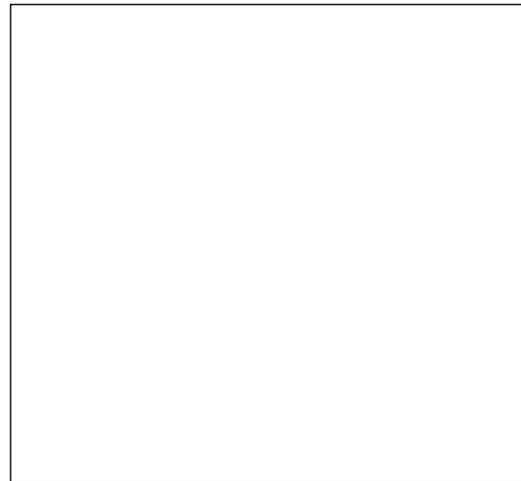


NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

HOW TO SET UP A NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

- 1 Identify community support for a new scheme.
- 2 Consult the local police.
- 3 Identify one or more co-ordinators who are well-known and have the trust of the community.
- 4 Co-ordinators fill in an application form for the police suitability check.
- 5 A scheme application form is sent to the Policing and Community Safety Partnership and local police to approve.
- 6 If approved, an accreditation certificate for the scheme and an identity card for the co-ordinator will be issued.
- 7 Signage can be erected.
- 8 Schemes and co-ordinators are reaccredited every two years.

If you would like to set up a scheme or would like more information, please contact one of the partner agencies listed in the box below:



If you want a copy of this leaflet in a different format or language, phone the Northern Ireland Policing Board on 028 9040 8500

Disclaimer:
Neither the Northern Ireland Policing Board, the PSNI or the DOJ Community Safety Unit will be held liable for any inaccuracies that may be contained within this document.





WHAT IS NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH?

Neighbourhood Watch is a partnership between local communities, Police and Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs).

Its aim is to help people protect themselves and their property, and to reduce the fear of crime.

BENEFITS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can make a real difference to people's lives, and can help people feel safer in their homes, by:

- improving the safety of communities;
- developing community spirit;
- promoting co-operation between the police and the community;
- helping the police detect crime through improved communication and reporting suspicious and criminal activity quickly;
- preventing crime and reducing the fear of crime;
- encouraging people to watch out for possible problems; and
- providing a visible sign that members of a community are looking out for each other.

HOW DOES NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WORK?

Anyone can belong to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and play a part in its achievements. Every community or neighbourhood can set up a scheme - a scheme can cover just one street, or part or all of an estate.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators act as a link between the community and local police. Their main role is to:

- act as the first point of contact for all members of the scheme; and
- receive and distribute information.

Everyone within a Neighbourhood Watch scheme plays an important part in making their neighbourhood a safer, more friendly and pleasant place to live.

One of the most important things members do is to look out for activity in their neighbourhood that seems unusual or suspicious. When you belong to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, you are given advice about the sort of things to look out for. Any information, no matter how minor, may help the police solve or prevent a crime.

A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

There is more to Neighbourhood Watch than protecting homes and property. By working together, neighbours can help to reduce all sorts of crimes, for example, burglary. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes can help improve the local environment and may help reduce levels of antisocial behaviour.

Neighbourhood Watch helps to reassure people by reducing the fear of crime and making communities safer places to live and work.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH IS FOR EVERYONE

Neighbourhood Watch is also about bringing people closer together by developing a stronger community spirit. Schemes promote confidence within communities that something positive is being done to prevent local crime and improve the quality of life in the area.

It is always important to remember that when you see something that concerns you, dial 999 if it is an emergency. If it is not an emergency, phone 0845 600 8000. Let the police check it out - you must never challenge someone behaving suspiciously or put yourself at risk.

