

# Community Safety Partner Updates



June 2025

## Community Safety Update and Events

### Careers Morning – 10 June 2025

Community Safety Officer Tara Liam and Environmental Enforcement Officer, Haydee Blaskett along with Kent County Council Warden Neil Staveley attended a careers morning at Castle Hill Community Primary School in Folkestone.

The officers gave a talk to students in Year 5 which they thoroughly enjoyed, and this gave them something to think about in their future career journey.

### Paws for Thought Community Day – 8 June

Dogs put their best paw forward at the Paws for Thought Community Day held in Radnor Park on Sunday 8 June. It was co-

organised by the RSPCA alongside Folkestone & Hythe district council.



Community Safety, Environmental Enforcement and Licensing were represented. Thanks to all who supported all the activities and to the dogs (and their owners) who participated in our fabulous dog show.

June 2025

The officers spoke about the proposed changes to dog control measures in the district including handing out information.



## Fraud / Scams

# Kent Fraud Alert System

### Artificial Intelligence Text Message Warning

Scammers are attempting to steal money using the "Hi Mum" text scam, which has proven highly successful in tricking victims into handing over money to someone they believe is a loved one in need. This scam has been incredibly lucrative for online thieves, with millions believed to have been lost to this tactic.

The scam typically begins with a simple text saying, "Hi Mum" or "Hi Dad." Once the victim responds, the scammers then try to pressure them into sending money before they have time to fully consider their actions. Adding to the concern is the use of AI technology by scammers to create voice messages that sound like the family member in need, increasing the likelihood of the scam being successful.

If you receive any messages like this, follow these steps:

- **Contact them in person:** Reach out to your child using the number you already know. This can quickly reveal whether something is off.
- **Be careful with generic language:** If a message starts with "Hi Mum" or "Hi Dad" and sounds impersonal or unlike your child's usual tone, be cautious.
- **Question financial emergencies:** Emotional pressure is common in these scams. Stay calm and verify the situation before making any decisions.

- **Consider a safe word:** Agree on a word with your family that can be used to confirm identity in urgent situations.
- **Stay up to date:** Learn about emerging scams and make sure your phone is protected with trusted security software.

[pam.meller@HOLG.org.uk](mailto:pam.meller@HOLG.org.uk)



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](http://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 [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](#)



**Kent  
Police**

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)  
 Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://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](http://www.kent.police.uk)   

## Information Awareness

Creative Folkestone are delighted to share the dates for the [Folkestone Triennial 2025: Dates, Themes & Insights Revealed | Creative Folkestone](#) and to reveal the themes and ideas behind the sixth edition.



Folkestone Triennial 2025 will take place from Saturday 19 July to Sunday 19 October 2025 bringing ambitious new commissions by leading UK and international artists to public spaces across this Kentish seaside town.

# Free recycling for your unwanted devices



## Device Recycling Scheme

We offer a free safe and secure device recycling scheme for both residents; businesses charities and other organisations located in Kent.

Devices donated are wiped of all personal data before being recycled and if possible repurposed to provide funds to support other activities of the Financial Hardship Team such as the Hardware Access Scheme.

More information on the website: [Device Recycling Scheme | Digital Inclusion & Capabilities | Digital Kent](#) and a collection can be booked via: [Device Recycling Scheme Kent](#)



Find out more and book your free collection at:  
[Kent.gov.uk/device-recycling-scheme](https://kent.gov.uk/device-recycling-scheme)

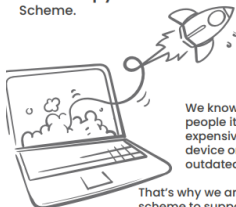


### Items accepted:

- Laptops
- Desktop PCs
- Monitors
- Tablets and mobile phones
- Any associated cables with above

## Hardware Access Scheme

We can help you with our Hardware Access Scheme.



We know that for some people it can be too expensive to get a digital device or replace a broken or outdated one.

That's why we are delivering this scheme to support individuals to either stay digital or to get digital.

The scheme gifts a device, we are not responsible for maintenance or security.

To find out more and check eligibility, please visit [digitalkent.uk](https://digitalkent.uk) or call 03000 410 950.



The Digital Hubs are delivered by Kent County Council's Digital Inclusion & Capabilities service (Digital Kent), we are delivering over 40 Local Digital Hubs across the county to enable residents to access digital support to become, and/or remain, digitally included and become more digitally engaged. These Hubs are generally every month for around two hours, with 30-minute slots bookable at each location.

