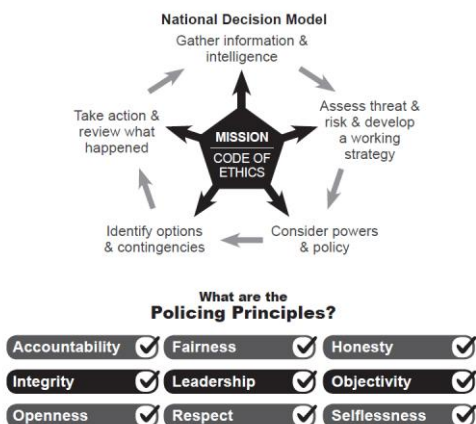




## RURAL CRIME PORTFOLIO

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<b>Security Classification:</b>	<b>OFFICIAL</b>
<b>Handling information if required:</b>	N/A
<b>Suitable for publication:</b>	Yes
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## **1. Background**

- 1.1** This paper has been created at the request of the PCC's Office to highlight the current 'as is' status on rural crime matters.
- 1.2** The Force has had in place from 2017 a Rural Crime Delivery Plan (see Appendix 1), this was refreshed and assessed against the National Rural Crime Strategy which was released in the summer of 2018 to ensure complete consistency. The National objectives have been clearly included in the delivery plan. Process against the delivery plan have been focused on delivering training and CPD sessions to Contact Centre, PCSOs, and NPT. The Rural Crime and Wildlife Officers have also been focussing on ensuring all appropriate investigate opportunities are being released assisting specifically in the obtaining and executing of warrants. To this end an information sharing agreement is being developed with the RSPCA, given the increase in intelligence sharing. A quarterly performance report is produced that specifically looks at victims and offender profiles, hotspots and investigative timeliness and outcomes for rural crime. This is based on 'Niche flags' being correctly applied, which is still a risk for the portfolio as they are not always correctly applied.
- 1.3** The plan has been monitored at a quarterly rural crime meeting, attended by an OPCC representative, internal stakeholders and partners. This meeting is currently being refreshed and C/Insp Hodder is arranging a broader meeting (a Crime Rural Advisory Group 'CRAG'), with terms of reference being drafted. An inaugural and informal version took place on the 16.05.19 pre Op Dragnet to update interested parties of changes in governance arrangements which was positively supported by all attendees.

## **2. Current Position**

- 2.1** Whilst there are nuances with 'rural crime', essentially crime is crime and this is a message being promulgated by the dedicated Rural and Wildlife Crime Officers PC Iribar and PC Rowley. The portfolio undertook a review led by C/Insp Hodder to assess the portfolio provision for the Force, in line with regional colleagues. This resulted in the May 2019 Local Policing Board sanctioning an agreed uplift in dedicated resource, allocating 1xPCSO per borough for the period of a year (with recruitment and training due to finish in August 2019). During the course of the year, this dedicated resource will concentrate on engagement with Surrey's rural communities providing expert advice and guidance to Officers investigating rural crime. These roles will also help the portfolio establish a picture of crime in rural communities, something Surrey Police currently knows is lacking due to data quality issues on Niche and stakeholder feedback of the under-reporting from this community.
- 2.2** Engagement activity following the previous update has centred on Op Dragnet and the establishment of a 'Mounted Section' for the county. This will be followed up in October 2019 with Surrey Police joining the National Week of Action arranged by the NPCC.
- 2.3** The portfolio is extremely grateful for PCC support and can confirm following the grant being issued for the aforementioned 'Mounted Section' within Surrey Police that all Borough Commanders have been issued with details of how to access this excellent engagement provision. The aim of the Mounted Section is to increase patrols in Surrey's hard to reach areas, to reduce crime and crime related activity and increase positive engagement and education. The Mounted Section would mainly be used for enhanced public engagement. There is research evidencing Mounted Officers are significantly (estimated at 6x) more likely to be approached by the public than any other form of police activity.
- 2.4** They can also be used for open search including deployment into arduous environments which are inaccessible to vehicles or closed to aviation due to inclement weather. Mounted Officers are able to provide assistance over rough terrain, search and rescue operations for high risk and vulnerable people and deployments in rural areas. Another area where they would be able to help would be areas with chronic issues.

2.5 It is important to remember that the horses Surrey Police use are not police horses. They are horses which have been assessed as being safe to use for the above job roles. They will not be able to be used for public order or any engagement where it is expected to be volatile. The riders are Officers who are part of Surrey Police United Riders (SPUR) that have been assessed to ride at a competent level. They are all operational Police Officers who would be equipped to radio to FCR if there were any unforeseen problems. The portfolio is looking put together a calendar which we can use yearly to repeat certain key county and divisional events.

### 3. Op Dragnet

3.1 Operation Dragnet 5 was the first of its kind to be specifically targeted within the rural community and to focus on engagement. This operation took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (please see photos in Appendix 2). Activity predominantly took place between 0800 - 1600 hours and 13:00 - 21:00 hours however these were flexible depending on the planned activity. The objectives were as follows:

- Engagement
- Intelligence
- Enforcement

3.2 **Engagement:** Horses generated a huge response, with "pat and chats" over the two days - ending at a primary school with some very excited children, off-roading, patrols and prevention, Stands, saddle marking, DNA Selecta kits, Dog Warden, Environment Agency Angling Trust, JET Teams, Fire Service, National Trust all engaged and present. Crime prevention and reassurance visits also took place to key rural locations, where Surrey Police new signs were issued.

**Intelligence:** An increase in Niche intelligence submissions achieved.

**Enforcement:** Over £2000 in fines, (red diesel, waste carrier licences) vehicles stopped with links to rural crimes, no licences, not roadworthy, mobiles being used 1 x driver with no license (vehicle seized and court order). On the last day of Op Dragnet a suspect was charged for offences against animals and public order in a rural community and pleaded guilty.

### 4. Conclusion(s)

4.1 For rural crime generally, alongside business as usual, internal messaging and developing the PCSO network will be the focus in rural crime activities over the coming quarter, concentrating on victim profiling, flagging and strengthening engagement arrangements, whilst considering what options the Force has in respect of rural crime resourcing in future years.

### 5. Decision[s] Required

None, this paper is for information only.



## Surrey Police Rural Crime Delivery Plan 2018-2020

### Strategic Aim

- To prevent, reduce & solve crimes of a rural nature
- To increase trust, confidence & satisfaction within rural communities
- To ensure accurate recording of all rural offences
- To increase the knowledge of Surrey Police's officers and staff in relation to rural and wildlife crime

### National Strategy

- Safer rural communities
- Enhanced public engagement
- Increased public confidence in the police
- Empowered communities
- Strong partnership working
- Raised profile of rural affairs
- Embedded rural focus into policing culture

## Education & Enforcement

Raise the profile of rural crime within Surrey Police so that staff at all levels understand the differences between rural /urban crime and the Force response.

Raise awareness of the Force's Rural Crime Definition and rural/wildlife/heritage specific offences and publicise the new flags on NICHE.

Ensure that officers are aware of the full range of rural crime resources and that they are used as necessary and appropriate.

Run a Force awareness campaign to highlight the extent of rural crime and options available to officers and the public.

Provide training to OMU/CHC/FCR in regards to the various offences and the agencies that deal with them or support us with them.

Provide training to borough based PCSOs to allow them to assist with rural related investigations and issues on borough.

## Prevention

Develop the centralised Rural Crime Co-ordinator role based in the OMU who will review all crimes and ICADs; provide countywide training and expert advice to those that are investigating rural offences; provide strategic guidance for ongoing rural issues.

Develop consistent Force wide approach and branding of rural crime prevention initiatives.

To enhance officers working knowledge of rural crime.

Support and re-invigorate the Country Watch partnership crime prevention initiative.

Ensure that information on active rural crime prevention initiatives is available for the rural communities on the Force website.

Seek to establish and maintain Volunteers on each borough with the Force area, who have been trained in rural crime matters.

