

Community Safety Partner Updates



May 2025

Community Safety Update and Events

Community Wellness Event – 2 July 2025

Representatives from a wide range of organisations will be at this event to showcase their services and offer advice on various topics to support residents.

There will be stalls and information points covering a range of topics from physical health, managing your finances including budgeting, saving and accomplishing financial goals and safety guidance to ensure your home is safe and secure.

There will also be the Kent Association for the Blind's mobile bus sight centre and FREE NHS health checks into your health.

Come along, look forward to seeing you there.

A vertical poster for a community wellness event. It has a yellow background with blue and green wavy lines at the bottom. The text is in white and black. It includes the Folkestone & Hythe District Council logo at the top right. The event is titled 'Community wellness event' in a purple box. It lists the location as 'Leas Cliff Hall, The Leas, Folkestone, CT20 2DZ' and the date/time as 'Wednesday 2 July 2025, 10am-3pm'. There is a photo of the Leas Cliff Hall with a red 'FREE' banner. Below the photo are three green speech bubbles with questions: 'Struggling to pay your monthly bills?', 'Want to improve your physical wellbeing?', and 'Looking for mental health resources?'. At the bottom is a purple box with the text 'Come along and speak to local agencies from across Kent available to help YOU!'.

May 2025

Paws for Thought Community Day

Dogs of the district are being invited to put their best paw forward and attend a Paws for Thought community event at Radnor Park, Folkestone, on Sunday 8 June between 10am and 3pm.

Folkestone & Hythe District Council has teamed up with Folkestone RSPCA, to put on a pawfect day out for pets and owners with stalls, a boot sale and a dog show for attendees to take part in.

Members of the council's environmental enforcement, community safety and licensing teams will also be on hand to offer advice and support for pet owners. The event will also be attended by local dog-friendly businesses.

Registration for the dog show will take place between 11am and 11:45am with the dog show itself taking place between 12pm and 2pm.

The boot fair is being organised by Folkestone RSPCA and pitches can be pre-booked by emailing welfare@rspcafolkestonedistrict.co.uk. Pitches cost £10 for a car and £15 for a van.

If you are a local business interested in having a stall, please contact pawsforthought@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk for more information.

We encourage everyone to come along what we hope will be a pawfect day.



PAWS FOR THOUGHT 2025

Dog show and boot sale
Sunday 8 June
Radnor Park, Folkestone

DOG SHOW:
11-11:45am – Registration
12-2pm – Dog show

- Golden oldies
- Best rescue
- Waggiest tail
- Looks most like owner
- Best trick
- Best in show

BOOT SALE INFO:

- 9am – Set up
- 10am – Public access

FEES

- £10 per car
- £15 per van

For more information, email:
welfare@rspcafolkestonedistrict.co.uk

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

- Face painting
- Raffle draw
- Dog treat stations

Entry: FREE
Dog show participation fee:
£2 per category
For stall bookings or dog entry:
pawsforthought@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk
All dogs attending must be kept on leads

RSPCA FOLKESTONE
Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Improving Interview Skills for Local Job Seekers

On 30 April, Community Safety partnered with the Rainbow Centre and Probation Service to support Folkestone's Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in delivering interview skills training to their clients.

The collaborative session focused on building confidence and equipping participants with effective interview techniques to enhance their job search. The training was well received, with clients expressing appreciation for the practical support and guidance.

This initiative highlights the value of multi-agency collaboration in strengthening community support and employment opportunities.



Fraud / Scams

Kent Fraud Alert System

Doorstep Scams / Rogue Traders

This is known as a doorstep scam when a person knocks on the door and tries to scam the householder seeking money for jobs or gain access to the property. Rogue traders may call round saying they have noticed something needs fixing on the property and can do this for a fee. Usually, they may start the job but is left unfinished and the work not carried out correctly.

Please remind family and friends about cold callers and not to be tempted to let anyone who turns up unannounced at the front door seeking to work at the property.

Community Safety became aware of rogue traders knocking on doors offering to do gardening, clean driveways for extortionate amounts of money. Additionally, people offering to carry out unnecessary roofing work. There was a resident who was quoted £800 for a roof and gutter clean who ended up paying these rogue traders £3,000.

