



## New Group on Loneliness and Isolation

The membership of a new group to advise on addressing social isolation has been announced.

In December 2018, the Scottish Government launched its first strategy focused on social isolation and loneliness in society, backed by £1 million of funding.

A range of public, third sector organisations and experts who helped develop the strategy will now put it into action.

Minister for Older People and Equalities, Christina McKelvie, announced the members of the group on a visit to Dunbar Grammar School's 'Cross Generation' intergenerational project. This project has been running at the school for 16 years and includes monthly sessions for lunches, day trips and a film club with older members of the local community.

Minister for Older People and Equalities, Christina McKelvie said: "As one of the first governments in the world to address the issue of social isolation in society, we want to promote positive attitudes and tackle the stigma associated with loneliness. It can affect any one, at any stage, or from any walk of life and that's why we invited charities like Youthlink Scotland to be members of the group. The membership of the new group has valuable experience to help with this important work.

"Projects such as 'Cross Generation' are exactly the kind of activity which can help beat loneliness. It was great to see the interaction between the generations, both learning from each other and enjoying each other's company. Contact between different generations can help build understanding, strengthen communities and allow the sharing of invaluable skills, experiences and perspectives."

Read the social isolation and loneliness strategy [here](#).

Read more about Generations Working Together [here](#).

## Partnership Review of Public Space CCTV Tender Awarded



We're delighted to announce that, after a competitive tendering process, Perform Green have been appointed to carry out research on Public Space CCTV. Perform Green have significant related experience and knowledge and will be able to deliver an incredibly useful piece to support community safety outcomes.

Because of the tight timescale, Perform Green will be getting in touch with a range of partners and agencies in the course of the next few weeks.

They will be inviting responses and contributions using a range of methodology including.....

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Help us write our Strategic Plan  
Question of the Month

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## Help us with our Strategic Plan!

The Scottish Community Safety Network are drawing up our strategic plan and we would like you to help us.....

Clare Mills from [Listen Think Draw](#) will be helping us draw up our plan for the next 5 years and we would like you to join us –

on **Wednesday 20th March**

at **NASUWT, 35 Young Street North Lane, Edinburgh, EH2 4JD**

between **9.30 and 12.30pm**

for a discussion on what's happening in the world of community safety and beyond and what you think we should be focusing on...



Please click on [this link](#) for tickets.

## Question of the Month

Our Question of the Month for January was drawn from our New Year, New Opportunities theme of our first newsletter of 2019. Last year was a busy year for us, and we're optimistic about opportunities coming up in community safety and justice. We asked whether you felt optimistic about your work in the Community Safety/Justice sector?

- 76% of respondents said Yes
- 24% of respondents said No

Thanks to all of those who took time to answer! We hope that everyone has cause to be optimistic by the end of 2019!

### Question of the Month for February

Our February Question of the Month comes from Rose Fitzpatrick, Chair of the National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group. She wants to know:

***Do you believe that suicide prevention should be everyone's business?***

You can take part in our Question of the Month poll [here](#).

60 seconds with...

## Rose Fitzpatrick CBE QPM, Chair of Scotland's National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group



**What do you think the main issues are in terms of preventing suicide and what do you hope the National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group, and that you as Chair can achieve?**



680 people lost their lives to suicide in Scotland in 2017, and research suggests that each death by suicide affects 134 other people in our communities. Many of us are touched directly by suicide, either at times in our own lives, or because it affects the lives of those we love, those we work alongside or those we work to keep safe. In order to make suicide preventable across Scotland we need to ensure that suicide prevention is everyone's business, and to believe that every life matters.

Scotland's Suicide Prevention Action Plan: *Every Life Matters* has ten actions geared towards this end. It was agreed following consultation with individuals and organisations across the country, including - most importantly - those with lived experience of the impact of suicide.

These actions include developing local prevention plans, increased public awareness, improving support for people in crisis and those affected by suicide, refreshing suicide prevention training, digital innovation and learning from reviews of all suicides. The action plan also makes a commitment to focusing on promoting equality, tackling inequalities and taking into account the needs of children and young people.

