1. RECOMMENDATION ON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Neighbourhood Watch task and finish working group final report was approved by the Community Services and Safety Sub-committee on 13 March 2012.

One of the recommendations was directed to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee, i.e:

“That a synopsis of the final report of the Scrutiny review of Neighbourhood Watch be sent out via the Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association to all co-ordinators, ward panel chairs and SNTs in Croydon to highlight the good practice in the borough and to encourage its take-up."

The proposed synopsis is attached as an Appendix.

2. RECOMMENDATION TO SOC

The Committee is invited to approve the above recommendation.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:  None
Scrutiny Review

Of

Neighbourhood Watch

Summary of Final Report

...oOo...
Glossary

**Neighbourhood Watch (NW)**
A neighbourhood watch is an organized group of citizens devoted to the prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour within a neighborhood.

**Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association (CBNWA)**
The CBNWA is a charity which represents and provides support to neighbourhood watches in Croydon (see appendix 2 of this report)

**Ward Panels**
Ward panels are made up of people from local residents’ associations, schools, businesses, etc, whose objective is to identify local safety concerns and to establish priorities for policing in the ward area in partnership with local police.

**Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs)**
Safer Neighbourhoods teams are small police teams whose objective is to address the safety needs of their specific neighbourhood, in line with policing priorities for that area agreed in partnership with local ward panels.

**Croydon Council Police Consultative Group (CCPCG)**
This group provides an independent forum for consultation between the community and the police in the London Borough of Croydon. The group discusses aspects of policing which are important to the people of Croydon and questions the police about its strategy and plans for tackling crime. The police use the forum to consult the community and to listen to their concerns about local policing. The police are also able to explain directly to the public the problems that they face in dealing with local policing issues. At their public meetings members of the public are also given an opportunity to raise their individual concerns with senior police officers.

**Safer Croydon Partnership (SCP)**
The Safer Croydon Partnership (SCP) brings together a broad range of stakeholders with a role to uphold safety in the borough. It was created following the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act recognised the added value that partnership working brings to local communities and the better outcomes partner agencies produce by working together at a local level and as such made it a statutory duty.

**Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA)**
Croydon Voluntary Action is an umbrella organisation which supports, links and provides information services for Croydon’s voluntary sector. CVA provides low cost training courses and development support for new groups as well as practical support, as well as spaces available for rent by voluntary organisations. It also facilitates or is active in several partnership bodies.
Chairman's Foreword

In conducting this review I and my fellow councillors have had revealed to us a veritable army of volunteers working behind the scenes right across our Borough. That they undertake these activities quietly and much of the time with small recognition is in contrast to the effect they have in helping the police and Local Authority in preventing and reporting crime and in helping to reduce the fear of crime in our communities. It is of great credit to both Croydon police and Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association that the numbers of co-ordinators in the borough are increasing. We hope that this trend will continue.

I would like to thank my colleagues Cllrs Clouder and Cromie and Brian Udell, Chairman of Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association (CBNWA), for their hard work and valued input into this review. Also worthy of mention is Ilona Kytomaa our Scrutiny officer who has drawn this report together. I would finally like to thank all those who have contributed and are listed below.

Malcolm Saunders - Secretary of CBNWA
Gerry Isles - Editor of "CroydonEye"
Sarah Gardner - Neighbourhood Watch Manager
Sergeant Guy Osland - Croydon police
Chief Inspector Caroline Trevithick - Croydon police
Sergeant Phyllis Rooney - Croydon police
PCSO Angela Dennis - Croydon police
Tony Brooks - Director of Public Safety
Pat Reid - PJ's Community Services
Mark Justice - Chief Executive of Croydon Neighbourhood Care Association
Brian Longman - Chairman of Sanderstead Ward Panel
Carolyn Seymour - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator (Shirley area)
Sylvia Matthews - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator (Fairfield area)
The 193 co-ordinators who responded to the 2011 Neighbourhood Watch survey

Councillor Jason Cummings
Chairman of the working group
Findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny review of Neighbourhood Watch

1 - Introduction

This review was formally commissioned by the Community Services and Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee at its meeting on 5 July 2011. It was selected as a topic for a task and finish working group because it is linked to a number of important current issues:

