

Community Safety Partner Updates



September 2026

Community Safety Update and Events

Upcoming Community Safety Events

Winter Well event – 2 November 10.30am – 2pm

Community Safety will be at the Hub on the Beach (103 Coast Drive, Greatstone New Romney TN28 8NR)

The event will focus on supporting residents through the current challenges of winter by providing advice on food poverty, energy, benefits and financial advice. Scam awareness guidance and what to look out including information from Kent Fire & Rescue Service household checks will also be available.

Scam Awareness – 6 November 10.30am – 3pm

Community Safety will be at Age UK, Sanford House, Stade Street, Hythe CT21 6BD from 10:30am to 3pm.

Representatives from various agencies will be attending offering practical advice on scam awareness and how to protect yourself and others.

(Events and times are subject to change)

September 2026

Community Safety Information Awareness

Halloween

On 31 October residents may receive trick or treaters knocking at the doors in the hope of receiving sweets.

If you have young children:

- Never let young children go trick or treating on their own.
- Make sure young children are accompanied by an adult and only visit people known to your family.
- If houses do not have decorations or pumpkins outside, avoid knocking as the householders may not like Halloween.



If you have teenagers:

- Make sure they are not going to be using alcohol, flour or eggs.
- Make it clear that if a 'no trick or treat' sign is displayed, they should leave straightaway.
- Make sure they do not travel alone and never go into the home of someone they do not know.
- Make sure they understand they must not frighten people. Display the front of this poster in a door or window if you would rather not be visited by Halloween callers.

Display the front of this poster in a door or window if you would rather not be visited by Halloween callers



For anyone who does not want to receive these callers you can download the [No trick or treating please poster with advice](#) for your window or front door.

Folkestone & Hythe District have posters available at reception, please visit the council offices, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue to pick up a poster.

Car safety essentials

Now is the time to prepare the car for the winter months by checking lights, tyres, brakes and battery. Keep an ice scraper, de-icer, torch with spare batteries including a breakdown triangle in the boot of the car and a blanket is also useful.

For those long journeys also have a Hi-Viz jacket, food and drink. Ensure your mobile phone is fully charged including a portable battery charger.



Parking the car in safety

Park in well-lit areas and avoid leaving personal items on display in the car, place these in the boot or glovebox, locked.

If you park on your driveway and start the car to warm the engine, never leave your vehicle unattended for any thieves to steal and drive away. Install a dash cam, can be used as evidence if an insurance claim is made.



Preparing the home for October

- Ensure roof and gutters are inspected and remove any debris often collected by birds or get a professional in to do the job.
- Ensure the heating is working, arrange for a yearly boiler inspection and for the radiators.

Beware of rogue traders. To find a reliable and local trader click on KCC Trading Standards approved trader scheme [Trading Standards Checked](#)

Partner Information / Updates

Event

NHS
Kent and Medway
Talking Therapies

World Mental Health Day 2026: Connecting Our Community

Friday 9th October 2026

Kent and Medway Talking Therapies is proud to hold a series of events in collaboration with Mental Health Matters, Live Well and Kent & Medway Mental Health NHS Trust to support World Mental Health Day 2026.

Our Shared Mission:

These events will bring together community mental health organisations from across Kent and Medway to showcase the support available for both service users and professionals while encouraging organisations to work more collaboratively and strengthen local mental health networks.

In Partnership with: **mhm** mentalhealthmatters **Live well** Kent and Medway **NHS** Kent and Medway Mental Health NHS Trust

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Who This Event Is For:

Anyone who wants to meet local mental health services, find out what support is available, and gain information and advice. Whether you are seeking support for yourself, supporting others, or working within health and social care, this event offers a valuable opportunity to discover the wide range of mental health resources available across Kent and Medway.

Join us!

