



SCSN welcomes new board after August AGM

SCSN held its AGM on the 24 August 2017 at the COSLA offices in Edinburgh. At the meeting the following Directors were appointed to serve on the Board for the next year:

Ian Hanley - Inverclyde
Mark McCall - Fife
Diane Kane – East Dunbartonshire
Ann Fehilly – Glasgow
Lorraine Gillies – West Lothian
Linda Cunningham – South Lanarkshire
John McKenzie – Police Scotland
Stuart Stevens – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

SCSN would like to thank the following retiring Directors for all their support during their time on the board:

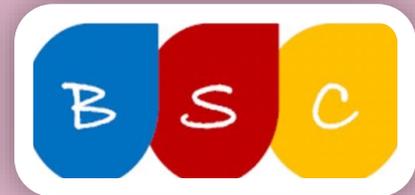
Andrew Mitchell – Edinburgh
Martin Miller – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Paul Richardson – Scottish Borders
John Irons – Perth & Kinross
Barry McEwan – Police Scotland

Mark went on to highlight that there were some vacancies on the Board and that Board members have authority to co-opt additional Directors. If anyone is interested in being on the Board of Directors please contact Mark McCall at Mark.McCall@fife.gov.uk

Mark also advised that the newly elected Board would normally meet immediately following the AGM to elect the office bearers but as a number of the Directors had put in their apologies stated that they would convene a meeting in due course to elect office bearers, and that formal notification will be sent by post, by email and put on website following the meeting.

Copies of the Annual Report are available on our website at <http://www.safercommunitiescotland.org/home-2/about-us/>.

At the meeting members approved the appointment of our auditor -Brett Nicolls Associates and to keep the 2018/19 membership fees at £375.



Over the past few months we've been covering each of the thematic papers published as part of the Building Safer Communities Programme National Strategic Assessment on Unintentional Harm.

This month we focus on Deprivation and its relationship to unintentional harm in Scotland.

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Moving on...

Our Communications Officer, David Barbour, is moving on to pastures new to work with the Glasgow Council on Alcohol as an Alcohol Brief Intervention Practitioner. During his time with us, David has significantly increased our social media reach and visitors to the safer communities website. Members increasingly rate this newsletter as valuable in keeping them up to date with developments in the sector. We are therefore grateful that David has offered to continue work on the newsletter until his replacement can be recruited, so there will be no let up in Safety NETWORKS' continued publication. We wish David all the best in his new post!



Please note that from 1 October the SCSN Offices will be closed on Fridays.

SCSN Practice Sharing Event - Thank you!

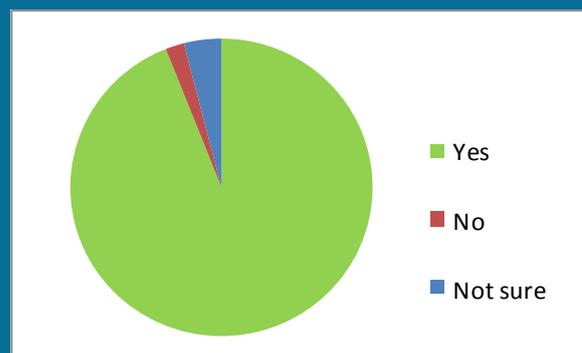
We wanted to say a quick thank you to all of those who attended and presented at our Practice Sharing Event last month! You can read a full round up of what was discussed on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter, and check out #SCSNPSE on Twitter for discussion and

Question of the Month

Last month's Question of the Month related to changes in the law making it illegal to share intimate images without consent. Our poll results were similar to those conducted by the government with 94% of respondents saying it should be illegal, 2% unsure and 4% saying they did not think it should be illegal.

There will be no Question of the Month for September as we move over to a new polling tool, so look out for it's return in October!

Do you believe it should be illegal to share intimate images of another person without their permission?





Tell us a bit about SCDC.

