

Community Safety Partner Updates



November 2023

Community Safety Update and Events

Bouverie Place – 17 November – Op Sceptre

Op Sceptre a week-long campaign from 13 November to 19 November highlighted the commitment of the police working with the public and partners to prevent young people becoming involved in serious violence.

Tara Liam from Community Safety, Neil Staveley, KCC warden, along with Caley Walden from The Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) had a stand in Bouverie Place on 17 November engaging with about 45 members of the public.

VRU is a joint partnership between the police, local councils, health service providers and other key agencies to deliver a reduction in violence to the county. The aim is that police and partner agencies working together help lift vulnerable young people out of a life of crime.



November 2023

National Safeguarding Adults Week – 20 November to 24 November 2023

As part of the annual Safeguarding Adults Weeks from 20 to 24 November, Scott Butler from Community Safety, along with [HomeStartShepway/](#), Neil Staveley, KCC warden and staff from KCC Children's Social Services were at Bouverie Place in Folkestone on 24 November. The officers gave safeguarding advice and signposted to relevant partner agencies.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is a primary concern and statutory duty of [FolkestoneandHytheDistrictCouncil](#). We all have duty to protect children and adults from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. It is important to look out for others.



16 Days of Action

The global '16 Days of Action' campaign against violence and abuse began on 25 November and continues until 10 December. This is an international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls.

It's a vital time to join the fight to end domestic abuse in Kent. Join in supporting the [#KnowSeeSpeakOut](#) campaign to help more people find safety

domesticabuseservices.org.uk

⚠️ Emergency: call 999 (BSL 999bsl.co.uk app)

💬 Non-emergency support: 08081 689111 and signlive.co.uk

🗨️ [Victim Support](#) live chat victimsupport.org.uk
[#DomesticAbuseSupport](#) [#ChangeTheStory](#)



Ask for Angela



Interested in receiving training and being a part of this important scheme?

Just contact our Community Safety team with your organisation or business details so we can help get you started folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/community-safety/safe-space



Community Safety along with partner agencies have been working with retailers and organisations as part of the Safeguarding Adults Week. The aim is for safe spaces to be created to help anyone feeling anxious, overwhelmed, or worried about their personal safety enabling them to approach staff in local businesses taking part in the scheme. 'Ask for Angela' is a code and staff in participating venues will recognise that the person requires help and provide support if they are in need or seeking a place of safety folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/community-safety/safe-space

Community Safety Partnership Networking Event

A Community Safety Partnership networking event was held at the Civic Centre on 21 November.

About 55 partner agencies attended along with the council leader Cllr Jim Martin,

Cllr Mike Blakemore, Cllr Polly Blakemore, Cllr Nicola Keen, Cllr Jackie Mead, Cllr Alan Martin, Cllr James Butcher and Cllr Anita Jones. Representatives from the F&HDC housing team and the licensing team attended with those from the Diocese Canterbury & South International Community Church, [ChangeGrowLive/](#), [Sanctuary/](#), [Town&County, Housing/](#), [VictimSupport/](#), [EnvironmentalAgency](#), [Serveco/](#), [Porchlight/](#), [KentPolice/](#), [BorderForce](#), [CheritonBaptistChurchUrbanPastors](#), [KCCWardens](#), [KCCAdultSocial Care](#) [RainbowCentre/](#), [FutureSkills/](#), [KCCEarlyHelp](#), [RSPCA/](#), [HomeStartShepway/](#), [RisingSun/](#) [ActiveCommunityDevelopment/](#) including Probation and Southeastern Railway.



The event provided an opportunity for partners to liaise and build up their networks with the sharing of information, knowledge and awareness offered.



The 12 Days of Christmas Safety




The 12 Days of Christmas Safety

After the year we've had we all want to celebrate Christmas to the max! We've put our own twist on this Christmas carol so you can make sure you stay safe whilst having festive fun.

