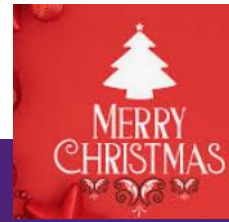


Community Safety Partner Updates



November 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 \(folkestone-hythe.gov.uk\)](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

Winter Well Event – 27 November

F&HDC Community Safety along with partner agencies came together at the South Kent Community Church in Folkestone on 27 November for the last in this year's series of the Well events.



These events have been well supported and provide an opportunity for residents to seek help and support from agencies offering a range of advice about welfare, mental health, housing and safety to mention just a few of the areas covered. The NHS carried out free oral mouth checks, giving advice about the signs and symptoms and risks of the disease.

November 2024

Working together to keep our streets safe

On 25 November, in recognition of White Ribbon Day - an international campaign raising awareness with men and boys about ending violence against women and girls.

One of the Safer Streets project is [Folkestone Connected](#) a town centre map project led by the district's Community Safety Partnership, in collaboration with commercial organisations in the town.



Visitors are able to access the map by scanning a QR code included on posters, leaflets and stickers displayed throughout the town centre. The map includes information about nearby taxi ranks, defibrillators and places visitors can go if they feel vulnerable, unsafe or in danger.

We've been sharing several informative videos via our [social media platforms](#), so check them out if you want to learn more.

More information including details of the training we've provided, local services we're working with as well as other important social safety initiatives [can be found on our website](#).

Dementia Networking Day

Tara Liam attended the living well with dementia event at Valley Park School in Maidstone in October. It was supported by about 40 exhibitors including the Alzheimer's Society, Age UK, Kent County Council, Trading Standards and Talking Therapies. Many more organisations had stalls, sharing resources and insights into dementia support.

There were presentations from Dr Afifa Qazi, Dr Fiona Jeganathan and Dr Adrian Richardson on research about studies in Alzheimer's medication. Advice was provided on living well at home, safe spending, legal considerations and living well with dementia.



VRU

Tara Liam from Community Safety and Caley Warden one of the VRU co-ordinators, visited [The Beacon Plus - Home](#) in Folkestone in October.



Caley delivered a VRU commitment pledge with the students. They were all made ambassadors for their college and know to be knife free, how to report and the difference between snitching and reporting and talked about some of the consequences. This was in a workshop style presentation with engagement, question and answer session and everyone having the chance to share their experiences.

Partner Updates

Annual Rough Sleeping Count

On 26 November, representatives from [Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#), [Porchlight](#), Serveco, the Probation service, Social Care, Homeless Link and Urban Pastors took part in the annual winter street count.



The agencies are committed to supporting those in the district who find themselves homeless or at risk of becoming so.

There were nine rough sleepers found sleeping outside..

The Winter Shelter

The [Folkestone Churches Winter Shelter](#) project was established in 2009 by Churches Together Folkestone and other local interests, having witnessed the hardships facing homeless people locally.

For the last ten years, Folkestone Rainbow Centre has overseen the operation of the shelter project. Winter Shelter guests will be offered places at local B&Bs through a referral process managed by Winter Shelter. These referrals can come directly from the Rainbow Centre and local partner agencies that work with homeless people.

The steering group meets regularly to help ensure that the shelter is fit for purpose and continues to develop to meet the needs of the homeless and vulnerably housed in the Folkestone and Hythe district.

The Winter Shelter team have been busy for the last couple of months preparing everything for this year's Winter Shelter which opened on 1 December. A huge thanks to all the volunteers who have signed up to help over the next four months, cooking and serving evening meals, and looking after clients in the day centre at Rainbow along with the current Homeless Support volunteers who do a wonderful job with breakfasts and welcoming people.

Thanks also go to local churches, organisations and individuals who have generously donated goods and funds for this project.

The Rainbow Centre will be working with their Winter Shelter residents over the coming months to move them on to more stable accommodation and begin their journey off the streets.

For more information, ws@rainbow-centre.org

Information Awareness

It's beginning to look a lot like free Christmas parking

Residents, visitors and businesses can jingle all the way in Folkestone & Hythe this December thanks to free festive parking.

Charges in Folkestone & Hythe District Council car parks and on-street pay and display bays are once again being waived on the three Saturdays leading up to the big day:

- **Saturday 7 December**
- **Saturday 14 December**
- **Saturday 21 December**



Limited waiting (free) and controlled parking zone restrictions are still in place on the days listed above. This is to ensure people are able to park close to their homes and allow for a sufficient turnover of spaces.

Residents can also apply for a permit to park in council-run car parks all year round for £80 and quarterly for £20, allowing you to park your vehicle for three hours in long-term car parks and two hours in short-term car parks.

Terms and conditions apply – [visit the council's website for more information](#)

November 2024

Household support fund

The Household Support Fund round 6 (HSF6) can help people experiencing financial hardship with a particular emphasis on energy bills.