*Every Life Matters* has a clear target of reducing suicide rates in Scotland by 20 per cent by 2022. This is an ambitious target for Scotland and makes it all the more crucial that, as a Leadership Group, we work to make suicide prevention something we can all become involved in. Clearly, the support and commitment of the Scottish Community Safety Network and all its members will be critical to making that happen.

**This month is LGBT History Month. What particular challenges do you see in tackling the higher rates of suicide and suicidal ideation among LGBT**

**people and what more do you think can be done to tackle this issue?**

While our Suicide Prevention Action Plan commits to focusing on equalities across all its work, it also contains a specific action to target preventative activity for at-risk groups. We know through our consultations, and I know personally from my recent meeting with LGBT Health and Wellbeing and LGBT Youth that issues like stigma and isolation can be particularly acute for LGBT people, and indeed can be compounded by features like geography, age and access to supportive networks.

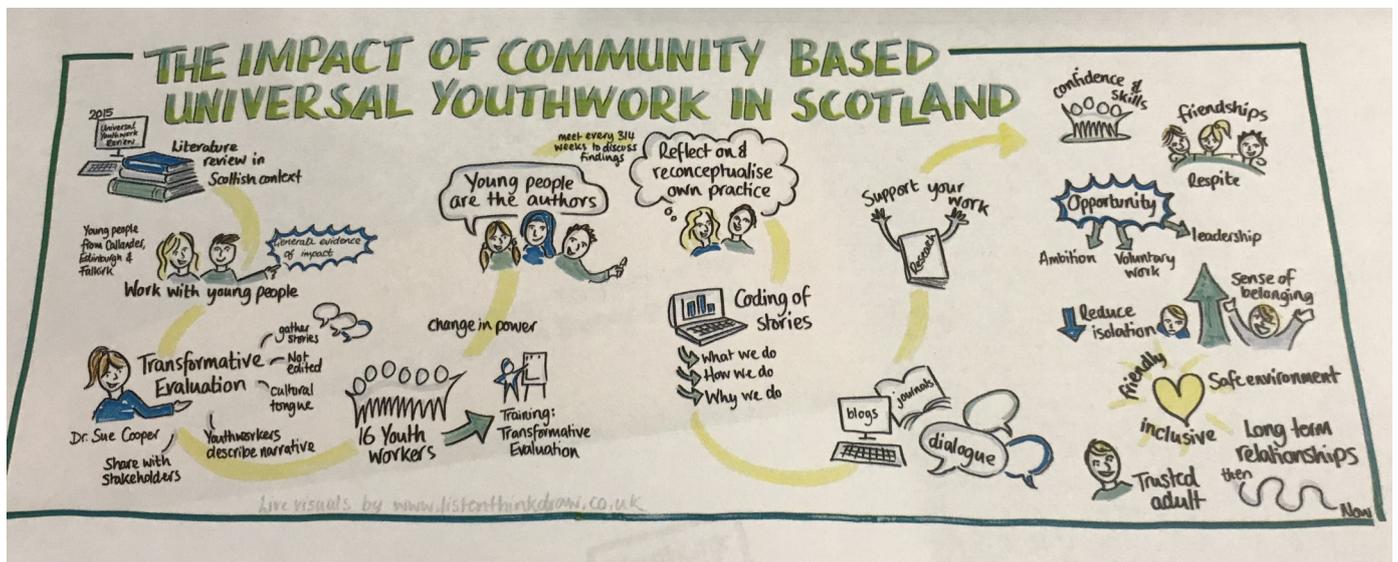
We also know that we need to improve diversity monitoring to better understand how to prevent suicide among LGBT people, and other minority communities. We have been working on our Equalities Impact Assessment of course, but at the heart of this must be working to improve trust and confidence. We must work hard to make sure that LGBT people and others from minority backgrounds know why it's important for us to have accurate information about protected characteristics, so that we can make informed decisions about risk and action.

