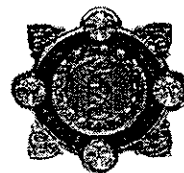




Neighbourhood Watch



What is Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch is a partnership between An Garda Síochána and the public. It is a self help crime prevention and community safety programme for urban areas. Every member of a community, young and old, can help to improve the quality of life, by keeping a look out for their neighbours and reporting suspicious activities to the Gardaí.

Membership of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Each Neighbourhood Watch scheme is made up of:

(a) The Area Coordinator

The relationship between the Area Co-ordinator and the Liaison Garda is very important if the scheme is to be successful. The Area Coordinator acts with the help and support of Street Co-ordinators and scheme members.

(b) The Street Coordinator

(c) The Neighbourhood Watch Member.

Neighbourhood Watch will only succeed with active input from all members. Your actions and support help to make it work. Don't leave it to others. Play a part in any way you can.

(d) Young People

It is important to involve young people in Neighbourhood Watch. There are successful crime prevention and community safety initiatives for Transition Year students that allow them to contribute to their communities. A number of Neighbourhood Watch schemes have involved young people in sport and environmental activities to improve their communities.

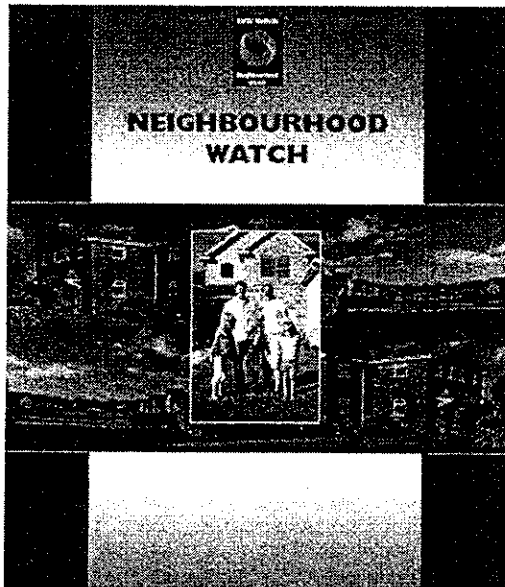
What are the Aims of Neighbourhood Watch?

- To encourage communities to adopt a quality of life approach through partnerships, teamwork and good neighbourly relations, which reduce the impact and fear of crime.
- To prevent crime by reducing opportunities for crimes to occur.
- To improve Garda and community links by encouraging residents to contact their local Gardaí about any suspicious activity.
- To improve community safety.
- To increase public confidence in An Garda Síochána through better communication, consultation, service and feedback to local communities.
- To foster a caring environment for older and vulnerable people.
- To develop and maintain a partnership and multi-agency approach to deal with anti-social behaviour, including graffiti and harassment.
- To promote sporting and recreation facilities for young people and actively encourage young people to become involved in Neighbourhood Watch at all levels.
- To promote Interculturalism, understanding and respect.

Setting up your Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

To set up a scheme in your area, contact your local Garda Station. The scheme may be set up because of community demand or as a result of Garda contact. A Garda will outline what has to be done and will arrange for your first meeting. Before you set it up, talk to local residents to see if they will support the scheme. It is important to make sure that everyone taking part understands what it's about.

Every community or neighbourhood, no matter how large or small, can set up a scheme. A scheme can cover just one street, an apartment complex, a part or the whole of a housing estate. The heart of every scheme is the commitment of each household taking part in it.



Garda Input

While Neighbourhood Watch is a partnership programme, we will give an added commitment to promote and support Neighbourhood Watch schemes into the future. We will deliver this commitment as follows:

- We will include Neighbourhood Watch in all crime prevention and crime reduction strategies, including Policing Plans;
- We will provide all resource material (booklets, window stickers, survey forms and administration forms);
- We will carry out another national review of Neighbourhood Watch in 2011;
- Senior Garda managers will establish Divisional and District Neighbourhood Watch Committees.

Contact Information

The prevention of crime is one of the primary objectives of An Garda Síochána. The Garda Community Relations and Community Policing Section initiates and supports the implementation of various programmes designed to prevent crime and develop mechanisms to improve wider community participation in crime prevention and other related issues.

For further information:

Contact your local Garda Station,
the telephone number for which is on the Garda Website.

www.garda.ie