Whether you're a complete beginner, have a new device you don't know how to set up, or are stumped by a new app and just want someone to help you through it, our Digital Champion volunteers are there to help you through any digital dilemmas. We can help with a one-off problem like not knowing how to get your



favourite pictures off your phone or can help with longer term support if you generally feel the digital age has moved ahead without you.

We can help on topics such as:

- Online shopping
- Scam awareness
- Using your NHS App
- Setting up emails
- Keeping in digital contact with friends and family
- Searching for jobs, hobbies or community online

If you would like to book onto a session, you can do so by clicking your district below or by calling 03000 410 950.

## **Cheriton Library**

**Address:** 64 Cheriton High Street, Folkestone. CT19 4HB.

- Wednesday 9th July 2025, between 10am and 12pm
- Wednesday 13th August 2025, between 10am and 12pm
- Wednesday 10th September 2025, between 10am and 12pm
- Wednesday 8th October 2025, between 10am and 12pm
- Wednesday 12th November 2025, between 10am and 12pm
- Wednesday 10th December 2025, between 10am and 12pm



## **Hythe Library**

**Address:** 1 Stade Street, Hythe, Kent. CT21 6BQ.

- Thursday 7th August 2025, between 2pm and 4pm
- Thursday 4th September 2025, between 2pm and 4pm
- Thursday 2nd October 2025, between 2pm and 4pm
- Thursday 6th November 2025, between 2pm and 4pm
- Thursday 4th December 2025, between 2pm and 4pm



## **Colorado Beetles**

Keep your eyes peeled. A well-known TV gardener who highlighted in last month's Chelsea Flower Show for the public to keep an eye out for a beetle which poses a threat to the British potato industry amid an outbreak of the invasive species in Kent.

Colorado Beetles can weaken crops such as potatoes and other plants and wiping crops out has been confirmed in Kent after a

laboratory diagnosis in 2023, the first known case in the UK in 50-years. [Vigilance urged as potato industry faces Colorado beetle threat - GOV.UK](#)



If you see a Colorado beetle, please do not let it go, capture it in a secure container and report any suspected sightings to Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) as soon as possible by telephoning 0300 1000 313 or emailing the [planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk](mailto:planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk) mailbox. All sightings should include a photograph and location details.

The [Colorado potato beetle plant pest factsheet](#) provides more information about the beetle's life cycle and provides information on how to differentiate it from some of our native beetle species.

The Colorado beetle does not represent a risk to human health.

## Partner Updates



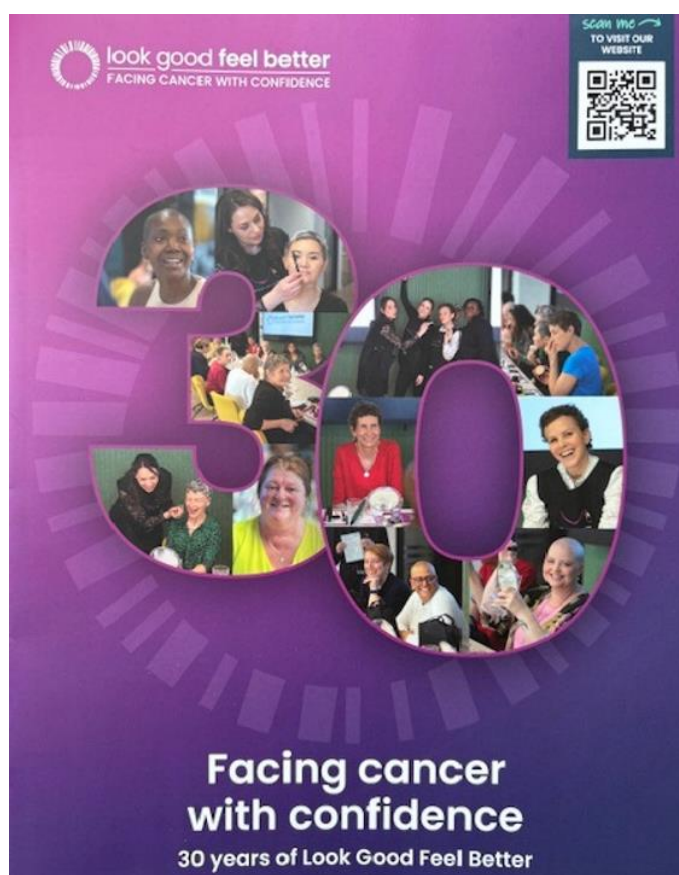
[A leading cancer support charity - Look Good Feel Better : Look Good Feel Better](#) is a UK wide specialist cancer support charity focussed on helping people to manage the cosmetic and physical impact of their cancer treatment.

