but she did not take any proactive steps to notify police.



Despite being at an early stage of her career, **Chief Constable Gavin Stephens** said he did not believe such a "lack of judgement" was compatible with a continued policing career. He also noted she had "limited experience and basic training, and a previously unblemished record".

"Ms A" has subsequently admitted this offence and received a conditional caution but the initial police investigation was closed due to insufficient evidence, most notably the identity of the offender.

Chief Constable Stephens said: "I consider it to be serious gross misconduct where personal interest was put before public interest, in such circumstances where it was obvious what the consequences would be for the victim.

"In short, the failure to act amounted to a deliberate concealment of relevant evidence.

"I do not believe that such a lack of judgement is compatible with a continued career, including a voluntary one, with policing.

"That is, to continue in policing would declare to others that it is possible to put friendships ahead of justice, and this is clearly not acceptable. You've put me in an awkward position".

In his decision, Chief Constable Stephens said the officer's culpability was "high" because as a "key witness" she made a conscious choice not to report the offence "over a protracted period".

The hearing was told she had recalled a conversation with the offender immediately after the offence had taken place, in which SC Beams said: "I said to her: 'What have you done? You've put me in an awkward position here.'"

Ms A's response was said to be: "Oh don't worry about it, it's fine, no one will know."

It was May 2 before SC Beams gave any account of the offence, and the hearing was told this only happened due to a complaint being made about her involvement.

SC Beams was not present at the hearing, and was not represented there but Chief Constable Stephens was satisfied the appropriate steps had been taken to give notice of the hearing and allow her to attend.

Chief Constable Stephens had considered a final written warning, given how early SC Beams was in her policing career, but said he did not think it would protect the force's standards or public confidence.

He said: "I accept that the position was awkward for the friendship or relationship, but I do not accept that it was awkward for policing duties.

"That responsibility is very clear to any reasonable person, and I consider that if SC Beams' conduct was known to the public then it would seriously undermine their confidence in the impartiality of policing. Failure to act was 'wrong'". He said that while SC Beams had some insight into her conduct and reflected afterwards that her actions were wrong, he also believed evidence showed SC Beams knew immediately after the offence that her failure to act was wrong.

He added that "she was more concerned about what the implications would be for her friend, who was the offender, and herself".

In his decision, the Chief Constable said the "key aggravating factor" was that the officer "continued to conceal the wrongdoing, even after subsequent discussions on what had taken place". He said SC Beams had recalled in interview a conversation which happened the following day with Ms B, who was also a witness, about how to report or seek advice.

Chief Constable Stephens added: "This continuing concealment is a fundamental lack of judgement required for public service." The hearing judged that she had committed gross misconduct, should be dismissed without notice and would be placed on the College of Policing's barred list.

Chief Constable Gavin Stephens said: "Such actions had the potential to deprive the victim in this crime of justice, and at the same time seriously undermine public confidence in the standards, impartiality, and effectiveness of policing in Surrey."

August Police warn drink drivers in Surrey

Surrey Police have launched their annual summer crackdown on drink and drug drivers in Surrey. Drink and drug-driving is one of the most common causes of collisions which result in death or serious injury, and in 2021 416 drink or drug drivers were arrested and charged on the roads of Surrey.

From 1 August to 1 September, Surrey and Sussex Police will have extra resources dedicated to preventing and detecting incidents of drink and drug-driving. This is in addition to the routine roads policing work carried out 24/7, 365 days a year, by their **Roads Policing Un**it and new **Vanguard Road Safety Team**.

The Vanguard Team are a new and dedicated police resource focusing solely on the 'fatal 5' - the leading contributory factors in collisions, to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on Surrey's roads.

In line with their previous campaigns, anyone arrested during this period and then convicted will be identified on their website and social media channels as a deterrent.

Chief Inspector Michael Hodder, of the Surrey and Sussex Roads Policing Unit, said: "It cannot be said enough how much drink and drug-driving can ruin lives.

