

Runnymede Crime Summit

Are the figures displayed in the presentation for the whole of Surrey or just specific to Runnymede?

The figures in the presentation by the Police and Crime Commissioner are for the whole of Surrey. In the presentation by Inspector Ian St John the figures are initially for just Runnymede and then the rest of the information is for Surrey. For example, the information relating to the number of calls per year, is for the whole Surrey.

You mentioned that the way that crime is recorded has recently changed, due to changes in legalisation, and this is why some of the figures are reflecting an increase. Is this a trial change in the way that we record crime figures or a permanent one? It's just that some of the changes seem to appear to make the figures misleading i.e. Violent crime is now very broad, and can cover anything from GBH to someone being hit with a football, and suggests that more time will be needed to be spent recording these.

ISJ: Yes, good point, and it highlights the danger of just relying on crime statistics. Previously the Police had some discretion on what to record as a crime; this is no longer the case. However, we do still have some discretion on what we choose to take forward, which we will base on a number of factors. We of course can't investigate everything, and need to prioritise some crimes over others. We also check for any trends and patterns, using local information, to see where resources should be deployed to take cases forward.

KH: Yes as you rightly said, writing crime reports does take up a lot of Police time. To help combat this we have done three things:

- 1) All officers now have MDT's – this means that crime reports can be done out in the field, as well as receiving any decisions on further action needed.*
- 2) Body worn cameras – these can stop crimes accelerating, as people are less likely to continue to act inappropriately if they know they are being filmed. They are particularly useful in domestic violence cases, as they allow you to capture lots of evidence, as well as information on the demeanour of the suspect. Using these leads to more people pleading guilty, meaning officers don't have to spend as much time in court.*
- 3) Electric Tasers – these lead to a reduction in the length of time taken to get someone into custody. They also reduce the need for large numbers of police officers to subdue someone, and they are less harmful than other forms of restraint, meaning that less time is spent in hospital with the suspects.*

All of which means that officers can spend more time on the streets.

JH: We are also one of the first forces to use paperless prosecutions, allowing for a much quicker and cheaper process.

Will the Police be present at the annual events in Chertsey?

Unfortunately, it is unlikely that we will be able to attend all day. We have of course risk assessed the event, and as it is low risk, we have had to prioritise against some of our other demands. As we've mentioned already, we've had to re-align our resources, and direct them to where the greatest risk and need is. We are intending to be there as a passing presence rather than a permanent one.

Why tackle cybercrime locally, when most of the perpetrators are nationally or even internationally based? Should this not be a nationally based focus?

There are of course a wide range of cyber-crime threats that can affect individuals and businesses, so an integrated law enforcement response, all the way from national to regional to local, is required to help tackle this.

A large portion of cases are dealt with nationally, led by the National Cyber Crime Unit, with a minority of cases filtering down to the regional cybercrime units. These may be crimes committed by smaller criminal networks or lone criminals, especially those operating from within the UK. The type of cybercrime will also factor in.

Local forces are also involved in sharing their knowledge of the cyber-crime threat to improve the regional and national picture, and support cyber-crime operations led by regional and national teams. As you've pointed out, Forces are also responsible for supporting their local communities to be better protected from cyber-crime by sharing key messages on how to stay safe online.

Of course, this is an issue that the police cannot tackle alone, and as part of the preventative work, the OPCC has established a local CyberSafe Network (<http://cybersafesurrey.org/join.html>) - an online resource for businesses, professionals and practitioners in Surrey, designed to empower them to better safeguard themselves and our communities.

In addition to the Network, we are also in the process of creating a Cybercrime Profile for Surrey, bringing together data held by numerous local and national agencies, as well as running our own regional survey (<http://www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk/survey/>) to find out about residents experiences of cybercrime, with the aim of providing an evidence base for future local preventative work.

Is Action Fraud a national initiative?

Yes Action Fraud is a national initiative. Additional information can be found at <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

What should you do if you receive a scam phone call?

Prevention advice on what to do in situations like this can be found at <https://www.getsafeonline.org/protecting-yourself/social-engineering/>

Please also report it to Action Fraud (<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>). The more information/intelligence that they have about the scale of the problem, the more guidance that can be provided locally.

Is there anything that you can do to influence providers, such as BT, not to charge customers, to block unknown numbers, such as those used by scammers?

KH: An interesting point you raise, and one which I will look into. Of course, I can't make any promises, as it is likely to be pretty difficult to do.

Trading Standards are planning on running a pilot in Mole Valley, which aims to use software, to protect some of our most vulnerable citizens, from becoming a victim of a crime like this. This might be something that could be implemented here in the future.

Councillors, have you thought about raising additional funds, from the boats that are moored here, but not paying council tax?

No we haven't actually thought of this. Please leave your details and we can follow this up with you.

What are you doing about policing on the rivers? How can we get in contact to flag any issues that we may be having with people who live on the rivers?

There is a scheme called RiverWatch, which works in a similar way to Neighbourhood Watch.

There used to be a national project that allowed for river borne crew but due to costing this is no longer possible. However, the Metropolitan Police do still have a marine section, and are able to support us with certain instances.

The Environmental Agency is the main point of contact for many small level 'policing' i.e. registration of boats etc. However, of course, if you do have any intelligence about other, more serious crimes (e.g. drug running), then please do report to ourselves.

If you increase council tax, how do we know if it goes specifically to the Police?

Council tax is set separately by the different agencies, and the money raised is kept separately, as such, it is protected, and any increases in the policing precept will be given directly to the Police.

How does the council know if a car has been stolen or dumped, or parked lawfully?

Certain sections of the council have access to the Police database, so that they can see if the car has been taxed etc., as they are responsible for ensuring its removal, if required.

What is meant by the positive outcome rates for Surrey?

Arrests in the county are up. We can provide figures for positive outcomes for specific crimes, if anyone would like to request them. For example, burglary detection is up. There are more positive outcomes for sexual offending and assaults than ever before. We have also put more into the budget to deal with sexual assaults and domestic violence, as well as a new structure (Policing in your Neighbourhood), and additional training to help deal with these complex areas of crime.

I run a local business, which has experienced a lot of crime on the premises. What can we do about this?

We can work together to help design out some of the crime and harden some of the potential targets. Please leave your details with your neighbourhood policing team and we can follow this up with you.

Are there any schemes running for young people, to help integrate them back into the community, and increase respect, as well as diverting them away from crime?

Yes there are a substantial number of schemes running across the county, behind the scenes, that aim to address some of these issues. If you would like full details on them, please feel free to contact the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, but some of the notable ones include Junior Citizens, Surrey County Council youth clubs, our work in women's prisons and our youth intervention officers.

Is increased spending on patrols really appropriate, when, as you said, more and more crimes are now occurring behind closed doors?

By increasing the number of officers, we are able to direct more people to dealing with more complex crimes, which are not always out on the streets, as you rightly said. Our new policing model, Policing in your Neighbourhood, will allow us more specific tasking, and our increasing use of technology, should allow us to have more officers out there in the field.