



ANNUAL REPORT

2015/16

safercommunitiesscotland.org

SCSN Vision

People are safe from crime, disorder, danger and free from injury and harm; and communities are socially cohesive and tolerant; are resilient; and able to support individuals to take responsibility for their wellbeing

As a Company Limited by Guarantee, SCSN's Company Objectives are set out in the Articles of Association:

- The advancement of citizenship and community development through the development and promotion of community safety practice on a wide range of issues for the benefit of the public in Scotland and elsewhere as appropriate; and
- The advancement of education through raising awareness of community safety practice and wellbeing for the benefit of the public in Scotland and elsewhere as appropriate

Staff and Board Members

Directors 2015/16

Mark McCall	Fife Council	Chair
Emma Walker	North Lanarkshire Council	Vice Chair
Ian Hanley	Inverclyde Council	Treasurer
Andrew Mitchell	City of Edinburgh Council	
Diane Kane	East Dunbartonshire Council	
Robert Cowper	Argyll and Bute Council	Until January 2016
Paul Richardson	Scottish Borders	
Martin Millar	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	
Neil Carnegie	Aberdeen City Council	
Ann Fehilly	Community Safety Glasgow	
Lorraine Gillies	West Lothian Council	

Staff 2015/16

Jacqui Doig	SCSN Manager
Denise Huntridge	Business Support Officer
Nikki Evans	Communications Officer (June 2015 to May 2016)
Hannah Dickson	National Development Officer
Andrew Price	National Development Officer

Chairperson Welcome

The last year has provided SCSN with many challenges. The year began with a significant reduction in our core grant funding from the Scottish Government which resulted in the loss of one of our National Development Officers posts. In addition another officer was on secondment to the Scottish Government for six months to support the development of a Strategic Assessment to support the Building Safer Communities Programme phase 2 on unintentional injuries. Despite the reduction in staffing I believe this annual report demonstrates that SCSN has made good progress against its business plan, delivering services and resources to support the capacity of local partners in community safety.



While the challenge of funding remains constant, SCSN are faced with new challenges in relation to the ever changing landscape that community safety operates within. The introduction of new legislation such as the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 are further changing the range of structures, roles and responsibilities of Community Safety Partnerships in Scotland. Recognising this, SCSN has actively engaged its members in discussions on how these changes are impacting on local services and what support SCSN can provide to strengthen partnership working and increased recognition of the community safety sector.

Notwithstanding these challenges SCSN continues to grow as an organisation; strengthening its established collaborative working partnerships and expanding its reach to new key players. In the process of doing this SCSN has developed a reputation for expertise in the sector and advocating on behalf of the sector. It is the strength of the network, of members and partner organisations, that I believe will ensure that SCSN remains well placed to represent the sector at a national level and to influence the development/implementation of national frameworks and strategies for years to come.

Mark McCall
Chairperson

SCSN is well attended, strong network with a good culture among its members

As the Community Safety Officer, working alone in the local authority area, I welcome the support that the SCSN provide me through their knowledge of good practice; design of bespoke training to meet the needs of those working in the field of community safety; and the link they provide between local and national partners. In addition, the relationship between SCSN and local officers has been crucial in establishing trusted relationships, which has been greatly received and hope will continue, especially in helping us to deliver effective and efficient programmes in these financially challenging times.



To provide leadership and be a centre of excellence for the community safety sector

- Support effective local partnership working by collecting and promoting evidence of good and emerging practice
- Provide support to develop the capacity of local community safety partnerships and others delivering community safety work
- Improve collaboration around cross cutting issues to share evidence and learning from research and practice
- Support members to evidence the impact of community safety interventions with communities, across partnerships and nationally
- Provide current and timely information on a broad range of topics that impact on community safety

What we did

Supported effective local partnership working by collecting and promoting evidence of good and emerging practice; and extended the range of Case Studies and Briefing Papers to support local practice and learning. In collaboration, SCSN also produced community assets reports on the five BSCP pilot areas.