1 Don't overload electrical sockets. Switch off and unplug Christmas lights when they're not in use.



3 Keep a close watch on your valuables and don't keep them all in one place.



4 Don't broadcast your holiday plans or gifts on social media.



2 If you have to keep presents in the car during a shopping trip, make sure they are out of view, the car is locked, and keep the receipts with you.



5 Keep some emergency money separate from your purse or wallet.



6 If you are going out, plan your journey home in advance and travel with others if you can.

7 Never leave your drink unattended.



8 Don't leave boxes for gifts on display next to your bin.



9 Make sure young children know what to do if they lose you in a crowded area. Arrange a meeting point with older children in case you're separated.



12 Don't click on any festive links and attachments in your inbox unless you know they're safe.



10 Make sure you have something to eat before a night out and drink water regularly.



11 Save the number of a licensed taxi firm in your mobile phone. Always check the driver's identification and never get into an unlicensed taxi.



Tips for a safe Christmas and New Year

Belongings and Shopping:

- Place your hand over the ATM when withdrawing cash ensuring no one can see your PIN number and that no one is standing behind or too close.
- Leave valuables at home, only take with you what you need for a trip out.
- If you have a bag, keep it fastened and to the front of your body.
- Keep valuables out of sight, spread around your person (for example keep your phone in a bag, your house keys in a pocket and money in a jacket).
- Keep wallets, phones, and personal items out of the back pockets of jeans and trousers.
- Use a purse chain if you can.
- Never leave your belongings unattended or in easy reach, for example on the top of a pram, a shopping trolley, or a mobility scooter.
- Security-mark your valuables, they can be more easily identified if lost or stolen.



Car

- Keep valuables safe and do not display on the back seat of your vehicle, securely place them in the boot of the car.
- If defrosting the vehicle, never leave the car unattended or unlocked or with the engine running.



Home:

- Dispose of wrapping and packaging, never leave it outside your home or bin
- Securely lock all doors and windows and check the house alarm.
- Close blinds and curtains at night, don't leave your valuables lying about especially under the Christmas tree if displayed in the window.
- Ensure keys are put safely away and not hanging on a hook near the door as burglars can break through windows and reach inside to unlock the door.
- Christmas decorations, throws, blankets, pillows, even wrapping paper should be kept 3-feet from your fireplace. The Christmas tree can serve as a fire hazard if it's not located far enough from your fireplace. Both real trees and synthetic trees can catch fire if they are located too close to your fireplace.

Neighbours

- Christmas can be a lonely time for so many people, especially the elderly. Check to see if they are safe, warm, and well and that they have essential supplies.



Travel and Nights Out

- When phoning a taxi, request the cab firm to contact you when they arrive. The taxi driver should be wearing their ID badge on their person, or it should be clearly displayed in their vehicle for the passenger to see.

- Keep an eye on your drinks if in a crowded place or nightclub to avoid potential spiking.
- Plan your route home in advance.

Furry family members



To all pet owners, please remember poinsettias, mistletoe, holly berries, ivy and pine trees are toxic to your furry family.



Partner Updates

Strut Safe

Strut Safe was founded by Rachel Chung and Alice Jackson following the murder of Sarah Everard in March of 2021.

We were once again reminded that there is much work to be done to dismantle systemic violence against women and other marginalised groups. Strut Safe is an initiative to help anyone who feels unsafe when walking in public. We have volunteers based across the UK ready to take calls and stay on the line with you until you get in the door.

Phone lines are open Friday and Saturday from 7pm-3am and Sunday from 7pm-1am. As we are operated by volunteers, we sometimes change these hours, so please check [Instagram](#) for any updates.

You can call from anywhere in the UK.
Call **0333 335 0026**

Hours are:

Fridays + Saturdays: 19:00 - 03:00

Sundays: 19:00 - 01:00

Responders are there to be a friendly voice on the phone and will stay on the line with you until you feel safe.

