

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 a website www.cheshirenw.org to market and provide information and advice on Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch. We also have a Facebook group facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw.

The CNWA work in partnership with Cheshire Police. We use the email cheshirenw@outlook.com

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 www.ourwatch.org.uk/find-your-local-nw and enter your postcode to see a list of the closest seven approved groups to you.

If already a NWS that covers where you live 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, set up a new email address specifically to use for Neighbourhood Watch and register yourself via <https://members.ourwatchmember.org.uk/join> Please tick the box for communication from Cheshire Police as this allows your local beat team access to your details to contact you.
2. Log back into Neighbourhood Alert and set up a new scheme including mapping the area you are to cover. By doing this **CNWA** will be informed that you have set up a new scheme.

3. Your scheme now needs approving. Following guidelines set out by the national Neighbourhood Watch Network, the **CNWA** will check your new NWC registration, email you, before phoning to discuss your scheme. The approval process also involves Police Approval, which involves a member of your local beat team visiting you. You can request leaflets to invite your neighbours to join the scheme.

4. A member of your local **beat team** will visit you to introduce themselves and deliver any leaflets requested. They will ensure you understand key police contact information i.e. emails, regular local crime Alerts, Cheshire Police website and Facebook pages where you can find information.

6. Once you have been approved you will be able to see any neighbours within your scheme area and invite them to join your scheme via the system. For any not on the system 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 Neighbourhood Alert system. Email **CNWA** (cheshirenw@outlook.com) to confirm your scheme has started and how many of your neighbours have joined your scheme and how many street signs you need.

7. **CNWA** will send your Welcome leaflets and window decals to your local **beat team** to deliver to you.
8. Hand out the leaflets and window decals to your members and arrange to put up your new NW street sign.