



Community Safety Partner Updates



December 2024

Community Safety Update and Events

Community Safety Partnership Networking Event

A Community Safety Partnership networking event was held at the Civic Centre on 5 December.

Around 75 partner agencies attended along with Cllr Polly Blakemore. Representatives from F&HDC's housing team and licensing teams attended with those from Al-Anon Family Groups, KCC Adult Social Care, Kent Police, East Coast Volunteering, East Kent Rape Crisis, Centre, Rainbow Centre, Lighthouse43, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, The Beacon Plus, Kent & Medway Cancer Alliance, [KCCWardens](#), [RSPCA](#) and many more.

The event provided an opportunity for partners to liaise and build up their networks with the sharing of information, knowledge and awareness offered.



December 2024

Folkestone Partnership Forum – 4 December

Tara Liam attended the DWP Partnership Forum held at Folkestone Job Centre meeting partners, Change Grow Live, probation, Talking Therapies, Town & County Housing, Kent Police and many more discussing how to support the community.



The purpose of the forum provided an opportunity for key local stakeholders to share good practice, knowledge, and information. This started an open discussion to ensure people with complex needs receive the right level of support to engage effectively with local services and to move towards work and financial independence.

Christmas Community

On 14 December, Tara Liam attended a Christmas Community event organised by Reverend Gill Songer at the St Andrews Methodist Church in Cheriton.

The event was supported by Cllrs Mike and Polly Blakemore, Cllr Rebecca Shoob and Shevaun Newman from Kent Police.

Around 50 members of the public attended to purchase items from stallholders.



Partner Updates

Salvation Army

 **The Salvation Army**
Church and Community Centre
75-77 Canterbury Road, Folkestone

Will you be
lonely on
Christmas day?

Christmas Day meal

For anyone who would
otherwise be alone on
this special day

No charge, but donations welcome

10.30am Worship
service (optional) plus
coffee and biscuits

12.30pm
Meal served

To book your place:
Call or text 07749 183719
Or email eileen.west@salvationarmy.org.uk

Please respect our policy of no alcohol

December 2024

Ripple of Hope



Ripple of Hope group cic

Ladies bereavement & loneliness support

Join us at THE BURSTIN HOTEL for our monthly meet ups & all our new activities starting soon!

We will be have a Big meet for you to talk about your grief and share with other ladies how we can move forward together.

We have a coffee morning to just meet and chat, in the warmer weather we can go for a walk along the sea front.

We have a HUB where we get creative, You can have a hand massage with our therapist or your nails done with our volunteer!

You can also get to enjoy workshops in mindfulness, meditation to help build ways to support your grief and difficult emotions.



ROH now has our very own allotment ran by our lovely volunteer ERIN!



COMING SOON ROH CHOIR!!!



CONTACT INFO@RIPPLEOFHOPEGROUPCIC.COM
FIND US ON FACEBOOK PAGE/JOIN OUR PRIVATE GROUP..

Shepway Citizens Advice

We are very sorry to announce that Shepway Citizens Advice is closing and will no longer be delivering Advice Services.

Email advice will stop on 15/12/24 and our telephone call back service accessed via 01303 241 435 will stop answering calls from 19/12/24.

**From January anyone wanting advice can call:
01304 353861**

**Email advice can be accessed by emailing:
contactus@folkestoneadvice.com**

**Or you can call the Citizens Advice line on:
0808 278 7961**

Information Awareness

The festive season

Community Safety wants everyone to stay safe during the festive period including New Year's Eve.

Advice when using taxis

All taxis and private hire vehicles are licensed by the council and must display identity plates as detailed below.

Drivers must carry an identification badge on their person or displayed in their vehicle for the passenger to see.

To be licensed, vehicles and drivers complete various regular safety checks to ensure their vehicles are roadworthy and that drivers are responsible.

Safe journeys home

Know the license plates



Get up to speed on all things taxis
folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/taxis

Taxis for a day/evening out

- Arrange a lift or phone a taxi and request the cab firm to contact you when they arrive. A text message is usually sent to the caller with the taxi drivers cab registration number.

Hailing a taxi

- Hackney carriages or 'black cabs' can be hired from taxi ranks, hailed (flagged down) in the street or pre-booked.
- Taxi vehicles (licensed by Folkestone & Hythe District Council) have an orange and white identification plate with black numbers on the rear and a roof light.

Booking a private hire vehicle

- These are pre-booked through a licensed operator (cannot be flagged down or use taxi ranks)
- Private hire vehicles have a purple and/white identity plate with black numbers on the rear of the vehicle and purple/white side stickers with the council logo.

If you are in any doubt that the vehicle is not a taxi or private hire vehicle do not use it.

For more information about using taxis or private hire vehicles, or to make a complaint visit folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/licensing

Additional resources can be found by visiting the [Suzy lamplugh trust website](#).

Advice on drinks

- 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](#)

Staying safe during severe weather events

News reports across England and Wales highlights accounts of severe weather events and the damage that they have caused in local communities to homes, businesses and individuals.

We urge everyone to stay safe during these extreme weather conditions and also to check on vulnerable neighbours Please listen to updates and weather warnings from your local government services to remain informed of the situation in your local area.

You can check for flood warnings on the Government websites [Check for flooding - GOV.UK](#) and Age UK offers advice on how to support elderly residents during a flood crisis [Flooding in the UK: Preparing for floods | Age UK](#)

[Prepare for flooding: Protect yourself from future flooding - GOV.UK](#)

Fraud / Scams

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Amazon Scams

With the New Year sales on the horizon information for residents to be aware of when shopping online.

Recent reports of Kent victims being targeted with these types of scams.

One victim received a number of calls from criminals impersonating Amazon Fraud dept. They persuaded the victim into opening other accounts. Fortunately, the scam was identified by the intended victims Bank who blocked the accounts.

In another incident, the victim received a call from criminal saying they were from amazon and were asking the victim about their bank account and financial data.



Amazon do not make unsolicited calls to customers. Amazon will never ask you to provide personal information or make a payment outside of their website.

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

HMRC SCAM Alert

HMRC is reminding Self-Assessment customers to be alert to potential scams and criminals ahead of the filing deadline on 31 January 2025. Concerned customers reported nearly 150,000 scam referrals to HMRC in the last year, as Self-Assessment filers are warned to be alert to criminals.

With millions of people due to complete their Self-Assessment tax return and pay any tax owed by 31 January 2025, criminals are targeting people with offers of tax refunds or demanding payment of tax to get hold of personal information and

banking details. Around half of all scam reports (71,832) in the last year were fake tax rebate claims.

There has been a 16.7% increase in all scam referrals to HMRC.

If someone receives a communication claiming to be from HMRC that asks for their personal information or is offering a tax rebate, check the advice on [Identify tax scam phone calls, emails and text messages - GOV.UK](#) to help identify if it is scam activity.

HMRC will never leave voicemails threatening legal action or arrest or ask for personal or financial information over text message – only fraudsters and criminals will do that.

You can report any phishing attempts to HMRC by

- Forwarding emails to phishing@hmrc.gov.uk
- Reporting tax scam phone calls to HMRC on GOV.UK
- Forwarding suspicious texts claiming to be from HMRC to 60599

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

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

New Published Reports

Child criminal exploitation

Source: Children, Young People and Education Committee

Date published: 05 December 2024

The Children, Young People and Education Committee in Wales has published a report into child criminal exploitation and abuse. The report sets out 23 recommendations and focuses on: missing and criminally exploited children; themes relevant to marginalised children; and risk factors for marginalisation.

Recommendations for the Welsh Government include: work with local authorities and police forces to take action to ensure that data published relating to children missing from care is accurate and reliable; and work alongside health boards, police forces and other relevant agencies to develop a pan-Wales child criminal exploitation risk assessment tool for use by frontline staff, including in healthcare settings.

Read the report: [‘When no one’s interested in us, the gangs take their chance’](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Protecting children from county lines](#)

Season's Greetings from the Community Safety team.



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