

Community Safety Partner Updates



October 2023

Community Safety Update and Events

Community Safety Partnership

On 18 October, Community Safety Officer Tara Liam, Urban Pastors, Sgt Sarah Williams from Kent Police and KCC Warden Neil Staveley along with Lucy Smith from the RSPCA who has worked with the officers regarding animal related matters had a stand at Bouverie Place in Folkestone.

The officers provided advice to over 30 people about scams and keeping safe including listening to views on issues in the local area. This coincided with Business Crime Reduction Safety Week.



October 2023

VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls)

The effects and harm caused to victims and society by violence against women and girls (VAWG) in all forms including stalking, sexual assault, , murder coercive control and honour abuse is immense.



On 20 October, Community Safety Officers along with Cllr Laura Davison, Lucy Smith from the [RSPCA](#), F&HDC Licensing, Kent Police, FAPAC (Folkestone Area Partnership Against Crime), [RisingSun](#) and [HomeStart Shepway](#) were at Folkestone Central train station targeting over 25 commuters and the public from the local area who would be using the train network. The emphasis was about keeping safe and proved a great engagement about awareness.



October 2023

Safer Streets success in Folkestone

Folkestone streets will become even safer, thanks to a £335,546.64 government grant.

The award is the result of a bid made by Folkestone & Hythe Community Safety Partnership (CSP), Kent Police and the [Kent Police & Crime Commissioner](#) for round five of the [Home Office's Safer Streets Fund](#).



The fund is designed to allow forces and local authorities to invest in transformative crime prevention initiatives that focus on reducing levels of neighbourhood crime, [anti-social behaviour](#) and [violence against women and girls \(VAWG\)](#).

In Folkestone the funding will focus on five key areas:

- CCTV
- Anti-social behaviours and crime prevention
- Education programmes
- Safer parks
- Public guardianship.

This will mean the launch of new initiatives such as improvements to CCTV and radio networks in the town centre, increased patrols, education, as well as building on the work the CSP already does.

The CSP has also utilised the specialist skills and knowledge of [HomeStart](#) and the [RisingSun](#) to ensure their commitment to tackling VAWG runs through all the interventions and the planned education programmes.

Partner Agencies

Mobile Food Bank

A new service providing a mobile foodbank and pantry service to the Folkestone and Hythe district has taken to the road. The service will begin by operating in several locations across the district giving easier access for people struggling to meet the increased cost of food. It will help residents facing an emergency who have been referred by agencies to the foodbank for free food vouchers. Anyone wanting to use the service needs to contact Rainbow Centre to be referred.

The van and service has been funded by central government through a grant secured by the council from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The [TrussellTrust](#) and the Folkestone Community Works programme have also supported the innovative project.

The **weekly locations** of the van and mobile service are:

- **Hawkinge Community Centre**, Heron Forstal Avenue, Hawkinge, Folkestone CT18 7FP on Wednesday 10am to 12noon.

- **Harbour Church Folkestone**, Canterbury Road, Folkestone, CT19 5NR on Thursday 10am to 12noon.
- **Folkestone Academy**, Park Farm, Folkestone, CT19 5FP on Friday (from 6 Oct) 2.50pm to 4pm.
- **Hardy Hall, Lydd**, TN29 9HN on Monday (from 9 Oct) 10am to 11am.
- **Another location** – Cheriton Baptist Church, Quested Road, Folkestone, CT19 4BY will be added early next year.

Any volunteering enquiries are to be sent directly to the Rainbow Centre Office Manager, Theresa at theresa@rainbow-centre.org Alternatively, volunteering@rainbow-centre.org

News Awareness

Nitrous Oxide

September's edition of the newsletter covered Nitrous Oxide otherwise known as laughing gas.

Possessing laughing gas will be made illegal and the ban came into force on 8 November 2023 and made nitrous oxide a controlled Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Dealers of nitrous oxide will face up to 14-years behind bars the [Home Office](#) has reported.



E-Scooters

[Kent Police](#) are advising the public to ensure they understand the laws around E-Scooters use before purchasing.

E-Scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured.

It is not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it is illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces, such as pavements.

You risk a £300 fine, six penalty points endorsed on your driving licence and the e-scooter being seized.

If you do not currently hold a driving licence at the time of the offence, you may be prosecuted and may have to go to court, whereby the fine can increase and your ability to obtain a driving licence in the future may be affected.

If you purchase an e-scooter, it can only be used on private land with the landowner's permission.

E-scooters – are you breaking the law?



Can I ride my e-scooter to school or work?

No, it's illegal...

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It's not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them.

Can I ride my e-scooter on the pavement?

No, it's illegal...

