



CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH
AGAINST SCAMS PARTNERSHIP

Stamping Out Scammers as a Community

Event: Office for Police and Crime Commissioner, South
Cambridgeshire briefing

Date: 30th June 2021

Presenter: Charlotte Homent on behalf of CAPASP

Scams: What's the Harm?



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- 3 million
- 5-10 billion
- 5
- 75
- 37
- 2.5

SCAM WARNING

ActionFraud
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
actionfraud.police.uk

Coronavirus scam costs victims over £800k in one month

Since February 2020, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has identified 21 reports of fraud where Coronavirus was mentioned, with victim losses totalling over £800k. Ten of these reports were made by victims that attempted to purchase protective face masks from fraudulent sellers. One victim reported losing over £15k when they purchased face masks that were never delivered. Reporting numbers are expected to rise as the virus continues to spread across the world. We have also received multiple reports about coronavirus-themed phishing emails attempting to trick people into opening malicious attachments or revealing sensitive personal and financial information.

Watch out for scam messages:

Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to unsolicited messages and calls that ask for your personal or financial details

Shopping online:

If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, and ask a friend or family member for advice before completing the purchase. Where possible, use a credit card to make the payment, as most major credit card providers insure online purchases.

Protect your devices from the latest threats:

Always install the latest software and app updates to protect your devices from the latest threats.

CAPASP



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- **Partners** – 20 organisations committing to a charter and action plan covering 4 themes.
- **Advisors** – individuals who have suffered the financial and emotional harm of being a victim of scams
 - Advise the board on how it feels to be a victim of crime.
 - What does effective prevention look like?
- **Supporters** – organisations or individuals who pledge to support the partnership and play their part in building local resilience to scams
 - Know it. Share it. Talk about it.
 - Friends Against Scams

Monthly News



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Latest News

Welcome

Welcome to our November edition of CAPASP News. There's definitely a chill in the air now, so time for many to start thinking about the government's green homes grant to improve the energy efficiency of their property. In this issue we bring news of the scheme and how to avoid scams associated with it.

We also highlight the measures that our wonderful partner, Anglian Water, have in place to protect their customers from scams including the wider utility industry's Priority Services Register.

Happy reading!

Green Homes Grant - Know Your Stuff to Avoid Scams



A new Green Homes Grant Scheme launched on 30th September to encourage home owners to invest money in improving the energy efficiency of their property.

The government scheme provides a grant for up to two thirds of the cost of improvement works, with a list of eligible primary measures which, if adopted, then open the opportunity to also claim for works on the list of secondary measures. Only approved and checked traders can carry out the work requested to meet the criteria.

Whilst this is welcome news for many, there is concern for those who may not have done their research and who may be tempted by fraudsters contacting them by letter, phone, online or on the doorstep to say "I can get you the

New Supporters



Some of Farmer Freeman's herd

It's been a busy month for recruitment to our army of CAPASP supporters. We are thrilled to announce that we are now joined by the following organisations who have committed to spreading scams awareness to their members or their local community:

- [Somersham and Pidley Timebank](#)
- [Light House Community Group](#)
- [Huntingdonshire Community Group](#)
- [Duxford Parish Council](#)
- [Gamlingay Gazette](#)
- [Farmer Freeman](#)
- [Soham Community Association](#)



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Latest News

Welcome

Welcome to our October edition of CAPASP News. Autumn has well and truly arrived but sadly the dip in temperature does nothing to discourage fraudsters. They're busy plotting Christmas-themed fraud and committing scams on people affected by the continuing coronavirus pandemic (see our news about the latest scam targeting those seeking employment). So your role in raising awareness across your community continues to be absolutely vital - and enormously valued, thank you.

This issue we also bring news of Friends Against Scams week and a 'FASathon' which present a great opportunity to get involved in some scams prevention in your community with very little effort. Just think what a huge positive impact that could have! Read on to find out more...

New scams guide

A new guide 'Are you or your loved ones being targeted by scams? Help to manage finances and avoid scams for people at risk and those who support them' has been launched by the National Trading Standards Scams Team and the National Centre for Post Qualifying Social Work and Professional Practice at Bournemouth University, working in partnership with Lloyds Bank, Halifax and Bank of Scotland.



