

Community Safety Partner Updates



April 2025

Community Safety Update and Events

A range of free activities for the young people of the district was organised for the Easter school break.

Folkestone & Hythe District Council put on fun sporting, gaming and walking events in various locations and provided an opportunity for Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to engage with young people. Kent Police, Kent County Council's Family Hub and the Folkestone Town Ambassadors, all members of the CSP, were involved with this programme of events.

Hawkinge Community Event – 8 April

Scott Butler from Community Safety attended the Hawkinge event along with Kent Police Child Centred Policing Team (CCPT) and KCC Family Hub Youth Team. Free sporting activities as well as information and advice regarding knife awareness and e-scooters, including the cycle barriers in Hawkinge, was provided to around 25 people the officers engaged with.

The young people shared concerns especially about the recent trends that have been in the media recently. They received support about these concerns whilst also enjoying a game of football, tennis or a mix of both!

Bouverie Place Sports Cage – 11 April

Young people were able to show off their best football skills in a special area in the Folkestone shopping centre.

Kent Police CCPT members and Town Ambassadors also attended to talk about safety and anti-social behaviour (ASB).



Youth Walk & Talk event– 15 April

A guided walk for young people was organised by Scott Butler from F&HDC Community Safety, Kent Police CCPT and KCC Family Hub.

The group walked around Folkestone town centre Radnor Park and Lower Radnor, Foord Road and Payers Park and young people shared their experiences and

concerns about ASB and how it could be tackled. The perception of safety was also discussed including what other people think about young individuals in groups.

Scott highlighted the work of the Folkestone Town Ambassadors and the CCTV shop watch partnerships. During the walk the group also saw work had been done at cutting back the bushes in parks to increase visibility and to let in light in some of the secluded areas. This was well received.

The tour continued through the High Street engaging with other young people who said Folkestone is a safer place than other local towns.

Change Grow Life Event – 9 April

Change Grow Live based at Shepherd House in Folkestone partnered with the NHS and held a Wellbeing Wednesday, promoting physical and mental health awareness.

Nine partner agencies including Community Safety attended, sharing information and networking with residents.



Community Wellness event – 16 April

F&HDC Community Safety along with 30 partner agencies came together for the first in a series of Wellness events at St Mary's Bay Village Hall on the Romney Marsh.

The event was represented by many partner agencies including cancer support charity [Look Good, Feel Better](#) who provided workshops and offered advice on skincare, makeup, hair loss, wigs, headwear and styling advice.



The [Iris Mobile Sight Centre - Kent Association for the Blind](#) provide help and advice to existing clients with sight impairment and new clients.



Awareness was raised about the importance of good eye health, also having regular eye tests.

The next Wellness event will be on 2 July at the Leas Cliff Hall.



Community Wellness event – 2 July

You are invited to:



Community wellness event



Leas Cliff Hall

The Leas
Folkestone
CT20 2DZ

FREE

Wednesday 2 July 2025

10am-3pm

Struggling to pay your monthly bills?

Want to improve your physical wellbeing?

Looking for mental health resources?

Come along and speak to local agencies
from across Kent available to help **YOU!**

Agencies

[Home - Wave Community Bank](#) are delighted to be a Lead Delivery Partner of National Numeracy Day, the UK's only day dedicated to everyday maths!



On Wednesday 21 May, Wave will join independent charity National Numeracy to help children and adults across the UK feel confident about numbers at school, at work and at home and YOU can too!

National Numeracy Day is all about empowering people with the confidence and skills to handle everyday maths. Whether you want to boost your own numeracy, help your children, or support others, the National Numeracy Day Hub is your go-to destination.

This fantastic online resource is packed with free tools and inspiration, making it easy and fun to get involved. You can find:

- **A wealth of free resources:** From engaging activities to practical advice, there's something for everyone - including school resources, and fun games for all.
- **Fun activities:** Discover enjoyable ways to improve your number skills.
- **Celebrity videos:** Get inspired by familiar faces sharing their perspectives on numeracy.
- **Worksheets for kids:** Help young ones build a strong foundation in maths.
- **Real-life advice for adults:** Learn how numeracy can make a difference in everyday situations.

National Numeracy Day raises awareness of the importance of numbers in everyday life and empowers people to improve their numeracy.

For more information:

https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/numeracyday?utm_source=wave
www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/challenge/wave





Money Skills for everyone from Crosslight Advice

Crosslight Advice provide workshops, resources and training to equip people with money skills and the confidence to manage their finances day-to-day. We also offer training to those supporting others.



Cost of Living Toolkit

Weds 7 May, 12 - 1.30pm (online)

A FREE 90-minute workshop aimed at anyone affected by the rising cost of living - bill-busting tips and info on available schemes and support

The Money Course

**Weds 7, 14 & 21 May, 10.30am - 12.30pm
Hope Church, Tonbridge**

A FREE three-session course open to all, teaching practical money skills in a relaxed setting (followed by optional one-to-one Budget Coaching)

Financial First Aid

Weds 25 June, 10am - 12.30pm (online)

Aimed at practitioners who support others, this interactive workshop is packed full of information, tips and tools

Find out more about our free
Money Skills workshops:

themonycourse.org/join

Find out more about our resources
and workshops for organisations:

themonycourse.org/equip

DISCOVER SAILING

Dinghy Sailing Taster Session

Monday 5th May

Come and have a taste of dinghy sailing at
your local inland club in Hythe

1 Hour group session in a double hander with experienced sailor
max 4 people per boat

£12 per person

If you're interested, then please
visit cinqueportssailing.org or
contact
cinqueportssailing@gmail.com

With limited spaces early booking
is advised



Fraud / Scams



Action Fraud have issued a new warning about social media and email account hacking as new data is revealed.

This year Action Fraud and Meta are encouraging the public to protect their social media and email accounts as data shows there was a rise of social media and email account hacking reported in 2024, with a total of 35,434 reports made to Action Fraud, compared to 22,530 reports made in 2023. Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, has launched a campaign, supported by Meta, to encourage people to take an extra step of online protection by enabling 2-Step Verification (2SV) for each online account they have. The warning comes as reporting shows nearly £1 million was lost to hackers last year.

The most common motives for social media hacking were either investment fraud, ticket fraud or theft of the targeted account, reporting insights revealed.

In the reports made to Action Fraud, there were various methods of hacking highlighted, these include:

- **On-platform chain hacking** - This is when a fraudster gains control of an account and begins to impersonate the legitimate owner. The goal is to convince people to reveal authentication codes, including one-time passcodes, which are sent to them via text. Many victims of this type of hacking believe it is a friend messaging them, however the shared code was associated with their own account and the impersonator can now use it to access their account. Usually when an account is taken over, fraudsters monetise control of the account via the promotion of various fraudulent schemes, like fake tickets or crypto investment schemes, while impersonating the original account owner.
- **Leaked passwords and phishing** - The other common method of hacking is when account details are gained via phishing scams, or the use of leaked information used from data breaches, such as leaked passwords. This becomes prevalent as people often use the same password for multiple accounts, so a leaked password from one website can leave many of their online accounts vulnerable to hacking.

What can you do to avoid being a victim?

- **2-step verification (2SV) will keep criminals out of your account – even if they know your password.** Turning on 2SV gives your most important

accounts an extra level of protection, especially your email and social media accounts. It can be turned on in a matter of minutes – time well spent to keep the fraudsters out. Find out how to enable it go to [Turn on 2-step verification \(2SV\) - Stop! Think Fraud](#)

- **Email and social media passwords should be strong and different to all your other passwords.** A good way to make sure your passwords are 'long enough and strong enough' is to combine three random words to create a unique password which is easy to remember. Find out more at [Improve your password security - Stop! Think Fraud](#)

Fake Email Impersonating DVLA

The local PCSO received a message from a Kent resident about receiving a fake email from DVLA, informing them that DVLA could not collect their vehicle tax payment and that they needed to click on a link and update their payment details (see below).

If you get an email like this **STOP**, it is a **SCAM**. By clicking the link, you are directed to a realistic website under the control of the criminals, where they will steal your financial and personal data. DVLA will never send you an email like this.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

For further information about Fraud, visit our website at [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#)

You will also find valuable information from the Home Office at [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](#)



We hope this message finds you well. We are writing to inform you that your latest vehicle tax payment to the **Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)** was unsuccessful.

To avoid any penalties or disruptions to your vehicle's tax status, we kindly ask you to update your payment details and complete the transaction as soon as possible.

Update Now

Our system will automatically retry the billing process once your billing details have been updated. It can take up to 5 working days for the records to update. To continue to the update page, please submit your vehicle tax details.

Please Note: If you don't pay your vehicle tax on time, you may be fined up to £1,000, or your details may be passed to a debt collection agency.

Increasing use of Voice Cloning to commit Fraud

In voice cloning scams, criminals use Artificial intelligence (AI) technology to copy the voice of an individual. They can get a clip of a person's voice easily from a short chat on the telephone or via social media video and use that sample to generate voice cloning. Once they have the cloned voice, they can use it in a phone call, voicemail etc.