The responders are happy to stay on the phone with you during your journey home anywhere within the UK. Our volunteers are not mental health professionals or advisors in any capacity, but they can help direct you to more specialised services.

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All the volunteers are interviewed by the Board of Directors and have Basic Disclosure background checks.

Age UK South East Coast

Offering a warm welcome over the winter period.

Working with our network of community hubs across the district, there will again be spaces to meet and eat for those who may be struggling during the colder months.

At the [AgeUKSouthEastKentCoast/](https://www.ageuksoutheastkentcoast.org/) Folkestone centre you can pre book sessions which include a two course lunch and all the free facilities available for £4.

You can find further information and more on the current support on offer here [Folkestone-Hythe.gov.uk/help support costofliving](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/help-support/costofliving)



Protecting Rural Communities and preventing crime in the countryside

Officers from the Folkestone and Hythe's Neighbourhood Task Force have been carrying out patrols in the Romney Marsh area as part of Kent Police's commitment to protect rural communities and prevent crime in the countryside.

On the evening of Sunday 19 November 2023, officers stopped a suspicious van near New Romney, which they suspected was linked to possible wildlife crime.

Two catapults, several ball bearings and a high-powered lamp were seized, and three men are to be issued with Community Protection Warnings (CPWs).

The CPWs will prohibit the men from engaging in poaching and could lead to further action and possible prosecution if they persist.

November 2023

Fraud / Scams



#ScamAlert ⚠ Kent residents targeted by fake sellers on Facebook Marketplace

🚫 Public Protection – Kent Facebook page posted they have received more reports of selling scams operated by criminals on Facebook. In this instance it was a private seller who claimed to know a relative of the residents and pretending to be an administrator in the selling group.

🚫 This is a scam.

Find out how to recognise scams on Facebook Marketplace <https://loom.ly/946FUs0>

Learn how to buy and sell on Facebook Marketplace <https://loom.ly/-2Xwqjc>

For advice and to report contact Citizens Advice on consumer helpline 0808 223 1133 or report to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Sign up to receive email alerts about doorstep criminals, scams, major incidents and more from Kent County Council public protection services: <https://loom.ly/FmUMqIE>



Kent Fraud Alert System



Caller ID's

Do not rely on caller ID to decide if a call is trustworthy. Criminals can copy legitimate phone numbers, to appear like the genuine organisation. The process is called Spoofing and will appear as a genuine number on your telephone.

If you receive a call and it sounds suspicious then hang up and ring back using a trusted number (not a number supplied by them) on a different telephone, as criminals can remain on the line and not disconnect the call. If you do not have a different telephone to hand, then wait 5 minutes and ring a family member or friend to ensure the line has been disconnected before making the call.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.




Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:

 never Assume

 never Believe

 always Confirm

Get the latest
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU

New Published Reports

Online safety

Source: NSPCC Learning

Date: 23 November 2023

November 2023

NSPCC Learning has published an evidence review examining children's exposure to online risks and harms in the UK. The review looks at research published since 2017 focusing on online sexual risks. Findings from the evidence suggest: a sizeable minority of children have encountered sexual risks when they have been online; networking platforms that are popular with children are the most frequent places where children are exposed to online sexual harassment; and there are similar emotional, psychological and social outcomes associated with victimisation across the four categories of sexual risk and harm. The review calls for policymakers and regulators to ensure effective collaboration with platforms and the technology industry.

Read the review: [Online risks to children: evidence review](#)

Online grooming

Source: Lucy Faithfull Foundation

Date: 22 November 2023

The Lucy FaithFull Foundation has released a new film about online grooming as part of the Stop It Now! campaign, which offers support to adults worried about their own or someone else's sexual thoughts about or behaviours towards children. The film discusses adults illegally engaging in sexual conversations with under-16s. It provides information about the law and consequences associated with online grooming.

Find out more: [Conversations with strangers: launching our new film spotlight to deter online grooming](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Protecting children from online 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