And that, for me, is the key. We have to work hard to ensure that LGBT people trust all of us in public service with their information and their safety. We have a responsibility to build confidence that we will respect their privacy and use their information wisely and well; that we will really understand their particular needs and risks and - most importantly - that we will work in genuine partnership with LGBT people across Scotland to prevent suicide because every life - every life - really does matter.

**What could partnerships in community safety and community planning do to support this national work and local interpretation of it?**

The National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group is made up of highly skilled and passionate people with lived experience of the effects of suicide together with people from the third sector, local authorities, the NHS, local Health and Social Care Partnerships, clinical practice and criminal justice.

*Continue reading the full article on our website [here](#).*



## Impact of Community Based Universal Youth Work in Scotland

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of December, we attended a launch event for a new piece of research from Youthlink Scotland, University of Edinburgh and Plymouth Marjon University on 'The Impact of Community-based Universal Youth Work in Scotland'.

The research sought to answer two questions:

- 1) What is the impact of community-based universal youth work in Scotland?
- 2) How has that impact been achieved?

Findings pointed to the central role of youth work in enhancing health and well-being, tackling poverty, increasing school attainment and employment, protecting children's rights, prevention, safer communities, equalities and resilience.

The value and impact of youth work, as identified by young people, was around skills for life, confidence, feeling equal and included, forming friendships, feeling safe and well, ability to lead and help others.

The ways of working and features of youth work that were identified as making an impact were; access to a trusted adult, having a space to be heard, giving praise and encouragement, having practitioners as role models, long term relationships, negotiated learning and inclusive practice.

Work on the research study began in March 2017, after three youth work organisations were selected to become participants in the study. Youth workers were trained in the Transformative Evaluation methodology and became Participant Researchers gathering the stories of 129 young people. The stories were contextualised by the Participant Researchers who added a youth worker commentary to each story.

The event got us thinking about what role youth work might play in contributing to community safety outcomes? Also how this research might tie in with ACEs, in terms of supportive and stable relationships and the promotion of resilience.

Find the research [here](#).

## Scottish Government launch consultation on Fireworks

The Scottish Government launched a Consultation on Fireworks in Scotland on February 3rd and are seeking your experiences, ideas and views! Fireworks are traditionally associated with festivities which celebrate events that are important to different communities across Scotland.

However, fireworks are potentially dangerous and need to be used safely and handled with care to avoid serious injury. For some, the noise made by setting off fireworks can be a nuisance, and the disturbance can cause distress to both people and animals.

While much of the current legislation on fireworks is reserved to Westminster, the consultation will help to identify gaps, issues or unintended consequences with the current regulatory framework. The Scottish Government would like to hear any views you have on whether the regulations on how fireworks are used needs to be improved.

You can take part in the consultation and submit a response [here](#).

### Read the SCSN Fireworks Consultation Response

We submitted our response to the fireworks consultation in the past few days. You can read the SCSN consultation response on Fireworks along with all other previous SCSN consultation responses on our website [here](#).

#### Continued from front page: CCTV

....an online survey, focus groups (likely to be in Stirling in mid-February), webinars and will be conducting one to one telephone interviews as well. Ideally it is hoped that as many of you as possible can attend the focus group in person but if you can't, there will be other opportunities to be involved throughout the research period. Look for further details on the focus group in due course!

For further information or to indicate your interest in being directly contacted please get in touch with [Steven.Connolly@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Steven.Connolly@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or [Barney.smith@performgreen.co.uk](mailto:Barney.smith@performgreen.co.uk).

### Consultation Events



The Government are holding consultation events around the country which people or organisations are invited to attend.

The first events scheduled are:

- Glasgow, 18 February
- Stirling, 28 February
- Edinburgh, 5 March

You can view the full list and book your place on these events [here](#).

### Studentship Opportunity: Using administrative data to improve neighbourhood environmental services and outputs

Stirling University is offering a PhD opportunity to work with local councils and the Scottish National Improvement Service for local government to understand more about basic service issues, including environmental problems such as dog fouling and road repair. We will be following this work with interest and hope to participate!

Read more [here](#).

## SCSN Blog Post: Thinking about trauma, suicide and health inequalities on LGBT History Month



**David Barbour, SCSN Communications Officer**

February is LGBT History Month. It's a month where LGBT people reflect on our past, present and future. We remember and celebrate those who came before us and the struggles they faced to progress legal equality and shift social attitudes, we take stock of where we are now, and we look forward to what we'd like to see change in the future.

Scotland is one of the most progressive countries in the world for LGBT rights and equality. The recent vote in the Scottish Parliament to enshrine LGBT education into the school curriculum is just the latest forward step which should help, at least marginally, improve the lives of future generations of LGBT people, just as adopting equal marriage and civil partnerships did before.

But all is not rosy in the garden. Far from it.

A few years ago I was in a gay bar in Glasgow. I had got talking to a young guy who was a mutual acquaintance of a friend of mine. He was quite drunk. I wasn't yet but I'm sure I was on my way there (LGBT people are more likely to drink and to drink excessively than their heterosexual peers – I know, I'm a recovering alcoholic). I went outside for a cigarette (LGBT people are more likely to smoke than their heterosexual peers) and he came out and began talking to me further. Without being invited, he opened up to me about abuse he had suffered as a child, how his family had taken his coming out badly and various other struggles he had had in his life and how he felt suicidal sometimes. I listened intently and with compassion. He obviously read this as my showing a romantic interest in him because he asked if I'd go home with him. I politely turned him down and he took it pretty rough. I continued to talk to him and told him about a charity in Glasgow that offered counselling for gay men and asked him to promise me he'd contact them about the issues he'd discussed with me. He went home after a little while. A few weeks later I heard that his body had been pulled from the River Clyde.

Read the full blog post [here](#).

## Two thirds of Scottish children experience Adverse Childhood Experiences

A [University of Edinburgh study](#) has found that two thirds of Scottish children have experienced a traumatic event before the age of eight.

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic experiences in the early years such as domestic violence or parental drug misuse, which growing evidence shows influence brain development and have a long-term impact on lifetime health, wellbeing and outcomes.

Parents undergoing mental health problems or relationship break-ups were the most common, each affecting around one-third of children.

Almost one quarter of children had experienced frequent physical punishment. One in five felt unloved or emotionally neglected.

Some 14 per cent had been exposed to parental drug or alcohol misuse, while one in 10 had been exposed to domestic violence.

Boys and those born to mothers with fewer educational qualifications in deprived areas were worst affected.

The Growing Up in Scotland study is funded by the Scottish Government and carried out by ScotCen Social Research.

## SCSN Response to Hate Crime Consultation published

We've just published our response to the recent Scottish Government Hate Crime consultation. You can view the consultation with our completed responses [here](#). You can view all of our recent consultation results on our website [here](#). We'll be continuing to submit responses to Government consultations throughout this year, with our latest submission being the newly launched Fireworks consultation.

## Cross Party Working Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness - Bill Harley, Safer Communities Project Officer, Fife

This group meets at the Scottish Parliament several times per year and is currently chaired by Clare Adamson MSP. The meetings are attended by a cross-section of people with a vast experience of a diverse nature, covering subjects across the spectrum of accident prevention and safety awareness.

The meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019, was in a format which differed from usual in that there were 12 three minute pitches allowed to attendees to highlight something the group may benefit from or could help with.

The pitches on the evening dealt with the diverse range of subjects covered by the CPG.

