



Memorandum of Understanding between Sussex Police and Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Federation

Sussex Police serves East and West Sussex and the city of Brighton & Hove - an area of 3,780km. A resident population of 1.65m grows significantly with millions of visitors, holidaymakers, students, seasonal workers and the 46 million passengers who travel through Gatwick Airport annually.

This Understanding facilitates co-operation in the strategic development of the Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Federation (the Federation). The aim is to enhance collaboration, communication and active support between Neighbourhood Watch and Sussex Police, supporting the three key priorities of the Force's operational delivery plan:

- Protect our communities,
- Catch criminals,
- Deliver an outstanding service to victims, witnesses, and the public.

Sussex Police commit to:

1. Force level:

Nominate a business function to have responsibility for supporting the development and implementation of Neighbourhood Watch across the Force area, a "Force Strategic Lead".

District Commanders:

Each of the District Commanders will meet with the "Federation District leads" twice a year to facilitate and maintain local engagement between Neighbourhood Policing Officers and the Federation.

District Points Of Contact:

The District Commanders will provide a point of contact in each policing District. These will be the nominated "District Point Of Contact (DPOC)" and are expected to be an Inspector from the Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

If a local Neighbourhood Watch area wants to add specific items of reference to this Understanding, to be agreed and signed off at their local level, then they may do so on page 4.

2. Nominate representatives to attend Neighbourhood Watch meetings when appropriate and possible. This will be the Force Strategic Lead for Federation meetings or locally the DPOC or other nominated officer/staff member representing the DPOC.
3. Actively support and assist the Federation and Neighbourhood Watch members when appropriate and possible.
4. Put into place effective information sharing and communication protocols. These protocols will be agreed in a separate document.
5. Support the Federation to promote Neighbourhood Watch and recruit new members.
6. Assess suitability (PNC and Niche check) of proposed Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and Deputies. This will be voluntary and with explicit written consent.
7. Assess suitability (vet to NPPV Level 1) of proposed Neighbourhood Alert Multi-Scheme Administrators (MSAs), and renew vetting periodically.
8. Liaise with the Federation in matters that are likely to affect Neighbourhood Watch and its membership.
9. Actively encourage the participation of the Federation in operations, strategy and planning of service delivery where relevant.
10. Each Division will host one event a year to support and promote the relationship with the Federation. These will be coordinated to ensure a good spread across the year, and a Force wide event will also be held once a year, making this activity quarterly.

The Federation will, in concert with Neighbourhood Watch members, commit to:

1. Actively support and assist the Force in matters addressed by this Understanding.
2. Promote effective and mutually beneficial, timely communications between the Force and Neighbourhood Watch members, communities, and the general public.
3. Report, share information and intelligence with the Force and other agencies concerning matters addressed by this Understanding.
4. Identify collaborative development opportunities, support initiatives of mutual benefit, and trial new forms of communication.
5. Where reasonably possible, assist with the procurement of volunteers who can assist in matters addressed by this Understanding, or otherwise assist the police and other Authorities. This includes the provision of MSAs who will assist the Force to manage Neighbourhood Alert/Sussex Alerts data and messaging.
6. Act in a consultative role, and provide a discussion forum, to develop and promote matters addressed by this Understanding.

7. Maintain a Federation web and other media presence to promote Neighbourhood Watch and Force initiatives.
8. Enable and support new 'watches' to grow and develop, including co-operation with those not traditionally part of Neighbourhood Watch.
9. Consult with members of the Federation and their volunteers when reviewing relevant policies, guidance and county wide best practices.

Signed on behalf of Sussex Police: **Signed on behalf of the Federation:**



Name: TRACE HOWARD MOORES

Date: 11/1/24

Name: JOHN WRIGHT MBE.

Date: 11/1/2024

Any District level appendices will be attached as page 4 onwards.

APPENDIX

**Supplementary Memorandum of Understanding between
Sussex Police XXX District
&
XXX Neighbourhood Watch**

The Memorandum of Understanding between Sussex Police & Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Federation is extended in respect of XXX District as follows:

1. Xxx

Signed on behalf of Sussex Police:

Name:

Date:

Signed on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch:

Name:

Date: