

# An update on the work of Surrey Police Elmbridge over the last year



## Key Achievements

Over the past year your local officers have been working to tackle organised crime groups and those having the greatest impact on the local communities.

Strong interventions and investigations has resulted in four members of two local OCGs being imprisoned (and are still currently there). As a result of this and the wider work to target and dismantle these OCGs they have remained inactive and incapable of continuing their criminality together.

We continue to see attempts by OCGs from neighbouring areas attempt to set up County Lines within Elmbridge. These groups prey on the vulnerable and seek premises in Elmbridge to operate from. As a result we have carried out proactive stop checks, warrants and wider interventions to disrupt these supply lines that blight the local communities through anti-social behaviour. We have seen a number of such lines greatly impacted resulting in criminal charges being brought against offenders and closure orders to protect those in our communities.

Miles county line [News Article link](#)

We have issued 7 partial or full closure orders. This, together with CBOs, is often an area of policing that the public do not widely see but takes diligence, expertise and tenacity to get the results needed. These partial closure orders have protected some of our most vulnerable people in our communities by giving them a voice to say “No” to those who are trying to utilise their address for criminal activity. The full closure order, where not even the habitual occupier is allowed to remain, sends a message that their ASB or criminal activity will not be tolerated in Elmbridge. It is through the strong partnership relationships that we have led to this.

We have issued 6 CBOs on those individuals who are having a significant impact on crime and disorder across the borough, with breaches being robustly dealt with. This includes offences such as ASB, Drugs, Violence and for safeguarding of others.

We have sought 38<sup>1</sup> DVPNs and DVPOs from the court to protect those most at risk of violence in a domestic abuse situations and investigated 8 breaches. We continue to actively be involved in Elmbridge’s Sanctuary Scheme.

The local Safer Neighbourhood Team have worked closely with partners to improve the support and care of an individual in Molesey to mitigate his impact on his neighbours, as well as ongoing safeguarding work around an individual who nearly caused a serious explosion in his own home.

Funding has been secured through the Community Infrastructure Levy to improve the ANPR capabilities in Elmbridge and to fund a bespoke Engagement Vehicle<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Data from 1 Jan 2019 – 17 Dec 2019

<sup>2</sup> Coming in 2020

We have acted on the local communities concerns regarding premises believed to be set up as brothels to close these down and identify if any individual is a victim of criminal exploitation through sex trafficking.

We continue to work closely with other enforcement agencies to respond to the emotive issues of unauthorised mooring on the River Thames and unauthorised encampments in the borough.

We have supported a number of national and force wide campaigns aimed at educating and raising awareness of key issues. These include;

- Operation Sceptre- tackling the threat of knife carrying amongst young people and raising the awareness of the risks involved.
- Operation Fountain- interactions in our local schools involving passive drugs dogs and scanners to detect and educate young people about the risk of carrying weapons and drugs.
- Operation Signature – initial safeguarding of vulnerable victims at risk of being defrauded and ongoing preventative work, including the use of Trucall devices.
- Operation Spearhead – our proactive approach to tackling burglary crimes in the winter months by raising awareness through social media, developing intelligence and proactive target those known to be involved in burglaries.

We continue to:

- Engage with our local communities through regular patrols in key locations and hotspots
- Build intelligence from our community to tackle crime and ASB
- Proactively target those having a significant criminal impact in Elmbridge
- Provide advice and guidance to our communities on how to keep safe and minimise the opportunity of being a victim of crime

We have seen, since April (FYtD) an increase in the number of reported:

- Residential burglaries (53 more reported)
- Drugs offences (24 more reported<sup>3</sup>)
- Vehicle crime (2 more reported)

We have seen, since April (FYtD) a decrease in the number of reported:

- Robberies (13 fewer)
- Violent offences resulting in injury (77 fewer reported)
- Criminal Damage (29 fewer reported)
- Anti-Social Behaviour (210 fewer incidents reported)
- Unauthorised Encampments (35 fewer reported, only 9 recorded)

## Challenges Encountered

There is an ongoing need that everyone understands the changing face of policing. Patrolling an area which is not a hotspot for crime or ASB is not where we should focus *all* our resources. Online crime and crime that takes place in the private space, such as Domestic Abuse, is constantly rising. I expect my officers to focus on protecting life before protecting property (this has always been the case) but at times the perception, and in some cases the expectation, from the public is otherwise.

Safeguarding vulnerable individuals is a key part of policing and forging strong relationships with partners is pivotal. Financial pressures on all public sector agencies is a constant challenge but

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<sup>3</sup> 78% positive outcome result, as the majority of reported drug offences are found by police

through efficient processes and identifying the right owner of a problem things have been seen to improve.

Over the past year we have seen our local police resources being required to support a wider county and national resource requirement. Officers have been deployed to ensure public order is maintained at key events and locations. This, naturally, has a knock on effect locally but is not solely specific to Elmbridge.

## Key Issues for Year ahead

Having arrived in Elmbridge a few months ago I can see how committed the officers policing Elmbridge are. I have three key areas as my focus for the year ahead.

### Prioritise Prevention

Crime can never be totally prevented. Criminals are often forensically and evidentially aware- this makes detecting crime harder. As such there is a need to ensure that the public know what they can do to reduce the likelihood of being a victim of crime. The focus will be on those areas that matter most to the public: Burglary (residential) and Vehicle Crime

### Action on ASB

Through strong partnership working ASB can be reduced- it is not only for the police to resolve! We will tackle ASB through early interventions and utilise existing powers (Closure Orders and CBOs) where proportionate and necessary. I will ensure officers know the issues in an area and patrol at key times in those locations, whilst also informing the public how to report ASB.

### Cohesive Communities

Drug dealing, county lines and ASB all effect local communities. My officers will gather intelligence from the local communities to build the picture for disrupting crime and ASB. Updates and information will be passed back to local community groups (including Neighbourhood Watch) as well as knowing the signs of cuckooing and reporting suspicious activity.