



Community Safety Partner Updates



January 2025

Community Safety Update and Events

Foord Road South – Litter Pick

Responding to complaints Community Safety Officer, Tara Liam along with Environmental Enforcement colleagues, carried out a litter pick in Foord Road South. Other F&HDC staff helped to improve the environment by cutting back the foliage overhanging the wall on the steps to New Street.



Officers sprayed chalk paint around dog faeces to warn people to be aware when walking by. If you see any dog fouling that requires removal or to notify our enforcement officers visit [Dog fouling | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#)



Please support this work in your community members by responsibly disposing of waste and always picking up after your dog.



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 and face a fine 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 receptacle.

Cheriton Warblers

Just before Christmas, Tara Liam attended the Cheriton Warblers at Grace Court sheltered housing.

The Cheriton Warblers enable the residents to come together for a sing song and is a community event for residents.



Nicola's Wish Upon a Star update

119 vulnerable children and young people received a gift at Christmas thanks to Folkestone & Hythe District Council staff, the Probation Service and the Channel Rotary Club who took part in 'Nicola's Wish Upon a Star' scheme.

Those who benefit from the scheme range from new-born babies to 18-year-old young adults with hundreds of presents being distributed as part of the 'Wish Upon a Star' appeal.



Partner Updates

Pensioner Just Missing Out Scheme



Eligible households can apply for vouchers worth £200 which can be used to help pay for food, energy or both.

You will be eligible for assistance if you:

- or a partner living with you is aged 66 or over
- are a Kent resident, permanently living within one of the 12 local authorities covered by Kent County Council (this excludes Medway, Bexley, or Bromley)
- have an annual household income (before tax) between £11,343.80 (£17,313.40 for a joint household income) and £40,000
- do not have more than £1000 in savings
- are not in receipt of Pension Credit



To apply, please use the QR code or visit www.kent.gov.uk/iustmissingout

If you're not able to apply online, please contact your local Citizens Advice branch for support.

This scheme is funded by the UK Governments Household Support Fund and will close on 28 February 2025 or when all funds are spent.



[Contact Us — Dover, Deal & District Citizens Advice](#) for information and support. Anyone seeking advice can call on 01304 353861 or email advice can be accessed by emailing contactus@folkestoneadvice.com. Alternatively, you can contact the Citizens Advice line on 0808 278 7961.

January 2025

Firstly, WOW! Mission completed, a massive THANK YOU for your very kind generosity with helping us to reach our goal in The Christmas Big Give Challenge. We are now able to renew and upgrade our garden for the community to share and to enjoy.

Romney Marsh Community Hub.

- Friday 7th – Cancer Peer Support Group Meeting - 2-3:30pm.
Wednesday 12th – Hallett & Co Solicitors – 10am-1pm. Will be holding legal advice surgery.
Wednesday 12th – Diabetes Peer Support Group Coffee & Catch Up - 1:30pm-3:30pm.
Wednesday 12th – QuestPrehab – 9am-1pm. Telehealth service that prepare patients, mentally and physically, for major surgery or cancer treatment.
Friday 14th – Ex Armed Forces Drop In - 10am-12noon.
Friday 14th – Valentines Day Lunch with Live Music from Jade Chamberlain – 12noon – 3pm - £15pp.
Wednesday 19th - Free Digital Support – 9:30am-12noon. 30-minute sessions Face to Face digital skills training for adults to build confidence using their devices & internet.
Wednesday 19th - Cancer Peer Support Group Coffee & Catch Up – 9am-10:30am.
Wednesday 26th - Diabetes Peer Support Group Meeting - 1:30pm-3:30pm.
Friday 28th – Ex Armed Forces Breakfast Club - 9am-11am.
Friday 28th – 60's & 70's Quiz, Themed Dress optional – 6:30pm for 7pm start - £5pp – Max Team 6.
Mondays – Crafty Club and Games Club – 1:30pm-3:30pm - £3 each.
Tuesdays – Yoga – 11am-12noon and Pilates – 3pm-4pm - £6.50 each.
Thursdays – Yoga – 4pm-5pm - £6.50.

Hub on the Beach, 103 Coast Drive Littlestone.

