



NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH NETWORK

Impact Report



2022/23

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Welcome

On behalf of Neighbourhood Watch Network, we are delighted to present our annual Impact Report. The report reflects the fantastic work and achievements of the army of Neighbourhood Watch volunteers across England and Wales, whose commitment to enabling neighbours and communities to be connected, active, and safe, whilst increasing wellbeing and minimising crime is incredible.

Over the past year, while celebrating 40 years of Neighbourhood Watch, our volunteers and communities have faced significant challenges and uncertainties again but have also experienced moments of incredible resilience and perseverance.

This report provides an overview of the accomplishments, challenges, and lessons learned over the past year. It includes stories of individuals whose lives have been improved through Neighbourhood Watch work, as well as data highlighting the impact of our work.

We want to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to all our volunteers, trustees, colleagues, and partners who have worked tirelessly to make these achievements possible. Without your support, dedication, and passion, we would not be able to make the impact we have.

As you read through the report, we invite you to share in our successes and our learnings, and join us in our ongoing efforts to make a positive difference in communities and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working together to build a better future for communities everywhere.

Yours sincerely



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TRUSTEE

We are on track

to achieve our goals

AUTHORITATIVE VOICE ON COMMUNITY-BASED CRIME PREVENTION

We appeared on more than 30 radio and television shows, including The One Show, GB News, BBC Morning Live, Steph's Packed Lunch, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 1, ITV Central, Voice of Islam, and LBC. We are now members of the Government's National Residential Burglary, ASB, and Victims of Fraud Task Force, and have attended Cabinet Office-led working groups on ASB and youth violence. We have negotiated a National Police Liaison Framework between Neighbourhood Watch and local Police Forces.



MOST POPULAR GATEWAY FOR PEOPLE TO ENGAGE IN THEIR AREA

In our Insights Survey 2023 more than half (56%) of the 20,000 respondents strongly agreed or agreed that we provide the first step for neighbours to connect with each other and get involved with other local community groups. With over 2.3 million member households and over 60,000 active volunteers, we continue to be one of the biggest voluntary community movements across England and Wales. Respondents to our survey most associated the words INFORMATIVE, NEIGHBOURLY and COMMUNITY-FOCUSED with Neighbourhood Watch.



A RECOGNISED CONTRIBUTOR TO COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Our Insights Survey 2023 showed that two-thirds (66%) of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that Neighbourhood Watch contributes to community health and wellbeing, and a similar 65% strongly agreed or agreed that Neighbourhood Watch strengthens community spirit. A further 58% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that Neighbourhood Watch supports vulnerable people in their community.



Do we look a little different to you?



In 2020 we set our 5-year strategy, with a central aim to reinvigorate the charity to reflect our relevancy and our focus on increasing diversity. We began this work by understanding what people thought of us. This valuable insight drove us to refresh our branding, including the introduction of a new logo to run alongside our traditional logo, to express our commitment to inclusivity and progress, while embracing the heritage of the charity.

As we grow from strength to strength, it becomes ever more important that we share our story and speak with one voice. With this in mind, alongside our new logo and Brand Guidelines, new Communication Guidelines have been launched, enabling thousands of our volunteers to speak with one Neighbourhood Watch voice.

We are proud of

our achievements



937,849

People regularly receive messages from us

93k+

Neighbourhood
Watch groups across
England and Wales

42k+

followers on our social
channels and many
more on local
social groups

40k+

visitors per month
to our website



35k+

volunteers signed up
to receive regular
communications

10k - 25k

on average responded
to our surveys

4k

engaged with our
crime prevention
webinars

2.5k+

businesses, agencies,
and individuals signed
up to our Community
Safety Charter

800

on average supported
us through our new
weekly lottery

£8k+

awarded in
community grants
to local projects



WE ARE INCREASING OUR VISIBILITY WITHIN COMMUNITIES

Our online shop has sold:

85k+ window stickers

1.5k+ road signs

& 1,000s of other branded items



We are proud of

our achievements

70 Active Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors across England and Wales



Our partnerships with **Patlock & LockLatch** support our Community Grants Fund

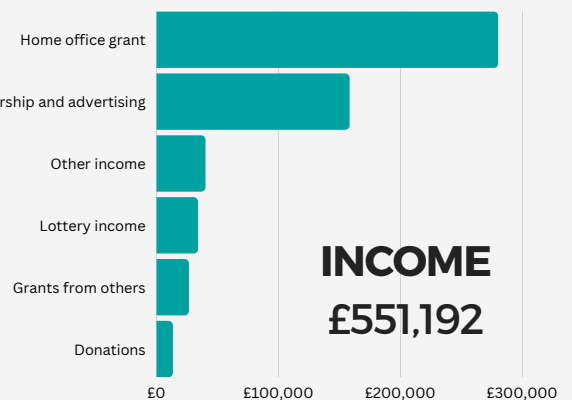
We forged **4** new partnerships with the NHS, Master Locksmiths Association, Immobilise and D&D

Our partnership with **Avast** enables us to recruit, train and support our Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors

WHERE OUR INCOME CAME FROM

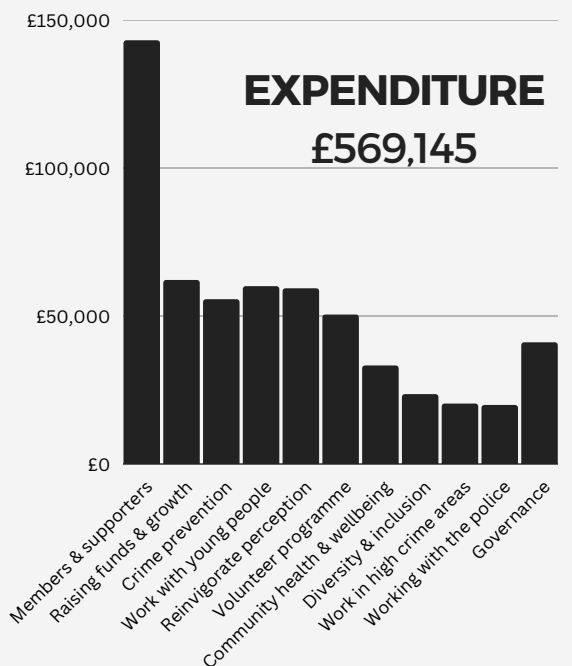
Our lottery income is a new income stream.

HOME OFFICE GRANT (£280,000)	51%
SPONSORS & ADVERTISING (£158,100)	29%
OTHER INCOME (£39,872)	7%
LOTTERY INCOME (£33,760)	6%
GRANTS FROM OTHERS (£26,306)	5%
DONATIONS (£13,155)	2%



WHERE WE SPENT OUR MONEY

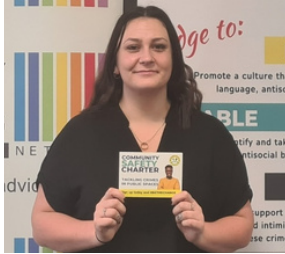
MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS (£143,113)	25%
RAISING FUNDS & GROWTH (£62,155)	11%
WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE (£60,059)	11%
REINVIGORATING PERCEPTION (£59,345)	10%
CRIME PREVENTION (£55,657)	10%
VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME (£50,475)	9%
GOVERNANCE (£41,105)	7%
COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLBEING (£33,279) ...	6%
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION (£23,600)	4%
WORK IN HIGH CRIME AREAS (£20,413)	4%
WORKING WITH THE POLICE (£19,944)	3%



For every £1 raised, we spent 81p on charitable activities & 19p on development

Making a difference in

crime in public spaces



“Signing up to the Community Safety Charter has been very beneficial in our work supporting the public in Torbay. I highly recommend it to everyone interested in supporting others and being a positive force for good in your local area”

Jasmine Allen, Paignton Community Hub Lead, Torbay Health and Wellbeing Network

REDUCING ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The thriving West Hill Neighbourhood Watch group in Dartford has been determined to reduce antisocial behaviour and improve their area. Its members were brought together over a campaign to regenerate their local park. In campaigning for this and engaging in community litter picks, the group has inspired its residents, helping them to feel safer and more connected to their area.



TAKING A STAND AGAINST DANGEROUS DRIVERS

The Red Lion Lane Neighbourhood Watch group in Shooters Hill, South East London, worked with local people to push for road safety improvements. The need for improved road safety was recently highlighted by a brave act from a member of their group looking out for her community. Jenni witnessed a car collide with a parked car and fail to stop, despite suffering damage itself. Not stopping at the scene of an accident is a crime, and as a bystander, Jenni stopped her car and phoned 999. The police response unit arrested the male driver for not stopping at the crime scene and being under the influence of drinking or drugs.