We're the national voluntary organisation in Scotland for community development with a key role in promoting best practice in community development, working at a range of levels informing and contributing to policy development including things like training and practice tools and support, as well as working with communities and community organisations to build stronger community networks and infrastructure.



How would you define participatory democracy?

For me, it's not there to replace representative democracy but to complement it and add value to the structures we already have. It's a way of bringing decision making closer to people and a wider range of people. It's about giving more people the opportunity to be involved in decisions that affect their lives.

Scotland is signed up as part of the Open Government Partnership Pilot. How do you see this advancing participatory democracy?

I think the pilot is really interesting and the move toward more openness, accountability and transparency in government is to be welcomed, and that fully fits with participatory democracy – which is about making those decision making processes more clear, transparent and accessible to people. So if that's happening in government, that reflects on the systems responsible for making decisions in our society, so it's a good starting point. With the government signing up to that it gives a clear message to people involved in other decision making structures that it's a good way to go.

How do you address some of the criticisms of participatory democracy?

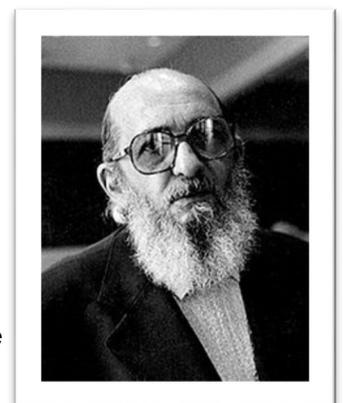
Among the criticisms might be questions including:

- 'Are we just tinkering round the edges?'
- 'How representative or participative is it?'
- 'How fair and inclusive are the approaches?'
- 'Are we just being very general and populist in the approaches?'

We need to do well at it and establish practice that supports doing it well, and I think the development of things like participatory budgeting and co-production approaches in Scotland and the general direction of travel in relation to better community engagement and community involvement practices of public bodies and others is to be welcomed. We can only address the criticisms by the practice and ensure that the practice is good and robust, and that we learn as we go through the processes.

If you could invite any three people to a dinner party, who would they be and why?

Peter Ustinov is always top of my list, a good raconteur, story teller and general wit. Eddie Izzard is another great hero of mine. And maybe in line with commitment to community development and those approaches and someone who has maybe influenced me over the years is Paulo Freire, the founder of popular education and I think he would be great to have to dinner!



Gas Safety Week

18th - 24th September 2017

Gas safety is important all year round, but it is not always a household's top priority. Gas Safety Week - coordinated by Gas Safe Register - provides a platform for the gas industry, consumer organisations and individuals to focus all our communications about gas safety in one week, generating interest in the media and having a greater impact amongst the public.

Join thousands of others and be part of this national safety campaign. Pledge your support and gain access to free materials designed to help you promote gas safety and keep your customers and employees safe.

You can access a range of information and useful tools, as well as sign up to support Gas Safety Week by visiting the campaign website at:

<https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/gassafetyweek/>



Surf Awards 2017

SURF's annual awards process is delivered in partnership with the Scottish Government. It is open to all community regeneration projects in Scotland that are currently in place or that have been completed within two years of the closing date. The **purpose** of the SURF Awards is:

- To recognise and reward **best practice and innovation** in community regeneration;
- To promote and disseminate best practice across Scotland as means of **sharing knowledge and experience**, and thereby enhancing future policy and practice;
- To highlight the role that regeneration projects have in **improving the wellbeing** of individuals and communities.

The SURF Awards offer an opportunity for regeneration projects of all sizes to **demonstrate value** to funders and partners, support team-building and **develop a national**

profile. SURF Award winners also receive additional showcase opportunities through SURF activities throughout the following year.



This year's categories are:

- **Community Led Regeneration**
- **Creative Regeneration**
- **Scotland's Most Improved Place**
- **Youth Employment: Overcoming Barriers**
- **Housing**

Find out more and download the application pack by visiting: www.surf.scot/surf-awards/

Please send completed application forms to Emma Scott via email on emma@surf.scot or by post **by 5pm on Monday 18th September.**

Drug deaths up by 23% to record high

The data on drug-related deaths in Scotland in 2016 was published in August. There were a record high of 867 drug overdoses in 2016, a 23% rise on the previous record high reported last year - with deaths having almost doubled since 2006. This headline figure indicates the scale of the challenge Scotland faces in making an adequate response to the challenge of problem drug use.

Within the figures there are trends which are particularly concerning:

- A number of local authority areas in Scotland have seen their fatal overdose deaths double since 2015 and it will be important to see if there are specific problems in these areas that need to be addressed.
- In recent years, the number of fatal overdose deaths in the under thirty fives has remained stable – 2016 saw a significant rise up from 193 in 2015 to 241.
- The biggest increase in overdose deaths has been seen in the 35-44 age group, increasing from 249 to 327. This suggests an increasing vulnerability in this group.

The Scottish Drugs Forum released a statement following the publication of the figures in which

Scottish Drug Strategy to be refreshed

Scotland's drug strategy is to be "refreshed" as Scotland continues to face significant challenges including rising numbers of drug-related deaths. Work is also being done to look at ways to encourage older people with a drug problem into addiction services.

The moves were announced by Public Health Minister Aileen Campbell at the 'Drug Policy Through a Health Lens' conference in Glasgow on the 26th of July and come as a [report](#) revealed rising inequality in the 1980s put men from Scotland's poorer areas who were born between 1960 and 1980 at increased risk of drug overdose deaths.

Dave Liddell, Director of the Scottish Drugs Forum, said:

"We are now facing a situation where the majority of those seeking help for a drug problem will be older, over 35, and will be more

they pleaded for evidence based approaches to tackling drug deaths, saying:

"Again and again we are asked what can be done and what works. There has been a rumbling debate in Scotland for years on these matters. And yet the evidence is clear – there is no doubt about what 'works' if we review the international evidence of decades of experience.

In terms of reducing drug-related deaths, we need to ensure that people are in treatment. For many people dependent on opiates that will mean treatment involving Opiate Replacement Therapy. That treatment will be most effective when it is prescribed at high enough doses to reduce the urge to use other drugs. That treatment will be most effective when it is supplemented by psycho-social therapies and good supports around basic physical and mental health. As a basis for this people need the basics – a home and something to do".

You can download the Drug Related Deaths statistics here:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/deaths/drug-related-deaths-in-scotland>

vulnerable due to multiple health issues. Our research has shown that this most vulnerable group are not held well in services at present – they are moving in and out of treatment – and all of us must work harder to change this if we are to save lives and create more opportunities for recovery. This will also include exploring approaches, well-evidenced internationally but new for Scotland, such as drug consumption rooms and heroin-assisted treatment."



These figures were released prior to **International Overdose Awareness Day** which took place on 31 August and aims to raise awareness of overdose deaths and reduce the stigma of drug related deaths.

Practice Sharing Event in Review



On 24 August SCSN held a Practice Sharing Event in Edinburgh. The event featured presentations from experts, followed by discussion, on:

- Community Justice Scotland
- Participatory Democracy
- Reflections on the Community Safety Landscape
- Missing Persons
- Prevent - CONTEST

Over 30 professionals from across the community safety sector attended and contributed to what was a highly successful and illuminating event.

Here, we take a snapshot look at the presentations and discussions that took place on the day.

Community Justice Scotland

Community Justice Scotland launched this year, and David Scott - Head of Learning, Development and Innovation - presented on the work that CJS would be looking to undertake in the years ahead.



He introduced the CJS vision: 'Making Scotland a safer place to live by leading and promoting world-class standards of community justice.'

David went on to emphasise that CJS would be trauma informed, evidence based and use a collaborative approach - working with partners and stakeholders including people with lived experience of the justice system, their families, victims and communities, and recognising the expertise and the contribution of others to deliver improved community justice outcomes.

He emphasised that CJS saw prevention of offending as extremely important, rather than simply working to reduce re-offending. Among the long term outcomes CJS will be working towards include:

- ⇒ A reduction in short term prison sentences
- ⇒ A reduction in the number of people held on remand
- ⇒ An increase in community based provision
- ⇒ Improved reintegration from custody to community

Looking forward, David spoke of some particular ongoing work that will help shape CJS over the coming months, including - feedback from Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plans; the formation of a learning, development and innovation working group; creation of a learning, development and innovation hub and learning, development and innovation strategy.

Find out more about Community Justice Scotland on their website at:

<https://communityjustice.scot/>

Participatory Democracy

David Allan of the Scottish Community Development Centre, (also featured in our 60 second interview on page 3) delivered a presentation on the evolution of Participatory Democracy in Scotland, in particular Participatory Budgeting (PB) and Co-Production.

The SCDC host both the PB Scotland Network and Co-Production Scotland websites and are leading on the development of both in Scotland.

"PB is one method which can be used alongside other models of community engagement and empowerment as part of a wider strategic approach to advancing participatory democracy.....in which people have influence over what happens to them, their families and their communities."



David talked through the ongoing development of participatory democracy practice in Scotland, including the growth of the PB Network across the country, the continued growth of the Community Choices Fund; and the increasing relevance and necessity for effective co-production in an era of reducing resources.

You can find out more about the work of SCDC on their website at:

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

Missing Persons

Stephen Coulter of the Scottish Government then delivered a presentation on the National Missing Person's Framework for Scotland, which aims to:

- ⇒ Prevent people from going missing in the first place
- ⇒ Limit the harm associated with people going missing

He described how the aims of the Framework would be met through a mixture of improvement of multi agency working; some standardisation in a few key areas; flexibility to suit local area needs and wider recognition and awareness of the issue.

The next steps toward advancing the Framework will be the development of an implementation plan and the formation of an

oversight group.

For more information on the National Missing Person's Framework, visit:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/05/1901>

Supporting the delivery of Prevent in Scotland

The final presentation of the day looked at supporting the delivery of the Prevent strategy in Scotland, and was delivered by Paul Wood of the Scottish Government, with local perspective provided by Mark McCall Fife Council.

Phase 5 of delivery has now been completed in Scotland and Prevent is aligned to existing safeguarding processes and procedures.

Paul outlined some of the key achievements of Prevent in Scotland, including:

- ⇒ Engagement with schools
- ⇒ National Conversation Days
- ⇒ New materials on ES Hub
- ⇒ Training of frontline staff

You can find out more about Contest - Prevent at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

Building Safer Communities - Reflections on Community Safety

Perhaps the most intriguing subject and discussions of the day were on Community Safety itself and what Community Safety in 2017 is. Hayley Barnett of the Scottish Government has been working across the country in the past few months, visiting partnerships and conducting interviews to understand the community safety position in community planning partnerships and relationships with Local Outcome Improvement and Locality Plans.

Comments from attendees raised a slightly muddled picture of community safety as things stand, with differences across the country, including community safety teams merging with community planning and/or community justice teams.

Overall there was a feeling of community safety being ill defined - a feeling shared by professionals in the sector, as Hayley fed back from her work:

"The term 'Community Safety' covers so many different aspects of life. It now lacks clarity and is no longer consistently used within all local partnerships."

Also identified was a feeling that because of the complexity of the national landscape and relationship between key policy or legislative strands, it was difficult for local partnerships to coordinate a strategic approach to community safety.

You can read Hayley's presentation and all other presentations in full on our website at:

<http://www.safercommunitiesscotland.org/practice-sharing-event/>



Over the past few months we've been covering each of the thematic papers published as part of the Building Safer Communities Programme National Strategic Assessment on Unintentional Harm. This month we focus on Deprivation and its relationship to unintentional harm in Scotland.

The National Picture

Unintentional Harm is a significant health and economic burden on Scotland in terms of death and serious injury, with 1,250-1,400 deaths from physical unintentional harm per year and around 54,500 emergency hospital admissions for unintentional harm annually. There is also a huge number of years lost to resultant disability and time off work, as well as significant emotional impact on those injured and those close to them. The cost to the NHS in Scotland attributable to physical unintentional harm alone amounts to at least £200 million per year, of which £40 million relates to children.

Children and young people (particularly the under-fives), **older people** and **those living in more deprived areas** are all over represented in unintentional harm data.

Deprivation

Whilst unintentional harm can affect any household regardless of economic background, analysis of a number of data sets including deaths and emergency hospital admissions as a result of physical and unintentional harm and mental wellbeing - as well as much international academic research - clearly shows that those living in Scotland's most deprived areas are more likely to experience an incident of unintentional harm.

There is also some evidence (Growing Up in Scotland Survey) that people living in more deprived areas experience multiple unintentional injuries. Children living in deprived areas were more likely than those living in more affluent areas to experience two or more unintentional harm incidents requiring treatment during their first four years.

Indeed, it is not just people in the most deprived areas who disproportionately experience unintentional harm, but even those in slightly more deprived areas.

Key Findings

The correlation between deprivation and higher rates of unintentional harm are clearly demonstrated:

- ⇒ In 2014/15 children in the most deprived areas had a standardised discharge ratio approximately 19% higher than the Scottish average. For adults this was nearly 40% higher
- ⇒ Road traffic collisions and accidental dwelling fire rates also increase with increasing deprivation. The accidental dwelling fire rate in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland is over double the rate seen in areas that are not within the 15% most deprived areas
- ⇒ Measures of mental wellbeing in adults are lowest in the most deprived SIMD quintile and increased stepwise to the least deprived quintile
- ⇒ Community measures including volunteering, involvement in local community people feeling empowered over local decision making, extent to which people felt supported, general trust, neighbourhood trust and feelings of safety in their neighbourhood were all lowest in the most deprived areas and highest in the least deprived areas

Family adversity

In addition to deprivation, 'Family Adversity' (an index combining eight measures of disadvantage, including poverty and maternal depression) is significantly associated with children experiencing three or more physical unintentional harm incidents requiring medical attention during their first five years.

According to the thematic paper, some of the

higher prevalence in more deprived areas may be due to:

- ⇒ Lower incomes meaning safety equipment is prohibitively expensive
- ⇒ Other factors which contribute to family stress and chaotic lifestyles and which are linked to certain aspects of unintentional injuries e.g. drug and alcohol misuse are higher within deprived areas
- ⇒ Poorer general health within more deprived areas could mean falls and other incidents in older people are more prevalent and result in more serious injury

The Child Accident Prevention Trust also highlights the following as potential reasons for the higher gradient in child unintentional harm specifically:

- ⇒ Overcrowded homes - children from overcrowded homes three times more likely to be injured
- ⇒ Lack of a garden in which children can play
- ⇒ Greater exposure to through roads and roads without parking
- ⇒ Higher parental smoking rates, smoking being a major cause of house fires
- ⇒ Lack of accessible information and poor literacy among parents (disadvantaged parents are six times more likely to have serious literacy problems, with serious literacy problems also an issue for parents who are long term unemployed, young parents and deprived BAME communities)
- ⇒ Deprived parents understanding of child development may be lower
- ⇒ Links to family type - teenage parents may require more support to keep their babies safe - and family size - disadvantaged parents with larger families may struggle to control their children's behaviour

Commentators have also highlighted how recent spending cuts in local authorities may have an effect on accidental injuries among low income children - e.g. the removal of speed camera funding.

Recommended Actions

As more deprived areas are over represented in unintentional injury data, focussing efforts on people living within these areas (based on the Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation or SIMD) has been selected as a priority for Phase 2 of the Building Safer Communities Programme.

