

# Community Safety Partner Updates



Folkestone  
& Hythe  
District Council

May 2026

## Community Safety Update and Events

### Welcoming our new Senior Community Safety Officer



We are sure you will join us in welcoming Sara Whiteley to our team. Sara is our new Senior Community Safety Officer at Folkestone & Hythe District Council.

Sara arrives with over 20-years of Trading Standards experience with additional strengths in intelligence-led enforcement.

### Domestic Violence Advice

On 8 May, Tara Liam from Community Safety was joined by Ashford Mediation Services, Rising Sun, Kent Police and KCC Wardens under the Town Hall in Hythe High Street.

The officers raised awareness about issues associated with domestic abuse, coercive control and stalking and harassment. They also handed out safety information about local support services.



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## Dementia Services Showcase

On 18 May, Tara Liam along with Keeley Taylor and Carol Coveney, KCC Wardens, attended the dementia showcase at the Ashford Community Support Hub in Ashford.



There were around 30 stallholders including Age UK, Alzheimer's Society, Kent Association for the Blind, NHS Talking Therapies, Carers Support along with many others providing advice and information to visitors.

Kent Road Safety hosted a mature drivers seminar offering practical guidance and reassurance for older drivers looking to remain safe and confident whilst on the road.



## Upcoming Community Safety Events

### Paws for Thought – 7 June

Community Safety along with Environmental Enforcement have teamed up with the RSPCA to run a free community day in Radnor Park, Folkestone on Sunday 7 June from 10am to 3pm.

The officers will offer advice and support to pet owners. The event will include stalls, a boot sale, an agility course and a dog show.

A new map bringing together key information on dog friendly places is [published on the Folkestone & Hythe District Council website](#). It also details where seasonal restrictions are in place between 1 May and 30 September.

**PAWS FOR THOUGHT**

**Dog show and boot sale**  
Sunday 7 June 2026  
Radnor Park, Folkestone

**DOG SHOW:**

11am - 12pm	• Golden oldies	• Loveliest lady
<b>Registration</b>	• Best rescue	• Best trick
12.30pm - 2.30pm	• Waggiest tail	• Best in show
<b>Dog show</b>	• Looks most like owner	• Most handsome hound

**BOOT SALE INFO:**

9am	<b>FEES</b>
<b>Set up</b>	£10 per car
10am	£15 per van
<b>Public access</b>	

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

- Face painting
- Raffle draw
- Dog agility course

**Entry: FREE**  
Dog show participation fee: £2 per category  
All dogs attending must be kept on leads  
For stall holder enquiries email [pawsforthought@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:pawsforthought@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

**RSPCA FOLKESTONE**  
**Folkestone & Hythe**

For more information, email: [welfare@rspcafolkestonedistrict.co.uk](mailto:welfare@rspcafolkestonedistrict.co.uk)

## Scam Awareness – 19 June

Community Safety will be at Age UK, Salford House, Stade Street in Hythe from 10:30am to 3.00pm.

## Safety Stand - 24 July

Community Safety will be at the Coastal Park, Folkestone, with KCC Wardens from 10:30am to 2.00pm.

## Folkestone Trawler Race - 1 & 2 August

Environmental Enforcement have teamed up with Community Safety and will be at the Stade on **1 August only**.

## Safety Stand – 21 August

Community Safety will be at the Coastal Park, Folkestone, with KCC Wardens from 10:30am to 2.00pm.

## Scam Awareness – 6 November

Community Safety will be at Age UK, Sanford House, Stade Street in Hythe from 10:30am to 3.00pm.

**(Events and times are subject to change)**

## Community Safety Information Awareness

### **Avoid your mobile devices being snatched and stolen from your hand**

Community Safety has seen people walking around with their mobile devices sticking out of the back pocket of their trousers including on display in handbags.

We urge everyone to be aware of their surroundings and to hide their device from public view. Below are guidelines to keep your mobile phones safe to avoid pickpockets:

- Always keep you mobile close to you, or in a zipped bag.



- Avoid speaking to your handset whilst walking in a public space.
- Avoid placing your device on a table inside or outside a café.
- When connecting to public WI-FI, use a VPN to encrypt your data including a privacy screen protection, deters others viewing your screen.
- Avoid other people accessing your phone or pay from your phone.
- Use biometrics such as facial recognition or fingerprint.
- Set up a PIN for you SIM card.
- Know your IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) number. This is the 15-digit number used to identify your phone. Type in **\*#06#** on your keypad and the number will appear.



### **If your phone is stolen:**

- Contact your network provider to block your SIM card.
- Change passwords and remove accounts
- If you have mobile phone insurance, contact your provider to check cover.
- Use Find my iPhone or Find My Device if you have an iPhone or Android phone.

### **Buzballz**

Community Safety have been made aware of Buzballz. These alcoholic drinks are proving popular with young people but is a concern due to the high alcohol content of 13.5%, and 15% and come in a variety of flavours.