Rainham Healthy Living Centre Cafe ME8 8AA 09:30 to 14:00	Canterbury Safe Haven CT2 7EE 11:00 to 16:00
Dartford Safe Haven DA1 1BX 11:00 to 16:00	Maidstone Safe Haven ME15 6LU 11:00 to 16:00
Tunbridge Wells Safe Haven TN1 2UY 11:00 to 16:00	Gillingham Sunlight Centre ME7 1LX 09:30 to 14:00
Folkestone Safe Haven CT20 1EY 11:00 to 16:00	Balmoral Gardens Cafe ME7 4PN 09:30 to 14:00
Ramsgate Safe Haven CT11 9AG 11:00 to 16:00	Medway Maritime Hospital ME7 5NY 11:00 to 16:00

Prepare for Winter: Simple Steps to Reduce Flood Risk



After one of the driest summers in recent years, it can be easy to assume flooding is unlikely. However, dry ground can become hard and compacted, meaning heavy rain is less able to soak into the soil and can run off quickly into roads, drains and watercourses. Combined with forecasts suggesting a greater chance of wetter and stormier conditions this autumn and early winter due to **El Niño**, residents and communities across the Folkestone and Hythe District are encouraged to prepare now.

Fortunately, a few simple actions can make a big difference:

- **Check gutters and drains** around your home and clear leaves, moss and debris to help rainwater flow freely.
- **Know your flood risk** by visiting [Check the long term flood risk for an area in England - GOV.UK](#)
- **Sign up for free Environment Agency flood warnings** if your property is in an area at risk of flooding. [Get flood warnings by text, phone or email - GOV.UK](#)
- **Download the Met Office Weather App** to receive trusted weather forecasts, severe weather warnings and rainfall updates for your location. [Met Office weather app - Met Office](#)
- **Prepare an emergency kit** with a torch, batteries, phone charger, essential medication, warm clothing and important documents.
- **Store valuable items higher up** if your home has previously experienced flooding or is located in a flood risk area.
- **Check your insurance** and keep a record of important possessions.
- **Plan ahead** by discussing with family members what you would do if flood warnings were issued.
- **Consider becoming a community flood volunteer.** Contact: floodresilienceKSLES@environment-agency.gov.uk

Remember, **never walk, cycle or drive through floodwater**. Just a small amount of moving water can be dangerous, and floodwater may hide hazards beneath the surface.

While no one can prevent severe weather, taking a few simple steps now can help protect your home, family and community. Preparing before the winter storms arrive is the best way to stay safe and resilient during periods of flooding.



Knowing just



1 action to take in a flood

Can reduce the impacts on your home and family



Go to [GOV.UK/PREPARE-FOR-FLOODING](https://gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding) to:

- ☒ **Check your flood risk**
- ☒ **Sign up for FREE flood warnings**
- ☒ **Be prepared: Know what to do in a flood**



National Campaigns

National Home Security Month – 1 October – 31 October

Every October, households across the UK take part in the National Home Security Month, to highlight the importance of protecting our homes, loved ones and possessions. Daylight hours are limited as the evenings grow darker earlier and the risk of burglary and home related crimes tend to increase.

National Cadets Week – 5 October – 11 October

This annual campaign celebrates the outstanding contribution made by the UK's Cadet Forces and the dedicated Cadet Force Adult Volunteers who help develop young people across the country.



World Mental Health Day – 10 October

Raise awareness of mental health issues worldwide and reducing stigma around mental illness and aspiring for better health services.

Hate Crime Awareness – 10 – 17 October

Aiming to bring together communities, organisations and authorities together to tackle hate crime and support victims.

Fraud / Scams



HALIFAX PHISHING EMAIL WARNING

Fraudsters are sending emails claiming customers need to verify or confirm their personal information. The email contains a link directing recipients to a fake Halifax website designed to steal personal and banking details.

These emails can appear genuine and may use Halifax branding, logos and language to encourage victims to act quickly. Information provided through these fraudulent websites can be used to gain access to accounts, commit identity fraud or facilitate further scams.

Protect Yourself - Remember **ABC**

A - Never ASSUME

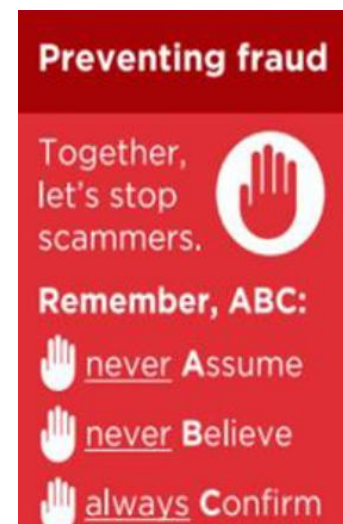
- Never assume an email is genuine because it contains official logos, branding or appears to come from a trusted organisation.

