

Neighbourliness

NECESSARY

ENGAGING

INVALUABLE

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS

HELPFUL

BESPOKE TO LOCAL NEEDS

ON THE RISE!

UNITY

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

LOOKING OUT FOR EACH OTHER

INCLUSIVE

NOT TO BE UNDERESTIMATED

ENHANCING WELLBEING AND ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY SPIRIT

SUSTAINABLE

SUPPORTIVE

The Community BUZZ

December 2023

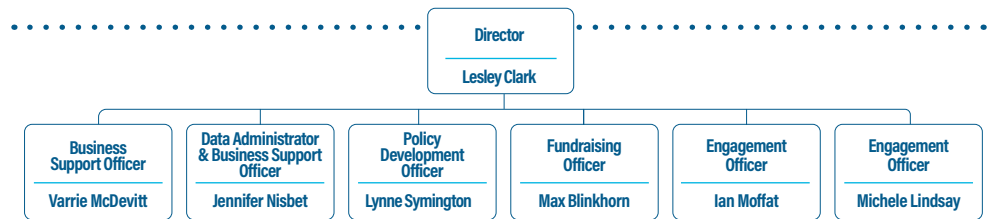


Director's welcome

As Director of Neighbourhood Watch Scotland (NWS), I would like to welcome you all to the first edition of our 'Community Buzz', a new newsletter designed to provide updates from the team and keep you informed of forthcoming campaign activity.

I would like to start by saying that NWS has seen changes in its administrative office with the addition of new roles and new faces, of which mine is only one. This leaves our Business Support Officer, Varrie McDevitt as our only remaining long term member of staff, a friendly face that many of you will be familiar. I joined the NWS family back in January, bringing with me my previous

experience working in Police Scotland, Scottish Government and the charity sector. Other new team members also have similar backgrounds and together we hope to bring fresh eyes and new ways of working that will continue to help grow the NWS network and improve community and partner engagement for our members.



We have taken the opportunity to revise our vision, mission and organisational values in order to ensure that they are fit for purpose and in keeping with our priorities. (See next page) NWS continues to be committed to:

- Collaborating with partners to develop community resilience.
- Growing partner and community use of Neighbourhood Alert and Scotland's Neighbourhood Watch network.
- Enhancing a sense of wellbeing by encouraging community cohesion.

As a team, we are keen to create meaningful communication and we continue to work in partnership with Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and Trading Standards Scotland, to name but a few. But crucially, we also need to hear from you, as members of our network.

We would love to hear what you have been up to, whether that's about your events, your ideas or the challenges that you face.

Any contributions that could help inspire your fellow volunteers would be very welcome.

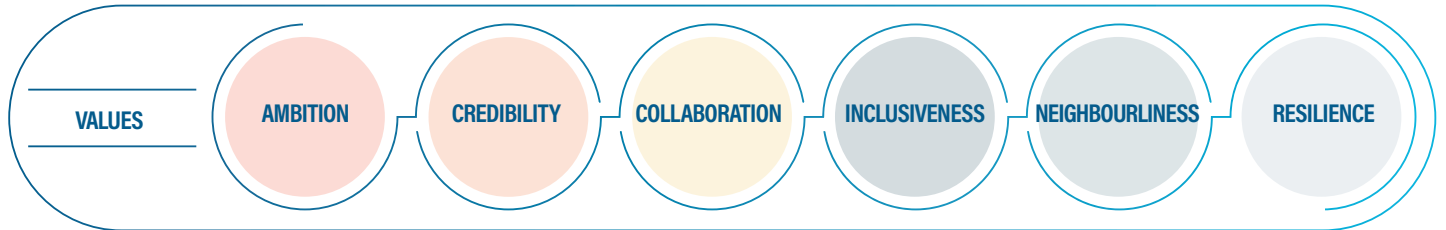
A network that cares, shares and learns along the way is in my view, a network worth investing in from all those involved. 'Your watch – your way' is our ethos – but we need you to get involved to make it work!

