

Community Safety Partner Updates



April 2026

Community Safety Update and Events

Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)

Tara Liam from Community Safety was joined by representatives from Kent Police, Rising Sun and Ashford Mediation at an event to raise awareness about domestic abuse, coercive control, stalking and harassment.

The group engaged with more than 40 people, promoting measures being taken to tackle violence against women and girls in our district and keeping safe whilst handing out safety information on local services available.



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Safety Stand

On 16 April, Tara Liam from Community Safety joined Keeley Taylor, KCC Warden at Three Hills Sports Centre, advising parents about community support services across the district.

The officers engaged with around 20 people handing out stickers and information.



Year 10 Mock Interview Day



On 23 April 2026, Tara Liam together with Environmental Enforcement Officer, Haydee Blaskett, attended a mock interview day for students from the Folkestone School for Girls.

The collaborative session, supported by local businesses, provided an insight for the year 10 students to the possible questions they may face when being interviewed and equipped them with interview techniques for the future.

Upcoming Community Safety Events

Domestic Violence Advice – 8 May

Tara Liam from Community Safety will be at the Town Hall in Hythe High Street on 8 May from 10:30am until 2pm and will be joined by Rising Sun and Ashford Mediation.



Scam Awareness Event – 19 June

Community Safety will be at Age UK, Stade Street in Hythe on 19 June from 10:30am until 3pm offering advice and support for online telephone and in person scams.

The event will highlight the importance of being aware of scams and sharing the information with friends and family.



Worried a family member is falling for an online scam?

Want clear, trusted advice on protecting yourself and your loved ones online?

Been caught out by a scam and need support, without judgement?

Spot the Scam Community Safety Awareness Event

Join us for a friendly, practical session on staying scam smart.
Learn how to spot scams, protect your information, and get help if things go wrong.

Friday 19 June 2026
10:30am – 3:00pm
Age UK, Sandford House, Stade Street,
Hythe, Kent, CT21 6BD



Community Safety Information Awareness

Scam Text

A colleague notified Community Safety they had received a text on their work phone advising they had 12000 Tesco club card points and to click the link to claim them. They did not click on the link.

Community Safety did some research and in the March edition of a well-known consumer magazine highlighted scams going around regarding Tesco points as part of the 2026 reward programme.

It is recommended if you receive a suspicious report to your network provider by forwarding to **7726**.

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Kent County Council has put together information on [How to avoid scams - Kent County Council](#). It includes a video of a case study who is sharing his experience after being scammed.

- Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline: [0808 223 1133](tel:08082231133)
- Suspicious emails: report@phishing.gov.uk
- Suspicious texts: Forward to **7726**
- In-person scams: Call Crimestoppers on [0800 555 111](tel:0800555111) or [visit Crimestoppers website](#)

Scammers are becoming persistent to deceive victims as technology evolves.

Adverse Effects of Recreational Ketamine Use

Community Safety is aware of young people in the district using ketamine whilst out in the nighttime economy and is continuing to highlight the serious and potentially long-term effects of its use.

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

There are reports from the NHS where most patients were 14 to 15 years with many having used ketamine for 1 or 2-years.

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

Excessive use can cause problems as ketamine and its breakdown products sit in the bladder for a long time damaging the lining and muscle tissue, causing the bladder to shrink in size.

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.



Cannabis

Community Safety receive many reports of individuals smoking cannabis in our community.

Cannabis is classified as a Class B drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and anyone in possession,



supplying or cultivating it for non-medical use is illegal and should be reported to Kent Police:

- To report non-urgent crime, **call 101** or visit www.kent.police.uk/report
- Talk to Kent Police on LiveChat – available 24/7: www.kent.police.uk/contact

Off Road Bikes

Community Safety is receiving reports regarding teenagers riding off road bikes, damaging the grass in parks and green spaces and private property.



Some people may regard this as harmless fun, but it can have a wider impact on a neighbourhood or community. Riders also risk injuring themselves, as they do not have full control of their bike and full attention on their surroundings.

It is important these incidents are also reported to the police to help them tackle this crime and make our streets safer as they have the powers to enforce. The police may have already received complaints from the public and identified the riders especially if they are teenagers

- To report non-urgent crime, **call 101** or visit www.kent.police.uk/report
- Talk to Kent Police on LiveChat – available 24/7: www.kent.police.uk/contact
- Provide the exact location, date and time and if persons known provide the information and photographic evidence if taken.

