

# Community Safety Partner Updates



August 2024

## Community Safety Update and Events

### Summer Safety events

On 31 July and 28 August, Community Safety joined staff from Kent Police Community Liaison, the RSPCA and the Kent County Council warden team at a stand near the Lower Leas Coastal Park amphitheatre in Folkestone and the officers were also present at Radnor Park in Folkestone.



The officers engaged with the public about keeping safe during the summer months also provided advice about bike marking, crime and ASB (anti-social behaviour) in the area whilst handing out safety information and items to protect people inside and outside of their homes.



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## Environment Agency – Flood Awareness Roadshow

On 2 August, the Environmental Agency's Flood Awareness Roadshow was held at Folkestone's Bouverie Place Shopping Centre.

Information was provided to help understand the risk of flooding and the steps that can be taken to prepare and stay safe from flooding. More information can be found here [Helping communities in Folkestone be prepared for flash flooding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/helping-communities-in-folkestone-be-prepared-for-flash-flooding)



Tara Liam from Community Safety and the KCC wardens supported the roadshow and gave out advice.

Find out if you're at risk of flooding by checking your postcode on the government's [website](https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings). [Sign up for flood warnings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings) which warn of the risk of flooding from rivers, sea and ground water. By signing up, you will be alerted by phone, email or text when flooding is expected.

## Autumn Well Event 20 September 2024

### Autumn Well Event

Showcasing all the great community work being done throughout the district.

#### Speak to us at:

Age UK Hythe, Lyminge and Ashford  
Sanford House  
Stade Street  
Hythe  
CT21 6BD



10am-1pm

This is a one stop shop morning event where you can receive advice and help from a range of agencies across Kent.

#### Our Communities Matter

Kent  
County  
Council  
kent.gov.uk



URBAN  
PASTORS



FOLKESTONE & HYTHE DISTRICT  
COMMUNITY SAFETY  
PARTNERSHIP



Rainbow Centre



Folkestone  
& Hythe

District Council

## Winter Well Event 27 November 2024

### Winter Well Event

Showcasing all the great community work being done throughout the district.

#### Speak to us at:

South Kent  
Community Church  
Castle Hill Avenue  
Folkestone  
CT20 2QR



10am-1pm

This is a one stop shop morning event where you can receive advice and help from a range of agencies across Kent.

#### Our Communities Matter

Kent  
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kent.gov.uk



URBAN  
PASTORS



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COMMUNITY SAFETY  
PARTNERSHIP



Folkestone  
& Hythe  
District Council

## Paws for Thought



Paws up for all the dogs, cats and their owners who turned up to our Paws for Thought event in Hawkinge on 7 August.

Our environmental officers alongside the RSPCA Folkestone were hard at work meeting the four-legged residents of the district at our 'Paws For Thought' event.

It was a great turnout, with 25 free microchips given and microchip details checked for those already chipped. Handy advise for pet owners was also provided.

The RSPCA provided advice and support to the public and were also able to do an on-the-spot team consultation to help a family make arrangements to have their cats neutered to avoid any future unwanted kittens.

It is now a legal requirement to have cats microchipped as well as dogs [Get your dog or cat microchipped - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



## Environmental Enforcement

Our officers continued working to maintain a litter-free environment in your local areas, in particular at The Warren, Folkestone. We kindly request your cooperation in supporting your fellow community members by responsibly always picking up after your dog.

As part of this ongoing project where you will see the officers in many of the hotspot areas and following up on complaints received on social media channels.

It is the dog owner's responsibility to always be aware of their dog's actions and if their dog is on or off a lead, owners should be paying attention to where it is and what it is doing. Being distracted, and not seeing your dog foul is not an excuse for not picking up faeces and disposing of it correctly.



It is an offence to not always clean up after your dog and you can be issued with a £100 fixed penalty notice (FPN) or be prosecuted up to £1,000 if the case goes to court. The same applies when leaving dog faeces in a poo bag anywhere other than a litter bin or other designated bin.