These types of offences are not isolated to any individual locations and are taking place across the county.

Report a scam or a problem with a tradesperson or product to [Reporting to Trading Standards - Citizens Advice](#)

[Action Fraud](#): If you suspect that you've been scammed, report it to Action Fraud either over the phone or via their website.

You can also speak to your local KCC Warden who will try and help you whatever the issue and they can be found [Community wardens - Kent County Council](#)

The [Doorstep scams | Neighbourhood Watch Network](#) website provides useful information in spotting doorstep scammers including protecting yourself against these scammers.

To find you local network click on the link and type in your postcode [Find my local scheme | Neighbourhood Watch Network](#)



Remember –

- Obtain at least three written quotes and never agree to work on your doorstep, no matter how tempting the offer.
- 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 that you may have been a victim of a 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 [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#)

Additionally, if you want to start receiving alerts to My Community Voice, [Home Page - My Community Voice Kent](#) and register your details. Tell Community Voice how you would like to be contacted and the topics and issues that matter to you.



The alerts will come to you via email, text or voice note. If you have any information about an appeal, then you can message the team back through the alert.

Comments and thoughts are welcomed. Clicking on the 'reply' link within a message will send your reply to the person that sent the message and your local policing team.

Investment scams

Social media platforms featured in 36% of all investment fraud reports received last year across the UK. Have you been contacted unexpectedly on social media with a lucrative investment opportunity? It could be investment fraud.

Social media platforms that are particularly favoured by criminals are WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram.

Criminals frequently impersonated well known public figures, such as Martin Lewis, Elon Musk and Jeremy Clarkson, to try to build credibility and will take advantage of AI technology using deep fake to impersonate celebrities.

HAVE YOU BEEN CONTACTED OUT OF THE BLUE AND GUARANTEED PROFIT ON AN INVESTMENT?

In 36 per cent of investment fraud reports, social media platforms was recorded as being a key enabler.

If you have been contacted out of the blue via social media with a lucrative investment opportunity - stop, block, and report.

CITY OF LONDON POLICE
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
actionfraud.police.uk

STOP! THINK FRAUD
NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST FRAUD

Recently, City of London police reported that over £624m was lost nationally to these types of scams. To find out more and obtain advice on how to avoid becoming a victim, please go to the [City of London Police: over £649m lost to investment fraud in 2024, with cryptocurrency fraud on the rise | City of London Police](#)

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.

TO STOP FRAUD™

What is 159?

The **159** number enables people to connect with their bank safely and securely when they receive an unexpected, suspicious or fraudulent call.

If you think that you may have been a victim of fraud, then contact your bank immediately, which you can do by calling **159**.

Call **159** if you experience the following:

- Someone contacts you claiming to be from your bank – even if they do not seem suspicious.
- You are contacted by someone claiming to be an authority figure such as the police or HMRC and told to transfer money – even if the request seems genuine.
- You receive a call about a financial matter and it appears suspicious.



Stop, Hang Up,
Ensure that your phone is available for dialing, or alternatively, use another phone: call your bank on **159**.

Reporting a scam

If you think you or someone you know has been a victim of a scam report it immediately to Action Fraud online [actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or over the phone **0300 123 2040**.

For more information and advice visit kent.police.uk/fraud or email KFAS@ecis.police.uk



Together, let's stop scammers

Remember, ABC:

-  never Assume
-  never Believe
-  always Confirm

Need to contact your Bank Quickly Then Ring 159

For further information about Fraud, visit [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](#)



**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   

News Awareness

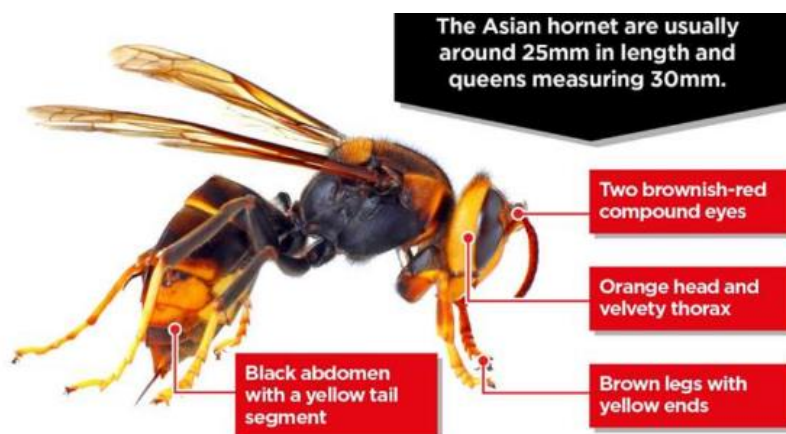
May 2025

Asian Hornets

Community Safety covered the story of Asian Hornets in 2024 and wanted to raise awareness as summer approaches.

Asian hornets are a highly invasive species and apparently their numbers are growing in Britain.

During the summer the unwelcomed *Vespa velutina*, sometimes known as the 'Asian hornet' sightings have been spotted in Folkestone including other towns in Kent according to BCPA (British Pest Control Association).



It is an invasive non-native species from Asia. It arrived in France in 2004 where it spread rapidly. As a highly effective predator of insects, including honeybees and other beneficial species, it can cause significant losses to bee colonies, other native species and potentially ecosystems.

Active months between April and November (peak August/September). Inactive over the winter.

Sightings can also be reported online below:

[Non-native Alert - Asian Hornet \(brc.ac.uk\)](https://brc.ac.uk/)

Or send an email with a photograph and location details to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Asian Hornet Watch app or the [online report form](#) This is designed to record and report sightings of the Asian Hornet and is available for both iOS and Android devices

Further assistance

- [Identify & Report Yellow-Legged Asian Hornet | British Beekeepers Association](#) to help you identify honeybee swarms and find links to local registered collectors/beekeepers
- Some wild animals such as badgers require a licence to deal with - call DEFRA on 08459 33 55 77, or email helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
- Contact local pest control companies and liaise directly if you're experiencing problems with another type of pest

National Campaigns

May 2025

National Bike Week – 9 – 15 June

Join KCC's Road Safety & Active Travel teams for a family-friendly event promoting the new Cheriton Active Travel Scheme. This event will take place on Wednesday 11 June from 1-5pm at Three Hills Sports Park grounds, Cheriton Rd, CT19 5JU.

The event takes place during the national Bike

Week 2025, June 9–15, and it's your chance to be part of the UK's biggest celebration of cycling. Residents of Cheriton and Folkestone will benefit from free cycle servicing and security cycle marking and are therefore encouraged to bring their cycles along to the event.

Other activities for the afternoon will include guided cycle and walks on the new shared route to be led by a team from Kent County Council and affiliate organisations. There will also be adult cycle taster rides to be led by the Safer Active Journeys team running throughout the event.

Recommended post-cycling exercises and a wide range of information will be available including journey planning, behaviour change, road safety awareness and the Cycling UK's Bike Revival funding initiative.

Organisations supporting KCC in delivering this event include Folkestone Town Council, NHS on you, cycling community groups and local businesses.

This event is free, and no booking is required. Feel free to contact us with any queries regarding the event by e-mailing activetravel@kent.gov.uk and quoting "Cheriton Celebrations event."

A FREE Family Walk, Wheel and Cycle Celebration!

- **FREE** ADULT E-BIKE TRAINING
- **FREE** BIKE SECURITY MARKING
- **FREE** BIKE REPAIRS WITH DR BIKE
- CYCLING EXERCISES WITH MARKET A

COME AND MEET:

- LOCAL CYCLING CLUBS
- EXPERT JOURNEY PLANNER
- ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS TEAM

AND MORE FROM KCC'S ACTIVE TRAVEL TEAM

Supported by and in association with

WED 11 JUNE
1 - 5 PM

THREE HILLS SPORTS PARK
CHERITON RD, FOLKESTONE CT19 5JU

Partner Updates



Kent Association for the Blind's Mobile Sight Centre

KAB's mobile sight centre offers a range of free services to support local communities including:

- Help and advice for those living with low vision
- Information on good eye health through our Love Your Eyes campaign which aims to reduce preventable sight loss
- Fun, interactive and informative events for both primary and secondary schools



The bus will be located at several events in the Folkestone and Hythe area in the coming weeks. Come along and meet the on-board team at the following events for free support and advice on living with low vision, tips on good eye health and demonstrations of daily living equipment and assistive technology. Staff can also refer into additional KAB support services such as befriending, counselling and mobility and rehabilitation services where required.

