

What is Neighbourhood Watch in Cheshire?

Neighbourhood Watch is a grassroots charitable movement. It is the largest crime prevention voluntary movement in England and Wales and has upwards of 2.3 million members. Schemes are run by volunteers across England and Wales supported by volunteer Associations, and by Neighbourhood Watch Network, the national umbrella organisation for the movement.



Neighbourhood Watch is an independent, voluntary, community-based network of local, registered co-ordinators who receive crime updates and safety warnings, and engage with their neighbours to improve neighbourhood security.

Cheshire has a constituted, independent association, the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA) of which all scheme co-ordinators are members. The CNWA has a committee which currently meet via Zoom once a month, along with representatives from Cheshire Police. The committee consists of Coordinators from across Cheshire who have been co-opted onto the committee.

Although it started in Mollington, Chester in 1982 as Home Watch, the Neighbourhood Watch brand and logo, licensed through the CNWA, is now used throughout England and Wales. The CNWA has also set up a new website www.cheshirenw.org through funding from the PCC to market and provide information and advice on Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch. We also have a Twitter account [@watch_cheshire](https://twitter.com/watch_cheshire) and Facebook group facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw.

The CNWA work in partnership with Cheshire Police. Due to the CNWA volunteers being unable to access this email account due to COVID-19 we started using the email cheshirenw@outlook.org, however we do also have a single email account for the police and CNWA cheshirewatch@cheshire.pnn.police.uk (emails to this account are forwarded to, and will be replied from, the Outlook account).

The national Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN) provide CNWA members with £10m of Public Liability Insurance (for such things as personal accidents for people under the age of 80 if they are undertaking tasks on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch) and a national website www.ourwatch.org.uk.

What Does Being a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Involve?

The success of Neighbourhood Watch is largely down to volunteers who give up their time to engage with their neighbourhoods and communities and local services, such as the police, to boost community activity, reduce isolation and combat crime.

The coordinator plays a key role, however, when the whole neighbourhood/community gets involved, then the Watch is stronger and more effective for its members. The relationship between the NW coordinator and the police is also helpful to the sustainable success of any NW scheme.

Coordinators help their neighbourhoods by:

- Knowing who their members are
- Welcoming new residents to the NW scheme area and inviting other neighbours to join
- Communicating regularly with members in order to maintain their interest and pass on information and advice relevant to their area
- Organising meetings to bring members together (when possible)
- Communicating regularly with local groups and agencies such as the police and other relevant agencies; keeping a note of incidents or reports made to them and then passing them on to police or their local policing team
- Keeping an eye on any elderly or vulnerable neighbours, or arranging for others to do so.
- Arranging for NW signs to be put up and maintained

How do I set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme? Quick Guide

First, make sure there isn't already a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NWS) that covers where you live by visiting the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA) website www.cheshirenw.org

If already a NWS
ask the existing Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator (NWC) if you can join their scheme.

or

If there is no NWS

1. If not already signed up, using a new email address set up specifically to use for Neighbourhood Watch, register yourself via www.cheshirepolicealert.co.uk.
2. Log back into Cheshire Police Alert and set up a new scheme including mapping the area you are to cover. Please tick the boxes for communication from Neighbourhood Watch and Cheshire Police as this allows CNWA and your local PCSO access to your details to contact you. Find a step-by-step guide for setting up your scheme on our website (cheshirenw.org) under [FAQs and Useful Documents](#).
3. Email **CNWA** via cheshirenw@outlook.com with your details, inc. scheme coverage (e.g. High Street #s 1-20), and number of houses in your scheme. They can also help if you are having

4. **CNWA** will check your new NWC registration and request Invitation leaflets for you to invite your neighbours to join the scheme. These will be sent to your local **PCSO** to deliver.

5. Your local **PCSO** will visit you to deliver the Invitation leaflets introduce themselves if you haven't met them. They will ensure you understand key police contact information i.e. emails, regular local crime Alerts, Cheshire Police website, Twitter accounts and Facebook pages where you can find information.

6. Use the Invitation leaflets to invite **all your neighbours** in the area you have chosen for your new scheme to join your NWS.
7. As your neighbours accept your invitation store their details on the www.cheshirepolicealert.co.uk system.
8. Email CNWA (cheshirenw@outlook.com) to confirm your scheme has started and how many of your neighbours have joined your scheme.

9. CNWA will send a Neighbourhood Watch sign and window decals to your local PCSO to deliver to you.
10. Hand out the window decals to your members and arrange to put up your new NW sign.