

# York Community Watch

## Background

Growing originally out of the Neighbourhood Watch Association, York CommunityWatch now accommodates a wide range of Watch Schemes.



Each individual Watch Group brings a variety of different ages, cultures and values together and widens the pool of ideas and solutions to community problems.

All the participating Watches share the same aims and objectives:

### To prevent crime

- By advising participants on all aspects of property crime.
- By encouraging and increasing vigilance amongst the community.
- By protecting vulnerable members of the neighbourhood through creating and maintaining a caring community.
- By working with the police and other agencies on targeted initiatives to address specific problems.

### To assist the police in detecting crime

- By promoting effective communication between watch groups and the police
- By encouraging information and intelligence gathering and the reporting of such information
- By providing evidence and information to be able to deploy appropriate resources to a situation

### To reduce crime and the fear of crime.

- By utilising 'people power'
- By providing informed and accurate information about risks
- By promoting a sense of security and community spirit amongst the more vulnerable

## Ringmaster System

Communications is greatly enhanced by utilising the capacity of a 'Ringmaster' system to the full.

Briefly, all members of Watches receive information through an automated message system about crime or other incidents occurring in their area. This is achieved through telephone, email, fax and SMS. All Watch Co-ordinators are registered on the system with their preferred method of contact and the times they are prepared to receive messages.

Additionally the system has a public message board, which can be used by members to highlight crime and community safety matters. Other groups on the system include:

- Police
- Trading Standards
- National Health Service
- Business Groups
- Local Authority
- Education
- Voluntary and Community Groups

Groups which operate under the banner of York Community Watch include:

- Neighbourhood Watch
- Vale Watch
- School Watch
- Allotment Watch
- Shop Watch (Retailers Against Crime in York - RACY)
- Farm Watch and Country Watch
- Horse Watch
- PubWatch
- Golf Watch

Safer York Partnership (CDRP) works closely with York Community Watch, providing support through office accommodation and other resources. The partnership also provides links to a number of other agencies including the Police, the City Council, Age Concern, Victim Support, Witness Support, York Racial Equality Group etc.

The salary of the full-time co-ordinator is met by York City Council and North Yorkshire Police.