



Learning Report

On Monday 26th June, the SCSN and CoSLA, hosted an in person and online conference event at CoSLA HQ, Edinburgh. The event was an opportunity to learn more about various topical community safety issues, with the opportunity for discussion. The conference was also a fantastic opportunity to bring people together again, post-pandemic, to network in person.

Over 40 people attended, with 43 in person and 6 online.

On the day, we had sessions from:

The Place Standard Tool with Sam Whitmore, Senior Health Improvement Officer, Public Health Scotland

- **Positive Masculinity with Vicki Ridley, Senior Development Officer, No Knives Better Lives & YouthLink Scotland**

- **Home Safety with Liz Lumsden, Community Safety Manager, RoSPA; Kevin Chase, National Development Officer, SCSN**

- **Cyber Crime and Digital Harms with Dr Shane Horgan, Lecturer in Criminology, Edinburgh Napier University**

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

Introductory Context

To begin, Councillor Maureen Chalmers opened the event with a compelling call to action around multi agency working, especially regarding the Place Principle to combat pressing issues such as violence against women and girls, anti-social behaviour, social isolation and increasing vulnerability in our communities. Cllr Chalmers also stressed the importance of prevention, now more than ever to address issues such as scams and fraud as well as rising home safety fatalities.

Presentations

The Place Standard Tool

Speaker Bio:



Sam Whitmore

Sam Whitmore is originally from England but has travelled extensively and is now living in Scotland and working for Public Health Scotland. Following primary, secondary and tertiary education Sam joined the Royal Air Force and served in Germany, Belize and Northern Ireland. Upon completion of his service, he retrained as a teacher and spent three years in Bangladesh and six years in Ecuador working for an international charity offering educational opportunities to marginalised populations.

Following his return to the United Kingdom he settled in Glasgow where he worked within the Third Sector with recovering drug addicts and individuals with a cognitive impairment before joining Public Health Scotland where he is working within the Health and Wellbeing Directorate focusing on the Place Standard. His hobbies include cycling, beekeeping, cultivating an allotment and hillwalking.

Some key highlights from the presentation were:

- In taking a public health approach to inequalities, we focus on the wider environmental influences and the individual's environment such as, the economy, services, education, physical environment and social and cultural factors.
- Catching problems 'upstream' rather than 'downstream' is crucial.
- An explanation of taking a public health approach to a problem, means treating a social problem as though we need to find the cure however, it is also crucial to understand that decisions humans will make are about 70% based on emotional factors and only 30% based on rational factors (Gallup).
- The [Place Standard Tool](#) uses a public health approach and is a community engagement tool that enables practitioners to take a collective, place-based approach to solving community problems.
- The tool has various versions and can lend itself to particular issues and 'lenses' such as climate change, children and young people and violence against women and girls.

- Community safety and public health are both focused on achieving the same outcomes – that we live in safe, resilient and healthy communities, and it therefore makes sense we work together where we can.
- From looking at the Barmulloch place standard consultation, we can see examples where the place standard tool has identified community safety issues, such as; public transport, streets and spaces, traffic and parking, play and recreation and more.
- Sam was pleased to announce that both Public Health Scotland and SCSN can see the value in enabling better use of the Place Standard Tool with Community Safety Partnerships and are in discussions around how this might best happen.

For further detail – please see [presentation](#).

Positive Masculinity and the 'Imagine a Man' Toolkit

Speaker Bio:



Dr Vicki Ridley

Vicki currently works at the forefront of violence prevention, actively promoting and championing the role of youth work through the programme No Knives Better Lives in the role of Senior Development Officer with YouthLink Scotland.

Key achievements over a career in the charities sector spanning over 30 years have included; growing an organisation from scratch whilst manager of Grant on Youth, as well as architecting necessary change in long established organisations such as Canongate Youth. Prior to this Vicki delivered drug and alcohol prevention work with young people in a national organisation.

With an inside out knowledge of the needs of practitioners around engagement and facilitation with young people Vicki has had numerous publications about practicing youth work. She has designed a youth work degree programme and numerous online courses and continues to lecture.

Her most recent study and publication are around 'positive masculinity' - the result of a two year process of research and co-production with young people. This work entitled Imagine a Man calls for the wholesale adoption of a positive narrative around masculinity.

Some key highlights from the presentation were:

- Youthlink Scotland and No Knives Better Lives commissioned a piece of co-produced research called 'Imagine a Man' over a number of years surveying a large sample of young males' feelings around masculinity and how intersectionality affects this.
- They learned that – violence tends to occur where poverty and masculinity cross one another; stereotypes and expectations don't always define boys and young men's attitudes; boys take more risks than girls and this could lead them to the criminal justice system; most boys had someone they could talk to, but there was pressure to 'man up', amongst other things.

