

Community Safety Partner Updates



Folkestone
& Hythe
District Council

February 2026

Community Safety Update and Events

Licensing

Kent Police along with F&HDC Licensing held a recent meeting in the Council chamber with premises licence holders, venue managers and security staff.



Those attending shared the community challenges facing businesses, police and the licensing team.

The primary focus was the nighttime economy in Folkestone and to strengthen partnership working between all parties.

Information Awareness

Adverse Effects of Recreational Ketamine Use

The serious and potentially long-term effects of ketamine use are being highlighted.

It is feared that young people are not aware that ketamine addiction can result in bed-wetting resulting from bladder damage.

Ketamine has an anaesthetic, causes dangerous physical and mental impacts to those who use it for recreational purposes.



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Excessive use can cause problems as ketamine and its breakdown products sit in the bladder for a long time where they can damage the lining and muscle tissue causing inflammation and the bladder to decrease in size, main symptoms being to urinate frequently. There are reports from the NHS where most patients were 14 to 15 years with many having used ketamine for 1 or 2-years.

Some users may experience memory issues and cognitive deficits for example brain fog. Over time the effect of ketamine causes irreversible urinary incontinence and liver damage. Long-term use may aggravate or trigger mental health issues, particularly in individuals with a history of psychiatric disorders. Using ketamine with alcohol or other central nervous system depressants can result in profound respiratory depression and death.



Folkestone Cadets are looking for new recruits

The hunt is on for new recruits at 99 (Folkestone) Squadron RAF Air Cadets.

There are lots of exciting opportunities for ages 12-18 (must be year 8 at school), with action packed opportunities to take part in flying, gliding, shooting, adventure training, build leadership skills, learn about space and cyber and much more.

99 (Folkestone) Squadron RAF Cadets are based at Ship Street in Folkestone. There is also a squadron based in New Romney, Ashford and Dover.

For further information, please contact the Officer Commanding oc.99@rafac.mod.gov.uk



Hythe Bowling Club



Hythe Bowling Club are offering FREE bowling sessions every Sunday at 11.00am to 1.00pm starting on 24 May to 20 September 2026, open to young people from 13 to 18 years. This is a new venture for the club, and the primary aim is to introduce young people to a game they can play with their parents, grandparents, guardians and friends.

The idea is to provide coaching initially and then aiming for a team league (teams of three) that will run for the remaining Sunday sessions. Great for young people to get together and decide who they want to team up with before attending and then register with Hythe Bowling Club as a team.

If you require more information, please do not hesitate in contacting the Youth Section Organiser adina.nash@btinternet.com or 07825 916929.

Hythe Bowling Club - youth section
WE NEED YOU!



FREE Junior bowling sessions May to September 2026

BOWLS ENGLAND
Affiliation number - 18085

Hythe Bowling Club
- Ladies Walk,
Hythe, Kent, CT21 6AX



13 to 18yrs, need a new challenge. Come to Free lawn bowls 24th May to 20th Sept 2026 every Sunday 11am to 1pm.

Equipment provided. Just bring a change of shoes, enthusiasm and a smile.

Qualified coaches to teach you at your pace - all DBS checked
Coaching fun bowls and competitions.

Parents/Guardians to stay for 13-14 year olds.

If interested or require further information then please contact:
Adina.nash@btinternet.com or 07825916929

Partner Updates

Spring Clean Your Finances with Wave Rewards

With March just arriving and as the days brighten, it's the perfect time to clear out the "financial cobwebs." Just as you'd declutter a cupboard, spring cleaning your finances is about reviewing your outgoings and making your money work harder for you.



To help you tidy up your budget, we are thrilled to introduce Wave Rewards all included with your Wave membership at no extra cost. As part of the Wave Community Bank family, you now have exclusive access to a benefits platform packed with discounts, deals, and savings from 1,000+ leading brands.

Whether you're saving on the weekly shop or a spring DIY project, it's our way of saying thank you for choosing a bank that puts people before profit. By banking with us, you aren't just managing your money; you are supporting fair, ethical, and affordable finance for our entire community.

