

# Community Safety Partner Updates



September 2025

## Community Safety Update and Events

### Baton of Hope – 22 September

The Baton of Hope is the UK's largest suicide prevention and awareness initiative and came to Kent in September.

The two-day event started on 21 September with a pre tour warm up at Folkestone 51 to mark this important initiative aiming to shine a light on suicide prevention. Additionally, the charity raises awareness of suicide prevention organisations and charities supporting people in times of need including loneliness.



The baton was marched (and skated) through Tontine Street and onto the Folkestone Harbour Arm where onlookers were able to join and march alongside.

On 22 September, members of the Community Safety team were at Folkestone Safe Haven in Rendezvous Street supporting Baton of Hope for a wellbeing event.



Those attending focused on wellbeing and spoke to residents about issues that concerned them including the importance of suicide prevention

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## Seafarers Mental Health– 25 September

Community safety officer Tara Liam joined Steve Carley from the Rainbow Centre at Harbour House supporting SeaFit, a mental health event in aid of supporting the fishing community.



Other partners in attendance were staff from the NHS Bus, Denta Aid Bus, NHS dental services, NHS viral health services, Lighthouse 43.

[SeaFit - Fishermen's Mission](#) is a joint initiative run by the Fishermen's Mission and the Seafarers Hospital Society around the coastline of the UK. The SeaFit brand is recognised in many fishing ports as it connects fishermen to physical and mental health services. The organisation conducts regular quayside conversations, NHS health checks, mental health counselling, dental, health screening, information on self-management of long-term conditions, cancer information and a newly developed physiotherapy network.



The officers engaged with ten fisherman and handed out leaflets on mental health support services



## Partner updates

### The Folkestone Bookshop

The Folkestone Bookshop is located on Tontine Street has been designated a Warm Space this winter and is open to everyone.

There is a reading room tucked away at the back where you can have a cup of tea or coffee. Everyone is welcome to pop in for a chat especially if they are lonely. It is now a safe place and is very popular with school children who enter and do homework



Hunter, who runs the shop, has created a safe and welcoming space where you can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, browse books, or simply have a chat.

Whether you're looking for a good read, company, or just somewhere peaceful to spend time, you'll find a warm welcome here.

### New Memory Matters Group – Folkestone

Another Memory Matters Group is launching on Wednesdays at The Marigold Centre, starting 1 October 2025.

This group is designed to support individuals living with mild to moderate dementia or those who have concerns about their memory – no formal diagnosis is required to attend.



The existing Friday group is now full, and this new session will allow them to welcome more participants who are eager to join.

Session details:

- Wednesdays 9.30am-2.30pm at The Marigold Centre, Shaftesbury Avenue, Folkestone CT19 4NS
- Cost: £17.50 per session, including lunch and refreshments.

New participants are welcome to attend a free half-day taster session.

# Memory Matters



For people living with mild-moderate dementia or worries about their memory



**Wednesdays  
& Fridays  
9.30am-2.30pm**

- Discussion
- Games
- Art
- Companionship
- Music
- Fun
- Peer support

The Marigold Centre  
Folkestone CT19 4NS

**£17.50**  
**Includes lunch & refreshments**  
**FREE Taster session**

**To book:**

Call: 01304 372608  
Email: [deputyceo@ageukskc.org.uk](mailto:deputyceo@ageukskc.org.uk)

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/southkentcoast/our-services/dementia-service-memory-matters-1452bb9a-41b4-e>

To book please call 01304 372608 or email: [deputyceo@ageukskc.org.uk](mailto:deputyceo@ageukskc.org.uk)





## **Health & Wellbeing Event**

### **Hosted by Invicta Health**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2025 10-2pm**

**Scout HQ in Church Lane, New Romney TN28 8ER (next door to Church Lane Surgery)**

***“Are you attending your booked flu vaccination appointment?  
Please pop in and see us after”***

- Carers' Support East Kent
- Kent Community Warden Service
- Pilgrims Hospices Think Talk Act
- EKHUFT Macmillan Personalised Care Nurse
  - Breast Cancer Now
  - Dementia & Me
- Re-set Programme – Lighthouse on the Marsh
  - Reach Out And Recover (ROAR)
- Kent and Medway Recovery and Wellbeing College
  - Crossroads Macmillan
  - Romney Marsh Community Hub
  - One You Lifestyle Team

## Information Awareness

### Halloween

On 31 October residents may receive trick or treaters knocking at the doors in the hope of receiving sweets.