"Drink-driving is something that is becoming more socially unacceptable but unfortunately, we are seeing more and more drugdriving on Surrey roads. This is something we are working hard to tackle, and these dedicated campaigns are crucial in raising awareness, deterring would-be offenders, and keeping as many people as possible, safe on the roads.

"As always, we will deal extremely robustly with these offenders through a combination of measures including education, engineering, and enforcement, with a special emphasis on reducing casualty rates of vulnerable users like motorcyclists and young drivers.

"Technology now allows us to test drivers at the roadside there and then for drugs, which allows us to be more effective in how we tackle drug driving and means that drivers who are breaking the law, will be caught.

"Alcohol and drugs affect everyone differently, so do the right thing, don't risk it and arrange alternative ways home if you are planning on going out."

The consequences of drink or drug-driving could include:

- Killing or seriously injuring yourself or someone else;
- A minimum 12-month ban;
- An unlimited fine;
- A possible prison sentence:
- A criminal record, which could affect your current and future employment;
- An increase in your car insurance costs;
- Trouble travelling to countries such as the USA.
- If you know someone is driving while over the limit or after taking drugs, call 999.

You can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or report it online. www.crimestoppers-uk.org

The campaign is being run in conjunction with the DriveSmart in Surrey and Sussex Safer Roads Partnership.

Safer nights ahead in Epsom with funding boost

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council will receive £271,712 in government funding for a project to improve safety for Epsom town centre's night-time economy.

The Home Office's Safer Streets funding was secured in partnership with Surrey Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Business Improvement District, Go Epsom.

These improvements are aimed specifically at supporting the safety and vitality of the night-time economy, including reducing violence against women and girls.

The funding will help the following items:

- Upgrade of CCTV in Epsom town centre
- Support businesses operating in the evening with training and accreditation
- Support the existing Street Pastors with equipment and training
- Develop a further night-time presence to build on the work of the Street Pastors
- Provide anti drink spiking equipment to licensed premises and customers
- Deliver a communications package promoting the safety of patrons in the town centre and promote personal safety

In response to ongoing issues in and around Epsom town centre, Surrey Police worked closely with Epsom & Ewell Borough Council to draw up an application for Safer Streets funding.

A survey was sent out into the community and the results were closely consulted when drafting the application. Among the concerns raised were drug use, threatening behaviour, extreme drunkenness, and violence within Epsom town centre, closely linked to the night-time economy.

The survey highlighted a desire for better signposting to help and support, and a need for increased confidence in the police response to issues within the town centre.

The application was drafted by the police and council, then approved and submitted by Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner Lisa Townsend. Other areas in Surrey to benefit from successful funding bids are Sunbury Cross and the Surrey Towers development in Addlestone.

The money will be used, among other measures, to modernise CCTV use, deliver training packages for licensed premises, and to provide free anti-drink spiking and spiking detection devices within Epsom town centre.

Councillor John Beckett, Chair of the Environment and Safe Communities Committee, said, "It's great to hear Epsom has received the Safer Streets funding, we are particularly proud of the partnership working that took place to bring this resource together for the benefit of local residents and businesses.

"Supporting the night-time economy while ensuring the safety of residents, particularly female ones, is an important priority and we will continue to work with everyone involved to ensure this money is spent effectively. Epsom town centre is a vibrant evening economy and we are delighted to enhance safety and boost confidence for every business and visitor."

Inspector Jon Vale, Borough Commander, said, "This is fantastic news. Surrey Police and Epsom & Ewell Borough Council have worked tirelessly as a partnership in the submission of this bid.

"The community have told us their concerns, and we have listened. The funding made available will allow the partnership to implement numerous measures that would not otherwise been a possibility.

"This will help to make Epsom town centre an even safer place for users of the night-time economy, in particular women and girls. Tackling violence against women and girls is a specific priority for the Epsom & Ewell Community Safety Partnership and this work demonstrates our shared commitment in this respect."

