



# Frequently Asked Questions

## HOW DO I FIND A GROUP IN MY AREA?

When you begin the registration process, you are asked whether to join an existing group or create a new group. Check if a group already operates in your area. If none exist, you will need to create a new group in your area.

## HOW DO I REGISTER A GROUP?

If there is no group registered in your area, setting up a new group is the next step. The person who registers the group automatically becomes its first coordinator with the initial responsibility of setting up the group. You can later hand this responsibility to other trained group members if they wish to take on the job.

## HOW DO WE FIND SUITABLE SITES?

Newly approved and established groups can propose new sites for use, subject to safety approval. A 'site' is defined as a combination of 'a location' and 'a direction'.

A new site must adhere to set criteria which can be found at

[www.communityspeedwatch.org](http://www.communityspeedwatch.org)

## DO WE NEED TO WEAR UNIFORM?

Wearing hi-vis vests or jackets is compulsory. However, there are no uniform rules specifying the markings or texts on clothing. Additional branded clothing is available from the Community Speedwatch (CSW) online shop. A uniform look is encouraged to uphold national standards.

## DO WE NEED TO BUY OUR OWN EQUIPMENT?

Many police forces, road safety organisations or local councils purchase and own equipment that they make available through the online booking system for local groups to use. You can check with your local police force to find approved purchasing channels if you would like to purchase your own group equipment.

## DOES EQUIPMENT NEED CALIBRATING ON A REGULAR BASIS?

For as long as CSW remains an educational scheme, annual calibration is not required in most counties. However, regular accuracy check of radar devices using tuning forks registered on the CSW Online system is compulsory in Sussex. When tested before each session, an accuracy within +/- 1MPH is required before the offence recording can begin.

## HOW ARE GROUPS TRAINED, AND BY WHOM?

Training starts during the registration process. Before a new volunteer can join, they must first take the compulsory eLearning course. All new operators must be trained in the practical use of the group's deployable equipment by Sussex Police. Practical training is done in conjunction with a roadside session where new volunteers are given instructions and an opportunity to operate the deployed equipment.

## HOW ARE THE POLICE INVOLVED?

Some counties use Neighbourhood Policing and Special Constable teams to support the groups, others have dedicated CSW teams working in partnership with local road safety organisations. When police officers and special constables are present in support of CSW groups, offending drivers are often able to be dealt with immediately by the attending officer.

## ARE CSW GROUPS PROTECTED BY THE POLICE?

The Police or Local Councils protect groups trained and operated to the required standard and from approved sites under their Public Liability Insurance cover. Sussex Police take a zero tolerance approach to abuse and all reported cases are followed up. To guard against aggressive drivers, at least one operator must bring a mobile phone in case it becomes necessary to alert the Police.

**999 is the number to call.**