

Support your local Police officer

The cornerstone for the safety of the law-abiding citizens of Woking is the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). This team is dedicated to Woking and have the people of Woking's safety and well-being at heart. It is the SNT that set up the Canal Watch. That has been very successful at reducing crime along the canal and made this route safe for all. They have organised the removal of graffiti and the erection of CCTV cameras at key locations.

The SNT is made up of an Inspector, assisted by 3 sergeants, and a team of PCs and PCSOs. In Surrey, there is a plan to replace PCSOs with PCs as and when the former leave the force or move into a PC role. The number of uniformed officers in Woking is now at a good level after 12 years of under-funding by the government.

Woking's Inspector is Kit Moc, who joined Surrey Police from The Met (London). His 3 sergeants are Emily Collier, Sarah Wentworth and Tris(trum) Cansell. The borough is divided into 2 areas; east and west. Each area has a team of PCs and PCSOs, although those officers can be called to attend any incident in the borough if the need arises.

Inspector Moc has been keen to get a better Police presence "on the street". This doesn't mean a local copper walking past the end of your road every day as that is a dreadful use of Police resources, but it does mean that local officers will have a presence at certain locations at certain times when it is deemed effective to do so. The Police may be rushing about in cars from one location to another as they respond to incidents, and this is not often seen by the locals, but they are dealing with issues in your area.

Inspector Moc has also initiated a series of "Patrols with an officer" where local PCs and PCSOs have gone round the area with local citizens so that they can better understand the local issues. Woking centre's Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), and additional dispersal powers that have been authorised by Insp Moc, have been successful and have given the Police extra powers to disperse people who are committing ASB. The PSPO is also a major deterrent to the trouble makers.

If you feel that there is a local problem then tell the Police and they can act accordingly. You can ring 101, or send a "101" in via the Surrey Police's very useful 'Live Chat' facility or their report-a-crime page (both on <https://www.surrey.police.uk/ro/report/>). 999 is always the first option for emergencies or when time is of the essence. If you do not tell the Police then you cannot expect them to help with your problem. They are not psychic – they need to be told. Report, report, report.