

Community Safety Partner Updates



June 2026

Community Safety Update and Events

Community Safety Partnership monthly newsletters can be found on the Folkestone & Hythe district website [CSP 2025 Newsletters | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#)

Scam Awareness

On 19 June, the Community Safety Team organised and attended a Scam Awareness event at Age UK Hythe and Lyminge in Stade Street, Hythe, alongside representatives from Digital Kent, Ashford Mediation Service, Wave Community Bank and several other organisations.

The event offered practical advice on scam prevention and how to protect yourself and others from scams.

Guidance was also provided to those who may have experienced online, telephone and in person scams or who were unsure how to respond to potential threats.



A representative from NatWest bank delivered a talk on how to recognise and avoid fraud and common scams and provided information handouts.

June 2026

On 16 June, the Community Safety Team delivered a scam awareness talk to vulnerable young adults from The Beacon Plus School.

Officers offered guidance on keeping personal data safe and secure. They also discussed protecting yourself from scams, including safeguarding personal and financial information, using real-life scenarios to engage with learners

Additionally, officers highlighted the importance of being aware of your surroundings when speaking on your mobile device, receiving emails with links and how to report scams.

On 25 June, Community Safety, alongside KCC Trading Standards delivered a scam talk at Mackenson Court in Hythe.



Op Cane

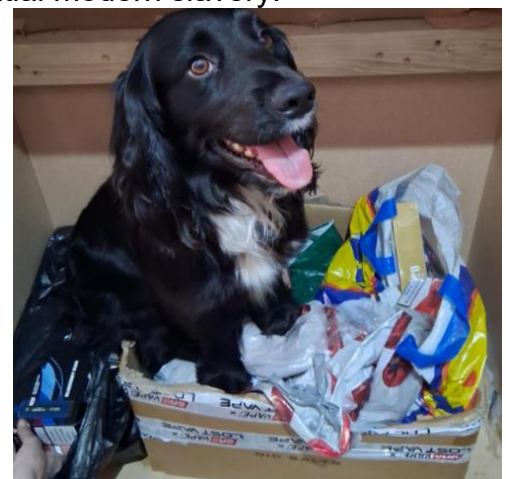
A joint operation took place on 26 May in the Folkestone & Hythe district aimed at combatting suspected illegal tobacco and vape sales and alleged criminal activity.

Seven premises, including retail outlets and businesses, were visited in Folkestone, Hythe, New Romney and Lydd following complaints about illegal and underage sales, the handling of suspected stolen goods and potential modern slavery.

Licensing and community safety officers from Folkestone & Hythe District Council joined the operation led by Kent Police's Folkestone Community Safety Unit.

Staff from Kent County Council's Trading Standards and members of the Home Office South East Immigration Enforcement team were also involved.

Items were seized from three of the premises visited under Trading Standards legislation.



Concerns about vape sales can be reported to vape@kent.gov.uk or to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. [Visit the Crimestoppers website.](#)

Paws for Thought

Dogs put their best paw forward at the Paws for Thought Community Day held at Radnor Park on Sunday 7 June. It was co-organised by the Folkestone & Hythe District Council alongside Folkestone RSPCA.

Activities included a range of family friendly activities including a boot fair, dog show and a dog agility course.



Community safety, environmental enforcement and licensing teams were represented. Thanks to all who supported all the activities and to the dogs (and their owners) who participated in our fabulous dog show.



The officers engaged with visitors and residents about the importance of responsible dog-ownership and general dog safety and guidance.



Volunteer Awards

On 4 June, the Community Safety Team attended the Volunteer Awards organised by Kent Coast Volunteering held at Folkestone Harbour Church.



Upcoming Community Safety Events

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 Hythe and Lyminge, Sanford House, Stade Street in Hythe from 10:30am to 3.00pm.

(Events and times are subject to change)

Community Safety Information Awareness

Dog walking

We have experienced unprecedented extreme heat in the past few weeks and next week it is forecast to get hotter once again.

Community Safety officers have observed people walking their dogs in the height of the day. Walking dogs in the heat can be incredibly dangerous so we advise dog owners to remember that if you place the back of your hand on concrete and it's hot for you, then it will also be too hot for your four-legged friends as well.



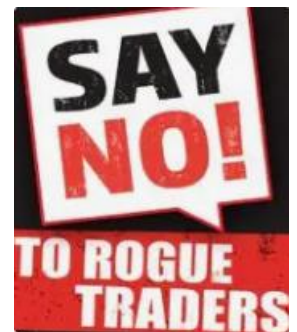
We encourage dog owners to plan walks for early in the morning or late in the evening to avoid the hottest parts of the day.

Don't forget to look after yourself too, wear sunscreen and take a bottle of water with you.

AIR TEMPERATURE (°C)	RISK LEVEL	WHAT IT MEANS
BELOW 15°C Generally safe for most dogs.	LOW RISK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good conditions for most dogs. Still provide fresh water and monitor your dog.
15–19°C Low risk, but be mindful.	LOW-MODERATE RISK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe for most healthy dogs. Monitor flat-faced, elderly, overweight or thick-coated dogs.
20–23°C Moderate risk. Use caution.	MODERATE RISK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan shorter walks. Avoid midday sun. Use shade and take water.
24–27°C High risk for many dogs.	HIGH RISK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of overheating increases. Avoid strenuous exercise. Walk early morning or late evening in the shade.
28–31°C Dangerous. Heatstroke possible.	DANGEROUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heatstroke can occur even on short walks. Limit outdoor activity. Keep your dog cool and hydrated.
32°C+ Severe danger. Avoid walks.	EXTREME DANGER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High risk of heatstroke and death. Do not walk your dog. Keep them indoors in a cool environment.

Rogue Traders

This time of year, often sees an increase in cold callers offering to carry out work on your property, such as roof repairs, replacing tiles, or gardening services, often for a cash-in-hand payment. Please be cautious. The work may not be completed to a satisfactory standard, and in some cases, you could be significantly overcharged.



To help protect yourself, here are some useful tips:

- 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

If seeking a tradesperson to undertake gardening work, we recommend approaching the KCC Wardens who will be able to help [Dover and Folkestone and Hythe community wardens - Kent County Council](#)

Check the Trading Standards website [Trading Standards Checked](#)

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 your waste is fly tipped and the person removing it is not a registered waste and more information can be found [Fly-tipping | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#)

Taking a few simple precautions can help you avoid scams and ensure any work carried out on your property is completed safely and to a good standard.

How to spot holiday scams

With the children breaking up for the summer break, thoughts often turn to booking that all-important holiday.



Being vigilant and following these tips should ensure you are booking on a genuine site.

- Is it too good to be true? It probably is. Be suspicious of flights or accommodation as fraudsters often post fake adverts that do not exist.
- If you're buying a package holiday, check it's ATOL protected. Check if the company advertising the holiday is an ABTA member.
- Check the URL on any websites as scammers often set up copycat sites with variations URLs making it hard to if an URL is legitimate or not.

Partner Information / Updates

The Beacon Plus

Beacon Plus aim to provide an outstanding and supportive learning environment which allows everyone to achieve their best, with high self-esteem and respect for others in the community, so that they can take their place in society with confidence and pride.



They aim to do this by offering learners a safe and stimulating environment which positively encourages the development of self-esteem and confidence whilst helping learners develop into independent adults.

More information can be found on [The Beacon Plus - Home](#)

The Beacon Plus Community Café is located at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, 41a Guildhall Street in Folkestone which is run by the learners in the centre of Folkestone giving them the opportunity to cook, bake bread and serve customers.

The learners are also responsible for the business side of the café including profit and loss and purchasing stock. More information can be found on [The Beacon Plus - Beacon Plus Community Café](#)

The Beacon Plus are having a Jumble Sale on 9 July 2026.



National Campaigns

Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness – 29 June – 5 July

The national anti-social behaviour weeks highlights the impact of anti-social behaviour and raises awareness of the support available to victims.

Alcohol Awareness – 6 – 12 July

A national campaign to encourage open conversations about the use of alcohol, raising awareness and supporting individuals who may be struggling with alcohol.

Stamp Out Spiking day – 15 July

Organised by the UK charity Stamp Out Spiking to raise awareness of drink spiking and what to look out for.

Folkestone Pride – 25 July 2026

Will be held on The Leas Bandstand, Folkestone and features performances while celebrating the local community.

Fraud / Scams

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Rogue Trader Alert

Rogue Traders have been active in Tunbridge Wells, Whitstable, Canterbury, Dover, West Malling and Gravesend offering poor quality roofing, garden and/or plumbing work and intimidating residents into overpaying or even quoting for unnecessary work.

Please be alert and warn your friends and family to never respond to cold callers as you will pay a high cost for unnecessary and poor-quality work. You can:

- Ask the visitor to return at another time when someone can be with you
- Get three written quotes
- Ask family and friends for recommendations
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand and never pay in full until you are completely satisfied with the work.



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](#)



Warning following arrest in Ashford rogue trading investigation

Residents are warned to be vigilant following an arrest in connection with suspected rogue trading in Ashford.

Kent Police were called to Lloyds Bank on the High Street at 10.30am on Friday 15 May 2026, after bank staff became concerned when a customer requested to

withdraw a large sum of money. Officers attended and made enquiries, discovering that a couple in their 70s had been approached at their home by a man claiming that their roof required urgent repairs.

