

# East Sussex Against Scams Partnership Charter

The East Sussex Against Scams Partnership (ESASP) is a partnership of organisations committed to taking a stand against scams and aims to make East Sussex a scam-free county.

Scams are fraud and fraud is crime. Being a victim of this crime can have devastating impacts upon people. These crimes are targeted at people in our communities that are vulnerable for a variety of reasons, including poverty, isolation, frailty, cognitive impairment, and because they are specifically targeted.

- 53% of people aged 65+ have been targeted by scams and criminals (Action Fraud);
- Scams cost the UK between £5-10 billion each year (Annual Fraud Indicator);
- Anyone can be a scam victim, regardless of age, gender, education or economic background;
- Scam victims might not always admit (or be aware) that they are a victim of a scam. Only 5% of victims report the crime (Age UK 2015);
- Scams are the product of organised, predatory criminals who gain trust to exploit and steal money.

For support and advice on scams, call the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on **03454 040506**

For suspected abuse, call Adult Social Care on **0345 60 80 191**

For an immediate Police response, call **999**; for a non-emergency response, call **101**

To report a fraud, or suspected fraud, call Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**

## How are we going to do it?

The ESASP is united in taking a stand against scams and making East Sussex a hostile county to criminals. Join us in making a difference and commit to the Charter.

## Charter party commitment:

We will work together in partnership to raise awareness of scams. Scams are fraud, and fraud is crime. Together we will Take a Stand against scams by assisting people to protect themselves, helping prevent people from being targeted by criminals; and identifying and supporting any victims of scams. We are committed to the Charter's three key aims:

### 1. Raising awareness and de-stigmatising scams

- Improve public awareness of scams and increase knowledge about the steps people can take to protect themselves;
- Remove any possible stigma and embarrassment about being a victim of scams and ensure victims are supported like victims of other crimes;
- Participate in the Friends Against Scams initiative, and run awareness raising sessions;
- Share consistent messaging to the public and media.

### 2. Prevention and protection

- Increase the protection that everyone, and especially people in vulnerable circumstances, should have against scams;
- Take steps to make it more difficult for people to be targeted by criminals;
- Introduce stronger barriers and safeguards on the mechanisms used by perpetrators to reach their victims.

### 3. Identification and recording

- Improve the identification of victims of scams and ensure they are offered appropriate support and access to justice;
- Introduce consistent definitions and recording of scams to aid understanding of the true scale of the impact of scams;
- Develop improved joint working and referral pathways between organisations and common support pathways for victims.

**For further details on the Charter and how you can Take A Stand Against Scams, contact:**

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