



## Neighbourhood Watch Network

WG07, Vox Studios  
1 – 45 Durham Street  
Vauxhall  
SE11 5JH

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

Dear Neighbourhood Watch Association Leads,

It seems like we are enjoying the second run of good weather, so I hope you are enjoying this summer weather and the easing of restrictions to see more of friends, family, and our communities. As expected, the path out of Covid-19 limitations is proving bumpy with new variants and concerns about further surges; however, I think we would all agree that the NHS vaccination programme has been incredibly successful.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK, 5th - 11th June 2021**

We had a very successful Neighbourhood Watch Week this year with a great deal of activity on social media and with Associations. The continuing Covid-19 restrictions impacted some events, such as Big Lunches. Still, the Listening Campaign information was taken up widely, and we are now working with the Wales Safer Communities Network to spread the take-up of Listening Campaigns and Neighbourhood Watch in Wales. We launched the Croods 2 holiday competition in partnership with Universal Studios during the week. The uptake from younger families on social media has been fantastic, as have been the comments about what a good neighbourhood means to them. We will collate the best comments and share these after the competition has closed. The earlier 'Design a Croods 2 Inspired Treehouse' competition is in the final stages. The treehouse will soon open with press activity with the co-sponsors (Co-op) in a woodland space near the winning entry.

### **ALERT VERSION 4**

Visav is rolling out Version 4 (V4) of the Alert Community Messaging Service, as mentioned last month. Both Northamptonshire and Warwickshire are now live, with North Wales to follow in the next few days and West Mercia after that. It is clear that there are a few bugs in the system as there always is with new IT/Database systems, but Visav is working hard to resolve this and develop a training package for users, including the Neighbourhood Watch MSAs. The Association Leads in both Northamptonshire and Warwickshire are working closely with Visav and the Central Support Team IT Group to ensure the new system works well for Neighbourhood Watch. What is very clear is that the Force Area Associations need to be working well and in liaison with their Police Force to make the transition work well. We will keep you informed of developments via information to MSA's and Association Leads.

### **DELIVEROO PARTNERSHIP**

We announced our partnership with Deliveroo during Neighbourhood Watch Week. The vast majority of feedback has been very positive. Association Leads and members say that having Deliveroo riders as additional eyes and ears in our communities can only be a good thing. We will continue to work with Deliveroo and their riders to ensure they can opt-in to receive training in personal and community safety and are seen as a positive part of the communities in which they live and work.

### **SLING YOUR HOOK scams campaign and scams webinars – July 2021**

As mentioned in my last letter, the new scams campaign, SLING YOUR HOOK, will be running throughout July. You have received the embargoed press release, but please ensure you have passed the details of the four webinars through your Associations and contacts. The webinars have already been advertised and are open to book a place.

- 6th July, 5 pm: [Exploring the psychology behind scams and how scammers are so effective at their crimes](#), Paul Maskell, Fraud & Cyber Crime Prevention Manager, Dedicated Card and Payment Crime Unit (DCPCU)
- 14th July, 5 pm: [Insights into how a fraud case is investigated and how not to be the next victim](#), Ben Hobbs, Detective Sergeant; and Catriona Still, Head of Fraud Prevention & Training, Dedicated Card and Payment Crime Unit (DCPCU)
- 23rd July, 5 pm: [Scams awareness training from the Friends Against Scams initiative](#), The National Trading Standards Scams Team (NTSST)
- 30th July, 5 pm: [Don't get hooked by scammers! What you need to know about flubot and phishing scams](#), Christopher Budd, Senior Global Threat Communications Manager, Avast

### **VOLUNTEER HUB**

As mentioned at the last Association Leads Zoom meetings, we have been developing with a group of Association Leads and Coordinators an intranet that will be a Volunteer Hub. It will contain support and training information, details on activities, good practice, fundraising etc. It also has interactive forums so users will be able to communicate with each other across the network. It is a work in progress which we will be trialing with volunteers and Coordinators in Hampshire before rolling it out to other forces who have expressed interest and finally making it available to all. The Hub's development is part of our 5-year strategy and in response to Association and member's direction to improve the support and training to volunteers and Coordinators and provide a way for them to communicate with each other.

### **KIT MALTHOUSE (POLICING MINISTER) SEMINAR, Tuesday 13th July – 16.30**

We will be running a seminar with Kit Malthouse on the afternoon of Tuesday 13th July 2021. The Minister is keen to have a Q & A, followed by a discussion session with Neighbourhood Watch on 'What the community do to help reduce crime and fear of crime'. The format will be a Neighbourhood Watch representative will ask a few on-topic questions to the Minister before opening the discussion out to questions from the audience via the chat option. The session will be 30 - 45 minutes. Ian Bretman will chair the event, and I am keen that as many Association Leads and Police SPOCs as want to attend can do so. We will be sending out a specific invite to you next week, so please respond and participate in what will be an exciting and enlightening discussion. The discussion shows the Minister's keenness and belief in Neighbourhood Watch and our value in helping reduce crime and develop communities.

Please share this letter with your Coordinators, members, and partners.

Yours sincerely,



John Hayward-Cripps  
CEO, Neighbourhood Watch Network