



# OUR NEWS

> THE E-NEWSLETTER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS

**We are here for the long haul, supporting neighbours across England and Wales**

*Dear supporters,*

*With the ongoing uncertainty of the Covid-19 crisis it is clear that we can all expect a challenging autumn and winter ahead. As the weather deteriorates and the days get shorter, the importance of our work and need for community support will increase further.*

*As you know, Neighbourhood Watch is about supporting individuals and communities, especially the vulnerable, to feel safer, more connected and resilient. **We are here for the long haul.** It is vital we continue to do this and maintain the increased contact we developed with neighbours during the first national lockdown.*

*We will shortly be launching our THANK YOU campaign to all volunteers who have supported their communities during the crisis with a plea to continue to do this as much as possible over the coming months as things get tough once more.*

*As always, please continue to share with us the great work that you are doing, by emailing [enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk).*

**John Hayward-Cripps**

CEO | Neighbourhood Watch Network

## HELP US TO HELP YOU

Whether you are new to Neighbourhood Watch, or have been supporting us for a long time, we want to your feedback on how to improve our website.

Visit our website [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk) and take the survey on the homepage.

## Neighbour of the Year Award



For the third year running, we're excited to launch the nationwide search in partnership with our friends at Co-op Insurance to find and celebrate some of the **UK's best neighbours**.

Our members have told us that to be a great neighbour people share some clear qualities: a willingness to look out for others; being sociable and friendly; offering practical help; and being kind, caring and respectful.

In addition to the **Neighbour of the Year Award**, this year we have a brand-new category, **Co-op's Young Neighbour of the Year**. This award will celebrate someone aged 18-24 who has gone above and beyond to help enhance their community and has brought people, young and old, together.

**If you've got someone who ticks all these boxes and more in either category, tell us all about them and how they go above and beyond.**

[Click here to be taken to our nomination form](#) to share your stories of great neighbourly activities and acts of kindness. The deadline for nominations is 27th October.

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# What are County Lines and what can we do about them?



With recent news of police shutting down approximately 10% of County Lines operations in a UK wide strategy involving over 43 police forces leading to over 1,000 arrests, recovering £500,000 in cash and millions of pounds worth of drugs, it has never been a more opportune time to highlight the growing trend of County Lines and to explain what they are.

The National Crime Agency defines County Lines as where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs. The 'County Line' is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs. Importing areas (areas where the drugs are taken to) are reporting increased levels of violence and weapons-related crimes as a result of this trend. Each County Line has an estimated income of £25,000 per week.

But County Lines is much more than drug dealing across the country. It involves a much darker and more sinister list of crimes, which affect mental health, wellbeing, young lives and the people who fall victim to these gangs: cuckooing, coercive behaviour, sexual manipulation and abuse, child grooming and exploitation, drug dependency, to name but a few.

Young people are manipulated and exploited by drugs gangs in cities and forced to travel to coastal and rural towns to stay in houses called trap houses to deal drugs from. Drugs within cities are easily sourced and are cheap to buy, County Lines gangs buy these drugs at a cheap price and sell them for a much higher price in rural and coastal areas. The industry has the potential to earn over £25m a year. It is this motivation that gangs manipulate and use to recruit children as young as 13 to travel across the country to sell their drugs.

The dealers will frequently target young people who are vulnerable, isolated, or affected by mental health issues to act as drug runners or move cash so they can stay

under the radar of law enforcement. The attraction of reward, money, friendship, and feeling of belonging lures them in at first. Then the threats of violence, mental and sexual abuse and drug dependency ensure their loyalty to the gangs. As we have seen in child sexual exploitation, children often don't see themselves as victims or realise they have been groomed to get involved in criminality.

As Neighbourhood Watch members, we all have a part to play in understanding County Lines and speaking out when we have concerns. The National Crime Agency suggests some signs to look out for:

- An increase in visitors and cars to a house or flat
- New faces appearing at a house or flat
- New and regularly changing residents (e.g different accents compared to local accent)
- Change in resident's mood and/or demeanour (e.g. secretive/ withdrawn/ aggressive/ emotional)
- Substance misuse and/or drug paraphernalia
- Changes in the way young people you might know dress
- Unexplained, sometimes unaffordable new things (e.g clothes, jewellery, cars etc)
- Residents or young people you know going missing, maybe for long periods of time
- Young people seen in different cars/taxis driven by unknown adults
- Young people seeming unfamiliar with your community or where they are
- Truancy, exclusion, disengagement from school
- An increase in anti-social behaviour in the community
- Unexplained injuries

If you suspect County Lines within your community report it to the police (101 or in an emergency 999) or if you wish to remain anonymous via CrimeStoppers (0800 555111).

