

Community Safety Partner Updates



July 2026

Community Safety Update and Events

Community Safety Stand - 24 July

Tara Liam from Community Safety along with KCC Wardens and representatives from the Environment Agency and Ashford Mediation staffed the safety stand at the Lower Leas Coastal Park in Folkestone.

The officers engaged with members of the public about keeping safe in the community, provided advice about ASB (anti-social behaviour) whilst handing out safety information and advising about community support services across the district. The Environment Agency spoke about flooding and staying safe in the sea.



July 2026

Scam Awareness Talks – 29 July 2026

On 29 July, the Community Safety Team along with Folkestone & Hythe District Council's Independent Living Officers delivered a talk at Stockham Court and Biggins Wood Road advising on being aware of scams.

The officers spoke to 20 residents providing practical advice on prevention and offered guidance to those affected.

Upcoming Community Safety Events

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 Lower Leas 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

Wildfires

With the increased temperatures and resulting lengthy periods of dry weather, wildfires can cause damage to property and landscapes and distress to wildlife. We urge everyone to be mindful to avoid causing unnecessary risks and Kent Fire & Rescue Service have put together wildfire safety tips [Wildfire | Kent Fire and Rescue Service](#)

Safety on trains

If anybody is subject to inappropriate comments and harassment whilst travelling on trains, text the British Transport Police on 61016.

Neighbour everyday noise

With summer in full swing with warmer days and longer evenings, many people socialise outside in gardens and other establishments. Everyday living noise,

children running around in in a neighbouring property or a flat may be annoying for many and these matters cannot be investigated by the Environmental Protection team [Noisy neighbours | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#) Community Safety suggests speaking to your neighbours as they may not realise this is annoying but having a friendly word is likely to resolve between neighbours. Guidance can be found on [Resolving neighbour disputes: Overview - GOV.UK](#)

Lower Leas Coastal Park

Community Safety and Enforcement Officers are patrolling the Coastal Park during the summer months to ensure visitors adhere to the notices. The park closes from 8pm to 7am daily. Barbecues (BBQs) are no longer permitted in the Lower Leas Coastal Park and all pods have been removed and people are asked to use the beach if having a BBQ. More information can be found on [Lower Leas Coastal Park | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#) including the history of the park.

Jellyfish

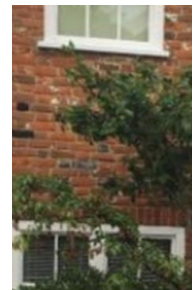
Officers patrolled Mermaid Beach in Folkestone and came across jellyfish. We urge people to be cautious and avoid getting too close. There are various varieties of jellyfish, some harmless but can sting and others give severe stings causing discomfort.



House and garden protection

Many will be preparing for their summer getaways. 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



- 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.

Vehicle protection

- Many people are heading to the beach and below are tips for protecting your vehicles.
- Lock the vehicle, check all handles including locking manually and ensure windows are closed.
- Keep fobs and keys away from doors and windows.
- Think about a signal blocking pouch to protect keyless car fobs.
- Remove valuables from view, keeping them out of sight.
- Think about parking near well lit busy areas at in the day and nighttime.
- If nipping out of the vehicle into the shop do not leave the car running unattended.



Partner Information / Updates

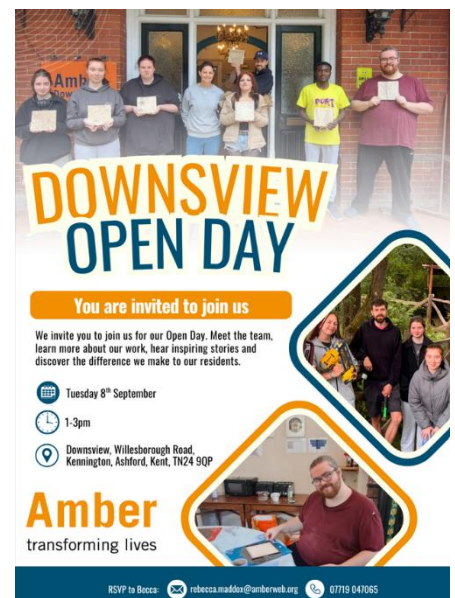
Amber Foundation

The Amber Foundation [Supported Homeless Housing Centre in Kent | Amber Foundation](#) is a charity working with young adults (aged 18-30) facing tough challenges, namely homelessness, unemployment and mental ill health. They do this by providing a safe place to live (for up to a year) at one of their four supported housing centres.

Downsview is Amber's newest centre, which opened in 2022 in Kennington, just outside Ashford, Kent. The former guesthouse has lovely views of the South Downs. The location is enviable, with beautiful countryside right on the doorstep, as well as excellent transport links to Ashford's employment and training opportunities.

Downsview can accommodate up to 25 young adults at Downsview in shared bedrooms. The young adult can take part in a programme of activities, covering life skills, community engagement, creativity and readiness for work.

Downsview are holding an open day on Tuesday 8 September, for anyone to visit and meet the team and find out more about how this charity supports young people to rebuild their lives.