NW COMMUNITY SAFETY CHARTER

Launched in July 2022, we aimed to bring awareness of safety in public spaces to the many, in an eye-catching, easy way. Over 2,500 organisations, individuals, schools, local authorities, Neighbourhood Watch groups, MPs, Police and Crime Commissioners, community groups, parish councils, and local businesses have signed up so far. The Charter increases awareness of harassment, hate crime, antisocial behaviour, being an active bystander, dealing with confrontation, and how to be a positive change in your community. Those who have signed up have said they have found the resources helpful, interesting, and engaging. Through their networks, over 15,000 people have received the resources.



Making a difference in

crime in public spaces

“Rural crime continues to be a problem with serious consequences for farmers beyond the loss of expensive machinery and equipment. This project is yet another excellent piece of work that reflects well on members of our community who are using each and any means by which they can work in partnership with Cumbria police to impact on rural crime”

Joe Murray QPM, chair of Cumbria Neighbourhood Watch Association

PREVENTING RURAL CRIME ON HORSE BACK

Cumbria Neighbourhood Watch helped fund equipment to enable 6 volunteers on horseback to help police prevent crime in the rural areas of Cumbria. The volunteers will be the force’s eyes and ears on the ground, helping to gather intelligence, report suspicious incidents and provide advice to the often isolated communities.



PREVENTING DRUG DEALING

Ancient Meadows in Bottisham set up two further Neighbourhood Watch schemes in their village – the Bell Road group's active presence discouraged antisocial behaviour and drug use which had plagued them for a long time; and Arbour Close quickly gained a huge amount of support enabling them to pass information to police on drug dealing near a large school. Warning notices were displayed and the drug dealing disappeared. The

groups spoke to 100 residents about their successes. Residents noted the longstanding issues went away quickly and from a relatively small amount of work. They feel safer and more connected – particularly across generations – and are considering a street party. The Coordinators feel an increased sense of worth.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES

As well as running many ongoing community events, such as Pride Week, a Kings Coronation party, school events, entertainment shows, summer fairs and more, Rosegrove Neighbourhood Watch group, in Burnley, actively raises crime prevention awareness and encourages residents to report suspicious activity to the Police leading to identification of a suspicious person near a local school.



STREET HARASSMENT

In response to increasing violence against women and girls, we launched a street harassment campaign, ARE YOU OK?, that reached over 500,000 people on Facebook and 750,000 supporters.

The campaign saw 63,000 comments, shares and likes, and 6,600 visits to our landing page, where we shared more information on how to safely intervene as a bystander. Over 1,000 people signed up to attend Stand Up Against Harassment training delivered by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, and Hackney Council created a street stencil to temporarily paint on pavements in areas of high incidents of harassment.

Making a difference in

community crime

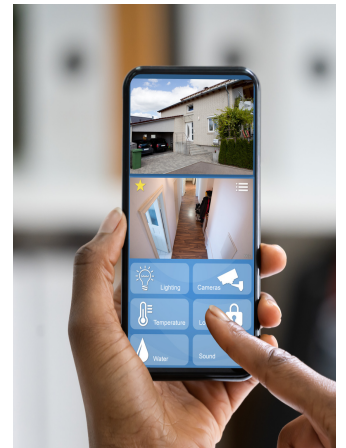
"[Neighbourhood Watch volunteers] are really important individuals, members of the community that are looking out for one another and ensuring the safety of their neighbours, reporting incidents and a real vital tool in the fight against crime"

Dr Emmeline Taylor, Associate Professor of Criminology at City, University of London

SHARING CCTV TO SUPPORT CONVICTIONS

BURGLARY Following a burglary, members of Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch in London sprang into action through an active WhatsApp group. They gathered footage from several cameras, pieced together a trail of evidence and handed it to the police. The use of technology was vital in bringing the offenders to justice.

CAR THEFT Neighbours in Holly Hedge Close, Frimley, feel safer after sharing 11 identifiable cases of CCTV footage with the police of someone attempting to break into a car, leading to the person being charged.