- Consultation with local communities shows that safety ranks as the top priority for local residents
- There is uncertainty about the impact of budget cuts on all services, including those related to crime reduction
- The objectives of NW mirror the goals of Big Society as neighbourhoods take action to address their local concerns

The membership of the task and finish working group was as follows:

- Cllr Jason Cummings (Chair)
- Cllr Justin Cromie
- Cllr Pat Clouder
- Brian Udell, Chairman of CBNWA

The Task and Finish Group agreed to make recommendations that would:

- Help to disseminate good practice in running NW areas
- Help increase the establishment of effective NW areas
- Encourage improvements in the links between NW groups and key local agencies, such as the police, CVA and the council
- Help reduce crime and the fear of crime in the borough

2 - Acquisitive crime and other offences

To ascertain the need for Neighbourhood Watch in Croydon, the working group examined local crime trends, particularly in the area of acquisitive crime.

The group ascertained that residential burglary had risen significantly in recent years. The worst affected wards have been Selhurst, West Thornton, Norbury, Thornton Heath and Broad Green.

23% of properties were unlocked at the time when they were burgled. In many instances, two adjacent properties were burgled one after the other as the offender became familiar with the layout and access points of the properties. Road corners were also found to be particularly vulnerable. As regards the time of burglary, the period between 1pm and 5pm is linked to the highest percentage of break-ins. 235 properties were burgled more than once in 2010-2011, representing 8.2% of burglaries.

To tackle the significant rise in acquisitive crime, the Safer Croydon Partnership have mounted "Operation No Entry", bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to reduce the risk of burglary and apprehend more offenders.
The results of the survey of NW co-ordinators, carried out in the run-up to the annual conference of the CBNWA on 12 November 2011, show that the main safety issue for NW co-ordinators is burglary (130 responses), followed by motor vehicle theft (122 responses) and anti-social behaviour (71 responses). These concerns bear close similarity to the 2011-2012 priorities set by Croydon's ward panels to their Safer Neighbourhood Teams:
- burglary (18 SNTs)
- motor vehicle crime (15 SNTs)
- anti-social behaviour (22 SNTs - in 17 of these, ASB perpetrated by young people)

3 - The spread of neighbourhood watches in Croydon

The number of watches is very much on the rise. Despite possible deterrents such as the practice of police checks on applicants, the number of watches has been rising consistently and stood at 598 as at 31 January 2012. This rise in numbers has been attributed in part to the 8 August 2011 riots.

Southern wards tend to have higher numbers of co-ordinators than northern wards. The wards with the lowest NW coverage are Fieldway and New Addington, with 3 and 6 co-ordinators respectively; yet, their burglary rates are some of the lowest in the borough. This may be due in part to the informal "self-policing" of these fairly close communities.

The working group heard that BME representation among co-ordinators was rising, with a third of recruits in October and November 2011 coming from black and minority ethnic communities. Nevertheless, it is still acknowledged to be low. This may be due to lack of awareness, negative perceptions of NW schemes, the requirement for police checks and language difficulties.

Other barriers to the recruitment of co-ordinators, which apply to the public as a whole, include lack of time, perceived lack of relevance to the community and fear of reprisals - a trend acknowledged by representatives of the Broad Green SNT, which testified to their co-ordinators' fear of "being found out"

The working group felt that NW in Croydon would benefit from effective awareness-raising of its benefits and achievements, including a sense of safety and community spirit. This might be done both through informal discussions at community meetings, or through publicity initiated by the council and the police, such as award ceremonies to recognise the work of co-ordinators or articles about the activities of NW.

**Recommendation 1 to the Safer Croydon Partnership:**
That the police and the council should take every opportunity to build a positive image of Neighbourhood Watch as an instrument for strengthening community spirit in the borough, through such means as community awards, presentations to recognise the achievements of co-ordinators, etc.
The working group heard that awareness raising in BME communities might also be more successful if it is done through existing networks, such as the Bangladeshi Welfare Association, black churches, etc., and by highlighting the relevance of NW to these needs of these communities, e.g. addressing specific local risks (e.g. the theft of gold jewellery) and providing relevant crime prevention advice. It was observed that improved recruitment of co-ordinators in BME communities may also encourage residents to report crime and reverse the trend of under-reporting in these communities.

