



Objective and purpose of the Community Speed Watch scheme

Although local Community Speed Watch [CSW] groups operate autonomously, the scheme works in close co-operation with the Police to ensure that the CSW activity is necessary, proportionate and effective in achieving the objectives of:

- Reducing risk of death, injury and collisions
- Improving the safety and quality of life for local communities
- Increasing public awareness of speeding and other traffic offences

Operating at the roadside in 20, 30 or 40mph zones, volunteers monitor the speeds of passing vehicles using portable or tripod mounted speed indicator devices. Some devices signal their speed to the drivers, others do not.

The volunteers record the speed and details of vehicles travelling above the ACPO speed thresholds.

The registered keepers of vehicles observed exceeding these limits are then sent warning letters by the Police.

Further action, such as speed enforcement by Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Road Policing or Gosafe may be taken directly as a response to roadside observations made by CSW volunteers, especially observations of excessive speed.

It is important to remember that the enforcement of speed limits and prosecution of offenders is the exclusive preserve of the police. Drivers are never penalised directly as a result of Community Speed watch activity. However, sustained CSW activity in areas with unacceptable levels of speeding offences will continuously build sufficient data to help the Police direct their efforts towards hotspots of re-offending drivers or excessive speeding.

Setting up a Community Speed Watch scheme

Monitoring locations are chosen by members of the community who are then trained in the use of hand-held speed monitoring devices to record the speed of motorists driving through their parish.

Details of vehicles exceeding the threshold are recorded on a data sheet. These sheets are processed by North Wales Police and warning letters are sent to the drivers.

Each community involved in Community Speed Watch will receive a full package of services, as shown below as part of a rolling programme during the year, as well as regular support from the North Wales Police GoSafe team:

- 1 Full training to carry out Community Speed Watch in your village including how to use the calibrated device and recording the required information for the data sheets.
- 2 Each monitoring location selected by a group will be risk assessed and approved to ensure the safety of volunteers
- 3 Processing of data sheets from the communities and the issuing of warning letters to any driver identified as speeding as part of the Community Speed Watch programme

- 4 Administration of all letters and follow up where necessary and regular updates to communities on the number of warning letters issued
- 5 Ongoing support from local Safer Community Teams
- 6 Additional support from 'Safer Roads Team' Speed Camera Vans, particularly working with information collated by the groups

In order for a scheme to run there must be 1 coordinator and 5 other operators, with a maximum of 10 per group. Minimum age for a volunteer is 18 years.

If there is no CSW scheme in your village/parish email CSW@nthwales.pnn.police.uk and they will provide guidance and assist you in setting up a scheme.

If there is already a group in your village/parish, you will be expected to join that group.

All CSW volunteers must complete a **Community Speed Watch application form**

**** put link here****

Or via the North Wales Police volunteer recruitment web site

<http://www.north-wales.police.uk/recruitment/volunteers/volunteer-recruitment-page.aspx>

Submission of the application form is:-

- Via the local scheme coordinator, who will collate forms until the requisite number of applicants are available and submit them
- If there is no coordinator/ scheme in the area then submit the application form and it will be retained until sufficient numbers are reached to run a scheme.

All applicants will be subject to a Police check via Police National Computer.

North Wales Police will supply high visibility tabards to ensure safe working. There is a very limited supply of speed monitoring equipment which will be allocated to the groups as they form for a 1 month trial period. Following the month trial period or if there is no equipment available, it will be the responsibility of the groups to source funding to purchase speed monitoring equipment.

General Information

Volunteers will not be paid or be able to claim expenses for travelling.

North Wales Police carries public liability insurance which covers the Community Speed Watch activity, and volunteers, who act in accordance with their training and the guidance given in this document, and in line with the relevant risk assessment, will be indemnified in the event that a claim or legal proceedings are issued against them.

The use of volunteers' private motor vehicles in connection with Community Speed Watch operations is not covered under any Police insurance policies. It is the responsibility of team members to ensure that they have motor insurance in place to cover this activity.

Volunteers can be rejected or removed from Community Speed Watch without explanation by the Police. Volunteers will be asked to declare any issue or circumstance that could bring the scheme into disrepute. They will be given guidance during training to ensure they do not act in an unacceptable manner whilst on Community Speed Watch.

Contact details

Email

CSW@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

Address

Community Speed Watch

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