The ready to drink pre-mixed cocktails are in colourful plastic pocket orbital shaped are stocked in major retailers. This portable drink is proving popular at festivals and picnics.



Like with all alcohol, should be consumed in moderation.

### **World Cup – licensing hours**

Licensing confirmed at time of this newsletter being circulated they had received notices where some of our licensed premises will be extending their opening hours.

The government are allowing pubs to stay open until 01:00 BST for England or Scotland matches in the knockout stages that kick off between 17:00 and 21:00 and until 02:00 for kick-offs between 21:00 and 22:00.



## Partner Information / Updates



The Beacon Folkestone  
<https://thebeacon.kent.sch.uk>

**The Beacon Plus**  
SEN COLLEGE FOR 18-25 YEAR OLDS

**OPEN DAY**

WEDNESDAY  
17TH JUNE 2026  
3.00-6.00 PM

In the last 3 years over 80% of leavers obtained paid work or a volunteer position!

We are an employability pathway for learners aged 18-25 with an EHCP. Join us at our Open Day event to see Beacon Plus in action, guiding learners on their pathway to employment.

- ✓ See learner led demonstrations
- ✓ College course details
- ✓ Take a tour around the college
- ✓ Meet learners, tutors and work placement co-ordinators

**REGISTER NOW**  
by scanning QR code

[www.beacon-plus.org.uk](http://www.beacon-plus.org.uk)  
01303 395041 | [admin@beacon-plus.org.uk](mailto:admin@beacon-plus.org.uk)

3rd Floor Bouverie House,  
16 Bouverie Place, Folkestone CT20 1AE

**Ofsted**  
Good Provider

### Ashford Mediation Service Conflict De-escalations Skills Workshops

Ashford Mediation Service (AMS) is known for its mediation services across Ashford, Folkestone, and Hythe, helping families, neighbours, and work colleagues tackle conflict in their lives, through mediation, for free.



More recently they were asked to help young people, identify the causes of conflict and how to acquire simple conflict de-escalation skills. AMS worked with two groups of students, aged from 16-19 years old with their tutors to identify the causes of conflict in the workplace assisting them to develop the skills to avoid conflict.

The workshop focused on working in a team, effective communication, how to handle feedback and criticism, showing respect and knowing and understanding workplace rules.

88% of students said that they could now identify the causes of conflict in the workplace and 94% said that having done the workshop with AMS, they now felt able to identify things they can do to prevent conflict happening or getting worse. 81%

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students said they now feel more confident dealing with conflict they encounter in the workplace and 69% said that they would now feel more confident dealing with conflict they encounter at home, at college or out and about.

If anyone would like further information about deescalation skills workshops, please contact Melodie Webster on 07704 621091 or email [info@ashfordmediation.co.uk](mailto:info@ashfordmediation.co.uk)

## National Campaigns

### **Volunteers' week – 1 to 7 June 2026**

Volunteers' week is an annual campaign celebrating the invaluable work of volunteers and raises the awareness to encourage more people to become involved in the community.



### **Child Safety Week – 1 – 7 June 2026**

Child Safety Week is the Child Accident Prevention Trust's annual community education campaign, acting as a catalyst for thousands of safety conversations and activities UK-wide. We help families build confidence and skills in managing the real risks to children's safety. We want all children to have the freedom to grow and learn, safe from serious harm.



### **Carers Week – 8 – 14 June 2026**

Focus on building carer friendly communities - calling for better recognition and support for unpaid carers



### **National Bike Week – 9 – 15 June 2026**

An annual celebration of cycling promoting benefits for the community and individuals encouraging all ages and abilities to embrace the joys of riding a bicycle.

## Fraud / Scams



### **Ticket Fraud Warning**

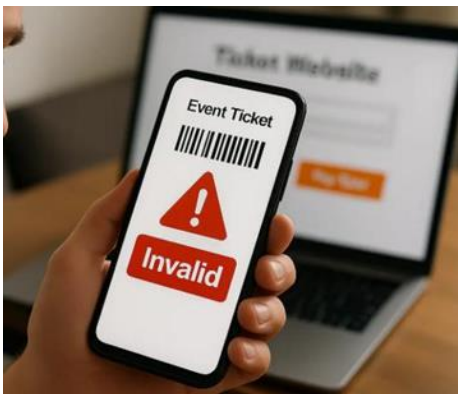
With major events coming up this year, including football tournaments, Wimbledon, and popular festivals, criminals are targeting people looking for tickets.

Criminals set up fake ticket websites or social media adverts that look genuine. They may claim to have tickets that are sold out or not yet on sale. Once you pay, the tickets never arrive, or you are told to meet someone at the venue who never turns up. In some cases, fake tickets are sent but are rejected at the event.

Remember: In most cases, it is illegal to resell football tickets.