## Useful videos (click the link to watch)

- [What is County Lines?](#)
- [County Lines - a basic awareness film](#)
- [Up close with a County Line - BBC News](#)
- [Unreported story of county lines drug dealing](#)

## Support

- [CrimeStoppers – County Lines support](#)
- [St Giles Trust](#)
- [Children's Society](#)

## Resources

- [Capturing and reporting intelligence](#)

## Raising funds in the time of Covid-19



### Trialling a Community Grants Fund

We know that for many of the local groups the effects of Covid-19 have been very challenging on their ability to raise funds, especially over summer when some hold street parties, family days, etc.

One of the ways we hope to support local areas through these difficult times is with the trial introduction of our new Community Grants fund.

Groups will be able to apply for up to £500 to deliver their Neighbourhood Watch work locally using our application form. The fund is limited and we will need to make decisions on what we can fund so make sure you read the guidelines on our website carefully. You can find out more information and how to apply at [www.ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants).

**Neighbourhood Watch Network is delighted to invite Schemes and Associations to apply for:**

**Funding grants up to £500**

[ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants](http://ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants)

### Crowdfunding

We want to take this opportunity to encourage groups who have a captive, community-based digital audience (through email lists, Facebook, Whatsapp, Nextdoor, etc.) to look into the possibility of **crowdfunding**. With the uncertain times we find ourselves in, it offers a great way to engage with and motivate your community at a safe distance.

**Crowdfunding** is a method of raising funds through the powerful connected web of friends of friends, family, customers, and individual supporters. It taps into the collective efforts of individuals in your community and leverages their networks for greater reach and exposure.

It is a great way for Neighbourhood Watch schemes and local projects to raise funds as it really is about community action, buy-in and involvement.

Ensure you clarify your scheme or project clearly, using a factual and emotive basis (like any fundraising request), be realistic and transparent about how much you need to raise, and provide feedback to your donors regularly throughout the fundraiser and once it is complete.

Some examples of crowdfunding sites you can use are [Crowdfunder](#), [Hubbub](#), [Spacehive](#), [JustGiving](#), [Crowd Patch](#) and [Go Fund Me](#). All have different fees and terms and conditions, so make sure you check those first and decide what suits your group best.

If you need any support on how to use crowdfunding to bolster your efforts or to talk through an idea, feel free to contact our Head of Fundraising at [fundraising@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@ourwatch.org.uk).

*“There has never been a better time to try something new with your fundraising.”*

## Donations make a difference

**Neighbourhood Watch is a voluntary, charitable movement, and sometimes its important for us to be reminded of that.**

Our incredible volunteers number over 90,000 and dedicate many hours of their time per year for free, while the work of Neighbourhood Watch throughout England and Wales is largely reliant on voluntary funding.

Last month, for example, we were delighted to receive a generous £100 cheque from an individual donor who supported our work.

That contribution will go straight towards providing resources, tools and training for our members to support

them to keep their communities safe, inclusive and vibrant places to live.

**We would love to be able to provide more for our members and help them make those differences within their communities.**

Donations can be made at any time via our website at <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/donate>.

If you'd rather send us a cheque, just email us at [enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk) to ask for details about the best way to do so during Covid-19 restrictions.

# More NHS Volunteer Responders needed in areas across England



commitments. Further recruitment will follow in other target areas, each of which has been selected due to high demand for support compared to the volunteers available

The scheme is signing up volunteers in the following locations:

- **London:** Camden, Croydon, Ealing, Hackney, Hounslow, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Redbridge, Southwark, Wandsworth and Westminster.
- **South East:** Hastings, Eastbourne, Brighton and Hove, Thanet.
- **West Midlands:** Birmingham, Wolverhampton
- **Yorkshire:** Sheffield, Rotherham
- **East Midlands:** Lincoln, north Kesteven, South Kesteven, East Lindsey
- **North East:** Middlesbrough, Northumberland
- **North West:** Preston
- **South West:** Plymouth, Bristol

For more information and to sign up visit the [NHS Volunteer Responders website](#).

The NHS Volunteer Responders scheme is currently seeking new members in parts of London and South East England, and from September 23rd West Midlands, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, North East, North West and South West.

The volunteers support people who are vulnerable because of COVID-19, and anyone who needs to self-isolate as a result of the virus. They deliver food, medication and other essentials to people's homes, and also support NHS organisations with goods deliveries.

The app-based scheme enables volunteers to mark themselves on or off duty depending on their availability, making it easy to fit volunteering around other

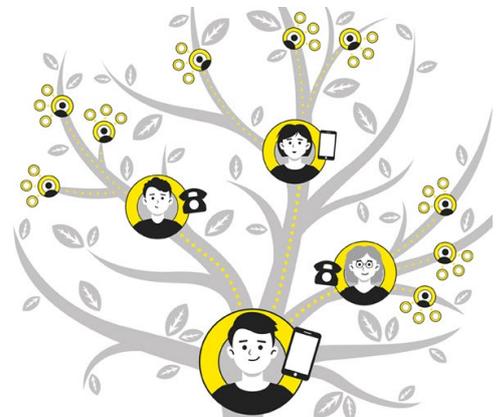
## Virtual community camp

Next month will see the start of Eden Project Communities first Virtual Community Camp - an immersive learning experience offering a mix of practical activities, workshop sessions and networking opportunities for people from across the UK.

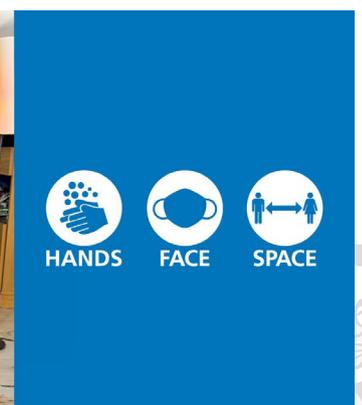
The Virtual Community Camp is completely free and tailored to varying levels of community activity, including those who started volunteering during Covid-19. The camp will be a great opportunity for people to learn, connect with others and dive deeper into community activities.

More information can be found on their website [here](#).

## Reducing isolation and loneliness



Starting a 'calling tree' is an effective way of supporting those without internet access and / or those who may be isolated or lonely. For more information, have a look on our [website here](#).





## SPOTLIGHT ON JOHN HAYWARD-CRIPPS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

‘Within 5 years we will be the authoritative voice on community-based crime prevention, the most popular organisation for people to engage with their community, and to be recognised as really contributing to community health and wellbeing.’

### What attracted you to work for Neighbourhood Watch?

I was attracted to Neighbourhood Watch for two reasons: firstly was the potential to build on the great history and legacy of Neighbourhood Watch; and help develop the organisation into a more modern, diverse and relevant movement while keeping true to the original ethos of the organisation of helping individuals and communities prevent crime by being more connected and building stronger, better communities.

I strongly believe the need, and the appetite, for this is as great today as it has ever been and that Neighbourhood Watch by modernising and embracing new and flexible ways of working can take a leading role in achieving this.

### How does your position support Neighbourhood Watch groups across England and Wales?

My role is to balance the need to provide leadership and direction for Neighbourhood Watch groups across England and Wales. I need to do this whilst ensuring this is in consultation with those that are our **core and heart** of Neighbourhood Watch - namely our supporters, Coordinators, Associations, and the Trustee Board.

There are often very differing views within the network on what we should focus on and how to achieve it. I hope I balance the differing points of view while providing a consensus that the majority can agree on that is both

challenging and will enable Neighbourhood Watch reach our ambition.

Our ambition is within five years to be the authoritative voice on community-based crime prevention, the most popular organisation for people to engage with their community and to be recognised as really contributing to community health and wellbeing.

### What do you enjoy most about being part of Neighbourhood Watch?

The most enjoyable part of my job is, well was - and I hope this aspect returns as soon as it is safe - visiting Associations and Neighbourhood Watch groups locally, and meeting volunteers and supporters. I love hearing about the **great work they do** locally to prevent crime and support their communities. More recently though, hearing about the **very humbling and hugely inspiring** work that local groups and individuals have been doing to support communities and the very vulnerable during the current Covid-19 crisis has been incredible.

Being able to then represent this work, its impact on crime, and benefits within communities to stakeholders like the Home Office, other Government Departments, in the radio and TV, and to other charities is a **real honour** and a great part of the job.

## Are you a communications expert looking to volunteer your skills?

We know we have a wide and skilled supporter base.