New Supporters

We are delighted to welcome Cllr Adela Costello and Peterborough Neighbourhood Watch Association as new CAPASP supporters this month.



Cllr Adela Costello

Cllr Costello is Cambridgeshire County Councillor for Ramsey and Bury division and is the Member Area Champion for Huntingdonshire. She is also Deputy Mayor for Ramsey Town Council.

Peterborough Neighbourhood Watch are a network of local schemes across Peterborough



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Latest News

Welcome

Welcome to our September newsletter. We hope you've been enjoying a nice summer and managed to take a break or at least enjoy participating in a spot of 'Eat Out to Help Out'. After an intense few months on Covid scams prevention, whilst also being redeployed to the County Coordination Hub, we have recently enjoyed a bit of a break ourselves here at CAPASP HQ. It's good to be back! As for eating out, read on to find out what we've been doing to help local restaurants, pubs and cafes at this challenging time. Happy reading!

Supporting Food Businesses with Test and Trace



We were recently contacted by a member of the public concerned about food businesses operating an open 'visitors book' that customers were invited to complete for NHS Test and Trace purposes but which allowed anyone to see the name, contact details and date and time of previous visitors to the premises.

New Supporters

We are thrilled to welcome Steve Harknett, Jessica Kennedy and Safe Soulmates as new partnership supporters this month. Steve and Jessica are both Community Connectors at Peterborough City Council and Safe Soulmates support adults with additional needs to find friendship and romantic love in a safe way, free from abuse. We're delighted to have Steve, Jessica and Safe Soulmates on our side - helping to raise scams awareness among the communities they work with, thereby protecting them from the harm that scams bring.


Fenland Community Safety Event

Fenland Community Safety Partnership have taken their quarterly community engagement events online in the current climate of the coronavirus pandemic. CAPASP were delighted to

Interim Scam Alerts



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SCAM WARNING


Covid Grant Text Scam


One of our supporters has kindly shared a recent scam text message they received so that we can alert others. The text claims to be from UK government and states 'Records show that you are eligible for a COVID-19 grant. To proceed, please complete the form here:...' and provides a link to give your details.

Friday • 14:47

GOVUK: Records show that you are eligible for a COVID-19 grant. To proceed, please complete the form here:
<https://uksecuregrant.com/>

Fri 14:47







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SCAM WARNING

Online Marketplace Photo Scam

With the PlayStation 5, or PS5 as it's known, completely sold out in all major retailers across the UK, purchasers are being warned of a cruel trick targeting those desperate to get their hands on the games console in time for Christmas.

Some sellers on eBay are listing **photos** or an **empty box** of the new next-generation games console in an attempt to mislead eager buyers to part with their hard-earned cash - with some selling for £550. Often the listings are accompanied by good quality pictures and a decent description but hidden amongst the small print is included 'photo' or 'box only' or a similar statement of the true product.

 Ps 5 console digital edition HD £460.00 18 bids + £3.10 postage	 PS5 console, nice details in description £460.00 16 bids Free postage	 PS5 Playstation Console Disk Version 2020 Brand New £400.00 Buy it Now or Best Offer + £10.99 postage	 Sony PS5 Digital Edition 1TB white £399.00 0 bids or Best Offer + £3.70 postage
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SCAM WARNING

Fake Covid-19 Vaccine Scam Text

Scammers continue to exploit the confusion and urgency of the coronavirus pandemic to commit fraud on unsuspecting victims - this time by way of a fake text claiming the recipient can get a dose of one of the newly-approved vaccines.

The bogus message, seen below, states that the recipient is entitled to a vaccine and to receive more information they should click on the link in blue.

NHS: We have identified that your are eligible to apply for your vaccine. For more information and to apply, follow here :
uk-application-form.com

Image of fake NHS vaccine text

Unfortunately these texts are completely fake and if the link is clicked the recipient is taken to a webpage, branded to look like a genuine NHS page, which requests to see 'proof of ownership of address' in the form of their bank account, sort code and a full bank card number.

