



OUR NEWS

Westminster Neighbourhood Watch Association

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What is Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) brings neighbours together to tackle crime & promote a sense of cooperation in their local community. Each watch is led by a coordinator whose role it is to arrange meetings & act as a point of contact for the council & police.

NHW promotes community safety by increasing crime prevention awareness, greater vigilance, opportunities for crime & fear of crime by enhancing responsible citizenship, neighbourliness particularly among the more vulnerable, elderly & young members of the community.

Aims of NHW

- Brings people closer together.
- Creates a stronger community spirit.
- Helps to reduce crime & people's fear of crime.
- Strengthens links with the police.
- Develops closer relationships with local councils.
- Improves the local environment.
- Creates a better quality of life.

Our Patch

Households & businesses in City of Westminster.

Sling Your Hook campaign

National Neighbourhood Watch is excited to tell you more about their 'SLING YOUR HOOK' campaign running throughout July to help tackle scams. The campaign taps into the psychology that scammers use to hook people in, helping you stay one step ahead and protect yourself and

your loved ones against the increasing variety of scams happening every day. They've identified the following five behaviours scammers commonly use:

- They imply they're doing you a favour (reciprocity)
- They indicate everyone else is doing this (social proof)
- They say your only chance is to act now (urgency)
- They act like they're similar to you, so you like them and want to please them (connection)
- They ask you to do one little thing which makes you do more (commitment).

They also know that often victims of scams report that in hindsight they felt something wasn't quite right at the time. This campaign aims to raise awareness of the tactics scammers use and encourages people to 'stop and think' if something doesn't FEEL, SEEM, LOOK or SOUND right. This allows them time to trust your gut instinct and help prevent becoming a scam victim.

"Everyone likes to feel special. But watch out! If a stranger is going out of their way for you, something fishy may be going on instead. Scammers like to offer one-off deals and favours. Don't be afraid to tell them no." John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of National Neighbourhood Watch. To read more:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/protectfromfraud>



Safer Neighbourhoods

Safer Neighbourhoods is intrinsic to NHW. Your Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT,) aka your

local police, is a group of Met police officers dedicated to serving your community. The team is made up of officers based in your area (or 'ward'), supported by additional officers from the wider area. They work closely with local authorities, community leaders and residents to decide their policing priorities for the area. This helps them to find useful, long-term solutions to local problems, while maintaining their wider focus on reducing crime across London. If you want to locate your SNT click: <https://www.met.police.uk/> and enter your post code in 'Find Your Area'.

SNTs are not a 24-hour response team, in an emergency always dial 999, for less urgent & all other calls to the Met, dial 101. If you feel uncomfortable, please contact Imaan J. Williams at nwht@talktalk.net & she will assist you.

Fire Safety

It's imperative to have one working smoke alarm. Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms on Tuesdays, #TestItTuesday, it's as simple as pushing the button. Press! Beep! Scream! If you are concerned that your home may be at risk of fire or you know someone who you think needs their help, you can arrange a free home fire safety visit. After you've requested a HFSV, they'll call and ask some questions that help them assess the fire risks in your home. To read more click: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/home-fire-safety-visits/>.

Fire doors left open compromise residents & Firefighters safety should there be a fire. Visible signage needs to be displayed stating 'Fire Doors Must Be Kept Closed'.

We urge anyone who sees or knows of the misuse of matches & lighters to call the police on the non-urgent number 101. In an emergency always dial 999.

London Fire Brigade
Your Fire Safety: https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/
Home Fire Safety Visit: https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/home-fire-safety-visits/
Or call ☎ 0800 028 4428

Tips for staying safe

The MPS website contains useful safety tips for residents & visitors. Follow the tips below, to enjoy London safely. Keep your valuables safe:

- Be alert & aware of what's around you, especially when you are in new locations or situations.
- Keep your possessions hidden. Be discreet with your belongings; displaying expensive jewellery or electronic devices, like mobile phones & cameras, could attract unwanted attention.
- Spread your valuables about. If you keep your keys, wallets & ID in the same bag or pocket it will increase the risk of your identity being stolen or home being burgled.
- Never leave your bags or other valuables unattended in public places.
- If someone does try to take your belongings or money, let them go. Do not fight as this increases your chances of being hurt. Dial 999 & ask for the police.
- If you discover that your things have been stolen after the fact, do not dial 999 as it's not an emergency in progress. Call the police non-emergency number on 101.
- If you have any information on any crime or have been a victim of crime but do not want to talk to the police, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. [Stay safe.](#)

Suzy Lamplugh Trust

The Suzy Lamplugh Trust is the UK's pioneering personal safety charity and leading stalking authority, established in 1986, following the disappearance of 25-year-old Suzy Lamplugh, an estate agent and lone worker who went to meet a client and never returned. They offer numerous information on personal safety. [Read more](#)

Protecting your home from crime

Follow police advice to keep your home safe from burglary, damage, doorstep theft, fly-tipping and squatters: protect your valuable, safeguard your building and secure your outside. <https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/protect-home-crime/>

Keeping your shed or garage safe & secure

Many people don't secure their shed or garage in

the same way they do their homes - often using an easy-to-break lock or padlock to protect valuable contents such as a car, bike or lawnmower.

An opportunistic burglar will try a shed or garage first because they can find the tools they need to break into the main house. <https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/protect-home-crime/secure-shed-garage/>

Fraud Prevention

The phone can be used as the main route into people's homes to commit fraud. The 5 key enablers of fraud are:

1. Telephone
2. Internet
3. Mobile
4. Letterbox
5. Doorstep

If you receive a call, email, text, letter or person on your doorstep out of the blue, no thank you! Never assume ANY call, email, text, letter or person on your doorstep is genuine.

Fraudsters lie, impersonate genuine businesses & organisations you know & can keep the phone line open for 10 seconds after you hang up! They may know your name & details, can spoof Caller ID to show the real number. If in doubt:

Remain calm #TakeFive #Tell2

Verify via a trusted source & NEVER assume genuine. We want everyone to talk more about how to protect from fraud & cybercrime. <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/>

There are people sat at home this weekend who are lonely, vulnerable or elderly. Many won't see this article but you could reach them! Have a chat, ensure they know how to spot & stop fraud. It could start with #Tell2 family & friends in your real world. Together we protect. Don't let the con man con you!

Knocking on Nextdoor

Nextdoor is a social networking service for neighbourhoods. Users of Nextdoor submit their real names & addresses to the website & can invite their neighbours.

Posts made to the website are available only to other Nextdoor members living in the same neighbourhood. When neighbours start talking, good things happen. Discover the social network for your neighbourhood at nextdoor.co.uk or download their app.



'Bullying Ends Here' was created after the suicide of Jamie HUBLEY who was relentlessly bullied for years. This educational program picks up the message that Jamie worked hard to spread, the message of acceptance and understanding. 'Bullying Ends Here' is a one hour presentation for youth or adults and aimed at all forms of bullying including cyberbullying. 'Bullying Ends Here' is requested around the world for its award winning presentation and proven results to not only change lives, but save them!

If you are interested in a free 'Bullying Ends Here,' presentation contact Constable Tad Milmine at www.bullyingendshere.ca or contact Imaan J. Williams, Vincent Square East NHW Scheme at nwht@talktalk.net.

Cadets

If you're aged between 14-17 and are looking for a fun, challenging, exciting way to gain new skills and make new friends [join the cadets!](#)

St. Andrew's Club, Old Pye Street

The world's oldest youth club is a community based youth club that provides activities that are enabling, educational, fun & participative for young people from the ages of 5 to adulthood. The Club offers a safe, welcoming & active environment & aims to do right by their members to help them help themselves & others. www.standrewsclub.com

Immobilise.com - The UK Property Register

Register your property FREE and improve your chances of getting it back if it is lost or stolen. Immobilise helps Police identify the owners of recovered property thousands of times everyday. Property updates you make are immediately available to the Police nationally. Combat the sale of stolen gadgets and valuables; alert the second-hand trade and publicly checkable stolen goods

database CheckMEND if an item goes missing.
Read more: <https://www.immobilise.com/>

Any issues?

Your local police team want to hear from you. If you have any issues phone it in.

Your Call Counts

Being alert, vigilant & calling in to the police any incidents or suspicious activity, is all our responsibility. When you notice something unusual, no matter how trivial you think it may seem, phone it in. Your action will help reduce criminal activity & anti-social behaviour in our community.

- **Emergencies: 999**
To report an emergency: immediate threat to life or property or a crime happening right now.
- **Non-emergency: 101**
To report a crime that has already happened, seek crime prevention advice or make police aware of any policing issues.
- **Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111**
Call anonymously with information about crime.

Fridge Magnets

2,250 Your Call Counts fridge magnets have been distributed to date. It includes the emergency numbers, ideal by the phone. If you would like a free Your Call Counts fridge magnet, please contact us. Feedback tells us the Your Call Counts fridge magnet makes people feel safe.

Noise Issues

Noise is a definite issue in our busy capital. We remind residents & visitors to be mindful of your neighbours especially between 11:00PM-9:00AM. If you are being disturbed by noise happening now, call Westminster 020 7641 6000. Call Westminster 24 hours noise team at 020 7641 6000 & press 1 for out of hours noise problem. If you would like help & advice about noise or to report a noise that is not happening now, please report the problem online at <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/report-it>.

Neighbourhood Watch online

Find out more about NHW & crime prevention through the following websites:

- Westminster Neighbourhood Watch:
www.wnwa.btck.co.uk/
[@CoWNWA](https://twitter.com/CoWNWA)
- National Neighbourhood Watch:
www.ourwatch.org.uk
- Police crime prevention advice:
www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention

For news, information & crime prevention tips you can follow the police & the council on Twitter:

[@MPSWestminster](https://twitter.com/MPSWestminster)
[@CityWestminster](https://twitter.com/CityWestminster)

What NHW doesn't do

It is our role to be neighbourly, watch, report & continue to report. If a problem has been identified, it is up to estate offices, the council or police to handle the situation. NHW does not do surveillance or patrols that is a position for the police.

Keep Informed – Here to help

In addition to reading this newsletter, you can keep up-to-date with breaking news on safety, security & community events by visiting www.wnwa.btck.co.uk & [@CoWNWA](https://twitter.com/CoWNWA). If you would like to be kept informed by email, please email us. All contact details are kept strictly confidential.

Your Feedback

We hope you enjoy the contents but would also like to hear from you if you have any preferences on topics to include, feedback on the current format or your own good news story. If you do, please let us know at nwht@talktalk.net.

This newsletter is provided to you by Westminster Neighbourhood Watch Association a voluntary organisation devoted to fostering a sense of community.