#### If you have young children:

- Never let young children go trick or treating on their own.
- Make sure they only visit people known to your family.
- If there aren't decorations or pumpkins outside someone's house they're probably not celebrating, so it's best not to knock.



#### If you have teenagers:

- Make sure they are not going to be using alcohol, flour or eggs.
- Make it clear that if a 'no trick or treat' sign is displayed, they should leave straightaway.
- Make sure they do not travel alone and never go into the home of someone they do not know.
- Make sure they understand they must not frighten people. Display the front of this poster in a door or window if you would rather not be visited by Halloween callers.

Display the front of this poster in a door or window if you would rather not be visited by Halloween callers

For anyone who does not want to receive these callers you can download the [No trick or treating please poster with advice](#) for your window or front door.



Folkestone & Hythe District have posters available at reception, please visit the council offices, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue to pick up a poster.

## Fraud / Scams



### Courier Fraud Alert

Criminals are still employing various methods from posing as Police Officers from multiple Kent Police Stations stating that they have arrested someone in possession of the victim's bank card to requesting financial information or asking victims to withdraw cash for a courier to collect as evidence.

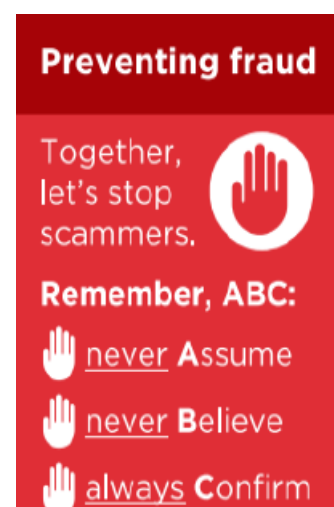
If you get any calls like this, STOP, it is a scam.

The Police will **NEVER** ask you for financial details on the phone or request to collect your card or cash or gold as part of an investigation.

Remember the ABC of Scam Awareness and Never Assume or Believe a call is genuine and always Confirm.

If you receive an expected call from someone claiming to be Police or any other organisation, then take their details and end the call. Then call back using a different phone if available. If another phone is not available, then wait 5 minutes and ring a family member or friend to ensure the line has been disconnected and then ring 101.

Never call a number they have supplied and never ring 999 whilst still on the call with them. You must always disconnect the call first before ringing 101.



## New Published Reports

### Coronavirus pandemic

**Source:** UK Covid-19 Inquiry

**Date published:** 15 September 2025

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry team has published a report looking at how the coronavirus pandemic impacted children and young people. The Inquiry heard from 600 9- to 22-year-olds about their experiences of living through the pandemic. Key findings highlight: the loss of school as a potential source of support and respite; tensions at home meant that for some, home was not a safe or supportive place; children and young people receiving support from children's social care felt that there were changes to the quality and timeliness of support; and feelings of fear and anxiety about the risk of catching Covid-19, especially amongst children with physical disabilities and those with health conditions.

**Read the news story:** [“Life changed so quickly”: Major new research reveals pandemic's profound impact on children and young people as Inquiry prepares for Module 8 hearings](#)

**Read the report:** [Children and young people's voices project: full report](#)

### Child mental health: suicidal thoughts

**Source:** NSPCC Learning

**Date published:** 05 September 2025

NSPCC Learning has published a Helplines insight briefing on young people's experiences of suicidal thoughts and feelings. The briefing uses insights from 18,981 Childline counselling sessions in 2024/25 sharing young people's varied experiences of suicidal thoughts and feelings. In 80% of these, young people were seeking support outside of a crisis. Young people shared a wide range of experiences including; when these thoughts and feelings occur; attempts at help seeking; unhelpful responses from others; and young people's different coping mechanisms. Professionals can use these insights to consider how they might respond to and support young people if they talk about thoughts and feelings like this.

**Read the briefing:** [Young people's experiences of suicidal thoughts and feelings](#)

### Sexually coerced extortion

**Source:** IWF

**Date published:** 01 September 2025

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has published a news story about a rise in the  
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number of children and young people reporting sexually coerced extortion. Data from the UK Report Remove service run by Childline and the IWF, shows a 72% increase in reports of sexually coerced extortion from 01 January to 30 June 2025. In 97% of cases confirmed by the IWF, children experiencing sexually coerced extortion were boys. Sexually coerced extortion can be financially motivated, with criminals trying to blackmail children and young people into sending money.

**Read the news story:** [Child sexual extortion cases in the UK soar with warnings 'ruthless' criminals are still putting children and young people at risk](#)

**See also on NSPCC Learning**

> [Young people's experiences of online sexual extortion or 'sextortion'](#)

**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)**