

OUR NEWS



FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

Making this a better place to live. Together.

On Monday 6th March, we launched our **BETTER PLACE TO LIVE** recruitment campaign. We are thrilled to announce that the campaign has already seen great public support from Neighbourhood Watch groups, PCCs, and other organisations across the country.

[Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner](#), Matthew Barber, has donated over £7,000 to provide campaign resources for Coordinators to promote Neighbourhood Watch in Thames Valley. Our campaign also received public support from [North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Andy Dunbobbin](#), [Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner John Dwyer](#), and was featured in [Charity Today](#).

The campaign aims to help local Neighbourhood Watch groups do three things:

- grow their group
- be more active locally
- register their members

How can you grow your group?

A wide range of printed material is available to order to promote Neighbourhood Watch. The material is

designed to invite people to join Neighbourhood Watch in three easy steps. If you belong to a Neighbourhood Watch group, consider purchasing a Coordinator Pack (see below) from our shop for only £3 + postage.

[VISIT OUR SHOP](#)

How can you be more active?

Despite our tested brand recognition of 93%, it is clear that not everyone knows **what we do**, and we need your help with this. By being more active and vocal within your community, not only does our charity become more visible, but more importantly active groups are more effective at preventing crime, reducing loneliness and isolation, and building a more resilient community. For ideas on how to be more active visit ourwatch.org.uk/betterplacetolive.

Why register as a member?

By registering, and local group members will receive the full benefits of membership. If you are part of a local scheme, please ensure that you have registered at ourwatch.org.uk/join - there you can discover our range of benefits at a glance, along with frequently asked questions.

Want to buy printed resources but need funding?



Our focus during Neighbourhood Watch Week 2023 will be on inviting more people to join Neighbourhood Watch. To help with this, registered schemes can apply for funds through our [Community Grants Fund](#) (closing on 27th March) to order resources from our popular online shop.

We are selling ready-made Coordinator Packs (containing a crime prevention booklet, 10 join postcards, and 10 membership flyers) to help you reach out to your neighbours.

Our shop also offers the opportunity to bulk buy crime prevention booklets, join

postcards, membership flyers, and volunteer flyers. In addition, you can now purchase branded mugs, lanyards, or pens!



[Shop with us](#)

Follow us... ourwatch.org.uk



TELL US YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUCCESS STORIES

What about that time that we helped a burglar be convicted by sharing our CCTV footage with police?

Since we cleared up our local park there hasn't been any more drug dealing there.

How has your group made your area a BETTER PLACE TO LIVE?

Stories big & small

we want to hear them. If we use your story, your group will be entered into a prize draw to win a **£100 gift voucher for our shop!**

(Click for T&Cs. Entries close 30.04.23)

TELL US YOUR STORY HERE

Are you an active bystander? Do you know how to safely intervene?

National Bystander Awareness Day is on 13th March. The day aims to unite people to tackle hate and hostility, and to raise awareness of ways that you can help people who suffer from hate.

Crimes and harmful behaviours such as public sexual harassment and hate crime are significantly under-reported by victims. There are a number of reasons for this, but a key factor is the everyday nature of these incidents and the fact that they are 'deeply ingrained in our culture'. Tragically the sexual harassment of women and girls in public places means that victims who regularly experience sexual harassment or hate crime often see their experiences as insufficiently serious to report.

However, sexual harassment or hate crime, no matter how 'serious' the individual incident might be, pervades the lives of those who experience it relentlessly. Incidents of this kind are often likely to escalate if not addressed.

How can you be a more active bystander?

In support of National Bystander Intervention Day, we encourage you to book yourself onto a free, one hour online webinar. Entitled **Stand up against street harassment**, this bystander intervention training is delivered by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, in partnership with L'Oréal Paris.

The training is highly relevant as a bystander response to all forms of street harassment, including sexual harassment, disability harassment, harassment

against ethnic minority or marginalised groups, and all forms of hate crime, empowering the learner to know how to support someone who is being victimised.

The training focuses on the 5 D's intervention programme, originally pioneered by the international NGO Right to Be. It encourages those who witness harassment to act by:

1. Distracting the perpetrator
2. Delegating by asking for help
3. Documenting the harassment
4. Directly intervening by speaking up in the moment
5. Delaying by checking to see if the person is okay

The programme raises awareness of street harassment with a call-to-action on a global scale. By opening the public's eye to the scale of harassment that women in particular experience, *Stand Up* aims to simultaneously discourage harassers, support victims, and encourage bystanders to intervene. The aim is to drive a cultural shift in the global response to street and public harassment.

The training is open to everyone 18 years old and over, as action from all genders and ages is vital. There is a selection of dates and times to choose from. Click the link below to find out more.

[Sign up to the training](#)

Is your community the friendliest in the UK?

To celebrate the Coronation of HM The King and HM The Queen Consort, Eden Project Communities are looking for those communities that go above and beyond to support the people around them. From cul-de-sacs to blocks of flats, if your community deserves to be crowned, they want to hear from you!

The winning community will receive a pollinator friendly garden and £2,500 towards their community project. Get in quick - closing date 30 March 2023. Find out more and enter [CoronationBigLunch.com](https://www.coronationbiglunch.com)

Don't always 'trust your gut' when it comes to scams

"Don't always trust your gut" was the big takeaway from Paul Maskall's *Understanding the Psychology behind Scams* – the latest instalment in our fascinating series of webinars.

Shockingly, fraud and scams make up 42% of all major crime types in the UK (and have sadly risen with the pandemic), warns Maskall, Fraud and Cybercrime Prevention Manager at UK Finance. And yet, these crimes can often be so intangible – we don't always see the criminal, and we don't always see the threat. But how do you spot the signs, and how can you protect yourself?

Tactics

"None of us are particularly good at thinking objectively when we are emotional," explains Maskall. The main tactic criminals use involves emotion. Indeed, scammers frequently want us to feel panicked so that we act quickly. It is in this way that we can be manipulated, through misplaced hope, anxiety or excitement. Fraudsters also *"deliberately target our better natures and use psychological tactics, like being overly friendly or pretending to do you a favour,"* explains John Hayward-Cripps, Neighbourhood Watch's CEO.

How to protect yourself

Maskall explains that protecting yourself from cybercrime is a state-of-mind. *"It's about understanding that we should treat our data like the valuable thing that it is,"* he adds. This means safeguarding your personal details, not only by being careful with the information you share online (setting your social media profiles to private, for example) but by storing and disposing of physical information (such as bank statements) securely.

If you receive an unexpected communication asking for your personal details, or an offer that's too good to be true, it's important to stop and have what Maskall calls a *"moment of mindfulness"*. Criminals want us to act in a hurry.

If you are feeling heightened emotions or the pressure to act quickly, stop and take a break.

Take Five campaign

The Take Five campaign outlines three principles to protect yourself.

- **STOP:** Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- **CHALLENGE:** Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **PROTECT:** Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

How should I report it?

If you notice an unauthorised payment on your account, or believe you have been a victim of a scam, contact your bank immediately. You should also report all fraud and cybercrime to Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk, or by calling 0300 123 2040.

The next time you find yourself having an emotional reaction to an unexpected deal or an unsolicited call, text, or email, remember to stop and think. It might just protect you – and your money.

Understanding the Psychology behind Scams is available to watch back on [Neighbourhood Watch's YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC144), as are a range of previous webinars.

Visit the Neighbourhood Watch [website](https://www.neighbourhoodwatch.org.uk) to find out more about protection against doorstep, mail, online, pension and investment, phone, or romance scams.



Raise awareness of child exploitation in your area with #LookCloser

Not all young people will tell you when they are in trouble. And sometimes they won't always know they are in danger – often because they have been groomed to believe otherwise.

Criminal exploitation often happens when individuals or gangs develop friendships with young people, before taking advantage of their innocence to force them into criminal activity.

From sexual abuse to forced labour, money laundering, and drug trafficking, young people across the UK are being exploited. They are targeted both behind closed doors and in plain sight. It can happen on public transport, in shopping centres, car washes, public parks, or online, through social media and gaming platforms.