Find out more at www.wavecb.org.uk

A promotional graphic for Wave Rewards. On the left, a circular inset photo shows a man and a woman in winter clothing looking at shopping bags. The background features a teal geometric pattern. The text "Wave Rewards" is in large teal font, with a piggy bank icon to the right. Below it, the text "Membership made more rewarding" is in bold black. Further down, it says "Exclusive member rewards included with your Wave Community Bank membership" in teal. Below that, it lists "Enjoy discounts, deals and savings from 1,000+ leading brands." and "No fees. No sign-up. Just savings." in black. At the bottom left is the Wave Community Bank logo and tagline "Local. Ethical. Together." and at the bottom right is the URL "www.wavecb.org.uk/wave-rewards".

Wave Rewards

Membership made more rewarding

Exclusive member rewards included with your Wave Community Bank membership

Enjoy discounts, deals and savings from 1,000+ leading brands.

No fees. No sign-up. Just savings.

www.wavecb.org.uk/wave-rewards

wave community bank
Local. Ethical. Together.

Operation Cane

Police Officers from Kent Police, Folkestone & Hythe Community Safety Unit have been working on Operation Cane over the past week.



The operation had a focus on small businesses, to improve public safety, proactively reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, ensure compliance with trading regulations, prevent illegal sales, as well as conducting Modern Day Slavery checks.



On Tuesday 20 January 2026, Neighbourhood Task Force officers stopped a Ford Transit Van in Newingreen, Hythe whilst completing checks for Organised Immigration Crime along a route known for historic offences. Officers located a male suspected of tobacco smuggling where approximately 2000 x 50g tobacco pouches and approximately £30,000 in cash was located. The cash was seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act and tobacco seized and handed over to Trading Standards who confirmed this to be counterfeit goods.

On Friday 23rd January 2026, a joint working day of action with Trading Standards and Immigration Enforcement officers was conducted with high-visibility, unannounced visits to a number of premises in High Street, Hythe and Folkestone town centre locations.

During one premise visit in relation to Modern Day Slavery and Trading regulations, 2 x persons were located and arrested for illegal entry into the UK. A store area to the rear of the business premises had been used to accommodate persons to live and work at the premise location. Kent Fire and Rescue Service Building Control officers were also requested to attend in order to make safety assessments with a view to safeguarding visitors, customers and staff working at the premises.

At a separate premise, a concealed 'hide' was found under a shop counter-top where counterfeit tobacco products were being stored for easy access to make illegal sales. Whilst officers were conducting their checks, members of the public entered the premise asking to purchase tobacco products but were told in front of officials that they did not sell any products, provoking further suspicions. The tobacco has been seized by Trading Standards and further actions are ongoing.

A third premise revealed a person working at the shop illegally without the necessary immigration permissions. The shop was instructed to be closed by Immigration Enforcement officers due to no persons able to attend the site to continuing with the usual trading. This will also be followed up with additional actions.

The whole operation was planned by Kent Police in collaboration with Trading Standards and Immigration Enforcement Officers.

This was an intelligence-based operation addressing some concerns which had been observed and highlighted to local officers from members of the public also.

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The operation was a huge success in joint working and demonstrating that we are here to support and improve our local communities together.



Jo McMullin and Jane Stuart the Information and Advice Officers at Romney Marsh Community Hub <https://rmch.org.uk> located in Rolfe Lane, New Romney.

They assist anyone over the age of 50 living in a TN28 or TN29 postcode to apply for benefits, housing, blue badges, council tax reductions, bus pass applications, and can also make referrals to the Social Prescriber, Community Warden and other third parties. They offer appointments both in the Hub and in the client's own home if needed.

The Romney Marsh Community Hub offers a wide range of activities including health and wellbeing activities, day support services and much more which can be found on [What's On - Romney Marsh Community Hub](#)

Jo and Jane can be contacted at the Hub on 01797 363888 or ianda@rmch.org.uk



Digital Skills for Wellbeing Workshop

This engaging and interactive workshop will support you to feel more confident using digital tools to manage your health and wellbeing.

