

# Community Safety Partner Updates



February 2024

## Community Safety Update and Events



### VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls)

Tara Liam from Community Safety was joined by the Licensing team, Kent Police and Homestart Shepway at a drop-in event at Folkestone Sports Centre last month.

The officers engaged with more than 20 people, promoting the measures being taken to tackle violence against women and girls in our district.



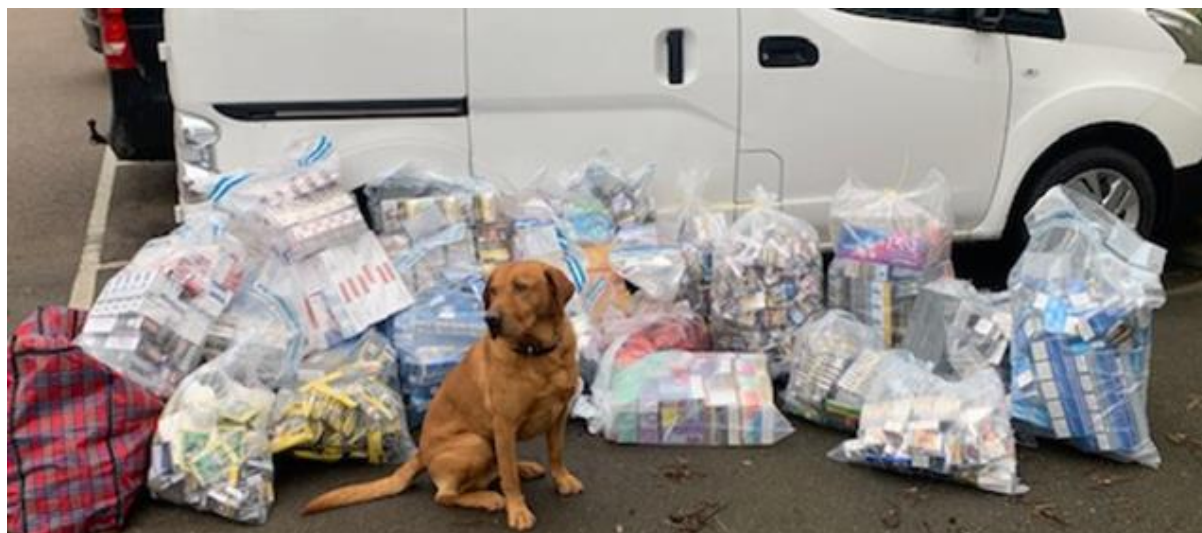
February 2024

## Op Gauntlet

On 20 February members of the Community Safety team were in Folkestone town centre with colleagues from Kent County Council [TradingStandards](#) and [KentPolice](#) Shops were visited and the team seized illegal cigarettes and vapes found hidden at store. During the day advice was also given as part of the Safer Streets campaign.

The multi-agency team was supported by detection dog specialists [BWY Canine](#), who deployed Cooper (pictured below) with a nose for tobacco.

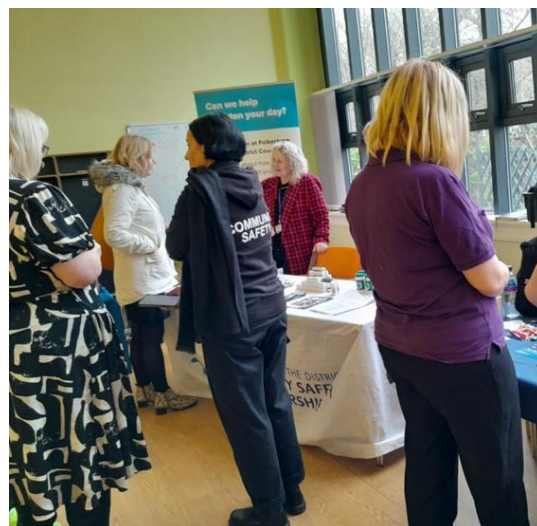
Should anyone be aware of any shops selling illegal tobacco, this can be reported to Kent Police anonymously on 0300 999 6 999 or through [TradingStandardsReport](#) and [CitizensAdviceReportToTradingStandards](#)



## Winter Well event

Tara Liam from Community Safety attended the Winter Well event held at Romney Marsh Community Hub. She joined members of the council's Welfare Team and representatives from organisations including South Kent Mind, the Shaw Trust, Age UK, Social Enterprise Kent Community Connector, the Community Respiratory Team, Rainbow Centre.

Contacts were made by partner agencies to provide helpful advice to the public.



# Kent Coast Volunteering

Connecting Communities In  
Dover, Thanet, Folkestone & Hythe

Launching Folkestone and Hythe District Excellence in Volunteering Awards

## Folkestone and Hythe District Excellence in Volunteering Awards 2024

Do you know a volunteer who makes an outstanding contribution in the Folkestone and Hythe district? Nominate them for the Excellence in Volunteering Awards to celebrate the difference they make. Nominations are open until 22 April.