Five local authorities with the most deprived datazones

1. Glasgow City
2. Inverclyde
3. West Dunbartonshire
4. North Ayrshire
5. Dundee City

Several key recommendations are made in the National Strategic Assessment of Unintentional Harm as regards deprivation. Aside from the development of a National Strategy for Unintentional Harm, these include that:

- The approach to addressing unintentional harm should link to the needs of local communities, focusing on tackling inequality and building community capacity.
- There are opportunities to work in partnership when engaging vulnerable and at risk people to maximise contacts and education around unintentional harm.
- This priority links with clear national focus on tackling inequality and should be explicitly reflected in relevant strategy and policy e.g. health inequalities work and work on poverty and inequality.

Evidence suggests that offering home safety audits in the course of routine home visits, particularly to disadvantaged families could result in improvements to unintentional harm rates.

You can download the full thematic paper on deprivation, and read the full National Strategic Assessment on the Building Safer Communities website at:

<http://www.bsc.scot/publications.html>

In other news...

news

Human trafficking closer to home than you think

Human trafficking may be closer than most Scots think, a new awareness campaign has revealed.

For the first time, the locations where victims of human trafficking have been identified over the last five years have been pinpointed to challenge perceptions that the crime is confined to Scotland's major towns and cities.

[Research](#) published as part of the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy this year showed that 54% don't believe it is an issue in their local area – however the identified locations include 27 of Scotland's 32 local authorities.

You can download the research at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Justice/policies/reducing-crime/human-trafficking/HumanTraffickingandExploitationScotlandAct2015/TNSsurvey>

New report into developing kinder communities

A new report has been unveiled which examines how kinder communities can be encouraged.



The Carnegie UK Trust worked with seven organisations from across Scotland – including the Glenavon Tenants Association in Maryhill and Alloa's Inspiring Scotland's Link Up programme – to create [The Place of Kindness: Combating loneliness and building stronger communities](#).

The study found that kindness can be hard to talk about for those in the community, and that there can be barriers to acting in a friendly, generous and considerate way.

You can download the report at:

<https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/sites/64/2016/10/Kinder-Communities.pdf>

Creating Dementia Friendly Communities

A new project has been launched to help create dementia friendly communities in central Scotland.

The University of Stirling has teamed up with a series of local partners to carry out the project across the Forth Valley.

A £225,000 grant from the Life Changes Trust will fund a range of initiatives to empower people with dementia to create collaborative neighbourhood communities which help them remain socially, physically, culturally and politically active.

Dr Richard Ward, senior lecturer in dementia studies, said: "The funding for this project will allow us to show how place attachment, local connections and a shared sense of belonging can support the wellbeing, health and citizenship of people living with dementia in the local community."

National Violence Against Women Network Conference



Equally Safe: Scotland's National Strategy for Preventing and Eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls sets out the Scottish Government and COSLA's shared vision for a strong and flourishing Scotland where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from all forms of violence and abuse – and the attitudes that help perpetuate it.

Equally Safe recognises that no one organisation can be responsible for achieving this vision and highlights the need for engagement in every area of government and wider society including, local authorities, Police Scotland, the NHS, the civil and criminal justice systems, social work, housing, media, the business sector, trade unions, third sector organisations and individuals and communities too.

To help support this vision, the National Violence Against Women Network invites you to join them at their inaugural conference, *Tackling VAWG is Everyone's Business*. The conference aims to:

- Raise awareness of the causes, consequences and appropriate responses to all forms of violence against women and girls.
- Highlight how multi-agency partnership working can help to improve outcomes for women and children at a local level and encourage stakeholders from a wide range of sectors to consider the contribution they can make to this agenda.
- Showcase good work happening within local communities across Scotland to prevent and eradicate VAWG and promote women's equality.

There will be opportunities to hear from a range of speakers, participate in workshops and network with other organisations.

You can find out more and book your place on this event at: <http://bit.ly/2y1vcFr>

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

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SHARE YOUR NEWS!

If you would like to submit an article, request information or share good practice in our newsletter, please get in touch!

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