Make sure to check in with the NWS website throughout December to keep up to date with key crime prevention tips and advice on how to stay safe, new podcasts, as well as information on our festive events. Keep safe, have an active festive season and keep up the good work. Please contact us at info@neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk to share your experiences with us.

Make sure to check in with the NWS website, and our NWS Facebook page throughout December to keep up to date with key crime prevention tips and advice on how to stay safe, new podcasts, as well as information on our festive events. Keep safe, have an active festive season and keep up the good work.

Our Vision

Our vision is a society that is empowered through proactive local cooperation and community spirit to create safe, strong and resilient neighbourhoods, to the benefit of all.



Find out more about Our Vision →

Data cleanse

During spring/summer 2023, our Data Administrator undertook a database cleanse of the personal information held on the Neighbourhood Alert system.

All of our 1,700 Coordinators throughout Scotland were contacted to ensure database accuracy and GDPR compliance. We would like to thank all of those who responded and got in touch.

The data cleanse work is now complete and the database has been updated accordingly to reflect current membership. Any information relating to Watches that are no longer in existence, or where no responses were tendered, have now been removed in keeping with GDPR legislation. However, this means that a total of 1,034 Watches have been deleted from the system. Many of the Coordinators from these Watches remain on the Alert system, as registered Alert users.

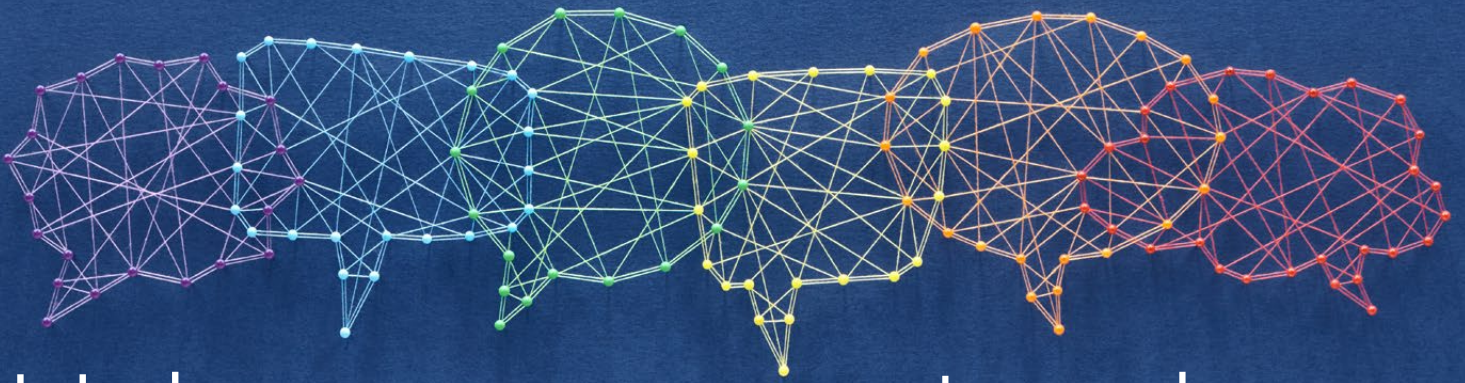


Please note that if you believe your Watch has been removed, but is actually still active, please contact us and we can have this reinstated for you.

We now have 614 watches registered on the Neighbourhood Alert system.



We are hopeful that our upcoming festive events and engagement with members of the public will see these numbers increase once again. We appeal for your help in growing our network and ask that you consider how best a Watch can serve your community and how to extend its reach to maximise local impact as much as possible.



Help grow our network

Alert Sign-up

Our Alert system is instrumental in getting important messages from our partners out into the community where they can make a real difference in the prevention of crime and keeping people safe. Please feel free to share your experience of the system with family, friends and neighbours to encourage them to sign up. The more people we can reach with our safety messages the better.

[Sign-up for alerts →](#)

Starting a new Watch

If there is not a Watch in your area but you are considering setting one up then please get in touch with us.

We would be delighted to chat through the benefits of starting and running a Watch. We are also on hand to set it up for you. For further information on setting up and running a Watch please click link above.

