**DEVON AND CORNWALL COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

Devon and Cornwall Police are keen to educate motorists to reduce their speed and therefore reduce the amount of people injured or killed following a collision with a speeding vehicle.

In consultation with the public through the PACT (now “Have Your Say”) process it was established that the speed of vehicles was the biggest concern across both counties. From this process the Devon and Cornwall Police Speed Watch project was born. Neighbourhood Policing Teams, School children and whole communities now regularly monitor vehicle speeds throughout the entire force area.

The first time a vehicle is monitored speeding under the Community Watch Scheme, the driver will receive a warning letter and educational material via post, the second time, if the registered keeper resides within the force area, an officer from the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team will hand deliver the 2nd letter accompanied by suitable words of advice. The third time the same vehicle is monitored speeding within a year, the information gathered will be passed onto the appropriate police department who may take enforcement action.

The scheme engages with the community through the Police Volunteer Programme and is aiming to educate drivers and reduce speeds as an alternative to automatic enforcement. Community Speed Watch schemes are run by local volunteers fully supported by the local police.

Volunteers are fully vetted to the same level as police employees. Anyone who fails vetting is rejected as a volunteer. Volunteers are trained in the use of speed detection equipment, safety issues, and data protection requirements. Whilst on authorised activities they are insured by and remain the responsibility of Devon and Cornwall Police. We retain responsibility for their safety and their actions.

The volunteers will note the registration numbers and description of all speeding vehicles that pass their survey location. One of the team then transfers this data onto a spreadsheet which is emailed to the police’s database of such vehicles and automatically generates the appropriate action/letters to owners.

The volunteers will notify their local Neighbourhood Policing Team in advance of the dates, times, sites and names of team members carrying out the speed checks. They will be highly visible in hi-viz waistcoats and will put out portable signs on the road advising of their activities. The precise location of sites for monitoring activities and the placement of the signs will be set in advance in consultation with the local Road Casualty Reduction Officer and a large scale map will be printed with these locations marked on it.. The volunteers must remain within 3metres either way of these points when conducting speed monitoring activities.

Volunteers must work in groups of 4 maximum, 2 minimum. They are not allowed to operate alone, or at any other locations, nor are they allowed to suddenly undertake monitoring activities off their own initiative.

Community Speed Watch is an effective road safety education initiative. Robust safeguards have been put in place to prevent unauthorised disclosure of data and to negate the risk of any individual being unfairly targeted.

The above provides a general overview of the scheme and if you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me or your local neighbourhood policing team.

Elaine Hartley

Devon & Cornwall Speed Watch Co-ordinator

Telephone: 01752 751311 Mob: 07595 011952

Email: elaine.hartley@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk