

# COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

## What Is SpeedWatch?

- Speedwatch is a way for the members of the public to work within their communities to tackle speeding issues.
- It involves a group of volunteers including an administrator and coordinator working in problem areas in consultation with partner agencies and the police.
- The scheme consist of ideally 3-6 volunteers using a speed measuring device at the roadside for 1 – 2 hours at specific locations, these will have been risk assessed to ensure safety.
- The aim of the scheme is to educate drivers alongside providing a deterrent to speeding with a High Visibility presence on the road side.
- In the first instance of a vehicle exceeding the enforceable limit a warning letter is sent. If the same vehicle again exceeds the limits within 12 months they are then visited by the local beat team, and on the third occasion a marker about their consistent speeding is placed against vehicle for marked police vehicles to be aware of.

## Volunteers

- There is an expectation that volunteers dedicate at least 2 hours a month to the scheme.
- Training will be conducted by police and will take 2 hours; this involves the use of the equipment, road safety training and conflict reduction training.
- Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, to help the community and gain new skills, where SpeedWatch is being run effectively the volunteers enjoy the role and find it both rewarding and sociable.
- There is also a requirement for at least one volunteer “Co-ordinator” within each scheme who is vetted to a higher level and is happy to dedicate more time to the overseeing and running of their particular scheme.
- The co-ordinator has access rights to the police station and computer “log in” rights. They will be responsible for the collection and return of the equipment, the uploading of the data received and for sending out the letters.

## **Safer Neighbourhood Team Role**

- SNT teams are essential to the implementation and subsequent support of the SpeedWatch Schemes in their local communities.
- It is essential that the officers commit to SpeedWatch in line with the Hampshire Constabularies endorsement of it and sell it as an idea to our communities.
- SpeedWatch empowers residents to work with the police to try and reduce speeding problems or perceived problems in their communities.
- You will be provided with a SpeedWatch pack which will assist you in implementing the schemes in your neighbourhood areas. This may be through working with individual parishes or collaborations of a number of parishes.
- It is essential to identify at least 1 and ideally 2 keen volunteers who have more time to dedicate. These people will become your coordinator/administrators and should ideally be computer literate. They will also be vetted to Level 2 allowing them access and log on rights at the police station.
- It is also then necessary to canvas for and recruit SpeedWatch volunteers – posters and leaflets will be supplied to you and house to house could be considered in problem areas. The more volunteers the better for all.

## **Training and Vetting**

- All SpeedWatch Volunteers need to complete an application form on the Hampshire Constabulary website, Join Us page. The administrator must be vetted to a slightly higher level which can take a bit longer.
- While waiting for vetting, volunteers can be trained in the scheme, health and safety and even roadside activities so long as no actions take place until vetting is completed. SNT teams are expected to complete the training but full guidance will be given.
- The co-ordinator will also need training in regard to the data input.

## **Roads Authorisation**

- Prior to SpeedWatch working on particular Roads, they should be authorised by the Safety Roads Unit. This should be done for many of the roads in your area already, however if new ones are nominated in the future this will need to be done via an email to RPU TRAFFIC & SPEED COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT Mailbox.
- Once roads are authorised an SNT officer, should visit the site and complete a risk assessment. An example of a risk assessment is included in the SNT pack.

## **Training**

- Speedwatch volunteers are shown a PowerPoint presentation about SpeedWatch, health and safety and the equipment.
- They must then sign the SpeedWatch agreement covering liability and codes of practice and conduct.
- This is then followed by a practical roadside training programme.
- It is recommended that groups of 6 volunteers are sufficient for each training session so as to ensure understanding.

Once your volunteers are vetted fully and everything is up and running, the police should be able to step back and leave the scheme to run with little if any intervention.