

Dartford & Gravesham KCC Community Wardens Newsletter 2025 - 2026

Meet the Team

Team Leader – Jacqueline Fuller

KCC Community Warden – Mandy Cason

KCC Community Warden – Angela Jarrett

KCC Community Warden – Jo Appleton

Welcome to the Dartford and Gravesham KCC Community Wardens Newsletter

Throughout the year, our team has continued working closely with residents, local organisations, community groups and partner agencies to support safer, stronger and more connected communities.

From community engagement events and youth activities to supporting vulnerable residents, attending local groups and food banks. We remain committed to being visible, approachable and proactive within our communities.

Inside this newsletter you will find highlights from some of the projects, events and support initiatives we have been involved in across Dartford and Gravesham.

Community Resilience

Reflect and Connect is a Dartford and Gravesham initiative aimed at supporting all children and young people but with a focus on those aged 8–14 who are increasingly involved in anti-social behaviour (ASB), particularly in identified hotspot areas. KCC Community Wardens across the district are equipped with a basic kit of safety resources to assist in their work within these communities, helping to reduce ASB and improve safety where it is most needed.



Major Incident

A major incident was declared when Kent residents were left without water. The Dartford and Gravesham Community warden team were deployed to assist with bottled water distribution and carrying out welfare visits on vulnerable residents



Dartford and Gravesham Community Warden team were the first to introduce the Duke of Cornwall award to Dartford. The award aims to educate 5-18yr olds to respond safely during and after a crisis. All participants achieved their badge level and additionally they learnt first aid and railway safety. During the sessions, it became clear that water safety required further focus due to local children regularly playing near lakes and the River Thames.

As a result, the Water Smart Programme was developed. Since its introduction, more than 75 children across Dartford & Gravesham have learned how to stay safe around water and what actions to take in an emergency.



WATER SMART PROGRAMME

Booking essential as limited FREE spaces for 8yr to 16yr
Must be able to swim

Always choose a safe place to swim

What do I do in an emergency?

Let's learn about pool, river, canal, lake & beach safety

27th, 28th & 29th MAY 2026
13.30 to 15.00
Cygnet Leisure Centre, Old Perry Street,
Northfleet DA11 8BU
To book call
Jak 07813713036
to 07974183693



Support Elderly & Vulnerable

Dartford and Gravesham KCC Community Wardens play a vital role in supporting vulnerable residents by promoting independence, carrying out welfare checks and helping to reduce social isolation. Focusing on safety and wellbeing, the Community Wardens act as a direct link to KCC Adult Social Care and partner agencies, ensuring residents are supported, safeguarded and connected to the appropriate services.

Dartford and Gravesham Community Wardens regularly attend residents' homes and community settings to offer practical support and guidance, helping individuals access the benefits, services and assistance they may be entitled too. The Community Wardens provide reassurance and signposting for vulnerable residents, ensuring they are connected to the appropriate agencies and local support networks.