Provided local support in relation to Partnership, People, Performance, Prevention and Evidence through:

- ⇒ Bespoke support to CSP's in relation to Priority Setting and Evaluation
- ⇒ Facilitating CSP Self Assessments
- ⇒ Providing support in developing cost benefit analysis to a number of organisations

Provided current and timely information on a broad range of topics that impact on community safety using a range of media sources:

- ⇒ Produced 12 newsletters and circulated to 672 direct members (estimated circulation over 1000)
- ⇒ Increased Twitter followers from 98 to 482, averaging 11,484 impressions and 154 engagements per month.
- ⇒ Increased Facebook followers slightly from 56 to 77

Refreshed the safer communities website to be more interactive (Twitter and question of the month links) and made more user friendly. The website continues to attract an average of 1010 unique visitors per quarter.

Developed links with 'cross cutting' partners to co-produce four learning events on current and emerging community safety issues, attracting delegates/officers from a range of charity and public sector organisations.

Delivered training inputs at other public sectors courses (ie Police College ta Tulliallan) and provided inputs at partners events eg Training Standards Annual Conference, ROSPA Child Safety Conference and the Policing with Communities in Fragile and Conflict Affected States' course.

Supporting Statements

Members and our partners are actively seeking our support and guidance on a range of issues. In particular we have seen increased enquiries for support with priority setting and cost benefit analysis, both areas where SCSN would appear to be establishing itself as 'specialist supplier' for the sector.

A social media plan has been introduced to increase the use and effect of the SCSN Twitter account which was fairly inactive. Twitter content has largely been promoting safety messages and links to partner's campaigns. Main themes have been established to ensure current and relevant activity; these themes have been tied into national campaigns by partner agencies ie Hate Crime Awareness month, Gas Safety Week, Home Fire Safety Week, Drug Drink Drive campaigns. The promotion of safety messages to the general public is a new area for SCSN as previously we targeted our members and partners with communications. Through Twitter we are engaging with a range of new agencies and other government directorates not only raising awareness of important safety messages but also raising the profile of SCSN.

The newsletter continues to receive good reviews with member and partner organisations proactively contributing articles sharing practice.

In recent years SCSN has developed a reputation for the quality and standards of its events, and has been successful in widening its reach to include other players, particularly the third sector. The results of which have encouraged wider cross cutting working, broader partnership working and a greater awareness of the impact of community safety issues on other sectors. Feedback from our training and events via the annual survey continues to be positive:

- ⇒ *It was a long way to travel to Dundee but I picked up some useful information. More importantly, these gatherings allow us to gauge our knowledge against other professionals on a national comparison and we are often, if not always, at the forefront of being competent at dealing with new trending issues. This gives our department a self confidence boost. (NPS Thematic Event)*
- ⇒ *I have attended several events and always found them well organised. The information and networking has been beneficial and worthwhile. I have sent staff to a range of events as part of their CPD and to strengthen the SFRS position and ability to support community planning overall.*

**Increased % rating seminars and events as good-excellent -
95% (2014) to 96% (2015)**



To champion community safety and influence the shaping and development of national policy and local delivery

- Promote the value of community safety for the public, voluntary and private sector at a national and local level
- Represent the sector at a national level and advocate on behalf of the sector
- Broadly promote SCSN to increase the profile and value of community safety contributions
- Support and develop connections between new and existing partners to develop cross cutting links
- Proactively seek to influence, share and contribute to the development and implementation of national frameworks and strategies

What we did

Proactively sought to influence, share and contribute to the development and implementation of national frameworks and strategies by representing the sector at a national level, attending various meetings and advocating on behalf of the sector across a range of community safety related themes eg Building Safer Communities Programme, Scotland's Road Safety Framework, and cross party working groups etc. Examples include:

- ⇒ Chairing COSLA's Capacity and Capability Working Group established to support the delivery of the Equally Safe Strategy
- ⇒ Contributing to research work, commissioned by the Scottish Government to evaluate how far the aims of Police and Fire reform have been met
- ⇒ Active engagement with COSLA's CCTV Reference Group and Police Scotland's Stop and Search Reference Group

Continued to champion the Building Safer Communities Programme (BSCP) ensuring the sector is engaged and updated on developments; and significantly contributed to the development of a Unintentional Injuries Strategic Assessment, through a six month staff secondment.

Continued to promote community safety issues/themes at other partners groups and events, and worked closely with SPA, Police Scotland, SFRS, COSLA, Improvement Services, Trading Standards, ROSPA, Home Safety Scotland, Inspiring Scotland, Youthlink Scotland etc. In addition new cross cutting links have been established with a number of organisations including; Transport Scotland and Keep Scotland Beautiful.