You cannot use e-scooters on public footpaths, cycle lanes or roads.

What happens if I'm caught using my e-scooter in public spaces?

The scooter may be seized and as a result, destroyed.

If stopped by an officer, you may be asked to complete a breath and drugs test. You also risk a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for no insurance.



**Kent
Police**

Think before you buy:

The number of electrical scooters being used on our streets has risen, as well as reports of serious injury and fatalities.

For more information and advice on the use of e-scooters visit www.kent.police.uk/road-safety

Fraud / Scams

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Delivery Scams



There have been reports of Kent residents receiving packages addressed to them but found that they contained items that they had not ordered. A short while after the packages were delivered a courier is reported to have re-attended their address to collect the packages, claiming they had been delivered in error and that they will take them back for them.

However, it is a scam. As the criminals have ordered the goods and then arranged delivery to the victim, in the victim's name and to the victim's home address, with the criminals then collecting the goods stating that they were delivered by mistake.

The first time the victim knows that there is a problem, is when they are contacted for payment of the goods. Often the items ordered are high value mobile phones and laptops.

If goods are delivered that you have not ordered and are marked with your address, then you should inform the company that sent them and wait for the company to send a courier. Always check with the company which courier company is making the collection and when they will arrive.

If someone knocks on the door claiming to have come to pick up the parcel after it was delivered by mistake, then do not hand the items over.

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

Protect yourself from ATM Theft

With Christmas fast approaching some people prefer to carry cash around.

Take care when using an ATM or hole in the wall, as scammers have been known to insert a strip of metal into the card slot, stopping cards from reappearing. They may 'shoulder surf' or ask if you want help, to gain access to your pin. Later taking the card out and withdrawing money.



Here are some rules when using a ATM:

- Cover your PIN as you type it.
- Stand close to the machine.
- Use your free hand and body to shield the keypad as you enter your PIN.

This will prevent any prying eyes or hidden cameras seeing your PIN. Don't get distracted. Be particularly cautious if seemingly well-meaning strangers talk to you or offer to help while you're using the ATM.

If they're persistent, simply cancel the transaction and discreetly put your card away. Fraudsters sometimes fit devices to cash machines that trap your card, or 'eat' it, which they then retrieve as soon as you've left the area.

If an ATM eats your card for any reason, report it to your card company straight away, ideally using your mobile while you're still in front of the machine. Make sure you store your card company's 24-hour contact number in your phone.

Once you've completed a transaction put your money and card away before leaving the cash machine. Destroy or ideally shred your cash machine receipts, mini-statements or balance enquiries when you've finished with them.

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.

National Campaigns

Anti-Bullying Week – 13 – 17 November 2023

Anti-Bullying Week is an annual UK event, held in the third week in November. The week aims to raise awareness of bullying of children and young people, in schools and elsewhere, and to highlight ways of preventing and responding to it. It started in 2002 and has since grown to become a significant event in the calendars of children, families and schools.



[Anti-Bullying Week - what is it and what does it achieve document 2023 FINAL.pdf \(anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk\)](https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2023-make-noise-about-bullying)

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Road Safety Week (14 – 20 November)

Road Safety Week is a nationwide campaign that focuses on raising awareness about road safety issues, including the prevention of accidents, injuries, and fatalities on the road. It emphasizes the importance of responsible driving, pedestrian safety, and the need for improved road infrastructure.

[Road Safety Week | Brake](#)



16 Days of Action: End Domestic Abuse – 25 November – 10 December

The global 16 Days of Action campaign against violence and abuse takes place from 25 November to 10 December 2023. It's a vital time to raise awareness of domestic abuse in our communities and the support services available in Kent and Medway, so that those affected can get to safety quickly.

How you can take action:

Join the '16 Days of Action: End Domestic Abuse' campaign [DomesticAbuseServices](#)

The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Services partnership has created a range of FREE resources to help you support the campaign and will be running a series of live virtual webinars throughout the 16 Days.



16 DAYS OF ACTION

25 November – 10 December 2023

#KnowSeeSpeakOut

The more people that #KnowSeeSpeakOut the greater chance we have of getting those experiencing abuse to safety.

National Safeguarding Adults Week – 20 November to 24 November 2023

Safeguarding Adults Week is an annual campaign focusing on protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.



Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is 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.

New Published Reports

Online Safety Act

Source: UK Government

Date: 26 October 2023

The UK Government has announced that the Online Safety Act has now received Royal Assent putting rules to make the internet safer in the UK into law. The Act initiates Ofcom's new powers and places legal responsibility on tech companies to prevent and remove illegal content and stop children seeing harmful content.

Read the press release: [UK children and adults to be safer online as world-leading bill becomes law](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Online safety training](#)

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