It was highlighted above that wards with particularly high levels of burglary have high levels of privately rented property. Feedback from NW co-ordinators, the co-ordinators’
survey and the Chair of the Broad Green ward panel, show that many private tenants mistakenly consider NW to be irrelevant to them. In response to this finding, the working group took the opportunity to include an article in the Croydon council landlords' newsletter, to be sent out to about 2000 recipients in the run-up to the January 2012 Private Landlords' Conference. The article highlights the relevance of NW for private tenants, who may own coveted property such as gold jewellery, smartphones and laptops, and yet are very unaware of their vulnerability to burglary and of simple crime prevention measures they can take to protect themselves. Such messages need to be disseminated repeatedly to gain the attention of landlords and hopefully lead to effective crime prevention.

**Recommendation 2 to the Safer Croydon Partnership:**
That an article on Neighbourhood Watch be published on a yearly basis in the private landlords’ newsletter to reinforce landlords’ awareness of the need for effective crime prevention in privately rented properties and their vicinity

Through discussions with NW co-ordinators, the working group found out that recruitment of co-ordinators could be particularly effective when carried out through a residents' association. Two examples of such good practice are Addiscombe and Shirley Park Residents' Association (ASPRA) and CHASE Residents' Association in Addiscombe. Combining NW with residents' association activities benefits both networks through sharing of publicity, information, venues, volunteers, local events, funding, etc.

4 - Developing the Neighbourhood Watch role

It has been noted that the number of neighbourhood watches has been growing steadily in Croydon. What role do they play in keeping their neighbourhoods safe?

The main task of all co-ordinators is to deliver the CroydonEye newsletter* to the residents on their patch, which comprises an average of fifty properties. However, the co-ordinators' survey results showed that many co-ordinators willingly take on a range of other tasks, such as encouraging the use of safety measures, holding meetings with neighbours and helping them with various queries, keeping an eye on neighbours' homes while they are away on holiday, attending SNT street briefings, etc.

Survey results show that the key rewards for many co-ordinators are their 'contacts with neighbours', 'being able to help' and 'community spirit'. This feedback is reassuring, as making NW negative or solely focused on crime can promote fear amongst the vulnerable and be a hindrance in high crime areas where people may be hesitant about joining an anti-crime group due to fear of reprisals.

Discussions with co-ordinators and the results of the survey hint at the fact that a number of volunteers are keen to expand their role, but do not quite know how to go about this, and can feel a little isolated. How can they develop their role further? This is explored in the following sections.

* "CroydonEye" is the newsletter of the Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association. It provides useful telephone numbers, crime prevention advice and information on recent scams and crime trends.
Links between co-ordinators and their Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs)

The sharing of intelligence and crime prevention advice between SNTs and co-ordinators has been acknowledged to be a key ingredient of success in addressing local safety issues. The CBNWA encourages these contacts through the George Hammond award. This is presented annually to the SNT team which has received the highest number of votes from co-ordinators for their involvement with Neighbourhood Watch.

Some SNTs work closely with NW co-ordinators to address local problems. A PCSO in Broad Green works with co-ordinators to leaflet streets about fly-tipping. The Ashburton SNT liaises with NW co-ordinators to communicate messages regarding local motor vehicle crime. In Sanderstead, the SNT has kept co-ordinators up to date about local trading standards issues. In Thornton Heath, the SNT is working with co-ordinators to address anti-social behaviour. In Shirley, co-ordinators belong to an effective communication network, and new issues are discussed with the police at regular meetings. In all these examples, co-ordinators work alongside the police to address current issues, provide crime prevention advice and intelligence.

However, this joint work between co-ordinators and SNTs does not occur across the borough as a whole. Survey results show that while a number of co-ordinators keep in touch with their local SNT through local ward panel meetings or street briefings, many other co-ordinators experience difficulty in contacting their SNTs or receiving answers to their calls and e-mails to them.

Recommendation 3 to the Safer Croydon Partnership:
The working group would be keen to see the good practice established in a number of wards in Croydon applied across the borough. Therefore, they recommend that police officers who have developed effective joint working arrangements with Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators should be given the opportunity to share this good practice with other Safer Neighbourhood Teams so that more officers may be encouraged to adopt such working arrangements.

