



Annual Report 2025 Report 2026

www.ourwatch.org.uk

A welcome from Ian and John

“The trustees of Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN) are pleased to present this report on the work of the charity. In reflecting on our work to support the activities of our local NHW Associations across England and Wales, we are struck by how different our country appears from the perspective of a vibrant and dynamic social movement of 90,000 Coordinators, 60,000 active volunteers, and 2.3 million supporter households, compared to the picture often painted by media.



Ian Bretman
Chair



This report shares and celebrates the important work that our charity and volunteers do year-round.



“It has been a landmark year for Neighbourhood Watch, shaped by fresh ambition, lively community action and a new five-year strategy built through wide consultation. Neighbourhood Watch brought volunteers, police partners and neighbours together through award launches, Big Lunch events and the renewed Communi-Tea project. With our new focus on Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Connect, and Neighbourhood Act, the movement is focused on creating safer, more connected communities.

John Hayward-Cripps
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)



Our year of strategic change

In putting together our new 5-year strategy (2026-30), we consulted extensively with our volunteers, partners, fellow charities and worked with Caplor Horizons - a charitable organisation who are experts in supporting non-profit organisations with their strategies.

Neighbourhood Watch, Connect and Act

Over the course of developing the strategy, we established the importance of 3 key strands in our work. These are: Watch, Connect and Act, we have developed a list of deliverables against each of our goals with these at the forefront of what we do.



Watch

We provide vital information and resources that help everyone avoid becoming victims of crime. Sharing intelligence on actual and potential criminal activity and anti social behaviour.

Connect

We deliver initiatives that help people of all ages and backgrounds connect with their neighbours, reducing loneliness and isolation while fostering powerful mutual support.

Act

We empower everyone to get involved in practical activities that directly improve their local area, making a tangible difference to where they live.

Our Vision

A society where neighbours come together to create safer, stronger, and more active communities.

Our Mission

To support and enable individuals and communities to be connected, active and safe, which minimises crime and increases well-being.

Our Values

Friendly: Welcoming and bringing people together
Trusted: Reliable and respected
Active: Energetic and practical

Our Goals

Goal One: Bring neighbours together
Goal Two: Show our impact
Goal Three: Be trusted and innovative



Our network in **numbers**

2.3 Million

Households are members

90,000

Local volunteers

£25k

Turnover on our merchandise shop

£6,000

Given to volunteers in Community Grants

4,707

New members joined during Neighbourhood Watch Week

Over 3,500

Online training hours given to volunteers

Over 750

Events attended by Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors

120

Active Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors

Over 1,000

New schemes set up in 2025-6

968

Signed up to attend our Bystander Intervention Workshops

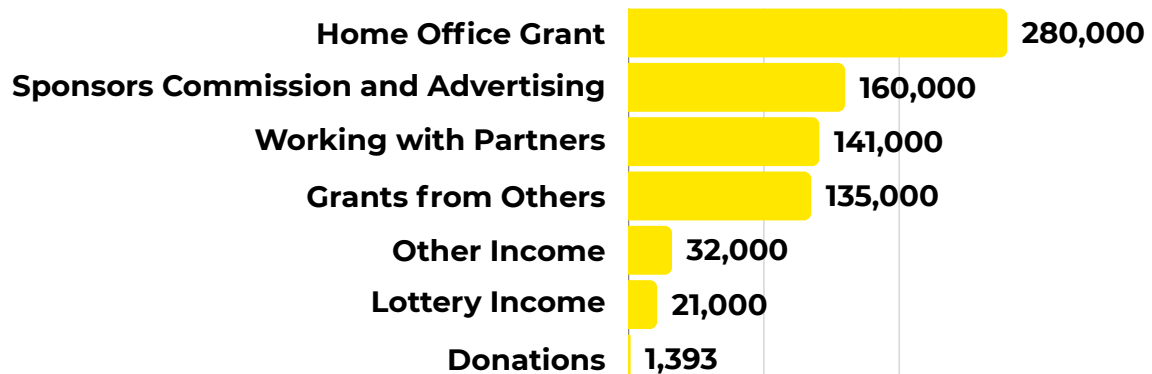
31,372

Responses to our mobile phone theft survey

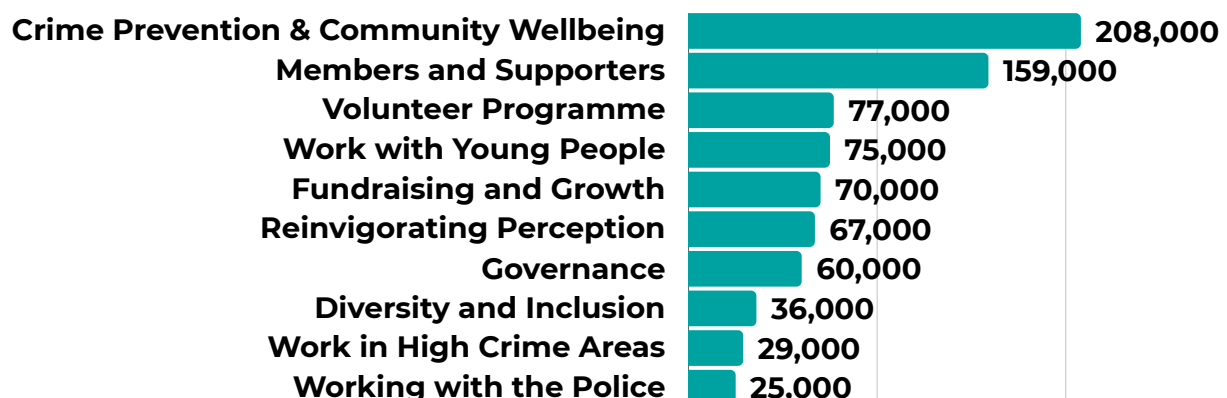
Over 2000

Attended our webinars

WHERE OUR INCOME CAME FROM (£)



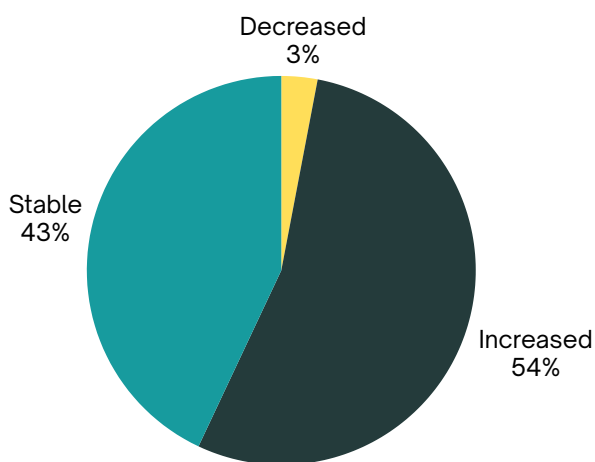
HOW WE SPEND OUR MONEY (£)



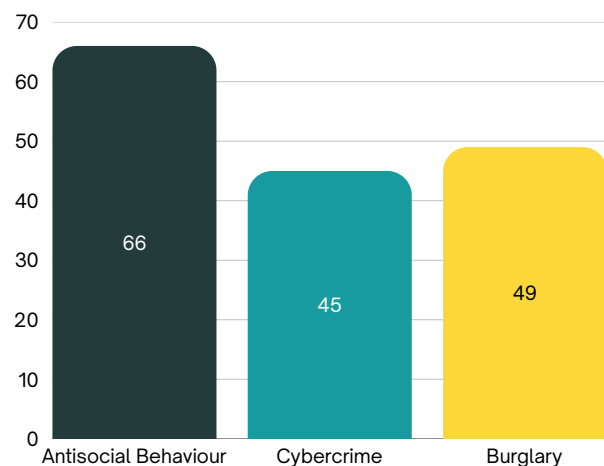
What our supporters tell us about crime & community

Our **2025 National Crime and Community Survey** was conducted online in November and received 38,599 responses. It tells us the impact of Neighbourhood Watch on crime levels, fear of crime, and community cohesion. We compare Neighbourhood Watch volunteers, members, and the general public so that we can look at different attitudes between the groups. See the full survey [here](#) or on our website www.ourwatch.org.uk/our-research.

Perception of crime levels:

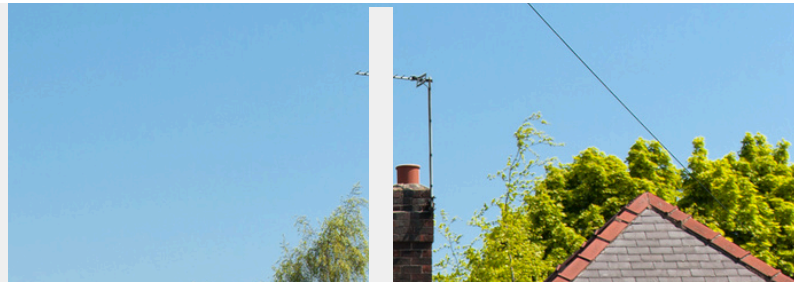


Top crime concerns:



Sharing Local Knowledge

Neighbourhood Watch Members are 15% more likely to be part of their community



Community Cohesion

We found that our members are 15% more likely to speak to neighbours 'on most days' (members v non-members)

Neighbourly Activism

Members are 7% more likely to run errands for their neighbours or take their bins out and 12% more likely to litter-pick in their area



Our work in helping our communities prevent crime nationwide has had a huge impact across England and Wales since Neighbourhood Watch was established in 1982

Crime

Lancashire (Blackpool)

Members partnered with Barclays Bank to increase awareness of online fraud - putting on in-person events in bank branches to help vulnerable customers



Nationally

Working in partnership with **Stop Loan Sharks** operation to hold a series of webinars and annual conference with more than 1000 people attending



Merseyside

Supporting communities to be aware of child sexual exploitation during a day of action with police and partners

Wales & the South West

Delivered **50** local events across the South West to advise vulnerable residents about the digital switchover to avoid scams

South Wales: Trelewis NW

This group was awarded National Lottery funding to support community members to feel safer and connected through crime prevention activities



Devon and Cornwall

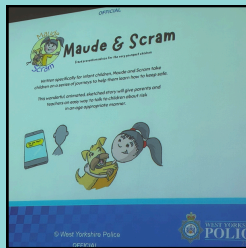
Crime prevention webinars with Stop Loan Sharks and Cyber Protect. Reducing antisocial behaviour and building new schemes



Exeter & Dorset

Cyberhood Watch talks to local communities. Supporting residents to know what to look out for whilst using the web

Prevention



West Yorkshire

100 coordinators attended a special conference on crime prevention with speakers from NWN, Stop Loan Sharks and Trading Standards - who introduced Maude and Scram



Rosegrove, Lancashire

Led a stop knife crime campaign, educating over **200** young people on consequences, available support, and the dangers of knife crime



Derbyshire

Ran a Darker Nights campaign with police to support crime prevention advice during winter months



Norfolk NW

Worked in partnership with Heritage Watch to tackle Heritage Crime in the county



Croydon

Delivered Cybercrime events and distributed **10,000** printed Croydon Eye booklets full of crime prevention advice



Sussex

Holds regular events to support residents to understand how they can be proactive to prevent crime happening reaching over 100 people



Kent

A local Coordinator appeared on BBC News on his efforts to tackle wildlife crime - working closely with police and schools

Londoners learn to challenge hate

Bystander Intervention

93%

Felt more able to act



93%

have a clear understanding of what they can do

Neighbourhood Watch Network's bystander intervention programme helped communities across London build confidence, connection and practical skills to respond safely to discrimination.

In a diverse city like London, small acts in public spaces can make a powerful difference. A word of support, a calm interruption or standing beside someone being targeted can turn harassment and isolation into solidarity. Our **bystander intervention programme** helps Londoners respond safely to hate, discrimination and exclusion.

Supported by **City Bridge Foundation**, we were eager to meet growing community need, focusing on bystander intervention, unconscious bias and microaggressions.

“**Excellent 2 hours spent learning about being an active bystander and learning about the 5Ds has given me confidence**”

Participants gained practical tools to recognise harm and respond safely. Through 18 in-person workshops in Hackney, Lambeth and Croydon, alongside 20 online sessions, the project had hundreds of participants and connected with over 100,000 Londoners with wider outreach.

Community groups, survivors, frontline workers, councillors and residents in temporary accommodation all took part.

The impact was significant. understanding of the "5Ds" of bystander intervention increased from 21% before training to 93% afterwards. **Confidence to intervene also rose from 28% to 93%.**

“**Learning about Microaggressions made me evaluate what I do and how it could be interpreted by others**”

Demand now extends beyond the original boroughs, with interest from Camden, Islington, Barnet and Ealing.

City Bridge Foundation's flexible support enabled the programme to evolve in response to community need. With the right skills and confidence, small acts of courage can help build safer, more inclusive communities across London and across England and Wales.

Improving and evolving our **Community Safety Charter**

A new look, with greater impact

During 2025, we refreshed our **Community Safety Charter**, which is supported by our partner, **ERA**, evolving it into a modern training programme designed to meet the **ongoing challenges faced by businesses**, organisations and the communities they serve.

Now delivered through our **Neighbourhood Safety Training** online platform, the programme equips participants with **practical knowledge and confidence** to respond to some of today's most pressing community safety issues. The training includes dedicated modules on:

- **Antisocial Behaviour**
- **Harassment**
- **Safety in Public Spaces**
- **Retail Crime**
- **Hate Crime**

To extend the programme's reach, we engaged with **Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)** across England and Wales, worked alongside business security teams in London's Oxford Street—one of Britain's busiest retail destinations, and the British Retail Consortium. Feedback from the existing 3000 members signed up is extremely positive about the new programme.



