



Community Justice Scotland launched

Working with a broad coalition of partners from the police, local authorities, health boards and courts to charities, community groups and alcohol and drug partnerships, the new public body will identify, develop and share innovation and expertise across the sector. It will also challenge received wisdom, shift attitudes and increase understanding about crime and justice.



Karyn McCluskey, Chief Executive of Community Justice Scotland, said; "I have always believed that Scotland could lead the way in demonstrating it is possible to change citizens' lives by preventing offending and victimisation. We have the opportunity to become a country which enables those who have offended to repay their debt and contribute to society; building better lives for themselves, their families and for the community.'

Justice Secretary Michael Matheson said: "The launch of Community Justice Scotland is the next big step in our vision for a fairer, smarter justice system which allows people to pay their debt to society then be supported to make positive contributions to their communities. The new national body will support local partners to look at the best and most effective approaches to community justice, to make a real difference and help keep Scotland safe."

Scotland has one of the highest imprisonment rates in Western Europe . Almost two thirds of prison sentences are for less than six months, more than half of those leaving prison are reconvicted within a year of release – and more than 15% of the Scottish prison population are being held on remand. These short spells in custody do little to stop the cycle of offending – instead further disrupting already chaotic lives, as homes and jobs are lost and family ties severed. The whole community suffers as those leaving the prison estate quickly return, leaving more victims in their wake.

Community justice measures ensure that debts are paid, damage repaired, crime prevented and lives improved for everyone in the community – including victims of crime and those who offend. It encompasses both those serving community sentences and those returning to the community from prison. Less than a third of those on Community Payback Orders reoffend and overwhelmingly evidence shows that the right support, given at the right time can prevent further offending, improving lives for the better.

Visit the Community Justice Scotland website at: www.communityjustice.scot

Community Justice Scotland

In Depth

Page 7

Family Safety Week

2 May - 7 May

Page 4

20's Plenty For Us

Default 20mph Limit

Page 10



Business Support Officer Recruited

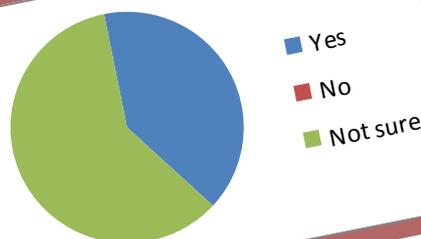
SCSN welcome Dawn Exley to the team. Dawn will be taking up the post of Business Support Officer on the 16 May and will be working with us three days a week. With Business Support now in place SCSN will be able to resume normal service in relation to delivering events and training. As such we have some new dates for your diary.

Dates for your Diary

- The SCSN AGM will be held in Edinburgh on Thursday 24 August 2017. It is our intention to include the AGM as part of a practitioners event.
- The next National Operational Group will be held on 13 July 2017, in Edinburgh. The NOG is the community safety officers forum providing an opportunity to discuss with colleagues from across Scotland current issues and themes. Interested in attending email info@scsn.org.uk
- The new Evidencing Impact Training to support the implementation of SCSN's Evidencing Impact toolkit will be held on Tuesday 5 September 2017 in Perth. Booking is now open. To book your place please visit our website at - <http://www.safercommunitiesScotland.org/booking-form-evidencing-impact-sept/>

?Question of the Month?

Last month we asked whether you intend to support Child Safety Week between June 5-11. 40% of respondents said they would be looking to actively support the week, with 60% not sure.



This month's question follows the launch of Community Justice Scotland, which will seek to challenge received wisdom, shift attitudes and increase understanding about crime and justice. To take part, visit:

www.safercommunitiesScotland.org/2017/05/03/question-of-the-month-april-2017/



60 seconds with...

Hayley Barnett, SCSN, COSLA, Scottish Government



Hayley Barnett will be working with SCSN over the coming months to assist in the development of community safety and community planning work across Scotland, with her time being shared between ourselves, COSLA and the Scottish Government.

Tell us a bit about your new role ...

I have recently joined the Building Safer Communities team at Scottish Government on secondment from COSLA. I will be proactively engaging with Community Safety and Community Planning Partnerships to capture actions and learning from across Scotland. I will be working closely with partners to identify key areas of activity, identify shared interest; and explore how connections can be improved between local and national initiatives and activity.



This is a unique role where you will be working between SCSN, COSLA and the Scottish Government. How do you think this will support improved collaborative working between the organisations?

This is a unique role that all three organisations are supporting. Good relationships are already in place but I hope to strengthen these and build consensus where differences do arise. Through this role, there is an opportunity to provide a greater understanding of the current and emerging community safety landscape. At the same time, identifying opportunities to; enhance and support community safety within the community planning structures, and assist national partners to better support local arrangements.

I understand that you were a Local Authority Community Safety officer/Manager in the dim and distant past.... What do you think are the new challenges facing community safety in Scotland?

I was. I worked for a short time in Service for Communities for the City of Edinburgh Council and then as an Antisocial Behaviour Strategy Officer at Midlothian Council.

For me, there are a host of challenges facing Community Safety in Scotland: delivering services within constrained or reducing budgets; adapting to organisational and structural changes; forming new partnerships with communities; socio demographic impacts and, rapidly evolving technologies however Community Safety has a long track record of strong, intelligence led partnership working.

How would you describe the ethos of Building Safer Communities Programme?

Building Safer Communities is a collaborative programme which seeks to bring together public services, government (local and national) and communities to create safer and stronger communities.

What was your proudest personal or professional achievement?

My proudest professional achievement is the 5 years I spent on the HMP Edinburgh Independent Monitoring Board (Visiting Committing). This was a voluntary role that allowed me to be 'the eyes and ears of the community' within the prison. I had access to all prisoners and all areas of the prison. I spent a lot of time working with the prison management and third sector organisations to improve family relationships and visiting. At times, it was extremely challenging but also extremely worthwhile and rewarding.

You've been banished to a desert island. You were only allowed to take one album of music with you. What is it and why?

This may be cheating but for our wedding day my husband and I created an album full of all our favourite songs so I would take that. There is a real mix of stuff on there from Stevie Wonder to Paul Weller, so it would keep me amused for hours.

Family Safety Week, May 2-5, 2017

A campaign by the Royal Society for the Protection of Accidents (RoSPA)

Accidents are the biggest killer of children and young people.

Every week at least one child under five is killed because of an accident, with disadvantaged children most at risk. Yet it doesn't have to be like this.

Family Safety Week 2017 focuses on protecting some of the most vulnerable members of our community — babies, toddlers and children under five.



Whether you're a parent or carer, a grandparent, a health visitor, a nursery nurse, or a company director, RoSPA has stacks of facts, tips, advice and resources to help you keep under-fives safe at home and on the move.

According to the [latest ISD figures](#), unintentional injuries accounted for approximately 1 in 10 emergency hospital admissions for adults and 1 in 8 for children in 2015/16. Those from the most deprived areas were more likely than those from the least deprived areas to have an unintentional injury.

There are lots of ways you can get involved in supporting family safety week, and help to promote family safety all year round. If you are a parent, you may want to visit the RoSPA website to learn about what you can do to make your home a safer place for your children. Visit <http://www.rospa.com/resources/hubs/keeping-kids-safe/>



Baby Boxes Raise Safety Awareness

Scotland's Baby Box scheme is helping to raise awareness of safe sleeping practices, according to early evaluation findings.

The boxes will be gifted to every new born child in Scotland from this summer following a three-month pilot in Orkney and Clackmannanshire. They contain a range of essential items such as clothes, books and blankets and are also suitable to sleep in.

You can read more on this story at:

<https://beta.gov.scot/news/baby-boxes-raise-safety-awareness/>



Child Safety Week Reminder

5 June—11 June

Child Safety Week takes place in June. This is a campaign run by the Child Accident Prevention Trust, aimed at raising awareness of risks to children and how they can be prevented. This year's theme focuses on sharing knowledge and best practice, 'Sharing is Caring'.

To find out more, visit the campaign website at:

<http://www.childsafetyweek.org.uk/>

New National Action Plan for keeping children safe online

A new national action plan to help protect children and young people online has been launched by Minister for Childcare and Early Years Mark McDonald.



The refreshed plan will help children and young people develop the skills they need to stay safe on the internet and support parents and carers to be more aware of the potential risks that their children face online.

The Scottish Government will continue to work with education and health organisations, police and youth charities to deliver the actions in the plan.

The Minister launched the strategy on a visit to NSPCC Scotland's Childline base in Glasgow, where he met volunteers helping children deal with internet safety issues. He said:

"Children and young people are spending longer online than ever before. Many own a tablet or smartphone and almost three quarters of 12-15 year olds now have a social media profile. While the internet and mobile technology have positively transformed our lives, I am concerned too many children and young people are being put at risk from online harm and abuse.

