

Community Speed Watch (CSW)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How much does it cost to set-up a new group?

The current cost for setting up a group is £354.48. This covers the cost of 1 x Radar Device, 2 x mobile signs and 1 x tuning fork. The Partnership will cover the cost of 6 x hi-vis waistcoats, 1 x tally counter, training and all relevant paperwork, including return envelopes.

2. How many volunteers does a group need to set-up?

It is recommended that a group have a minimum of 5 volunteers. The more volunteers the more opportunity there will be for the group to monitor their chosen roads.

3. How many volunteers can go out at any given time/session?

You must always work in pairs or groups of three.

4. How often can groups go out?

There is no limit to how often groups can go out. Monitoring sessions are decided locally and is subject to the availability of the volunteers.

5. How many volunteers do you need on each training session?

A minimum of 3 volunteers and a maximum of 10.

6. How long is the training and what does it involve?

Training lasts 2–2 ½ hours, depending upon how many volunteers are in attendance and will cover Aims and Objectives, Conflict Management, Health & Safety and Operation of the Device.

7. Where is the training carried out?

Training can be carried out at a Police Station or somewhere local to the community, such as Village/Church Hall or Community Centre.

8. What happens with the data from the Log Sheets?

A PNC (Police National Computer) check is carried out on the registration number recorded by the volunteers and a letter is sent to the Registered Keeper of the vehicle. All information is stored in accordance with the requirements of the Authorised Professional Practice (APP) Information Management and in accordance with Data Protection Legislation and associated Codes of Practice.

9. What happens to repeat offenders?

If a repeat offender is identified then an escalation process is put in place. First and second time offences within a rolling 12 month period will result in a warning letter being sent to the Registered Keeper. A third or subsequent offence will result in those details being passed to the local policing team to make direct contact and deal with the matter appropriately dependent upon the merits of the individual case. If significant trends are identified then appropriate police activities may be employed to deter/detect offenders.

10. Do we have to deploy signs?

Yes temporary signs must be deployed each and every time the group go out, unless they have permanent CSW signs in situ and an additional site risk assessment has been carried out by Staffordshire Police.

11. What is the minimum distance from the group's position to where the temporary signs are placed?

It's recommended that the signs are placed no nearer than 80 yards from where the group stand.

12. How can groups obtain permanent signage?

Groups can only apply for permanent signage having been active for at least 6 months. Groups need to contact the Community Engagement Coordinator who will then support the request through Staffordshire County Council for consideration and approval.

13. Can signs include the word 'Police'?

No. However permanent signs will include the Police Badge and the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership Logo.

14. Can we monitor other offences such as mobile phone use?

Yes. CSW groups are recording vehicle details if they see a driver on a mobile phone. Groups are also monitoring HGV's in restricted area and may in the future record drivers/passengers not wearing seatbelts. At the moment this information is only being monitored.

15. What happens if a vehicle recorded and checked on PNC (Police National Computer) shows it to have no insurance?

The vehicle details are passed to CMPG (Central Motorways Policing Group) for further checks and if after 28 days the vehicle still shows no insurance necessary action will be taken.

16. Can a trained volunteer or PCSO train other volunteers?

No. All volunteers must be trained by a Force Trainer or the Community Engagement Coordinator so they meet Force Insurance criteria.

17. Can we share contact details with other groups?

Yes. If volunteers agree to share their details with other groups they can be added to the 'shared contacts list' which the Community Engagement Coordinator will send via email periodically.