B - Never BELIEVE

- Never believe unexpected requests to click links, verify account details or provide personal information. Criminals rely on urgency and trust to encourage victims to act without thinking.

C - Always CONFIRM

- Always confirm requests independently. If you receive an email claiming to be from Halifax:
 - Do not click any links within the email.
 - Access your account through the official Halifax app or by typing the website address directly into your browser.



- Contact Halifax using a trusted number obtained independently.
- Forward suspicious emails to **report@phishing.gov.uk**.

If You Have Responded

If you have clicked a link or entered personal or banking information, contact your bank immediately, change any compromised passwords and monitor your accounts for suspicious activity.

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

Fraud Alert: Trusted Individuals Steal £51 Million from Pensioners

New figures from the City of London Police reveal that older and vulnerable people are losing millions of pounds to fraud committed by those closest to them. During 2025/26, £93.8 million was reported lost through Fraud by Abuse of Position in the UK, with victims aged 70 and over losing more than £51 million.

Fraud by Abuse of Position occurs when someone in a trusted role, such as a family member, friend, carer, employee, or attorney, exploits that position to steal money, assets, or property. A total of 3,812 reports were made during the year, with those aged 80-89 suffering the highest losses, totalling almost £24 million.

A significant concern is the misuse of Power of Attorney, with 764 reports resulting in losses of £34.6 million. There were also 444 reports involving social care workers, with losses reaching £13.3 million. Many cases involved offenders gaining access to bank cards, financial information, or accounts and making unauthorised withdrawals or transfers. Some reports also involved the manipulation of wills and estates following a victim's death.

The data highlights how offenders often target people during periods of vulnerability, including ill health, dementia, cognitive decline, and bereavement. Victims frequently relied on those around them for care, support, or financial management, giving offenders opportunities to abuse their trust.

Protect Yourself and Loved Ones

- Regularly check bank statements and financial accounts for unusual transactions.
- Be alert to unpaid bills, missing possessions, unexplained withdrawals, or unexpected changes to wills and financial arrangements.
- Discuss financial matters with trusted relatives and seek independent advice if concerns arise.

If You Suspect Financial Abuse

- Contact your bank or card provider immediately.
- Raise concerns with your local authority's Adult Social Care team.
- Report concerns about misuse of a Power of Attorney to the Office of the Public Guardian.

Report suspected fraud to [Reporting cyber crime and fraud or phishing attempts - Report Fraud](#) or call 0300 123 2040. For more advice and to raise any concerns, contact – [Office of the Public Guardian - GOV.UK](#)

Remember: Financial abuse is often committed by someone known and trusted by the victim. Regular checks and early reporting can help protect vulnerable people from significant financial harm.

New Published Reports

Online safety

Source: Ofcom

Date published: 09 September 2026

Ofcom has launched an enforcement programme to ensure online platforms prevent the spread of illegal intimate images, including AI-generated deepfakes, to help increase protection for women and girls online. By 30 September 2026, online platforms are expected to have automated technology in place known as 'hash matching' or equally effective technology to detect and block this content. Ofcom is also gathering evidence on the online harms experienced by women and girls to inform further action.

Read the news story: [Ofcom to crack down on spread of illegal intimate images and deepfakes, boosting protections for women and girls online](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Preventing online harm and abuse](#)

Child sexual abuse and exploitation

Source: Child Sexual Exploitation Taskforce

Date published: 19 August 2026

The Child Sexual Exploitation Taskforce has developed a toolkit to help organisations communicate consistently, accurately and compassionately about child sexual abuse and exploitation. The toolkit is built around four core principles: belief, language, collaboration and justice. The toolkit outlines messaging considerations, survivor-centred narratives and communications messages and statistics for different topics.

Access the toolkit: [New CPAI Toolkit launched to strengthen survivor-centred communications across child protection](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Protecting children from sexual 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