

SCSN AGM & Community Safety Conference 2023



Learning Report

On Wednesday 1st November, the SCSN hosted their annual AGM and a Community Safety Conference, in person and online at Glasgow Clyde College, Glasgow. The event was an opportunity to celebrate the SCSN's achievements over the past year, as well as to learn more about various topical community safety issues, with the opportunity for discussion after presentations. The conference also gave practitioners who were there in person, the chance to network.

Over 40 people attended, with 19 in person and 30 online.

On the day, we had sessions from:

- Clare Glen, Assistant Principal: Health & Wellbeing, Glasgow Clyde College - Trauma Informed Education
- Jim Wilson, Head of Licensing, Scottish Government - Dangerous Dogs
- Karter Kane, Policy & Public Affairs Advisor, Electrical Safety First - Home Safety – Battery Breakdown
- Lorraine Gillies, SCSN Chief Officer - ASB Report Statement/Vision For Justice
- Martina Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager - Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP Northern Ireland
- Kevin Chase, SCSN National Development Officer - Mark McCall Home Safety Fund - Care & Repair Report

After the presentations and a networking lunch there was a 40-minute panel discussion where attendees asked questions to the presenters.

AGM and Annual Report 22-23

To begin, Jennifer Middlemiss, SCSN Chair and Lorraine Gilles, SCSN Chief Officer, took participants through the SCSN AGM. The work of SCSN during the year 2022-23 was discussed, as well as election of new directors and votes taken on; selection of accountants, membership fees and a name change to Safer Communities Scotland. You can find a run-down of the SCSN year 2022-23, as well as a summary of the annual accounts in our [annual report](#), as well as a [video](#).

Presentations

Trauma Informed Education

Speaker Bio:



Clare Glen

Clare Glen is Assistant Principal for Health and Wellbeing at Glasgow Clyde College. Clare has over 30 years of experience in the Further Education Sector, with 20 years in both curriculum and support leadership roles. She is passionate about improving learner outcomes and how nurture and trauma informed approaches really underpin how we can achieve our objectives in education - and is a great believer in the power of positive relationships.

Some key highlights from the presentation were:

- Glasgow Clyde College is one of the biggest colleges in Scotland. It has 17,000 students and various campuses.
- The college has developed a trauma-informed and 'nurture' approach which can have positive impact on developing relationships and outcomes.
- The college has had to think about how *all* activities, policies, processes, systems and procedures are safe and respectful for everyone.
- To do this, the college put together six key guiding principles: - Learning is understood developmentally; the college is a safe place; nurture is important in developing wellbeing; language is a vital means of communication; transitions are managed mindfully.
- Reasons for adopting a trauma informed approach were to make transitions and online learning smoother, the mental health and wellbeing of students and the financial strains on college and students.
- Specific trauma informed actions have been: – discounted food and clothing, no exclusions or suspensions; funding for those in need; access to 1:1 support and a change to the lateness policy.
- Outcomes so far have been; a positive impact on learning, assessment and teaching and improved student retention.

For further detail – please see [presentation](#). You can contact Clare for more information on cglen@glasgowclyde.ac.uk

Dangerous Dogs

Speaker Bio:



Jim Wilson

Jim has worked within the civil service for over 32 years, enjoying a mix of exciting and challenging roles within Government, which included running the Justice and Safer Communities COVID-19 hub to assist the justice sector response to the pandemic.

Jim currently heads up the licensing team within justice which also has policy responsibility for dog control and dangerous dogs policy. Jim previously worked abroad in Gibraltar before joining the civil service, and on a personal level enjoys spending time with the family, a range of sporting activities, and walking Willow his 8 year old Cocker Spaniel!

Some key highlights from the presentation were:

- 2010 Control of Dogs Act in Scotland was hoped to be a preventative approach with several measures including microchipping and behavioural training. It focused on 'deed not breed'.
- The PAPLS review in 2018 gave 21 recommendations, most notably to remedy to situation that in Scotland there was no requirement for dog owners to have had 'reasonable apprehension' of a dog attack.
- There remain many suggestions around possible solutions to the issue of dangerous dogs, such as dog licensing, breed specific legislation and obstruction offences, however the real problem is often resources for enforcement, at a time when local authorities are increasingly stretched.
- Since 2018, Scottish Government have made progress with the recommendations, most notably the Dog Control Database and marketing campaign.
- There has been a lot of political interest with the UK Government banning of the XL Bully breed. This may have some unintended consequences such as rehoming issues, enforcement and evidencing breed. Scottish Ministers are still to deciding how to respond to this issue as it is a devolved matter.
- The Scottish Government will be running regional engagement sessions on dog control to discuss what more can be done in local areas. Please contact Jim if you are interested.

You can contact Jim for more information on jim.wilson@gov.scot

Home Safety – Battery Breakdown

Speaker Bio:



Karter Kane

Karter Kane is Public & Policy Affairs Advisor for Electrical Safety First. Karter joined Electrical Safety First as a Policy and Public Affairs Advisor in January 2022 after completing her Master's degree in politics at Strathclyde University. She is based in Glasgow and works to develop government relations and policies across Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Since joining the charity, she has been involved in campaigns around product safety on online marketplaces, electrical safety checks in the private rented sector in Northern Ireland and expanding consumer awareness of electrical safety risks.

Some key highlights from the presentation were:

- Lithium-ion batteries which are now commonly sold on e-bikes and scooters have created a fivefold increase in house fires, mostly at night.
- Electrical Safety First have produced a report into the problem called [Battery Breakdown](#).
- Most commonly, it is the chargers that cause the issue. It is therefore imperative to get the correct charger for the e-bike or scooter. Unfortunately, many people are buying chargers online from un reputable sources.
- The batteries are very explosive, which makes the fact they are easily subject to potential damage even more concerning.
- Conversion kits to turn regular bikes into e-bikes is also dangerous as many do not meet British standards and can lead to overloading bikes.
- Electrical Safety First are campaigning for more regulation over these batteries. They are gaining support for a Bill in UK Parliament.
- They have a [consumer awareness campaign](#).

For further detail – please see [presentation](#). You can contact Karter for more information on Karter.Kane@electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk

ASB Statement and Vision for Justice Video

Speaker Bio:



Lorraine Gillies

Lorraine Gillies is the Chief Officer with the Scottish Community Safety Network. Her role is to ensure that the organisations achieves the vision set out by Board of Directors and reflects the needs of the membership and stakeholders. Lorraine has a background in the public sector, audit and scrutiny and the third and voluntary sectors. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and enjoys starting fires....

Some key highlights from the presentation were:

- Over the course of 2022, SCSN, in partnership with the Scottish Government, undertook 25 engagement sessions, reaching over 250 people to ask 'Is there another way to approach anti-social behaviour?'. These conversations took place face to face and virtually with representatives who work directly with those affected by ASB, as well as community and equalities groups.
- The data collected was rich, complex and inspiring. The results of the engagement work have been put together in a report and SCSN have been working with the Scottish Government towards publishing this, hopefully in the coming weeks.
- Ministers have also been considering next steps including whether this issue needs reviewed in more depth in terms of what a holistic and sustainable long-term approach to ASB might look like.
- This refreshed approach to ASB might help Scotland reach its aspirations for better justice in Scotland. The Vision for Justice wants Scotland to have "effective, modern, person-centred and trauma-informed approaches to justice", and it also recognises that; "A lack of legal understanding affects a significant proportion of the population" and that "fairer access" and "inclusive justice services" are something we should strive for.
- Earlier this year, SCSN took the opportunity to have a re-look at the Vision for Justice, one year on, and reflect on where we think we have made strides in Scotland, and when we still a journey to tread.

You can watch the video [here](#).

You can contact Lorraine for more information on lorraine.gilles@scsn.org.uk

Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP, Northern Ireland Perspective

Speaker Bio:



Martina Flynn

Martina Flynn is Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager with Newry, Mourne & Down District Council, and manages the Council's Good Relations Programme and the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) for the District. Martina has worked across the public sector in Northern Ireland for over 20 years, and has a specific interest in community development, stakeholder engagement and partnership working. Since 2019 she has served as Chairperson of Newry, Mourne & Down Community Support Partnership, a multi-agency group which aims to support vulnerable adults.

Martina holds a Masters in Community Development Practice from the National University of Ireland, Galway, and is also a qualified mediator with several years of practice across a range of sectors. Martina has been a voluntary Director of leading family support charity Bolster Community for 16 years, and is currently their Vice Chairperson.