It is reported that the couple were told that previous work completed on their roof was inadequate, and that remedial work was urgently required. The trader allegedly quoted several thousand pounds for the additional repairs, prompting one of the victims to visit the bank and attempt to withdraw the money in cash.

Patrols attended the residential address, and a 19-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of fraud. He has since been bailed with conditions while an investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with relevant information that may assist officers' enquiries should contact Kent Police on 01843 222289 quoting 46/77146/26.

Kent victims lose over £750,000 to fraudsters

Telephone scammers posing as police officers and bank staff stole more than £766,000 from 86 Kent victims in 2025 through courier fraud. The scam typically involves fraudsters convincing victims their bank account is at risk or that they are helping with an investigation, before arranging for cash, bank cards, jewellery or other valuables to be collected by a courier. Kent Police is supporting a national City of London Police campaign to raise awareness of this crime.

Detective Inspector Ian Sanderson of Kent Police said:

'Fraudsters frequently target people who are elderly or vulnerable and may pretend to be from a trusted organisation before persuading them to hand over their valuables. They can also make contact by WhatsApp and pretend to be a relative in need of urgent cash.'

'Between 1 and 10 June this year, we received 30 reports of this type of offence of which 18 were to residents in the east of the county. The criminals were successful in only three of the incidents managing to steal more than £9,300. 'We investigate reported frauds based on the evidence that is available and will always seek to track down those responsible and bring them to justice. We also have specialist staff who pay regular visits to banks and community groups to educate people on the warning signs. In this way, we hope victims will feel confident to stop, question and deter suspicious callers.'

Protect yourself from courier fraud:

- Your bank or the police will never ask for your PIN, passwords or personal details over the phone, or send a courier to collect cash, bank cards or valuables.
- Treat any unexpected call claiming your account is at risk or asking you to assist an investigation with caution.
- Do not trust caller ID – it can be spoofed.
- If in doubt, hang up and contact your bank calling 159 and the Police on 101.

Have you been asked to withdraw cash by the police?

This is a scam.

The police or your bank will **never**:

- ask for your bank details or PIN
- ask you to transfer or withdraw and handover sums of money or purchase gold bullion, Gift Cards or other valuable items as part of an investigation.
- send a courier to collect your bank cards, PIN, cash or gold bullion etc.

If you are unsure about a call or visitor you have received:

- Don't give out any personal or financial information.
- Hang up or close your front door to check the caller's identity.
- If they phoned you, wait 10 minutes before you use the phone again (or use a different telephone) in case they stay on the line.
- Contact their company yourself or dial 101 for the police – do not call a number they have provided.
- Report suspicious activity straight away.

Kent Police

Report a scam report online www.kent.police.uk/report
101 is an English - accessible 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact
In an emergency, if there is a fire, or danger call 999
If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service 30004
Or text us on 999 if you're pre-registered with the emergency SMS service
www.kent.police.uk

Take time to verify requests, seek advice from someone you trust, and never feel pressured into making financial decisions.

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 from the Home Office at [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](#)

New Published Reports

Loneliness

Source: NSPCC

Date published: 15 June 2026

The NSPCC has published an article regarding Childline counselling sessions about loneliness. New data shows that in 2025/2026, Childline delivered 4,893 sessions to children and young people seeking support to cope with loneliness, an annual increase of 7%. Some cited fears of being isolated and unable to make friends when going through major life changes. The article includes advice for adults on helping children and young people who might be experiencing loneliness.

Read the news story: [Rise in children struggling with loneliness contacting Childline](#)

Sexuality and gender identity

Source: NSPCC

Date published: 12 June 2026

The NSPCC has published an article about on contacts to Childline regarding sexuality and gender identity. New data shows that in 2025/2026, Childline delivered 2,457 counselling sessions to children and young people with issues or concerns around sexuality and gender identity, with coming out being the biggest worry. Other concerns included: questioning sexuality or gender identity; discrimination or prejudice; and experiencing gender dysphoria. The article urges children and young people with worries about sexuality and gender identity issues to reach out for support.

Read the news story: [Childline delivers thousands of counselling sessions about sexuality and gender identity](#)

Online safety: sharing nude images

Source: Home Office

Date published: 08 June 2026

The Home Office has announced plans to block children in the UK from taking or sharing nude images on their devices to help protect them from exploitation and abuse. Technology companies will be required to activate built-in features or implement solutions on smartphones and tablets to detect and block nude images for children. The government wants Apple and Google to block nudity across devices by default, so they can only be deactivated via age assurance.

Read the news story: [New plans to stop children taking, sharing or viewing nude images](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Preventing online harm and abuse](#)

Online child sexual abuse and exploitation

Source: NSPCC

Date published: 15 May 2026

The NSPCC has published an article concerning the increasing number of 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 potential harmful impact online sites can have. 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.

June 2026

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](#)

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