- 1st Wednesday of the month – Free - Stroke Peer Support Group Meeting - 1pm-2pm.
2nd Wednesday of the month – Free - Arthritis Peer Support Group Meeting - 1pm-2pm.
3rd Wednesday of the month – Free - Bereavement Peer Support Group - 1pm-2pm.
Thursday 13th – Michael Bublè Tribute Act – 6:45pm for 7:30pm start - £10pp. licensed bar & snacks.
Monday 17th – Beetle Drive – 2pm – 4pm- £2pp – Under 5's FREE. Fun for all the family.
Mondays – Yoga - 11am-12noon, Pilates - 6pm-7pm and Fitness - 7:15pm-8:15pm - £6.50 each.
Tuesdays and Thursdays - Seated Exercise - 3pm-4pm - £6.50.
Wednesdays - Legs, Bums and Tums - 9:30am-10:30am, Fitness Pilates - 11am-12noon and Seated Tai Chi - 3pm-4pm - £6.50 each.
Thursdays – Yoga – 9:30-10:30am - £6.50.
Fridays - Sunflower Singing Group – 1:30pm-2:30pm - £6.50.
Saturdays – Washinkai Karate - 10:30am-12noon – Adults - £6.50, Under 16 - £4.50.
Starting Thursday 27th – 11.30am-1.30pm Printmaking Workshop, A Free 4-week course provided by JAM on the Marsh, only 10 spaces. <https://bookwhen.com/hotb/e/ev-sme9-20250227113000>
Last Sunday of the month - Table Top Sale - £10 a table.
Look out for details to book our popular Quiz Night on 1st March.
Hub On The Beach has a limited number of FREE taster sessions in February 2025, funded by Kent & Medway Active. Please call in for a voucher and to book.

St. Mary's Bay Village Hall.

- Saturday 8th – Silent Disco – 7:30pm - £10pp. Bring own refreshments. Book tickets through [Ticketsource.co.uk/rmchSD](https://ticketsource.co.uk/rmchSD)

For further information and bookings please check our website/Facebook page or contact us on 01797 36388 for the Community Hub or 01797 458876 for Hub On The Beach or book online at bookwhen.com/HOTB

Information Awareness

Pink Cocaine

Pink Cocaine has been featured in the print and online press and was a contributory factor to the late One Direction pop star Liam Payne's death in October 2024.

Pink cocaine is usually found in powder or pills, the pink colour making it attractive to the user.

This drug does not necessarily contain cocaine, it is a combination of various synthetic substances including MDMA (an abbreviation of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine) of various synthetic substances, most commonly including ecstasy, ketamine, and amphetamines. Other likely ingredients can be LSD, mescaline, and sometimes opioids like fentanyl.



The psychological effects of pink cocaine are acute and varied due to the combination of stimulant and hallucinogenic ingredients. The short-term effects include increased alertness, euphoria and increased sensory perception.



These can quickly give way to anxiety, paranoia, hallucinations and panic. The primary health risk associated with this drug is the high potential for overdose.

My Community Voice



The poster features a blue background with a white silhouette of a city skyline and a group of people. A yellow speech bubble is integrated into the skyline. Below the skyline, the text 'My Community Voice' is written in white, with 'Protecting the neighbourhoods of Kent and Medway' underneath. The poster is divided into several colored sections: a yellow bar at the top with the text 'MCV is a two-way engagement tool brought to you by Kent Police'; a pink bar with a megaphone icon and the text 'Find out what's happening in your area'; an orange bar with a bell icon and the text 'Receive alerts from your local officers'; a green bar with a speech bubble icon and the text 'Tell us what matters most to you'; a blue bar with a hand clicking a button icon and the text 'Sign up today and make your voice count'; and a yellow bar at the bottom with the text 'Find out more www.MyCommunityVoiceKent.co.uk' and a QR code.

MCV is a two-way engagement tool brought to you by Kent Police

Find out what's happening in your area

Receive alerts from your local officers

Tell us what matters most to you

Sign up today and make your voice count

Find out more www.MyCommunityVoiceKent.co.uk

My Community Voice is a way to be updated by Kent Police about the issues that matter to you.

Unlike social media, My Community Voice is a secure and personal messaging system that allows you to determine what type of messages you receive and how.

To start getting alerts, [register your details](#), tell Community Voice how you would like to be contacted and the topics and issues that matter to you.

The alerts will come to you via email, text or voice note. If you have any information about an appeal, then you can message the team back through the alert.

Comments and thoughts are welcomed. Clicking on the 'reply' link within a message will send your reply to the person that sent the message and your local policing team

Please note: This service should not be used to report any crime or incident to the police. In an emergency, if a crime is in progress or life is in danger, **call [999](#)**.