Nearly all SNTs have been tasked with focusing on burglary, motor vehicle crime or anti-social behaviour, or a combination of these, as ward priorities. These echo the very concerns of co-ordinators. However, very few local priority update sheets (which set out action taken by SNTs to address ward priorities) mention joint work with NW, despite the fact that it could increase the effectiveness of policing operations and the messages they wish to convey to local communities. Including joint initiatives with NW in these local activity update sheets could provide examples of good practice and encourage more SNTs to involve local co-ordinators in crime prevention.

Recommendation 4 to the Safer Croydon Partnership:
That the local activity update sheets produced by Safer Neighbourhood Teams should record joint work carried out with Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators - this is already the case with some SNTs but not current practice across the borough.

After reporting a burglary, all victims receive a letter and a visit from a local police officer. These could provide a useful opportunity for police to highlight the crime prevention role of NW at a time when the victim may be particularly receptive to
suggestions for protecting themselves against future burglary. However, this is not currently regular practice.

**Recommendation 5 to the Safer Croydon Partnership:**
That the “victim of crime” letters sent by the police and subsequent visits to their recipients should include a mention of the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch

Responses to the 2011 NW co-ordinators’ survey responses bear witness to differences in the level of contacts between co-ordinators and SNTs: 37% of respondents stated that they had regular contact with their SNTs; 54% left the question unanswered. 17% stated that they had a regular exchange of information and intelligence with their SNTs while 73% left the question unanswered. Through the survey, many co-ordinators stated that they had no contact at all with their SNTs and did not get responses to their calls or e-mails. 47 co-ordinators felt that NW would become more effective if they had better contact with the police. Challenged about the current situation, the Chief Inspector with responsibility for SNTs stated that co-ordinators should be able to obtain answers to their queries within seven days, and should follow up queries if left unanswered for that amount of time.

The working group considered that NW might benefit from better strategic links with the police. It is already represented at the Safer Croydon Partnership. It may, however, also benefit from contacts with senior police officers through attendance at the Croydon Council Police Consultative Group (CCPCG), which is attended by Croydon’s Borough Commander and other senior police officers, as long as it continues to operate.

**Recommendation 6 to the Safer Croydon Partnership:**
That Neighbourhood Watch should be given the opportunity to develop its profile and links with the police through regular attendance of a number of co-ordinators at the Croydon Council Police Consultative Group, as long as it continues to operate.

*Links between co-ordinators, SNTs and ward panels*

Members of the working group agreed that one simple way of bringing together SNTs and NW co-ordinators would be to involve the latter more proactively in ward panels.

The working group obtained information about the activities of ward panels from three of their chairs, as well as from SNTs. They concluded that these panels had a pivotal role to play in sharing information with key local stakeholders - including representatives of NW - and shaping appropriate priorities and activities for improving safety in the ward. However, it was acknowledged that some panel chairs did not have the skills or confidence to involve an appropriate range of stakeholders, or to engage them in a meaningful dialogue on local safety concerns. The working group recognised that this represented a need for some form of learning and development.

**Recommendation 7 to the Safer Croydon Partnership:**
That support be given to ward panel chairs to develop the membership and effectiveness of their panel

During the course of this review, the police have resumed meeting with ward panel chairs and SNT officers in the borough to discuss local safety issues. Such meetings
would also provide a good opportunity for SNT officers and ward panel chairs to share
good practice relating to NW involvement in ward panels, discuss any problems
encountered and possible opportunities, and improve their partnership work with co-
ordinators and the CBNWA.

**Recommendation 8 to the Safer Croydon Partnership:**
That good practice and challenges relating to Neighbourhood Watch involvement in
ward panels should become a regular discussion item at ward panel chairs' meetings.

The working group welcomed the news that the police were carrying out some work on
the work of ward panels. They were also advised that each SNT had access to the
contact details of key stakeholders in their ward - including NW co-ordinators. This list
could be used for disseminating information to a much wider audience than the ward
panel itself. These networks are referred to as Key Individual Networks (KINs) SNTs
could also use these networks to draw more participants into ward panels, liaise with
NW co-ordinators and encourage them to network with each other, by e-mail or
telephone, or face to face.

