

August 2023

OUR NEWS



FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Crowdfunder!

We are delighted to announce that our Crowdfunder has raised a huge £21,328!



Our first ever Crowdfunding project has been a massive success, thanks to over 700 supporters who have donated generously towards our innovative work with 16-24 year olds.

Thanks to our amazing supporters, the £21,328 (plus gift aid) raised will make a huge difference in supporting the next generation of community leaders to be heard, active, and involved in crime prevention, safety initiatives, and community improvement, in the ways that matter to them.

With this total, we will establish a Neighbourhood Watch national Youth Forum, fund the next two editions of our student LOOKOUT magazine, and so much more.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to our partners who gifted some amazing giveaways for donors. One of these is a prize draw to win **a pair of tickets to Reading, Leeds or Creamfields festival**, kindly donated by Co-op!

There's still time to enter (before midnight, Wednesday 9th August) - click here!

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"Getting more young people involved in their own communities and contributing their ideas and opinions is the way to go."

Follow us... ourwatch.org.uk



ARE YOU OKAY?

Standing up to street harassment



This August we are calling on Neighbourhood Watch members and volunteers, as well as members of the public, to come together and stand against street harassment.

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) continues to be a very real threat across England and Wales. Figures released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that for the year ending March 2023, there were 195,315 sexual offences recorded by the police, a 20% increase from the year ending March 2020.

Of the respondents to our [Neighbourhood Watch Crime and Community Survey 2022](#) who had been a victim of crime in the previous 12 months, 36% had experienced street harassment. When broken down by age, we see that for the majority of 16-24 year olds, their biggest worry is being harassed, threatened, or verbally abused in the street. Over half of our survey respondents (65%) were worried about assault, which shows a decrease from last year's survey results, but also shows that this is still an urgent issue across England and Wales.

All forms of harassment are unacceptable, and we need to take a stand against it.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

There are many ways we can call out and prevent harassment safely, irrespective of age, sexual orientation, gender, race, or ethnicity. We can make a difference. Together.

Learn what street harassment is

By street harassment, we mean unwanted behaviour in public areas. Behaviour doesn't have to be illegal for it to be harassment, although some harassment is a crime.

[Learn more on our website](#)

Ask 'Are you okay?' and share our campaign

Witnessing street harassment and not safely intervening could send the message to those experiencing it that it's okay. By asking 'Are you okay?', we become active bystanders safely intervening on behalf of someone.

[Use our 'Are you okay?' resources](#)

Help make street harassment a crime

Our Streets Now and Plan International UK are both running campaigns to change the law. You can show your support by signing the petitions and/or writing to your MP.

[Sign this petition](#)

Sign our Community Safety Charter

Sign up to our Community Safety Charter and pledge to take an active stance against harassment. Everyone can sign up from individuals to local groups or businesses. [Sign the Charter](#)

Learn some safe intervention techniques

Delay - Delegate - Distract - Direct - Document. The '5 Ds' method is an expert-approved set of tools to help you safely intervene when you witness street harassment.

[Learn how to safely intervene](#)

Download street harassment toolkit

Our toolkit is designed for our Neighbourhood Watch volunteers but can be useful for other people wanting to learn more about the problem and solutions in depth.

[Download the Toolkit](#)

Our Impact Report 2022/23 is here!



We are delighted to present our Impact Report 2022/23.

This year's report reflects the fantastic work and achievements of our Neighbourhood Watch volunteers across England and Wales. Their commitment to enabling neighbours and communities to connect, be active, and safe, whilst increasing wellbeing and minimising crime, is incredible.

We want to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to all our volunteers, trustees, colleagues, and partners who have worked tirelessly to make these achievements possible.

Without your support, dedication, and passion, we would not be able to make the impact we have.

You can download a copy of our Impact Report 2022/23 from our website - if you would like a full printed copy, they are available to buy on our Shop.

Help improve the Office for National Statistics (ONS)'s Crime Survey for England and Wales

This year, the ONS are looking for volunteers aged 16 years old and over who have experienced any crime(s) in the last 12 months, to help them explore how they might improve the Crime Survey.

The ONS would like to know about anything you may have experienced relating to crime(s), regardless of whether or not you reported it to the police.

To thank you for your support and time, the ONS will give you a £50 voucher for taking part.

