



Community Safety Partner Updates



October 2025

Community Safety Update and Events

Medetomidine

One of our partners wanted to share important information regarding a new contaminant currently circulating in West Kent called Medetomidine. There are also substances circulating that are mixed with Medetomidine.

This substance has similar effects to Xylazine but is reported to be significantly stronger.

Medetomidine is a powerful medication used in veterinary medicine as a sedative and pain reliever, primarily for dogs and other animals. It is not approved for human use outside of clinical settings. When mixed with opioids like fentanyl or heroin, it can cause **deep sedation, slowed heart rate, and respiratory depression**. Unlike Xylazine, Medetomidine does not cause skin wounds but is **up to 200 times more potent**, and its presence in the unregulated drug supply is rapidly increasing.

For further reading, please see:

Emergence of Medetomidine in the Unregulated Drug Supply and Its Association with Hallucinogenic Effects – Sibley, *Drug and Alcohol Review* (Wiley Online Library)

- **Medetomidine.** Highly Toxic Substance.
- **Medotomidine** – is a racemic mixture of two stereoisomers with dexmedetomidine being the active isomer that acts as an alpha-2 adrenergic agonist.
- **Medetomidine** is a veterinary tranquilliser used in large mammals. It has been implicated as a significant factor in one death and more than one non-fatal overdose in the Tunbridge Wells area.

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It is highly toxic. While naloxone is not directly effective, it should be tried because of opioids like heroin and Nitazenes mixed in.

In case of someone becoming unconscious naloxone should be offered immediately if available and 999 called straight away before waiting for a response to naloxone. Standard first aid such recovery position should be administered to minimise breathing problems."

Partner Updates

[ROAR LERO Kent | Alcohol and drug Support](#) is a lived experience recovery organisation bringing support, connection and hope to individuals, families and communities affected by addiction.



Everyone deserves to live a meaningful, fulfilling and positive life.



FOLKESTONE COMMUNITY HUB

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Warm Welcome

Step in from the cold

Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm
The Marigold Centre
Folkestone CT19 4NS

Monday Special
2 Course Lunch £3
1 Free Hot Drink per person

October-March
(except Bank Holidays)

- Warm Space
- Activities
- Companionship
- Support

Scan for Menu



ageUK South Kent Coast

Lunch served 12pm - booking essential
Call to book lunch: 01304 372608



Windows 10 is ending security

You may need to update your windows on your computer.

Official support for Windows 10 **ended on 14 October 2025**, this means that you will no longer receive fixes, new features or security updates after that date unless you act.

If you do nothing, you will be vulnerable to hackers.

If you have a Windows 10 PC, you are likely already have seen notifications informing you about the end of support. For PCs eligible for Windows 11, this includes the option to upgrade for free.

Not all PCs with Windows 10 will have the necessary specifications to upgrade. If you have a PC running Windows 7 or 8.1 (or one bought with these and later upgraded to Windows 10), you almost certainly will not.

For further advice visit Microsoft at [End of support for Windows 10, Windows 8.1, and Windows 7 | Microsoft Windows](#)



If you have been a victim of any 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](#)



Rogue Trader

PC Chris Stephens wanted to share a recent attempt to defraud an elderly resident of £350 in the Hythe area.

Around 2.30pm on Monday 29 September, two males in an unmarked tree surgeon type van, knocked on the door of an elderly resident along Brockhill Road, Hythe. They said that a tree had fallen from their front garden across the road and was causing an obstruction. They continued that they were tree surgeons, and for £350 they would remove the tree. The elderly resident inspected the tree and found that 3 quarters of it had been cut through. He challenged the two males and refused to pay them. They got back in their vehicle and drove away towards Saltwood. A local tree surgeon has since cleared the tree at no cost to the elderly resident.

One of the males has been described as large built, white, aged between 27 and 35 years with ginger hair and a ginger beard. He was wearing a green sweatshirt. The vehicle was grey with tree debris in the back and ladders. it is similar to the image attached to this message.

If you have any information that could support identifying the persons involved, please [Report | Kent Police](#)



Rogue Trader Alert

Over the past week we have received reports of victim's being subject of these types of offences from Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Chatham, Coxheath, Swanley, Herne Bay, Gravesend and Dartford.

Many reports involved cold callers offering to conduct (unnecessary) work and then stating that they had found more non-existent problems. They have been touting for Roof work, gardening and cleaning gutters etc.



