

At this stressful time, it is more important than ever that we come together to support and to look out for each other and our neighbours whilst keeping ourselves safe, especially the isolated, elderly and vulnerable. At Neighbourhood Watch, we are joining forces with friends and partners to call on everyone to have a united community approach. The Community Action Response project has been launched by five organisations (The National Lottery Community Fund, Nextdoor, Neighbourhood Watch, Campaign to End Loneliness and Eco Attractions Group). The organisations are calling for everyone to take the following 5 steps that will help communities cope when the worst impacts of the virus:

 Think of others, consider your actions & be kind People in every community will face the challenges of Covid-19 in some way – from needing basic provisions to help while they are unwell.	 Connect and reach out to your neighbours As self-isolation increases, we need to find new ways to stay connected and check in on one another for our physical and mental wellbeing. Share phone numbers and stay in touch.	 Make the most of local online groups Keep up to date, share information and be a positive part of your local community conversations.	 Support vulnerable or isolated people Different groups in our communities are at increased risk and social isolation and loneliness are key concerns for all ages. There are things you can do like volunteering for local support services or donating to food banks to help.	 Share accurate information and advice Support anyone who may be anxious about Covid-19. Sign post them to the correct advice from Public Health England and encourage people to follow the correct hygiene practices.
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It would be a good time to make sure you have your neighbours' phone numbers and email addresses and that they in turn have your contact details in case you need support/assistance. If you haven't already done so, consider setting up a whatsapp group with some of your neighbours as well as signing up to **NextDoor** (www.nextdoor.co.uk) which is free and a good way to connect to people in your area. I have seen a lot of neighbourly messages over the past few days of people offering to go shopping for their neighbours, sharing their supplies etc. If anyone needs any help with setting either of these things up, please get in touch with me and I will endeavour to help you.

The most important thing we can all do is to check in with each other and be kind and considerate of others. This is what Neighbourhood Watch is all about at the end of the day.

We should also be aware that stretched police resources will be further impacted by this. Therefore, it is worth doing all we can to help keep our homes and vehicles secure. If you need help with crime prevention advice, again please get in touch.

We will continue to update you on crime in your area through our monthly updates. Please continue to send in examples of scams as well as updates of crime in your area.

Take care and look after yourselves.

#FeelSafeStaySafe