"We all have a responsibility to protect children and young people and this updated plan sets out a number of actions to improve internet safety. Its priorities include equipping children and young people themselves to stay safe online, supporting professionals, parents and carers and continuing to work with digital and social media providers to ensure children are not exposed to harm."

Matt Forde, national head for NSPCC Scotland, said:

"The preventative actions put forward in the Scottish Government's plan are vital as the scale and nature of this type of offending requires strong measures to keep children safe online.

"Online safety is one of the major 21st century child protection challenges and we know the

internet is used as a gateway by abusers to commit hundreds of offences against children each year.

"It's every parent's nightmare that their child will be targeted in this way. Education is key to keeping children safe online and Net Aware – the NSPCC's guide to social media and gaming apps – provides advice and support for parents.

"Our campaign is aimed at encouraging parents to have open conversations with their children as this will enable them to make sure they protect themselves online."

You can download a copy of the strategy at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/04/1061>

Key Facts and Figures

- One in ten children aged 8-11 (10%) who go online say they have seen something online in the past year that they found worrying or nasty; 12-15s are more likely to say this (19%). Both measures are unchanged since 2015.
- One in three 12-15s who go online (34%) say they have seen hate speech online in the last 12 months.
- One in twelve 12-15s (8%) say they have been contacted online by someone they don't know, and close to one in five (17%) know of someone this has happened to. Four per cent say they have seen something of a sexual nature that made them feel uncomfortable, either online or on their mobile phone, rising to 8% saying they know someone this has happened to.
- Around one in eight 8-11s (11%) and 12-15s (13%) say they have personally experienced some form of bullying in the past 12 months. These incidences are unchanged since 2015 for both 8-11s and 12-15s.

Tackling Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm: new laws come into force

Four new laws aimed at tackling abusive behaviour and sexual harm come into force tomorrow (Monday) including a requirement for judges to direct juries when dealing with trials relating to certain sexual offences.

It is now mandatory for judges to give special information to guide juries in certain sexual offence trials. Specifically where there was a delay in the victim reporting the alleged offence, where there is evidence of the victim not putting up physical resistance or the perpetrator not using physical force during the assault.

The move is designed to challenge any pre-conceived notions jurors may have about how a person "should" react when they are the victim of a sexual offence.

The Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016 also introduces three other measures designed to improve the justice system's response to these types of crime including:

- The introduction of a new statutory aggravation which means courts will be required to take into account whether or not an offence involved abuse of a partner or ex-partner. This will ensure the fact an offence involved domestic abuse is taken account of when sentencing the offender.
- An extension of the law concerning certain sexual offences committed against children to allow for prosecution in Scottish courts of offences committed elsewhere in the UK. This will reduce the potential trauma for victims of facing more than one trial and ensure no-one can escape justice if there is doubt around exactly where an offence was committed.
- Extending the power to protect victims from further harassment by allowing a criminal non-harassment order to be imposed in a wider range of circumstances.

Rape Crisis Scotland also have a campaign webpage, 'I Just Froze' on this issue. Visit at: <http://www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk/campaigns-projects/i-just-froze/>

Campaign highlights penalties for sharing intimate images

A new public information campaign will warn of the severe penalties people will face for sharing an intimate image or video of someone without their permission.

Those found guilty of sharing or threatening to share intimate images without consent will face up to five years imprisonment under the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm Act, passed last year.

Justice Secretary Michael Matheson said: "Disclosing private images can be extremely cruel and degrading, and can cause fear and alarm. Sharing, or threatening to share, such images can also be used in a highly abusive and manipulative way to seek to control a partner or ex-partner.

"Too many people are suffering because pictures of them, that they believed were only for a trusted person to see, are being shared online. Through this campaign and, working with the police and others, I'm determined to drive home the message that there is no place for victimisation like this in a modern Scotland and that those who think otherwise will soon face the full force of the law."

The campaign was developed in partnership with key agencies including Scottish Women's Aid, Rape Crisis Scotland, ASSIST, Police Scotland and the Crown Office.

SCSN Briefing Paper:

Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016

SCSN produced a briefing paper on the Act which was published in late 2016.

You can download the Briefing Paper at:

<http://www.safercommunitiesscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/BP24-Abusive-Behaviour-and-Sexual-Harm-Scotland-Act-2016-1.pdf>

Exploring the relationship between stalking and homicide

April 24-28 was National Stalking Awareness Week - a campaign run by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust. During the week, the Trust published a study with partners including the University of Gloucestershire, exploring the relationship between stalking and homicide.

The results of the study suggest there is a strong correlation between some key stalking behaviours and homicide, and that identifying the intention behind the stalking, and then managing the fixation, may reveal opportunities to save lives.

Research into more than 350 cases of criminal homicide highlighted the following:

- Stalking behaviours were present in 94% of the cases
- Surveillance activity, including covert watching, was recorded in 63% of the cases (estimated to be much higher in reality as the victim is unaware)
- Escalation of concerning behaviours was identified in 79% of the cases
- Control was recorded in 92% of the cases
- Isolation of the victim was recorded in 78% of cases

- Acknowledged high risk action markers were present across the sample. For example: strangulation assault 24%, threats to kill 55%, suicidal threats 23% (estimate the presence of these markers could be much higher due to underreporting).
- Diverse activities like court actions were not recognised as stalking.
- Coercive control and stalking were more often simultaneously present where there has been an intimate partner relationship. This type of relationship formed 71% of our sample.
- Threats to kill occurred in 55% of cases, and in some cases the threat was articulated to third parties as well as the victim.
- 85% of homicides occurred in the victim's home.

The lead researcher, Dr Jane Monckton Smith, a former police officer, now a senior lecturer in criminology at University of Gloucestershire, found that in almost every case the killer displayed the obsessive, fixated behaviour associated with stalking.

You can read the study at:

<http://eprints.glos.ac.uk/4553/1/NSAW%20Report%2004.17%20-%20finalsmall.pdf>

Community Justice Scotland In Depth

Community Justice Scotland was set up following the passing of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016, which mandated the establishment of a new national body to oversee community justice in Scotland to provide leadership, training and insight to support community justice partners to prevent offending and reduce the number of future victims.

CJS will aim to identify worldwide expertise and best practice in community justice, introducing new ideas to inspire innovation and change - aiming to change the discourse

about community justice, shift attitudes on offending and increase understanding.

CJS will place partnership working at the heart of everything they do and will work with partners across the statutory and voluntary sector, including:

- Scottish Government
- Local Authorities
- Health and Social Care Integrated Joint Boards
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- NHS Boards



Have you tried our new Community Engagement and Resilience eLearning course yet? You can access the course by visiting:

<http://elearning.scsn.org.uk/login/index.php>

#SCSNlearning

Reconvictions at lowest in 18 years



New figures show an 18 year low in the percentage of offenders reconvicted within a year and the average number of reconvictions per offender.

Reconviction Statistics 2014-15 also show that offenders released from custodial sentences had a higher chance of reoffending than those given a Community Payback Order (CPO).

“The continued fall in reconvictions is down to hard work from partners across Scottish justice, working together to prevent offending and keep our communities safe.

“This is further evidence to back up our position that robust community sentences, particularly CPOs, are more effective at reducing reoffending than short custodial sentences.

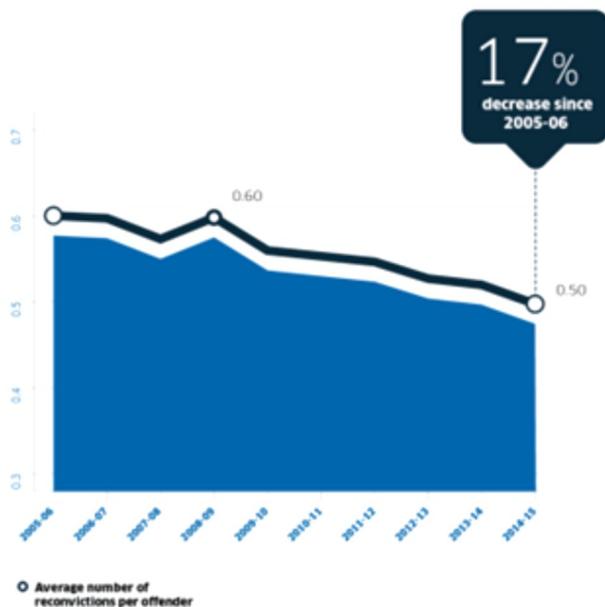
“I want to see a Scotland where people are held to account for their offending behaviour, but are also given the opportunity to address the underlying causes of their offending behaviour and become contributing citizens in their communities.