INCREASING FEELINGS OF SAFETY

22 residents in Ash Tree Road Estate, North West Leicestershire, were concerned that burglars could easily snap their door locks as quality standards were updated to British Kitemarked locks since their homes were built. The local Neighbourhood Watch group contacted the District Council's Community Safety Officer, who approved a grant enabling residents to buy secure locks and have them fitted by a locksmith.

An approved Master Locksmith Association locksmith double-checked the standard before replacing each lock, enabling everyone to feel safer and more connected. The Coordinator was amazed at how easily they engaged a locksmith and secured the funding. Following this and other projects to reduce antisocial behaviour in their adjacent park, more residents now attend meetings and social events.



CREATING SAFER SPACES

We partnered with Marshalls on their Creating Safer Spaces report, which challenges those responsible for the public realm to expand their focus and think about shared spaces in a more integrated way. Making shared spaces safer is multifaceted. Of course, it's about removing structural elements that might enable someone to hide from view or planning a space to reduce opportunities for street harassment but it's also about developing areas that support wellbeing and encourage people to come together.

Making a difference in

community connection

"As a community, we feel the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch as a vehicle to enable and facilitate engagement. The fact that it is there enables events – but importantly neighbourly support and community spirit – to establish and prosper."

Charlie Whewell, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator in Rushden

ALLEVIATING ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

In Sandiacre, Derbyshire, the Kings Road Area Neighbourhood Watch set up a warm space, internet café, and food hub. This brought people together and allowed the community access to surplus supermarket food free of charge. The group are helping to alleviate isolation, loneliness, and digital exclusion in the cost-of-living crisis, serving over a hundred people in the month of February alone.

BOOSTING COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Members of the Batwatch Neighbourhood Watch group in Rushden, Northamptonshire, hosted an annual get-together to forge new connections within their neighbourhood. Taking inspiration from the Eden Project's Big Lunch, they did their bit to reduce loneliness and boost community spirit, and have seen a growth in engagement with their other initiatives.

PROVIDING THE 'FEEL GOOD' FACTOR

Nether Heage Community and Neighbourhood Watch in Belper, Derbyshire, hoped to raise £1,000 to repair their community chapel's leaky roof. Through raffles and a tabletop sale, they raised over £1,800! The chapel was overwhelmed at how much the community came together for them. The fixed roof enabled them to continue its weekly services and to host Neighbourhood Watch and other community events. The community felt more connected and that they had achieved something good for their village.

RESOLVING COMMUNITY ISSUES

Washington Parish Neighbourhood Watch group in Pulborough, West Sussex, helped improve a street which had been neglected for the last 25 years. Vegetation on the footpath forced residents to walk on the road, which was also in a terrible condition. Working with the local Highway Department and residents, the issue got resolved. Residents were grateful for the improvement, felt more connected, and saw Neighbourhood Watch's strength in resolving community issues.

ENHANCING COMMUNITY AREAS

We awarded a £500 Community Grant to Petworth Court Residents Association and Watch to buy tools, litter pickers and plants to enhance their communal gardens and entrance area. Agnes, their Chair, explains: *"All of our residents have experienced homelessness as well as having to endure antisocial behaviour, drug dealing, criminal damage, and trespassing locally. This project has injected a new lease of energy, happiness and hope into our lives and the lives of communities we are linked with. We will be forever grateful."*



Making a difference in

health and wellbeing



PROVIDING EMERGENCY GRAB BAGS IN THE TOWN CENTRE

Pontypridd Town Centre Neighbourhood Watch group in Wales recognised there were times where someone needed medical attention in their town. It was very hard to help that person and gather items to make them feel more comfortable until further help arrived. The group decided to fundraise for 'emergency grab bags'. Thanks to their efforts, there are now 12 bags located throughout the town centre each containing basic first aid items, blankets and umbrellas.

FORGING NEW FRIENDSHIPS

Glenvale Park Barratt Homes Neighbourhood Watch group in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, wanted their new community of 500 families to be better protected and better connected. With the development growing to 3,000 households, they created a WhatsApp group to communicate faster to prevent crime and increase the strength of their neighbourhood. New friendships were forged and many reported feeling safer knowing their neighbours are looking out for them.