Coronavirus/Covid-19 scams resources



[Wash your hands of coronavirus scams postcard](#)

Size: 194KB File format: pdf



[Coronavirus and scams - dementia friendly postcard](#)

Size: 264KB File format: pdf



[Coronavirus Social Media pack](#)

Size: 1.36MB File format: word



[Coronavirus Social Media pack](#)

Size: 525KB File format: pdf

Loan sharks



[Stop Loan Sharks Social Media Toolkit](#)

Size: 435KB File format: pdf

General scams resources



[Five Simple Steps for Community Groups to help prevent scams](#)

Five Simple Steps for Community Groups (PDF, 273KB)

Size: 274KB File format: pdf



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BEWARE OF DOORSTEP CALLERS!

Look out for Clive, does he really need a new drive?

Top tips to help you and others take a stand against doorstep scams

1. Never use cold-callers.
2. Consumers are legally entitled to a 14-day cooling off period for contracts formed at their home.
3. Check the identity of the caller.
4. Encourage people to ask a trusted person for advice on reputable traders.
5. Everyone should display a "No Cold Calling" sticker.
6. Always report suspicious activity.

Find out more about scams visit www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

If you're not sure, don't open the door!

Friends Against SCAMS
CEA
For advice on scams call Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline: 03454 04 08 08
To report scams contact Action Fraud: 0300 123 2040
NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS Scams Team

WARNING

We do not deal with
uninvited traders

**PLEASE LEAVE
AND
DO NOT RETURN**

Failure to do so is a
criminal offence



@FriendsAgainst www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk training/friends-elearning @AgainstScams



Protect your
loved ones from
coronavirus scams.

Have a look at the
updated Friends
training for
information.

Here and Now – working together



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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Beware of Coronavirus scams

YOU ARE IN

↑ Residents

↑ Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Coronavirus (COVID-19)
overview

Coronavirus information for
residents

Coronavirus (COVID-19) -
Community support

Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Beware of Coronavirus scams

Coronavirus (COVID-19) -
update to county council
services

Coronavirus (COVID-19) -
supporting businesses



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Phone scams

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False information about Coronavirus cases

Fake emails

Online shopping scams

Online offers for vaccinations and treatments

Tips to prevent internet scams

Reporting internet scams

Postal scams

Tips to prevent postal scams

Reporting postal scams

Keep yourself and your community safe

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership

Friends Against Scams

We urge residents and businesses to be wary of scammers taking advantage of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Be cautious of any unsolicited contact. Many scams involve criminals pretending to be from a genuine organisation such as:

Working with Supporters



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Supporters in South Cambs



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Local Councils	Local Councils cont.	Businesses	Community Organisations	Individuals
Comberton	Milton	Cambridgeshire Chambers of C	CHS Group	Farmer Freeman
Cottenham	Oakington & Westwick	County Windows Cambridge	Gamlingay Community Safety	
Croydon	Shudy Camps	Gamlingay Gazette	Melbourn Timebank	
Dry Drayton	Swavesey		Sawston Timebank	
Duxford				
Eltisley				
Gamlingay				
Grantchester				
Guilden Morden				
Harston				
Histon & Impington				
Horseheath				
Longstanton				
Madingley				

Our Invitation



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- ‘Sign up’ as a supporter of CAPASP.
- Take part in the short, express version of [Friends Against Scams training](#)
- Encourage others in your family/neighbourhood / ward/parish/division/network/employment to become supporters or advisors as appropriate.



Impact of CAPASP Supporters



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- Joining the 5500+ people who are already Friends Against Scams in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- Increasing the number of knowledgeable, confident residents who can 'spot scams and stop scams'
- Giving a consistent and clear message to rogues that they are unwelcome in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, that we are united in our fight against scams.





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How to Become a Supporter

Email: Against Scams Team **Against-Scams@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk**

Phone: Charlotte Homent, Lead for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership, 01954 284635 or charlotte.homent@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Visit our website at www.Cambridgeshire.gov.uk/against-scams

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<https://www.facebook.com/CAPASP19>



@CAPA5P