“Our new model for Community Justice encourages that approach through its fundamental focus on preventing and reducing reoffending.”

You can download a copy of the 2014/15 reconviction statistics from the Scottish Government website at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/05/8362/downloads>

► RECONVICTIONS ARE THE LOWEST FOR 18 YEARS (19% DECREASE SINCE 1997-98)



The reconviction rate for those given CPOs is 4 percentage points lower than in 2011-12, the first full year after they were introduced, and also lower than for the community orders they replaced.

Justice Secretary Michael Matheson said:

“These figures show we are continuing to make good progress on tackling reoffending – a key goal of this government’s justice strategy.

2014/15 Facts and Figures

3 in 10 (28%) offenders were reconvicted within a year

Men are more likely to be reconvicted than women
(29% vs 23%)

Short custodial sentences have higher reconviction rates (57% are reconvicted within a year, 39% are back in prison within a year)

Average number of reconvictions per offender is 0.92 for crimes of dishonesty and 0.18 for sexual crimes

Anti sectarianism projects receive financial boost

Projects that challenge sectarian behaviour will share £500,000 funding, the Community Safety Minister Annabelle Ewing has announced.



To mark the announcement of further funding to tackle sectarianism, Ms Ewing met with Action on Sectarianism (AoS) competition winner, 14 year old Jamie Boothman, whose prize winning poem illustrates the ambition of a Scotland without sectarianism.

The 11 successful projects have a strong educational focus, work directly with young people and adults and will deliver projects directly tied to the recommendations of Dr Duncan Morrow's review of the Independent Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland. Ms Ewing said:

"Over six years the Scottish Government has invested just under £13 million into tackling sectarianism. Dr Duncan Morrow, in his recent review of tackling sectarianism in Scotland, pointed to the significant impact that projects with a strong educational focus can have on changing behaviour.

"The review was also clear that sectarianism needs to be tackled with the same conviction and confidence as racism or homophobia if we are to eradicate it. The projects we are funding will drive that forward in communities across the country.

"I am delighted to be able to present Jamie Boothman with the Youthlink Scotland Action on Sectarianism award for his work to unite people where others see division. Changing people's attitudes is at the heart of turning the tide against hatred in all its forms and people like Jamie and other young people working with the projects are key to ensuring there is no place for sectarianism in a vibrant, modern Scotland."

Sarah Robinson Galloway, Digital Development and Participation Officer with the AoS website welcomed the new funding and said:

"A vision of Scotland without hate or prejudice, this is what we are all striving for. Jamie's poem sums up our hope for the future and the crucial part young people will play in ending the damaging generational legacy of sectarianism. We are delighted to see the government's continued focus on anti-sectarian work with young people, they are at the heart of our communities and will be the agents of change for our nation."

Jamie Boothman added: "I entered the competition because I feel that sectarianism does not get enough attention and should be opposed so that Scotland can have a brighter future rather than promoting prejudice between groups. It felt great winning as it feels as if my work has made a difference no matter how small."

Jamie's winning poem

*A world with prejudice,
A life with violence,
Unfurled from bed, already anxious,
This is earth with sectarianism,
Scotland's worst kind of activism.*

*Why should we hate and think we are
better?
It's time to change and be trend-setters,
For Scotland to have love in our community,
We must treat all religions with equality.*

*What shall we do? What shall we do?
Scotland should really start a new,
Sectarianism is uncouth, persuade the youth,
The next generation should know the truth,
Scotland of the future will fly the flag,
That prejudice against religion is extremely
bad.*

*Now the nation can look to the future,
When people care and listen to others,
Instead of Scotland being split,
We can now be a country with no misfits.
This is where the poem ends,
With a better Scotland around the bend.*

Default 20mph speed limit on urban road would save lives and save money

20's Plenty for Us

..making your place a better place to be

£56M pa is the estimated value of preventing casualties on Scottish 30mph urban roads by lowering the limit to 20mph. 20's Plenty for Us calculate that a 20mph default limit on Scottish roads would prevent 7 deaths, 123 serious and 812 slight casualties pa.

20's Plenty for Us have calculated the injury reduction benefits in Scotland if all urban 30mph roads changed to a 20mph speed limit. Road safety researchers reviewed the evidence and modelled that with even a conservative 15% fewer casualties. 942 fewer people would be hurt.

Scottish Urban 30mph roads are changed to a 20mph limit with locally decided exceptions with a 15% reduction in injuries	Fatal	Serious Casualties	Slight Casualties	Total
A: Road crash casualties on urban roads with a 30 mph limit in Scotland using 2011 to 2015 average	49 people	823 people	5,410 people	6,282 people
B: Estimated value of prevention, per casualty	£1.9M	£211,608	£19,578	
C: Estimated value of prevention of all 30 mph crash casualties (C=A*B)	£92M	£174M	£44M	£310M
D: Casualties avoided by default 20 mph limits with 15% fewer casualties (D=A*0.15)	7 people	123 people	812 people	942 people
E: Estimated casualty prevention value of default 20 mph urban limits in Scotland 2015 (E=D*B)	£14M	£26M	£16M	£56M

With lower limits there are other benefits also as air pollution related diseases fall sharply with many deaths and hundreds of life years saved. A default 20mph wins out over a 30mph default for road traffic casualties, air quality, active travel (heart disease and obesity), noise pollution, greater social inclusion, greater community cohesion and local business viability.

Anna Semlyen, 20's Plenty for Us Campaign Manager, MSc Health Economics said, "20mph limits bring massive public health economic savings. Retaining 30mph is unethical when we know that so much risk and harm can be easily prevented. Politicians must vote for default 20mph limits."

20's Plenty for Us estimates a 20mph signed Scottish default would cost £5 Million outside Edinburgh (which has already funded 20mph limits). £5M is a tiny amount relative to the huge £56M pa in injuries saved. A default 20mph limit for Scotland has a First Year Rate of Return of 1,100% on casualties alone before other benefits. Setting a default 20mph limit across the country is far more efficient and costs substantially less than the English approach of each authority separately setting 20mph as funding and political will permits.

20's Plenty for Us is calling on the Scottish Government and Health Protection Scotland to work together to make 20mph default on urban roads a reality. Mark Ruskell, Green MSP is launching a pre-legislative consultation on default 20mph limits for Scotland this April with the hashtag **#20Scotland**.

Drug driving limits and roadside testing to be introduced



The Scottish Government has announced plans to introduce drug-driving limits and roadside testing in Scotland. Justice Secretary Michael Matheson pledged to build on Scotland's tough drink-driving limits and existing laws on drug-driving, removing the need for evidence of impaired driving before someone can be investigated and prosecuted for being above the specified limits of individual drugs.

Mr Matheson said, "This Government prioritised lowering the drink-driving limit in 2014 with evidence showing greater numbers of lives lost on our roads due to drink-driving than drug-driving. With the lower blood-alcohol limit well established, I want to give our law enforcement agencies enhanced powers to tackle drug-driving and so make our roads even safer.

"While it is a long-standing offence to drive while impaired by drugs, by introducing new drug driving limits and roadside testing for the presence of drugs, we will strengthen the ability of our police and prosecutors to tackle the minority of drivers who recklessly put other road-users and themselves at risk.

The Scottish Government is in on-going discussions with Police Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority and the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service on the operational requirements, including how roadside testing can be put in place. Ministers intend to lay regulations by the end of 2017 for approval by MSPs, with implementation, including the need to have the necessary testing equipment in place, expected in 2019.

The introduction of drug-drive limits was among

a number of recommendations by Sir Peter North QC in his independent report commissioned by the UK Government.

The UK Government's Crime and Courts Act 2013 devolved powers to Scottish Ministers to introduce a drug-driving offence and the power to specify the limits that should apply for different drug types. This followed powers over setting the drink-driving limit being devolved through the Scotland Act 2012.

In respect of these additional powers, the Scottish Government initial focus was to tackle drink-driving with the announcement in 2013 that it would implement one of Sir Peter's key recommendations, to lower the drink-driving limit from 80 milligram (mg) to 50 mg of alcohol in every 100 ml of blood. This was implemented in 2014 and Scotland is currently the only country in the UK with a 50 mg alcohol limit in force.

Chief Superintendent Andy Edmonston, Head of Road Policing for Police Scotland said: "I welcome this proposed legislation, as anything designed to make our roads safer can only be to the public good. Police Scotland looks forward to working closely with our partners and the Scottish Government in the run-up to the introduction of the legislation in 2019 to ensure we are properly prepared. I would also remind motorists that it is currently illegal to drive whilst unfit through drugs and that remains a focus for Police Scotland."

Road Safety in Scotland

Scotland's roads are becoming safer overall, with the latest reported casualty figures from Transport Scotland showing that the number of road injury accidents continuing to fall;

In 2015, there were

- 157 fatal accidents – 24 (13%) fewer than in 2014.
- 1,417 serious injury accidents – 74 (5%) fewer than in 2014.
- 6,900 slight injury accidents – 270 (4%) fewer than 2014.

24 Hour Licencing: Unintended Consequences of the law on the law

A report published by the House of Lords Committee reviewing the 2003 Licensing Act (2003) for England and Wales, which



controversially introduced 24 hour licensing, has resulted in stress being placed on police resources with a surge in violent crime between the hours of 12am and 6am, according to evidence presented to the Committee by police.

Chief Superintendent Gavin Thomas, giving evidence on behalf of the Police Superintendents Association, said that data from the Office of National Statistics has shown that alcohol related violent crime was at about 23% in the early evening, but that this increased to 84% between midnight and 6am. He said that Greater Manchester Police had reported a significant increase in alcohol related crime between 3am and 6am, with 21% of all crime recorded during this period being alcohol related, compared with just 8% in 2003.

The report also found that two thirds of alcohol is now bought in shops which has led to a huge rise in drinking at home, rather than in

pubs and bars, which police have linked to an increase in domestic violence. The Lords Committee also noted that alcohol related admissions to hospital have almost doubled over the past decade to 1.1 million, describing the rise as 'startling'.

The report found that measures brought in to alleviate costs of alcohol related crime to communities, including the Late Night Levy, had failed to adequately address the problem, and criticised local licensing panels after hearing of 'scandalous misuse of powers' by some councillors, recommending that Licensing Committee powers be given over to planning committees.

The Lords recommended that England and Wales should follow the tougher lead of Scotland - including introducing minimum unit pricing, should it prove successful upon implementation (pending a UK Supreme Court ruling).

The report also recommended measures to ensure that venues provide disabled access in order to ensure that the night time economy is open to all.

You can read the report and submissions at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/licensing-act-2003/news-parliament-2015/licensing-act-report-published/>

Changing Scotland's Relationship with Alcohol – further recommendations

A follow up report on the Scottish Government's alcohol framework has made a series of further recommendations on tackling Scotland's alcohol problem. The report warned that 1 in 5 Scots are consuming more than the recommended amount and that 22 people per week are dying due to their drinking, saying that alcohol is having a 'devastating effect' on drinkers, families and communities.

The report calls for ministers to set a target to cut the amount of alcohol Scots drink by 10% over the next decade. It says that doing so could potentially result in 20% fewer deaths and hospital admissions after 20 years.

Among more than 40 recommendations made in the report are:

- Restrict off sales licensing hours
- Introduce a national licensing policy
- Update the guidance on the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 before new boards are appointed in May 2017
- Require alcohol sales data to be provided by licencing boards
- Support the use of Community Justice disposals designed to address alcohol problems, as well as diversions from the Criminal Justice System for those with alcohol problems where appropriate

Download the report at:

<http://www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/media/222528/Alcohol-strategy-recommendations-Report.pdf>

Local authority guidance on managing unauthorised gypsy traveller sites

Clearer and more practical advice for local authorities on how to manage unauthorised camping by Gypsy/Travellers has been published.



The revised guidance, which includes best practice and case studies on dealing with unauthorised sites, balances Gypsy/Travellers rights to their traditional way of life with the need for responsibility and regard for others.

The guidance is based on two key principles:

1. That unauthorised sites should be managed to minimise disruption
2. The same standards of behaviour are expected from all, be that Gypsy/Travellers or the settled population living around such a site

Development of the publication has involved wide-ranging discussions and input from key stakeholders – including councils, Police Scotland, Gypsy/Travellers and equality groups.

Final Report on New Scots Integrating Refugees strategy published

The Scottish Government has published its final report on its three year strategy on integrating refugees into communities, hailing significant progress whilst noting challenges that lie ahead.

The strategy was developed in partnership with the Scottish Government, COSLA and the Scottish Refugee Council with the vision *'For a Scotland where refugees are able to build a new life from the day they arrive and to realise their full potential with the support of mainstream services; and where they become active members of our communities with strong social relationships.'*

Local Government Minister Kevin Stewart said: "We are working toward a Scotland where the benefits of a multi-cultural country are recognised and celebrated – and Gypsy/ Travellers are a valued part of our diverse society. Gypsy/Travellers have a right to their traditional way of life, but that right must be exercised responsibly and balanced against the rights of the wider community. This revised guidance supports that approach."

Cllr Harry McGuigan, COSLA Community Wellbeing Spokesperson, has welcomed the revised guidance as an important tool to strengthen local authority approaches to managing unauthorised sites in a positive and balanced manner.

He said: "COSLA welcomes the collaborative approach that has been used during the development of this guidance over the last few months. Drawing on the knowledge and expertise within local authorities, and the views of Gypsy/Traveller communities, has strengthened this guidance and set out clear roles, rights and responsibilities for all those involved with unauthorised sites."

You can download the guidance at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/04/6796>

The report details progress in:

- Collating and sharing existing good practice to support refugees.
- Identifying barriers to access of the services and support refugees need and considering ways to improve processes to reduce these barriers.
- Raising awareness of refugees and understanding of their experiences.

Commitment has already been made to develop a new strategy, building on the experience and progress of New Scots.

You can download the report at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/5825>

In other news...

news

Call for reform of relationship between local authorities and government

Reform Scotland, the independent, non-party think tank, has proposed a complete overhaul of local governance via primary legislation ahead of next month's local authority elections.

In publishing its **Blueprint for Local Power**, the think tank says that local democracy has been eroded by successive governments over many decades and needs to be revitalised.

In "Blueprint for Local Power", Reform Scotland calls for a new constitutional relationship between local and central government, governed by a new piece of legislation which recognises the importance of local government to democracy and the operation of public services. It proposes the new

constitutional relationship is based on three clear principles:

- Local authorities will be responsible for all areas not specifically reserved to Holyrood - this is the same principle which governs the relationship between Westminster and Holyrood
- Tasks should be carried out at the lowest level practical - the principle of subsidiarity, which would replace uniformity and drive forward on-the-ground innovation
- Local authorities would provide clear and transparent information on their activities to ensure proper local accountability.

Read the Blueprint for Local Power at:

<https://reformscotland.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Reform-Scotland-Blueprint-for-Local-Power.pdf>

Better Later Lives: Older people's manifesto

Age Scotland has published a manifesto on how councils should work in partnership with older people, and together shape the services that will affect them most. By taking age-friendliness seriously, councils can contribute to a healthier, more active and more engaged society. By understanding and making your own contribution to better later lives in your local authorities, you will pave the way for

greater cohesion and sustainability. The manifesto contains 'five asks' on how councils can and should achieve that over the next five years.

Read more on the Better Later Lives manifesto at:

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/scotland/get-involved/campaign-with-us1/election-2017/>

Being Disabled in Britain: A journey less equal

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has published a review into disability inequality in Britain.

They want the report to be used by UK and devolved governments to make improvements to law and policies, by local government to ensure services meet the needs of disabled people, and by disability groups to strengthen their case for change.



The report includes chapters on six areas of life, including education, work, health, justice and participation in politics, looking at where there has been progress and where there are still serious issues to be tackled. It also looks the experiences of those with different impairments and how these impact on people's life chances.

Download the review at:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/being-disabled-britain-journey-less-equal>

The SCSN website has a wide range of useful information and services which are free to access, including case studies, briefing papers, policy and strategy documents, free eLearning courses, toolkits and guidance documents on a variety of topics and much more besides.

Visit our website at www.safercommunitiesscotland.org

Visit our eLearning website at www.safercommunitiesscotland.org/training/elearning

Featured Case Study May 2017:

Sharing examples of best practice and success, and learning from the success or failure of others, is one of the best ways to develop high quality and efficient services. With the recent launch of Community Justice Scotland, reported in this newsletter, our latest monthly featured case study relates to work being carried out in Scotland to reduce reoffending.

Next Steps, Venture Trust

Launched in 2010, Venture Trust's 'Next Steps' programme aims to support women of all ages who have been involved in the criminal justice system, and helps them to reduce their risk of re-offending and move towards a positive destination in employment, education, training or volunteering. The main objectives are to support participants to identify the changes they want to make in their lives, and develop skills, motivation and aspirations for a more positive future.

An evaluation by the University of Edinburgh confirmed that, following participation in the Next Steps programme, participants evidenced positive changes in behaviour with participants abstaining from alcohol, desisting crime, taking up voluntary work and attempting to secure paid employment.

Read the full case study and view many more on our website at:

<http://www.safercommunitiesscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/next-steps.pdf>



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The closing date for the June newsletter is **XXXX**



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