Look Good Feel Better understands how emotionally challenging living with cancer can be. That's why Look Good Feel Better run workshops hosted by industry-trained specialists, both virtually and in local communities across the UK, which give practical advice and support to people living with cancer.

Every workshop offers an invaluable opportunity to talk to others in a similar situation, whilst helping support people with their changing appearance. People leave our workshops feeling empowered, motivated and less isolated – allowing them to feel more confident during their cancer journey.

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[Book a Workshop - Look Good Feel Better : Look Good Feel Better](#)



**Romney Marsh Community Hub from 10:30am for 2-hours:**

- 16 September 2025
- 17 October 2025
- 25 November 2025



#### Your Local Pantry

This Your Local Pantry launched in October 2022.

For a small weekly subscription of **£7.00**, members of the Hythe Pantry are able to purchase a weekly food shop including fresh fruit and vegetables and family favourites to stock up the cupboard and fridge.

This is a partnership between [Folkestone Rainbow Centre](#) and [Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church](#).

Address:  
Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church,  
2 Lower Blackhouse Hill,  
Hythe,  
Kent,  
CT21 5LS

Opening times:

**Monday: 9.15am - 2pm & Tuesday: 9.15am - 1.30pm**

Phone: 07913 573 403

Email: [pantry@rainbow-centre.org](mailto:pantry@rainbow-centre.org)

June 2025



# SUMMER FAYRE

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 10.00am to 3.30pm**  
&  
**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 11.30am to 1pm**

**Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Hall**  
**2 Blackhouse Hill, Hythe, CT21 5LS**  
Car parking in church car park (entrance in Mill Road)

Local hand-crafted Pottery  
Hand-crafted Sewn, Knitted & Crochet Items  
Jigsaws \* Toys \* Children's Books \* Teddy Tombola  
Jewellery \* Brio-a-Brac \* Vintage Clothes \* Curtains  
Plants & Seeds  
Tombola \* 4 Raffles  
Cakes made by *RJ's Sweet Treats*  
Teas & Coffees



*All welcome!*  
**Raising funds for our Church Hall Refurbishment**



**Ripple of Hope** [Folkestone and Hythe Support Services](#) is a compassionate and supportive bereavement group and Hub for women only.

It helps women navigate the loss of a loved one whilst supporting one another alongside making friendships. They offer arts and crafts and occasional guest speakers.

Ripple of hope is led by a team of empathetic women who have experienced loss themselves, together they 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, as well as to navigate the loss of a loved one whether that be a spouse, partner, friend, sibling, parent, child or anyone you were close too.

The next meeting will be on Monday 14 July.

More information can be found by contacting Ripple of Hope Support Group  
[rippleofhopegroup@gmail.com](mailto:rippleofhopegroup@gmail.com)



## Loneliness – could you make the difference?

We all know that loneliness can be bad for both our physical and mental health and this is especially the case in older people. With so many people living busy lives, often away from family, there are many lonely and isolated older people in Folkestone and Hythe.

Kent Coast Volunteering runs a Good Neighbours Service set up to combat the devastating effects of loneliness. Our service provides befrienders, volunteers who carry out this vital role. These volunteers pop in for an hour or so once a week for a cuppa and a chat with an older person living locally to them. Currently in Folkestone

## Kent Coast Volunteering

Connecting Communities In  
Dover, Thanet, Folkestone & Hythe



and Hythe we have far more lonely older people than we have volunteers and we are urgently looking for more people to sign up. Our volunteers tell us how much they enjoy spending this time befriending someone, knowing they are making a real difference to their lives.

If you enjoy a cuppa and a chat and have an hour to spare, then you could be that person that changes someone else's life in this simple way! For more info or a friendly chat with the team, please call or email using the details below. Thank you.

E-mail: [gns@kcv.org.uk](mailto:gns@kcv.org.uk)

Office: 01304 367898 (Tuesday – Friday 9am – 4pm)

Mobile - 07855 209510 or 07816 406339

3 Park Street

Deal

Kent

CT14 6AG



### [Our Story – Treat Me Right CIC](#)

Treat Me Right CIC have been supporting over 15 women and non-binary people this year to start and grow their businesses, and now we're excited to give them the chance to shine at our annual showcase.

Come along to the THRIVE Showcase to network with the community, see the work of the fantastic small businesses in THRIVE, hear from inspiring guest speakers, and enjoy the entertainment! This event is FREE!