If you see any dog fouling that requires removal or to notify our enforcement officers visit [the council's website](#).

## Prosecutions

On 30 July an offender appeared in court and admitted littering in Foord Road South, Folkestone, in January 2024. A fine, victim surcharge and costs totalling £256 was imposed.

Our Enforcement Officers have been actively patrolling key areas in the district and investigating waste offences and we would like to thank residents for reporting information to us.



To report fly-tipping visit [Fly-tipping | Folkestone & Hythe District Council \(folkestone-hythe.gov.uk\)](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

## Partner Information/Updates

△ AL-ANON  
FAMILY GROUPS  
UK & EIRE

# Alcoholism can tear a family apart



## Al-Anon & Alateen

Help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics

Call our confidential FREE helpline

**0800 0086 811**

email: [enquiries@al-anonuk.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@al-anonuk.org.uk)

website: [www.al-anonuk.org.uk](http://www.al-anonuk.org.uk)

Al-Anon  
Family  
Groups 

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# Care Anchor

**SUPPORTING THE  
HEALTH & WELL-BEING  
OF ALL CARERS LIVING AND  
WORKING WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES**

Currently Covering Folkestone, Hythe & New Romney

**JOIN OUR FACEBOOK COMMUNITY**



- Weekly meet ups
- Workshops
- Social Events
- Fundraising
- Support
- Carers app & card
- Wellness

Everyone needs an anchor, a safe harbour where they feel supported & valued, that's what we aim to be for all carers.

**[www.careanchor.uk](http://www.careanchor.uk)**

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA  INSTAGRAM  FACEBOOK

## Folkestone Safe Haven

**mhm**  
mentalhealthmatters

**NHS**  
Kent and Medway



**Folkestone Safe Haven**

**Are you feeling distressed, anxious, or that things are too much for you?**

**Open: Monday-Friday, 6pm-11pm  
Saturday-Sunday, 12pm-11pm**

Folkestone Safe Haven offers free mental health support to anyone aged over 18, in a safe, comfortable and supportive environment.

There is no need to be referred and no need for an appointment. We are open every night for face-to-face or virtual support.

[www.mhm.org.uk](http://www.mhm.org.uk) | [folkestone.mhm@nhs.net](mailto:folkestone.mhm@nhs.net) | @MHM\_Info

**mhm**  
mentalhealthmatters

**NHS**  
Kent and Medway

Our experienced staff team is available to provide non-clinical emotional, social and practical support if you are in crisis or feel you are heading toward a crisis situation.

We also offer help in creating staying well and crisis plans, and support visitors to access other organisations that may be useful to them.

Please be aware this service is not suitable for people needing urgent medical attention (for example, after self-harm); for urgent medical care please attend your nearest A&E or call 999.

**Contact us or drop in:**

3 Rendezvous Street, Folkestone CT20 1EY  
07967 877096 / 07967 877097  
[folkestone.mhm@nhs.net](mailto:folkestone.mhm@nhs.net)

**Scan to learn more:**



[www.mhm.org.uk](http://www.mhm.org.uk) | [folkestone.mhm@nhs.net](mailto:folkestone.mhm@nhs.net) | @MHM\_Info

Folkestone Safe Haven has moved to 3 Rendezvous Street in Folkestone.

Folkestone Safe Haven offers out-of-hours mental health support to anyone aged 18+ in the Kent area.

This is a walk-in service. There's no need to be referred by a GP or Care Coordinator. The Folkestone Safe Haven offers a welcoming, safe, comfortable, non-judgmental and non-clinical environment, sometimes known as 'crisis cafes'. At the Safe Haven, we will be able to provide information and emotional support for anyone in crisis or feel like they are heading towards a crisis.

Individuals can come in, or they can access one-to-one emotional support from trained mental health professionals.

People using the Folkestone Safe Haven will also be supported by our 24/7 helpline, which offers access to emotional support and information for service users even when The Haven is closed.

