

Community Safety Partner Updates



August 2026

Community Safety Update and Events

Folkestone Trawler Race

Community Safety had a stall at the trawler race at Folkestone Harbour at the beginning of August. Members of the public were keen to speak about various topics of concern and purse bells, signal blockers, and reflectors were given out, all aimed at helping people stay safe and signpost to various services.

There were various stallholders showcasing their work, live bands, along with various events including paddleboard and raft races with competitions for all the family visiting Folkestone Harbour for the event.



August 2026

Opening of Lower Leas Coastal Park

On 4 August, the Lower Leas Coastal Park officially opened the new equipment installed at the play area.

Free ice creams and goodie bags were handed out to children from 2pm and 4pm and there was filming and photography of the fun during the day.

There is additional seating, enhanced accessibility, as well as buggy and cycle parking, for all families to use.

The park closes from 8pm to 7am daily. Barbecues are no longer permitted in the Lower Leas Coastal Park and all pods have been removed. Visitors are asked to use the beach if having a barbecue. More information can be found on [Lower Leas Coastal Park | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#) including the history of the park.



Scam Awareness Talks

On 7 August, Sara Whiteley from Community Safety along with council officers from the Independent Living team and from [Trading Standards - Kent County Council](#) delivered a talk at Middelburg House and Coronation Cottage in Cheriton about scam awareness.

The officers spoke to 10 residents providing practical advice on prevention and offered guidance.

Safety Stand

Community Safety joined KCC wardens and representatives from the [Environment Agency - GOV.UK](#) in the Lower Leas Coastal Park on 21 August.

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 staff spoke about flooding, staying safe in the sea climate changes.



Good News Stories

On 29 July Tara Liam from Community Safety along with KCC Warden, Keeley Taylor were on their way to visit a vulnerable resident.

The officers were driving along Cornwallis Avenue in Folkestone when Tara spotted three men climbing the wall into a front garden.

The three said they had been picking figs so Tara explained about not jumping into gardens and worrying residents who might fear they were being burgled.

The elderly homeowner was very grateful that Tara and Keeley had stopped and intervened. He explained that he was already having a difficult day due to his wife having to move into a care home.

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

Upcoming Community Safety Events

Scam Awareness – 6 November

Community Safety will be at Age UK, Sanford House, Stade Street in Hythe from 10:30am to 3.00pm including KCC Wardens, CarersUK, Wave Community Bank, Ashford Mediation and many other partner agencies.

(Events and times are subject to change)

Community Safety Information Awareness

Preparing the house and garden for Autumn

A house or flat is our sanctuary, a place where we feel safe and for anyone fortunate to have a garden an extension to the home.

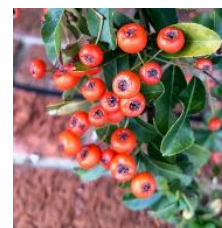
House protection safety

- Ensure your home looks occupied, set automatic timers to go on in the evening, avoid closing all curtains and blinds.
- Don't leave blinds and curtains open with the lights on as passer byes can see into your home.
- Lights outside of the home, invest in motion sensor lights, some run on batteries.
- Check the burglar alarm is working and visible outside of your property including smoke and heat alarms inside the house.
- Invest in home security like a camera or video doorbell, allows to view any activity outside your home from your IT device.
- Avoid hanging car keys by the front door, place them out of sight away from the vehicle or place in a signal blocking pouch.
- Upgrade locks with key-operated multi-point locks, deadbolts and key locked windows.
- A car parked on your driveway gives the appearance someone is at home.
- Parcel deliveries, arrange a time when the house is occupied or arrange for parcels to be placed in a porch if frosted glass or in a receptacle.



Garden protection

- Ensure all gardening equipment is locked away, out of sight in a garden shed or garage.
- Check your home insurance police under garden cover.
- If you have a driveway or path, place gravel to hear if anyone approaches your home.
- Lock your gate to avoid anyone gaining access to the back garden.
- Plant pyracantha, known as firethorn, a good deterrent as their needle like thorns are prickly or any other prevention plants by checking online.



Cost of Living

With the cost of living everyone is facing, thoughts are turning to checking the family finances to ensure food can be put on the table and bills paid.

Folkestone & Hythe District Council has implemented measures to assist struggling households and there is information on the council website about:

- Free and subsidised food in the district



- Community hubs and community spaces
- Help with mental health
- Home essential fund
- Help for households
- Wellness events
- Crisis and resilience fund
- Help with debt and money advice
- Better off calculator
- Warm spaces
- Get winter prepared
- Help with council tax
- Help with rent and housing costs
- Help with benefits
- Help with utility bills.

Click on our website [Help and support with the cost of living – Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#)

Social Media postings

- Many post on the social media platforms, at the airport heading to their holiday destination.
- Avoid posting where you are heading, this may advertise you are on holiday and the home is empty.
- Post your holiday highlighted on your return home.



Cardboard Boxes display brands

- Anyone placing cardboard boxes displaying items purchased is creating a window for thieves.
- Peel of your contact details from the cardboard box.



National Campaigns

National Food Bank Day – 4 September

The day is dedicated to raise awareness and encouraging donations and volunteering at local food banks, providing support to those in need.

World Suicide Prevention Day – 10 September

World Suicide Prevention Day is held annually on 10 September to raise awareness around suicide prevention, mental health support and breaking the stigma associated with suicidal thoughts.