It is everyone's responsibility to safeguard our young people. It is for this reason that The Children's Society launched the #LookCloser campaign, which aims to help people spot and report the signs of child exploitation. It encourages everyone to learn the signs and protect young people from horrific abuse and lifelong trauma.

The signs

Although children react to trauma in very different ways, typical signs of exploitation include young people who:

- frequently appear anxious, frightened, or angry
- show signs of neglect
- are often unaccompanied or appear lost
- engage in antisocial behaviour
- show sudden changes in attitude or behaviour
- have signs of self-harm or depression
- regularly miss school

The graphic features the words "Look closer" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. "Look" is on the top line and "closer" is on the bottom line. The text is set against a blue background that has a jagged, torn-paper-like edge on its right side. To the right of the text is a magnifying glass with a black handle and a white lens, which is focused on the word "closer". The magnifying glass is tilted slightly to the right. The background of the entire graphic is a teal color.

Other signs include children travelling alone, particularly if you notice this frequently, in school hours, or late at night. Young people making repeated trips to places where they wouldn't normally go, or leaving without explanation, can also be a cause for concern.

Further red flags include the unexplained receipt of gifts – or whether your child, or a child you know, is in possession of more than one phone. Do they have unusual items such as a debit card, or even weapons such as knives?

Perhaps they get calls or messages throughout day, or have made friends that are older than they are. If you spot any of these signs, you have a duty to act.

What should we do about it?

By raising awareness of the signs of criminal exploitation, we can keep children and young people safe. If something doesn't feel right, it might not be.

As a Neighbourhood Watch supporter, you and your neighbours are in a position to spot the signs and report them to the police on 101, or 999 in an emergency.

If you are unsure, you can call the NSPCC for advice on 0808 800 5000.

The #LookCloser campaign also has a range of resources that you can download. Use these to raise awareness and safeguard your community. Share the hashtag on social media and visit childrenssociety.org.uk/lookcloser for more information.

Peace of mind with ERA Protect

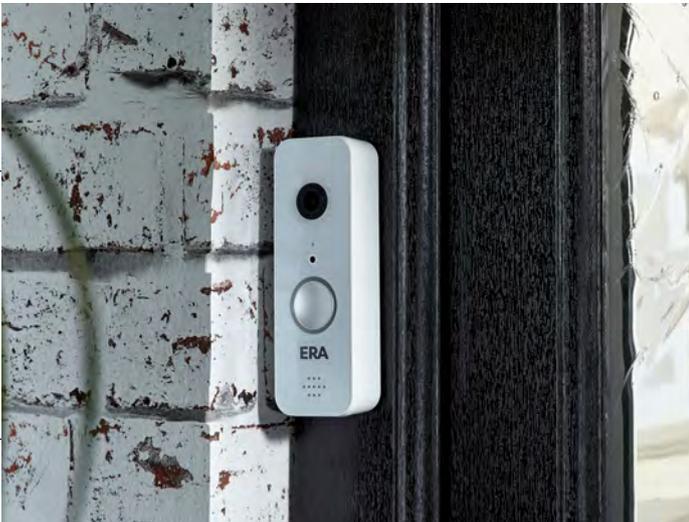
With 71% of burglars deterred by a burglar alarm system*, it is important to consider how you are protecting your home. By choosing a combination of both smart and mechanical security products, you can have peace of mind that your home is secure and protected from any potential intruders.

Specialists in home security solutions, ERA has been protecting households across the UK for over 180 years and has developed a vast range of hardware and smart security solutions to meet every individual's requirements.

Modern smart security solutions

Smart security solutions are becoming increasingly popular, with over 2.2 million smart homes in the UK**. Whether it's a stand-alone device, such as a video doorbell, or a complete security ecosystem, digital security products allow you to keep an eye on your property from wherever you are, whilst also acting as strong visual deterrents.

Video doorbells are one of the most popular smart security products on the market, allowing you to easily see who is at your front door, without needing to answer it in person. You can check in on the camera feed at any point of the day from your smartphone or tablet, with many video doorbells also offering two-way communication.