The 24/7 helpline number is 0300 323 0139

The link to our website is [Folkestone Safe Haven \(mhm.org.uk\)](http://Folkestone Safe Haven (mhm.org.uk))

## Romney Marsh Community Hub – What's on (September)

*What's on at...*  **ROMNEY MARSH COMMUNITY HUB**

### Update from the Romney Marsh Community Hub SEPTEMBER 2024

Friday 6th September – Cancer Peer Support meeting- 2pm - 3.30pm  
Are You or have you been affected by Cancer?  
Come along to our peer support group to meet others who have had or are going through similar experiences.

Friday 6th September – Big Quiz-6.30pm for 7pm start  
£5 per person, max team size 6, Bring your own drinks and nibbles.  
Booking essential

Wednesday 11th September Diabetes coffee & catch up  
1.30pm - 3.30pm

Friday 13th September – Ex Armed Forces Drop in 10am-12noon  
Come along for a coffee and a chat, no age barrier.

Wednesday 18th September- Cancer Peer Support  
Coffee & Catch up – 9am-10.3am

Wednesday 18th September  
Creative writing with Emma Batten 1.30pm - 3.30pm £6.50  
Creative writing inspired by the Holiday Camps on the Romney Marsh  
in the 1950's this week is Golden Sands- St Mary's Bay

Friday 27th September – Ex Armed Forces Breakfast club - 9am - 11am  
Come along for a breakfast and a chat, no age barrier.

Wednesday 25th September-Free Digital Support 9.30am - 12noon,  
30 minute sessions Face to face digital skills training, supporting adults  
to build confidence in using their device and the internet. Booking Essential

Wednesday 25th September Diabetes Peer Support Group 1.30pm - 3.30pm  
Come along and talk to others with Diabetes, gain support with various issues  
and get help and advice. Booking essential as limited spaces. Free

Friday 27th September 12noon for 12.30pm  
Meal with entertainment (tbc)

Monday 30th September- Poppy Field Art Class  
1.30pm - 4pm £10 per person.  
With tuition from Kerry Munn of Sienna Rose, all materials supplied.

Hub on the Beach - 103 Coast Drive Littlestone  
Please keep your eyes on our website and Facebook pages for opening hours,  
classes and activities which will be starting shortly. The Sunflower singing group  
will be moving here on Fridays 1.30pm-2.30pm, when they restart in September .

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**To make all bookings please call the hub on 01797 363888**

Romney Marsh Community Hub - Sunflower House, Rolfe Lane, New Romney TN28 8JR  
visit: [rmch.org.uk](http://rmch.org.uk) | email: [hello@rmch.org.uk](mailto:hello@rmch.org.uk) | Call 01797 363888



## Fraud / Scams



### Bank Impersonations

These types of offences are on the rise. They will invariably start with the caller claiming to be the investigations department from your bank and they will confirm some basic details with you, like your name, address, date of birth etc. They will then claim that there is some sort of problem with your existing account and that they have set up a safe new account for you to transfer your money into.

However, it is all a scam and once the money is transferred, the criminals will quickly empty this account.

Always remember that your bank, the police or any genuine organisation or company will never ask you to move money to protect it, under any circumstances. They will also never ask you to download something onto your computer or other device.

Apply the protect principle of ABC and Never Assume or Believe a call is genuine and always Confirm. So, take their details and then disconnect the call. Then using another phone other than the one you were called on, call your Bank via using 159. If you do not have access to another phone, then wait 5 minutes and ring a family member or friend, a voice you know, to ensure that the line has been disconnected and then ring your Bank.

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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

For further information about fraud, visit our website at [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#)



### Rogue Traders

A while back, Kent Police received reports of this type of criminality, in particular in Hythe, Whitstable and Sheerness.

Beware of cold callers offering to clean driveways for extortionate amounts of money. Additionally, people offering to carry out unnecessary roofing work.

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These types of offences are not isolated to any individual locations and are taking place across the county.