Remember: you can always report what you know to Crimestoppers 100% **anonymously**. [Our guarantee of anonymity | Crimestoppers](#)

Advice on Spiked Drinks

If you are socialising in a crowded place, festivals, house parties or nightclubs, please remember to be vigilant and keep an eye on your drinks.

Avoid potential spiking - substances being dropped into your glass by a stranger without your knowledge.

More information can be found on [Home - Stamp Out Spiking](#) to keep safe whilst out and about.



Reporting issues to Community Safety

Community Safety receive many reports for the team to deal with and liaise with service areas or partner agencies.

If a member of the public raises an issue where photographic evidence can be taken, i.e. broken chain on a slide or equipment which will require fixing or replaced, please send an image as this assists the team and can be forwarded to our property team for a safety check or repair.

Partner Information / Updates

National Numeracy Day

[National Numeracy Day | 20 May 2026](#) An annual campaign dedicated to improving numeracy skills and building confidence with numbers for children and adults.



Wave Community Bank [About Us - Wave Community Bank](#) are delighted to be a Delivery Partner of **National Numeracy Day 2026**, the UK's only day dedicated to everyday maths!

At Wave (WCB), we believe in the power of conversation, which is why we talk numbers every single day to help our members feel confident with their finances.

On Tuesday 20 May, we are making things extra special by joining the rest of the UK for the "Count on Your Community" campaign. While we talk about numbers year-round, today is a dedicated moment to celebrate how our schools, workplaces, and local groups can support one another in mastering everyday maths.

The benefits of good numeracy are endless, from managing a household budget to helping children with their homework. Whether your community is your running club, your faith group, or your family, we are all in this together. This National Numeracy Day, we are amplifying our daily commitment to help you realise that a problem shared is a problem halved.



The National Numeracy Day Hub is your go-to destination for free tools and inspiration, including:

- **The Big Number Natter:** Take our daily habit nationwide! Join the UK-wide conversation and talk about numbers right where you are.

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- **Community-Led Resources:** Discover how to improve your skills alongside others who feel just like you do, helping your confidence grow.
- **Practical Tools for Adults:** Learn how feeling confident with numbers can help you manage a weekly budget or secure a new job.
- **Support for Kids:** Access engaging resources to help young ones build a strong foundation in maths through community-focused activities.
- **Inspirational Stories:** See how others have used the support of their friends and colleagues to brush up on their everyday number skills.

National Numeracy Day raises awareness of the importance of numbers in everyday life and empowers people to improve their numeracy. For more information, please visit:

https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/numeracyday?utm_source=wave
www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/challenge/wave

Strength in Stillness

A drop-in (click on the poster to find out where and when) to meet new friends in a caring safe space with the opportunity to learn self-care skills to help with the stress of everyday lives, enjoy a cuppa, biscuits maybe cake.

Enjoy relaxing meditations, gentle exercise and much more to get you sleeping soundly at night. Open to anyone over the age of 18.

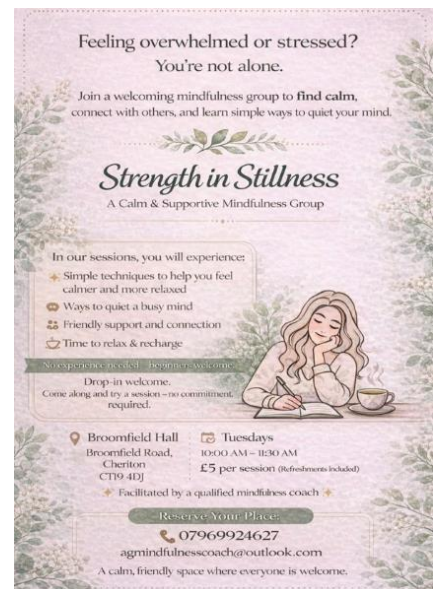
Each month enjoy meeting with local therapists/practitioners and find out what wonderful wellness help is out there in our community. Covering all areas of selfcare, whether you're a busy mother/father, neurodiverse or just lonely we are here for you.

In a world that constantly asks us to rush, react, and keep moving, choosing to pause can feel unfamiliar, even uncomfortable. Yet it's within these quiet moments that we begin to reconnect — with our breath, our thoughts, and ourselves.