### Overview of pitches:

- Blueproof - this was pitch about a fire suppression device which can be retro fitted to household radiators.
  - Energy and Utility Skills – waste management services have had 39 fatalities in last five years which calls into question the health and safety processes perhaps.
  - Adventure Activities Licensing Service - to make us aware that certain outdoor activity businesses require inspection by them. The speaker did stress how important outdoors and outdoor learning was.
  - Gas Safe Register - a request for support for Gas Safety Week 2019 (no dates yet – usually Sept). There are digital resources which will be available on line.
  - RNLI - have new water safety resources on their website with the launch on 9<sup>th</sup> April. They are looking to access High Schools and SIMD areas around Scotland to be the recipients of water safety inputs.
  - Partnership for Health and Safety in Scotland – spoke about health and safety and looking for the CPWG to hold a session on health and safety and provide a commitment to fair work.
  - RoSPA are hosting a water safety workshop on 9<sup>th</sup> April. Around 50 people die in Scotland every year due to drowning. Only 40% of Local Authorities have a water safety policy. The Drowning Prevention Strategy is looking to reduce fatalities by 50% by 2026.
- Dundee City Council – spoke about home safety and the fact that every year about 62 children die in the home. This has huge personal costs for those involved as well as financial costs. Partnership working can make a difference.
  - Royal College Paediatric Child Health - the pitch was about child death reviews and how 140 children die each year and about 100 of them may be preventable. There is a need to understand why these deaths happen and to look at how they could be prevented. A sympathetic effective and efficient child death review system would assist with this.
  - Scottish Schools Education Research Council – discussed safe practical work in schools
  - SPFL Trust - are working across Scotland to deal with individuals who are socially isolated with a view to keeping them in their own home as long as possible. They utilise football as the 'hook' with resources they have to get people involved. They are looking for partners to deliver the initiative 'Back in the Game' in all areas of Scotland.
  - Scottish Gas Networks – this was around working to reduce damage to utilities infrastructure and lessen costs to energy users and maintaining supply to customers.
- Following the pitches the attendees broke into smaller discussion groups where we teased out thoughts on the how to make the most of the CPG sessions looking at things such as format of the meetings, content covered and how to disseminate info from the meetings.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and the subject is the safety of young workers.
- You can access minutes of these meetings [here](#).

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Conference: Making Place

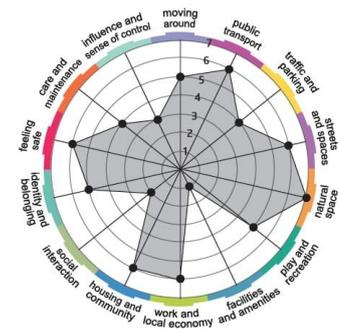
10 June 2019, Glasgow, Scotland, UK

Workshop for International Attendees

### The Place Standard Tool

11 June 2019, Glasgow, Scotland, UK

Place Standard –  
How good is Our Place?



NHS Health Scotland, Scottish Government, Architecture Design Scotland and the WHO European Healthy Cities Network would like to invite you to attend the 1st International Conference on place and the Place Standard.

The event will consider, celebrate and seek to further progress effective place based approaches across Scotland, the UK and internationally highlighting the importance of this way of working in improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities. It will bring together a wide range of participants across the public, private and voluntary sectors and provide a forum to exchange knowledge, discuss shared challenges and plan future ways of working.

The conference will be held at The Old Fruit Market, Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with plenary speakers to include Sir Harry Burns, parallel sessions and opportunities for local, national and international delegates to share good practice and lessons learned.

We will soon be inviting case studies from communities, voluntary, public and private sectors to showcase at the conference. The case studies will identify and share good practice and learning around the application of place based approaches to service delivery including the experiences to date of applying the Place Standard tool.

Further information and invitations for the event, including information on how to submit case studies will follow in due course, in the meantime **please save the date of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 in your diary.**

**Also please note for international attendees the option of attending a full day training workshop on the place standard tool will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> June.**

## Scottish Government Justice Analytical Programme 2018-2019

Research on this topic is carried out by researchers based in two teams in the Justice Analytical Services Division. Current themes of research include: informing the Making Justice Work and Reducing Reoffending change programmes; police and fire reform; supporting the Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland; and enhancing the evidence-base on drug misuse and treatment.

You can read the Scottish Government Justice Analytical Programme for 2018-19 [here](#).

You can also sign up to receive the latest alerts from the Scottish Government [here](#).