**Remember –**

- Always obtain at least 3 written quotes and never agree to work on your doorstep, no matter how tempting the offer.
- Ask family and friends for recommendations.
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand.
- Never pay in full until you are completely satisfied with the work.



If you think that you may have been a victim of a scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

For further information about Fraud, visit our [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#)



**Kent  
Police**

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)   

## National Campaigns

### World Suicide Prevention Day – 10 September 2024

The theme for World Suicide Prevention Day for 2024-2026 is "Changing the Narrative on Suicide" with the call to action "Start the Conversation".

The purpose of this day is to raise awareness around the globe that suicide can be prevented. To encourage conversations to prevent suicides.

[World Suicide Prevention Day 2024 \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int)



Changing the narrative on suicide is about transforming how we recognise this issue and shifting of silence to openness, understanding, and support.

## New Published Reports

### Online harms

**Source:** NSPCC Learning

**Date published:** 16 August 2024

NSPCC Learning has published a Helplines insight briefing exploring responses to children experiencing online harm and abuse. It is based on contacts to Childline and the NSPCC Helpline in 2023/24. The briefing identifies responses children received from peers, parents, schools, police and online platforms when young people told them that they had experienced online harm or abuse. Key topics include: feeling supported and heard; making decisions about next steps; removal of devices (like phones and laptops); discussing "online relationships"; and dealing with secretive online activity. The NSPCC Helpline also heard from parents wanting advice on how to respond and how to improve their initial response.

**Read the briefing:** [Insights on responses to children experiencing online harm and abuse](#)

### Smartphone use and teenagers

**Source:** King's College London

**Date published:** 01 August 2024

King's College London has published two studies looking at links between problematic smartphone use (PSU) and mental health issues in teenagers in the UK. The research included one study with 16- to 18-year-olds and another with 13- to 16-

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year-olds. Findings show: 18.7% of 16- to 18-year-olds and 14.5% of 13- to 16-year-olds self-reported PSU; 55.6% of 13- to 16-year-olds with PSU reported symptoms of depression; and in the latter study, increases in PSU scores over a four-week period correlated with increases in self-reported anxiety, depression and insomnia.

**Read the news story:** [Teens with problematic smartphone use are twice as likely to have anxiety – and many are eager to cut down](#)

### Online safety

**Source:** Children's Commissioner for Wales

**Date published:** 26 July 2024

The Children's Commissioner for Wales has published the results from a survey on online safety answered by 1284 7- to 18-year-olds across Wales. Findings show that 29% of children who listed apps that made them feel unsafe or unhappy, mentioned Roblox, followed by YouTube (17%) and Snapchat (12%); some children as young as 8-years-old shared concerns about 'toxic and rude' users and 'aggressive behaviour' on Roblox; and when children reported concerns directly with an online platform, only 32% felt concerns had been taken seriously.

**Read the news story:** [Results of new snapshot survey on online safety](#)

**See also on NSPCC Learning**

> [Online safety resources](#)

### Violence against women and girls

**Source:** NPCC and College of Policing

**Date published:** 23 July 2024

The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and the College of Policing have published a national policing statement setting out the scale of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in England and Wales. The report also assesses the police response to VAWG. Findings from police data show: cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE) increased by more than 400% between 2013 and 2022 from just over 20,000 to nearly 107,000.

**Read the news story:** [Call to action as VAWG epidemic deepens](#)

### AI-generated content

**Source:** Ofcom

**Date published:** 23 July 2024

Ofcom has published new research on the prevalence and nature of deepfakes online. Deepfakes are artificial intelligence (AI) generated videos, pictures or audio

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clips made to look real. The research included interviews with 1,000 children across Great Britain aged 8 to 15-years-old. Findings included: 50% of 8- to 15-year-olds said they had seen at least one deepfake online in the last six months; 20% of 8- to 15-year-olds reported feeling confident in their ability to identify a deepfake; and 32% of this age group reported having encountered a deepfake scam advert.

**Read the news story:** [A deep dive into deepfakes that demean, defraud and disinform](#)

**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)**