When: Thursday March 26th
Where: The Romney Marsh Community Hub
Time: 2.00-3.00



ROMNEY MARSH COMMUNITY HUB
Supporting health and wellbeing for over 50s

DIGITAL KENT **DIGITAL SUPPORT SESSIONS**

Do you want to learn to communicate online?
Do you have a device you don't know how to use?

We are offering free face to face digital skills training, supporting adults to build confidence in using their device and the internet

at The Hub
Rolfe Lane, TN28 8JR

**14th Jan, 25th Feb
25th Mar, 15th Apr
27th May, 24th Jun**

FREE FREE FREE
Sessions are available from 9:30am to 12:30pm at 30 min intervals

Some of the areas we can help with include (but are not limited to):
Accessing online services
Applying for jobs
Connecting to the internet
Using Social Media
Navigating around a device
Sending E-mail

Please phone 01797 363888 to book your 30min session

The Death Café is where people gather together drinking coffee, eating cake and talk openly about death, a subject many of us avoid in our everyday conversations and more information can be found [Death Cafe - New Romney - May 2026 - Pilgrims Hospices](#)

DEATH CAFE

Wednesday 11 March 2026
2:30pm - 4:00pm

Romney Marsh Community Hub
Rolfe Lane
New Romney
TN28 8JR

Join us for cake, coffee, and a relaxed, open chat about death - a subject we all too often avoid in our everyday conversations.

Book your free place now.

SCAN HERE

Find out more
01227 812 616
education@pilgrimshospices.org

Pilgrims Compassionate Communities
pilgrimshospices.org/dc-new-romney



The [Green Doctor - Groundwork](#) offers support to residents to stay warm, improve energy efficiency and save money on household bills. The

Green Doctors provide free impartial advice will provide referrals to other support organisations including debt advice and food banks within the community if needed.

They accept enquiries from households of any income whether the home is owned or rented from a landlord, council or association.

Further information can be found on 0800 233 5255 or email [Green Doctors South](#)

Call us on 0800 233 5255

Let us help you regain control of your energy bills

Our Green Doctors can help you with:

- Understanding your heating systems and how to use them effectively
- Checking your tariff and supplier are meeting your needs
- Practical tips for how to use your home appliances efficiently
- Advising on your energy habits
- Checking for energy support schemes, grants, and discounts

Filling out an enquiry form online is the quickest way to receive a call back. Scan the QR code OR visit south.greendoctors.org.uk and click 'FREE consultation'.

The Green Doctor project is a **FREE** service, including our free phonecalls, free advice sessions & free energy measures!

south.greendoctors.org.uk | 0800 233 5255
GreenDoctorSouth@groundwork.org.uk

Find out more at south.greendoctors.org.uk



The control you need
Your smart meter in-home display

We offer free practical energy measures like LED bulbs, draught-proofing, carbon monoxide alarms, in-home displays, radiator foils, and more! These help with draughts, damp, mould, safety, and energy saving. Book a consultation to get yours.

Ask your Green Doctor about...

Energy habits - what to do to keep healthy and improve your wellbeing. Make practical and physical changes to the home.

Bills and Tariffs - empower yourself with the knowledge you need to sustainably manage your energy.

Finances - make sure you are receiving the support you are entitled to.

Who is eligible?
Our project is suitable for Kent and Medway residents who are bill payers that would like an audit of energy usage and costs. We accept enquiries from households of any income whether the home is owned or rented from a landlord, council or association.

Tariff and Energy Finance Check

Need to book or get in touch?
Please leave us a voicemail if we don't pick up - we don't have daily booking staff, but we check messages regularly and will get back to you as soon as possible.

You can change a life!

Kent Coast Volunteering

Do you have an hour to spare once a week?