Treat Me Right is a community interest company providing training, support, coaching and mentoring to facilitate the empowerment of all who identify as women or non-binary to increase their safety, wellness and economic wellbeing.



They work with individuals, businesses, local governments and the voluntary sector to co-create solutions that empower people to create the lives they want and deserve.

Their aim is to prevent domestic abuse, and support survivors of domestic abuse, through empowering activities. Our holistic approach includes using creativity to engage people in topics that are difficult to talk about.



Change Grow Live is a charity funded by councils and local authorities who commission them to provide services and sometimes they receive donations from the public.

They are based at Shepherd House, 3 Victoria Grove in Folkestone and are not a business and not looking to make a profit and they focus on making sure everything they do is helping the people who use their services and the wider public too.

Above all else, they believe in people. It's the one thing that acts as a foundation for all their work. They focus on the people who use our services and do everything they can to make sure we're giving the best service possible.

When anyone visits one of their services, they are made welcome and supported and treated as an individual. They respect and support your choices and will work with you to find the right treatment and care options, rather than telling you what to do. They get to know you as a person and care about everything that's going on with you - your physical health, mental wellbeing, lifestyle and relationships - because they all play a part in helping you reach your goals.

They want the people who use their services to play an active role in shaping how they do things too.

If you use their services, you can become a service user rep and provide feedback on what they can do better.



**Kent Recovery Houses**  
Folkestone and Canterbury

**Are you abstinent and committed to your recovery?**

Get in touch to talk in confidence:  
E: [kentrecoveryinfo@cgl.org.uk](mailto:kentrecoveryinfo@cgl.org.uk)  
T: 01303 220719  
W: [www.changegrowlive.org](http://www.changegrowlive.org)

More information can be found [Shepherd House - Kent Recovery Houses - Folkestone and Canterbury | Change Grow Live](#)

**Kent Recovery Houses provide a trauma informed residential three stage abstinence based recovery programme.**

We provide our programme across two sites in Folkestone and Canterbury:  
-11 self-contained one-bed flats in Folkestone.  
-7 self-contained one-bed flats in Canterbury.

**What we offer:**

- Psychologically informed assessment process, and pre admission phase.
- Structured 12 week group work and activities programme, and links to recovery coaches and online support groups.
- Trauma informed one to one wellbeing and recovery reviews.
- Self-contained accommodation, and employment and benefit support.
- For details on our eligibility criteria, please get in touch.

**Get in touch to find out more:**

E: [kentrecoveryinfo@cgl.org.uk](mailto:kentrecoveryinfo@cgl.org.uk)  
T: 01303 220719  
A: Shepherd House, 3 Victoria Grove, Folkestone, Kent, CT20  
W: [www.changegrowlive.org](http://www.changegrowlive.org)

[f /changegrowlive](#)  
[@changegrowlive](#)  
[@changegrowliveuk](#)

Change Grow Live Registered Charity Number 1075027 (England and Wales) and SC23980 (Scotland). Company Registration Number 885202 (England and Wales).

## [Domestic abuse or violence | Personal wellbeing | Clarion](#)



**Are you experiencing Domestic Abuse?**

**Clarion Housing**

**About Clarion**  
Clarion have been delivering domestic abuse support services across the Southeast region for more than 25 years. We provide a range of safe accommodation and community support services to men and women experiencing domestic abuse and to those impacted by the trauma of abuse. Our friendly, specialist staff are on hand to provide the support, advice and guidance many people need to help them regain control of their lives and to live safely and free from abuse. We'll work together with you to help you build the life you want to lead.

**Support Across Kent**

**What is Domestic Abuse?**  
Domestic abuse isn't just about violence, domestic abuse is an incident or pattern of incidents or violent behaviour. Anyone 16 or over, regardless of gender or sexuality, can be affected. It's often at the hands of a partner or ex-partner but could also be by a family member or carer. The most common types of abuse are:

- **Physical:** hitting, punching, kicking or slapping, illegal use of restraint
- **Sexual:** any non-consensual sexual contact
- **Psychological and emotional:** humiliation, intimidation, verbal abuse, threat of harm
- **Financial/material:** denying a person access to their possessions, stealing money
- **Discriminatory/domestic:** stalking and harassment and issues of concern to black and minority (BME) communities', so-called honour-based violence, or female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage

**How can we help?**  
We will provide a dedicated support officer who can help you to explore and understand your situation and look at the options available. We offer support and advice in many areas, including:

- ✓ Support planning with regular reviews
- ✓ Safe accommodation with communal areas and gardens
- ✓ Help to create a plan to keep you safe - Offering you regularly reviewed support that's tailored to your needs.
- ✓ Access to specialist counselling for you and your children
- ✓ Support to find legal advice and representation
- ✓ Support to claim benefits, budgeting and money advice
- ✓ Support working with other agencies, housing and moving on services.

