1.0 Summary of Changes

1.1 This joint policy has now been subject of its first review and as a result there are changes made to the underlying SOP’s in relation to Operation LIBERAL and the intelligence flow regarding all distraction burglary investigations.

2.0 What this Policy is About

2.1 This policy is designed to ensure an effective and corporate approach to combat distraction burglaries ensuring all relevant responses are undertaken upon immediate report and that all necessary evidential paper work is completed to ensure the best chance of arrest and conviction.

*Compliance with this policy and any linked procedures is mandatory.*

3.0 Statement of Policy

3.1 Distraction burglaries are often perpetrated against the elderly and vulnerable victims. The offender may often use a trick or deception to gain access to the victims’ premises prior to the offender (or accomplice) committing a theft.

3.2 The bases of the deception are many and varied and include legends such as:

- Service industry operative (e.g. water board or gas board employees);
- Lost animal;
- Damage to fence;
- Note or parcel for neighbour.

3.3 While offenders may use deception, the subsequent use of violence is not uncommon if required for the offence to succeed.

4.0 Implications of the Policy

4.1 Finance / Staffing / Training / Other

4.1.1 There are no implications relating to this policy.

4.2 Risk Assessment(s)

4.2.1 During the course of an investigation it is the responsibility of the IO to carry out a dynamic risk assessment as necessary, to ensure the safety of staff, officers and members of the public, implementing any necessary control measures.

4.2.2 The associated procedures/SOPs must be followed by all officers concerned as there could be a reputational risk to the forces.
POLICY – Distraction Burglary

Number: S 0900

Date Published: 26 January 2017

4.3 Equality Impact Assessment

4.3.1 This policy has been assessed with regards to its race and diversity equality. As a result of this assessment the policy has been graded as having a medium potential impact.

5.0 Consultation

5.1 The following have been included in the consultation during the formulation of this document:

- Federation;
- Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator;
- Health & Safety;
- CID – various ranks and roles within Essex Police.

5.2 The following have been further consulted during the review of this document:

- Force Intelligence Bureau;
- Intelligence Support Det Inspector;
- CID within Essex & Kent Police;
- Force Control Room;
- TSU;
- East Midlands Special Operations Unit.

6.0 Monitoring and Review

6.1 This policy will be reviewed every two years by the owner.

7.0 Related force policies or related procedures (Essex) / linked standard operating procedures (Kent)

- S 0901 Procedure/SOP – Distraction Burglary

8.0 Other source documents, e.g. Legislation, APP, partnership agreements (if applicable)

- Age Concern advice on Bogus Callers