Connecting Communities In
Dover, Thanet, Folkestone & Hythe

If so, you could be a life-changer! Here in the Dover/Folkestone and Hythe area there are many wonderful older people who have lived fascinating and interesting lives but now have no one to talk to. As people are living longer, loneliness is an ever-increasing problem with some older people hardly seeing anyone from week to week. Just imagine how isolating this can be after leading a busy and active life.

Good Neighbours Service, run by Kent Coast Volunteering, aims to do something about this. With over 60 volunteers currently supporting older people we regularly hear wonderful stories of how enjoyable and rewarding this volunteering can be for both the client and the volunteer. Our volunteers visit an older person either in their home or perhaps out and about in the community for a walk, coffee or even the occasional lunch. Without these amazing volunteers, isolation can be a huge problem for so many older people, impacting both their physical and mental health.

Despite having an active group of volunteers making a huge difference, we still urgently need more as we have a long list of older people waiting for a befriender. Our Good Neighbours Service receives new referrals every week, so we are constantly on the lookout for new volunteers. It really is a lovely role and only needs an hour or two of your time once a week. Anyone can be a volunteer, if you enjoy a chat and a cuppa it's the perfect role for you whatever your age, in fact many of our volunteers are in their 80s!

Volunteers have DBS checks and go through an induction before they are matched up.

If you think this could be for you, please do get in touch with us, we would love to hear from you.

For more info or a friendly chat with the team, please contact Michaela or Sarah on any of the following channels:

Email: gns@kcv.org.uk

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

Mobiles: 07855 209510 or 07816 406339



National Campaigns

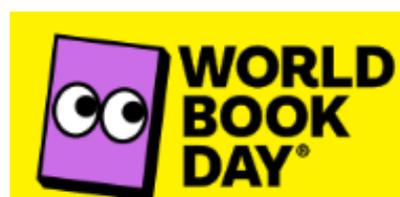
International Women's Day

On 8 March [International Women's Day 2026](#) a global day celebrating the achievements of women worldwide coming together across all communities to raise awareness for social, cultural, economic, social and political accomplishments of women

The theme for this year is “Give to Gain” which encourages mindset of generosity and collaboration feels and the support for gender equality through generous giving.

World Book Day – 5 March 2026

[Get Ready for World Book Day 2026 - World Book Day](#) to inspire children with activities from dressing up as a favourite book character, reading fun for all ages.



The theme for this year is “Reading for Pleasure” aiming to encourage children to develop and enjoy a lifelong habit of reading for fun.

Fraud / Scams

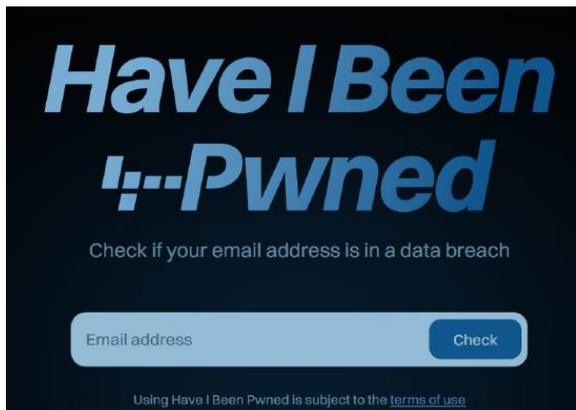


Password Compromises/Hacks

During 2025, it was reported via [Have I Been Pwned: Check if your email address has been exposed in a data breach](#) that there was a large, aggravated compromise of 2 billion unique email accounts. Attackers use these lists to compromise other, unrelated accounts of victims who have reused their passwords. The data also included 1.3 billion unique passwords.

We would urge people to check their email address at [Have I Been Pwned: Check if your email address has been exposed in a data breach](#) and if your password has been compromised, then change it straight away.

You can achieve a strong password by putting three random words together, as longer equals stronger and reduces the chances of anyone guessing or working out your password. For more information on this go to – [Three random words - NCSC.GOV.UK](#) Additionally, always have a separate password for each of your accounts, as if you have one for all your accounts and this compromised, it will mean criminals will be able to access all your accounts.