We work closely with you to encourage independence and freedom of choice. We believe each person has the right to be treated with dignity and respect, and to receive appropriate support relevant to their needs.

**Confidential Help Line: 07745 207247**  
**Professionals Advice line: 07376 63706**  
**Opening Hours**  
**Wednesday & Thursday: 10 am – 2 pm**  
**Email: [Supported.Housing@clarionhg.com](mailto:Supported.Housing@clarionhg.com)**



**Types of Domestic Abuse**  
**Free Confidential Help Line: 07745 207247**  
**Opening Hours: Wednesday & Thursday: 10 am – 2 pm**  
**Email: [Supported.Housing@clarionhg.com](mailto:Supported.Housing@clarionhg.com)**

**Economic Abuse**  
Economic abuse involves behaviours that interfere with an individual's ability to acquire, use and maintain economic resources such as money, transportation and utilities. It can be controlling or coercive. It can make the individual economically dependent on the abuser, thereby limiting their ability to escape and access safety.

**Coercive & Controlling Behaviour**  
Controlling or coercive behaviour is a purposeful pattern of behaviour that takes place over time for one individual to exert power, control or coercion over another. It is a criminal offence in the UK. Coercive & controlling behaviour is a range of acts intended to make a person dependent or subordinate, such as isolating them from support, exploiting their resources, and regulating their behaviour. It can include assault, threats, humiliation, intimidation, or other abuse, used to harm, punish, or frighten the victim.

**Stalking & Harassment**  
Stalking is a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. Like crimes of sexual violence, stalking is about power and control. Harassment is behaviour intended to cause a person alarm or distress. The behaviour must occur on more than one occasion, but it does not have to be the same kind of behaviour on each occasion.

**Physical Abuse**  
Physical abuse is deliberately aggressive or violent behaviour by one person toward another that results in bodily trauma or injury. Physical abuse is used to deliberately control another person, it can include: hitting, punching, kicking, burning, shoving, slapping, hair pulling, biting, denying medical care or forcing alcohol and/or drug use, or using other physical force. It can be a 'red flag' indicating domestic abuse and can significantly escalate in severity over time including leading to homicide.

**Digital Abuse**  
Digital abuse is when someone monitors, stalks, harasses, threatens, controls, or impersonates another person using technology. This could involve stalking through social media, harassment by text message, or humiliation by posting pictures or videos. For example, posting photos online without your consent, also referred to as 'revenge porn'.

**Sexual Violence & Abuse**  
Sexual violence and abuse is any behaviour considered to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted and takes place without consent. Sexual violence and abuse can be physical, psychological, verbal or online. Any behaviour of a sexual nature that causes a person distress is considered sexual violence or abuse.

## New Published Reports

### Domestic abuse

**Source:** NSPCC

**Date published:** 24 June 2025

The NSPCC has published a news story on increasing contacts to its Helpline concerning domestic abuse. New data shows that between April 2024 and March 2025, the NSPCC Helpline handled 7,825 contacts from adults about domestic abuse, a 14% increase compared to 2023/2024. There was a 29% increase in concerns about coercive and controlling behaviour which contributed to this overall rise in contacts about domestic abuse.

**Read the news story:** [Domestic abuse contacts to our Helpline reach record high](#)

### AI-generated child sexual abuse imagery

**Source:** BBC

**Date published:** 18 June 2025

The BBC has published an article on the issue of AI-generated child sexual abuse imagery and how this is impacting on the work of police and other agencies in safeguarding children and young people. Experts from the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) discuss the growing difficulties in establishing what is and isn't AI-generated imagery and how this affects work to identify and support real children at risk.

**Read the article:** [AI puts real child sex victims at risk, experts say](#)

### Child neglect

**Source:** NSPCC

**Date published:** 10 June 2025

The NSPCC has published a news story on contacts from adults with concerns about child neglect. Data from the NSPCC Helpline shows that in 2024/25, almost 18,000 contacts about child neglect were received. This accounts for one quarter of all Helpline contacts, making child neglect the number one reason why adults reach out to the Helpline. The news story calls for a national neglect strategy and provides recommendations for what this should include.

**Read the news story:** [Child neglect concerns the number one reason for adults reaching out to our Helpline](#)

**See also on NSPCC Learning**

> [Protecting children from neglect](#)



**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](mailto:community.safety@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)**