

## What is a Watch for?

Neighbourhood Watch creates closer links within a community, and with the police and local council. It empowers residents to take ownership of crime reduction in their area and increases the safety of their community. The aim is to help people protect themselves and their property, to reduce fear of crime, and improve their local environment.

By working with others in partnership more crime can be prevented and detected.

Areas which have a Neighbourhood Watch have lower rates of crime.

## How can a Watch be run?

NW can be as basic or involved as you like:

- Many watches operate simply by sharing information on a regular basis through paper crime bulletins.
- Others are more social and have semi-regular get-togethers around a BBQ or coffee evening.
- Some are quite formal, have regular meetings with an arranged agenda and specific actions agreed upon.
- Others get actively involved within their community to work on crime prevention projects through diversion and improved environment.
- In some areas the watch is run quietly without using signs and any information is passed on to Crimestoppers instead of the police.

There are many different ways that a watch can be run depending on the time and commitment available from members.

For any further help or information please contact the Aberdeen Neighbourhood Watch Liaison & Development Officer\*.

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**“Through Neighbourhood Watch a common purpose is created for neighbourhoods to take ownership of crime reduction and increase safety to enhance the level of community wellbeing.”**

For further information on the GNWA see :  
[www.grampiannwa.co.uk](http://www.grampiannwa.co.uk)



## Neighbourhood Watch

# Starting a Neighbourhood Watch



## How are Watches started?

Firstly the level of interest in your area is assessed. After all, Neighbourhood Watch relies on the participation of its members. Contact the Neighbourhood Watch Officer for information that can be given to your neighbours to develop and determine their interest. (Contact details are on the back page)

All those that are interested are invited to an initial meeting where a number of things are discussed:

- Who is going to be the co-ordinator?
- Who will help the co-ordinator?
- What area your watch is going to cover?
- How much time and commitment can be made by members?
- How you want the Watch to run?
- Whether there are any current problems in the area that need addressing?

Information about crime prevention and home security will be issued to each member along with property marking pens and window stickers.

All that is required to make it official is to decide who will be co-ordinator and which households want to join and then fill in the form attached.



## What does a co-ordinator do?

The co-ordinator acts as the link between members of the Watch and outside bodies like the Police and local Watch Association.

Their role includes:

- Passing up-to-date information about crime in the area to the other members.
- Circulating information about crime reduction and safety to other members.
- Encourage residents to report anything suspicious or criminal to the police quickly.
- If your group wants to hold meetings then, organise the time, date and location of the meeting and possibly invite speakers.
- Keeping in touch with other local watch schemes in the area.
- Welcome newcomers to your street and keep an eye out for the well-being of more vulnerable members.
- Report any environmental issues to the local council.

Larger watches often share this work among several people.

## The Social Side

The social side of Neighbourhood Watch is very important. Not only does it make it fun and mean you make new friends, it helps defend your area against intruders. If you recognise your neighbours then any strangers will be quickly noticed.

Some groups create their own newsletter to keep all the residents informed. It often includes lots of topics about what is happening in the area, and is not just about crime.

## Who can help?

Aberdeen now has a Neighbourhood Watch Officer to provide advice, information and whatever support necessary. Contact details are on the back page.

In addition each area has its own Police Officers and Wardens who can be asked to support your group.

In some areas Watches join together to form a local association for mutual problem solving and support.



## Tackling problems

You may want to start a Watch because of specific problems in your area. Deciding how to tackle these problems together is important.

You may need to have a meeting to discuss

- Which problems you want to address,
- How you plan to tackle them, and
- What resources and help you will need.

If you need ideas for how to deal with the problems then please contact the Neighbourhood Watch Officer. There are many different approaches to community problems, and may even be funding available.