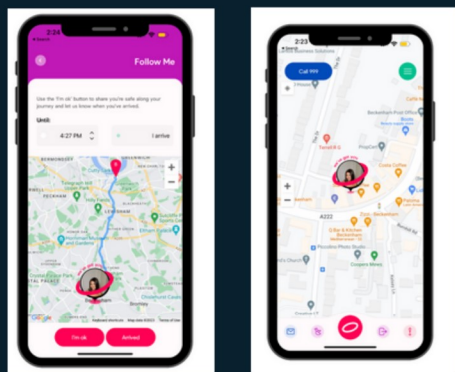


[If you are interested in taking part, please click here!](#)



help me Angela

help me Angela is a personal safety service, available to everyone. Read on to hear how the app's Personal Safety Specialists helped one commuter escape a difficult situation...



One Friday night, Kate* was travelling home by train when two drunk men began making sexually aggressive comments towards her. When she moved carriages, they followed her, and when she got off at her stop, they did too.

Feeling intimidated, Kate used the 'help me' button' on the app and sought immediate help from a Personal Safety Specialist. Using the optional GPS service, the team were able to guide Kate to a nearby supermarket and call her a taxi, while the two men decided to walk away. The next day, help me Angela contacted Kate to check in and offer her follow up support.

Visit [help me Angela's website](#) to learn more about how they can help you stay safe.

*Name changed to protect identity

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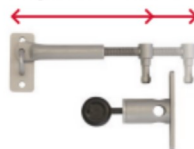


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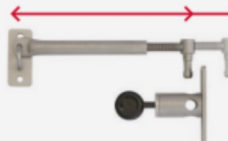
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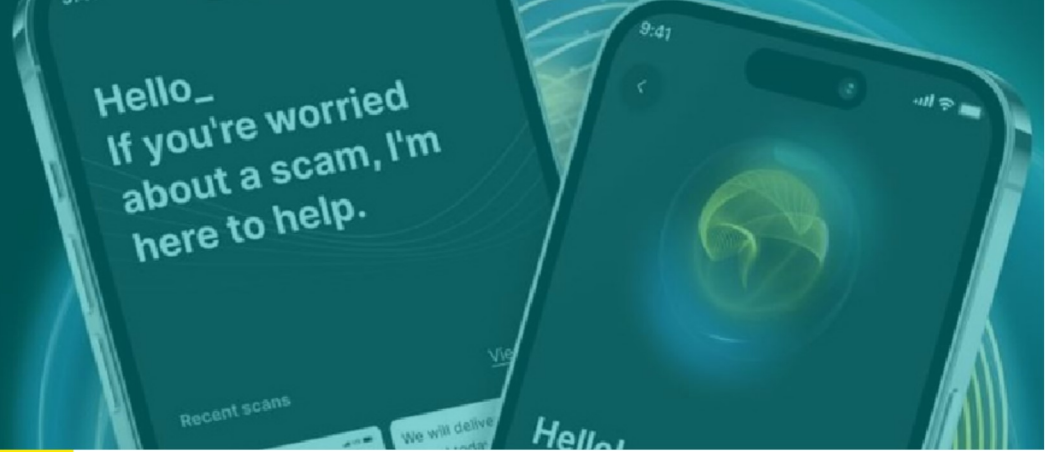
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Introducing Genie, Norton's new AI-powered scam detector

One of the most prominent Cyber Safety threats today is online scams. They target individuals through social media, availability of web scraping tools, cheap cloud connectivity, and recent advancements in generative AI. The scams are becoming more sophisticated and harder to spot than ever before. Existing solutions are falling short. What's needed is a whole new approach.

The latest innovation from Norton is a new real-time AI-powered scam detection tool, called Genie. This easy-to-use, fast, free app is in an early access phase, and Neighbourhood Watch members are being offered the chance to be among the first to experience and use it!

The application's early access phase means that it is being soft-launched, allowing Norton to collect user feedback. And, it also means that Genie is still learning. So, every time you use the app, you are helping it to get smarter – and ultimately helping us deliver the most effective scam detection tool on the market.

Combining cybersecurity experience and data with cutting-edge AI innovation, Genie can detect if texts, emails, websites or social media posts are a scam within seconds. Simply copy and paste or upload screenshots of suspicious messages to the app, and it lets you know immediately if it could be a scam. Genie provides an explanation too: a layer of education that will help anyone using Genie spot future threats and navigate digital life with more confidence and ease. It's like having a trusted friend who's got your back and is available 24/7 to give you immediate, thoughtful guidance. Click on the image below for more information!



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