

# OUR NEWS



FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

We would like to say a massive thank you to the 20,000 people who have already completed our annual Crime and Community survey; and invite those who haven't had a chance to complete it, to do so.

We want to hear your views on crime, community, and your experience of Neighbourhood Watch. It is open to everyone across England and Wales, regardless of whether you are a Neighbourhood Watch member or not, and closes on the 26th October.

All responses will be anonymised and aggregated, and everyone who completes the 5 – 10 minute survey can choose to opt-in to the prize draw to win one of four £25 Amazon vouchers.

The results will enable us as a charity to better understand crime and fear of crime, benchmark whether membership in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme or living in a Neighbourhood Watch area impacts crime levels, neighbourliness, and the willingness of communities to work together.

**This information is vitally important to ensure we can better target our work to meet your crime and community needs and concerns.**

Last year our survey received 16,000 responses from across England and Wales, providing us with rich and useful data. This year we will be able to compare our data to the last two year's results and share our findings with you.

Please complete our survey and share it via email and social with all the various communities you belong to, whether they be a Neighbourhood Watch community or other such as sport, religious or work community.

This will help us receive a good balance of responses from members and non-members, enabling us to compare experiences between these two groups.

[Complete the survey here](#)

## Neighbourhood Watch Crime and Community Survey 2022

[surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NWCCS2022](https://surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NWCCS2022)

Your views provide our charity with vitally important feedback so that we can better target our work to meet your crime and community needs and concerns.

**Complete our survey for a chance to win a £25 Amazon voucher!**

We want to hear from you



Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales. CIO No. 1173349

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Follow us... [ourwatch.org.uk](https://ourwatch.org.uk)



## See someone being harassed? When its safe, ask if they are okay

We are leading a national campaign to raise awareness of street harassment and the role bystanders have in support.

Street harassment is on the rise and that is partly down to our culture of acceptance and tolerance of it. Crimes and harmful behaviours such as public sexual harassment and hate crime are significantly under-reported. A key factor for this is the everyday nature of these crimes and incidents and the fact that they are have become deeply ingrained in our culture.

No matter how serious the incidents may be, they pervade the lives of those who experience them and are often likely to escalate. But people are becoming more aware of it and the long-term implications it has on victims and communities. The tide of acceptance is turning.

We are encouraging people to ask others 'are you okay' if they witness it happening and ultimately it is safe for them to do so.

**Do not put yourself at risk, but when it is safe to do so, ask the victim if they are okay. This lets them know that you do not condone the harassment.**

*“Over one-third of those that had experienced a crime in the past 12 months had been harassed, threatened, or verbally abused in the street. Nearly three-quarters were worried about street harassment on a national level.*

*Most people who experience harassment in public, don't feel empowered to report it. Even more worrying than that, is that many feel responsible in some way themselves. If you witness someone being harassed on the street whether they are being intimidated, shouted at, insulted, honked at, up-skirted, or are having offensive gestures or comments made towards them – when it is safe for you to do so, ask them if they are okay.*

*This lets them know that you stand by them, empowers the victim to report and sends a message of intolerance towards the crime. In this way we can start to turn that culture of acceptance around.” John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Network*

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ASK THIS QUESTION?

Street harassment often occurs in residential streets, on the bus, or in local parks and high streets when there are people around who may witness it.

There are many reasons why they won't intervene particularly when in large groups. Termed the 'bystander effect' this occurs when the presence of others discourages an individual from intervening. The greater the number of bystanders, the less likely it

## What do we mean by 'street harassment'?

**By street harassment, we mean unwanted behaviour in public areas that includes, but is not exclusive of:**

- unsolicited sexualised or offensive comments or gestures
- unwanted whistling or honking,
- so-called 'catcalling'
- indecent exposure
- stalking or being followed
- intrusive staring
- persistent sexual advances,
- unwanted touching
- being insulted or shouted at or
- feeling physically threatened.

Public areas include streets, shopping centres, public transport (e.g., buses, trains, etc.), hospitality venues (e.g., pubs, clubs, bars, etc.), public events (e.g., concerts, sports games, festivals, etc.), parks, commons, and other public recreational spaces.

### [FIND OUT MORE](#)

is for any one of them to initiate help for a person in distress.

**Disrupting the escalation early by safely intervening, makes it more difficult for discrimination and hate to flourish.**

Asking "Are You Okay?" when it is safe to do so is part of a delayed intervention and part of the 'five D's methodology of bystander intervention. For more information about the 5Ds methodology and how to safely intervene and prevent street harassment, visit [ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment](http://ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment).