**DR DANCE: DR KITTY STEWART:  
ROBERT NILSSON:**

# **SMART JUSTICE FEST>>2019**

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**MONDAY 25 MARCH, THE DRILL HALL, LEITH**

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**GOOGLE DIGITAL GARAGE : MINDFULNESS : JAMES DOCHERTY : TRAUMA  
TRAINING TASTER SESSION : SECOND CHANCERS EXHIBITION : WHAT WORKS -  
A RECOVERY COMMUNITY IN AYRSHIRE :**

**BOOK HERE: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/2TMMCGL](https://bit.ly/2TMMCGL)**



## **Councils continuing to perform well for communities but pressures starting to show**

Scotland's councils have done a very good job in delivering essential services for their communities in light of increased demand for services. They are very aware, however, of the increasing challenges ahead as budget pressures begin to bite, as a new report highlights.

These and other findings are contained in the [Local Government Benchmarking Framework](#) published by the Improvement Service. The LGBF represents a joint commitment by SOLACE (Scotland) and COSLA to develop better measurement and comparable data to target resources and drive improvements.

The data released by the Improvement Service also shows that whilst up until now the system has been coping well under pressure, it is now starting to show some real signs of stress.

The [Local Government Benchmarking Report](#) highlights that across the last eight-year period for which data is presented, total revenue funding for councils has fallen by 8.3% in real terms from £10.5 billion to £9.6 billion. According to the Accounts Commission, in its Local Government in Scotland Financial Overview 2017/18, this downward trend in funding is likely to continue in the medium term.

Read more [here](#).

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## **Human Trafficking Awareness Raising Training**

Hope for Justice are in a position to provide free awareness raising on human trafficking and exploitation over the next several months aimed at local authorities and their partners. They piloted this training in December 2018 at COSLA and provided feedback which was taken on board.

Human Trafficking Awareness Raising Training provided by Hope for Justice Training lasting 1.5 hours.

*On completion of this training session you will be able to;*

- 1. Explain what Human Trafficking and Exploitation is and identify the different types that exist;*
- 2. Recognise the signs and indicators of Human Trafficking and Exploitation;*
- 3. Respond appropriately to a case / victim of Human Trafficking and Exploitation*

There is an open offer to host a training session, you would need to provide the venue and cover travel expenses for the training officer and a cost of £1 per delegate for the training materials. The training can be done for groups sizes of 10-40 people. As the session is 1.5 hours it would be possible to run two in a day should this be desired.

You can arrange this directly with Alister Bull: [alister.bull@hopeforjustice.org](mailto:alister.bull@hopeforjustice.org)

# January in Review

## Social Media

29 Tweets  
Total Reach of 90,342



Things we tweeted about:

- Firestarter Festival 2019
- Older and Bolder Event
- RoSPA Home Safety Tender
- Community Justice Scotland Consultation Event
- Register My Appliance Day
- Public Health Reform
- Isolation and Loneliness
- Scot Gov Defamation Law Consultation
- Scot Gov Hate Crime Consultation

### Partners Retweeted

Police Scotland  
Positive Prisons  
Scottish Government  
Community Justice Scotland  
Joseph Rowntree Foundation  
Network Rail  
Scot Gov Justice  
Workforce Scotland  
Neighbourhood Watch

## Newsletter

Theme: New Year, New Opportunities



### Stories covered

- Public Space CCTV
- Work with Scottish Institute of Policing Research (SIPR)
- Violence Prevention Special Interest Group
- Safer Internet Day 2019
- Human Rights and Community Led Health
- 60 Second Interview with Liz Ashton, SIPR



## SCSN Publications

We published the following items in January:

- Local Governance Masterclass Learning Report
- Resilience Documentary Learning Report
- Tricia Spacey Blog: Thoughts so far.....

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



[info@scsn.org.uk](mailto:info@scsn.org.uk)



[@scsn2](https://twitter.com/scsn2)



[/ScottishCommunitySafetyNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/ScottishCommunitySafetyNetwork)

## SHARE YOUR NEWS!

If you would like to submit an article, request information or share good practice in our newsletter, please get in touch! Email [info@scsn.org.uk](mailto:info@scsn.org.uk)



The closing date for the March newsletter is 11 March.



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