



## WINCHESTER AND EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### Setting up a scheme

NW is a volunteer organisation which exists to reduce crime and the fear of crime by having effective two way communication between residents, the police and other valuable partners such as Crime Stoppers, local and council Safety Partnerships and Trading Standards. As well as information about what is occurring in your area we aim to provide useful crime prevention advice to help make your community more resilient. NW can result in stronger and more proactive communities which help improve the quality of life for everyone.

The Hampshire NW Association has existed since 1995 and works closely with senior police colleagues, now supported by a Service Level Agreement, to ensure continued support and development across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. It is a forum for sharing good practice problem solving and also exists to serve and support NW across the two counties. It is affiliated to the South East Regional NW group and also the national Neighbourhood and Home Watch organisation.

Winchester and East Hants also benefit from an exciting emphasis on Neighbourhood Policing with local Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) actively involved in establishing and supporting NW. Ours is the biggest command unit in the county extending from villages north of Winchester, the city itself, through the Meon Valley to Denmead and including Petersfield, Alton and as far east as Liphook! Within this large geographic area there are several strong local Associations and groups which your scheme may become a part of. But across the whole area we are subdivided into Safer Neighbourhood areas – 7 of these – and each has its own NW representative who will actively support you and your scheme and provide regular information to keep you updated. These 7 representatives meet twice a year with the Chief Inspector and some key officers to discuss strategic NW development and support issues. Meetings are encouraged between coordinators and their Safer Neighbourhood teams on a regular basis and an evening seminar is held once a year to which all coordinators are invited to help inform and keep us all up to date on developments to make NW more effective. We also work closely with our Council Community Safety Managers and local and parish councils. Hampshire NW Association also works closely with the County Council and Voluntary Action Hampshire.

Regular crime updates are supplied by 3 police officers across the whole area and the new Crime Reports website, developed by and unique to Hampshire, can be accessed for up to date information and interrogation between yourself and your local police officers at [www.crimereports.co.uk](http://www.crimereports.co.uk) Web sites are being developed and some Safer Neighbourhood Teams invite communication via Twitter. A Hampshire NW Facebook site is also available. But please remember NW is reliant on effective **two-way communication**. So the expectation is that you and your scheme provide details of any suspicious event, person or vehicle to our police colleagues. This is vital to help build up an intelligence jigsaw and help reduce crime and opportunities for crime in your neighbourhood. If an act of anti-social behaviour happens ten times then it should be reported ten times. In this way the police will be able to decide on when and how to respond and direct resources appropriately. No piece of information is too small and should be reported through **999** if an incident is actually happening or there is threat to life; or alternatively through **101** if the incident is not dangerous or to share descriptions of people, vehicles or events.

**Please remember to say at the start of the call that you are NW! This helps quantify the usefulness of our organisation to the police**

Your help in encouraging all your scheme to do this is vital and will demonstrate that your scheme is proactive. It is possible, having set up a scheme, to get reduced home insurance premiums. But you will need to demonstrate, if ever making a claim, that your scheme is proactive.....so good NWing! You and your neighbours are the 'eyes and ears' of the police in your local community.

There are no rules for NW and we are expanding rapidly in response to a desire to engage and become involved in identifying local crime related issues and their prevention. We aim to help ensure properties are as secure as possible, crime prevention advice is shared with all residents and the most vulnerable members of our communities are identified and signposted to services to help them remain independent and safe. Bogus callers and scam emails and phone calls target these people especially and we need to keep crime out of our communities. Communication is key to the success of any scheme. Keeping in touch, especially face to face, revives community spirit and encourages participation of everyone.

A NW scheme is easy to set up and once established is a great asset to a community because of increased awareness and the shared determination to prevent crime in an area. Community spirit and neighbourliness will enhance the 'togetherness' of a new scheme. Zero tolerance for crime is the focus for us all.

Here are a few simple steps to setting up a scheme:

- Talk to your neighbours to get their support. A scheme can be a road, part of a road or a block of flats!
- Contact your local Police Station to find out who your local officer and NW area coordinator are.
- Arrange a local meeting to talk about setting up a scheme – this can be in your house or a local hall.
- Decide together on who will be your scheme coordinator. This person will have a simple police check.
- Decide how you will fund the NW signs for your scheme (currently £24.00; £22.00 or £4.00)
- Complete the data registration form and await confirmation from the police that your scheme is registered
- Compile a list of residents' names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses to share with police. Such records need to comply with the Data Protection Act and all personal details need to be kept securely and with the permission of the individual for use solely for the purposes of NW.

There are no regulations in Hampshire governing the size of an organisation or scheme. Some have committees within a village or small group of roads; some an Association covering a larger area. You will be welcomed by your local coordinators and the police when becoming a new and highly valued point of contact for your community.

For further information please contact:

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