If you have been a victim of any type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and reporting to Report Fraud at [Reporting cyber crime and fraud or phishing attempts - Report Fraud](#) or call 0300 123 2040.

Find out more by visiting our website at [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#) and also from the Home Office at [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](#)

Courier Fraud Alert – Police impersonation scams

Recently, received several reports of Police impersonation scams across the county in particular, Maidstone, Romney Marsh, Ashford, Dymchurch, Sittingbourne, Sheerness and Dartford.

They primarily stated that they were Metropolitan Police Officers and used several names when speaking to intended victims but quite often stated that they were either DC Martin Williams or DC Matthews.

Residents were being told:

- Their bank account has been compromised.
- Their card needs replacing.
- A family member has been arrested.
- They must buy gold.
- A courier will collect their card, cash, or gold.

These are scams. The police will never ask for your financial details over the phone or send someone to collect your card, cash, or valuables.

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February 2026

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New Published Reports

Artificial intelligence

Source: Nominet

Date published: 10 February 2026

Nominet has published a new report examining the use of AI by children and young people in the UK. The report looks at how safe young people feel using AI and changes needed to ensure young people use it safely and responsibly. The report draws on survey data with 2,000 parents and 2,000 children aged 8- to 17-years-old, as well as focus groups with schoolchildren. Findings show: 97% of young people have used AI in some form; 60% of young people are worried about someone using AI to make inappropriate pictures of them, with 65% of parents and carers echoing this concern; and 75% of 8- to 17-year-olds think the government should make more rules so that AI companies keep children safe. The report includes calls for the government to ensure schools have adequate support for online safety education that keeps pace with the changing nature of AI technology and young people's use of it.

Read the report: [Almost all young Brits use AI – more than half say it makes life better](#)

Harmful online content

Source: NSPCC Learning

Date published: 09 February 2026

NSPCC Learning has published a helpline insight briefing on the impact of harmful online content on children and young people. Drawing on Childline counselling sessions and NSPCC Helpline contacts, the briefing explores how exposure to online bullying, hate content, violent imagery, misinformation, pornography and addictive platform features can affect children's safety, wellbeing and sense of identity. The findings provide a snapshot of children's experiences before the implementation of the Online Safety Act's child safety duties, highlighting gaps in protection and ongoing challenges for families and professionals. This briefing offers valuable evidence to support safeguarding practice, policy development and future online safety interventions.

Read the briefing: [The impact of harmful online content on children](#)

Domestic abuse: male experiences

Source: NSPCC Learning

Date published: 09 February 2026

NSPCC Learning has published a podcast episode on male experiences of domestic abuse. Drawing on practice experience from the NSPCC Helpline and Childline, this episode explores the challenges of working with male perpetrators of domestic abuse; the barriers facing male survivors of abuse when coming forward; and the effects of domestic abuse on parent-child relationships. The discussion also covers: harmful and unhealthy expressions of masculinity; the influence of the online world on young people's expressions of masculinity; and the role of services in helping individuals make sense of their experiences of abuse and access appropriate support.

Listen to the podcast: [Podcast: Male experiences of domestic abuse](#)

Listen on YouTube: [Male experiences of domestic abuse](#)

Domestic Abuse Recovering Together (DART) programme

Source: NSPCC

Date published: 03 February 2026

The NSPCC has launched a call for evidence as part of its review of the Domestic Abuse, Recovering Together (DART) programme. DART is a 10-week intervention for children aged 7- to 14-years-old who have experienced domestic abuse and their non-abusing parent. It is designed to strengthen the parent-child relationship, build emotional resilience and support recovery from trauma through structured group work. Led by Solid Consultancy Ltd, this review aims to gather professional insights about recovery work with children and parents after domestic abuse to help strengthen DART and inform its future development. The deadline for submissions is Friday 20 February 2026.

Find out more about the review: [DART programme review: information sheet](#)

Take the survey: [NSPCC Domestic Abuse Recovering Together \(DART\) programme: call for evidence](#)

Find out more about DART: [Domestic Abuse, Recovering Together \(DART\)](#)

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