Continued to work closely with Network Rail in the delivery of small grants that support cross cutting issues, and produced a comprehensive report on the contributions these projects have made to national strategies and frameworks.

Supporting Statements

The partnership between SCSN and Network Rail was initially established to raise awareness of cross cutting themes shared by both organisations, however the success of the partnership goes well beyond reducing rail crime and rail incidents; by incorporating important rail safety messages within wider programmes we have supported people into employment and education, skilled staff to save lives through suicide intervention training, provided volunteering opportunities to young people, given individuals skills to make informed life choices and much more.

Following the presentation on partnership working at the EUPST 11 *Policing with Communities in Fragile and Conflict Affected States*, SCSN were invited to take part in an independent review of Police Scotland's International Policing Strategy. The review report recommends that to support wider transfer of learning and encourage a broader review of officers experiences in relation to cultural awareness, community safety and engagement, that officers debriefs should be conducted with SPA, COSLA and SCSN.

SCSN and COSLA have established a strong and effective working relationship speaking on behalf of local government and local partnerships. COSLA welcomes the contributions SCSN has made in influencing national developments and often takes advice from SCSN on community safety issues. SCSN has been a valued critical friend providing guidance and connections with local delivery. Indeed COSLA recently identified SCSN as a key partner with whom they would like to work more and we are looking at ways to develop this."

The Unintentional Injuries Strategic Assessment data has been shared at a number of conferences and has been well received throughout the sector, and beyond, as a valuable evidence to support work in reducing harm and injuries.

This has been an important piece of work for us (Scottish Government), and for the BSCP in particular. We have been delighted with Hannah's willingness to take on what has been a considerable brief and to provide shape and structure to it. She leaves us with a very high quality piece of analytical work which will inform the programmes future approach to unintentional harm.

% who rate promoting community safety at a national level as useful to extremely useful; 81% (2014) to 84% (2015)

% who rate SCSN role in representing the sector at national level as useful to extremely useful; 81% (2014) to 84% (2015)



To be a collaborative learning, developing and sustainable network.

- Consult with and represent our membership with integrity; engaging and listening to our members so that services reflect current sector needs
- Provide relevant training and continuous professional development opportunities creating a more informed and skilled sector workforce
- Provide appropriate networking opportunities and facilitate events and forums which increase members capacity and improve partnership working
- Develop practical guidance and toolkits which increase resilience and empower people to deal with issues themselves
- Support the sector to evidence the value, cost benefits and impact of community safety so that sustainable solutions can be achieved

What we did

Consulted with members and partners agencies (Annual Survey, forums and meetings) seeking their views and guidance in relation to work plan delivery and development of new resources.

Provided relevant training and continuous professional development opportunities:

- ⇒ Extended the range of training available, delivering 11 training courses and one bespoke training course.
- ⇒ Promoted and increased numbers completing eLearning courses. Designed and produced four new eLearning modules to improve access to training.

Provided networking opportunities through meetings, and forums which facilitated peer learning and sharing of practice, increasing members capacity and improving partnership working. In addition to SCSN co-ordinated meetings (Partnership Analysts Forum, Link Officer meetings and National Operational Group Meetings) we provided administration support to other forums, providing regular updates on BSCP and SCSN developments ie Wardens Network and ASBOF.

Promoted the use of existing guidance and toolkits, and developed two new resources to increase resilience and support the sector to be legislatively compliant:

- ⇒ Using and Handling intelligence data guidance
- ⇒ CCTV Operators Induction Manual

Established an Action Learning Set to further support members to evidence the impact of community safety interventions with communities, across partnerships and nationally.

Supported the sector to evidence the value, cost benefits and impact of community safety by providing support in cost benefit analysis and evidenced based strategic planning.

Supporting statements

Following consultation, Community Safety Officers felt that as many SCSN events had a wider audience they no longer had the same opportunities for debate and to champion Community Safety Partnership issues. To address this and create a greater sense of a community safety 'network' the National Operational Group (NOG) has become the dedicated forum for Community Safety Officers, and a vehicle to focus on current and emerging issues for CSP's. As such the NOG is open to representatives from all SCSN member organisations.

