



Neighbourhood Watch Purpose Statement

Neighbourhood Watch exists to:

- Cut crime and the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour
- Provide reassurance to local residents and reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Encourage neighbourliness and closer communities
- Improve the quality of life for local residents and tenants

It will do this by:

- Being a community based organisation, involving residents and tenants who are working together
- Working in partnership with the police, local authorities and other agencies to reduce crime and disorder
- Sharing information and advice with the police and other agencies concerning crime and other incidents

It can do this by:

- Identifying issues of local concern
- Becoming involved in community problem solving, agreeing regularly which problems to target and what actions to take
- Getting involved in crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour prevention initiatives
- Providing volunteer administrators/co-ordinators who assist paid Neighbourhood Watch staff to effectively run Neighbourhood Watch
- Monitoring and reporting on Anti-Social Behaviour
- Forming district, county/force-wide associations to share and disseminate good practice
- Linking into and working with other Watch movements and wider voluntary, public sector and private sector bodies

The Police Service supports Neighbourhood Watch by:

- Having a clear policy statement which outlines its support for Neighbourhood Watch and the wider Watch movement
- Providing regular, structured help and guidance, especially to co-ordinators and district, county/force-wide Neighbourhood Watch associations
- Providing routine crime figures, other information and expert advice to Watch schemes
- Supporting the development of Watches or similar schemes into areas with the greatest need, including engaging with minority communities which are currently under-represented within the Watch movement
- Providing training opportunities for Watch co-ordinators
- Ensuring appropriate Neighbourhood Watch paid staff are trained to a minimum standard and managed effectively
- Developing a service level agreement between Neighbourhood Watch and the police

- Providing feedback to Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators/members who pass information/intelligence/incidents to the police
- Providing rapid dissemination of current information/intelligence to co-ordinators
- Integrating Neighbourhood Watch into its Neighbourhood Policing Programme
- Assisting local schemes to find sources of funding for running costs and other initiatives
- At a local level, bringing together Neighbourhood Watch work with other Watch, voluntary, public and private sector bodies concerned with crime, anti-social behaviour and quality of life issues
- Where agreed by the local force, carrying out vetting of Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and other appropriate Neighbourhood Watch volunteers

The Home Office supports Neighbourhood Watch by:-

- Providing Ministerial support to the movement
- Developing policy relating to the promotion, development and support of the Neighbourhood Watch and wider Watch movement in England and Wales
- Providing practical support, for example by maintaining the Neighbourhood Watch mini-site on the Crime Reduction Centre website, producing good practice guidance for the movement, supplying free publications and training materials, sponsoring conferences, events and commissioning appropriate research
- Promoting the effective exchange of information and sharing of good practice across Neighbourhood Watch and the wider Watch movement
- Bringing together Neighbourhood Watch with other voluntary and public bodies concerned with crime, antisocial behaviour and quality of life issues
- Exploring ways to reach out to younger people, those from minority ethnic groups and people living in higher crime areas
- Providing public liability insurance cover for every Neighbourhood Watch group and association throughout England and Wales
- Chairing the National Strategy Group for Watch Issues
- Working with the Government Offices for the Regions and the Welsh Assembly to help promote Neighbourhood Watch in the regions and Wales, in particular by supporting effective links between Neighbourhood Watch and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs)

Local Government supports Neighbourhood Watch by:

- Recognising the unique contribution of Neighbourhood Watch to the broader community safety agenda. Local Government recognises that Neighbourhood Watch schemes can make a real difference to local communities and values their importance as part of its broader work with the community and voluntary sectors

The National Strategy Group for Watch Issues supports Neighbourhood Watch by:

- Providing advice, information and support to the Home Office and ACPO on the development and implementation of policy and practical measures to promote the further growth and development of Neighbourhood Watch and the wider Watch movement
- Providing relevant knowledge and experience from outside the Watch movement
- Promoting Neighbourhood Watch to stakeholder organisations beyond the Watch movement