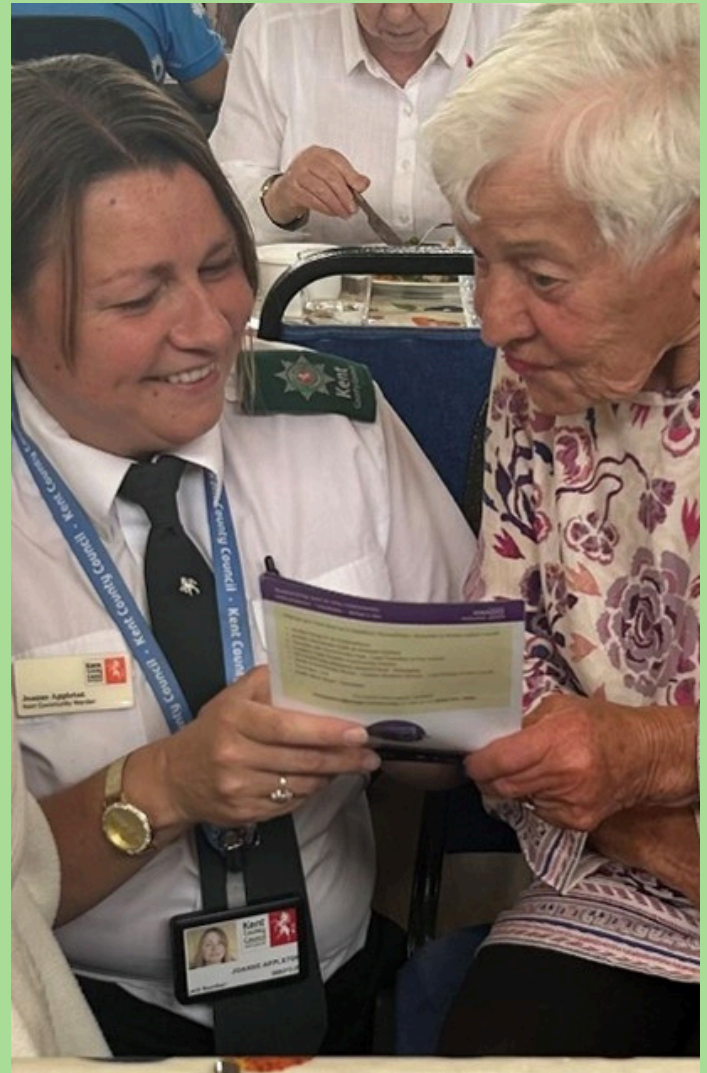


The Dartford and Gravesham team are Community Champions for Trading standards and assist when possible to support residents who have fallen victim to scams and rogue traders, offering advice, welfare support and referrals where needed. By working closely with partner agencies, the Community Wardens help residents feel safer and more informed, while also raising awareness within the wider community to help prevent further incidents.



Assist with Navigating Community Services

Across Dartford and Gravesham, regular community surgeries are held to provide residents with advice, support, guidance and referrals to relevant services. These sessions are crucial in helping local people know where and when they can access support within their community. In addition, attendance at various community events with information tables helps raise awareness of available services, offer practical advice and create further opportunities for residents to engage, ask questions and seek support.



Fostering Community Cohesion & Well-being

The Community Wardens attend local events and actively identify gaps in local provision and respond to community needs by organising activities and events that bring residents together and reduce social isolation. This included 'United in Sound' which was produced to support individuals who struggle in social situations and those who are neurodiverse, United in Sound provided a safe welcoming environment that helped participants build friendships, increase confidence and reduce isolation. Additionally, a Christmas party which welcomed almost 100 attendees, providing an opportunity for residents to socialise, access support and strengthen community connections.

**FREE SESSION
HANDS-ONLY
CPR WORKSHOP SESSION
FOR OVER 55s**

LIMITED SPACES - BOOKING REQUIRED

To book your space call
KCC Community Warden
Jo 07974 183693 or Jak 07813 713036

Tuesday 21st April 2026
2pm to 4pm

Healthy Living Centre, Tree Estate Community
Centre, Cedar Rd, DA1 2RS

home instead



Following regular engagement within the community, increasing financial pressures on local families were identified, particularly around the cost of Christmas gifts for children. In response, the Toy Chest project was launched to provide new and quality preloved toys for families in need, while also reducing waste by encouraging regifting and preventing unwanted items from going to landfill. Donation points at Hawley Garden Centre, Asda Greenhithe, and Swanscombe Library received an overwhelming response from the community, with many families and children donating toys to help others at Christmas. All items were carefully sorted, safety checked and distributed sensitively through appointment collections at the Healthy Living Centre and Swanscombe Church Hall. The project supported almost 100 children, helping to ease financial pressures and bring positive outcomes to local families.



THE DEN

Thursday
4pm to 5.30pm
 FREE youth group
 8yr to 14yr

Safe Warm Space FREE Refreshments

A fun place to hang out, be creative and make new friends

Healthy Living Centre, Tree Estate Community Centre
 Cedar Rd, Dartford DA1 2RS

Parent/carers consent required
 Call KCC Community Wardens
 Jo 07974183693 or Jak 07813713036

‘The Den’ was created by Dartford and Gravesham Community Warden team after identifying groups of young people gathered in the local play park during the winter months, alongside concerns around anti-social behaviour. By speaking directly with local youths, the wardens discovered there was a strong need for a warm, safe space where young people could socialise, take part in activities and access support. The project quickly showed positive outcomes, helping to reduce anti-social behaviour through early intervention, engagement and relationship building. The Den has since grown into a trusted community space, supporting not only young people but also parents and families. Many attendees are home-schooled or neurodiverse, and the group has helped improve confidence, social skills and friendships within an inclusive environment. What began as a response to anti-social behaviour has developed into a valued, safe and supportive space where young people can build confidence, develop friendships and thrive within their local community.

Attendance at Safety in Action involved engaging with Year 6 pupils from various schools through a restorative justice-based activity. Images and scenarios were used to demonstrate how actions and behaviours can have consequences, encouraging discussion around decision-making, responsibility, and the impact actions can have on others.



We are proud to announce that the Dartford & Gravesham team were nominated for the GET Awards Team of the Year.

The Dartford and Gravesham Team Leader received a nomination for the Hidden hero award and recognised as a finalist in the Community Support category.

The Community Warden Service was also nominated for the All-Weather Champion Award,

These nominations reflect the team's ongoing commitment, dedication and positive impact within the local community.

