



Community Safety Partner Updates



October 2024

Community Safety Update and Events

CSP Newsletters

Community Safety Partnership monthly newsletters can be found on the Folkestone & Hythe district website [CSP 2024 Newsletters | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/csp-2024-newsletters) ([folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk))

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

Come and seek advice, help, or support from agencies across Kent:



October 2024

Bonfire Night



The Community Safety team wants everyone to stay safe and enjoy the fireworks on 5 November.

[Stay safe this fireworks season - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Information Awareness

Our Environmental Improvement team noticed these stickers appearing recently around Folkestone town centre and The Leas.

It is to shop for cannabis delivering cannabis and other THC products. THC is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, the main psychoactive ingredient in the cannabis plant.



If anyone notices these, please direct to community.safety@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Partner Agencies Updates

A new Folkestone [Rainbow Centre Folkestone | Charity | Contact, Foodbank, Homeless \(rainbow-centre.org\)](http://rainbow-centre.org) food pantry has opened its doors at Romney Marsh Community Hub

Pantries are available to anyone across the district who has difficulty making ends meet and needs a helping hand.

They work just like a shop; you choose the food items you want from the shelves, which contain a wide range of fresh, frozen, chilled, and long-life items. Members pay a small fee each visit and can choose groceries worth at least three times more – making their income stretch further.

You can apply to become a member online at [Your Local Pantry](http://YourLocalPantry) or over the phone at 07913 573403.

Applications Open 

for our new Food Pantry in

New Romney

Struggling to buy food?
Apply for Pantry Membership Online
www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk

Need Help Applying?
Call 07913 573403

Working in partnership with 

 Rainbow Centre

Rainbow Centre is a Charity Registered in England and Wales, Charity Number 1096071

Border Force - Coastal Crime

There has been an increase in drugs and packages being washed up along beaches at Dymchurch and Dover.

From theft, to smuggling, to criminal damage, whether you're a keen sailor, work in the maritime industry or are simply enjoying a coastal hike, if you see something suspicious, the Coastal Crime Line is here for you.

If you are out and about walking on the shoreline and notice any unusual activity or suspicious behaviour around our beaches, please report.



You can call **FREE** on 0800 011 3304 or report it online 24/7 on the website [Help turn the tide on coastal crime | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

There has been a spike in activity which was featured in the local press when drugs were washed up along the Kent coast.

[Investigation after multiple 'packages of drugs' wash up along Kent coast \(kentonline.co.uk\)](https://www.kentonline.co.uk)



Be the eyes and ears in the community.

What sort of warning signs should you be looking out for?

Some of the signs include:

- Seeing boats moored up in strange places or at strange times.
- Boats unloading scared or suspicious people, or suspicious packages.
- People making attempts to signal or guide boats offshore.
- People loitering and/or acting nervously.
- People taking an interest in port security or buildings.

National Campaigns

Anti-Bullying Week – 11 – 15 November 2024

ABA (Anti-Bullying Alliance) is the official organiser of the Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day, an annual UK event, held from 11 to 15 November 2024.

The theme is Choose Respect. Odd Socks Day is taking place on 12 November with children and adults being encouraged to wear

odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique. More information can be found via the link [Anti-Bullying Week 2024: Choose Respect \(anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk\)](https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)



Road Safety Week (17 – 23 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](#)



National Safeguarding Adults Week – 18 November to 22 November 2024

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 Folkestone & Hythe District Council and more information can be found on the [council's website](#)

[About safeguarding | Folkestone & Hythe District Council \(folkestone-hythe.gov.uk\)](https://folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

We all have duty to protect children and adults from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. It is important to look out for others.

Help Kent and Medway End Domestic Abuse

Join the [#KnowSeeSpeakOut](https://www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk) campaign
www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk



JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

- ▶ **Know**
What domestic abuse is
- ▶ **See**
What action you can take
- ▶ **Speak Out**
Signpost people to support

www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk
[#KnowSeeSpeakOut](https://www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk)

Kent County Council, Medway, KIDAS, MDAS, LGBTQ+ symbols, WHITE RIBBON

SAVE THE DATE - 16 Days of Action – End Domestic Abuse

25 November - 10 December 2024

- **Would you be able to tell if someone in your team or who uses your services is experiencing domestic abuse?**
- **Does your organisation know how to spot the signs and where to signpost someone to specialist services?**

The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Services are here to support your safeguarding measures. This winter, by **taking part in the 16 Days of Action: End Domestic Abuse campaign from 25 November to 10 December 2024** you can get free training for staff and resources to help us to raise awareness in venues, online and with your followers and networks.

The [#KnowSeeSpeakOut](https://www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk) campaign coincides with the global 16 Days moment to unite against gender-based violence and abuse. 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 more people can get to safety quickly.

The online resources and awareness-raising materials are available to use within your workplace and community, including social media posts and posters. Visit www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk for details.

Be ready to share with your colleagues and networks, on your social media channels, and in community settings to help encourage everyone to take part. Make a note in your diary and prepare to take action.

We are running a series of live virtual webinars during the 16 Days of Action to support you. Registration opens soon - keep your eyes peeled for news.

There has never been a more important time to show your support to End Domestic Abuse. The more people that #KnowSeeSpeakOut the greater chance we have of getting those experiencing abuse to safety.