Some of the benefits of practicing stillness:

- Calming the mind and reducing overwhelm
- Improving focus and clarity
- Supporting emotional balance
- Helping us feel more grounded and present

© A.G Mindfulness



National Campaigns

Mental Health Awareness week – 11 to 17 May 2026

Mental Health Awareness week is an annual campaign promoting mental wellbeing in May focusing on raising awareness and supporting mental health.

Knife Crime Awareness week – 18 to 24 May 2026

Knife Crime Awareness week is a nationwide campaign shining a light on the people and organisations making a real difference in prevent knife crime across the UK.

[Knife Crime Awareness Week](#)



Fraud / Scams



Doorstep criminals busy across the County

In April 2026, doorstep criminals have been active in Maidstone, Ashford, Faversham and Sheerness targeting residents.

They are knocking on doors and claiming there are issues with roofs, such as loose or damaged tiles. In several cases, residents have been pressured into agreeing to work, given invoices with little or no trader details, or made to feel intimidated.

Doorstep criminals, often referred to as rogue traders, cowboy builders or building and gardening scammers, make unsolicited visits to homes, offering attractive deals to persuade homeowners to agree to numerous services.

However, accepting their offers typically results in paying exorbitant prices for substandard, unnecessary, and occasionally hazardous work.

Find out how to protect yourself from doorstep criminals, go to – [How to say no to doorstep crime - Kent County Council](#)

How to say no to doorstep crime - Kent County Council Always get three quotes and use a safe, local trader that has been vetted by Kent Trading Standards: [Trading Standards Checked](#)

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 [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](#)

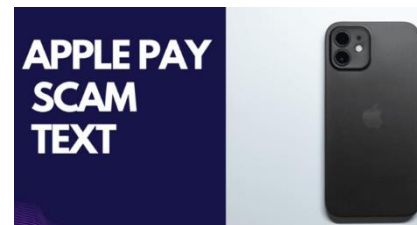
Text Scam Alert

Reports received of Kent residents receiving a message stating that their card has been added to an Apple Pay wallet named "Mason's Device" and asks you to call a number to verify your identity. This is a common tactic used by scammers to obtain personal information, such as credit card numbers or Apple IDs.

It is advised to ignore this message and not respond. If you receive this message, you can report it by forwarding to 7726 and then block the sender and delete the message.

Apple will not call or text you to warn of an issue. It will not send you a number to call. It will never ask for any codes or passwords. It will never email or message with links or ask you to download software.

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](#)

New Published Reports

Online safety

Source: NSPCC Learning

Date published: 25 March 2026

NSPCC Learning has published a news story about the launch of Childline's 'Where We Stand' videos. 'Where We Stand' is a four-part YouTube series showing how Childline can help young people navigate the online world. Influencers predict what teenagers really think about online life, covering issues such as AI, screen time and online safety. Professionals are encouraged to share the resources and start a

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conversation with young people about their views and experiences of online life.

Read the news story: [Start a conversation about online life with new Childline videos](#)

Watch the videos: [‘Where We Stand’ on Childline’s YouTube channel](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Online safety](#)

Child sexual abuse material

Source: IWF

Date published: 24 March 2026

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has published a report revealing the scale of AI-generated child sexual abuse material (AI CSAM) found online. The report includes the views of IWF analysts, insights from the IWF hotline, and excerpts from dark web offender communities. It looks at: how AI CSAM is generated; AI CSAM harms; developments in AI CSAM; nudify apps; and chatbots. Key insights on AI CSAM include that it is widespread and growing; increasingly extreme and sophisticated; and is highly gendered, most frequently depicting girls. The report concludes that governments, technology companies and institutions must recognise the harm of AI CSAM. Recommendations include that AI CSAM should be treated as seriously in criminal law as other forms of child sexual abuse material.

Read the report: [Harm without limits: AI child sexual abuse material through the eyes of our analysts](#)

Child sexual abuse

Source: NSPCC

Date published: 17 March 2026

The NSPCC has published a news story on child sexual abuse offences in the UK. Findings from police force data from across the UK show almost 37,000 child sexual abuse image offences were logged in 2025, an 8% rise on the previous year. The NSPCC is calling on tech companies to embed technology on children’s phones that blocks nude images from being created, shared or viewed.

Read the news story: [We’re calling for tech companies to block child sexual abuse images in real time](#)

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