



Stockport Neighbourhood Watch

Handbook for Neighbourhood Watch
Members and Area Residents





INTRODUCTION

This guide is intended as a useful quick reference for Scheme Coordinators and Individual Members of Neighbourhood Watch in Stockport, as well as those thinking about joining. We hope it will provide an easy source of information for you.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch, originally called Home Watch, has been in existence in the UK for over 40 years. 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. In 2017 NWN became a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO).

THE AIMS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The aim of the Neighbourhood Watch Network is to build safer, stronger and more resilient communities where crime and anti-social behaviour are less likely to happen.

To further these aims members should adhere to these ethics and standards of behaviour:

- Honesty and integrity
- Fairness, respect and courtesy
- Leadership, objectivity and openness
- Selflessness
- Responsibility and accountability
- Confidentiality
- Non-discrimination



STOCKPORT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION



We were created in 2018 as one of the ten Boroughs that make up the Greater Manchester Neighbourhood Watch Association, which in turn links to the National, charitable, organisation.

We support the local Stockport Schemes and Members and work closely with the police, council and other bodies to promote Neighbourhood Watch throughout Stockport.

SNWA has a website -

www.stockportnwa.org

and various social media sources, which provide local crime statistics and information.

BECOMING A MEMBER

To join Neighbourhood Watch you need to go to the Neighbourhood Watch Network website at:

www.ourwatch.org.uk

Access “Join Us” and complete the forms, this will register you as an Individual Member and allow you to select who can send you information. As a member you can access a wide range of information on the website covering crime prevention, events and support.

JOINING A SCHEME

Once you have registered you can join a local Scheme. Log in to the Ourwatch website and select the option “Find my Local Scheme”, and enter your post code. You will get a display of Schemes close to your home location and you can look at the details of those to see which is the most suitable. You can choose to join one of those or email the coordinator for more information.



THE ROLE OF A MEMBER

Neighbourhood Watch members need to be alert. They are the eyes and ears of the organisation.

Members are asked to:

- Support other members, Coordinators and SNWA officers
- Report suspicious and/or criminal incidents to the police
- Take personal responsibility for community safety by improving your own home and personal security and assisting others to do so.
- Be a good neighbour, share crime reduction information and keep an eye on each other's homes and possessions, giving special consideration to vulnerable neighbours.
- Support police and other agencies to identify local issues and solve problems where there are community concerns.

BECOMING A COORDINATOR

You may find that there are no schemes close enough to where you live, or that your area would be better served by having its own individual scheme. In which case you can undertake to create your own scheme. Ideally you need to identify a number of potential members and the area that you wish to cover, prior to setting up the Scheme. Most Schemes cover just a road or two but it is possible to set up a Scheme for a wider area. Look under Coordinator Resources on www.stockportnwa.org.uk for further information and calling cards to recruit members.

When you are ready, log in to the Ourwatch website and select the option to apply to create a new scheme. This will bring up a form where you can enter the relevant details and sketch out the area covered. New Schemes need to be approved by Stockport Neighbourhood Watch Association. You will then start receiving updates from SNWA.

THE ROLE OF THE COORDINATOR



As a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, your role is to:

- Contact neighbours in your scheme area and to invite them to join.
- Ensure your scheme is registered on the NWN website and membership and scheme information is kept updated.
- Encourage members to sign up on the website, if they are unable to do this, make sure that ALL members are supported, irrespective of how they joined the scheme.
- Act as a point of contact for residents, the local policing team, Stockport NWA and other bodies to receive and cascade information relevant to scheme members.
- Get to know your neighbours, particularly those who are vulnerable or isolated, and ensure information reaches them through their preferred method of communication.
- Signpost members with community safety concerns to the most appropriate organisation.
- Encourage members to report suspicious incidents and / or criminal or anti-social behaviour to the police or local authority.
- Promote personal responsibility for community safety by sharing crime reduction information and encouraging members to improve their home, on-line and personal security.
- Promote neighbourliness by encouraging members to keep an eye on each other's homes and possessions, giving special consideration to supporting vulnerable neighbours.
- Support the local police and other agencies to identify local issues and solve problems where there are community concerns.



SCHEMES WHICH THRIVE AND PROSPER

The following good practice enables Neighbourhood Watch schemes to work well:

- Develop good relationships with the police and other agencies
- Encourage social activity
- Help to improve the local environment
- Have a good community spirit
- Meet and talk regularly, either face to face or via social media options
- Follow crime reduction advice
- Care about each other
- Engage with local Schools and Governors
- Promote local Area Litter pick initiative
- Understand the importance of the community taking shared responsibility for reducing crime in their area

HANDY HINTS FOR CRIME PREVENTION:

- Park a car on the neighbours drive if they are away
- Always push letters and newspapers through your neighbours letterbox properly
- Put rubbish in your neighbours bin if they are away and put it out for collection as usual
- If milk or parcels are left on the doorstep, take them in and leave a note to say that you have them



Cont :

- Tell a trusted neighbour when you are away, who the keyholder is, and an emergency contact number
- Think about any houses that overlook yours, say at the rear, and think about introducing yourself
- Be alert to any suspicious behaviour or activity.
Report to the Police or Coordinator as appropriate.
- Write down the description of any person or vehicle, including registration number, which you think is unusual or suspicious.
- Make sure you have adequate security measures for your home and garden
- Keep a record of serial numbers for all valuable property, such as mobile phones, laptops, etc
- Take photos of expensive items, such as jewellery
- Mark property with your postcode using a UV marker
- Take mutual responsibility for your neighbour's property
- Use light timers to make your property appear occupied
- Keep your Neighbourhood Watch scheme active





CONTACTS

GREATER MANCHESTER
POLICE



Greater Manchester Police

Use the GMP website at: www.gmp.police.uk
to access information and services

To report an incident to the police:

999 - In an emergency only

- when a crime is being committed or has just happened
- There is a risk of injury, or serious damage to property.

Online

- access the website where there are options to guide you through various situations

101

- If you do not have access to the website you can use the 101 number for providing information to the police on non emergency situations or obtaining advice.

Crimestoppers

Crimestoppers are an independent charity helping law enforcement to locate criminals and solve crime. Information can be given to Crimestoppers, completely anonymously, 24/7 by phone **0800 555 111**

Antisocial Behaviour

Reports of Antisocial Behaviour are now being handled by Stockport Homes on behalf of Stockport Council. You can submit a report using a form available from www.stockporthomes.org

Alternatively there is an app which can be used on a mobile device for ongoing problems. Information is available from **0161 217 6016**

Victim Support

An independent Charity who offer free and confidential support to anyone who has been affected by crime. Contact **0808 168 9111**