Good News Stories

KCC Community Wardens

Community Wardens across Kent help and support residents and assist with signposting community services. The KCC Community Warden Service is often called upon when someone doesn't know where else to turn.

Case Study

Recently, one of the KCC Community Wardens assisted an individual in need of help. Keeley Taylor Community Warden covering East Folkestone first met Mark (Name changed to protect identity) when he needed help understanding some letters he had received from his energy provider. Mark doesn't read or write very well and has some difficulties with communication, which sometimes makes it difficult for others to understand his needs. Mark has type 1 diabetes and doesn't drive. Keeley enabled Mark to access and use new gas and electric payment cards to ensure he wouldn't get into arrears with his payments.

During that initial conversation Keeley identified several other issues that Mark might benefit from addressing, and they began making small steps to make some changes. Mark's partner used to manage their finances and correspondence, but sadly she passed away 8 months ago, and Mark has been struggling on his own.

Keeley Taylor alongside colleagues Jan Henry and Carol Coveney assisted Mark to de-clutter his spare room, which enabling him to sleep in his bed, rather than the armchair in his sitting room. They also helped him to sort through his partner's clothes and arrange for some to be bagged and taken to a local charity shop.

Mark's oven had recently broken and needed replacing, but he was unable to pay for such an expense. Keeley did some research and sourced funding from a local Folkestone Charity which enabled Mark to purchase a basic electric oven, so that he As Mark continues to struggle with managing paperwork, Keeley referred him to the Patient Charter Network who will be able to visit Mark and help him to go through all the paperwork which has accumulated since his partner died and set up an easy filing system with him.

A few weeks into the Kent Community Warden service, Mark was given a puppy by someone who wanted storage of goods in exchange. Mark is aware that this could have got him in trouble with his landlord and wisely said no, however the puppy was left with Mark anyway. Delighted to have some company, but worried where the puppy may have come from, Mark told Keeley what had happened. After some discussion Mark agreed to a visit from the local RCPSA welfare officer, who confirmed that the puppy seemed in good health and was unchipped. The officer also helped with nutrition advice and gave Mark some puppy food and puppy toys as well as some basic training tips. The Officer will be accompanying Mark as he makes his first visits to the vets.

Keeley spoke to Mark about the dangers of rogue traders and fraudulent callers to his home. The Folkestone and Hythe Community Safety Unit provided Mark with a video doorbell and Keeley put up warning stickers in his window and on his front door to deter unwanted visitors.

Mark said that he was grateful for everything that Keeley, her colleagues and partners had done for him and couldn't thank them enough. Mark said that he just needed someone to understand him, someone who was friendly and helpful with time to listen.

Information on community wardens can be found [Community wardens - Kent County Council](#) including for your area

Fraud / Scams



FRAUD ALERT: Fake Water Company Messages

Fraudsters are sending convincing text messages, emails and making phone calls pretending to be water companies. The messages often use official logos and professional language to appear genuine.

Examples include -

- "There is now a hosepipe ban. Click here to see if your area is affected."
- "You are eligible for a free water-saving kit. Click here to claim it."
- "Your water bill is changing due to restrictions. Update your payment details."

The links lead to fake websites designed to steal personal information, passwords, banking details and payment card information.

Protect Yourself -

- Do not click links in unexpected texts or emails.
- Check information directly on your water supplier's official website.
- Never provide banking details, passwords or card information after following a link.
- Contact your water company using trusted contact details if you are unsure.

Remember –

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Genuine water companies will not ask you to update payment details or provide sensitive information through links sent in unsolicited text messages or emails. If in doubt, contact the company directly using official contact details.

Report It -

- Forward suspicious texts to 7726 (SPAM).
- Forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk

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](#)

Another Rogue Trader locked up

A rogue trader from Gillingham has been jailed after stealing almost £15,000 from a pensioner.

Amos Smith, 47, gave a false name to his victim as he completed ground clearance in the man's Twydall garden throughout May and June of 2025. Initially he charged the homeowner, in his 70s, £11,000 for the work, which included removing trees and rubbish.

A month after groundwork was completed, Smith reattended the victim's address telling him he owed more money. He told the man to walk with him to a local shop to withdraw cash, which he complied with on 5, 6, 7, 9, and 13 August while Smith watched. In total, around £15,000 was handed over by his victim.

Smith was arrested on 14 April 2026 as he left prison, having finished serving a sentence for similar offences. The Gillingham Road resident was subsequently charged with 2 counts of fraud by false representation, which he admitted to at Maidstone Magistrates Court on 29 June 2026.

At the same hearing, he was jailed for 2 years and 8 months.

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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

AI-generated child sexual abuse material

Source: IWF

Date published: 03 July 2026

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has launched a campaign and new guidance for parents and carers about AI-generated child sexual abuse material, discussing how AI can be misused to manipulate children's online images and how to protect children's photos from AI abuse. The guidance aims to support parents and carers to make informed decisions about their children's images and includes advice on speaking to children and young people about AI and deepfake nudes, and image consent.

Read the news story: [New guidance for parents and carers as AI-manipulated images of children become a growing concern](#)

Read the guidance: [Stopping AI child sexual abuse imagery: advice for parents and carers](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Preventing online harm and abuse](#)

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

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