◇ **Community development**

The working group heard that various neighbourhood watches held community events,
e.g. in Coulsdon West and Shirley wards among other wards. Organising such
activities is very much up to the enthusiasm of individual volunteers. However, it would
be useful to publicise successful local initiatives effectively. This may provide useful
information to individuals wishing to hold one in their area and help members of the
community to get to know each other, thus improving social cohesion and safety in the
area.

◇ **Networking among co-ordinators**

Through the co-ordinators' survey and discussions at working group meetings, it became
evident that a number of co-ordinators wished to network with each other to exchange
ideas and advice and help each other out with distribution, etc. Enthusiastic information
sharing at an informal working group meeting with one experienced co-ordinator and a
relatively new recruit to NW showed how much useful advice could be shared through
such contacts.

Some progress is currently being made in bringing co-ordinators together to share
ideas and experiences:

- At the 12 November 2011 NW conference, co-ordinators were invited to share
  their details so that they might liaise with each other informally - 49 co-ordinators
  put forward their details, which were then disseminated on a ward by ward basis
- Current application forms for prospective NW co-ordinators ask them to specify
  if they are willing to share their details with other co-ordinators - the NW
  manager has confirmed that the majority do
- It was suggested at a working group meeting that co-ordinators might
  eventually communicate with each other through a social networking site such
  as Facebook when its use has become sufficiently widespread

Currently, co-ordinators across the borough have a yearly opportunity to share good
practice as well as concerns about local issues, and liaise with key stakeholders such
as police, Victim Support, etc. through the NW conference. In November 2011, it was
attended by approximately a quarter of the Borough’s co-ordinators. The working group
agreed that this well attended event should continue to be supported by the council,
and that it might provide increased opportunities for developing contacts and know-
how between neighbouring neighbourhood watches, through some form of discussion
forums for co-ordinators from the south, north, centre and east of the borough.

Recommendation 9 to the Safer Croydon Partnership:
That the council should continue to support the annual Neighbourhood Watch
conference by offering a conference room / the Council Chamber and break-out
rooms or areas to the association for that purpose at no charge

5 - Needs and resources

Discussions with co-ordinators and survey results point to the following needs:

- **Need for funding**
  The funding received by the CBNWA is due to be cut significantly in April 2012
  when the grant from the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund comes to an
  end. The association's main source of funding will then be the £5,000 per annum
  grant from the council. The association is currently exploring a range of options
  for reducing its expenditure on the dissemination of newsletters and other
  activities.

- **Need for training**
  The offer of training on the co-ordinator role has eagerly been taken up by 53
  co-ordinators through the 2011 NW co-ordinators' survey.

- **Need for information**
  While the findings of the co-ordinators' survey showed very high percentages of
  respondents felt they knew relevant contact numbers for reporting crime, useful
  information on crime trends and crime prevention measures, 61 respondents still
  felt they needed further information to carry out their role effectively.

  At the NW conference, the question and answer session showed that co-
  ordinators' interest in caring for their area stretched further than purely safety
  concerns, into areas such as rubbish collection, recycling of green waste, etc. They welcomed the contact sheet disseminated by the working group carrying
  out this review of Neighbourhood Watch, following a suggestion made by a
  co-ordinator in Shirley.

  The Internet provides a number of useful websites for co-ordinators with IT
  skills.
  - The Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association website provides
    useful advice and contact numbers; its "hit rate" as at April 2011 was 144 a
    month on average
  - [www.neighbourhoodwatch.net/](http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.net/), the national website for the UK NW
    movement, provides online advice on various aspects of the role and a large
    number of useful case studies
- The contact details of Croydon Safer Neighbourhood Teams can be obtained from [http://content.met.police.uk/Page/TeamFinder?scope_id=1257246763788](http://content.met.police.uk/Page/TeamFinder?scope_id=1257246763788) or by using the key words "Croydon Safer Neighbourhood Teams" in Google. - In Spring Park, co-ordinators have set up their own website and regularly update it with details of current safety risks ([www.springparknw.co.uk](http://www.springparknw.co.uk)).

Effective use of the above information will only take place if the web addresses are well publicised - this can be done either through CroydonEye or e-mail alerts.

