

Reigate and Banstead Police Newsletter

Issue 31
February 2026



Welcome to our new Borough Commander Inspector Lyndsey Whatley

I join Reigate and Banstead as the new Borough Commander on Monday 9th February. I have been the Borough Commander at Tandridge for the last three and a half years. I have previous experience in response policing, proactive teams and extensive neighbourhood policing experience across East Surrey.

I am very much looking forward to joining Reigate and Banstead, building on the strong community engagement, problem solving and crime focus already happening across the borough.



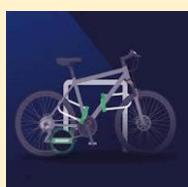
Residential Garage and Shed Burglaries

During December 2025 and January 2026 there were 23 reports of burglaries and attempted burglaries of residential garages and sheds in the Borough.

- 19 of these reports were from the Reigate area.
- 14 reports were shed burglaries of which 3 were attempted shed burglaries.
- 16 of the reported residential garage and shed burglaries resulted in the theft of a least 1 bicycle, including 8 electric bicycles.



Join us for an Event at Maison du Vélo in **Reigate** 14/02/26 between 10am - 12pm, for a chance to meet your Police local officers and discuss crime prevention concerning recent shed and residential garage burglaries and **bicycle** thefts.



Crime Prevention Advice

Please see the Crime prevention advice
"How safe is your bicycle?".

<https://www.surrey.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/how-safe-is-your-bike/>

In this Month's Newsletter

- Page 2. Fraud Prevention
- Page 3 Secure your Home
- Page 4. Court Result

Feedback

Your feedback on the Newsletter is important to us.
Please contact me at Simon.Morris@surrey.police.uk

Simon Morris 20789
Community Engagement Volunteer
Reigate and Banstead Police SNT





Michele (Waitrose) with
Graham (Surrey Police Volunteer)

Police Volunteers visit Waitrose Community Café.



As part of the Surrey Police Volunteer Fraud Prevention Programme, 2 volunteers joined the Community Café at Waitrose in Horley on Monday 2nd February.

The two Police Volunteers mixed with those attending the Café to raise awareness of Fraud and to answer any questions. “We spoke to 24 customers during the morning, giving out lots of advice and information”, said Graham one of the Police Volunteers. A range of Fraud types were discussed, including Phishing, Door Step, Courier Fraud, Investment Fraud and QR fraud. Michele (Waitrose) and her team at Waitrose in Horley are very supportive of the Police Volunteers joining the Community Café. Police Fraud Volunteers also attend the Community Café in Dorking, as part of a link with Trading Standards.

Surrey Police Fraud Prevention Volunteers will be at Banstead Community Centre on 11th February between 10:00am to 12:00pm and Woodhatch Community Centre on 25th March 2026 from 12:00pm to 02:00pm.

The talks/drop ins are free. Our Fraud Prevention Police volunteers, alongside our Safer Neighbourhood Team, where available, will attend in person to deliver the talk or mix more informally at drop in sessions.

If you are interested and would like to find out more please contact us at :

SussexandSurreyFraudPreventionEngagements@surrey.police.uk

You can find lots of Personal Fraud prevention advice, support and reporting details in the Little Book of Big Scams.

[Little Book of Big Scams \(version 5\)](#)



‘In the Know’ in January 2025

Be In the Know!

You can sign up to [In the Know](#) to find out what is happening in your area: witness appeals, crime updates, crime prevention advice and news. This also includes the weekly Crime Update from Reigate and Banstead, Safer Neighbourhood Team

Apart from our Weekly Police Update and Monthly Newsletter, these are the Surrey Police reports posted on ‘In the Know’ during January 2026. If you missed any of the reports, shown below, then please go to the the Surrey Police Website. See page 4 for contact details.

- 30/01/2026 New Year, new fraud newsletter. - Surrey Police
- 26/01/2026 National police reform announcement today. - Surrey Police
- 22/01/2026 Report Fraud Launches. - Report Fraud
- 15/01/2026 Record 369 arrests made during Surrey’s winter drink and drug driving crackdown. – Surrey police
- 05/01/2026 Tackling violence against women and girls – Surrey Police

In addition updates from: Fraud Team, Trading Standards, Neighbourhood Watch and the Crime Commissioner



Secure your Home Secure every floor

Whether you live in a house or a flat, home security works best when a layered approach is used. Multiple visible measures, such as good locks, lighting and cameras, help deter opportunistic criminals who are looking for easy access.