Rod Brown, Chair of the Epsom and Ewell Community Safety Partnership, said, "We know from speaking with residents that the safety of their environment is of great importance. I am delighted that this award will allow us to deliver lasting benefits to the late-night economy in Epsom to allow business to invest with confidence and secure safety improvements for the town."

Adam Kick the Chairman of Epsom and Ewell's **Pubwatch** enthuses: "This is amazing news for the borough and has most certainly been achieved as a result of tireless work by all parties involved in the proposal. This funding will most certainly help towards supporting the aim of providing a vibrant nightlife where customer safety is paramount."

Karen Pengelly, BID Manager at Go Epsom, said, "Since Epsom's businesses reopened after Covid lockdowns, the BID has been doing lots of groundwork on safety and security, engaging with our local licensed premises and retailers and working with security experts to reduce offending.

"This fresh investment in a modern and much improved CCTV system provides Epsom with the tools that are needed to reduce theft and anti-social behaviour. It's wonderful news."

Surrey Police fight dog theft forensically

Surrey Police are turning to DNA technology to tackle dog thefts in the county.

Wednesday 27th July **Surrey Police** officially launched its partnership with **DNA Protected**, a UK-wide dog DNA database service designed to deter theft and help ensure a stolen dog's safe return to its owner.

Over the past two years there has been a national increase in demand for dogs and puppies as we all spent a lot more time at home during the pandemic. Unfortunately, this demand also created a gap in the market for dog thieves and illegal breeders.

DNA Protected is a service from **Cellmark Forensic Services**, who hope that their innovative technology and partnership with police forces across the UK will be a game-changer when it comes to the prevention and investigation of dog thefts.

Much like a property register database, DNA Protected securely stores a profile of your dog's unique DNA, produced from a simple mouth swab, on the forensic database. Police forces across the country can swab a dog they believe to be stolen and send the sample off for analysis and comparison against the database.

Like ours, a dog's DNA cannot be changed or removed. If the swab comes back with a match, it can be used to reunite you with your beloved pet and provide valuable evidence in dog theft investigations.

Wildlife Crime Officer, **PC Hollie Iribar**, said, "Surrey Police are excited to support this unique opportunity to get ahead of the game when it comes to tackling dog thefts. These investigations are complex and can be emotionally fraught. We often see and feel that a dog clearly has a connection with its owner but trying to put that to paper and prove it beyond doubt in a courtroom is challenging. Our hope is that our partnership with DNA Protected will help us prove beyond dispute who the rightful owner of a stolen dog is, so we can focus our attention on prosecuting those responsible."

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, **Ellie Vesey-Thompson**, said, "Over the last year we have heard from Surrey residents who are worried about dog theft and recognise the deep emotional impact that this crime has on individuals in our communities. In many cases, dogs feel like part of the family, and I understand how distressing it can be when they are stolen.

"Working to ensure that our residents across Surrey are safe and feel safe in our communities is a key priority of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Plan and supporting those concerned about dog theft is important to us.

"That's why we welcome this new partnership with Surrey Police. Not only will this provide a powerful deterrent to those involved in these thefts, but it will also give residents who sign up to the scheme more peace of mind that if they are a victim of a dog theft there is a much better chance of them being reunited with their dog."

David Hartshorne, Managing Director at Cellmark Forensic Services said, "We developed the DNA Protected service with the police to assist with crime prevention and to help reunite stolen or lost dogs with their owners. The powerful forensic DNA tools we use to identify people and investigate crime are now being used to help combat dog theft."

Dog owners can purchase a sampling kit by visiting the DNA Protected website at https://www.dnaprotected.co.uk/. The payment is a one-off fee which includes the cost of DNA profiling, storage of your dog's profile on the database for at least ten years, and a dog tag and window sticker to let people know that your dog is on the forensic database. The site also sells branded collars, leads, and other accessories to show you have DNA protected your dog.

Recognise this man? He may help police investigating Epsom Race Course music night assault of 7th July

Surrey Police are appealing for help to identify a man who they believe may be able to help with an investigation into an assault at Epsom Downs Race Course during a music event on 7 July.

The victim, a man in his 50s, was in the grandstand area at around 9pm when he was punched to the face by another man in an assault which left him unconscious and needing hospital treatment.

The man seen in the photo may be able to help with the investigation. If you recognise him, please contact Surrey Police quoting PR/45220072717 via:

- Webchat on surrey.police.uk
- Online https://www.surrey.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/cor/tell-us-about-existing-case-report
- Calling 101

If you do not wish to leave your name, call the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Surrey Police shines spotlight on anti-social behaviour in Epsom and the County

Last week, as part of a national ASB Awareness Week, **Surrey Police**'s safer neighbourhood teams (SNTs) joined forces with partners to shine a spotlight on anti-social behaviour (ASB) across Surrey including **Epsom and Ewel**l, and to raise awareness of the many different ways in which they can tackle ASB within communities and provide help and support to those affected.

Epsom and Ewell Beat were out on Longmead Estate raising awareness of ASB issues with the local council and **Rosebery Housing**.

On social media, they spent the week sharing advice and guidance on anti-social behaviour and where to report instances in your local area. The posts touched on criminal damage such as graffiti, neighbour disputes, the Community Trigger, fly-tipping, and vehicle nuisance.

ASB is not low level and can have a huge impact on the lives of individuals and communities. **Jo Grimshaw**, who leads on tackling ASB for the Force said: "Our teams work hard to deal with anti-social behaviour on a daily basis – it's part of Surrey Police's core business. The national week of action gives us the opportunity to highlight the work they do to protect people and communities from those who think it's acceptable to behave in a threatening, aggressive or anti-social manner. We work closely with Surrey Police's partners to ensure that ASB victims can be referred to the appropriate agency if they are better placed to offer support and get the right outcome. If a civil resolution cannot be reached, there are a range of enforcement options available, including

warning letters, closure orders, criminal behaviour orders and criminal prosecution."

If you have reported an incident three or more times in six months and feel you are not being listened to or that the issues are still happening or escalating, you are entitled to ask for a review of your case. This is called the Community Trigger, and you can activate it through your Local Authority:

https://asbhelp.co.uk/community-trigger/community-trigger-directory/

In the last year Surrey Police have issued across the County:

- · 47 Closure Orders
- · 9 Criminal Behaviour Orders
- · 57 Reactive Dispersal Orders
- \cdot Over 300 warning letters.

These orders are proving very effective in reducing the behaviour of those committing ASB, as well as giving some respite to residents and the community.

It can be really confusing for victims to work out which agency is responsible for tackling each of the different types of ASB. If you are a victim of ASB or know someone who is being exploited in your area, please let Surrey Police know so they can take action. For more information on the reporting options available to you visit:

www.healthysurrey.org.uk/your-health/community-safety/asb

84 year old loses £2800 electric bike to thief in Epsom

A vulnerable 84-year-old man had his electric bike stolen by a callous thief when he left it parked outside the BP petrol station on Dorking Road, Epsom on Sunday 17th July.

The victim left the bike worth £2,800 with two bags hanging on it outside the petrol station at around 8.20pm and came out at 8.35pm to find it had gone.

The suspect has been described as a White male wearing a matching grey camo hoodie and bottoms with a yellow high vis vest over the top with the word 'FEELY' on the back. He was also wearing grey trainers and holding a black sports bag.

If you have any dashcam footage or information which could help, please contact Surrey Police quoting crime reference number PR/45220076573 via:

- Webchat surrey.police.uk
- Online https://www.surrey.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/
- Calling 101

If you do not wish to leave your name, please call the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.