- **Need for publicity**
  A number of co-ordinators and contributors to working group meetings felt that there was a need to raise public awareness of neighbourhood watch activity and benefits. For example, many residents may consider getting involved in NW if they become aware that membership of a watch can reduce their insurance premiums. Research has also shown that burglary can be reduced if prospective offenders are faced with **fresh** NW signs on properties and lamp posts, indicating an active watch. Publicity can be all the more effective if disseminated through appropriate channels. The council itself has a key role to play through its various information channels, eg Your Croydon, Safety E-Bulletin, community E-bulletin, private landlords’ newsletters, etc.

**Recommendation 10 to the Safer Croydon Partnership:**

That the council's communications should make effective and judicious use of existing newsletters, bulletins, e-communications and other media to disseminate publicity regarding Neighbourhood Watch.

The working group explored the possibility of links between NW co-ordinators and their local councillors, who could publicise their achievements and provide advice and encouragement. Awareness of the work of NW could be improved through the commissioning of briefings on this voluntary work by the Members Learning and Development Panel. The working group also felt that local ward panel chairs should be invited to such events to strengthen links between then, NW and local councillors, as safety issues constitute an important part of councillors’ case work.

**Recommendation 12 to the Standards Committee**

That the Members' Learning and Development Panel should commission the Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association to brief councillors on the work of the association and its co-ordinators, and that ward panel chairs be invited to take part in these events to encourage the development of joint work with co-ordinators.

- **Other needs**
  A range of other needs were highlighted in the course of the review, eg IT skills, venues for meetings, photo-copying facilities, etc. Some co-ordinators obtain such resources from their local residents’ association, or through fund-raising at community events. Schools or churches may offer venues for meetings and businesses may sponsor or fund certain activities, such as publicity.

However, if NW co-ordinators cannot obtain such support through local networks, they may have recourse to Croydon Voluntary Action, which offers
training (often at little or no cost) on a variety of different skills as well as information on up-and-coming funding streams. Information on these resources is regularly disseminated through e-bulletins to a wide range of groups in the borough.

6 - Adapting Neighbourhood Watch to other contexts

The working group heard of a range of alternatives to the traditional NW model, designed to cater for the needs of specific communities.

Community Watch
The working group heard about the creation of this pilot scheme by the West Thornton SNT in February 2011. As there appeared to be unwillingness to becoming involved in a watch in the area, a system was set up in which crime and anti-social behaviour could be reported at various points (shops, GP surgeries, etc.) and then shared with the local SNT. Spurred on by the August riots, 89 premises have now signed up to join this scheme, and useful intelligence has already been obtained.

Cocoon Watch
This initiative, which is included in the Safer Croydon Partnership's "Operation No Entry" action plan, will entail setting up and nurturing a watch in a very small area of less than 10 properties, which has been particularly vulnerable to burglary. Recruitment is planned for a number of sites in the north of the borough.

Recommendation 11 to the Safer Croydon Partnership:
That the activity of Community Watch and Cocoon Watch action plans be monitored on a quarterly basis to assess their effectiveness at addressing the particular needs of the areas they were designed to protect.

7 - Conclusions

This review has revealed that while NW and its activities are unknown to many residents, it involves a very large - and growing - number of committed co-ordinators in the borough. In the course of this brief Scrutiny review, they have demonstrated their dedication to this work through their high attendance at conference, very high number of responses to the co-ordinators' survey, and the community spirit expressed through both of these.

However, NW faces a number of challenges. A number of volunteers have expressed a sense of isolation, and getting to know neighbouring co-ordinators has been hampered by data protection issues. In addition, as a result of current funding cuts, resources to run the local neighbourhood watch association are being reduced significantly, and its committee is working very hard to identify resources for its future activities.

A key need expressed by co-ordinators and the association is better co-ordination with local Safer Neighbourhood Teams and ward panels, to exchange intelligence, disseminate effective crime prevention advice and reduce crime, and better awareness...
of the potential advantages of NW in areas with high burglary rates in Croydon. To this end, the working group hopes that the dissemination of the findings and recommendations of this review can raise awareness of this initiative and encourage ward panels, Safety Neighbourhood Teams, community groups and NW to work together more closely in future.

**Recommendation 13 to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee:**
That the final report of the Scrutiny review of Neighbourhood Watch be sent out to all co-ordinators, ward panel chairs and Safer neighbourhood Teams in Croydon to highlight the good practice in the borough and to encourage its take-up.