Fraud / Scams

Kent Fraud Alert System



Romance Scams

We are seeing increasing reports of victims of Romance Scams where they believe they are in a relationship with a celebrity.

Criminals are experts at impersonating people. They spend hours researching, especially when committing romance fraud.

Additionally, they can also use the latest AI technology like Deepfake.

Deepfakes are digitally created and altered content often in the form of fake images, videos and audio recordings. In some cases, this deep faked content can take on the exact likeness of a real person e.g. a celebrity.

To find out how the criminals work and the signs of Romance Scams go to – [Romance scams | Action Fraud](#)

Remember, never send money or Gift Cards to a person that you have never met in person, particularly a celebrity.



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](#)

Kent Fraud Alert System

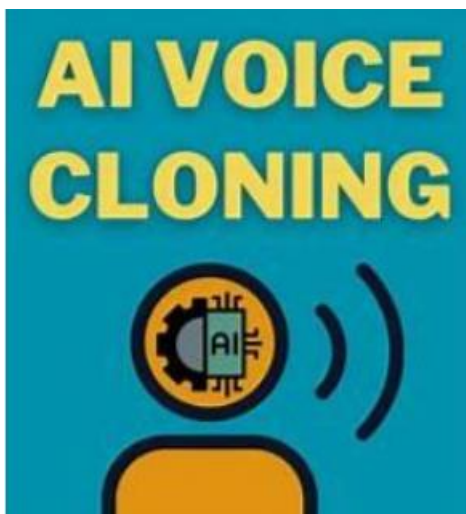


3rd Fastest - Voice cloning scams

AI voice-cloning scams were the third fastest growing scam of 2024.

AI voice cloning scams are a relatively new form of fraud where scammers use advanced tech to imitate someone's voice, which can be pretty convincing," said Stuart Skinner, NatWest's Fraud Expert. "If you get a call that sounds like it's from a friend or family member asking for money or personal info, take a pause."

The expert recommends hanging up on the caller and ringing them back on a number you know is truly theirs. "And remember, don't trust the number popping up on your caller ID—scammers can fake that too!" he added



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 the website at [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#)

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Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

New Published Reports

Online safety: age checks

Source: Ofcom

Date published: 16 January 2025

Ofcom has published a statement and guidance on age assurance and children's access assessments, outlining what online services must do under the Online Safety Act to help prevent children from encountering pornography and other harmful content. Online providers must take action to start to comply with these new rules. Services that allow pornography must introduce processes to check the age of users by July 2025. In addition, all user-to-user and search services, must carry out a children's access assessment to establish if their service is likely to be used by children by 16 April. Once the Protection of Children Codes and guidance are finalised in April 2025, platforms likely to be used by children will need to assess the risks and take appropriate action – which may include using age assurance. Ofcom has also announced an age assurance enforcement programme which will involve reaching out to adult services to inform them of their obligations under the Online Safety Act.

Read the news story: [Age checks to protect children online](#)

Child sexual abuse

Source: NSPCC Learning

Date published: 13 January 2024

NSPCC Learning has updated its statistics briefing on child sexual abuse in the UK. This briefing looks at data and statistics about child sexual abuse to help professionals, and the organisations they work for, make evidence-based decisions.

Read the briefing: [Child sexual abuse: statistics briefing](#)

Online safety

Source: Ofcom

Date published: 16 December 2024

Ofcom has published its first-edition codes of practice and guidance on tackling illegal harms online. The publications aim to help technology companies comply with the safety duties in the UK's Online Safety Act. Tech providers are required to undertake risk assessments related to illegal harms to children and adults using their platforms by 16 March 2025. Subject to the Codes completing the Parliamentary process, from 17 March 2025, providers will also need to implement the safety measures set out in the Codes or use other effective measures to protect users from illegal content and activity.

Read the press release: [Time for tech firms to act: UK online safety regulation comes into force](#)

Access the codes and guidance: [Statement: protecting people from illegal harms online](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Preventing online harm and abuse](#)

Children and violence

Source: YEF

Date published: 18 December 2024

The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) has published the final findings from its annual Children, violence and vulnerability research. The YEF surveyed over 10,000 13- to 17-year-olds in England and Wales about their experiences of violence. This report looks at children's access to positive activities, youth clubs and trusted adult figures. Findings include: youth clubs seem to be reaching those who need them most with vulnerable children being the most likely to attend; and most children in the study, including those most affected by violence, said they had a trusted adult outside the home.

Read the report: [Who has access to positive activities, youth clubs and trusted adults?](#)

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