



Starting a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Hampshire

This guide by HINWA - (www.hinwa-nw.org.uk) is provided to assist anyone wanting to start a new Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Hampshire.

Neighbourhood Watch (NW) is about local people working together to create a safe and friendly place to live where neighbours care about each other and crime and anti-social behaviour is less likely to happen. It's about making sure no one feels alone and scared or vulnerable where they live.

On their own, the Police can't deal with all the problems and issues of crime and anti-social behaviour, they need the help of the whole community - and NW is a way for local people to get involved and help keep their community safe.

How to start a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Hampshire

Please contact the County Chairman : Bob Combes –bobcombes41@gmail.com (02392 522439) who will be able to guide you through the simple process of starting a NW scheme or he may ask a Local Contact (e.g. the local Area Coordinator) to liaise with you. More information for our NW Area can be found at

www.hinwa-nw.org.uk

1. Speak to your neighbours to see if they would like to join a NW scheme.

You will need to collect the contact details for residents who want to join the NW scheme (and their formal agreement to hold their contact details). Use the **Joining Form** attached - you can adapt this to suit your needs.

Schemes vary in character. Your scheme might consist of residents of an apartment building, a few houses, the whole street or a larger area. It depends on how many neighbours want to join. (You can start small and get more people to join later.)

2. Are you willing to be the Scheme Coordinator?

Someone needs to take on this role – he or she will be the point of contact between your scheme, the local NW group and the Police. More information on the role can be found here: <http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/knowledge/coordinator-role-description/>. It helps if someone also agrees to be your Deputy in case you are away or unavailable (but it is not a necessity).

3. Apply to be Scheme Coordinator.

Hampshire Police require that NW coordinators are acceptable to them. They take a quick look at the Police National Computer to confirm acceptability.

[Please note no personal information held by the Police will be discussed with NW.]

You (and any Deputies) should complete the **Vetting/Registration form** attached and send it to your NW Contact to allow this vetting to take place. The Police will tell us their decision and we will contact you. If all is okay, you will be asked to register your scheme

4. Register with National Neighbourhood Watch. www.ourwatch.org.uk

As a NW Coordinator you will be asked to register yourself and your scheme on the database (above) of the national charity. Data is held safely and the database meets UK requirements for data protection.

You will need to name your scheme and draw an outline of the area covered on a map. Registration will mean that your scheme can be seen by anyone searching for a nearby scheme and can contact you (anonymously) via the database.

This will also link you with Hampshire Alert - the system Hants Police use for communicating with the public. This means you will receive general safety information and crime 'alerts' that can be passed on to your scheme members. You choose what, how and when you get messages (Alerts).

If you are having difficulty with registration – ask your NW Contact for help.

5. What next?

Let your neighbours know the scheme has been registered. You can use (or adapt) the **Welcome Letter** attached to let them know.

Continue to encourage everyone to join – perhaps hold a meeting with your scheme members – get to know each other and explain that you should be looking out for each other and helping to build a caring community.

Make contact with your local Neighbourhood Police team. If you don't know your local PCSO, you can do a postcode search at www.hampshire.police.uk or your NW Contact can ask the Police to contact you.

6. Street Signs:

Local councils allow NW signs to be displayed in the street but there are guidelines about how/where to mount them. You must get permission from the owner of the post or wall where they are to be fixed. Your Local Contact will help you with this and has details of sign suppliers – signs with fixings/postage typically costs about £10 each – which you will normally need to raise from your scheme members but sometimes the local Council will assist – ask your NW Contact.

7. Door/Window stickers:

NW 'roundel' stickers will be supplied free by NW for all your members.

8. More Information:

At the National NW website www.ourwatch.org.uk there is a great deal of helpful information about running NW schemes as well as security advice and information on Public Liability Insurance that is provided free to registered schemes for NW activities.