Sessions run from 10am - 3pm.

- **4th June** – Age UK, Sanford House, Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BD
- **29th June** - Folkestone Eye Centre, Unit 21D Basepoint, Shearway Business Park, Folkestone, CT19 4RH
- **2nd July** – Wellbeing Event, Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, CT20 2DZ (10.30am – 3.30pm)

For further information or to arrange a visit to your organisation or event, go to [our website](#) or email iris@kab.org.uk.

For further information email iris@kab.org.uk.

Ripple of Hope



Ripple of Hope is a compassionate and supportive bereavement group and Hub for women only helping navigate the loss of a loved one whilst supporting one another alongside making friendships.

There is arts and crafts, therapist's and occasional guest speakers.

Ripple of hope is led by a team of empathetic women who have experienced loss themselves, together we create ripples of hope turning pain into connections and sorrow into strength. This group provides a safe and nurturing space for women to share their grief, find comfort and rediscover hope.

More information can be found [Folkestone and Hythe Support Services](#)

Al-Anon Family Groups UK & Eire

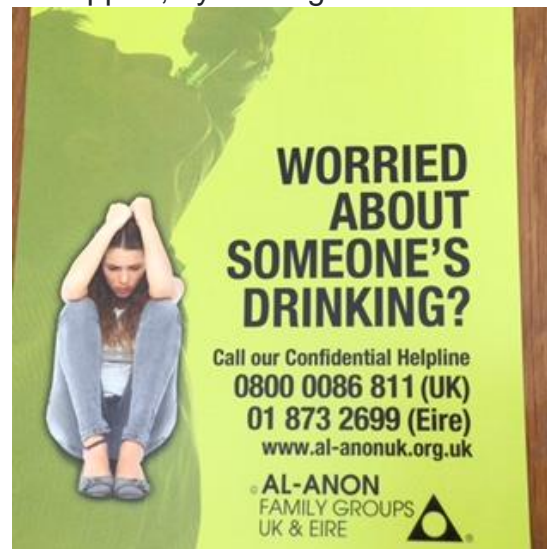
[About us - Al-Anon Family Groups](#) is for anyone whose life is or has been affected by someone else's drinking.



Al-Anon members provide one another with mutual support, by sharing their experiences with each other at an Al-Anon meeting. Al-Anon meetings are a safe place where you can talk about your own concerns and feelings. If you don't feel able or willing to talk, that's OK too. Whatever your story or background, you won't be judged.

Al-Anon offers literature about various aspects of alcoholism. Listening to the shared experiences of others may help you find the confidence you need to deal with the effects of someone else's drinking.

Whatever your relationship with the drinker, even if they have stopped drinking, left the family or died, you are welcome to attend Al-Anon.



Your anonymity is protected by using first names only. You will not be asked to reveal your surname or any other details about your identity or that of the drinker. Anything discussed within an Al-Anon meeting is treated as confidential, including your presence at the meeting.

There are approximately 700 groups (in-person and online) throughout the UK and Eire.

There are no dues for membership. Al-Anon is self-supporting through its own voluntary contributions.

Al-Anon is not a therapy group. They do not offer counselling or advice. They are not a religious organisation and welcome those of all faiths and none. They discourage discussion about religion, politics and other outside topics.

Al-Anon raises awareness of the problems associated with alcoholism through public information. Open meetings can provide the opportunity to welcome professionals, researchers and the media.