## Intelligence

An annual rural crime profile update to be produced.

Share relevant intelligence with key partner agencies involved in law enforcement e.g. Trading Standards and the Food Standards Agency.

Identify and where appropriate consider and implement covert policing tactics to tackle rural crime.

Maximise the use of Force incident recording systems that identify rural crime incidents; use of the specific NICHE qualifiers (rural, heritage etc.)

Link with the National Wildlife Crime Unit to be strengthened.

Re-invigorate CountryWatch allowing it to be an effective communication tool between the police and the rural communities.

Recognise the impact of rural crime on local communities.

Develop a range of rural community engagement methods to understand the needs of the rural communities.

Introduce the CountryWatchers programme – a mobile neighbourhood watch that will facilitate the reporting of crimes/issues to the police or other relevant agencies, utilising text facility.

Enhance rural community partnerships with the rural communities and those organisations that represent them (or sections of them); National Farmers Union, Countryside Landowners Association, Trading Standards, Food Standards Agency at a local, Divisional and Force wide levels.

Introduce and maintain a network of Volunteers who will assist with preventative measures such as saddle marking and attend rural events in order to be a conduit of information from the rural community to the police and vice versa.

To refresh and maintain the Surrey Police website with up to date information on rural crime matters.

Measures for delivery plan	Data
The positive outcome rate for rural crimes	Force crime data
The number of repeat victims of rural crimes	Force crime data
Confidence of policing levels in rural areas	Survey data
Recognising rural crime	Data quality indicators

# Appendix 2

**Surrey Police** @SurreyPolice · 21h  
 It's been a busy morning so far for our teams who are #OutInForce fighting #RuralCrime.  
 We've been tackling poaching, illegally moored boats, doing speed checks and our police bikes have been patrolling for ASB, and much more!  
 If you see us out and about, come and say hi 🙋🏻👋🏻



**Reigate Police** @ReigateBeat · 20h  
 Lovely morning #OutInForce with PCSO's, Office Managers and T/Detective Chief Superintendent Macpherson focussing on crime at farms and allotments #RuralCrimeMatters



**Reigate Police** @ReigateBeat · May 19  
 The local team are at The Holly Lane carpark #Banstead marking saddles and giving out #SelectaDNA kits. Come and see us! #OutInForce #RuralCrimeMatters



**Epsom & Ewell Police** @EpsomEwellBeat · 23h  
 When the weather improves, does the increase of #RuralCrimes and the illegal and antisocial use of motorised vehicles.  
 We're #OutInForce on the lookout for illegal off-road bikes and vehicles! #RuralCrimeMatters



**Mole Valley Police** @MoleValleyBeat · 18h  
 Local policing team have arrived at Charlwood village stores and copiers. Come and see us for some #selectaDNA rural information or Saddle Marking #OutInForce #RuralCommunityMatters #MoleValleyBeat



**Epsom & Ewell Police** @EpsomEwellBeat · May 19  
 Meeting up with all the @MoleValleyBeat officers today! Just up on Sheepwalk Lane. #RuralCrimeMatters #OutInForce #CommunityMatters



**Runnymede Police** @RunnymedeBeat · 23h  
 Checks of the Runnymede Pleasure Grounds and a patrol of the Magna Carta Fields 🏞️ #OutInForce #RuralCrimeMatters



**Surrey Police** @SurreyPolice · May 19  
 We're engaging with our rural communities and working with partner agencies to tackle #RuralCrime across Surrey.  
 Follow #OutInForce and #RuralCrimeMatters to see what we're up to throughout the day!



**Mole Valley Police** @MoleValleyBeat · 23h  
 Pc Gargini and PCSO Thomas will be at Bovhill doing Rural community engagement, we will have the saddle marking kit ready from 12.30 - 15.00 #OutInForce #CommunityMatters #RuralCrimeMatters



**Guildford Police** @GuildfordBeat · 23h  
 We are #OutInForce tackling #poaching 🐾 issues where we work together with @AnglingTrust Watch this to find out more info #RuralCrimeMatters