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

- Never deal with cold callers.
- Always 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 respond to cold callers! You could well end up paying an inflated cost for unnecessary and poor-quality work.
- Please warn your friends and family to be alert.
- If you need work done on your home or garden use a safe local trader from KCC Trading Standards Checked: [Trading Standards Checked](#)
- You can report cold callers online at - [Report | Kent Police](#)

If you have been a victim of any 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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Winter Fuel Payments – fake emails and text messages

We are still receiving lots of reports of this scam.

The below is one such report received this week.

“I received a text message from a suspect purporting to be DWP. They advised me that I needed to apply for winter fuel, but I did not click on any link and did not reply to the message. The message was asking for bank details so that I could obtain £200 winter fuel allowance.” •

- **Winter Fuel Payments are made automatically, and the UK Government will never ask for bank details by text.**
- **Anyone who receives a text message inviting them to apply for a payment should not engage with it and instead forward it to 7726.**
- **Winter Fuel Payments will automatically be paid into people's bank accounts with eligible people receiving a letter in October or November saying how much they will receive. Payments will be made between mid-November and December 2025.**

You can forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk and report suspicious text messages to 7726. If you have been a victim of any 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](#)

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Information Awareness



Halloween

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



If you're taking young children out:

- Never let young children go trick or treating on their own.
- Make sure they only visit people known to your family.
- If a house does not have decorations or a pumpkin outside; it's likely they're not participating, so best not to knock.

If you have teenagers going out:

- 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 [Halloween | Kent Police](#) for your window or front door.

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



Bonfire Night



The Community Safety team wants everyone to stay safe and enjoy the fireworks on 5 November.

[Fireworks | Kent Police](#)

[Stay safe this fireworks season - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

National Campaigns

Safeguarding Adults
Awareness Week
17-21 November 2025

Noticing is not nosiness



Anti-Bullying Week – 10 – 14 November 2025



ABA (Anti-Bullying Alliance) is the official organiser of the Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. An annual event, held from 10 to 14 November 2025.

The theme is “Power for Good” and the week kicks off with Odd Socks Day on 10 November with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

More information can be found via the link [Anti-Bullying Week 2025: Power for Good](#)



Road Safety Week (16 – 22 November 2025)

Road Safety Week is a nationwide campaign that focuses on raising awareness about road safety issues, including the prevention of accidents, injuries, and fatalities on the road. It emphasizes the importance of responsible driving, pedestrian safety, and the need for improved road infrastructure.

[Road Safety Week | Brake](#)



National Safeguarding Adults Week – 17 November to 21 November 2025

Safeguarding Adults Week is an annual campaign focusing on protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is primary concern and statutory duty of Folkestone & Hythe District Council and more information can be found on the [About safeguarding | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#)

Prevention
act before abuse

Safeguarding Adults Week 2025

17 – 21 November

#SafeguardingAdultsWeek



Help Kent and Medway End Domestic Abuse

Join the [#KnowSeeSpeakOut](#) campaign
www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

- **Know**
What domestic abuse is
- **See**
What action you can take
- **Speak Out**
Signpost people to support

www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk
#KnowSeeSpeakOut

Kent County Council Medway KIDAS MDAS WHITE RIBBON

New Published Reports

Child mental health: anxiety

Source: NSPCC

Date published: 10 October 2025

The NSPCC has published a news story on children's mental health concerns. New Childline data shows that between April 2024 and March 2025 12,543 counselling sessions were delivered about anxiety/anxiety disorder. This was the main mental health concern for children contacting Childline and causes cited by children and young people included abuse and trauma, bullying, and body image concerns. The news story includes tips to support children experiencing anxiety.

Read the news story: [Anxiety is the most common mental health concern for children reaching out to Childline](#)

Girls' wellbeing

Source: Girlguiding

Date published: 23 September 2025

Girlguiding has published the findings of its annual survey on the everyday lives of girls in the UK. The 17th Girls' attitudes survey captures the views of 2,500 girls and young women with a focus on sexism and self-protection, misogyny in schools, and mental health and wellbeing. Findings include: in the past year, 68% of girls and young women aged 11-21 reported changing their everyday behaviour to avoid sexual harassment and 10% of girls aged 11-16 said they had missed school to avoid sexual harassment. The report also highlights that a vast range of factors, from social media to appearance pressures, are impacting girls' mental health, with the number of 7- to 10-year-olds reporting feeling sad most days or every day rising from 10% in 2015 to 26% in 2025. The report calls on politicians to do more to tackle inequality and to ensure more discussion and education in schools about the impact of sexism and misogyny.

Read the news story: [Two thirds of girls change their everyday behaviour to avoid sexual harassment](#)

Read the report: [A snapshot of girls' and young women's lives](#)

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

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