Again, responding to feedback from members, Link Officer regional meetings, co facilitated by Directors, were established to enable more effective sharing of practice, encourage wider networking and help engage new officers. Feedback has been extremely positive with members indicating this is a better format for information sharing, networking and research than the previous one to one meetings.

Attendees at SCSN training consistently say that they have increased confidence and understanding of topic and are taking learning back to their work place.

SCSN is providing a valuable service and is a positive link for all working in the community safety arena. Sadly unable to attend as many events as I would like due to core business demands but always leave inspired when I have attended.

I would like to attend more training or events however geographically for us these are not always easy to attend. Recent budget cuts also mean no training is being authorised. Even those courses that are free for SCSN members still involve financial outlay for us to attend which again will not be approved at the moment. More online courses/ information could overcome these issues.

Access to eLearning continues to increase with seven courses now available. To date over 130 eLearning modules have been complete.

SCSN toolkits continue to be widely used by the sector and to receive positive feedback. Of particular note is the Preventative Spend Cost Benefit Toolkit which receives excellent feedback from within and out with the community safety sector. Feedback indicates that officers have used the resource to evidence cost benefits of a local project and used this data to influence the role out of the initiatives nationally.

'Just to say that after you mentioned some of the materials you produce, I've had a look at your website and I really like the examples you have of using evidence – definitely the sort of thing we're moving towards doing more often. Thank you for pointing them out.'
Engagement Manager: Policy and Research OSCR

Over 90% rate training and resources as good to excellent

Between 83% and 100% respondents rate SCSN forums as useful to very useful.



Financial Summary

The company's financial position is relatively secure, with unrestricted reserves of £72,735 carried forward at 31 March 2016. Three months' running costs equates to £61,778 based on 2015/16 expenditure, and the Board are therefore satisfied that free reserves exceed this level.

At balance date, reserves stood at £85,120 (2015: £89,877) of which £72,735 were unrestricted, free reserves (2015: £86,636). Included within this figure is a contingency fund of £27,000 (2015: £27,000) which the Board have designated to be used in the event that the charity faced closure and/or unanticipated expenditure. The Board do not anticipate this happening in the foreseeable future but continue to strive toward maintaining a healthy reserves position in order that unforeseen expenditure can be absorbed.

The Companies accounts were audited by :
Brett Nicholls Associates
Association of Charity Independent Examiners
Ruthven Mews, 57 Ruthven Lane
Glasgow
G12 9BG



The Scottish Government are SCSN's main funder, providing around 78% of our core funding in 2015/16 and 55% of our total budget. This year we saw a significant 24% (£37,222) cut in our core budget which resulted in the loss of one post. Our thanks go to the Scottish Government for their continued belief in the sector and in what SCSN do.

Thanks to Network Rail who invested £47,625 (2015/16) in three grant funds, administered by SCSN, to support rail safety and awareness. These funds are much appreciated and have supported 52 projects across Scotland with grants from £250 to £4000. Since the partnership begun in 2011 the total investment has been £155,875, a detailed report on the four years of the project is currently with Network Rail and will be released in the Summer 2015



87% rate SCSN membership as good to excellent value for money, of which 25% rated membership as excellent value for money.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2016 Total Funds	2015 Total Funds as restated
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	10,360	216,575	226,935	291,033
Other trading activities	13,191	-	13,191	13,664
Investment income	230	-	230	73
Other income	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
TOTAL	25,781	216,575	242,356	306,770
EXPENDITURE ON Charitable activities				
Development, promotion and education of	25,290	221,823	247,113	318,424
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	491	(5,248)	(4,757)	(11,654)
Transfers between funds	(11,092)	11,092	-	-
Net movement in funds	(10,601)	5,844	(4,757)	(11,654)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	89,686	191	89,877	101,531
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	79,085	6,035	85,120	89,877

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2016	2016	2015 As restated
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	6,350	3,050
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	6,171	2,300
Cash at bank and in hand	92,831	85,427
	99,002	87,727
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year	(20,232)	(900)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	78,770	86,827
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	85,120	89,877
NET ASSETS	85,120	89,877
FUNDS		
Unrestricted funds:		
General fund	45,735	59,636
Designated – Fixed Assets	6,350	3,050
Contingency fund	27,000	27,000
	79,085	89,686
Restricted funds	6,035	191
TOTAL FUNDS	85,120	89,877



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Charity No. SC040464

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