Participants who complete the training receive a certificate of achievement and are invited to share their feedback, helping us continually improve the programme.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with one participant commenting:

"The programme was simple to sign up to, the courses were easy to navigate, and the information was relevant to us and our business."

By combining accessible online learning with practical, real-world guidance, the refreshed Neighbourhood Safety Training is helping businesses and organisations play an active role in creating safer public spaces and stronger communities.

www.ourwatch.org.uk/training

Connecting Communities Improving Wellbeing

Neighbourhood Watch is about **more than preventing crime**—it is about creating stronger, more connected communities. Through our **Neighbourhood Watch, Connect, Act** strategy, we support volunteers to bring neighbours together, reduce isolation and help people feel safer, supported and included.

Across England and Wales, **our volunteers make a difference every day** through local activities that strengthen community connections, from coffee mornings and community walks to neighbourhood meetings, litter picks and events. These opportunities help people build relationships, **develop trusted networks** and create communities where neighbours look out for one another.

We continue to focus on developing Neighbourhood Watch where it can have a lasting impact. We have worked with young people to raise awareness of Neighbourhood Watch and encourage them to play an active role in creating safer communities, while also supporting the development of local Neighbourhood Watch Associations.

In Devon and Cornwall, our Project Manager, Steph Good, is at the heart of local communities, working with residents, councils, businesses and partners to understand local needs, build relationships and support communities to take action.

Through local projects, partnerships and the dedication of our volunteers, Neighbourhood Watch **continues to create safer, stronger and more connected communities** across England and Wales.



Neighbourhood Watch Week 2025 celebrated the incredible contribution of volunteers, showcasing the positive impact local groups have in bringing communities together. We also recognised outstanding volunteer contributions through our **Volunteer Recognition Awards**, sponsored by SimpliSafe, celebrating individuals and groups who have gone above and beyond to improve community wellbeing and strengthen local connections.

Supporting our volunteers with **Community Grants**

Each year, we distribute **£5,000–£6,000** of funding generated through discounted sales of Patlock's patio door security device. Each funding round focuses on priorities identified by our local members to tackle local issues.

This year, funding was available through two grant schemes. The first offered **50 grants** to help established Neighbourhood Watch schemes purchase resources such as stickers, leaflets and promotional materials to grow membership and recruit new volunteers. Recognising that local groups fund local activities, these grants provided valuable practical support. We received 162 applications, demonstrating the demand for this funding.

The second scheme awarded **10 grants of up to £500** for community projects addressing one of four priorities: violence against women and girls, knife crime, cybercrime or antisocial behaviour. The feedback on the impact of these grants has been fantastic, such as the inspiring work taking place in Nuneaton.



In 2025, Val Fieldhouse and the Nuneaton North East Neighbourhood Watch Committee received a **£500 Community Grant** to fund the installation of Bleed Control Kits following the tragic knife crime deaths of two young men, Morgan Hehir and Tom Ellis.

Working in partnership with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, which donated a further 13 kits, the project aims to save lives by increasing access to life-saving equipment, creating safe spaces and ensuring staff are trained to respond to stabbing incidents. Together, the initiative is helping make the town a safer place for young people.

Supported by:

www.ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants



Thank you to our amazing volunteers, partners & colleagues

Reflecting on the past year, we want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported the Neighbourhood Watch Network.

Together, our volunteers, partners and supporters have helped create safer, stronger and more connected communities. Through your time, expertise and commitment, we have prevented crime, reduced loneliness, strengthened relationships and brought neighbours together.

We are especially grateful to our incredible volunteers, Association Leads, Trustees and others, who have delivered our mission and bring our Watch, Connect, Act vision to life.

Our thanks go to the **Home Office, ERA, Staysure, SimpliSafe, the Police, Police & Crime Commissioner's, National Police Chiefs Council, Eden Project, BT, the NHS, Patlock, VISAV, the National Lottery Community Fund, City Bridge Foundation, Resolve, ASB Help, Her Centre, York College, local councils, Eden Project, Suzy Lamplugh Trust, Month of Community partners, University of East London, Heritage Watch, Stop Loan Sharks, Trading Standards, Bournemouth University, Neighbourhood Watch Lottery players, our online shop customers and individual donors.**

Your continued support, trust and collaboration enable us to make a lasting difference. Together, we will continue building communities where neighbours look out for each other.



Neighbourhood Watch Network

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