Caring for communities

Postmen and women in Winchester are taking part in a pilot scheme – Mail Watch – to help protect their local community.

Acting as the eyes and ears of the community, colleagues are working together with Neighbourhood Watch and Hampshire Constabulary to try and reduce crime.

The initiative, which is being trailed in Winchester, will give more than 130 postmen and women in the area the opportunity to report any suspicious incidents or low-level crime by calling 101 and then quoting a dedicated incident number.

Alternatively, they can report incidents to Neighbourhood Watch volunteers, who will then liaise with police if necessary.

This new initiative follows our partnership with Missing People, which began last year. Our 124,000 postmen and women are now able to receive high risk alerts about vulnerable missing children and adults through our extensive PDA network.

Tony Crouch, a postman from Winchester who is taking part in the initiative, said: ‘Since the pilot started trialling, the team has reported crimes of stealing and trespassing. ‘This is not about snooping since we only act on intelligence we receive from police. It's an extension of the service we already provide to the community that doesn't affect the time it takes us to do our job. It's given everyone a glow.’

Director of security Tony Marsh said: “Our postmen and women collect and deliver mail six days a week and have almost unrivalled knowledge of the communities they serve. We are proud to be formalising our working relationship with Hampshire Constabulary and Neighbourhood Watch through the launch of this important initiative, and look forward to playing our part in creating a safer community.”