Stand up to Cancer Day – 14 September

Uniting people globally in the fight against cancer raising awareness, fundraising and honouring survivors and those battling the disease.

[Stand Up To Cancer | Speed Up Life-Saving Research](#)



World Alzheimer's Day – 21 September

An annual global event to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

[World Alzheimer's Month | Alzheimer's Society](#)



Fraud / Scams



FRAUD ALERT: Fake Microsoft Account Verification Emails

Fraudsters are sending emails claiming to be from Microsoft, warning that your email account will be suspended unless you "verify" or "validate" your account. These emails often use Microsoft logos and links to fake websites designed to steal your login details.

Warning Signs

- Generic messages that do not address you by name.
- Poor grammar or unusual wording.
- Urgent threats that your account will be suspended.
- Requests to click a link to "verify", "validate" or "secure" your account.
- No specific information about your account.

How the Scam Works

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The email directs you to a fake Microsoft sign-in page. If you enter your username and password, criminals can gain access to your email account and other online services.

Protect Yourself

- Do not click links in unexpected emails.
- Access your account by typing the official website address into your browser.
- Enable Two Factor Authentication (2FA).

Be wary of messages creating urgency or demanding immediate action.

If You Receive a Suspicious Email, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk then delete it. Do not reply or click any links.

If You Have Already Clicked the Link –

- Change your password immediately.
- Enable 2FA if not already active.
- Check your account for suspicious activity.

Remember

Microsoft will not ask you to verify your account through an unsolicited email link. If in doubt, go directly to the official Microsoft website.

Warning issued to solar panel owners following arrests for fraud

Detectives investigating reports of solar panel fraud around the country have arrested four people in Whitstable and Herne Bay.

The arrests follow reports that between 2023 and 2026, elderly people were cold-called and deceived into paying for unnecessary solar panel upgrades which were not carried out. In some cases, victims alleged that they were also not refunded their payments when requested.



Officers arrested a 36-year-old man from Whitstable and a 39-year-old man from Herne Bay on Tuesday 14 July 2026. A 37-year-old woman from Whitstable was arrested on 9 July, and a 65-year-old man was arrested last year.

All were arrested on suspicion of fraud and money laundering offences and have been released pending further enquiries. A further non-custodial interview was carried out with a man suspected of being involved in fraudulent activity.

As part of the investigation, four warrants have been executed at properties in Whitstable, Herne Bay and Cambridgeshire.

Residents with solar panels installed on their homes are being reminded to be wary when approached by cold callers.

Detective Constable Darren Ousby said:

'Be cautious if you are contacted out of the blue by someone offering grants, upgrades or repairs on your solar panels, either at the door or by phone, letter or email. Do not feel pressured into paying for a deal quickly. Legitimate companies will give you time to review the offer rather than insisting you accept it immediately. If an offer sounds too good to be true, it usually is. In most cases, the victims are elderly, so if you have elderly relatives, friends or neighbours, take time to speak to them and ensure they are aware of the risk of fraud and what to do if they are approached. If anything seems suspicious and you believe it might be a scam, report it to police immediately.'

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](#)



[Home Page - My Community Voice Kent](#) A free messaging service run by Kent Police helping Kent and Medway residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with their local policing teams.

if you want to start receiving alerts to My Community Voice, [Home Page - My Community Voice Kent](#) register your details. Tell Community Voice how you would like to be contacted and the topics and issues that matter to you.

The alerts will come to you via email, text or voice note. If you have any information about an appeal, then you can message the team back through the alert.

You can view the latest Kent alerts and be able to look up your local policing team by entering a street address or postcode.

Comments and thoughts are welcomed. Clicking on the 'reply' link within a message will send your reply to the person that sent the message and your local policing team.

Please note: This should not be used to report any crime or incident to the police.

- For emergencies or a crime in progress please dial **999**.
- To report non urgent crimes, call **101** or visit www.kent.police.uk/report

New Published Reports

Domestic abuse

Source: NSPCC

Date published: 18 August 2026

The NSPCC has published a news story on contacts to its Helpline about domestic abuse. New Helpline data shows that: between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, there were 8,448 child welfare contacts where the main concern was domestic abuse, an increase of 8% on the previous year; and a third of these contacts ended in a referral to local agencies including police and children's social services.

Read the news story: [Adults contacting our Helpline about children experiencing domestic abuse reaches record levels](#)

Online safety: social media

Source: NSPCC

Date published: 11 August 2026

The NSPCC has published a news story calling on the government to take stronger action on social media platforms to help keep children safe online. New data from Childline shows TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram were among the platforms mentioned most often in contacts to the NSPCC service in the year to March 2026. The most common concerns children raised around TikTok, the platform mentioned most often to Childline, related to mental health, online sexual abuse and exploitation, and their wider digital behaviour. The news story highlights the need for robust age assurance and action to detect and remove harmful content.

Read the news story: [The government must be tougher on social media platforms to keep children safe](#)

Child sexual abuse

Source: NSPCC Learning

Date published: 31 July 2026

NSPCC Learning has published an updated statistics briefing on child sexual abuse. The briefing looks at data and statistics about child sexual abuse in the UK to help professionals make evidence-based decisions, covering the scale of the issue and what data tells us about children who have been sexually abused.

Read the briefing: [Child sexual abuse: statistics briefing](#)

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