### WHAT IF THE VICTIM IS NOT OKAY?

If a victim of harassment needs to support you could direct them to our website where they can be directed to the support that they need. or you could let them know that support for victims of harassment is available from [Victim Support](#) whether the harassment has been reported to the police or not. Victim Support

*continued on page 2*

## See someone being harassed? When its safe, ask if they are okay

continued from page 1

is a charity that is independent of the police and offers specialist support any time of the day or night. They help victims to:

- deal with the immediate emotional impact of crime
- report the incident to the police
- find a counsellor to help cope with what's happened
- understand the criminal justice system
- make a compensation claim
- talk to other agencies, such as employers or housing officers
- find someone to repair locks or remove graffiti

Victim Support can be contacted free 24 hours a day on 0333 271 0094 or [online](#) or by text relay. There are many other support agencies out there, tailored to specific groups of people or needs. If you have been a victim of street harassment have a look at [Our Streets Now's support page](#) for a comprehensive list of other support agencies.

SEE SOMEONE BEING  
**HARASSED IN PUBLIC?**

WHEN YOU FEEL SAFE, ASK THEM...

**'ARE YOU OKAY?'**

THOSE THREE LITTLE WORDS  
LET THEM KNOW  
YOU STAND BY THEM, AND THAT  
**STREET HARASSMENT IS NEVER OKAY.**

IF YOU SEE IT. ASK IT.



Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales. CID No. 1173349

Find out more at [ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment](https://ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment)

## Have you signed up to our Community Safety Charter?

By signing up to the Community Safety Charter, people, businesses, and organisations pledge to do four actions:

1. promote a culture that does not tolerate those harmful behaviours
2. enable others to take an active stance against them
3. encourage reporting, and
4. support those affected by the crimes.

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Network, said, *“With the cost-of-living crisis upon us, we believe we can expect to see an even greater rise in community-based crimes such as violence against women and girls, disability hate crime, antisocial behaviour, and harassment.”*

John continues, *“Our Community Safety Charter enables us all – schools, libraries, bus companies, faith groups, local shops and even your local postie - to play a key part in creating an environment in which crimes such as these in public spaces are not tolerated.”*

Through the Charter, we provide a greater understanding of how to recognise and deal with community safety issues. Bystanders can safely

intervene and support victims in accessing where to get help, and how and who to report to. The Charter enables everyone to take a positive and proactive approach when witnessing or experiencing confrontation, hostility, or harassment.

Sign up at [ourwatch.org.uk/charter](https://ourwatch.org.uk/charter).

 **COMMUNITY  
SAFETY  
CHARTER**

**Sign up today**

**#BETHECHANGE**

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## Stay one step ahead of scams



**Be on the look out for these scams\* and remember, if you, or someone you know, has been a victim find out [how to report it](#).**

**Friend in Need:** A 'friend in need' scam is targeting Whatsapp users. Criminals are posing as friends or family members in need of help. They will text from what they claim to be a new mobile after their old one was 'lost/damaged'. They will then go on to ask for money to pay an urgent bill/new phone. Recent scams have even initially asked for funds to be transferred to a friend or family member before being sent on to the scammer to give the appearance of an initial low risk payment.

**New Omicron Jab:** There is to be a new Omicron Covid vaccine to be rolled out within the next few weeks, as the UK become the first country to approve the specifically tailored jab, ahead of fears for winter spikes. With the rollout for the latest booster, there are concerns that covid related fraud may increase as a result, with criminals targeting potential victims with vaccine scams, not too dissimilar to the ones seen previously. This will be an area which will continue to be monitored.

**Energy Price Cap:** With the severe increase in the energy price cap reported, fraudsters are likely to seize this opportunity to exploit those looking to change energy providers and/or tariffs. Individuals are being warned to be vigilant to avoid falling victim to new campaigns associated with energy supplies, for example offers which seem too good to be true or fake rebates.

**Cost of Living Crisis:** With the cost of living crisis deepening scammers will be using the economic downturn to their own benefit. The warning comes as many are due to receive a first instalment of a cost of living payment, worth £326.

Reports have been received by Action Fraud of fraudsters attempting to exploit vulnerable people with the promise of money saving schemes, including, energy and council tax rebates or phishing exercises encouraging individuals to apply/claim a 'cost of living payment' via text, followed by an email to gain further information from the victim.

**Fake Santander Email:** Lots of people online have been flagging a fake Santander mobile banking email. The email impersonates Santander's branding and gives you a sense of urgency regarding your access to banking services, to pressure you into giving away data.

Over the past week, use of the search term 'Santander email scams' has increased by more than 5000%, showing the spike in people being targeted with this new scam. [Know what to look out for.](#)

**British Gas Fake Email:** Scammers are impersonating British Gas with fake emails tempting recipients to click a link to get a fake energy refund. Although the email looks legitimate, it addresses you by your email address and not your name. This is a potential giveaway that it's from a fraudster. [Know what to look out for.](#)

**Premium Rate Number Scams:** This scam tries to trick people who are searching online for telephone numbers of government advice services. It works by displaying an advert for the phone number of the relevant government advice line.

But the sting is that you'll be charged a premium for using this advertised telephone number – in some cases, as much as £20 or £30 a call. You are put through to the right advice line, but you pay a very high and unnecessary connection fee. [Find out which phone numbers to look out for.](#)

**If you are a victim of fraud, [find out how you can report it.](#)**

*If it doesn't **SOUND** right,  
tell scammers to  
**SLING THEIR HOOK***

ourwatch.org.uk/scams

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## Be kind to your mind with Every Mind Matters

**This year's Better Health Every Mind Matters campaign launches on the 9th October, just ahead of World Mental Health Day.**

The campaign heroes the small things we can all do to look after our mental wellbeing and how they can make a big difference; encouraging us to be kind to our mind, both in the moment and building it into our lives as a positive, simple habit.

An easy way to get started is by visiting [Every Mind Matters](#) to create your very own Mind Plan with personalised tips and advice, and download helpful resources and information.

Every Mind Matters has some simple tips to help deal with money worries, including advice on creating a budget, getting help with debt and speaking to family and friends to help you create a plan.

With the rising cost of living creating extra anxieties and pressures, this

**World Mental Health Day is also a key opportunity to check in with family, friends and neighbours and offer support to one another.** There is more information on how to help someone else [here](#).

Take this moment to be kind to your mind. Small things can make a big difference. Find easy ways to look after your mental wellbeing with a free, personalised [Mind Plan](#).



# every mind matters

## Look out for loan fee fraud



**Loan fee fraud is when customers are searching for a loan, and are pressured into paying an upfront fee but then never receive the loan.**

Loan fee fraud is expected to spread as the cost-of-living crisis continues to place increasing pressure on people.

Victims are often asked to make the payment quickly or are asked to make it through an unusual method, like a voucher. This scam deliberately targets those that are most financially vulnerable, such as those that don't have access to mainstream credit and so have to borrow from more dodgy and unregulated loan services.

### Who is most vulnerable to this scam?

This scam affects those aged 25 to 45 the most. People that fall victim to this scam are more likely to be those that work in manual professions, those

that are under financial pressure, or those that have limited borrowing options left. It often affects people when they are at their most vulnerable and feel that they need to borrow to get by.

### How can you protect yourself?

Make sure you are aware of the the warning signs. It could be a scam if you are:

- asked to pay an upfront cost
- pressured to pay quickly, or
- asked to pay in an unusual way, such as vouchers or money transfer.

**If you are not sure about whether to take a loan you can check whether the loan provider is registered here:** <https://register.fca.org.uk/s/>

Further advice can be found from [Financial Conduct Authority](#), [Citizens Advice](#), [StepChange Debt](#), [National Debtline](#), [PayPlan](#), or [Shelter](#).

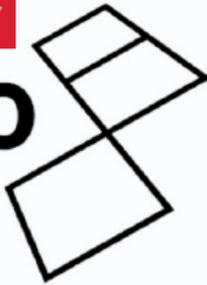
## National Hate Crime Awareness Week, 8th - 14th October

ANTI-HATE CHARITY

**17-24-30**

**NATIONALHCAW**

Organisers of the



Funded by  
MOPAC



**Week of action tackling hate crime**  
**2nd Saturday to 3rd Saturday**  
**in October each year**

**#NATIONALHCAW**  
[www.linktr.ee/nationalhcaw](http://www.linktr.ee/nationalhcaw)

Charitable Incorporated Org No 1184819

National Hate Crime Awareness Week is a national anti-hate crime charity, set up to mark the 10th anniversary of the London Nail Bomb attacks on Brixton, Brick Lane and Soho.

The national week aims to encourage the authorities, key partners and communities affected by hate crime to **work together to tackle local hate crime incidents across the UK.**

*“At Neighbourhood Watch, we believe that together, we can take a stand against hate crime within our communities.*”

*We are proud to support Hate Crime Awareness Week because we know that no one deserves to be discriminated against because of who they are or their life choices.*

*During the week, we will promote and raise community awareness on what a hate crime is, how to report it, and what can be done to help prevent it.”* John Hayward-Cripps, CEO, Neighbourhood Watch Network

You could support it in the following ways by visiting [linktr.ee/nationalhcaw](http://linktr.ee/nationalhcaw)

- Sign up for their newsletter
- Join the UK Hate Crime Network group on LinkedIn
- Support their social media posts and campaigns and use hashtags #WeStandTogether, #NoPlaceForHate and #SafePlaceForAll
- Start planning your National Hate Crime Awareness week events and register them with the charity so they can add them to their NationalHCAW map
- View our NationalHCAW Google map
- Order your NationalHCAW resources.

Find out more at [nationalhcaw.uk/](http://nationalhcaw.uk/)

## Welcome Kev, our new Devon and Cornwall Project Manager



**Kev joins us as Devon and Cornwall Project Manager to deliver the [Community Safety Charter](#).**

Kev has a big love for all things Neighbourhood Watch and this shows in his role as Chair of Keyham Neighbourhood Watch that has gone on to have success in being awarded the Queen's Jubilee Award for volunteer services (QAVS), one of just 3 Neighbourhood Watch's

in the UK to ever win this accolade.

He also sits on the board of Devon and Cornwall Regional Neighbourhood Watch and on Devon and Cornwall Community Watch Association (DACCWA).

**To find out more about Kev and his work contact him at [kevin.sproston@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:kevin.sproston@ourwatch.org.uk).**

## DID YOU KNOW?

- **Consumer friend** is a new website that aims to make consumer rights easy to understand
- **Eden Projects have four Community Camps** coming up between now and March 2023, two of these are face-to-face camps at the Eden Project and two of them will take place online.
  - Face to Face: 30th September – 3rd October 2022
  - Online: 7th, 10th, 14th, 17th and 21st November 2022 (6.30 – 9pm)
  - Online: 30th January, 2nd February, 6th, 9th and 13th February 2023 (6.30 – 9pm)
  - Face to Face: 17th – 20th March 2023
- **Check a website** is an easy-to-use online tool which helps you to determine whether a website is likely to be legitimate or a scam before you visit it
- **Issue 4 of the Lookout**, a magazine written by students and for students, is out now. It is well worth a read and sharing with other students who may not have seen it yet.



onelottery

## PLAY TODAY & WIN A STAY

Support Our Lottery Now



**WIN** A Forest Staycation!

- Help to boost our fundraising income
- Tickets cost just £1 each
- Weekly cash prizes
- Win up to £25,000



Enter today, just visit:

**onelottery.co.uk/play**  
and search for: **Neighbourhood Watch**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. See website for T&Cs. Closing date for entries: 29<sup>th</sup> October 2022

READ IT NOW  
[OURWATCH.ORG.UK/LOOKOUT](http://OURWATCH.ORG.UK/LOOKOUT)



**STUDENT WATCH**

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

- Dealing with the pressures of freshers 4
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- Why are societies important at University? 21

**YOUR FREE STUDENT MAGAZINE**

## STUDENT WATCH



## THINKING ABOUT STARTING A NEW SCHEME?

We can help.

Our comprehensive [Knowledge Hub](#), provides Coordinators (and other volunteers) with role support, resources, access to training, early access to events, unique volunteer offers and the opportunity to connect with others.

[Find out more](#)

As the cost of living increases, so do the number of online scams.

Our top tips will help you protect yourself.

#CostOfLivingScams



[www.getsafeonline.org/costofliving](http://www.getsafeonline.org/costofliving)

SPECIAL OFFER

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**PATLOCK**

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**PATLOCK**

Providing a clear visible deterrent for dark nights



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEMBER OFFER

Order a Patlock for £42.50 at [patlock.co.uk/neighbourhood-watch](http://patlock.co.uk/neighbourhood-watch)



**Are you aged 16-24?**

## **Your voice matters**

**Explore our survey to be in with a chance to win a £25 voucher of your choice!**

Help Neighbourhood Watch with your ideas to improve your local community



**[surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X757SFP](https://surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X757SFP)**

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Valid in Co-op Group stores.

**Become a Co-op member between 5th and 25th October  
and get £3 off a £10 shop.**

**Download the Co-op app today**

