

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

GETTING INVOLVED

How can you get involved?

If you're not in touch with your local Neighbourhood Watch group and don't know how to reach it, use our postcode search on our website [www.ourwatch.org.uk/your_local_area] to find it quickly and easily. If there is a group in your area you will be able to contact the scheme coordinator to find out about joining their scheme.

You may also want to contact the representative for your region who can also help point you in the right direction. Go to Our work in the Regions [www.ourwatch.org.uk/our_work_in_the_regions] and select your region.

Starting a scheme

If there's no scheme in your area, you might like to think about setting one up yourself. The first step is to talk with your neighbours to see who might be interested and find out how they'd like the area to be improved. To make things even easier, we have some useful letters and flyers in our Publicity materials section of our website [www.ourwatch.org.uk/resource_centre/publicity_materials] designed to help you introduce yourself and encourage your neighbours to join you.

The postcode search [www.ourwatch.org.uk/your_local_area] on our website will give you links to find your local Neighbourhood Policing team who should be able to put you in touch with someone who can help you start a scheme. This might be a contact at the Local Neighbourhood Watch Association or a dedicated Police Officer, who will be able to help you out with advice on getting started, provide information about local resources and more. The police don't run Neighbourhood Watch, but they will have information about groups in your area.



You can get a new scheme started without necessarily committing to running it yourself. Once you've got enough interest from local people, you can select someone to become the coordinator for the group. Remember, you can start a group with a lot of interest or only a little. Many schemes start very small and then grow once residents see what it's all about. The main thing is to make a start.

Register your scheme

Our national website is intended to act as a hub for Neighbourhood Watch schemes in England and Wales, where people can make contact and find helpful information. If you already run a scheme we'd like you to register [www.ourwatch.org.uk/get_involved/register_a_scheme] with us. When you register your Neighbourhood Watch or Home Watch scheme with us, you'll make it much easier for people in your area to find it through our site, using our postcode search [www.ourwatch.org.uk/your_local_area]. You'll also become part of a network of schemes across England and Wales, making it easier to share information, exchange ideas and even ask for help if necessary. Visit Our Work in the Regions [www.ourwatch.org.uk/our_work/in_the_regions] on our website to see how you can connect with what's going on in your region.

You'll find lots more information on joining, starting or registering a scheme download the full version of this Toolkit module [www.ourwatch.org.uk/resource_centre/toolkits/getting_involved].