



Neighbourhood Watch

The Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) movement is, and has been, the largest volunteer 'force' to consistently support the police and community in crime prevention and reduction since the early 1980s.

The movement is still very active providing a large available resource willing to be involved in supporting the police, councils and other agencies, in crime prevention and reduction activities and also other community focused initiatives.

The key objective of Neighbourhood Watch is to Reduce Crime and the Fear of Crime and Improve quality of life by making communities safer places to live.

Neighbourhood Watch is built on the simple idea that by getting together with your neighbours, you can take positive action to help cut crime and improve community conditions. It gives people the opportunity to work in partnership with their neighbours, the police, councils and other agencies and make a real difference to their community.

Individual 'Watches' are community initiatives that are supported by the police, but not owned or run by them. Watches can be large or small bringing together whole estates or a just a few houses. Whatever the size, they all share the same objectives:

- Cut crime and the opportunities for crime
- Help and reassure those living in the area
- Encourage neighbourliness and bring communities together

As well as looking out for their neighbours, Neighbourhood Watch members can take proactive steps to reduce levels of crime in their area and help reduce the opportunities for criminals to operate. They can also help provide the community with crime prevention advice.

Watches are generally led by a volunteer co-ordinator. The co-ordinator's role is to get members of their community working together to ensure identified objectives are achieved. As well as a co-ordinator, watches may also choose to form a committee, meeting as required, to plan which problems to target and what actions to take.

There are many benefits to setting up or joining a Neighbourhood Watch scheme including:

- bringing communities together with everyone sharing a common goal
- helping you feel secure knowing that your neighbours are keeping an eye on your property
- helping you become more familiar with crime prevention ideas that help keep your home and belongings safe
- possible premium discounts from your insurance company

If you are interested in forming a watch in your area, or would like more information on NHW, please contact;

- your local Neighbourhood Policing team (details can be found on the Lancashire Constabulary website)
- The Lancashire Volunteer Partnership (LVP) at <https://lancsvp.org.uk/>
- your local councillor,
- or, the Lancashire Combined Watch Forum (*"The Neighbourhood Watch Association for Lancashire"*) at - secretary@lcwf.co.uk