So we are calling out to those of you who have time on your hands to volunteer with the Central Support Team and specific communication skills in these areas:

- **media relations** (to enhance our relationship with the press),
- **graphic design** (to support us in pulling together our newsletter each month, and other ad hoc reports),

- **social media** (to support us in our social media channels), or
- **video editing** (to ensure we are producing video which is engaging to new and younger supporters).

If you are interested in supporting us in **any** of these ways and can **demonstrate your skill** as well as your **understanding and commitment to our values**, get in touch with our Senior Communications and Digital Manager on [deborah.waller@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:deborah.waller@ourwatch.org.uk) for an initial conversation.

## Patlock secured by design and endorsed by Neighbourhood Watch



### So, what is the Patlock?

It is a simple, yet strong lock for double French doors that slides over the handles. It requires handles on both doors and is for internal installation (if your set of doors only has one handle, you can fit a dummy handle to the other door to be able to use the Patlock). It is easy to fit and remove, and requires no drilling or fixings.

Whilst the Patlock can be used straight out of the box, it also comes with two tamper-proof spindles and spring clips for added security. Once fitted, they maintain the integrity of the internal handles.

Patlock also provides a clear visible deterrent to any would be intruders.

The Patlock fits most doors. If your door handles are longer or wider than standard you can remove the rubber inserts to create more space. It requires no keys or codes.

Once the Patlock is fitted, the doors are now secured, even if someone snaps the locks from outside. It works by ensuring that the multi-point locks and shoot bolts in the door-locking mechanism remain engaged.

The Patlock is an excellent, simple to use product for securing your French Doors.

The Patlock, which is **endorsed by Neighbourhood Watch**, has been awarded **Secured by Design** accreditation and is recommended by police forces and crime prevention associations throughout the UK. Secured by Design (SBD) is the Official Police Security Initiative that improves the security of buildings and their immediate surroundings to provide safe places to live, work, shop and visit.

[Click here to purchase the Patlock at the Neighbourhood Watch discounted rate of £42.50.](#)

There are over ½ million forced entry home burglaries in the UK every year, with one occurring every 40 seconds. Most forced-entry home burglaries happen during the daylight hours between 10am and 3pm. A majority are committed by the opportunistic burglar when they see an open window or door, or a house with very weak security measures.

Deciding what security measures to implement can be a minefield. You can fit window locks, better door locks, add security lights and alarms, and even install cameras which send alerts to your phone. Whilst these are all excellent methods that are encouraged to be used, there is still more that can be done.

If all doors and windows are locked, the easiest entry point is often the patio/conservatory or French doors. With the increasing trend of lock-snapping on patio doors, which can see a burglar enter your home within 30 seconds (based on patio doors with a standard euro cylinder lock), these types of doors really do need better security measures.

So how can you better strengthen your French doors? One way would be not to have any external locks or handles, with just the doors opening from the inside. The Patlock is a much simpler solution.

## For smart protection look no further than ERA protect

With the nights beginning to draw in, people are naturally thinking about how well protected their home is and what they can do to make themselves feel more secure at all times. With this in mind, ERA, the UK's security specialist, has launched ERA Protect, the next generation wireless smart security system.

The first of its kind to attain the prestigious BSI IoT Kitemark, ERA Protect brings alarm and camera excellence together and offers a multitude of capabilities and features that empower homeowners to take charge of their smart security from start to finish, all controlled by one intuitive smartphone app.

### The ERA Protect difference

A serious security solution that can be relied upon and trusted, rather than a gadget, the ERA Protect range features an Alarm, Siren, Accessories along with an Outdoor camera and Floodlight camera.

The first major difference between ERA Protect and other alarm systems is the way the alarm and the cameras work together. Wirelessly connected and operating fully in harmony, the settings allow cameras to be controlled via the same app and triggered as a complete system during alert situations.

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## For smart protection look no further than ERA protect

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In addition, if the broadband connection goes down, the 4G roaming SIM still allows the video recordings from cameras to be stored to the cloud upon alarm trigger. The result gives a robust, security-driven system that can be tailored to fit individual needs.

### Operated by one easy app

All ERA Protect products are fully integrated and work seamlessly together using the intuitive smartphone app which allows users to view and monitor their precious homes at any time from anywhere in the world giving ultimate in convenience and reassurance.

