

## Why should I be interested?

There are many benefits to having a Watch in your street:

- Reduce crime
- Safer Homes
- Improved community
- Better quality of life
- Make new friends
- Have fun
- Cheaper insurance
- Free security items



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

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## Neighbourhood Watch

# What's in it for me?

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 very 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.

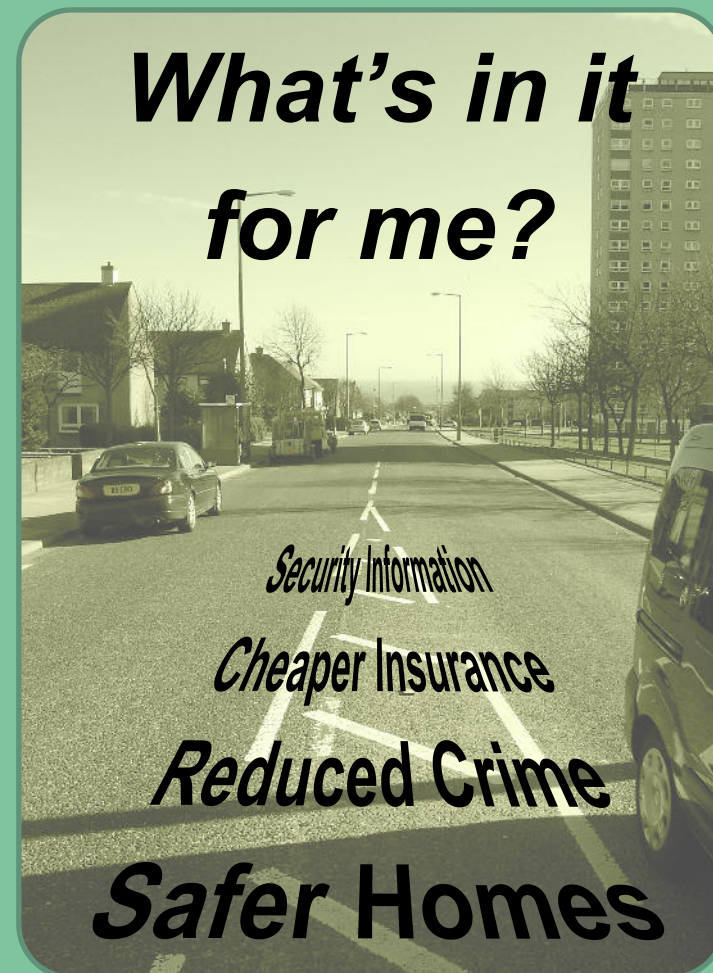
There are many different ways that a watch can be run depending on the time and commitment available from members.

One thing they all have in common however is being able to enjoy a reduction in crime and the fear of crime and better neighbour relations



**“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.grampjannwa.co.uk](http://www.grampjannwa.co.uk)



## How do Watches Work?

Watches can be very basic. They require that a co-ordinator is appointed - this is simply the person who acts as the point of contact for the Watch. They would receive and distribute information from other people in the Watch or from the Police. This is essential to the operation of the Watch but it does not have to be too much work as these tasks can be shared out. If a crime or something suspicious occurs in your area then members should report it to their co-ordinator (although if it was a crime in progress then 999 should be dialled first.)



## What else can Watches do?

Lots more. Neighbourhood Watch is about more than just crime prevention by keeping vigilant. There are many other ways to reduce crime and the fear of crime; whether it's by improving the local environment (lowering hedges, removing graffiti, tackling rubbish that could be attractive for starting fires) or being active in getting security messages across and looking out for more vulnerable members.



## How do Watches get started?

To begin with the level of interest in your neighbourhood is assessed and an initial meeting set up. Once up and running however, you do not have to continue to hold meetings.

At this first meeting you meet up to discuss who is going to be the co-ordinator, how large an area your watch is going to cover, what specific aims you have as a group (eg reduced housebreaking in your area, clean up local graffiti to reduce fear of crime, identification of vulnerable people within the area etc) how much time and commitment can be made by members, and how you want the Watch to run.

Easy access information will be given out to all members on how to tackle many community safety issues and how to improve your home security.

After that you just need to socialise and get to know your neighbours so that when you meet in the street you will know who they are.



## What help is available?

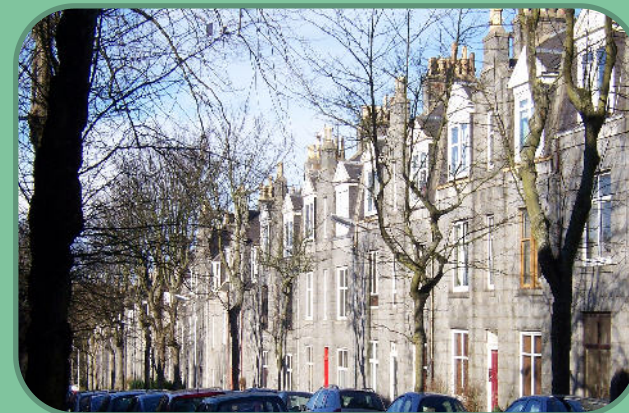
All sorts!!

More of these leaflets can be provided to generate interest in your area.

All the information and ideas required to get a watch going will be given to you.

We'll help set up your first meeting and provide talks where requested, safety and security advice will be given. All members who join will also be given information to take away as well as free security items.

There is even a fund to provide refreshments for your first meeting and other start up materials such as printer ink and paper. All that's left to your group is the cost of Neighbourhood Watch signs, and we even help by buying your first two.



## Afraid of retribution?

All areas tend to have problems but some more than others. Neighbourhood Watch can still work even if you don't want to advertise that it is running. It can run quietly, and information can be passed to Crimestoppers instead of the Police.