[FHDC Household Support Fund Policy November 2024](#)

The fund is provided by the government and will run until 31 March 2025 or until all funds are spent.

Folkestone & Hythe district council are working with the county council and other external partners to support residents to apply for help.

Can I get this support?

You may be eligible for support if you are a resident of Folkestone & Hythe District, and your household is struggling financially to afford food and utility bills and have no other available support.

Anyone in receipt of a council tax reduction is eligible for the support as well as anyone on a low income under £40k.

If you are claiming on a low income, you will be asked to provide proof of your income before any award is made to you.

Application is made online but if you need help to apply send us your details and we'll call or email you to discuss your needs.

If you are already working with a local support agency, support worker or charity, they might be able to help you to apply. Ask the group leader or support worker you already have a relationship with to see if they can help you apply.

What support will I receive?

You will be issued with a food voucher by our third-party supplier Edenred, these can be used in a variety of supermarkets or online.

You will only receive support **once** so the council is able to support as many residents as possible.

If you are eligible for fuel support via Kent county council, a fuel referral will also be made but this is based on the criteria provided by KCC and not that of Folkestone & Hythe.

Apply [Household support fund](#)

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.



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



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



4 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.



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.



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



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 an administration of substances, i.e alcohol or drugs to another person without their knowledge or consent. More information can be found on [Home - Stamp Out 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.



Romney Marsh Community Hub

Supporting the Romney Marsh Community Hub
 This is a membership service for people living on the Romney Marsh to access medical appointments at their GP surgeries or local hospitals. The vehicle is fully accessible and has seating for 5 people plus one wheelchair.

How much does it cost:
 All users must be members and the annual membership cost is £20.00
 All return journeys from the member's home to a GP appointment is £5.00
 All return journeys from the member's home to William Harvey Hospital or Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone is £10.00
 All return journeys from the member's home to Dover Hospital or Canterbury Hospital is £15.00

The transport can be booked for non medical journeys (medical appointments will take priority).
 For non medical journeys the costs charged will be as follows:
 Each journey will be charged at £2.00 plus £1 for each mile travelled.
 All bookings must be made at least 24 hours in advance.
 Please email hello@rmch.org.uk for a membership form.

yourwebbooker.com/en/Marshbee

marshbee.org.uk
01797 330470

**THE MARSH BEE!
 GETS YOU FROM
 A TO B ON THE MARSH**
 Registered Charity No. 1093388

ROMNEY MARSH COMMUNITY HUB
 Sunflower House, Rolfe Lane, New Romney, TN28 8JR

Warm Welcome Spaces

A Very Warm Welcome

Available from
24th Oct to 30th March 2025
 excluding weekends and bank holidays

- Subsidised Soup & a Roll
- News Papers to read
- Free Wifi
- Free Phone Charging

Our Sunflower Cafe is open from 9:00am to 2:00pm for snacks and refreshments.
 Lunch also available - booking essential
 Registered Charity No. 1093388

Christmas Toys Appeal - The Romney Marsh Community Hub is also a drop off point for the Salvation Army Christmas toys appeal.

HYTHE SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS PRESENT APPEAL

Be a star and donate a new, unwrapped gift for a child aged 0-18. These donations can be dropped off at the following locations:

- Age UK - Stade Street, Hythe. Mon-Fri 9-3/Sat 10-1
- Hythe Bay Financial Ltd - High Street, Hythe. Mon-Fri 9-4
- Hythe Library - Tues-Sat 9.30-4.30
- Hythe Salvation Army - Portland Road, Hythe. Wed 10-12
- 101 Open Door Project - High Street, Hythe. Wed 10-12.30
- Romney Marsh Community Hub - Rolfe Lane, NR. Mon-Fri 9-4
- The Accuro Clinic - High Street, Hythe. Mon-Fri 9.30-5/alternate Sat 9-1

The Christmas Present Appeal 2024 is supported by:

Hythe Bay Financial Ltd
 The Accuro Clinic
 Hythe Lymington & Ashford ageUK
 ROMNEY MARSH COMMUNITY HUB

SCAN THE QR CODE TO DONATE OR VIEW OUR GIFT WISHLIST

For more information please email hythe@salvationarmy.org.uk

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS WITH HYTHE SALVATION ARMY

Sunday 1st December
 10am Christmas Cafe Church - Family Service

Sunday 8th December
 10am Advent Service

Sunday 15th December
 10am Advent Service
 4pm Carols in the Park at Oaklands Bandstand

Sunday 22nd December
 10am Advent Service / Wear your Christmas Jumper!
 6pm Christmas Celebration at the Tower Theatre

Wednesday 25th December
 10am Christmas Day Service



What's on In
December 2024 & January 2025



A Big Thank You to all who supported our race night we raised over £900. This has been matched By Barclays Bank so the Total is over £1800

We are pleased that our Marsh Bee is up and buzzing around the Marsh, for more details contact Romney Marsh Community Hub 01797 363888

We are taking Part in The Christmas Big Give Challenge and we are asking for your help. We are hoping to renew and upgrade our garden. if we raise £3000 between 12pm on 3rd December and 12 noon on the 10th December this will be matched by

The Romney marsh Rotary club have pledged £1500 and our Champion Funder ~~ShareGift~~ who has also pledged £1500, giving a total of £6000.

To help us with this Quest please go to [Big Give](#) Explore Campaigns type in our name and our page will come up you can donate here anything from £1 upwards.

Thank You in Advance.

Romney Marsh Community Hub

Monday 2nd December 2024 – Christmas decorations Workshop £6.00 1.30pm-4pm

Friday 6th December -Christmas Quiz- Doors open 6.30pm, starts at 7pm, £5 per person, max team 5

Friday 6th December & January 3rd – Cancer Peer Support meeting- 2-3.30pm

Wednesday 4th December, 8th January Free Digital Support- 9.30am-12noon- 30-minute sessions
Face to face digital skills training, for adults to build confidence using their devices & internet.

Monday 9th December 2024 – Christmas table flower Workshop 1.30pm-4pm

Wednesday 11th December, January 8th- Diabetes coffee & catch up 1.30pm-3.30pm

Wednesday 11th December 8th & 9th January ~~Prehap~~ This Service prepares patients, mentally & physically for major surgery or Cancer Treatment

Friday 13th December 2024, Friday 10th January– Ex Armed Forces Drop in 10am-12noon

Monday 16th December 2024 – Cake Icing Toppers Workshop £6.00 1.30pm-4pm

Wednesday 18th December, 15th January- Cancer Peer Support Coffee & Catch up – 9am-10.30am

Friday 20th December Christmas Party, Noon for 12.30pm 4 Course meal and entertainment £19.50

29th January - Diabetes Peer Support Group 1.30pm-3.30pm

Wednesday 15th January - Creative writing with Emma Batten 1.30-3.30pm £6.50

A Year of Celebration

Hub on the Beach 103 Coast Drive Littlestone

1st Wednesday of the month Stroke peer Support Group 1pm-2pm Free- Not January

2nd Wednesday of the month Arthritis peer Support Group 1pm-2pm Free

3rd Wednesday of the month Bereavement peer Support Group 1pm-2pm Free

Mondays- Pilates 6pm-7pm £6.50

Tuesdays and Thursdays- Seated Exercise 3pm-4pm £6.50

Wednesdays-Legs, Bums and Tums 9.30am-10.30am, Fitness Pilates 11am-12noon,

Seated Tai Chi-3pm-4pm all sessions £6.50 each

Fridays 1.30pm-2.30pm- Sunflower singing group £6.50

Saturdays 10.30-12noon ~~Washinkai~~ Karate Adults £6.50 Under 16 £4.50

Starting January Last Sunday of the month Table Top Sale £10 a table.

We have a limited number of free taster sessions in January and February 2025, these are being funded by Kent & Medway Active. Please call in for a voucher and to book

For further information and bookings please check our website/Facebook page or contact us on 0179736388 for the Community Hub or 01797458876 for Hub on the Beach or book on line bookwhen.com/HOTB

Fraud / Scams

Kent Fraud Alert System



Latest Fake/Phishing Email - iCloud

Action Fraud have received over 1800 reports of the below fake/phishing email, claiming that your iCloud storage is about to run out and that you need to click on a link to buy more storage. However, it is a SCAM. If you click on the link, you will be taken to a realistic looking website where criminals will look to steal your Apple ID login details, as well as other personal and financial information. If you get an email like this or any other suspicious looking emails, you can report these by forwarding to report@phishing.gov.uk Over 345,000 malicious websites have been removed as a result of your reports. 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 Polic

Online Shopping

Ready to bag a bargain in the run up to Christmas?

Check out these top tips on how to avoid online shopping scams this Christmas from the National Cyber Security Centre:

[Shopping and paying safely online - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk)

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.



New Published Reports

Online grooming

Source: NSPCC

Date published: 01 November 2024

The NSPCC has published a news story on online grooming crimes against children in the UK. Figures provided by 45 UK police forces show that 7,062 sexual communications with child offences were recorded in 2023/24, an increase of 89% since 2017/18. The data also reveals that where a means of communication was known, 48% of offences were on Snapchat; and 81% of grooming cases took place against girls. The NSPCC is calling for Ofcom to strengthen rules for tech platforms to ensure they are proactive and that social media apps do not contribute to abuse; and for the UK Government to strengthen legislation to ensure child sexual abuse is disrupted in private messages such as on Snapchat and WhatsApp.

Read the news story: [Online grooming crimes against children increase by 89% in six years](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Grooming: recognising the signs](#)

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

November 2024