Dog Watch builds on the concept of Neighbourhood Watch. It is an initiative that encourages dog walkers to be pro-active and vigilant in their area, whilst out walking their dogs.

This is because they are often the first people out and about in the mornings, and the last ones out at night. They are then able to report any unusual observations, suspicious activity or anti-social behaviour back to the relevant authority.

It allows dog walkers to get involved with community concerns and provide useful information that helps make their local area a cleaner and safer place to live. It also builds community cohesion with dog walkers in the local area and a good relationship with local Police.

A Dog Watch scheme is normally set up in partnership with the Police and Council but can also include other local groups and businesses too.

There is not a set way in how a Dog Watch scheme must be run and maintained but it can take the form of a normal Neighbourhood Watch scheme, where regular meetings are held to discuss any local issues or areas of concern and what can be done to help tackle them.

This can vary from graffiti/vandalism, insecure homes, noise issues, fly tipping issues and anti-social behaviour. Information gained can then be relayed back to the Police or Council and positive action can be taken.

The Dog Watch website for Stevenage. This is a great example of a successful Dog Watch scheme and a lot of useful information and good practice can be drawn from the site.

The Dog Watch website for Milton Keynes. This is another good example of a successfully operating Dog Watch scheme and information and good practice can be taken from this site too.

If you are interested in setting up a Dog Watch scheme in your area, please contact your Regional Representative here: