**Speed Watch Web Page**

**What is Speed Watch?**

Devon & Cornwall Police engaged with our communities and along with our partner agencies asked the communities of the two counties what were their biggest concerns.

Concerns about speeding motorists far outweighed any other issue across the entire force.

Speed Watch is a multi approach scheme that empowers and involves entire communities in the quest to drive down the speeds of vehicles in limits of 40mph and below. Speed Watches are managed by local Neighbourhood Policing Teams in partnership with other statutory agencies.

All three versions of Speed Watch aim to engage and educate drivers rather than give fines and court appearances. Using a staged warning system first time offenders will receive education and warnings whereas persistent offenders can expect further police action and possibly even a court appearance.

School Speed Watch works alongside our local schools with offending motorists being asked probing questions by the school children as an alternative to prosecution. This may sound like the easy option but imagine being asked ‘Why were you speeding?’ and ‘How would you feel if you had run me over?’ by a group of 10 year olds.

**School Speed Watch** is a highly impactive approach that gives a clear message to those that speed near schools. It gives the motorist a valuable opportunity to address their driving behaviour before having a fine, collision or worse and provides the children with an experience that will hopefully stay with them until their driving years.

**Neighbourhood Speed Watch and Community Speed Watch** are run in a similar way. You will either see a team of Police Volunteers and/or Police Officers/PCSOs from your local Neighbourhood Policing Team stood at the side of the road monitoring traffic. They carry out sessions according to strict guidelines at risk assessed sites. They make a record of any speeding vehicle and arrange to have warning letters sent to the vehicle owner along with educational material.

Persistent offenders with receive a further warning letter and possibly even a visit from their local Neighbourhood Policing Team to deliver some words of advice. Those that ignore the generous warnings will not receive any further letters but their the intelligence gathered will be passed on to the appropriate Police department for consideration of further action/targeting which may result in a speeding fine/prosecution.

The ethos behind Speed Watch is to work with all aspects of the community to deal with an issue that is important to all of us and through **education** rather than enforcement reduce speeds, collisions and the quality of life of residents across the force area.

**Getting Involved**

Schools wishing to get involved with School Speed Watch should contact their local Neighbourhood Policing Team to make arrangements. It is normal to use Year 6 children but this can be discussed.

**Community Speed Watch (CSW)** volunteers are inducted through the Police Volunteer Programme (PVP). All prospective volunteers are required to complete application and vetting forms and will be expected to meet the standard required by the Vetting Unit before they can be deployed.

Each PVP Volunteer will undergo full training from the force Speed Watch Coordinator and each CSW team will be provided with reflective jackets, signs, stationary and a radar speed detection device (depending on availability). They will be supported by a Police Officer/PCSO PVP Support Manager and covered by the force liability insurance.

It is not expected that PVP Volunteers will work a set amount of hours as the force appreciates any time that can be given to the scheme.

A few PVP Volunteers are given additional training and responsibility in the police station and administer the process that produces the warning letters.

If you want to get involved or feel you have a speeding problem in your local area your first point of contact should be your local Neighbourhood Policing Team or through Have Your Say meeting. They will be able to advise you accordingly.

For further information see the FAQs below, view the Police Volunteer Programme (PVP) pages or contact: Elaine Hartley, Devon & Cornwall Speed Watch Coordinator via email - speedwatch@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk.

**Devon & Cornwall Speed Watch - Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q:** **I have been monitored speeding. What happens to my details?**

We only hold the details of the registered keeper on our secure police server. These details are held and accessed in line with the restrictions imposed by Data Protection and Management of Police Information.

**Q:** **I have received a warning letter. Will I now by fined or taken to court?**

No for this specific incident we will be taking no further action.

**Q:** **I have received a warning letter stating this is the second time my vehicle has been monitored speeding. What happens now?**

Your vehicle details have been passed to our speed enforcement officers. If you are caught speeding you will be given a fixed penalty ticket or summonsed to attend court. If you heed the advice in both warning letters then you will not be proceeded against.

**Q: I have received a warning letter yet I wasn’t driving the vehicle. What do I do?**

You should make the driver aware of the contents of the letter and any other material enclosed. Speed Watch monitors vehicles not drivers so it would be advisable to inform all users of the vehicle of the warning.

**Q:** **I have received a warning letter for an incident on a date after I had sold the vehicle. What happens now?**

You should contact the named person on the letter and inform them of the change of keeper. You should have also given this information to DVLA.

**Q:** **Why doesn’t the warning letter tell me how fast I was driving?**

Speed Watch only sends letters to vehicles travelling faster than the ACPO guidance (10% +2) or in some cases a higher limit. The letter is a warning and will not result in a prosecution.

**Q:** **My vehicle wasn’t in the location stated on the warning letter.**

There are a number of processes in place to verify the registration of the speeding vehicle. On the rare occasion a warning letter is sent out by mistake the details will be deleted from the database. To start this process you will need to contact the named person on the warning letter.

**Q:** **I wish to complain about a member of a Speed Watch team.**

Both Community and Neighbourhood Speed Watch operators have strict guidelines to adhere to and are expected to maintain a professional approach to monitoring. If you feel that this was not the case then please contact the Neighbourhood Team Leader for the area in which the team was monitoring. They will investigate your complaint.

**Q:** **I have received a warning letter but it doesn’t say who monitored me. How can I find this out?**

This information is kept secure in the interest of staff and volunteer safety and will not normally be disclosed. The information is available to supervisors should the need to investigate a complaint or incident arise. Speed Watch sessions are staffed by Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers, Police Volunteers or a mixture of all three.

**Q:** **What equipment is used to monitor vehicles?**

This depends on the location and availability of equipment. The most commonly used device is the Genesis Handheld Radar Device. This is a non-type approved device. This means that we cannot, in normal circumstances, use the data from the device for a prosecution. These devices are never used for enforcement. You may also see Roadside Speed Indication Devices. These devices work using radar and display your speed as you approach and are never used for enforcement.

In certain conditions and subject to availability we have to use Laser Speed Detection Devices. The most commonly used device is the LTI 2020 Ultralyte 100. This device is type approved and can be used for enforcement when be operated by properly trained and authorised personnel.

**Q: Why are you using members of the public to monitor speed?**

The problem of speeding is the highest occurring local priority across Devon & Cornwall Constabulary. Communities across the counties want to be involved in the battle to reduce speeds and are happy to donate time. However, **ALL** Police Volunteers are vetted, trained, supported and insured. As members of the extended Police Family they also have 100% backing from their local Police and Support Managers. Should any Police Volunteer be abused or intimidated the offender will be dealt with according to criminal law.

**Q: I have a speeding problem in my neighbourhood. What can I do?**

There are a couple of checks that have to be made before putting a Community Speed Watch together. Your first point of contact should be your local Neighbourhood Beat Manager and/or through Have Your Say.

There may already be a local team in operation that you can join.

**Q: Can I join a CSW team for a day to see what it’s like?**

Unfortunately only properly inducted and trained Police Volunteers are able to carry out monitoring because of insurance issues. Your local Neighbourhood Beat Manager will be able to discuss the scheme with you or out you in touch with someone that can.

**If you have a question that is not answered here and for general information regarding Speed Watch contact:**

Elaine Hartley, Devon & Cornwall Speed Watch Coordinator

 (speedwatch@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk). For questions about Speed Watch locally contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team.