By installing a range of interconnected devices, including alarms, sirens, security cameras, and sensors, you can build a smart security system to suit your property's requirements. The devices work seamlessly together to provide round-the-clock monitoring and alerts via your smartphone or tablet.

Mechanical security solutions

Along with smart security solutions, traditional mechanical security products, such as cylinders and nightlatches, are another crucial element for protecting your home.

A simple and affordable way to improve the security of your front door is to update your existing locks with a high security cylinder.

For optimum protection, choose a 3 star cylinder that has Sold Secure Diamond status and check that it has been accredited by Secured by Design's Police Preferred Specification scheme. Look out for cylinders that carry an anti-snap guarantee, as this will give you real peace of mind that your home and its contents are protected.



Additional door security products, such as chains and restrictors, are simple to install and provide further protection and peace of mind.

Door chains allow you to safely identify and speak with visitors without granting access, while door restrictors can be easily applied and released when the door is closed to provide an additional layer of security.

For more information on ERA smart and traditional security products, and to find the right solution for you, visit eraprotect.com.

* <https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/burglar-alarms-and-smart-security-systems/article/burglar-alarms-and-home-security/home-security-aytQY4M9bm35>

** theecoexperts.co.uk/smart-homes/statistics

ERA

WIN a Patlock!

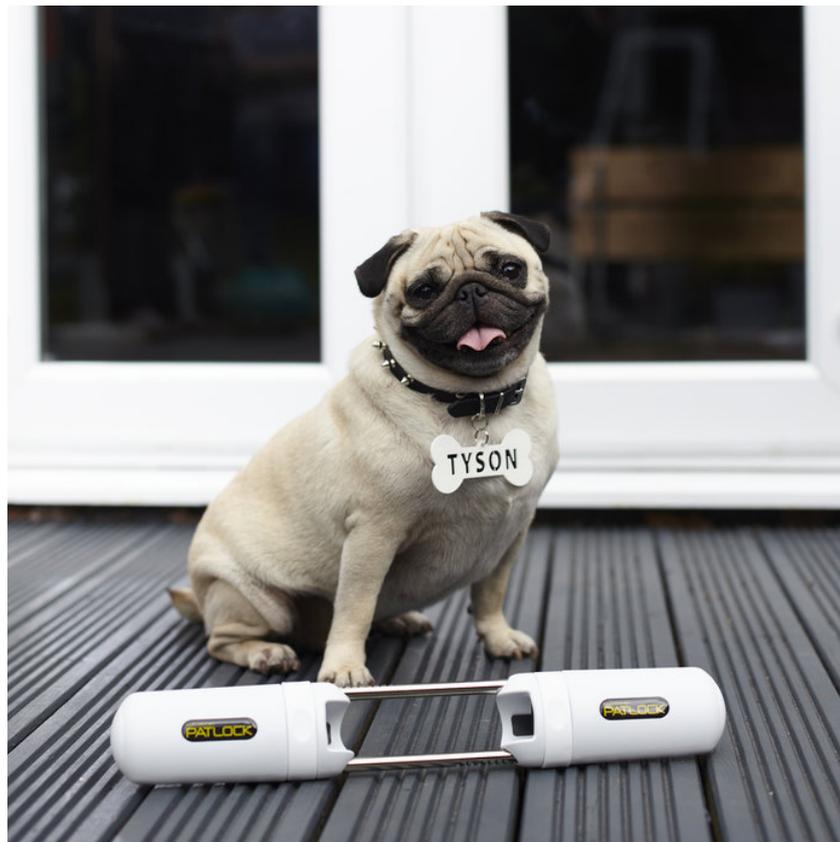
WIN WIN WIN

We have teamed up with Patlock to offer three lucky readers the opportunity to win a Patlock worth over £40.

This innovative lock secures patio doors from the inside, giving both a visible deterrent to would-be burglars and continuing to secure the door even if the door locks themselves are snapped or removed.

Three lucky winners will be drawn at random after the closing date of 27th March 2023, and will be contacted by email.

[ENTER HERE](#)



Recommended by Neighbourhood Watch



SECURED BY
PATLOCK

Neighbourhood Watch Member Discount
order a Patlock for £42.50 from
patlock.co.uk/neighbourhood-watch

SECURED BY DESIGN

Dangers of the dark web

Used for a variety of criminal activities, the dark web is both hidden and elusive. But what exactly is it, and how can we keep ourselves – and our personal data – safe?

Shining a light on the dark web

If the surface web is that part of the Internet that is easily searchable and visible to the general public, the dark web includes sites which search engines like Google can not reach.

In fact, many of its web pages are only accessible through specific software and its users browse anonymously. In this way, it has become a haven for fraud and scams, as well as drug trafficking and even illegal firearms sales.

Dangers

Web pages on the dark web – called onion links because they end in “.onion” instead of “.com” – are not always illegal, but often carry a constant threat of viruses and unsafe content.

“Some dark web users share onion URLs on social media platforms like Twitter or Reddit,” notes Emma McGowan, Senior Writer for Avast. These web pages “may not be verified and may lead to illegal or dangerous sites,” she warns.

Indeed, many sites in this online underworld can contain harmful software, such as ransomware, that facilitate cybercrime. Cybercriminals use dark web marketplaces to sell hacked email accounts, social media profiles, or other information that can be used for identity theft.

According to Privacy Affairs’ Dark Web Price Index, users can buy cloned Visa or MasterCard details, hacked Facebook accounts, and even forged passports.

Unsurprisingly, these marketplaces are awash with scams, as the hidden identities of those who engage in them make it hard for users to know who they are dealing with.

Protection

Despite being hidden, one can accidentally stumble into the dark web. Regularly changing your passwords and switching on additional security measures, such as two-factor authentication, are essential steps that you can take to keep your accounts safe.

Having strong antivirus or anti-malware protection installed on your device is also a good first line of defence.

In fact, software such as Avast BreachGuard – which makes you aware of breaches involving your personal information – helps to keep you safe by immediately alerting you if your data ever comes up for sale on a dark web marketplace.

This can prove crucial in enabling you to change your compromised password for example, before it is bought by a criminal.

What can we all do about it?

Whilst the dark web is riddled with crime, it is being investigated to bring those who are committing offences to justice.

Young people in particular may be drawn by the allure of the dark web’s anonymity. If you are concerned that someone using the dark web may be at risk, it is worth listening to their reasons for using it and exploring alternatives – setting privacy filters on social media, for example.

Having an open discussion about the perils of the dark web is essential, as those who are not cautious can be exposed to all sorts of dangers.

Read the full article [here](#).



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70% off

from their premium product Avast One

To guarantee a safe and enjoyable online experience, an antivirus alone isn't enough. Avast One is an integrated service to increase privacy, connect securely, speed up your devices, and stay safe from viruses.

Avast One is an all-in-one service with a single download – available for PC, Mac, Android, and iPhone/iPad.

The offer is not time bound

[Download Avast One here](#)



Protect your pooch for Pet Theft Awareness Week

Pet Theft Awareness Week runs from 14th to 21st March. In recognition of this, we are reminding dog owners to keep their dogs:

- secure
- in sight
- searchable

If the worst happens and your dog is stolen, there are a number of things you should do:

- [Contact the police](#) and report your dog as stolen, providing as many descriptive details as you can. Make a note of the crime reference number
- [Contact your local council](#) to make them aware, as many still have dog warden services that encounter stray dogs
- Contact the microchip database holding your dog's details and update them about the theft. Should the dog be recovered and checked, it will be possible to reunite you
- There are many websites for missing animals, so make sure you add details of your dog's loss to these, using the photos you have taken. Include the crime reference number

- Vets are a good place to advertise the loss of any dog, as well as local animal rescue centres
- Noticeboards in local parks may also allow you to place your missing dog's details

For more tips and advice visit ourwatch.org.uk/protectyourpooch



Community Speedwatch

The UK experiences more than 1,500 avoidable road deaths each year. In response, Community Speedwatch aims to make our roads safer.

Operating nationally on behalf of the police, Community Speedwatch is a national initiative where teams of volunteers record the details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices.

Its role is to educate, not punish. Registered keepers of speeding vehicles are initially contacted with a letter explaining the risks of their actions. Repeat offenders receive a visit from the police, with enforcement and criminal prosecution based on the vital evidence collated with the help of volunteers.

Speeding is everyone's concern

Did you know that more people are killed in traffic than by all other crimes combined? In fact, more and more communities are feeling unsafe when using their local roads, especially in rural areas where fatalities are four times more likely to happen than in urban areas.

Travelling just 5 mph over a 30 mph speed limit can drastically reduce a victim's chances of survival. A vehicle speeding by 10 mph limits the survival

chances to just 10%. It is these tragic consequences that Community Speedwatch seeks to prevent.

Volunteering

Speeding is not just a local phenomenon – and neither is Speedwatch. Would you like to proactively address the issue of speeding in your area?

By joining Community Speedwatch today, you can help to make your roads a safer place to be. Visit communityspeedwatch.org for more information.



How Airbnb works with Neighbourhood Watch to support local communities

No matter where you are in the world, living in a safe and trusted community is a number one priority. As part of its commitment to promote healthy tourism in the UK, Airbnb has introduced a series of measures to help it be a good partner to communities.

Anti-party measures

While the vast majority of Hosts and guests are respectful neighbours and travellers, Airbnb is dedicated to combating antisocial behaviour. It introduced a global party ban, which has seen a 63% year-over-year drop in the rate of party reports in the UK since it was first introduced in August 2020.

Airbnb has also [removed or suspended](#) more than 1,000 UK listings as part of a crackdown on 'party houses', and Hosts can cancel stays penalty-free if they believe a guest intends to hold an unauthorised party.

To help Hosts get ahead of issues, they are being offered a free [Minut](#) noise sensor. They are also being offered a free three month subscription to Minut's noise and occupancy monitoring service – all while respecting guest privacy, as the devices only flag if decibels exceed a certain level, and do not record or transmit sounds and conversations.

Neighbour Support Line

Residents can use Airbnb's [Neighbour Support Line](#) to report urgent concerns, meaning they can speak directly to a specialised team. This support line builds on the success of the Neighbourhood Support Tool, which allows residents to submit online complaints about a listing. Airbnb investigates all reports received.

Airbnb also worked with Neighbourhood Watch to produce guides for [Hosts](#) and [guests](#), with tips on building resilient community networks and how to be a considerate neighbour.

Neighbourhood Watch also delivered a virtual session to Hosts as part of its work with Airbnb's [UK Trust and Safety Alliance](#), a network of expert organisations that provide information and guidance to Airbnb in the UK.

Being a responsible partner to communities

According to research*, over three quarters of homeowners are thinking about ways to supplement their income to combat the rise in mortgage rates.

Hosting for a few nights per month can be a flexible way to earn additional income, allowing people to afford their homes and the rising cost of living.



If you're considering hosting, here's how you can be a good partner to your community:

1. Get to know your neighbours

- Share your mobile number with your neighbours so they can call you if they have a concern, and let neighbours know what House Rules are in place.
- Agree with your neighbours where your guests can park, so that it doesn't impact their routine.

2. Take accountability and address issues quickly

- Share your contact details with your Local Neighbourhood Policing Team so they can let you know if there are any reports or concerns about your space.
- Remind your neighbours that they can also use Airbnb's Neighbour Support Line.

3. Help your guests to be good neighbours

- Share the guide with guests, encouraging them to be considerate throughout their stay.
- Set clear and straightforward house rules for guests, especially around noise, and consider setting quiet hours.

4. Keep the property secure

- If your space is going to be empty for an extended period of time, let your neighbours know so they can keep an eye on it, and offer to do the same for them if you live locally.
- Help keep it extra secure by following this [Home Security checklist](#).

5. Join a Neighbourhood Watch group

- If you are not already a member, consider joining your local Neighbourhood Watch group so you can stay informed about how you can help protect your area. You can use this [postcode search tool](#) to find groups in your area.



**Research commissioned by Airbnb and carried out in October 2022 by Censuswide, with a representative sample of 2,000 homeowners with an existing mortgage*



**MAKING THIS A BETTER
PLACE TO LIVE.
TOGETHER.**

ourwatch.org.uk/join

