



### 'Hate Crime has no Home in Scotland' campaign launched

A new campaign to tackle the 'blight' of hate crime was launched during Hate Crime Awareness Week in October. The campaign, backed by the Scottish Government, Police Scotland and the Crown Office, runs until November 26.

The campaign seeks to increase understanding of what hate crime is and how to report it. More than 5,300 cases of hate crime were reported in Scotland over the past year, with many other incidents going unreported.

Agencies say they want to encourage more reporting by people who experience hate crime and those who witness it.

Launching the campaign, Equalities Secretary Angela Constance said: "We all need to play our part to eradicate hate crime, which has no place in Scotland.

Hate has no home' encourages and empowers people to recognise hate crime and report it, stopping this discrimination at its source.

That is particularly important when people are bystanders - no one should be a passive witness when one of our fellow citizens is attacked because of who they are."

Chief Supt, John McKenzie of Police Scotland, said: "There is no place for hate in Scotland and it is our communities, who will lead the way in tackling hate crime with the support of police, the government and other partners. Hate crime is under reported, we want to change that and we are asking people not to be bystanders. "

*Continued on pages 6 & 7.*



### SNP Conference drugs policy resolutions

An amended resolution on drug reform has been passed at the Scottish National Party's (SNP) annual conference.

The resolution stated:

Conference agrees that current drug policy requires a comprehensive review and believes approaching substance misuse as a public health issue rather than a criminal matter would greatly support families and communities; lift the stigma associated with addiction; remove barriers between police and communities and allow policy to reflect the values of our progressive society.

*Read more on this story and other criminal justice stories on pages 4 & 5.*

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## Strategic Lead Officer

Applications for our Strategic Lead Officer post closed on 17 October. We thank all of those who showed an interest in this post and we hope to be in a position to make an announcement on the successful candidate in the near future.

## Communications and eLearning

Our communications officer, David Barbour, partially left SCSN at the end of September to take up a new position with the Glasgow Council on Alcohol, however, he has stayed on temporarily and at reduced hours to continue to produce the SCSN newsletter and maintain our social media presence over the next while.

David is still contactable via email but this account is not checked regularly. As such, if you have any queries about our eLearning site, please direct these in the first instance to [info@scsn.org.uk](mailto:info@scsn.org.uk).

Any urgent submissions of articles for the newsletter or social media should also be sent to the SCSN info account in the first instance and these will be dealt as promptly as possible.

We apologise for any delays in response time during this period of staffing changes.

## Question of the Month

The Scottish Government plans to make smacking children illegal (read more on page 9). Do you agree or disagree?

Smacking children should be illegal.

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

To take part in our Question of the Month for November, visit our website at:

<http://www.safercommunitiesscotland.org/2017/10/30/question-of-the-month-november-2017/>



# Co-production Week Scotland

27th Nov - 3rd Dec 2017

Following last year's campaign, the Scottish Co-Production Network (SCN) will be bringing people together again for another week of events, ideas and discussion about how we make co-production happen.

This year the SCN will be focusing around the theme 'POWER' and asking people:

- How can we address power imbalance through co-production?
- What are the barriers that inequality of power brings?
- How do we ensure power is shared equally?

Organised by the Scottish Co-production Network, the week will feature events organised by Network members, new resources and a social media campaign asking people to contribute their thoughts and ideas about this year's theme.

Co-production Week Scotland will be led by members of the Network and people who are interested in co-production, so they want to hear about any events and activities and ideas that you have.

## Want to get involved?

SCN will be keeping you up-to-date about Co-production Week Scotland through the SCN website and Twitter [@ScotCoPro](https://twitter.com/ScotCoPro).

Visit the website at: <http://www.coproductionscotland.org.uk/coproweekscot>

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## New Chair for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Dr Kirsty Darwent has been appointed chair of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) board, taking over from Pat Watters. Dr Darwent has served as deputy chair since 2015, having been on the board since 2012.

Minister for Community Safety & Legal Affairs Annabelle Ewing said: "I am very pleased to welcome Dr Kirsty Darwent as the new Chair of the Board of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Having been on the board for five years and been deputy chair since 2015, she has already shown herself to be an asset to the organisation and will ensure continued stability

and improvement at one of Scotland's key public services.

Building on the legacy of the outgoing chair, Kirsty brings extensive experience from across both the public and third sectors and I look forward to continuing the excellent working relationship between the SFRS Board and Scottish Government.

I am very grateful to Pat for his significant contribution to ensuring our unified national fire and rescue service is well-placed to meet new and emerging challenges and continue keeping our communities safe from harm."

## Latest Crime and Justice news

### Homicide in Scotland 2016-2017

Scotland's Chief Statistician published Homicide in Scotland 2016-17, in October. The publication provides information on crimes of homicide recorded by the police in Scotland in 2016-17. The main findings are:

Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, the number of homicide cases recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 5% (3 cases) from 58 to 61. This is the joint second lowest number of recorded homicide cases for a single twelve month period since 1976, the first year for which comparable data are available.

Over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17, the number of homicide cases in Scotland fell by 47% (54 cases) from 115 to 61.

In 2016-17, 64 victims of homicide were recorded, 10% (6 victims) more than the 58 victims recorded in 2015-16. As at 31 March

2017, three cases of homicide recorded in 2016-17 were unsolved.

In 2016-17, 77 persons were accused of homicide and 88% (68) of them were male. Of the 64 victims, 75% (48) were also male.

For each of the last ten years, the most common method of killing was with a sharp instrument. In 2016-17, a sharp instrument was the main method of killing for 47% (30) of homicide victims.

In 2016-17, Glasgow City had the highest number of homicide cases (12), representing 20% of the Scottish total. Glasgow City has nearly double its share of homicides compared to its population (with 11% of the Scottish population in 2016).

You can download the full report from the Scottish Government website at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/10/3382>

### SNP Conference drug policy resolutions....continued

There was also a later amendment to the resolution which included:

Conference further calls for all powers relating to drugs policy to be transferred to the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government, so that the review can consider all options for harm reduction, including drug classification, decriminalisation, legalisation and regulation.

The conference agreed to all of the above and believes that there should be a comprehensive review considering "all options for harm reduction, including drug classification, decriminalisation, legalisation and regulation".

The Conference passed a second motion which calls for drug law powers to be passed to Edinburgh so the Scottish Parliament can consider "all options for harm reduction,

including drug declassification, decriminalisation and regulation".

The motion did not set out any policy on specific drugs.

The motion is not yet backed by the SNP led Scottish Government, but adopting the approach as party policy could pave the way to drug reform and shape devolution discussions in the future.

SNP National Council member Josh Mennie put the motion forward saying, "We need to reform our drug policy because decades of the so-called war on drugs has failed.

All the government has achieved from the war on drugs is criminalising a generation of people who choose to use cannabis and perhaps other substances.

We need a drug policy that closer reflects our progressive values and allows choice."

## School Pupils stand up to knife crime



Up to 12,000 school pupils throughout the country are having their perceptions on knives challenged in the coming months by a touring performance.

*The Balisong* (another name for a butterfly knife) is a No Knives Better Lives initiative, written by Jennifer Adam, developed in collaboration with young people. In the play, three teenagers discuss the circumstances leading to an incident where their friend stabs someone and whether they could have done more to stop it.

Justice Secretary Michael Matheson attended a performance of *The Balisong* at Ardrossan Academy.

He said: "While I was struck by the effectiveness of drama in conveying this important message, I was equally struck by the conversations that took place among pupils immediately afterwards.

Some young people previously indicated they would not tell anyone if someone they knew was in possession of a knife. What I witnessed, and what I'm told is taking place in other schools, is the instant behaviour change *The Balisong* delivers."

Head of Ardrossan Academy, Jamie Milligan said: "We are delighted to welcome the Cabinet Secretary to our school today. The No Knives Better Lives programme is one that we support as a school and this drama performance helps to reinforce our key messages to young people and families about responsible citizenship, violence reduction and promoting positive relationships in school and in society at large."

Led by national agency YouthLink Scotland as part of the No Knives Better Lives programme, *The Balisong* is a collaboration between youth work charity Fast Forward and Strange Town theatre company.

The play is expected to be performed at 64 schools, reaching approximately 12,000 pupils. The series began at the end of September and will run for the next few months.

No Knives, Better Lives is a Scottish Government funded youth engagement programme that aims to reduce the incidence of violence and knife carrying among young people. Targeting ages 11-18, the programme raises awareness of the potentially devastating risks and consequences associated with carrying a knife and encourages young people to make positive life choices.

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## Stopping Nuisance Calls

£75,000 has been pledged to curb the threat of nuisance and scam callers.



The new funding will enable call-blocking technology to be installed in people's homes, bringing the total number of vulnerable people the Scottish Government scheme has protected from unwanted calls to more than 1,200.

In September the Scottish Government published its action plan to tackle nuisance and scam callers and announced £50,000 for the first batch of call blockers.

Scottish Government Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy, Paul Wheelhouse said:

"Scotland is disproportionately affected by nuisance calls. We have three of the four worst affected cities in the UK, with the problem particularly prevalent among the elderly and the vulnerable."

### Call for Public Health approach to tackling Hate Crime



**A new approach should be adopted to tackling hate crime, a report from Victim Support Scotland (VSS) has said.**

The 93-page report said dealing with hate crime should involve collaboration between different organisations to support victims and their communities. This would mirror the current approach to public health issues, it said.

The report, launched at a conference in Glasgow on hate crime, called for groups currently excluded from existing laws to be given legal protection.

In 2016-17, there were a total of 5,708 hate crime charges in Scotland. These included 3,349 racial, 673 religious, 1,075 LGB, 40 transgender and 188 disability hate crimes.

But VSS said it is widely accepted that the real levels of hate crimes were far higher than reported in official statistics, as a significant number go unreported.

Its report - "Fostering a victim-centred approach to hate crime in Scotland" - said removing barriers to under-reporting should be a priority, with hate crimes against groups such as the elderly, asylum seekers, homeless people and travellers considered as part of any new legislation.

Alan McCloskey, VSS director of operations, said: "Most of the policy and research relating to hate crime focuses on the perpetrators and the criminal justice response and, while that has value, we would like to see a shift that keeps victims, and their experiences, at the forefront of all discussions. We must tackle the barriers that prevent victims from reporting crime. removed quote marks

Victims don't report for a number of reasons. It could be that they fear they won't be taken seriously, they lack trust in the authorities or they are apprehensive about disclosing their sexual orientation or gender identity to authorities."

### Huge rise in Hate Crime in England and Wales

**The number of hate crimes in England and Wales has increased by 29%, according to Home Office statistics.**

There were 80,393 offences in 2016-17, compared with 62,518 in 2015-16 - the largest increase since the Home Office began recording figures in 2011-12. The biggest rise was in disability and transgender hate crimes, but this was due to better crime recording and more people coming forward, the report said.

It also noted a spike in hate crime around the time of the EU referendum.

There were also rises after the Westminster Bridge, Manchester Arena and London Bridge attacks this year.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said there was "absolutely no place for hate crime in our society" and said the rise after 2017's terror attacks were "undoubtedly concerning".

The Home Office report said: "The increase over the last year is thought to reflect both a genuine rise in hate crime around the time of the EU referendum and following the Westminster Bridge terrorist attack, as well as ongoing improvements in crime reporting by police."

You can download the report in full at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/652136/hate-crime-1617-hosb1717.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/652136/hate-crime-1617-hosb1717.pdf)

## Equality Network launch LGBT Hate Crime report

The Equality Network, an LGBT rights charity in



Scotland, has used this year's Hate Crime Awareness week to launch a new report on LGBT hate crime in Scotland.

Crown Office statistics for 2016-17 recorded 1,075 hate crimes in Scotland motivated by prejudice related to sexual orientation, the second largest category of hate crime behind racially motivated hate crime - with 40 charges reported aggravated by prejudice toward transgender identity.

Research carried out by the Equality Network via online survey recorded the following headline statistics on LGBT hate crime prevalence:

- ⇒ 66% of gay male respondents had experienced hate crime at some point in their lives
- ⇒ 65% of lesbian respondents had been a target of hate crime at some point in their lives

⇒ 53% of bi-sexual respondents had experienced hate crime at some point in their lives

⇒ 80% of trans respondents and 77% of intersex respondents had been victims of hate crime at some point in their lives

Many respondents had experienced hate crime multiple times in their lives and these crimes manifested themselves in a variety of ways, including:

- Verbal abuse (95%)
- Threats (79%)
- Physical attack (50%)
- Online abuse (36%)
- Sexual assault (21%)

The research identified that hate crime was mostly not reported and that a significant proportion of respondents ((23%) were not at all sure how to report it.

You can download a copy of the full report from the Equality Network website at:

[http://www.equality-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/en\\_hc17-full\\_final1alores.pdf](http://www.equality-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/en_hc17-full_final1alores.pdf)

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## Consultation on Hate Crime Legislation

On 31st August, Lord Bracadale launched the consultation on hate crime legislation in Scotland.

The consultation seeks views to inform the independent review of hate crime legislation in Scotland, conducted by Lord Bracadale. The review is considering whether changes need to be made to the current laws; whether existing offences should be extended to cover other groups; and whether all hate crimes should be brought into one area of legislation. This consultation does not advocate a preferred Scottish Government approach.

Lord Bracadale said, "I am sure that tackling hate crime is an important element in the drive towards creating a society in Scotland where

people live together respecting one another, regardless of differences. My remit is wide and is designed to include whether the law should be clarified and harmonised, and whether additional protected groups should be included.

In addition, it allows for consideration of aspects of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. I intend to explore a wide range of options and ideas. In order to do so I seek the assistance of all who have an interest, whether engaged in the criminal justice system, or as members of existing or potential protected groups, or as members of the public generally."

You can contribute to the consultation at:

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/hate-crime/>

## Renters at risk from Carbon Monoxide poisoning

New research for the 'Carbon Monoxide Be Alarmed!'

campaign has revealed that almost a third of renters in the UK do not have a life-saving CO alarm in their property, with four in five unaware that it is their responsibility - and not their landlord's - to provide one.

Private renters are still at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning nearly two years after legislation aimed at protecting private tenants came into effect. Under current regulations, landlords in England and Wales are only required to provide a CO alarm in properties with a solid fuel appliance, i.e. coal or wood burning stoves. However, in Scotland landlords are legally required to provide CO alarms in all properties.

The research found that:

- One in three renters do not have a life-saving carbon monoxide (CO) alarm in their home
- Four in five renters felt it was their landlord's responsibility to provide a CO alarm in their property

The Carbon Monoxide – Be Alarmed! campaign – run by Energy UK - is calling on Government to take action to extend the legislation to ensure all private tenants are protected.

Lawrence Slade, chief executive of Energy UK and CO Be Alarmed! spokesperson, said: "Our research shows private renters are still at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning with one in three not having a carbon monoxide alarm fitted at home. That is why we are calling on government to extend the legislation to protect all private renters including those with a gas appliance which is over 80 percent of homes.



In the meantime we urge tenants to use our simple ABC checklist – Do you have an Alarm fitted? Have you tested it and are the Batteries working? Have you had an up to date gas Check?. This the only way to protect yourself and your family."

Barry Sheerman MP said: "As chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Carbon Monoxide, this is an issue I have championed throughout my parliamentary career and is something I feel very strongly about. With no smell or visible presence, the only way to detect the dangerous gas is through the installation of an audible alarm. Awareness of this easily forgotten step is vital in saving lives. We've made good progress, but we must continue to work to bring the number of these entirely preventable deaths down to zero. I value the vital work that the 'Carbon Monoxide Be Alarmed!' campaign is doing to achieve this goal and support the call for legislation to ensure all private tenants are protected."

Chris Norris, Head of Policy of the National Landlords Association, said: "Private landlords have a legal responsibility to provide a CO alarm if solid fuel burning appliances are installed, but landlords, tenants, and home-owners need to be aware that the risk of CO poisoning extends to all types of combustion – including natural gas.

Although the risk is small, CO detectors are not expensive and require very little maintenance, which is why the NLA recommends landlords install an alarm in every property with solid fuel, oil, or gas installations. It is best practice and may save a life."

The CO Be Alarmed campaign is run by Energy UK and has been encouraging people to install carbon monoxide monitors in their home since 2008.

For more information about how to stay safe, visit :

[www.co-bealarmed.co.uk](http://www.co-bealarmed.co.uk)

## Smacking of children to be banned in Scotland

The Scottish Government has confirmed that smacking children will be banned in Scotland, making it the first part of the UK to outlaw the physical punishment of children.



Ministers had previously said they did not support parents using physical chastisement, but had "no plans" to bring forward legislation of their own.

But the government has now confirmed it will ensure a bill lodged by Green MSP John Finnie will become law.

And it is understood that ministers will work with Mr Finnie to implement the bill in practice. His proposals, which were out for consultation over the summer, would give children the same legal protection as adults.

At present, parents in Scotland can claim a defence of "justifiable assault" when punishing their child - although the use of an "implement"

in any punishment is banned, as is shaking or striking a child on the head.

Banning smacking has been backed by the UN, academics and charities, and a former Scottish children's commissioner, Tam Baillie, while the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents and Scottish Borders Council have supported Mr Finnie's bill.

Children's charity NSPCC Scotland said the move was a "welcome step on the road towards fairness and equality for children", saying a change in the law would be "a common sense move".

The Scottish government has now confirmed that it would make sure the bill made it onto the statute books.

A spokeswoman said: "Mr Finnie's proposals are not a Scottish government bill, however we will ensure the proposals become law. We believe physical punishment can have negative effects on children which can last long after the physical pain has died away. We support positive parenting through, for example, funding for family support services."

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## Child Sexual Exploitation on the rise



Children's charity Barnardo's has reported a 38% increase in the number of people it's child sexual exploitation (CSE) services are supporting across the UK.

In the 12 months to March 2017, the charity's CSE services worked directly with 3,430 children, young people, parents and carers, many of whom have experienced, or are at risk of, sexual abuse and grooming. This is up from 2,486 in 2015-16.

The charity says the sharp increase is down to local authorities recognising that they need to

confront the problem of CSE head on and commission wider-reaching services to combat child sexual abuse.

Barnardo's chief executive Javed Khan said: "Having trained frontline professionals to identify children and young people vulnerable to sexual abuse in their communities, we have seen a huge increase of referrals to our child sexual exploitation services.

Every child needs and deserves a strong family, safe childhood and a positive future to thrive. We plan to make a critical contribution to this through our campaigning and prevention work, while tackling difficult issues like grooming and child sexual exploitation."

You can download the Barnardo's 2017 Impact Report here:

<http://www.barnardos.org.uk/impact-report-2016-17.pdf>

## In other news...



news

### **More choices for communities - participatory budgeting deal reached**

People across Scotland will now have a say in how £100 million of council funds will be used in their communities. Council leaders have agreed that at least 1% of local government budgets will be subject to participatory budgeting by the end of 2021, giving communities more influence than ever to make decisions on how funding is spent in their localities.

Local Government Minister Kevin Stewart said: "This is a clear way of bringing democracy to local communities by giving people a direct voice in spending decisions. Through the Community Choices Fund, the Scottish Government has already invested £4.7 million in participatory budgeting activity by supporting public authorities and communities across Scotland. Last year, the fund helped over 39,000 people to have a say on spending in their local area.

"We want to see a Scotland in which everyone can play a full part in society and every community has different challenges and opportunities, which is why it is fantastic news at least 1% of local authority budgets will be subject to community choices budgeting.

"Local authorities are to be congratulated on taking democracy closer to the people and we will continue to work with them, communities and all sectors across Scotland to make community choice budgeting a success."

The framework for the operation of the fund has been produced by the Scottish Government and COSLA. Local authorities will decide how to take forward the work to reach the target.

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### **Community gains right to register interest in buying island**

A community group with ambitious plans to repopulate a Scottish island has become the latest organisation to benefit from right to buy powers.

Scottish Ministers have given consent to The North West Mull Community Woodland Company to register its interest in purchasing the Isle of Ulva in the Inner Hebrides, with a view to attracting new residents by increasing economic activity and housing stock on the island.

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives communities the right to register and then go on to buy land and assets under certain conditions. While the powers have been successfully used across rural and urban Scotland, this is the first time permission has been granted to a community group to register interest in an island under this legislation.

Land Reform Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said: "The North West Mull Community Woodland Company is the first organisation to use community right to buy powers to register interest in buying an island. One of the group's key objectives is to increase Ulva's population and other small communities should take encouragement from the group's ambitious plans. Community right to buy, which we expanded through the Community Empowerment Act in 2015 and Land Reform legislation in 2016, is unlocking potential in our urban, rural and island communities and giving local people a say in their future."

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](http://www.safercommunitiesscotland.org)

Visit our eLearning website at [www.safercommunitiesscotland.org/training/elearning](http://www.safercommunitiesscotland.org/training/elearning)

### Featured SCSN Case Study: Fife Cares

**Our website hosts a wide range of case studies in community safety work that has taken place across Scotland. We hope that you might find some of these case studies and examples of best practice useful. This month we are highlighting Fife Cares - a partnership project for delivering services to older and vulnerable people in relation to home safety and security.**

Under the umbrella of Fife Community Safety Partnership, Fife Cares was developed to address vulnerable people's concerns about their safety and security in the home. It provides a partnership model for delivering services to older people, vulnerable families and other people who are vulnerable or isolated. Many of the services offered were already available; Fife Cares brings the services together, raises their profile and provides a single point of access for clients.

The service focuses on three key areas – home safety (including fire safety), home security and child safety. Qualifying clients include vulnerable older people, families with children under 5 years, and repeat crime victims, including victims of hate crime and domestic abuse.

You can read the full case study on our website at:

<http://www.safercommunitiesscotland.org/publications-overview/case-studies/>

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The closing date for the December newsletter is 28 November



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