Message from the Chair

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Conservative Party on their majority victory in the General Election.

NHWN looks forward to working with the Home Secretary to continue our efforts as the foremost crime prevention organisation across England and Wales. We will ensure that crime prevention is seen as a top priority over the course of the next five years and we will also be looking to implement the objectives outlined in our new five year strategic plan which we launched in April too.

The victory for the Conservatives would indicate that the Police & Crime Commissioners will remain in post. Whatever our thoughts about PCCs, in the vast majority of cases they have delivered as far as Neighbourhood Watch is concerned by providing support, resources and funding.

Finally, a reminder to all that Neighbourhood & Home Watch Week will be upon us soon. This year it will be taking place between 20th-28th June. You can keep up to date with all of the developments for the week on our website: www.ourwatch.org.uk/about_us/projects_campaigns/neighbourhood_home_watch_week/.

Jim Maddan OBE, NHWN Chair
They’ve got that winning feeling

It’s quiz question time!

Q: What do Dave Downs from Bingham, Tom Jackson from Huntingdon, Veronica Bradbury from Hasland, Peter Chaundy from York and Peter Ashman from Barnsley all have in common?

A: They can all enjoy the light nights and long weekends of spring and summer safe in the knowledge their homes are secure. The reason? They are all winners of the competitions our primary security sponsor, Avocet has run in our monthly e-newsletters.

Spring has sprung. Summer will soon follow. And with them come the joys of light nights, warm weather and more time out and about. But no matter where you are, whether it’s barbecuing in the garden or enjoying long weekends away, it’s vital not to forget about home security.

All too often people’s fine spring evenings are ruined because someone forgot to shut the windows that had been open all day prior to going out for the evening. Or they simply left the door ajar while they were sat enjoying an al fresco meal in the back garden.

But while these are examples of simple things homeowners can do to protect themselves from opportunist thieves, we all know you need to ensure your home is secure even when you’ve remembered to close and lock everything.

We view home security as paramount,” said Avocet’s marketing manager, Derrick Purvis. “And we will never apologise for our insistence on continually banging the drum about lock-snapping and the importance of installing proper snap-secure locks.”

“There is a basic flaw in so many houses and we won’t rest easy until it is properly recognised and resolved.”

Dave Downs from Bingham

“As a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator I am only too aware of the kind of steps that need to be taken to protect your property and the Avocet Hardware ABS locks that I’ve had fitted will certainly help to do that.”

Mark and Ruth Harrisons from Mirfield who were unfortunately burgled in early 2014

“Ruth and I knew next to nothing about lock-snapping before the burglary, but did our research straight afterwards and we were staggered to discover the sheer scale of the problem. I was even more astonished when our insurance company said the locks they would fit would be the exact same ones that the burglars had snapped so easily in the first place.”
These are just a few of the people who’ve had their homes protected by ABS. And now it’s your turn. Either enter this month’s competition or get in touch with your local locksmith and ask about ABS.

Competition

Win a fully installed ABS lock upgrade for your home.

Q. How many anti-drill pins does an Avocet ABS snap secure lock have?

Hint – take a look at www.abs-secure.co.uk

To be in with a chance of winning e-mail the answer, along with your name, address and daytime telephone number to:

nhwcompetition@avocet-hardware.co.uk

Closing date for entries is May 18th, 2015.

More information about ABS locks can be found at:

www.abs-secure.co.uk
Our News

Junior Neighbourhood Watch Needs Your Vote!

Do you want to keep children safe and also help stop them becoming future causes of crime? Who doesn’t!

The growing popularity of Junior Neighbourhood Watch cannot be underestimated, as demand for this ground breaking volunteer-led project continues to grow in and around Sussex, with many other areas of the country expressing a keen interest to develop similar initiatives.

We are primarily focusing on children aged between 10 and 11 years old, a significant formative period when they are eager to learn yet still young enough to be wisely influenced. We encourage the younger generation to take a proactive approach to reducing crime and increasing safety in and about their homes, and around the community, through a series of interactive after-school sessions, hosted by a dedicated team of trained Neighbourhood Watch volunteers.

To meet this growing demand, Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Federation is spearheading a campaign to bid for funds and resources to further support the successful roll-out of the scheme across the county.

