

Community Safety Partner Updates



August 2022

Welcoming our new Community Safety Specialist



We are sure you will join us in welcoming Scott Butler to our team. Scott is our new Community Safety Specialist at Folkestone & Hythe District Council.

Scott has come from the Community Safety Unit at Canterbury City Council and has over 8 years' experience in youth and community development as well as community safety.

Community Engagement Events

Op Henosis

On Friday 29th July, the Community Safety, Town T, Licensing and Enforcement teams patrolled the Leas and the town centre. The patrol also covered the Coastal Park where the group were able to assist with some issues members of the public were having. The team were also able to engage with members of the homeless community.

The group also spotted a fly-tip on Grace Hill and discovered that needles had been placed in the knife bin.

A reminder that knife bins are located at Canterbury Road Rec and at Payers Park.



Folkestone Air Display

The Community Safety Unit had a joint stand with Environmental Enforcement and were also joined by the Lifeline365 team who promoted their systems of personal alarms - <https://lifeline365.org/>

The Community Safety Team handed out information about staying safe in the district when out at night. The team also promoted safety apps such as: live 360, holly guard and shared information about adult and child mental health services available to residents. The team also covered how and where members of the public can report issues.

One organisation highlighted on the day was Fearless <https://www.fearless.org/> this organisation provides a space for adolescents to access non-

judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality. provide a safe place to give information about crime - 100% anonymously. The organisation is available 24 hours a day, 7-days a week, 365 days of the year.

The Environmental Enforcement team promoted the importance of microchipping dogs and highlighted the new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) and restrictions that came into force on 1st August 2022. Information was handed out to residents alongside dog poo bags and dog treats.



Folkestone & Hythe Youth Hub Festival



On 30th August, the Community Safety Unit had a stand on the grounds of Mundella Primary Playing Field supporting KCC Youth Hub.

This was an interactive festival for the whole family to enjoy with games, music, and karate amongst other activities.

The Community Safety Team handed out safety information for both adults and children including information about the mental health services available to them. They also promoted the Fearless organisation and Crime Stoppers. Snap wrist bands with space for parent's contacts details were also given out for children to use and wear.

Welcome event for Ukrainians 🇺🇦

On 1st September Ukrainian guests and their hosts were warmly invited to a welcome event held at the Creative Folkestone Quarterhouse.

This free event was an opportunity to meet the Ukrainians and their hosts and to offer guidance on everything from nursery placements to job skills over a cuppa and cake and form new friendships.

Organisations were on hand offering advice on benefits, family matters, housing, jobs and more.

The Community Safety and Environmental Enforcement teams both attended offering advice and handing out information to guests.



Household Support Fund Extension

The council is now receiving applications for the household support fund extension.

The emphasis is on pensioner households and those without children or with children under 5 who are not eligible for free school meals. The council will be actively targeting

these groups from now until the fund is spent or the **30th September 2022** when the fund closes.

Customers may apply online via the council's website <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/household-support-fund>

- Energy payments will be made directly into a customer's bank account so bank account details will be required, if they have a pre-payment meter, they will be referred to Kent County Council for fuel vouchers to be issued.
- Food vouchers are issued by email.

If the customer does not have an email address the voucher can be posted to them, but the details of the supermarket they want the voucher for must be provided.

Customers who are unable to go online can claim by calling customer services on 01303 853555.

Please forward to those in need.

Community Day for Royal Gurkha Regiment Spouses 21st September 2022

Everyone is welcome to come along to meet the Gurkha families who have been arriving from Brunei over the summer. The morning event will be a marketplace style event at the Mackenze Drive Community Centre in Folkestone to welcome the families and provide information to help them settle in Folkestone (and the same for Dover in the afternoon). Because it has been 5 years since the last Unit Move, many of the families will not have been to the UK before so it would be helpful for them to get an introduction to the work of community safety partners.

Refreshments of tea and coffee will be provided.

If anyone would like to receive further information or have a table at the event, please contact Tracy Evans on Tracy.Evans477@mod.gov.uk

PREVENT

Prevent campaign

The Home Office has launched a new public facing webpage for Prevent <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-if-youre-worried-about-someone-being-radicalised>

You may remember that we shared the news that the Kent and Medway Prevent team bought their Gaming Awareness of Hate and Extremism to Folkestone and received a fantastic response in our July newsletter.

There were 196 children and adults who turned up and the ages ranged from 3 to 52 years. The Prevent team received 58 survey monkey responses to the quiz. The Prevent team wanted to express thanks to the Community Safety team, Early Help and to all other partners involved as they received some great information from this initiative.



Police updates

Need to report a crime

Need to report a crime?
Do it online

A quicker way for you to report crime and incidents

Receive your confirmation email and reference number immediately

Go to www.kent.police.uk/report

Ask the Police

No need to phone.
Get an instant answer online.

Browse the **A to Z** question finder

www.askthe.police.uk

Vehicle Interferences and thefts

Kent Police have received a high number of calls regarding vehicle interferences and thefts.

Always ensure your vehicle is locked and all valuables are removed from inside the vehicle, with more and more vehicles moving towards keyless entry, thieves are using sophisticated methods such as relay attacks or “key cloning”. New cars with keyless entry are vulnerable to these kinds of attacks due to thieves being able to pick up the frequency and broadcast it to your vehicle without needing the pass to gain entry to the vehicles.

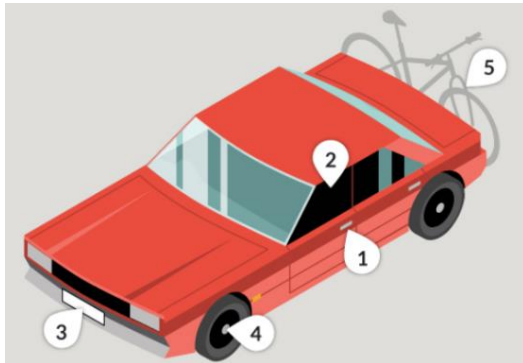


If you are an owner of a new car which has keyless entry, it might be worth purchasing a blocking pouch for the pass/ key for the vehicle. The blocking pouch works due to having a thin metallic lining which can block any frequency that may be used to gain

access to a vehicle, The blocking pouches are readily available online and various retail establishments.

If you have any CCTV or Dash Camera footage or any kind of vehicle interference, please call 101 to report this or report via the Kent Police online reporting method. Kent Police have published a Vehicle Security guide with helpful advice. <https://members.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/AlertMessage/Attachment/69DC18FE178EFD28FDC7BFB90ABB33F8>

Prevent theft from your vehicle



Having your car broken into and losing your possessions to thieves can be very distressing.

Here are a few simple steps you can take to keep your vehicle, and what is in it, safe. <https://www.kent.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/vehicle-safe-and-sound/>

Fraud / Scams

159 Bank Hotline

It is a fraud prevention hotline designed to protect people from being manipulated and scammed. The **159** number enables current account customers to connect with their bank safely and securely when they receive an unexpected, suspicious, or fraudulent call.



The service now includes businesses from across the banking, technology, and telecoms sectors, including HSBC, Santander, Lloyds, Meta, Microsoft and Google, BT, TalkTalk and Three.

Is it successful?

Between its launch in September 2001 and April 2022, there have been 75,000 calls made to the 159 number

The message behind the service is simple, if you receive an unexpected or suspicious call about a financial matter from someone who claims to be from your bank, the police or any other authority figure, then **Stop**, hang up and then call 159.

REMEMBER – CALL 159 TO STOP FRAUD

Have you been asked to withdraw cash by the police?



This is a scam.

The police or your bank will **never**:

- ask for your bank details or PIN
- ask you to transfer or withdraw and handover sums of money
- send a courier to collect your bank cards, cash or PIN

If you are unsure about a call or visitor you have received:

- Don't give out any personal or financial information.
- Hang up or close your front door to check the caller's identity.
- If they phoned you, wait 10 minutes before you use the phone again (or use a different telephone) in case they stay on the line.
- Contact their company yourself or dial 101 for the police – do not call a number they have provided.
- Report suspicious activity straight away.



Kent
Police

Report a non-urgent crime online: www.kent.police.uk/report
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 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   

Partner Agencies



Hestia's Folkestone Haven

Provides mental health support for adults aged 16+ in the Folkestone and Hythe District.

The Folkestone Haven is open during the evenings, weekends, and bank holidays, when other support services may be closed. The aim of the service is to reduce the number of people accessing A&E departments and decrease pressure on other emergency services.

The service is **FREE** and there is no need for an appointment - simply turn up. Whether you are struggling with an enduring mental health condition, bereavement, work stress, worries about Covid-19, or anything else that is impacting your mental health.

Visitors to the Folkestone Haven will be greeted by one of the trained Recovery Workers, who will offer a listening ear and tailored mental health support. Visitors can also access support groups if they wish, such as art groups and creative writing workshops, to help maintain social inclusion.

The Folkestone Haven is funded by the NHS and a consortium of Kent based Trusts, including the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust.

The Folkestone Haven is **FREE** to use, and you do not need an appointment to access the service.

Address: Rainbow Centre, 69 Sandgate Rd, Folkestone, CT20 2AF.

Opening times: Monday to Friday, 6pm to 11pm and Saturdays, Sundays, and Bank Holidays, from 12pm to 11pm.

For more information, please contact via email at Folkestone.Haven@hestia.org or phone on 07827 533 871.

You can also follow on Facebook and Instagram.

<https://www.hestia.org/folkestone-and-hythe-district>

Folkestone Haven Men's Group

To create a safe and welcoming space for men to talk through challenges, share experiences and explore feelings that may be difficult to express.

To provide confidential and non-judgmental support to each other; somewhere that you can be yourself, without fear of rejection.

The group is open every day of the year however, there are also some specific events and groups that we will be holding this month including the monthly men's group.

The next group session will be held on the **16th September 7-9pm.**

**For more information or to
book a space please telephone:
07827 533 871**

The Folkestone Safe Haven
69 Sandgate Road, CT20 2AF
Folkestone

Opening times :
Mon-Fri: 18:00 – 23:00
Sat/Sun/Bank Holidays: 12:00 – 23:00
Free to use. No appointment necessary.

World Suicide Prevention Day – 10th September

World Suicide Prevention Day is hosted on 10th September each year by the International Association for Suicide Prevention and provides the opportunity for people, across the globe, to raise awareness of suicide and suicide prevention.

<https://mentalhealth-uk.org/get-involved/mental-health-awareness-days/world-suicide-prevention-day/>

<https://www.iasp.info/2021/04/15/world-suicide-prevention-day-new-theme/>

New Published Reports

Safer Streets Fund continues to make streets safer

£50 million has been awarded through the Safer Street Fund to tackle violence against women and girls and make streets safer. The money will go to police forces, local authorities, British Transport Police and eligible community groups across England

and Wales to prevent violence against women and girls in public, neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/safer-streets-fund-continues-to-make-streets-safer>

Online communities

Source: Children's Commissioner

Date: 09 August 2022

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a new blog focused on child safety in digital communities. It highlights some of the risks associated with online platforms and provides an update on actions the Children's Commissioner is taking to strengthen online safety regulations. It also summarises findings from recent surveys gathering responses from children around online communities, which include: boys were more likely to access harmful content including material around diet restriction and self-harm; and children eligible for free school meals were more likely to be exposed to harmful content. A second blog has also been published, which looks at child safety in both online and offline communities.

Read the first blog: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2022/08/09/digital-communities-the-childrens-commissioners-survey-of-children-and-parents-on-the-online-world/>

Read the second blog:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2022/08/09/community-the-childrens-commissioners-view/>

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