Just because the voice on the phone may sound like your parents, children or best friend it could be a criminal impersonating them and if your "loved one" is suddenly asking you for money urgently and out of the blue, it could very well be a criminal impersonating your family member's voice.

Last year it was reported that some research conducted found that over a quarter (28%) of UK adults say they had been targeted by an AI voice cloning scam at least once in the past year. It means that millions of people in Britain could be at risk from this highly sophisticated scam.

How to protect yourself from voice cloning scams?

People are being urged to set up a 'safe phrase' that can be used to verify if the person you are talking to, really is who you think they are. Pick something memorable and only share it with your family and loved ones, that way if you receive an unexpected call and do not hear the 'safe phrase' you can remain vigilant. Failing this, you can always use the ABC of Scam awareness and if you get a call requesting help, disconnect the call and ring the person back using a trusted number.



If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

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Rogue Traders

This type of criminality is currently being reported across the county, with reports in Deal, Gravesend, Gillingham, Whitstable, Tunbridge Wells and Herne Bay.

Criminals will knock on doors stating that there may be damage to your property, in particular roofs, that needs immediate work.

However, STOP and be wary of cold callers offering to undertake work on your property as this work may not be necessary or may not be completed to a satisfactory standard or not completed at all.

You may also be overcharged and out of pocket.

If seeking a tradesperson to undertake some work on your property, please remember to always:

- Obtain at least three written quotes.
- Ask family and friends for recommendations.
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand.
- Never pay in full until you are completely satisfied with the work.
- Never accept a quote on the doorstep from an unsolicited caller.

If you think you have been or a family member or friend is the victim of a romance scam, then report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

For further information about Fraud, visit our website at [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#)

You will also find valuable information from the Home Office at [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](#)

Dealing with rogue traders

- 1** Research different companies and compare quotes so you know how much you would be expected to pay for a job. Rogue traders will often charge extortionate prices for simple jobs.
- 2** Be wary of leaflets that are posted through your door offering services. Rogue traders will often have incorrect business addresses, and be only contactable by mobile numbers. Ask for identification and take vehicle registrations down and do not be afraid to ask for references.
- 3** Make sure a quote is obtained in writing for the exact work to be completed. Do not give traders an opportunity to subtly damage your property to charge extra (take pictures before and after a quotation if physical inspection is required). Rogue traders like to bill you for items you have not requested.
- 4** Avoid paying money up front and insist in a bank transfer from your bank to theirs using a sort code and account number; do not give them your card details. Avoid paying in cash.
- 5** If you feel something is wrong, do not continue with the work. Trust your instincts. Ask a friend or relative for advice and take your time to make a decision. Rogue traders will try and pressure you into a sale.



Reporting to Trading Standards

If you think a business has broken the law or acted unfairly, you can report them to Trading Standards.

Trading Standards use the information you give them to investigate unfair trading and illegal business activity, like rogue traders and scams.

Trading Standards can take businesses to court or stop them operating, but they won't help you fix your problem – for example, they can't help you get a refund.

kent.gov.uk/business/trading-standards



Safe Local Traders

www.kent.gov.uk/tschecked

Trading Standards Checked is Kent County Council's (KCC) safe traders scheme for businesses in the home improvement sector. Together with Kent Police and our members, we aim to prevent financial abuse, stop doorstep criminals and protect residents, especially the vulnerable, from criminal and rogue traders.

Trading Standards Checked carries out thorough checks on traders and is the only scheme vetted by Kent Trading Standards – tschecked.kent.gov.uk



Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**
If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.
Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service,
www.kent.police.uk   



Kent Police were made aware from a few residents that the below flyer has landed on door mats in New Romney and possibly other areas that I may not be aware of.

Residents have expressed concern that this has possibly been made to look like it is affiliated to Kent County Council which it is NOT.

I would urge everyone to be on the side of caution with prospective door to door traders and encourage officers who liaise with our residents to advise about cold callers and here is a link [Doorstep crime - Kent County Council](#) and I will be covering this in April's newsletter.

**Kent
County
Maintenance**

- ◆ Repointing◆Brickwork
- ◆ Chimney Repairs
- ◆ Paths & Patios
- ◆ Exterior Painting & Decorating
- ◆ All Aspects General Maintenance

FREE ESTIMATES & ADVICE

07947 367 008
email:kentcountymaintenance@gmail.com

Someone Maybe In Contact With You In The Next 24 Hours
Regarding Work That May Need Bringing To Your Attention.

If you have any information that you would like us to include within any future updates, please email the details to community.safety@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk