



SCSN working with Partners to respond to the Covid 19 Pandemic

These are extremely challenging times for all of us and in the community safety sector there are specific challenges being posed across all areas. Building and supporting resilience is a big part of the work of community safety partnerships, and especially at moments of crisis like this.

Among the many issues we're facing there have been specific issues around increasing scams targeting the most vulnerable, including doorstep crime, increases in hate crime - especially directed at the Chinese and East Asian community, concerns about the protection of vulnerable people such as the homeless, issues around increased isolation and loneliness, especially amongst the elderly, aggravation of mental health issues and substance use and lots more besides. We're working closely with our partners to address all of these issues.

We have created a new website page which we are updating on a daily basis with resources being produced by organisations across Scotland. Visit the webpage [here](#).

If you have any updates or resources that you think would be useful for us to share with our members and social media followers, please send to us to add to our webpage and for sharing. You can email any content to info@scsn.org.uk and we will do our best to share and upload it.

SCSN has also been working closely with our partners on the Building Safer Communities National Executive Group via weekly Zoom meetings to coordinate responses and communications, and will also be taking part in a similar group on domestic violence.

£350 million fund to support responses to Coronavirus



An additional £350 million will go to those most affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Communities Secretary Aileen Campbell has announced.

The funding will be made available to councils, charities, businesses and community groups and is designed to be flexible, cutting down on red tape, to enable them to respond swiftly and according to local need for people impacted economically or through reduced contact with society, including anyone struggling to access food.

For more information on the funding and to apply, please contact

SocialJusticeMailbox@gov.scot

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'Lets talk about...Hate Crime & Equalities' event postponed

Due to the Covid 19 crisis, our Hate Crime and Equalities event scheduled for 21 April has now been postponed until 28 October. The new date will of course be dependent on the prevailing situation and we will provide further updates over the coming months.

Best Bar None Awards Postponed

Sadly this year's Best Bar None Awards are now also postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We were proud to be one of the sponsors of these awards, and look forward to the rescheduling of this event when times are better!

SCSN Staff Team Changes

Hannah Dickson, our current National Development Officer, has moved into a new role from 1st April 2020. We are pleased to say that Hannah is our new



Development Manager and will be leading the creation of our newly enhanced development team – hopefully recruiting in June. We hope you will join us in sending congratulations and supporting her as best you can as she takes up her new role.

If you have any questions about these changes, please email info@scsn.org.uk

Question of the Month

We took the decision to withdraw our previous Question of the Month early. We had been asking whether you intended to set up Home Fire Safety visits for an older person you know, but home fire safety visits are now cancelled for the foreseeable future.

We've all had to make a huge number of changes to our daily lives in the past few weeks and the SCSN team are no different. Like many people, we are now working entirely from home. Working from home is a great option to have and one we have had in place at SCSN for over two years. However, being forced to work from home is quite different, and can throw up practical and emotional issues among others. So this month, we are asking:

'How are you finding working from home?'

Take part in our poll [here](#).

Why the first 'lockdown' email I sent to my staff teams was on self care

Blog by Lorraine Gillies,
SCSN Chief Officer

SCSN has had a policy of agile working for over two years now. However, forced and exclusive home working is quite different to just having the option. Read our [Chief Officer's blog](#) on the importance of self care at this time.



Coronavirus Legislation & Human Rights

As a team we've been thinking about the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has been having on community safety, on the ability of community safety partnerships to operate under current conditions and what we can do to support community safety partners during this time. The emergency legislation from the UK and Scottish Governments in response to the pandemic, whilst necessary to ensure the effective provision of vital public services at this time, must be proportionate and make due consideration of human rights principles and done with openness and accountability.

There has been substantial coverage in the media and by human rights organisations on the overall impact on human rights, restrictions on normal life and the emergency Coronavirus legislation in terms of review points, the end point and sunset clauses. Issues with the lack of scrutiny overall due to the rapid timescales and proposed changes to Freedom of Information requirements and the effect on transparency has also received a lot of attention and rightly so. We share similar concerns, but are giving particular thought to the importance of maintaining national and local scrutiny of public services under the current conditions; and scrutiny of the process and new powers gifted by the emergency legislation. We are involved in conversations with others on these issues and will be publishing a blog of our thoughts next week but wanted to share some of the issues we've been thinking about:

What should the minimum national and local commitment to scrutiny activity and governance be in relation to policing, justice and safer communities?

What additional scrutiny should be taking place of the additional powers and restrictions gifted under the UK and Scottish coronavirus legislation? In particular of the additional powers given to Police Scotland? You can find the commitment from the Scottish Parliament's Justice Committee on this [here](#), and the [response](#) from, amongst others, the Scottish Police Authority (SPA).

Read this article in full [here](#).

Criminal Proceedings in Scotland 2018-2019

The total number of people proceeded against in Scottish courts fell by 6% to 89,733 in the year to 2018-19, according to National Statistics published by Scotland's Chief Statistician today. This is the same as the fall in the number of people convicted, down 6% to 78,503.

This continues the general downward trend of the last ten years. Falls in convictions for breach of the peace and common assault continued in 2018-19, down 13% and 12% respectively. There were also notable falls in the number of convictions for crimes against public justice (down 11%), dangerous and careless driving (down 18%), and drugs crimes (down 8%).

Download the full publication [here](#).

Covid 19 Justice Information Hub

The Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum have produced a [hub of relevant guidance](#), legislation, resources and information about changes to current processes in order to support the Scottish justice sector.

It will be updated daily as far as possible.

Find information here on subjects including the Coronavirus Act 2020 and the Coronavirus (Scotland) Bill, updates on children's hearings, court proceedings and much more.



Covid 19 Updates and New Resources from across the Community Safety sector and beyond

Scotland Cares Campaign

A new '**Scotland Cares**' campaign has been launched to encourage people to volunteer during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. While the most important ask for the public remains to stay at home and follow the essential public health guidance, people who are healthy and not at risk can volunteer to provide practical or emotional help to those most in need.



Those wanting to volunteer to support their communities have three options which are signposted from the Ready Scotland website [here](#).

Other advice from Ready Scotland

Ready Scotland have also added a [webpage](#) to their site with advice on a range of different topics, including helping neighbours, friends and family, how to volunteer, advice for community groups, sensible shopping and advice for businesses.

NHS Inform Covid 19 information

Find all of the information you need on Covid 19, including symptoms, advice on self isolation, shielding, caring for your symptoms, looking after loved ones with symptoms and much more. Visit NHS Inform Covid 19 page [here](#).

SBRC Webinars for Business Resilience

The Scottish Business Resilience Centre has begun running webinars to unite businesses across Scotland in responding to issues raised by Covid 19. Read more and get links for updates on future webinars [here](#).

Charities and the Coronavirus: Update from the Charity regulator

There are many sources of information about Coronavirus. All charities should read the [guidance on coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) from the Scottish Government. The guidance includes advice for non-healthcare settings, including tips that apply to people working in hospitality settings, leisure facilities, entertainment venues and premises used by community groups. [NHS inform](#) will give you the latest public health advice.

SCVO Covid 19 Community Assistance Directory launched

The SCVO has launched a [new website](#) where you can search for or offer support in your local community. Information on the site is provided by users and not verified, so please report any inaccurate posting.

Communities Channel Scotland sets up dedicated Covid 19 page

Communities Channel Scotland has set up this dedicated [webpage](#) which will provide regular updates on support and sharing of ideas on community responses to the outbreak.

Covid 19 and the Production of Statistics and Social Research

Statisticians and researchers within The Scottish Government and other public bodies collect, analyse and publish official statistics and research reports to help government, business and the public make informed decisions.

“The coronavirus illness (COVID-19) is a significant challenge to us all, and we are working with colleagues across the Government Statistical Service and Government Social Research profession, to ensure that Scotland along with the UK as a whole has the vital information needed to respond to the immediate and longer term impacts of this pandemic on our society and economy.

This means we will need to change our usual operations, to ensure we are able to support the government's response to this crisis as well as providing the necessary information when it is needed the most.

We also need to consider what it is right and appropriate for us to be asking data providers and respondents to supply to us at this time, given the pressures on key areas and staff. We will be making urgent decisions around which data collections can be paused, or in some cases cancelled.

The changes to our work, and data collections and research activity, will mean that the production of some statistics and planned research outputs will need to be suspended. It could also affect the quality of some of our other statistics, in terms of accuracy, or the level of detail available, such as less commentary or fewer breakdowns. There will be new outputs related to COVID-19.

Given that some statistics and research outputs will be even more important during this period, whereas others less so, decisions will be made on a case by case basis, prioritising what is relevant to the current situation, and we will be open and transparent about decisions made and the potential effects on our statistics and research. Throughout this process, we will remain guided by the Code of Practice for Statistics in publishing official statistics, that are of **public value**, are **high quality** and can be **trusted**, as well as the Government Social Research Code and publication protocol.

The latest information on our planned outputs or postponements will continue to be available on our [release calendar](#).

The Office for Statistics Regulation have also issued a [statement](#) about their approach to regulating our statistical work at this time.”

Public Health Scotland launches

Scotland's new national public health body, Public Health Scotland, launched on Wednesday 1st April 2020.



Public Health Scotland takes up the challenge of improving and protecting the health and wellbeing of Scotland's people against the backdrop of an unprecedented public health emergency. The new organisation will play a significant part in the country's response to the COVID-19 outbreak, working in collaboration with NHS Boards, the Scottish Government, Local Authorities and many others to protect the nation's health and save lives.

Public Health Scotland will be jointly accountable to both the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA). It brings the functions of Health Protection Scotland and Information Services Division (formally within NHS National Services Scotland) together with NHS Health Scotland.

Visit the Public Health Scotland website [here](#). Follow Public Health Scotland on Twitter [here](#).

Covid 19, Alcohol and Drugs

The Covid 19 pandemic has implications across all policy areas and alcohol and drugs is no different. There are numerous issues that have and will arise for those working with people with alcohol or drug issues, on people who use alcohol and drugs (whether they already use alcohol and drugs problematically or whether the current crisis might lead to problematic use) disruption to drug markets, and in the area of law enforcement around drugs.

This article pulls together some of the main developments and issues arising from the Covid 19 outbreak.

Alcohol

Those with current problematic alcohol use will often have health co-morbidities that make them even more vulnerable during the Covid 19 epidemic. People with alcohol problems will often suffer from mental health problems including anxiety and depression, and may be more likely to suffer from numerous physical health problems – both of which weaken the immune system.

Alcohol continues to be marketed in shops, in the media and on the internet and suppliers will make home deliveries during the current crisis. Many people already drink more than the recommended low risk guidance of no more than 14 units per week. The fact that alcohol may no longer be consumed in public places, increases risks related to home drinking, where alcohol is cheaper, compounded by the stress that the current situation is causing. Most people who experience harms from alcohol are not in touch with alcohol services. Opportunities for statutory authorities to identify people who may be most at risk from the current situation are limited, unless that person has been receiving treatment. People with the most severe alcohol-related problems are often multiply disadvantaged, in their living contexts as well as in experiencing stigma and discrimination, including in their access to public services.

New Guidance on Covid 19 and people with alcohol related problems

Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems has put together guidance for those working with people with alcohol related problems during the Covid 19 epidemic.

It provides recommendations for Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs), Commissioners, Alcohol Service Managers, Community Services and Mutual Aid and Support Groups, to enable them to reduce risks and ensure continued support for people with alcohol-related problems in the context of COVID-19.

You can download this guidance [here](#).

Read the full alcohol section including advice on safer drinking at home & suggested social media posts [here](#).

Drugs

There are particular challenges in relation to Scotland's population of people who have a drug problem.

Over half of the 60,000 people with drug problems are over the age of 35 and have multiple morbidities, often including COPD – a group of lung conditions that cause breathing difficulties. People can also have a temporarily lowered immune system due to use of different drugs even where they do not have significant underlying conditions. As a result, they are a very vulnerable and high risk group in relation to COVID-19.

Guidance has been produced on contingency planning for people who use drugs and COVID-19 and has been shared with all Alcohol and Drug Partnerships and all drug services in Scotland.

This Guidance has been produced by Scottish Drug Forum and partners including the Sexual Health and BBV Prevention Leads Group with support from Scottish Government. The intention of the Guidance is to support local areas and services in their contingency planning for COVID-19 in relation to people who use drugs and particularly the provision of opiate substitution treatment and injecting equipment provision. Download the guidance [here](#).

COVID-19 and Domestic Abuse



For many people, social distancing and self-isolation will mean spending increased periods of time with

perpetrators of abuse. Victims/survivors may also experience increased anxiety and threat at the prospect of an abuser knowing that they are home.

To support the safety and wellbeing of women and children during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Scottish Government are providing [additional grants](#) to the charities Scottish Women's Aid and Rape Crisis Scotland. Scottish Women's Aid will receive £1.35 million over six months and Rape Crisis Scotland will receive £226,309 over six months.

On 19 March 2020, Scottish Women's Aid published a [statement](#) that discusses some of the COVID-19 impacts on their services, along with the support that remains available: "For some Women's Aid groups, this pandemic means moving to new ways of working – including providing their service over the phone, online, by text or by email. Women seeking support during this time should still reach out to their local Women's Aid group, contact details for all of them are available on our website. Our staff can still help with the same safety planning, emotional support and referrals for other services that they would do in person, and some groups are still running in-person appointments. Individual groups' responses are under constant review, and each group will make decisions about the provision of their service based on information as it becomes available."

"In all of this, frontline services, the police and the justice system must be particularly attuned to the dynamics of domestic abuse and the ways that it restricts the freedoms of the women, children and young people who experience it."

"Our website has a wealth of information on it and we would encourage professionals with questions about their practice during this time to reach out to us."

There are many resources available if you or somebody you know is affected by domestic abuse. **Scotland's 24-hour Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline is available at 0800 027 1234** or www.sdafmh.org.uk/. Specially trained staff are available to offer support and information for anyone experiencing domestic abuse, those concerned about someone else and professionals with questions. While it may not be safe to call the helpline whilst a perpetrator is in the home, there are online contact forms available and staff can arrange phone calls at a time that is safe and convenient.

In an emergency, always be ready to call 999. Further resources:

Scottish Women's Aid: <https://womensaid.scot/>

Rape Crisis Scotland: National Helpline on 08088 01 03 02 (6pm to midnight, 7 days a week) or www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk/. You can also text them at 07537 410027.

Refuge: National Helpline on 0808 2000 247 or <https://www.refuge.org.uk/>

National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0300 999 5428/0800 999 5428 or galop.org.uk/report

Further support and local services for women: www.mygov.scot/domestic-abuse/support-for-female-victims/

Further support and local services for men: <https://www.mygov.scot/domestic-abuse/support-for-male-victims/>

Elder Abuse Charity warns of Coronavirus 'pressure cooker'

Hourglass' CEO Richard Robinson made a statement for *The National* on the impact of new government measures on older people in Scotland, citing new research showing that 25% of people in Scotland fail to see "acts of domestic violence directed towards an older person" as abuse.

Read the full article [here](#).