Some key highlights from the presentation were:

- Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP operates in a similar way to CSPs in Scotland. They are a partnership of statutory and non-statutory organisations and elected members. They also invite and recruit independent members.
- The PCSP works hard with the local community to help shape their priorities and services. They run public meetings, focus groups and 'Community Safety Clinics' raise awareness of crime prevention in the community. They are developing online platforms.
- The PCSP award grants to community projects as part of their work.
- They also run themed events, such as rural crime, drugs & alcohol, domestic & sexual abuse, healthy relationships, personal safety, hate crime.
- As misuse of prescription drugs is a leading cause of death in the locality, they have installed secure drug disposal bins and removed 200,000 items.
- Successful initiatives have been a mobile engagement unit to engage with young people; [a documentary around road safety](#) called the Paulie Project and a '[Kids Court](#)' for speeding drivers.

For further detail – please see [presentation](#). You can contact Martina for more information on Martina.Flynn@nmandd.org

[Mark McCall Home Safety Fund and Care and Repair Report](#)

Speaker Bio:



Kevin Chase is a National Development Officer with the Scottish Community Safety Network. Kevin is a recently retired police officer with several years' experience working closely with partners across the Community Planning Partnerships. In his spare time, he is a qualified SFA coach and has been coaching children and young people for ten years.

Kevin Chase

Some key highlights from the presentation were:

- The Mark McCall Home Safety Fund provides funding for projects working towards home safety with a focus on children. It is named after the former Chair of the SCSN Board and Service Manager for Housing at Fife Council who tragically passed away in 2021, Mark McCall.
- It is a tripartite partnership between SCSN, RoSPA and Fife Council and funds £3,000 for a 6-month project.
- Last year, the winner of the fund was Care and Repair Lanarkshire. They used the money for their 'Safe as Houses Under 5's Project'. The money helped extend the client base; extend their safety equipment inventory; identify potential service gaps and create an online application for home safety equipment and assessment.

- Initial low uptake prompted an investigation and discovery of lost messages between managers and operational staff. Care and Repair worked with many partners to promote the service and overcome this issue.
- At the end of the project, vital safety equipment was in 32 homes, including; safety gates, window restrictors, corner protections and cooker protection. Safety Officers had also provided generic safety advice to these homes.
- For further detail – please see [presentation](#). You can contact Kevin for more information on kevin.chase@scsn.org.uk

Question and Answer Session

Below are some of the questions in response to the presentations.

Q: Do you think the UK banning of XL Bully will result in the displacement of dogs from England and Wales to Scotland?

A: Yes, there are concerns over this as there have already been some XL Bully dogs abandoned and sent up from England and Wales. Northern Ireland are also grappling with this issue. The price of XL Bullies has plummeted. We do not know the extent of this problem yet, but we also have animal welfare concerns when it comes to rehoming in particular.

Q: How did you steer round the issue of consent when involving children in the kid's court?

A: There is a lot of preparatory work done with the school first. We do prevention activities around road safety and speeding, and we talk to the teachers about who is most suited to take part. The school gain parental consent. We gain consent for photographs etc. The relationship with the school is very important. One key issue around the kid's court is that it is confined within the primary school setting. We want to move it out to Secondary's and other community settings as there are areas with issues that have no primary schools. Good practice is - from the start, have it as flexible as possible.

Q: Is there advice for our CSP's about mitigating the harms of lithium-ion batteries?

A: Yes, we have resources on our website about how to use these products in the safest ways. For example, advice on how to safely charge, not charging in closes/stairs etc. We are looking at and encouraging manufacturers to look at outside chargers. We are looking at getting information to renters, especially in high rises. We are also targeting information to delivery drivers and have been working with Uber Eats etc. We are also in discussions with those giving advice on how to convert regular bikes into e-bikes, to ensure they provide safety information too.

Feedback

Some comments on the event:

"Good mix of presenters and opportunity to develop programme of work with other agencies."

"I enjoyed the diverse blend of speakers and the chance to meet and chat to an equally diverse audience. Usually, I attend conferences where it is all people doing the same kind of thing, but we had the full gamut here, from dog safety to electrical safety!"

"It was great to have so many people together to discuss issues with different perspectives."

"All excellent presentations - thought provoking and actions identified as a consequence."

We also had a twitter Hashtag for the day, reaching 22,982 accounts, with 1,667 views and 26 likes.