

# WHAT IS NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH?

Neighbourhood Watch is about local people working together to create safe, attractive, friendly places to live, places where crime is less likely to happen and people are less likely to turn to anti-social behaviour.

It's about you looking out for your neighbours and them looking out for you, crossing barriers of age, race and class for everyone's good. It's about making sure that no one need feel alone, scared or vulnerable in the place where they live.

## WHAT CAN IT ACHIEVE?

The fundamental purpose of Neighbourhood Watch is to prevent crime by taking steps to make your neighbourhood a safer place to live. This includes providing information and advice on how to make your home and property more secure as well as being the eyes and ears of the Police in your locality. In order to achieve this, Neighbourhood Watch will establish a communication network through which all members of your group can receive and pass on information to each other, the Police and East Riding of Yorkshire Council, where appropriate.

*Neighbourhood Watch groups can also get involved in all kinds of additional activities such as:*

- Crime prevention training
- Fire safety awareness
- Emergency planning
- Activities to improve the local environment such as communal gardening or suggesting projects for Community Payback
- Crime resilience initiatives in your area

But these are entirely optional. It is up to each group to decide how far they want to go and how they want to operate. Being part of a group makes it much easier to get support for the kind of things your neighbourhood might need, such as road signs, speed bumps or No Cold Calling Zone - to name a few.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

There is no set Neighbourhood Watch programme as each group is owned and run by its community. Groups vary in size from a few houses to a large estate and they are generally led by a volunteer coordinator who lives in the area and takes on the role of linking the community to the Police and the council.

Some groups meet on a regular basis, others communicate via email and/or newsletter and only come together if there is an agreed need. By being more aware of local issues, sharing information and advice, local residents are able to develop closer links while reassuring and supporting vulnerable households. The council will help to get your new group off the ground and provide you with information and advice on an ongoing basis.

## WHY BOTHER?

Anyone can reach the Police quickly by ringing 999 in an emergency or 101, if less urgent. Likewise, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and other organisations are all just a phone call away. So why get involved?

The simple answer is that it helps you and your neighbours give the Police, the council and other organisations a much clearer sense of your long term needs and issues. You know your neighbourhood best and collectively you have a much stronger voice than individually. Neighbourhood Watch provides a communication route to the Police, the council and other organisations for you to pass on your collective knowledge which can then be used to combat crime and help shape how services are delivered.





# SUCCESS OR FAILURE?

The success of your group will depend on members taking an active interest in Neighbourhood Watch and doing their bit to help. The coordinator will be the main point of contact but dependent on the size of your group a handful of willing volunteers will make all the difference – after all, many hands make light work!



EAST RIDING  
OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

For more information please visit

[www.eastriding.gov.uk](http://www.eastriding.gov.uk)

or call (01482) 391013



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