

Community Safety Partner Updates



March 2026

Community Safety Update and Events

2026 Kent and Medway Hateful Extremism Event

On 25 February, Community Safety attended the 2026 Kent and Medway Extremism event in partnership with Kent Police, Kent and Medway Prevent Team and Counter Terrorism Police Southeast held at the Mercure in Maidstone organised by Prevent.

There were guest speakers discussing self-initiated terrorism and how people mobilise to violence, the dark side of the internet/dark spaces and the individuals who are attracted to them.



March 2026

Careers Fair

On 13 March 2026 Tara Liam together with Environmental Enforcement Officer Haydee Blaskett attended a Careers Fair where local companies came together and engaged with around 200 students from the Folkestone School for Girls.

This provided students with an insight into careers, and they asked lots of questions about different occupations and what each job entailed giving the pupils something to think about in their future career journey and was well received.

Community Safety Information Awareness

With the Easter holidays on the horizon, some crime prevention advice to be aware of:



Theft of bicycles / motorbikes

There have been a few postings on the Folkestone Residents Group Facebook page regarding bicycles being stolen in Folkestone. It's encouraging to see residents are posting such crimes and alerting others, but we encourage these incidents to be reported to Kent Police through the website or call 999 if a crime is in progress. [Contact us | Kent Police](#)



We also urge the public to fit trackers and use quality locks and to park in well-lit busy areas where CCTV is located and there is more information on how to [Protect your motorcycle, moped or scooter from theft | Kent Police](#)

Garden equipment

With longer days many with green fingers tend their gardens, mow lawns and enjoy the relaxation this brings.

We encourage everyone to ensure all gardening equipment is locked away and out of sight in a garden shed or garage. Also, make sure that your household insurance policy covers theft from your garden and outbuildings.

Recently a bronze statue was taken from a garden, and its estimated value was several thousand pounds.



Community Safety encourages everyone to be vigilant of your property and garden.

Garden cuttings

Please be wary of cold callers offering to undertake work in your garden as this work may not be necessary and you may be overcharged.



If you are seeking a tradesperson for gardening work, remember to always:

- Obtain at least three written quotes.
- 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.

We also recommend approaching the [Dover and Folkestone and Hythe community wardens - Kent County Council](#) or checking [Trading Standards - Kent County Council](#)

It is the duty of the homeowner to ensure their waste is disposed of correctly. You could be liable together with the trader you have appointed if the garden waste is fly tipped and the person removing it is not a registered waste carrier. Folkestone & Hythe offer a garden waste collection service and details can be found [Garden waste collection service | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#)



Home

Many people will have booked a summer get away. Below are tips for protecting your home:

- Ensure your home looks occupied, set automatic timers to go on in the evening and avoid closing all curtains and blinds.
- Invest in home security like a camera or video doorbell. This allows you to keep an eye on any activity outside of your home. Check the burglar alarm is working and visible outside of your property.
- A car parked on your driveway gives the appearance someone is at home.
- Avoid posting on social media channels whilst you are away as this may advertise you are on holiday and the house is empty. Inform trusted neighbours, they can keep a watchful eye on the house or even feed your pets.
- Hide valuables such as car keys, jewellery and watches or lock them in a safe. Avoid drawers and cupboards as they are often obvious places.
- Secure all windows and doors by locking them, remove keys from the locks placing them out of sight and safe. Don't leave a spare key at the property like under the doormat or underneath a flowerpot.



Information Awareness

Nitrous Oxide

Nitrous Oxide, otherwise known as laughing gas, is a colourless gas with a faint sweet odour and taste. It has significant medical uses, in dentistry and surgery for its anaesthetic and reducing effects and has been used as a recreational drug due to its euphoric effects.



Inhaling nitrous oxide can lead to serious health risks including asphyxiation, vitamin B12 deficiency and other neurological issues. Possessing laughing gas is illegal and the ban came into force on 8 November 2023 and made nitrous oxide a controlled Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Possession of nitrous oxide is illegal and the penalty for supply or production face up to 14-years behind bars.

There has been news in the press recently where discarded nitrous oxide canisters are exploding in waste incinerators risking injury to staff safety concerns. Recreational users often discard in household rubbish causing significant damage.

Recycling batteries

There has been a lot of coverage in the news regarding batteries being disposed of in waste bins and are exploding when being crushed.



[Recycle your batteries | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#) the waste team collect batteries every 2-weeks as part of the recycling collection. Check [Collection dates](#) and place put your used batteries in a small clear plastic food bag and put on top of your black box or recycling bin. You can dispose of batteries including types not accepted for kerbside collections (e.g. car batteries) at your local [Our Household Waste Recycling Centres – Kent County Council](#)

Many supermarkets collect old batteries as part of the Battery back scheme. Look out for the special contains or ask a member of staff.

Partner Information / Updates



HYTHE TOWN COUNCIL PRESENTS



BANDSTAND SUMMER CONCERTS 2026

LIVE MUSIC

MAY

- 10 ADAM REGGIO
- 17 U3A SWINGBAND
- 24 CITY OF CANTERBURY BAND
- 31 PRIVATE PRACTICE

JUNE

- 7 HYTHE TOWN CONCERT BAND
- 14 GUMBOOTS
- 21 KENT POLICE BAND
- 28 NATIVE OYSTERS BAND

JULY

- 5 THREE SHADES OF GREY
- 12 SHINGLE STEPPAZ
- 26 ONE FOR THE ROAD

AUGUST

- 2 MAJESTIC 12
- 9 NAME OF THE GAME (ABBA TRIBUTE)
- 23 ELVIS

SEPTEMBER

- 6 DAVE FERRA ALLSTARS BAND
- 13 HYTHE TOWN CONCERT BAND



FREE ENTRY
3 - 5 PM
OAKLANDS PARK,
STADE STREET

Facilities: Age UK cafe, Toilets, Space for picnics,
and a number of seats are provided free of charge

SAFETY NOTICE: BBQ'S AND FIRES ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE PARK

National Campaigns

National Stalking Awareness week – 20 April to 26 April 2026

National Stalking Awareness Week is an annual event where the Suzy Lamplugh Trust is dedicated raising awareness between stalking and homicide.

