

## Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is a grassroots charitable movement. It is the largest crime prevention voluntary movement in the UK and has over 2 million members. Schemes are run by volunteers across England and Wales supported by volunteer Associations, and by **Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN)**, the national umbrella organisation for the movement.



A **Neighbourhood Watch scheme** can be as few as two neighbours, a street, or larger if required, with a coordinator who acts as the point of contact between the CNWA, the police and other agencies on behalf of their members.

The **Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)** is the volunteer Association in Cheshire who support local schemes. Cheshire Police support Neighbourhood Watch.

### Neighbourhood Watch supporting you and your community

Neighbourhood Watch supports individuals and groups to create safer, stronger and active communities.

We believe in a caring society that is focused on trust and respect, in which people are safe from crime and enjoy a good quality of life. To achieve our goals we work national, regionally and locally.

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme coordinator is the lead point of contact for their local Neighbourhood Watch scheme, connecting and supporting non-members, participating members, local police and partners, actively involved in keeping their neighbourhoods safe.

A Neighbourhood Watch member is a person who belongs to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.



[www.cheshirepolicealert.co.uk](http://www.cheshirepolicealert.co.uk)



**Cheshire Police Alert** is the community messaging system brought to you by Cheshire Constabulary and servicing the whole of Cheshire.

By registering with Cheshire Police Alert, you will receive news and appeals, local crime information and crime prevention advice direct to you as an email. The system also allows you to feed back information to your local policing teams to help them better police your neighbourhood.

It is also the platform used for creating and managing Neighbourhood Watch Schemes across Cheshire. This integration ensures that messages are cascaded promptly and efficiently to Neighbourhood Watch scheme members via coordinators.

You do not need to be a member of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme to register with Cheshire Police Alert.

[www.cheshirenw.org](http://www.cheshirenw.org)

[www.ourwatch.org](http://www.ourwatch.org)

[www.cheshirepolicealert.co.uk](http://www.cheshirepolicealert.co.uk)

## Setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Firstly make sure there isn't already a scheme in place by visiting the CNWA's website [www.cheshirenw.org](http://www.cheshirenw.org). If there is, ask to join the scheme by clicking on the 'Send a message—Email scheme coordinator'. If not, contact the CNWA at [cheshirewatch@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cheshirewatch@cheshire.pnn.police.uk) who can help you set up your scheme and provide you with the relevant Invitation leaflets and stickers.



All coordinators MUST be registered with the CNWA through the Alert system and agree to receive messages from Cheshire Police and Neighbourhood Watch.

### Inviting neighbours to join

Don't leave a neighbour out of the group you invite. You can invite neighbours any way you like, however we recommend you try to speak to each neighbour and/or post an Invitation leaflet through their door.

### Start to build community safety, awareness and promote neighbourliness

A good place to start is the CNWA's website [www.cheshirenw.org](http://www.cheshirenw.org) and NWN's website [www.ourwatch.org](http://www.ourwatch.org).

You may decide to hold regular meetings with your members either via the internet (Skype, Zoom etc) or in person to discuss updates and community projects or initiatives to improve where you live.

Consider setting up a WhatsApp group or a private Facebook page for your members to share information and updates quickly.

Schemes can also request Neighbourhood Watch signs and window stickers from the CNWA.

Utilise your local PCSO, they can often attend meetings to give updates and can assist with community projects, and assist with community safety and crime concerns.

### Agree how each member will receive information

Members now have greater choice about how they can receive information. Your scheme may be a mix of the following.

- The coordinator scans various sources of information recommended by the CNWA and the police, only circulating what is locally relevant (email, private Facebook page, WhatsApp, hard copy, personal visit, etc)
- Encourage members to self-register as a scheme member on the Alert system to receive direct emails from the CNWA, police and other agencies.
- Follow your local neighbourhood policing teams' Twitter or Facebook accounts.
- Encourage members to give you their email (if they have one). It will make it easier to circulate information. You can use the Alert system to store the details of your scheme members and send them messages.