Cover all access points

Front, rear and side entrances of your property should be protected. Doors, windows, garages and outbuildings are all potential entry points.

- Lock doors and windows whenever you're out
- Keep valuables, including keys, out of sight
- Take steps to remove anything that could help someone climb or gain access to windows on any floor. Avoid leaving items like bins, buckets, paint cans or ladders accessible.
- CCTV & video doorbells

Video doorbells and CCTV that cover access routes can act as a deterrent and may provide valuable evidence if suspicious activity occurs. To get the most benefit, make sure your system allows recordings to be saved and accessed if required. Motion-sensor lighting adds another layer of protection and helps capture movement early.

Check visibility around your home

Rear alleys, side paths and garden access points should be well-lit and clearly visible. Trim hedges and planting so lighting and CCTV aren't blocked, as dark or hidden areas create opportunity for burglars. Offenders may look for access points at any level, so ensure windows and doors on every floor are secured, especially when you are not at home.

Apartment security

Flats may have fewer entry points, but they still need protecting.

- Always close and lock communal doors behind you.
- Report faulty locks, doors or lighting to your landlord or managing agent.
- Stay alert and report anything suspicious in shared spaces.



StreetSafe is a service that allows you to report safety concerns in public places without giving us your name (anonymously). This includes issues like poorly lit streets, abandoned buildings, or vandalism, as well as instances where you feel unsafe due to someone following or verbally abusing you.

Please note: StreetSafe is not for reporting crimes or emergencies. If you witness a crime please report it to us [online](#). If you're unsure whether something is a crime or not, read our advice.

Examples of situations that should be reported to StreetSafe include a poorly lit alleyway that makes you feel unsafe or a park with broken equipment that poses a safety hazard.



Information Corner



A man has been sentenced after pleading guilty to sexual assault by penetration of a child under 13. The man, who can't be named to protect the anonymity of the child victim-survivor, appeared at Guildford Crown Court on Thursday, 14 January, where he was sentenced to 11 years in prison and a given lifelong Sexual Harm Prevention Order.

In December 2022, Surrey Police were contacted by the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) to pass on a report received from the child's grandmother.

A child had disclosed that she had been sexually assaulted by her father over a period of two years. Throughout this period, the man would message the child daily and use code words for his actions.

He would also manipulate her with messages saying: 'I do so much for you, I would feel really upset if you told anyone'.

On one occasion, he said that he only did what he did because the pair had 'such a good bond'.

When questioned about these messages, he responded 'no comment'.

Detective Constable Nicola Dell said: "The bravery and strength of the victim-survivor to share what they have been through is admirable. I hope they will find some closure and be able to gain strength to move forward. "The man in this case should have been a trusted figure. Instead, he chose to use this trust to manipulate a child to suit his own deviancy.

I'd really urge anyone who may be a victim of sexual abuse, or know someone who is a victim, to please reach out for help. We take reports of sexual abuse extremely seriously, and we are here to listen and support all victims.

"You're not to blame for what's happening. You're not alone."

Contact: Simon Morris 20789
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Reigate and Banstead Police
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Crime statistics – November 2025 to January 2026

Offence	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Residential Burglaries	22 (12)	32 (9)	39 (15)
Keyless Car Theft	3	5	5
(-) Actual residential burglaries only, not including - Attempted, Garage and Outbuilding Burglaries			

There is an increase in the number of actual residential burglaries in January 2026, following a decrease in December 2025. Keyless Car theft in January 2026 remain the same as December, following an increase from November. Records show that there were 18 reports of Personal Fraud (scams) in January 2026.



The Surrey Police Website has lots of information and advice. It is there to support you.

<https://www.surrey.police.uk>

How to report a crime or incident:

Emergency: call 999

Non Emergency: call 101 or report online or via live chat at: www.surrey.police.uk

To contact your local team (not for reporting purposes) email:

ReigateandBanstead@surrey.police.uk

You can pass information to us directly via 101, online

via <https://www.surrey.police.uk/ro/report/> or anonymously via Crimestoppers 0800555111, <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

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