



RURAL CRIME PORTFOLIO

Required for:	<i>OPCC Performance Meeting</i>
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Title:	Rural Crime Portfolio Update
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ACPO / Strategic Lead:	ACC Kemp
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AUTHOR:	
Name:	Helen Bayliss
Job Title:	Head of Service Quality
Telephone number:	101



What are the Policing Principles?

Accountability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fairness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Honesty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Integrity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leadership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Objectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Openness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Respect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Selflessness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. Background

- 1.1. This paper has been created at the request of the OPCC to highlight the current 'as is' status on rural crime matters and developments or known plans regarding unauthorised encampments.
- 1.2. The Force has had in place from 2017 a rural crime delivery plan, 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.
- 1.3. The plan is monitored at a quarterly rural crime meeting, attended by an OPCC representative, internal stakeholders and partners and this meetings primary function is to assess against the performance report, assess against the communications plan and ensure progress against the delivery plan.

2. Current Position

- 2.1. Whilst there are nuances with 'rural crime', essentially crime is crime and this is a message being promulgated by our dedicated Rural and Wildlife Crime Officer PC Iribar. A network of rural crime SPOCs have been set up and trained across the last year, predominately in the PSCO roles across boroughs and within the Contact Centre.
- 2.2. A very successful social media 'rural crime week' took place in the summer of 2018, this was externally focused only and concentrated on education and awareness. This was followed on November 2018 with Surrey Police joining the National Day of Action arranged by the NPCC.
- 2.3. This was a Force wide effort, with work taking place on this day, examples of which included:
 - in Elmbridge we have worked with the WATERWAYS team. It appeared there was a hot spot for illegal or abandoned boats and there are also many wrecks which need pulling out of the river.
 - in Spelthorne engagement activity was arranged with the Swan Sanctuary. They were concerned over intentional harm so a criminality assessment took place and the local PCSO's are monitoring.
 - in Epsom, the team held a day of action targeting vehicles of interest/waste vehicles.
 - in Mole Valley, Newdigate Farm had a livestock worrying incident so signs were delivered there by the local PCSO.
 - in Reigate and Banstead, saddle marking was arranged along with an event in Surrey Heath. The team were supported by corporate communications with posts on social media **#ruralcrime** **#ukruralcrimedayofaction**.
- 2.4. In December 2018 C/Insp Hodder was appointed as the tactical lead for Rural Crime in Surrey. The Chief Officers have committed the next Dragnet **#outinforce** event to rural crime matters and community engagement. Plans are currently being drawn up for two dates in May, on a CPD focused event, given the aforementioned nuances in rural crime, followed by the more traditional day of action.
- 2.5. Acknowledging the balance and needs against High Harm offences, there is some work that will be commissioned regarding the effect of rural crime on communities. This will also complement another internally focused piece of work around rural crime flagging. In order to effectively performance monitor our rural crime across the county we are reliant on the relevant rural crime flag being 'ticked'. From our performance monitoring, whilst the use of the flag is increasing, it is not always being used or correctly used.
- 2.6. From our recent performance product data to the end of December 2018, the use of flags is a recurrently theme. However we are starting to pick up some strategic themes, for demographics in offenders and victims (ages), seasonal trends (May-July). Interestingly, whilst rural crime is showing to take longer to investigate than total notifiable offences cohort, by approximately 12.7 additional days, when looking at all detections over the last quarter (Q3 2018-19) the proportion of crimes with a positive outcome were larger for rural crimes than TNOs (22.2% and 15.1% respectively). This also indicates a higher percentage of rural crime with community resolutions and cannabis warnings compared to TNOs (+2.7% and +1.8% respectively).
- 2.7. Two recent incidents of note:
 - Partnership working with the RSPCA, resulting in Surrey Police applying for and obtaining a warrant resulting in the seizure of 125 horses, 3 alpacas, 5 goats, 59 dogs including 8 puppies, 1 duck and 4 chickens. The suspects were located and arrested and though the investigation continues, it is likely the suspects will be summoned to court by the RSPCA;

The second incident is testament to the work of PC Iribar in promulgating the rural crime message across Force. A member of the public called Surrey Police believing she had witnessed hunting with dogs or baiting. The suspect was stopped and arrested on suspicion of breaching his Criminal Behaviour Order, causing unnecessary suffering to animals, not meeting animals' needs and also hunting with dogs. The incident was in North Surrey which is not typically known for 'rural crime'. This incident shows how important it is for officers to be aware of this legislation as it applies to all areas. It is known that Organised Crime Groups commit rural offences and it is important that officers have this knowledge to deal with OCG's robustly. This incident is also still being investigated.

3. Conclusion[s]

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

4. Decision[s] Required

4.1. None, this paper is for information only.

5. Attachments / Background Papers

5.2 Rural Crime Delivery Plan



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.

Public Confidence

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