RECOGNISING AND RESOLVING LOCAL ISSUES

Highlight Park Community Neighbourhood Watch in Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, worked with the police, Ward Councillors, landlords and others to resolve ongoing issues from nesting seagulls. Residents experienced sleep deprivation and costly bills to fix damaged properties. The group worked with a local store to improve storage and discarding of food to prevent attracting the birds. They also contacted the medical centre landlord, which led to them adding roof netting to deter the birds. Residents were very grateful to the group for their involvement and more people signed up as Neighbourhood Watch volunteers.

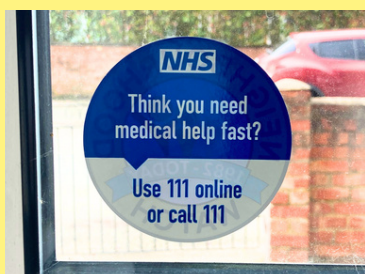
SUPPORTING VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

With funding from our Community Grants Fund, Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch group ran a community board games tournament enabling face-to-face discussions on cybercrime, home security and other concerns whilst engaging in friendly games. More than 20 people enjoyed the event, many of whom were vulnerable, new to the area, or out of touch with neighbourhood information.



PROMOTING 111 ONLINE

We partnered with the NHS to encourage people to use 111 online or call 111 when they think they need medical help fast. To promote this vital service we created new window stickers which featured our 'today' logo on one side and a message from the NHS on the reverse. Within a month of launching them we had distributed over 24k stickers!



We are committed to a sustainable future



WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

We know how important it is to include young people in all stages of decision-making to develop crime prevention and community building. In 2022 we recruited a Young Peoples Engagement and Development Manager to improve how we do this at Neighbourhood Watch. We surveyed over 2,500 16-24 year olds to better understand their views on crime and community, and we ran focus groups and community engagement projects with 348 participants, in partnership with organisations including Bournemouth University, National Citizenship Service, Hereford College, Merton Young Inspectors and Free2Be. We worked with the Ben Kinsella Trust to deliver a webinar on knife crime for parents, carers and practitioners attended by 152 people, and released our third and fourth editions of our Lookout magazine, written and illustrated by students, for students. We look forward to growing this work in 2023 and beyond.

EXPANDING OUR REACH

We are proud to be growing all the time with over 6,000 new registered members in the past 3 months. The vast majority of members are satisfied with the support they receive and believe their group is valued in their community. To ensure we continue to grow and reach those who are currently underrepresented, we launched our BETTER PLACE TO LIVE recruitment campaign to encourage volunteers to invite more people to join their group, or start a new one. The campaign has received overwhelming support from local volunteers.



onelottery

WE'VE LAUNCHED A LOTTERY

Buy your tickets today to help our cause.

- Tickets cost ONLY £1 per week
- Weekly draws
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to Neighbourhood Watch Network



Support us and you could win prizes of up to £25,000

Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales. CID No. 1173349

DIVERSIFYING OUR FUNDING

To ensure we can continue to deliver more great projects we are dedicated to diversifying our funding. Our lottery, launched in June 2022, is going from strength-to-strength, and has become a stable source of individual giving, bringing in 6% of funds in 2022-23. Investing in our perception change work means more people know we are an independent charity and we are receiving more donations from individuals than ever before. Our new online shop provides branded merchandise and resources to our volunteers and members, helping increase our visibility within communities.

Thank you to our volunteers, partners and colleagues

As we reflect on the impact of our work over the past year, we are filled with gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication.

Through your tireless volunteering, hard work, and valuable partnerships, we have been able to prevent crime, connect neighbours and communities, and reduce loneliness and isolation. Together, we have made a huge difference within communities, and we could not have done it without you.

Whether you have given your time, resources, or expertise, your contribution has not only helped to create positive change, but has also inspired others to get involved and make a difference too.

We look forward to our work with you in the year ahead, and continuing to make this a better place to live. Together.

Special mentions go to our incredible volunteer **Association Leads**, our **Trustees**, and to our valuable **partners and funders** (named below) who share in our values and ensure we can deliver on our mission.

The Home Office, ERA, Avast, One Lottery participants, our shop customers, the Police, Co-op Insurance, Airbnb, the NHS, Patlock, VISAV, our individual donors, SP Energy, Immobilise, Councils, Watersafe, LockLatch, Marshalls, Harper Collins, Master Locksmith Association, Wardle Group, Suzy Lamplugh Trust, Eden Project, Month of Community partners, Bournemouth University, National Citizenship Service and Ingeu



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