John Wright MBE, Chair of Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Federation, said: “Junior Neighbourhood Watch has been steadily growing over the last few years, with more and more children wishing to get involved. Those that have taken part have expressed their sheer enjoyment of the project, taking away a number of key safety messages which stand to benefit the entire community”.

Junior Neighbourhood Watch is one of over 3,000 competing ventures participating in the Aviva Community Fund Programme. We need as many votes as possible to get through to the second round.

Jim Maddan OBE, National Chair of the Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network, said: “If enough votes are secured, Sussex will lead the way with Junior Neighbourhood Watch firstly across the county, and later across the country, as our first national flagship project”.

Hundreds of young people across Sussex stand to benefit, with thousands more similarly benefitting through the follow-on national rollout programme.

The benefits will last for years. So much quality payback for so little input!

Please pledge your support for Junior Neighbourhood Watch. Vote for free at Aviva Community Fund!

How to vote

1. Click open the Aviva Community Fund webpage: https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/cms/get-involved.

2. To locate and vote for the Junior Neighbourhood Watch (JNHW) Sussex project, type ‘Neighbourhood Watch’ into the search bar.

3. Click the ‘Junior Neighbourhood Watch (JNHW) Sussex’ icon to find out more about the project.

4. If you wish to vote for the project, on the right hand side, select ‘how many votes you would like to cast’ (Maximum 10) and click ‘submit my vote’.
Largest crime fighting movement looks to the future

Growth in membership, reducing the number of victims of crime and anti-social behaviour and a new image is all on the cards for the largest crime fighting movement across England and Wales.

Neighbourhood and Home Watch volunteers came together in a series of workshops and events hosted by the national charity, Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network (NHWN), to discuss their ambitions for the future of the movement for the next five years. Aspirations included making the benefits of joining clearer and better than ever before and expanding schemes into neighbourhoods which previously had been difficult to engage. Discussions on bringing virtual and physical communities together was also highlighted, with plans to enhance the existing online scheme search and database.

New and emerging crimes were also highlighted as a priority for the movement, seeing a marked change from the stereotyped perception that Neighbourhood Watch just tackles domestic burglary. Keeping safe online, rural crime and community resilience were all flagged as new areas of growth for volunteers.

The charity has released their five year strategy, which is supported by the Home Office, the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).

Jim Maddan OBE
Chair, NHWN

“It gives me great pleasure to launch the new 5 year strategy for the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network. We have come a long way since our first such document in 2010 and although there have been one or two hiccups along the way, our primary objectives have been met.

We could never have predicted the exponential rise in the use of new technologies and social media. We have had to adapt and change along the way. It is an exciting time and we have grasped the opportunities with both hands and we look forward with enthusiasm and vigour to the years ahead”.

DCC Michael Banks
NPCC Lead for Citizens in Policing

“The Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network is a first class organisation and a great example of citizens involved in social action to protect their own communities.

As a police service we are proud to be associated with NHWN and our respective organisations will continue to support each other to broaden and deepen the involvement of our citizens in such a noble cause”.

Download

Strategic Plan 2015-2020:


We have also created an Action plan for 2015/16, which fits in the with the objectives outlined in our 5 year strategic plan.

2015/16 Action Plan can be downloaded here:

The Metropolitan Police Service [MPS] and the Mayor of London has announced the world’s largest roll-out of an innovative ‘traceable liquid’ to reduce burglary rates across the capital.

The new ‘Met Trace’ programme, which will run over three years, will provide 440,000 homes in burglary hotspots across the capital with a free kit containing an invisible traceable liquid, allowing owners to mark their possessions with a unique forensic code and to display warning stickers to deter burglars. This code can then be used by the police to trace the items should they ever be stolen and to link suspects to crime scenes.

Created by SmartWater Technology Ltd, the liquid, which is virtually impossible to remove and can only be viewed under UV light, has already been proven to significantly reduce burglary rates. During a recent Met trial across five boroughs, burglary rates reduced on average by 49 percent, with some areas seeing a reduction of over 70 percent. More than half of residents involved in the pilot said they felt safer having applied the liquid to items in their homes.

The Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan set a target to reduce burglary by 20 percent by 2016 and the number of burglaries in the capital is down 23 per cent compared to March 2012. The Met Trace programme is another positive step to building on that work further.

The technology has a significant deterrent effect and it is predicted the roll-out could prevent over 7,000 residential burglary offences, saving the MPS almost £5 million and freeing up 140,000 police hours (equivalent to 17,400 police working days).

Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime Stephen Greenhalgh said:

“Burglary is a sickening offence which has a devastating effect on victims, and we need to do more to prevent it. Recent trials in London provide strong evidence that traceable liquid technology is a good investment and this large-scale roll-out will help us drive down burglary rates even further. Investing in this technology will not only help us protect homes and businesses, but by preventing crime will also free up hundreds of officers.”

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Maureen West said:

“We had a spate of burglaries in our neighbourhood and SmartWater has made a real difference in deterring crime, making us feel a lot safer. I am thrilled that this amazing kit will be used more widely in London.”
Officers and Neighbourhood Watch volunteers trained as Dementia Champions

Officers and NHW volunteers from Bridgwater in Avon & Somerset have been trained to be Dementia Friends Champions. The aim of the scheme is to improve people’s understanding of dementia and its effects.

Inspector Mark Nicholson said “We see the role as an extension of community policing and supporting vulnerable people on our patch. We have joined forces to run ‘Dementia Friends Information Sessions’ for local policing teams and neighbourhood watch groups to help them actively engage with people living with dementia”.

This is the second training day of its kind given to officers within the Somerset. The programme has been embraced by several local policing teams, with more training sessions planned for other areas.

Mark continued; “It’s a great use of resources from an already established community group serving local people. It is an extension of the good work already in the community.

“Being a Dementia Friend is about taking little actions such as to behave patiently with someone showing signs of dementia, spending more time with a relative affected by dementia, fundraising or generally raising awareness. This will help our community to be more dementia friendly and bring people closer together.”

A reminder that we have secured free Public Liability Insurance cover for all NHW schemes across England & Wales.

Frequently Asked Questions


Certificate for proof of cover

The certificate for proof of cover can be downloaded from the Members Area under the ‘Resources’ tab on our site or from the Resource Centre of the Neighbourhood Alert microsite you are a member of.

Access Insurance

If you have any question specific to the policy, you can contact Access Insurance here:

www.accessinsurance.co.uk/neighbourhoodwatch
Residents of a Ryedale village have set up a new No Cold Calling Zone (NCCZ) to protect them from rogue traders and distraction burglars.

The NCCZ has been set up in Marton due to an increased number of crimes being committed by unsolicited callers and doorstep traders.

‘No Cold Calling Zone’ signs have been erected at the entrance to the village and the residents have been provided with door stickers and information to help them to handle unwanted visitors.

The zone gives an opportunity for the community to collectively say ‘No’ to the practice of cold calling and aims to reduce the fear and threat felt by some people when there is an unknown caller at the door.

If residents receive any unwanted callers, they can contact Trading Standards or North Yorkshire Police.

Unwanted callers visiting the zones will be challenged, their credentials will be checked and they will be informed of the legalities of the zone.

Chair of North Yorkshire Neighbourhood Watch, Terry Wallis said:

“This initiative focuses on reducing the number of incidents linked to cold calling and will help to reduce criminal offences committed against residents by bogus callers.”

Marton also has a long established Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, where residents have been provided with home security advice.

“These zones are set up to help prevent residents from becoming victims of rogue traders and distraction burglars in their own homes. I hope that the advice issued to householders will give them the confidence to respond appropriately to cold callers.”

Louise Hutchinson, Terry Wallis, Ryedale council’s Gail Cook and Pat Woodhall

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### Setting up a No Cold Calling Zone

To set up a No Cold Calling Zone in your area, contact your local Trading Standards department and your Neighbourhood Watch Representative: [www.ourwatch.org.uk/get_involved/in_the_regions/](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/get_involved/in_the_regions/)

You can also download a notice to put in your door/window to deter cold callers from our website: [www.ourwatch.org.uk/resource_centre/document_library/cold_caller_warning_sticker/](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/resource_centre/document_library/cold_caller_warning_sticker/)