



Safer Stronger Partnership

Face the People

County Councillor Laurie Burrell -
Police Authority

Surrey Police Authority Presentation.
'Face the People' Wednesday 28th January 2009.

I am Laurie Burrell the Surrey County Councillor for Shepperton & Laleham Village, and Spelthorne's nominated representative on the Surrey Police Authority.

Surrey Police Authority consists of seventeen representatives drawn from community, and made up as follows: -

Nine Surrey County Councillors nominated by the authority, currently there are seven Conservative members, one Liberal Democrat, and one Independent elected member.

The County Councillors have to be politically proportioned in accordance with the political balance of the authority, and the respective party leader nominates the councillors. However the actual appointments are recommended to the Police Authority by the Chief Executive of the County Council.

The remaining eight members are non-political appointments, and made up from volunteers in the community, they include one Surrey magistrate, and seven independent members.

The Police Authority is responsible for appointing the Chief Constable in consultation with the Home Office, setting policy for the Surrey Police Force, agreeing the force's budget, council tax precept and Local Policing Plan.

The Chief Constables responsibility is to oversee the everyday operational effectiveness of the force, we as Police Authority members do not interfere with that role. If the public have any concerns about the performance of the force, or the way the police officers perform their role in the community it is the Chief Constables responsibility to resolve those issues, not that of the Police Authority members.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 and the Police and Justice Act 2006) established crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs) between the Police, Police Authorities, Local Authorities, Fire and Rescue Authorities and Primary Care Trusts.

The purpose of these partnerships is to ensure that all of these agencies work collectively to tackle local crime, disorder and substance misuse. The partnership arrangement acknowledged that no one organisation could achieve this alone.

CDRPs perform their duties by auditing the type and level of crime in their area; by consulting with the public on their views of crime and by developing a strategy and action plan to combat problems. CDRPs must balance the views and priorities of the public with other crime (e.g. serious organised crime), which the public may not be aware of.

The way in which CDRPs work and police authorities engage with the partnerships differ greatly, even across a force area. This can provide challenges to the police authority. The guidance provides basic requirements, which all members should work to achieve.

CDRPs are made up from six responsible authorities that are statutory members, these are:

- Police Authority,
- Police Force,
- Two Local Authorities, County and Borough.
- Fire and Rescue Authorities, and
- The Primary Care Trust.

The Probation Service is also set to join this list. The members of the CDRP all bring expertise and experience from their areas of work and should use this to develop an effective joint action plan to help solve problems.

The role of police authority members

The role of police authority members in CDRPs has been a cause of debate and confusion in the past. Surrey Police Authority has a distinct position within CDRPs as a strategic organisation rather than an operational body. This can be a stumbling block if the police authority is not seen as bringing something to the table. However, the position of police authorities is important and valuable.

In addition to this, the authority members should use their position to provide strategic leadership across the CDRP's activities of assessing local needs, developing and delivering their action plan.

Leading and guiding the partnership:

- Representing the views of Surrey Police Authority in CDRP discussions.
- Ensuring that partnership processes are well governed, that they fit into SPA and Surrey Police processes and it is clear who is responsible for what.
- Helping to promote the CDRP to ensure that it is visible and accountable to the public.

Assessing local needs:

- Ensure that Surrey Police and SPA provide CDRPs with the information that they need.
- Use their skills as a member to ensure that this information is used to agree the right priorities.

Writing the action plan:

- Representing SPA's views when preparing the plan.
- Using your strategic position to help negotiate local targets. Where these may lead to disagreements on priorities across different partners or between the CDRPs and SPA, members should work to minimise conflict and encourage collaboration.

Delivering the action plan:

- SPA members should ensure that the action plan is being implemented, and use their role to look for ways to resolve any problems that may arise.

SPA members should always evaluate the impact of the work of their local CDRP.

Role conflict as a SPA member.

Some members who represent the SPA at CDRP meetings are also members of Surrey County Council 'Wearing two hats' can lead to conflict of interests as members may find that the SPA disagrees with council policy. County Councillors must attend CDRP's as a SPA representative only and should not 'change hats' to respond as a councillor at the same meeting. A nominated representative of both the County and Borough councils also attend the CDRP meetings and will be able to fulfil that role.

Thank You.



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**Spelthorne
Together**