In conjunction with Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Kent Coast Volunteering (KCV) is proud to present the Folkestone and Hythe District excellence in Volunteering Awards 2024.

There are five nomination categories:

February 2024

- Individual
- Youth (Volunteers ages under 18)
- Group of volunteers
- Employer Supported Volunteer
- Trustee

Who can make a nomination?

Everyone! Nominations can come from organisations, individuals who have benefitted from the work of the volunteers, or others who know about their good deeds.

People who are nominated must:

- Live in Folkestone and Hythe District
- Volunteer for a not-for-profit organisation (e.g. a charity or voluntary group) that operates in Folkestone and Hythe.
- The person must be aware that they are being nominated for the award.

Check out our website for some ideas on how to tell your volunteers that you are nominating them, and more information about volunteer recognition.

All the nominations for each category will be reviewed by a panel made up of representatives from Kent coast Volunteering, Folkestone and Hythe District Council, and other organisations.

Shortlisted nominations, and the organisations they volunteer for, will be contacted and invited to our Awards Event on 6 June 2024.

[Find out more on our website](https://www.kcv.org.uk/folkestone-and-hythe-volunteering-awards-2024/)

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## Agencies

**Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust**

**FREE Health Inequalities Workshop** on 13 March from 10:00am – 11:30am aimed at the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise colleagues.

The health inequalities topic is everywhere right now across NHS policy and new responsibilities coming to health and care systems and trusts. At Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust, we are nearing the end of our first year's programme for health inequalities, and we are looking to throw our arms and ideas wide to colleagues internally and externally to join our conversation about our future.



As with many issues the opportunities are huge. However, our capacity and time not so much. Therefore, how we cover and deploy our efforts to best narrow the gaps in health inequalities in our services is a challenge. Your voices, ideas and energy are valuable assets, and you can tell us how it is for you and your service users and what will help you.

Please do tell your colleagues about these workshops so they can attend. We will share some of the activities that we have conducted this last year and hold interactive breakout rooms for short feedback and discussion.

If anyone is interested in attending, please email [kentchft.equality@nhs.net](mailto:kentchft.equality@nhs.net)

## Partner Updates

### Kent Police

Crimestoppers have recently launched a campaign to help members of the public identify sexual harassment and encourage them to speak up anonymously.

**We are targeting the issue of sexual harassment in public spaces with a new campaign, as research shows over 70 per cent of women in the UK have experienced this.\***

Our new campaign highlights what sexual harassment is and encourages those who see it happening to report perpetrators to our charity 100% anonymously.



Recent figures show that one in three women have been victims of sexual harassment or sexual offences while commuting by train and tube\*\* and a survey we conducted with the University of Suffolk revealed that shockingly around one in six

people had their first experience of sexual harassment in public when they were aged just 10 or even younger. \*\*\*

Sexual harassment also referred to as 'unwanted sexual behaviour' or 'street harassment', is all unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature that violates a person's dignity, making them feel intimidated, humiliated and degraded.

Sexual harassment in all its forms, whether experienced in person or online, can have serious and lasting effects on its victims. No matter their age, gender or sexual orientation, sexual harassment can happen to anyone – it's never OK and it's never an individual's fault.

When behaviour is left unchecked, it could escalate into perpetrators moving on to more extreme and dangerous types of harassment.

### **GIVE INFORMATION ANONYMOUSLY**

Sexual harassment can look like:

- **Flashing/exposure** - for example, exposing genitals in a public place.
- **Sexual comments/gestures** - behaviour such as 'catcalling' and 'wolfwhistling', sexual propositions (verbal and non-verbal), and/or making comments about someone's body.
- **Stalking** - classed as a pattern of fixated or obsessive behaviour which is repeated, persistent, intrusive and causes fear of violence or engenders alarm and distress in the person targeted.
  - **'Cyberflashing'** - for example, sending or showing sexual images and/or website content/links, commonly transmitted via AirDrop or Bluetooth.
- **Intrusive/persistent questioning** - when you've made it clear you don't want to talk to someone - e.g. "Have you got a boyfriend/girlfriend?", "Where are you going?"
- **Touching or rubbing** against the clothed body of another person in a crowd (e.g. on a busy train or bus) as a means of obtaining sexual gratification.
- **Watching explicit content in public areas** - e.g. pornography, including in some cases trying to show this content to others nearby.
- **'Upskirting'** - placing a camera beneath a person's clothing to take a voyeuristic photograph without their permission.
- **Standing too close when there is no need to or invading personal space** - e.g. somebody standing/sitting unusually close to you on a bus or train service that isn't very busy.
- **Physical and/or sexual assault, rape** - e.g. non-consensual touching, grabbing, groping, stroking, kissing. Sexual intercourse of any kind without consent

We all have the power to help stop this from happening by challenging sexual entitlement and reporting it.

If you see a crime in action, call 999. If you have information on the perpetrator and would prefer to stay anonymous, tell our charity what you know by calling 0800 555 111 at any time or complete an [anonymouseonlineform](#) on this site or [Fearless.org](#) for young people. The police can be contacted on 101 if you are happy to reveal your identity.



What information could help stop a perpetrator?

- Details on who they are or what they look like.
- Details on the location, date and time it happened.
- Details on the crime itself – what type of harassment was being committed.
- Details on whether the perpetrator has been involved in multiple offences of sexual harassment.
- If you see recorded footage of sexual harassment posted online: details or links of the site/platform where it was posted, who posted it, and when.

Due to our guarantee of anonymity, we cannot take information from victims who need to speak directly to the police. They can also seek help from [VictimSupport](#) who provides specialist practical and emotional support to victims and witnesses of crime on 08 08 16 89 111.

FIND OUT MORE

**\* 2021 UN Women UK YouGov survey \*\* One Poll survey August 2023  
\*\*\*Sexual Harassment in Public Spaces University of Suffolk and  
Crimestoppers Report, January 2023. An online survey was completed by  
1,800 respondents across the UK. All participants responded to the call via  
social media to share their views and experiences about sexual harassment.  
Therefore, the participants were self-selecting and not random. Around one in  
six participants' (16.8%) first experience of sexual harassment occurred when they  
were aged 10 or younger (3.7% aged 0-5, 13.1% aged 6-10).**

# e-scooters – know the law

## What you need to know

e-scooters are classed as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), which means they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements, such as driving licence, insurance, number plates, lighting, road tax, crash helmets etc.

**Without these, e-scooters cannot be used legally on the road.**

The Government is currently trialling the use of approved rental e-scooters as environmentally friendly modes of transport in some specific locations in the UK.

For the rest of the country, under current law, e-scooters can only be used on private land.



## What should I do now?

It's our priority to keep you and other road users safe. We are obliged to take action against anyone who is caught repeatedly using an e-scooter illegally or in a way that causes a nuisance to others. In these circumstances we have the power to seize the e-scooter under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act/165 of the Road Traffic Act – and we'd really prefer not to.

**Please make sure you only use your e scooter on private land.**

For more information about powered transporters and the law, visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)



**Kent  
Police**

**Protecting and serving  
the people of Kent**



## Help prevent vehicle crime

Number plates are usually stolen so offenders can put them on other vehicles, which they then use to commit crime.

You can make sure you are not a victim of this, by fixing your number plates with tamper proof screws.



Number Plate Thefts



# Help prevent vehicle crime

Thieves steal number plates to use in other crimes



Make sure you are not the next victim.

Fitting tamper proof screws can help prevent your number plate being stolen.



Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)  
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)  
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**  
If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.  
Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.  
[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)   

## New Published Reports

### Sexuality and gender identity

**Source:** NSPCC Learning

**Date:** 22 February 2024

NSPCC Learning has published a Helplines insight briefing on challenges facing children and young people in relation to their sexual and gender identity. The briefing uses insight from Childline counselling sessions and NSPCC Helpline contacts in 2022/23 about sexuality and gender identity. Key findings from 3,397 Childline counselling sessions and 46 contacts from adults to the Helpline include: some children felt dismissed by adults in their lives; some young people faced a range of pressures to change or suppress who they are; some children felt pressured to conform to gender stereotypes; and some children described instances of emotional abuse in the family home.

**Read the insight briefing:** [Challenges young people are facing around sexuality and gender identity](#)

### Online safety

**Source:** UK Safer Internet Centre

**Date:** 14 February 2024

The UK Safer Internet Centre has updated its checklist on privacy and safety for young people on Instagram. Key areas covered in the checklist include: account privacy; managing comments and messages; blocking users; reporting content; addressing inappropriate comments; and account deletion.

**Download the checklist:** [New Instagram privacy and safety checklist](#)

**See also on NSPCC Learning**

> [Online safety resources](#)

### Online safety

**Source:** UK Safer Internet Centre

**Date:** 06 February 2024

The UK Safer Internet Centre has published new research on online safety examining the experiences and opinions of children and their parents/carers. Findings from a survey of 2,008 parents and their children aged 8-17 include: 74% of parents and carers are worried about the fast-changing online world as posing safety

February 2024

risks to their child; 60% of 8-17-year-olds who say they have used generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) believe it has online safety risks; and 48% of 8-17s think changing technology is making it harder for them to control who can access information about them online.

**Read the news story:** [Almost half of children and three quarters of parents and carers are worried about safety risks amidst fast-paced technological developments such as genAI.](#)

**Download the report:** [Safer Internet Day 2024 research](#)

**See also on NSPCC Learning**

> [Online safety](#)

**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](mailto:community.safety@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)**