[Upcoming Campaigns | Suzy Lamplugh Trust](#)

Fraud / Scams



Phone Scams – Victims voices cloned.



Do you often receive calls and having realised they are criminals, keep them talking to annoy them, then see the following.

A new wave of AI-assisted fraud targets people and clones their voices. Criminals are using AI technology to clone people's voices and set up unauthorised direct debits over the phone, according to new evidence from National Trading Standards.

The advanced voice cloning is part of an organised criminal operation that harvests people's personal data to target victims with a wave of scam and nuisance calls.

For more information on this go to - [Friends Against Scams - New AI voice cloning scam to look out for](#)

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

We are urging residents to remain vigilant following an increase in reports of Courier Fraud across the county. Fraudsters are contacting victims by phone while pretending to be police officers, banks, or fraud investigators. They use highly convincing tactics to pressure victims into handing over bank cards, cash, valuables, PIN numbers, or personal information.

These criminals often claim:

- Your bank account has been compromised.
- You need to assist with a “covert police investigation.”
- A person has been arrested with your card and your help is required.
- You must withdraw money or hand over your bank card for “evidence.”



They may then send a courier or taxi to your home to collect items.

This is a scam. Neither the police nor your bank will ever ask you to do this.

- Do not follow instructions to withdraw or transfer money, or purchase gold bullion, foreign currency or gift cards.
- Do not give your bank details, PIN, or personal information.

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](#)

Fraud Alert – Fake Mobile Provider “Rewards Programme” Scam

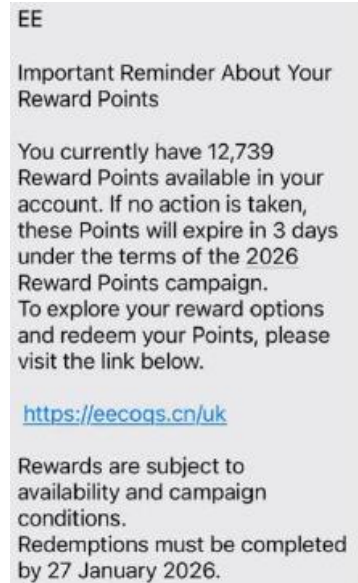
You receive a text claiming your mobile provider has a rewards programme and you have earned almost 13,000 points. The scheme is unfamiliar but appears believable because many networks run reward plans. The text contains a link leading to a website branded with your provider’s logo. The site offers expensive items (e.g., massage chairs, high-end vacuum cleaners) in exchange for your “points.” To claim the reward, you are asked to pay for postage.

What’s Really Happening -

- The text message, website, rewards scheme, and promised appliances are all part of a scam. The goal is to steal your bank details, which criminals can then exploit. EE customers reported the site looked genuine; it requested bank details to “post” items. After entering their details, the site refreshed to a blank page with a spinning icon, indicating data capture. The scam creates false urgency, suggesting the offer expires in a few days which is a common tactic to encourage rushed decisions.

Impact on Mobile Networks -

- EE has received 265,000 reports of the fake texts since the scam surfaced two months ago. EE confirms it does not offer any points-for-rewards scheme. Messages are sent via RCS, meaning EE cannot block them, unlike standard SMS. EE is working with Apple and Google on the issue.
- Some messages also spoof Vodafone, referring to a fake “Vodafone Rewards Club.” Vodafone notes its genuine scheme is called VeryMe Rewards and most Vodafone customers are not receiving the fake texts because RCS is not enabled on iPhones.
- People on other networks are receiving the fraudulent message



What To Do

- Do not click on any links in unexpected reward or prize messages.
- EE advises reporting the scam by using your phone’s “report spam” option.
- You can also forward the text to 7726 (free of charge) to report it.



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   

New Published Reports

Safe adults

Source: NSPCC Learning

Date published: 19 March 2026

NSPCC Learning has published the latest blog in its Why language matters series. The blog explores why children might struggle to understand and identify who the “trusted adults” in their life are; and why the term “safe adult” provides a clearer alternative.

Read the blog: [Why language matters: why we talk about ‘safe’ rather than ‘trusted’ adults](#)

Artificial intelligence

Source: NSPCC Learning

Date published: 12 March 2026

NSPCC Learning has published additional information to supplement its 2025 report exploring how Generative (Gen) Artificial Intelligence (AI) is impacting children’s safety and wellbeing online and offline. Findings and recommendations in the initial report were drawn from a range of sources, including an analysis of research on Gen AI commissioned by the NSPCC and conducted by legal technology consultancy AWO. A new report is now available to download in full on NSPCC Learning which presents the findings from the AWO research in more detail, focusing primarily on the mitigations identified by experts from a variety of sectors such as child safety, Gen AI developers and policymakers.

Read the report: [Generative AI and child safety: what are the risks and how can we solve them?](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Online safety](#)

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