### How to protect yourself

- Only buy tickets from the official venue, promoter, or a well-known ticket website
- Be cautious of deals that seem too good to be true
- Avoid paying by bank transfer — use a credit card or PayPal for better protection
- Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts, or social media adverts
- Check if the seller is a member of STAR (Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers) and visit [https://www.star.org.uk/buy\\_safe](https://www.star.org.uk/buy_safe)



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 [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 Google Security Check Scam

A new scam is going around where criminals pretend to be Google. Their goal is to trick you into installing a fake “security app” that steals your personal information.

### What the scam looks like

Scammers send you:

- Emails that look like they are from Google
- Fake security warnings
- Pop ups saying something like “Urgent: Protect your Google Account now”

These messages lead you to a website that looks almost exactly like a real Google page, but it is fake.

### What the fake page does

The page walks you through a fake “4 step security check.”

At the end, it tries to make you install a fake Google app.

If installed, this fake app can:

- Steal your contacts and location
- Read what you copy and paste
- Grab one time codes (OTPs)
- Capture passwords and crypto wallet information
- Use your device to hide the scammer’s online activity

Once installed, it even hides the website address bar so it looks like a real Google app.

#### Why this scam is dangerous

- It looks incredibly realistic
- It does not hack you—YOU are tricked into giving permission
- It can keep spying even after you close the browser

#### How to protect yourself

Google will NEVER ask you to do a security check through:

- Random pop ups
- Text messages
- Unfamiliar websites

If any website or message asks you to

- Install a “Google security app”
- Turn on notifications
- Share contacts or location
- Enter your password on a page you did not expect

#### **Close it immediately.**

#### Quick safety tip

- Always check the website address before entering your Google login details.

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.

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## Fraud Alert: “Job Review” Scam

We are warning the public about a scam currently circulating on social media apps, where fraudsters pose as employers offering simple online work.

### How the scam works –

Victims are contacted and offered what appears to be a legitimate job, often described as reviewing products, apps, or content. They are told they must make a payment to “unlock tasks,” “release earnings” or “upgrade their account.”

In a recent case:

- The victim paid **£300**
- Fraudsters then demanded a further **£800**
- No wages or refunds were received.

This is a payment-to-work scam. Genuine employers will never ask you to pay money to get paid.



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.

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## Fraud Alert: Fake Driving Lesson Websites

Colleagues in neighbouring Forces are seeing reports of scammers impersonating legitimate driving schools to take upfront payments for driving lessons that never take place.

Fraudsters create convincing websites using the name and reputation of real driving schools. Victims are encouraged to pay in advance for a block of lessons, often at a discounted rate. Payments are usually taken via online payment links. After payment, instructors fail to attend booked lessons and contact details quickly become unreachable.

### Protect Yourself

- Check website addresses carefully for small changes or unusual wording
- Be cautious of requests for upfront payment, especially discounted lesson blocks
- Verify driving schools through official websites and trusted reviews

- Avoid payment links



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.

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## New Published Reports

### Online child sexual abuse and exploitation

**Source:** NSPCC

**Date published:** 15 May 2026

The NSPCC has published a news story on contacts to Childline about online sexual abuse. New data shows that between April 2025 and March 2026, Childline delivered 2,444 counselling sessions to children and young people about online child sexual abuse and exploitation, an annual increase of 36%. Young people spoke about fears that images of them would be shared, financial extortion and the impact this form of abuse could have on their futures. This comes as the NSPCC launches its new campaign 'Shift Ctrl' highlighting the impact of online harms. The NSPCC is calling on the UK government to: ensure teenagers get genuinely age appropriate experiences online; prevent platforms using addictive design techniques; and block illegal and harmful content across online services.

**Read the news story:** [Childline counselling sessions about online child sexual abuse rise by 36%](#)

**Find out more about the campaign:** [Demanding a safer online world for children](#)

### Online safety: image security

**Source:** UK Safer Internet Centre

**Date published:** 08 May 2026

The UK Safer Internet Centre has published image security guidance developed by the UK Online Harms Early Warning Working Group. Aimed at education settings and organisations working with children and young people, the guidance provides information and advice on the risks of sharing images and videos of children on websites and social media platforms. It aims to address the risk of AI image manipulation and abuse, and the emerging threat of blackmail, covering: practices to protect young people's images; the risks of using young people's images online; and what to do if images of young people are misused, altered or abused.

**Read the news story:** [Schools given advice on image safety to keep ahead of threat from AI blackmailers](#)

**Find out more:** [Protecting your setting's images from AI manipulation and abuse](#)

### **Child trafficking**

**Source:** GRETA

**Date published:** 05 May 2026

The Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) has published a report evaluating measures taken in the UK to prevent and detect trafficking and support those who have been exploited. The report includes a section on children, looking at: how child criminal exploitation is being tackled; research and evidence around child trafficking and exploitation; child protection referral mechanisms; awareness raising activities in schools through relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) lessons; children missing education; and the numbers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

**Read the report:** [GRETA publishes its fourth report on the United Kingdom](#)

**See also on NSPCC Learning**

> [Protecting children from trafficking and modern slavery](#)

**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)**