Fraud / Scams



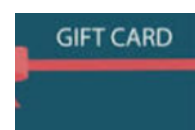
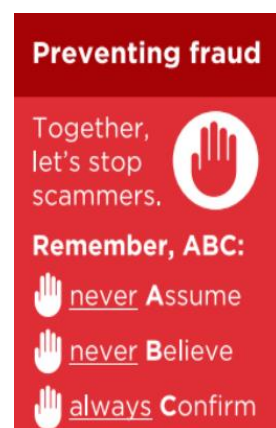
Gift card Scams

There has been a rise in scams involving people being requested by criminals to purchase gift cards from stores.

Gift card scams start with a call, text, email, WhatsApp or social media message. Scammers will say anything to get you to purchase gift cards, like Google Play, Apple, Steam, iTunes, or Amazon cards

Never Assume - If you get a message from anyone claiming to be a friend or family member, or someone claiming to be from a reputable organisation such as HMRC, a bank, or the police, and you are asked to purchase any gift cards – STOP! – it will be a scam.

Never Believe - Scammers will often claim it is an emergency and typically invent a time-critical reason as to why they need you to



help them, they need to pay an urgent bill, for example. They will often pull at the heartstrings and say you are the only person they can turn to.

Always Confirm - Protect yourself by trying to speak to the person who you think is asking for the gift card directly or in person. For example: if it is the bank, find the official contact number on your bank card, recent statement or ring 159 and speak 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 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

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

Amazon Scams

Beware of criminals calling pretending to be from Amazon, saying that your account has been hacked.

They will then proceed to ask to access your device where they will encourage you to open an online account to secure a refund.

These criminals are experts at persuasion and speaking to someone on the phone can make it seem more genuine.

Stop and apply the principle of ABC and never Assume or Believe a call is genuine and always Confirm by hanging up and contacting them directly or check your account through a trusted source. If it is real, they will be happy to help.

Additionally, remember that Amazon do not make unsolicited calls to customers, and they will never ask for personal information over the phone.

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.

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Bank and Credit Card Fraud

With Christmas fast approaching we are urging everyone to be mindful of card fraud and this is when a criminal steals personal information from your credit or debit card or steals the card itself.



What to look out for –

- Always look after your cards and card details. Try not to let your card out of your sight when making a transaction.
- Check receipts against statements carefully. Contact your card company immediately if you find an unfamiliar transaction.
- Store your statements, receipts and financial documents safely and destroy them, preferably using a shredder, when you dispose of them.
- Sign any new cards as soon as they arrive.
- Cut expired cards through the magnetic strip and chip when replacement cards arrive.

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.



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You will also find valuable information from the Home Office at [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](#)

Cost of Living Scam – fake text message

Kent Police received a report from a member of the public who had received a text message from criminals impersonating the Home Office, with regards to Winter Fuel payments. They were asked to click on a link to be directed to a website, where they could update their bank details to receive their benefit. The intended victim realised it was a scam and contacted the Police.

The link in the text would have taken the intended victim to a website under the control of the criminals where they would have stolen their personal and financial data.



You can report Scam text messages by forwarding to **7726**.

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 or call 0300 123 2040.

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

New Published Reports

AI-generated images or deepfakes

Source: Internet Matters

Date published: 22 October 2024

Internet Matters has published a report on children's experiences of nude deepfakes, AI-generated or manipulated images or videos made to look real. The report estimates that 13% of UK teenagers have had an experience with a nude deepfake, including sending or receiving one, encountering a nude deepfake online or using a 'nudifying' app. The report presents the findings of a survey with 2,000 parents and 1,000 children. Findings include: most families have little to no understanding of deepfakes; over half of teenagers believe it would be worse to have a deepfake nude of them shared than a real image; and 'nudifying' tools are more often used to create deepfakes of women and girls than boys. The report recommends a ban on 'nudifying' tools and calls for reforms to the school curriculum so children are taught to use AI technology responsibly.

Read the report: [New report estimates half a million UK teenagers have encountered AI-generated nude deepfakes](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Preventing online harm and abuse](#)

AI-generated child sexual abuse material

Source: Internet Watch Foundation

Date published: 18 October 2024

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has published a news story on the increase of artificial intelligence (AI) generated child sexual abuse material (CSAM) being found on publicly accessible areas of the internet. It discusses: the prevalence of AI-generated CSAM online; the difficulty for agencies in knowing if there is a real child

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being harmed; and the law relating to AI-generated CSAM.

Read the news story: [Public exposure to 'chilling' AI child sexual abuse images and videos increases](#)

Bullying

Source: Government Equalities Office, Equality Hub and DfE

Date published: 27 September 2024

The Government Equalities Office, Equality Hub and Department for Education (DfE) have published research evaluating the government's anti-homophobic, biphobic and transphobic (HBT) bullying programme which ran from 2016 to 2019 in schools in England. The three-year programme reached around 1,800 schools and aimed to help schools prevent bullying and to create inclusive environments. The evaluation included surveys and focus groups with staff and pupils. Findings show: the programme influenced changes to school policies and processes; more staff reported that their school actively tried to prevent HBT bullying; school-based LGBT groups were appreciated by pupils where they were available; and some pupils felt that not all staff challenged HBT bullying appropriately.

Read the evaluation: [Evaluation of the government's 2016 to 2019 anti-homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying programme in schools](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Safeguarding LGBTQ+ children and young people](#)

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