Covid 19 and Homelessness



On 25th March the Scottish Government announced legislation to stop evictions in the private and social sectors for up to six months. On 18th March the Government announced a £350 million fund to support welfare and wellbeing for those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will be made available to councils, charities, businesses and community groups, and includes to support some of the most vulnerable members of society, including homeless people. The full details of the fund are available [here](#).

Temporary Accommodation

Local authorities have been securing additional funding and accommodation to support homeless people. For example, the [City of Edinburgh Council](#) have increased their supply of temporary accommodation, and this is being made available to those most at risk, those who need to self-isolate, and to families. Wheatley, Scotland's largest housing, care and property-management group is making [empty homes available to local authorities](#) as temporary accommodation for the homeless. Wheatley Group will offer empty properties to the four local authorities it has a strategic agreement with: Glasgow, Edinburgh, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian.

Food security

[Social Bite](#) have re-deployed their kitchens, cafes and teams to produce and deliver free food and supplies to those who need them throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This will include homeless people; families that were relying on free school meals and are now

without access; and those who have been made redundant due to the crisis and are in food poverty.

Housing and homelessness advice

Shelter Scotland have created a [coronavirus and housing information](#) page for advice on rights and updates to legislation. Citizens Advice Scotland have also set up a [coronavirus advice page](#) with useful advice on topics like benefit entitlements, rent and bill payments.

If you are working with clients experiencing homelessness or housing issues and need advice, Shelter [Scotland's Welfare Reform Advisory Service](#) (ScotWRAS) remains open weekdays between 10am to 3pm. The team are working from home and you can call them on 0344 515 1310 or email scotwras@shelter.org.uk.

New funding for Homelessness Charity

The Scottish Government has provided £300,000 to enable the homeless charity, Simon Community Scotland, to provide hotel accommodation for all rough sleepers in Edinburgh and Glasgow during the pandemic, with "move on plans" for everyone. Move on plans are detailed plans enabling individuals to move on from emergency accommodation to more long term, appropriate housing which may have support provided.

Housing & Coronavirus: Blog by Spice

Homeless people are especially vulnerable to catching coronavirus (COVID-19). Infections are likely to be common amongst the homeless population.

[Scotland has the highest number of homeless deaths in the United Kingdom](#), with 35.9 homeless deaths per million people recorded in 2018, compared with 16.8 per million people in England.

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

Latest Neighbourhood Watch News and Updates



Neighbourhood Watch SCOTLAND

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland members and communities have been responding positively to the coronavirus COVID-19 situation and making a real impact within their local communities. The Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Team has been hearing many good stories of support as well as requests for support and guidance.

This is challenging times for us all - health, safety and wellbeing must be our top priorities and at the heart of every decision we make. We must all do our part to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and must follow the guidance and best practices from the NHS and Government. The most important actions we can all take is to do everything we can to avoid becoming ill and placing further pressure on the NHS and other emergency services.

Sign up to the Neighbourhood Watch Alert System for regular updates here.

Scams Awareness

We are also concerned about scams and fraud that may arise as people take advantage of the crisis and will continue to gather insights into coronavirus COVID-19 scams and crimes. Advice and guidance is continually being updated and we will do our best to keep you informed. [This link](#) from Trading Standards Scotland contains good, relevant and updated information.

You can find the full list of resources to support awareness around scams on the [SCSN website](#).

Also, [follow and retweet](#) Fearless.org who are currently running a doorstep crime awareness campaign.

Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams.

Be aware of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits - these are only offered by NHS.
- Vaccines or miracle cures - there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products.
- Shopping or medication collection services.
- Home cleaning services.

Protect yourself and others:

- Don't be rushed into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- Only purchase goods from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.
- Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front. If someone attempts to pressurise you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if you are unsure.

Be a good friend, help to protect your family, friends and neighbours from scams.

Read it.
Share it.
Prevent it.

#Coronavirus
#ScamAware



Contact
For advice on scams call Advice Direct (Scotland) on **0808 164 6000**
To report a scam call Police Scotland on **101**
Contact your bank if you think you have been scammed.

NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS

Scams Team

To learn more about the different types of scams visit www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk

Latest Home Safety Updates from across Scotland

Accident Free, Avoid A&E

Family Safety Week/Covid 19 campaign

RoSPA has launched a new campaign urging people to stay safe at home and help the NHS by staying out of A&E.

The campaign has a simple message: "Prevent accidents, Protect your family, Help the NHS. We want to keep everyone injury free throughout the pandemic and social distancing measures, to ensure the country is easing pressure on our vital frontline health workers."

But, as more accidents happen at home than anywhere else (with 6,000 accidental deaths per year) and with more people spending more time at home now than ever before, we've got a lot of work to do.

RoSPA has developed a new information hub at www.rospa.com/AccidentFree, where everyone who is affected by social distancing measures – whatever their age and circumstances – can find information that is relevant to them. Please do point your contacts to this webpage for help with accident prevention.

You can support the campaign by following [RoSPA on Twitter](#) and sharing tweets.



How safe is your work from home setup?

Electrical Safety First finds many people working from home due to pandemic may be overloading sockets, daisy-chaining and charging devices on beds

As huge numbers of people working from home adapt to a new working routine, many may be putting themselves at unnecessary risk due to unsafe electrical setups and practices, a Charity is warning.

Research conducted by consumer safety charity Electrical Safety First has looked into the dangers to which a nation of newly remote workers may be unknowingly exposing themselves.

With increased use of electrical equipment in many homes such as work laptops, tablets, phones and heaters, a new survey by the Charity has found more than two thirds of those currently working from home are using extension leads or adaptors with the electronic device they're working on and 38 per cent of them have more appliances plugged into one than they usually would.

Read the article in full [here](#).



In other news...

news

Measuring What Matters Case Study - SCSN & Evaluation Support Scotland

Article by Nicola Swan, Evaluation Support
Scotland

One of our programmes of work disrupted by the COVID 19 crisis is *Measuring what Matters*. While day to day activity on this programme has had to pause, we can share some key messages and learning so far.

Last year SCSN worked with Evaluation Support Scotland (ESS) to bring together practitioners from across the sector to develop an evaluation framework to help those working in the field to have a better understanding about their **outcomes** and how to **measure** what matters in their work to prevent unintentional harm. The tool helps to shift the balance from measuring only what can be counted (such as number of people, number of events) to measuring outcomes for people. The framework, in draft format, is hosted on in the [Building Safer Communities Hub](#).

Since then, SCSN and ESS have offered practitioners across the sector the opportunity to test the framework. Eleven projects are part of the testing phase, which involves accessing bespoke support from ESS to apply the framework to their work, creating a simple evaluation plan, putting their plans into action and then sharing their learning through case studies and blogs.

Participating projects are:

1. Home safety visits, Fife CAREs
2. NHS Highland older people falls prevention
3. Safer North Ayrshire partnership
4. Home safety visits, Perth and Kinross Home Safety Partnership
5. The Risk Factory, Edinburgh
6. Port Glasgow new parents' initiative, SFRS and Inverclyde Council
7. RoSPA
8. Podiatry service, South Lanarkshire unintentional injuries group
9. Road safety for young drivers, SFRS Dumfries
10. Fire and home safety services, Wheatley Group
11. Staying active, Red Cross

The **Risk Factory**, a purpose-built safety education centre, are keen to test the framework because they are increasingly being asked to report on outcomes, rather than activities alone. Caroline Wilson, who runs the Risk Factory, highlights that evaluation is a challenge as they are visited by 8000 children each year and have limited contact with children when they return to school. ESS worked with Caroline to identify outcomes and indicators relevant to their work. The Risk Factory outcomes include helping children better understand risks and what to do in emergency situations.

Read the article in full [here](#).

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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! Email info@scsn.org.uk





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