



Cocoon Watch Procedure

This document is part of North Yorkshire Police policy to which all Chief Constable personnel and the functions provided by the Deputy Mayor for the Policing, Fire and Crime Team of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority are required to adhere.

Procedure Statement

Cocoon Watch is a Police-involved strategy used to protect victims of domestic abuse and their families. This is done by enlisting the help of neighbours to report further incidents immediately, especially when the victim may be unable able to do this themselves. The scheme is implemented with the victim's informed consent to create a supportive "cocoon" around them by encouraging vigilance and increasing the immediate help available.

The key aims are as follows:

- To minimise the risk of future harm to victims
- To maximise opportunities for an earlier intervention in ongoing domestic incidents
- To provide support for the victim within community
- To encourage reports of concerns to safeguard the victim
- To reduce the need for the victim to report to police where may not be able to
- To offer reassurance to the victim of close-network support

Overarching Policies:

Domestic Abuse

Stalking-and-Harassment

Cocoon Watch

Other Documents:

Domestic-Abuse

Process

Cocoon watch schemes request the help and support of neighbours in protecting the victim by contacting the police immediately if further incidents occur. A cocoon watch identifying the victim is only implemented with the informed consent of the victim. It is possible to have limited cocoon watch without consent where the victim is not named, for example, an awareness-raising leaflet drop in the neighbourhood which states that domestic abuse is taking place in the area. If leaflets or documentation are to be left, it should NOT contain personal or sensitive information. Cocoon watch should not be used where there is any reason to suspect that neighbours and/or family may be involved in the abuse, or if the victim may feel more at risk by neighbours being informed.

Considerations for Cocoon Watch

When a Police Officer, Domestic Abuse Officer or Stalking Support Officer tasks through for cocoon watch, this must be with the explicit consent of the victim.

When considering Cocoon Watch, the DAO/SSO must discuss and ascertain what level of detail is to be shared with agreed neighbours.

- Consent to share name of victim
- Consent to share victim's address
- Consent to share risk level and appropriate Flags eg: High Risk DA/High Risk Stalking victim
- Consent to disclose brief summary of events (eg: loitering/attending address, grey coloured vehicle, suspect description)
- Any specific information that they **do not** want shared.
- Consent to a generic leaflet drop or verbal sharing with neighbours
- Any addresses the victim **does not** wish to be involved

Once consent is obtained, the DAO/SSO must document this on the OEL, including the level of detail agreed, and task to the relevant NPT area.

NB- ONLY elements that have been consented to can be actioned

Cocoon Watch

Responsibilities

Domestic Abuse Officers (DAO) / Stalking Support Officers (SSO)

- Responsible for capturing and recording the agreed level of detail for the Cocoon Watch
- Must document consent in full on the OEL
- Task the appropriate NPT area via the Niche tasking process
- The task must be titled "Cocoon Watch, see OEL for details"

Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) / Safer Neighbourhood Area (SNA)

- Monitor the NPT Niche task box and assign the request.
- Review and understand the task requirements.
- Complete the request, as soon as practicable, and update the OEL before going off duty, including actions taken and any follow-up needed.
- If clarification is needed, liaise directly with the DAO
- If any leaflets/letters are left with the neighbour(s), ensure a copy is uploaded to Niche.

Definition of Special Terms

None

Cocoon Watch