

Revision of the NEIGHBOURHOOD & HOME WATCH NATIONAL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Under authority delegated to me by the National Strategy Group for Watch Issues (minute NSGWI/08.4.6), I am publishing the following as the agreed text.

Jenny Oklikah
Nominated representative of the Home Office

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Neighbourhood and Home Watch National Statement of Purpose

Neighbourhood and Home Watch is a partnership where people come together to make their communities safer.

It involves the police, community safety officers of local authorities, voluntary organisations and, above all, individuals and families who want to make their neighbourhoods better places to live.

It aims to help people protect themselves and their properties, and to reduce crime, the fear of crime, and the incidence of fire and environmental damage, by means of improved home security and home safety awareness, greater vigilance, accurate reporting of suspicious incidents and crime to the police, and by fostering a community spirit.

It is established country-wide, in urban and rural areas alike, as local neighbourhood schemes, and town, city and county associations; with representation at police-force area, regional, and national levels.

Neighbourhood and Home Watch exists to:

- Prevent crime, and the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reassure local residents, and reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reduce the incidence of domestic fires and environmental damage to residential property
- Encourage neighbourliness and community cohesion
- Improve the quality of life for local residents and tenants.

Neighbourhood and Home Watch does this by:

- Being a community-based organisation, involving residents and tenants working together
- Working in local partnership with the police, local authority, fire and rescue service, the voluntary sector and other agencies to prevent crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, and the risk of fire and environmental damage
- Sharing information with the police and other agencies concerning crime and other incidents.

Neighbourhood and Home Watch can do this by:

- Identifying issues of local concern and drawing them to the attention of local agencies

- Becoming involved in community problem-solving, including taking part in local forums to agree which problems to target and what actions to take
- Getting involved in initiatives aimed at tackling crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour; preventing the incidence of fire; and reducing the risk of environmental damage
- Promoting crime prevention and home safety
- Providing volunteer administrators and co-ordinators to assist paid (police/local authority) Neighbourhood and Home Watch staff in the effective running of schemes
- Monitoring local incidences of crime and anti-social behaviour, and reporting them to the police and local authority
- Forming associations at district and county/police-force-area level to share good practice
- Recruiting new members to Neighbourhood and Home Watch schemes
- Establishing links and working with other types of Watch, and more widely with other bodies in the voluntary, public, and private sectors (particularly tenants' and residents' associations, and neighbourhood police teams and their local panels)
- Adhering to the principles and undertakings outlined in the Compact (on Relations between Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector in England) to help to shape excellent partnerships between statutory agencies and the voluntary and community sector.

Statements of Support

The following organisations have appended to this National Statement of Purpose a Statement of Support for Neighbourhood and Home Watch, and agreed that their badges or logos may be displayed alongside this text wherever it is reproduced:

- The Association of Chief Police Officers of England, Wales and Northern Ireland (ACPO) and the Association of Police Authorities (APA), jointly on behalf of the Police Service in England and Wales
- The Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA), on behalf of fire and rescue services in England and Wales
- The Home Office
- The Local Government Association (LGA), on behalf of English and Welsh Local Authorities
- The National Strategy Group for Watch Issues (NSGWI)

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND HOME WATCH

**from the Association of Chief Police Officers
of England, Wales and Northern Ireland (ACPO)
and the Association of Police Authorities (APA),
jointly on behalf of the Police Service in England and Wales**

The Police Service supports Neighbourhood and Home Watch by:

- Being represented on the National Strategy Group for Watch Issues and endorsing the National Statement of Purpose.
- Identifying, developing and disseminating good practice across the Police Service in regard to supporting Neighbourhood and Home Watch.
- Having a local statement of support, local policy and a local Service Level Agreement outlining its support for Neighbourhood and Home Watch.
- Providing regular, structured help and guidance to groups, and especially to co-ordinators and district, county/police-force-wide Neighbourhood and Home Watch associations, including by making available routine crime statistics and other information.
- Supporting the development of Neighbourhood and Home Watch in areas with the greatest need, including engaging with minority-ethnic communities which are currently under-represented within Neighbourhood and Home Watch.
- Providing training opportunities for Neighbourhood and Home Watch co-ordinators.
- Ensuring appropriate paid Neighbourhood and Home Watch staff are trained to a minimum standard and managed effectively.
- Keeping groups appropriately informed about developments in investigations and cases in relation to which members have provided to the police information or intelligence.
- Keeping group co-ordinators informed about developments in initiatives in which they have an interest.
- Integrating Neighbourhood and Home Watch into the Neighbourhood Policing Programme.
- Assisting groups find sources of funding for running costs and other initiatives.
- Bringing together locally Neighbourhood and Home Watch groups with other bodies in the voluntary, public, and private sectors concerned with crime, anti-social behaviour, and quality-of-life issues.
- Carrying out the vetting of Neighbourhood and Home Watch co-ordinators and volunteers, if and as required by each the local police service.
- Encouraging local Award schemes to recognise the contribution of Neighbourhood and Home Watch members.

- Adhering to the principles and undertakings outlined in the Compact to help to shape excellent partnerships between statutory agencies and the voluntary and community sector.

Revised (twice) October 2008

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND HOME WATCH

**from the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA),
on behalf of fire and rescue services in England and Wales**

Fire and Rescue Services support Neighbourhood and Home Watch by:

- Being represented on the National Strategy Group for Watch Issues and endorsing the National Statement of Purpose.
- Having a clear policy statement which outlines their support for Neighbourhood and Home Watch and the Wider Watch movement.
- Providing regular, structured help and guidance to groups, and especially to co-ordinators, including by developing working partnerships with Neighbourhood and Home Watch development officers in Community Safety Units and by making available routine fire and rescue statistics and other information.
- Supporting the development of Neighbourhood and Home Watch in areas with the greatest need, including engaging with minority-ethnic communities which are currently under-represented within Neighbourhood and Home Watch.
- Working in partnership with groups on fire-safety campaigns and in providing and fitting smoke alarms and conducting domestic fire-risk safety checks.
- Supporting Watch co-ordinators' training in fire safety issues.
- Keeping groups appropriately informed about developments in incidents in relation to which members have provided to the Service assistance or information.
- Keeping group co-ordinators informed about developments in initiatives in which they have an interest.

Revised (twice) October 2008

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND HOME WATCH
from the Home Office

The Home Office supports Neighbourhood and Home Watch by:

- Being represented on the National Strategy Group for Watch Issues and endorsing the National Statement of Purpose.
- Providing Government support to the Neighbourhood Watch movement.
- Developing policy relating to the promotion, development, and support of Neighbourhood Watch in England and Wales.
- Maintaining an official Neighbourhood Watch website.
- Producing good-practice and training guidance for Neighbourhood Watch schemes and associations, and providing promotional material for schemes to use.
- Establishing practical ways in which Neighbourhood and Home Watch can support the delivery of the Home Office's Public Service Agreements.
- Working with the Government Offices for the Regions and the Welsh Assembly to help promote Neighbourhood and Home Watch in the English regions and Wales, in particular by supporting effective links between Neighbourhood Watch and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).
- Adhering to the principles and undertakings outlined in the Compact to help to shape excellent partnerships between statutory agencies and the voluntary and community sector.
- Helping Neighbourhood and Home Watch share good practice nationally and to establish links and work with other Watch movements, and other bodies in the voluntary, public, and private sectors.
- Sponsoring conferences and events.
- Providing Public Liability Insurance cover for every police registered Neighbourhood and Home Watch schemes in England and Wales.
- Chairing the National Strategy Group for Watch Issues.
- Making strategic links across central Government to further the objectives of Neighbourhood and Home Watch.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND HOME WATCH
from the Local Government Association (LGA),
on behalf of English and Welsh Local Authorities

Local authorities support Neighbourhood and Home Watch by:

- Being represented on the National Strategy Group for Watch Issues and endorsing the National Statement of Purpose.
- Recognising the unique contribution of Neighbourhood and Home Watch to the broader community safety agenda: that Neighbourhood and Home Watch schemes can make a real difference to local communities.
- Involving groups in initiatives aimed at tackling crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour.
- Involving groups in work with local community and voluntary networks.
- Ensuring groups have the opportunity to contribute to the strategic assessment carried out by the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), which is used to identify local crime and disorder problems, to set priorities and deploy resources.
- Adhering to the principles and undertakings outlined in the Compact to help to shape excellent partnerships between statutory agencies and the voluntary and community sector.

Revised (twice) October 2008

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND HOME WATCH
from the National Strategy Group for Watch Issues (NSGWI)

The National Strategy Group for Watch Issues supports Neighbourhood and Home Watch by:

- Contributing to the national strategic development of Neighbourhood and Home Watch, including by owning and revising as necessary the National Statement of Purpose.
- Leading activities aimed at achieving the Strategic Objectives of the National Strategy Group for Watch Issues, as agreed by the Group, which are at present to:
 - Promote Watch schemes as an effective local partner, and support them to participate in community engagement to increase community safety and neighbourhood management
 - Promote knowledge and understanding of the Watch movement
 - Support Watch schemes so that they are fully able to deliver Watch activities.

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