



The East Sussex Against Scams Partnership Bulletin

March 2018

Community Safety remains a key priority within East Sussex.

The Safer Communities Partnership, which involves a range of agencies, is the key strategic partnership in overseeing the community safety agenda and is committed to ensuring East Sussex remains a safe place for residents and visitors. The East Sussex Against Scams Partnership (ESASP) is one of its areas of work.



This Bulletin provides links to a selection of articles, scams alerts and social media messaging which Charter Partners may wish to share more widely in their help to raise awareness about scams amongst East Sussex residents.

We now have **70** organisations helping in this vital community engagement work. Latest partners include:

3VA
Eastbourne Seniors Forum
Eastbourne Volunteers
Firwood House, Eastbourne
Hastings Advice and Representation Centre
(HARC)

Home Instead Senior Care -
Crowborough & High Weald
Parish of St Mary Magdalene's (comprising
St. Mary Magdalene's, Our Lady of the
Rosary, and St. Martha's churches)
Pevensey Villages Partnership
Sussex Support Services Ltd

Visit [here](#) to find out more details about the East Sussex Against Scams Partnership and /or contact elaine.bowdery@eastsussex.gov.uk to find out how your organisation could help raise awareness

Key messages to share:

- Scams are fraud, and fraud is a crime so we should not be ignoring them – report them to Action Fraud and help prevent others from falling victim to these criminal scammers.
- Anyone can be a scam victim – irrespective of age, gender, education or financial background. Don't think you wouldn't fall victim – you only have to be distracted, stressed, or busy and by then you may have already clicked on that dodgy email or given out more personal information than you intended during innocent sounding telephone calls or conversations.

Sign up to receive these useful fraud and scam alerts and newsletters:

Sussex Police – Operation Signature: [Fraud Newsletter](#) – Feb 2018
Neighbourhood Alerts “[In the Know](#)” – Surrey and Sussex
Neighbourhood Watch e-newsletter “[Our News](#)” – Feb/March 2018
UK Safer Internet [newsletter](#)

Some recent interesting short reads and links:

- See what [Royal Mail](#) suggest you do about **scam mail** and hundreds of scam letter [comen](#) held in crackdown
- **Phone scams** – learn how to [protect yourself](#)
- Received a **scam email**? Here's what you could [do](#).
- **Online safety videos** for children from the Halifax, and another from the [BBC](#)
- **Schools** are being targeted by fraudsters – an East Sussex [school](#) is a fraud victim
- Victims lost £41 million to **romance fraud** in 2017
- **Online dating?** [Tips](#) on how to set up your profile
- Nationwide research has identified that people experiencing **loneliness and isolation** are four times more likely to fall victim of a scam ([video](#)). Did you know the [Locality Link Worker Team](#) work with frontline health and social care professionals to better access community-based support for their clients who could be potential scam victims?
- From September 2018, a [new code of conduct](#) for the way **banks treat victims** tricked into transferring cash to fraudsters' accounts
- Tips on how to **stay safe on the internet** – whether you're a parent / carer, under 11 or in your teens
- **Online fraud:** [more victims](#) these days are under the age of 55
- **Posing** as a Council handyman to [trick elderly victims](#) in Kent & Sussex
- **Distraction burglaries** – [victims' stories](#) from Sussex Police
- Take Five to **stop fraud** – lots of [videos](#) to choose from
- Finally, did you have a look at the **output from the recent [Scams Networking & Engagement](#)** event at the bottom of our web page? Further information to follow.

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Some useful scams contact numbers for East Sussex residents:

For support and advice on scams (eg rogue traders, romance scams, scam mail, telephone calls, text messages, emails), call Citizens Advice on **0345 40 40 506**

If you are concerned about financial abuse speak to Health and Social Care Connect on **0345 60 80 191**

For a non-emergency response (if you have been a victim of a fraud/scam), call Sussex Police on **101**

If you have been affected by crime, get emotional and practical help from Victim Support on **0808 168 9274**

To report a fraud, or suspected fraud, and share information to help stop others from becoming victims, call Action Fraud **0300 123 2040**

Dates for the diary:

The national Citizens Advice Scams Awareness Month may be June, not July, this year – I'm just awaiting confirmation and will update you shortly.

Visit the [Friends Against Scams website](#) for public awareness sessions I'm holding soon, namely **14 March - Bexhill** and **15 March - Eastbourne** (the latter is actually a free 2 hour workshop with the Eastbourne Seniors Forum).



Requests:

- You may be the only person within your organisation receiving this communication; let me know if anyone else should be copied in to ensure scams messages are widely shared.
- To share social media messages relating to scams, follow / like the Safer East Sussex Team and quote #ESxASP in your comms:



- Does anyone know of any organisation currently translating key scams / fraud messages into other languages to help non-English speaking communities?

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Graphics to use / share in your comms:



Thanks to everyone for their support in helping to protect East Sussex communities by raising awareness about scams / fraud.



Ps. If you are interested in other topics affecting community safety eg modern slavery, cuckooing, human trafficking, substance misuse, offending, Prevent etc – then sign up to receive Safer East Sussex Team's newsletters.

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