Amber

Amber
transforming lives

0800 652 1081 | INFO@AMBERWEB.ORG

[HOME](#) | [GET HELP](#) | [SUPPORT US](#) | [ABOUT AMBER](#) | [CONTACT](#)

[REFER NOW >](#)
[DONATE NOW >](#)



Are you...
Struggling to find work?
Homeless, sofa surfing or in need of accommodation?
Aged 18 to 30?

Amber provides a safe temporary home where young people can gain new skills and access support to make a positive change in their lives.

Amber's centres are in: Kent, Surrey, Devon and Wiltshire. You don't need a local connection to stay with us.

You can make a referral online at amberweb.org or call 0800 652 1081 or email admissions@amberweb.org

amberweb.org
Follow us: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#) @amberfoundation

Scan here to find out more

The Amber Foundation, registered in England & Wales. Company number 13084123. Charity number 1011306. Registered address: Ashley Court, Chislehurst, Dover, DA13 7JH.

[Supported Housing & Homeless Support for Young Adults](#) Based at four residential centres in Surrey, Kent, Wiltshire and Devon, Amber offers a supported housing environment that is a little bit different.

Not just training and support to address specific personal issues but new experiences and opportunities that raise aspiration and challenge young people to take responsibility for their lives and move forward positively.

Based around their model of 'dreams and desires' they provide everyone with a bespoke, practical programme of activities that builds their skills and qualifications, develops their resilience and purpose, improves their confidence and wellbeing and focuses firmly on their strengths


and interests. Ultimately, their aim is to help as many young people as possible move on to sustainable work, a secure home and a fulfilling future.

Young people who come to Amber are aged from 18 to 30 and they share their home with a community of around 30 others. The average stay is 6 to 9 months but there is no fixed limit.

Amber has clear enforced rules and a tight structure to the week, but it is a fun and caring place to be – a temporary home that offers young people what they really need, time, space, support and encouragement.


What we offer

- A safe place to stay
- Full board
- Structure
- New experiences



Help with

- Independent living skills
- Employment
- Training and education
- Health and wellbeing



Quotes from young people

"I tried other services and support but they didn't help. Coming to Amber is what I needed."

"The Amber staff are amazing -they want the best for everyone and treat everyone like individuals."

"If it wasn't for Amber, I wouldn't have been able to complete my A-Levels."

Amber will only work if you want it to. If you are committed to taking control of your life and making the most of the opportunities we offer, please get in touch to find out more.

amberweb.org 0800 652 1081
admissions@amberweb.org

New Published Reports

Online abuse and girls

Source: NSPCC Learning

Date published: 14 May 2025

NSPCC Learning has published new research examining the design features of online platforms that can facilitate or promote abusive communications with young female users. The research explored the design of ten video-sharing, social media, gaming and messaging platforms, using fake accounts for a fictitious 14-year-old girl; interviews with experts; and user journey mapping. Findings show: online service design can be exploited to identify, target and abuse girls; risky design features are built into the entire user journey; and platforms place the onus on girls to protect themselves online. The report proposes solutions and urges the Government and technology companies to put measures in place to mitigate unsafe design features and protect girls on digital platforms.

Read the news story: [Social media sites failing to protect girls from harm at every stage](#)

Read the report: [Targeting girls online](#)

Child mental health: anger issues

Source: NSPCC

Date published: 12 May 2025

The NSPCC has published a news story on anger issues as a mental health concern among children and young people. Data from Childline shows that in 2024/25, there were 2,895 counselling sessions delivered to young people struggling with anger issues, an increase of 6% compared to 2023/24. The news story includes tips to share with children on dealing with these emotions.

Read the news story: [Thousands of children are turning to Childline to seek help for anger issues](#)

Verbal abuse

Source: Words Matter

Date published: 28 April 2025

Words Matter has published a news story following an expert-led discussion at the House of Commons on the verbal abuse of children. The discussion centred around prevention and the impact verbal abuse can have on children's mental health and wellbeing. Words Matter is calling for the Government to prioritise verbal abuse prevention and ensure training, awareness and support for all adults in children's lives.

Read the news story: [Experts call for urgent action on childhood verbal abuse at House of Commons](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Protecting children from emotional abuse](#)

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