### ERA Protect service packages

ERA Protect is available in a range of four Service Packages, with corresponding monthly fees. With no monthly fee, ERA Protect Basic allows use of the monitoring features of the alarm as well as the live view capabilities from the camera.

For those wanting camera back up to the cloud storage, but are not so concerned about 4G backup capability, it is simply £2.99 per month for up to 4 cameras. Alternatively, for both camera cloud storage and 4G Roaming SIM backup, the ERA Protect Plus package is £9.99 per month.

Finally, if someone also wanted professional monitoring, the ERA Protect Plus Premium Package is £19.99 per month.

Tania Tams, Head of Marketing at ERA said, 'We can now deliver a truly new way of providing high quality, yet affordable smart security with the homeowner placed firmly in the driving seat – welcome to the next generation.'

For further information on the brand new ERA Protect range, visit [www.eraprotect.com](http://www.eraprotect.com), or contact the sales team on 0345 257 1000.



## Friends Against Scams: new scam protection guide

Anyone can be the victim of a scam, however some people are more vulnerable to scams and criminals will use this to their advantage.

People living with a cognitive impairment such as dementia, may be particularly vulnerable because they may be less able to distinguish a scam from legitimate contact.

Criminals also appear to be targeting people with memory problems specifically because they know they may not remember being scammed before.

That's why a new guide has been produced: [Are you or your loved ones being targeted by scams? Help to manage finances and avoid scams for people at risk and those who support them.](#)



This guide has been prepared by the National Trading Standards Scams Team and the National Centre for Post Qualifying Social Work and Professional Practice at Bournemouth University, working in partnership with Lloyds Bank, Halifax and Bank of Scotland.

The guide provides information to individuals and their loved ones to help protect them from scams.

It suggests measures that can be put in place to help prevent criminals from making contact, such as the use of call blockers and the mail redirection service.

It also provides information on managing finances to reduce the risk of scams, such as implementing a Lasting Power of Attorney.

## Did you know?

Last year **Crimestoppers** sent police forces 172,300 anonymous crime reports - that's 470 per day and 20 per hour... but what do they mean by anonymous? They have developed [an animation](#) to explain the steps they take to ensure callers and online users stay 100% anonymous. Always. Watch it [here](#).

**Impersonation scams** almost double in the first half of 2020. **UK Finance** is urging people to be aware of criminals exploiting Covid-19 to target their victims, after figures revealed a sharp rise in impersonation scams in the first half of this year. Read more about it [here](#).

The [Community Action Response](#) is led by a group of organisations with the joint aim to encourage everyone to do what they can to support their communities, during the Covid-19 crisis and beyond. The need for our communities to support, connect and show kindness to each other is more evident than ever. The group has put together [resources](#) that may support you. They would also love to hear back from you on your understanding of informal and formal volunteering. If you can help, see their survey [here](#).

Get on board with the **world's longest ever non-stop cyber event 15th October 2020**, hosted by Get Safe Online. Find out more [here](#).

## Be aware of spoof websites

Criminals are sophisticated; creating spoof websites that imitate those of trusted organisations in order to persuade you to enter your personal and financial information.

They'll include the organisation's branding with small changes to the website's URL to convince you it's genuine. Don't automatically click on links in emails and texts. Instead login to your account directly using a secure webpage or app and if you're visiting a website for the first time, always type the address into the browser.

If you receive a scam email forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) and scam texts to 7726.



## #YouAreNotPowerless

We're in the final two weeks of supporting Crimestoppers [#YouAreNotPowerless](#) campaign. Over the last four weeks the independent charity Crimestoppers have been raising awareness of the [signs to spot](#) of domestic abuse.

Letting you know that: **You have the power to help stop domestic abuse.** If you suspect domestic abuse and don't want to reveal your identity, tell Crimestoppers what you know on the phone 0800 555 111 or [online](#), 24/7, 365 days a year.

Crimestoppers have worked with the Respect Phonenumber to formulate social media content to promote self-reflection. By questioning abusive behaviour we can prompt people to get the help they need to stop. If you're concerned about your behaviour and want to change, call the Respect Phonenumber on 0808 8024040.

We're inviting all of our membership to help promote this important message on social media from today. Follow

Crimestoppers on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) to reshare posts and help spread this important message.

Do you belittle your partner in front of their friends and family?

If you're concerned about your behaviour and want to change, call the **Respect Phonenumber** on 0808 8024040

**Respect**  
Phonenumber

**CrimeStoppers.**