[More information →](#)

Extending your Watch

If you already have a Watch set up and wish to encourage new members to your group please let us know - we now have new fliers available that we can send out to you for distribution.

These can be posted through your neighbours letterbox explaining what Neighbourhood Watch is, the benefits of being part of Watch and detail on the Neighbourhood Alert system. If you would prefer to print the flier yourself please click the link below.

[Download flier →](#)

Alert Survey

The annual National Neighbourhood Alert Survey was conducted during the month of October.

A huge thank you from us, to all our Alert users who took the time to complete the survey. Your feedback is crucial to our ability to respond and modify our activity to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

It also provides us with the opportunity to collate important information that we can take back to our Board, Police Scotland and Scottish Government. The results will be published through our social media channels, website and in the forthcoming Winter 2024 newsletter. Watch this space!

Did you know that you can freely forward the Alerts you receive to help spread the word and increase our reach?

NW Focus Group



A new 'Coordinator Focus Group' has recently been established with the purpose of improving our engagement with Coordinators, supporting their role and getting their views on the way forward to best develop our service and NWS products.


Our primary function is to provide support and guidance to our members, therefore it is crucial for us to find out what our Watches need and want from us as well as enable them to share best practise.

Member involvement can be as simple as being asked to sample new publications or participation in online meetings to discuss ideas and increase innovation.

New areas that we would look to explore in 2024 are new means of communication including the use of an App and a more interactive system on the website. If you are a Coordinator, have the time and would like to be involved in the Focus Group, please get in touch. We would love to have you on board.

Getting in touch



-  info@neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk
-  01786 463 732
-  Office 23, Enterprise House,
Springkerse Business Park, Stirling, FK7 7UF
-  @nwatchscotland
-  @NeighbourhoodWatchScotland

[NWS Website](#)



[Movement for good](#)



AGM

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on 15th November where the focus was on specific aspects of governance and the business elements followed by a presentation by Gordy MacDonald, Police Scotland - Cybercrime Protection, Incident Support and Training Officer.

The contribution of members at the AGM, or through other forms of engagement, remains vitally important for ensuring that the NWS Business Plan and activities reflect the needs of communities and provides appropriate support to local groups and schemes.

If you are interested in the development of Neighbourhood Watch in Scotland and would like to be part of our formal membership please get in touch for further information. Formal members have the right to vote at the AGM and are eligible to become Trustees of the charity when vacancies arise.



Festive Activity 2023

Our festive campaign 2023, incorporating general seasonal safety advice, will see us out with our partners at various locations across Scotland.

Visit our website, and Facebook page to keep up to date with our activities.



Better still, if you are able to come and say hello to the team at one of our events—we might even have an early present for you!



- 📍 Cameron Toll Shopping Centre, Edinburgh 27 November, 2023, 11am - 2pm.
- 📍 Rutherglen Exchange Shopping Centre, Glasgow 28 November, 2023, 10am - 1pm.
- 📍 Waverley Train Station, Edinburgh 29 November, 2023, 9.30am – 2pm.
- 📍 Bathgate Precinct, West Lothian 1 December, 2023, 9am - 4pm.
- 📍 Central Train Station, Glasgow 6 December, 2023, 10am – 12noon
- 📍 Queen Street Train Station, Glasgow 6 December 2023, 1pm-3pm
- 📍 Dobbies Garden Centre, Lasswade 13 December, 2023, 11am - 2pm.
- 📍 Waverley Train Station, Edinburgh 14 December, 2023, 11am - 2pm.
- 📍 Dobbies Garden Centre, Livingston 17 December, 2023, 11am – 2pm.

Coming soon – A Fresh New Start...

January will see the publication of our first 2024 newsletter.

This will include a reflection on our activity for 2023 and pave the way for the year to come. 'Out with the old and in with the new' - join us for the perfect start to the new year!

The NWS Team wish you all the best for the festive period!

NWS Website



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Watch SCOTLAND

Safer Neighbourhoods Stronger Communities