



The national charity for the Neighbourhood Watch Movement is seeking new trustees – could you be one of them?

About us

You've probably heard of us. You've probably seen Neighbourhood Watch signs. But you might be surprised at the range of work our volunteers carry out.

As the national umbrella organisation of the largest voluntary movement for crime prevention in England and Wales, we support people to prevent and reduce crime by coming together with their neighbours to create safer, stronger and active communities. We estimate that our 93,000 Neighbourhood Watch Groups engage with over two million people in a spirit of local activism that can address the issues that often give rise to crime and anti-social behaviour and help prevent them from becoming more serious. In the past year we have partnered with the Suzy Lamplugh Trust to provide training on being an "active bystander" and our "Are You OK?" campaign that showed how to respond in the event of witnessing aggression aimed at women, racial minorities or LGBTQ+ people. During 2022/23 we also launched a Community Safety Charter which has been endorsed more than 2500 times by Police Forces, local authorities and many different public and commercial organisations as well as by individuals and local communities.

Neighbourhood Watch Network supports these activities through a small central team of dedicated staff, led by our Chief Executive. Our work is funded mostly by grants from government, trusts and foundations, and partnerships with businesses but we are also developing ways for individuals to contribute to our work.

The role of a trustee

Trustees ensure their charity has a clear strategy, and that its work and goals are in line with its vision. A trustee's role in a charity is to be the 'guardians of purpose', making sure that it makes decisions based on evidence and seeks to maximise its impact. Trustees also safeguard the charity's assets – both physical assets, including property, and intangible ones, such as its reputation. They make sure these are used well and that the charity is run sustainably.

Being a trustee is a great way of developing skills in leadership, communication and strategic development as well as making a difference to society. It's also an opportunity to be part of a network of committed people who are helping to tackle problems and drive change.

If you think you could volunteer with us as a trustee, please look at this information and make an application or contact us to arrange an informal discussion with one of our existing trustees who can explain more about the role.

What we are looking for

People who can help us build on our legacy of over 40 years and ensure that the Neighbourhood Watch movement is relevant and impactful for the future. We want to develop our board as a body that reflects the communities we serve and firmly believe that a board made up of people from different backgrounds and with different perspectives on our work will help us make better decisions.

You do not need any formal qualifications or skills to become a trustee; it's more important that you are willing to learn, that you share our values and are able to engage in constructive and respectful



debate, and that you bring passion and enthusiasm for making local communities better places for everyone to live.

To become a trustee of NWN you need to be able to demonstrate that you -

- support the values and ethics of the NW movement and act with integrity, including handling sensitive and confidential information.
- are willing to learn about the work of the charity and the role of a trustee, and to commit the time needed for the role (on average about 8 hours a month)
- are able to read reports, analyse information and exercise good judgement and use of evidence in making decisions.
- will contribute to the board and committees by reading reports, attending regularly and participating in discussions by active listening and challenging constructively where necessary.

Knowledge and experience

You don't need to have specialist knowledge or experience to apply. Across our organisation we are trying to make it easier and more attractive for everyone to get involved in our work, including as trustees. We recognise that young people, people from the LGBTQ+ community, those with lived experience of disability or who have been victims of crime, as well as people from different cultures and ethnic backgrounds are currently under-represented. We will support people for whom this would be their first trustee role to learn about the responsibilities of trusteeship.

We are also keen to hear from people with experience of working at senior management or board level, especially those who bring knowledge of

- Governance of voluntary and community organisations and how boards can develop their performance and impact.
- Trends in policing, especially neighbourhood policing and ways in which communities can work with the police and other agencies to prevent and tackle crime in general and anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.
- Preventing cybercrime and scams (which now account for over half of all recorded crime) and making more use of digital tools in our services and programmes.
- How community cohesion can be strengthened as a way of contributing to health and wellbeing
- Directing fundraising and income generation strategies.
- Financial planning and reporting

Time commitment

The board holds regular quarterly meetings of around two hours which alternate between online and in-person meetings. We also hold an annual planning session of around half a day. There are also opportunities to attend events and participate in committees and working groups and to provide advice and guidance to the CEO and the staff team on specific areas of work.

The role requires the equivalent of about 10 hours per month. This includes preparing for meetings and attending them, undergoing training, and helping with other occasional tasks. Many of our trustees combine the role with their main employment or with other commitments and we understand the need for flexibility.



How to apply

You are very welcome to request an informal discussion with one of our trustees before making an application. Please contact enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk and we will arrange this.

If you do decide to apply, in the first instance, we will need.

1. A CV or resumé (not more than 2 pages) that provides details of your knowledge and skills, employment, training, and any voluntary work that you have undertaken.
2. A supporting statement of up to one page that tells us why you are interested in becoming a trustee and what you feel you can contribute to the work of our board. In this statement you might provide details of any work you have done as part of a committee, or any experience you have of working with or using the services of charities, or any challenges that you have faced in your personal life or professional career that you feel would help you be an effective trustee.

Your CV and supporting statement should be sent via the link on Charity Jobs:

<https://www.charityjob.co.uk/volunteer-jobs/neighbourhood-watch-network/trustee/1075748?tsId=36>

What happens next?

Once we have reviewed your application and if we feel we can take it further, we will invite you for a short interview with some of our trustees and our Chief Executive. The interview is a two-way process in which we can find out more about you and you can ask questions of us. We will be happy to make any adjustments you may need to be comfortable with the interview process.

If the interview is successful and we can offer you a role as a trustee, we will then invite you to observe one or two board meetings and tailor an induction and training package. At this point we will also need to take up two references and ask you to complete some official paperwork that enables us to register you as a trustee with the Charity Commission.

Recruitment Timetable

Commence advertising	Wednesday 8 th July
Closing Date for Applications	Friday 31 st July
Shortlisting	3 rd – 7 th August
Interviews	17 th – 21 st August
Recommended candidates to observe board meeting	Wednesday 26 th August
Board Meeting for new trustees to attend on co-opted basis	Thursday 26 th November
AGM to elect new trustees	Thursday 3 rd December