- They also learned that there were little to no resources for practitioners to use with boys around positive masculinity.
- More youth-led research looked into what young males' felt positive masculinity was. Some examples cited were – having confidence and good feelings about yourself; supporting friends and being a good role model and positive presence.
- The [Imagine a Man Toolkit](#) makes the case to: be process focused; to create conversations; build practitioner confidence; make 'positive masculinity' a common topic that evolves and contributes to the canon.
- The 'Imagine a Man' [policy briefing](#) explores what is needed from practitioners and policy makers to promote 'positive masculinity'.

For further detail – please see [presentation](#).

The Importance of Home Safety

Speaker Bios:



Liz Lumsden

Liz is a Community Safety Manager with RoSPA and brings a wealth of knowledge to all aspects of the prevention of unintentional injuries and helps to ensure that it has a high profile. She served on the Board of SCSN from 2009 to 2012 & 2019 to 2021. Liz has 28 years' experience in the field and hold a Masters in Injury Prevention and Safety Awareness.



Kevin Chase

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.

Some key highlights from the presentation were:

- 2021/22 data reports over 57,000 hospital admissions due to unintentional injury. This relates to 1 in 10 of all hospital admissions.
- The data also has gaps with 50% of records obtained not including location of incident and also does not include injuries treated by either ambulance or local GP.
- There were 2,751 deaths as a result of unintentional injury in 2021/22, while fatal road accidents over same period were 140.

- 87% of unintentional injuries in over 65s were as a result of falls. 20% of older adults who have suffered a hip fracture die within 6 months. Approximately half will never be “functional” walkers again.
- In the next 10 years, the number of people living in Scotland over 65 will be 1.7 million - an increase of approximately 35% from 2015. The population in Scotland is getting older faster than the rest of the UK. 29% of older adults don't think their homes will be suitable in 5 years, rising to 45% in next 10 years.
- What you can do - review Home Safety provision in your local area use the recent Making Adaptations Work for Older People Age Scotland as a guide. Join Home Safety Scotland Forum to network with other key partners and learn academic research.
- You can also become a RoSPA Falls Fighter at www.rospa.com/falls. This course trains people in who falls and why and how to prevent and protect against this. It is a [free resource](#).

For further detail – please see [presentation 1](#) and [presentation 2](#).

Cyber Crime and Digital Harms

Speaker Bio:



Dr Shane Hogan

Shane joined Edinburgh Napier University as a Lecturer in Criminology in August 2019 and is currently the program leader for the BSc in Policing and Criminology. He currently teaches on the topics of; policing and security, cybercrime and cybersecurity, criminological theory, online research methods, criminal justice, and surveillance at undergraduate and postgraduate level. He is currently supervising PhD candidates on cyber-resilience in activism, police community relationships, and online harassment.

Shane is an affiliate of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, the Scottish Institute of Policing Research, and also convenes the School of Applied Science Research integrity Committee. His research has been focused on the sociological study of cybercrime and cybersecurity, and police responses. In particular, his publications and presentations nationally and internationally have explored how people and organisations make sense of cybercrime, enact cybersecurity behaviours and policies in their routine everyday lives and operations. His current research portfolio explores criminalised hacking careers, community approaches to cybercrime policing, the use of online targeted adverts in crime prevention and its implications for democratic accountability, and criminological understandings of the videogame.

Shane has presented his work across the United Kingdom and internationally to academic, policy and public audiences.

Some key highlights from the presentation were:

- Cybercrime can be put into two broad categories; cyber-dependent crime (i.e. Data Theft, Ransomware, Distributed-Denial-of-Service); Cyber-enabled crime (i.e. Typically, Fraud, Extortion, identity theft)

- Harms from cybercrime are usually financial, psychological, often physical.
- Victims and those at risk are in Scottish communities, which became especially apparent during Covid-19. It is crucial that we understand that people all assess risk differently.
- Different types of assessing risk – e.g. those who think they have nothing of interest for cyber-criminals, those who think it won't happen to them, those who think there is no real way to avoid it.
- Awareness campaigns can have unintended or harmful consequences, especially if victims feel ashamed due to perceived naivety, stupidity or gullibility.
- Placing emphasis on supporting the cyber security of one another is a more profitable approach, or perhaps simply less harmful than individual focused responsabilisation campaigns.
- Approaches needs to be tailored to more than a simple demographic – they have to be culturally sensitive, emotionally resonant, and be more than a simple calculation based on assumed knowledge.
- Reporting cyber-crime needs to be made easier by giving people more clarity on what is a cyber-crime and instilling confidence that it is important and worthwhile.
- Local policing is more than just investigation, it is also about building relationships with communities, providing trust, and employing local knowledge to effective target activity. However, like cybercrime, police are not a symbol of security or reassurance for everyone so this work cannot and should not fall to them alone.

For further detail – please see [presentation](#).

Question and Answer Session

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

Q: How does Imagine a Man fit in with Mentors Against Violence and the Bystander Approach?

A: Imagine a man is much more general and adaptable and focuses on more than violence. It is focussed on building positive masculinity to benefit everyone. It is aspirational and aims to flip the narrative on toxic masculinity.

Q: Where does policing sit with preventing cybercrime in the future?

A: Policing has already started to raise awareness and specialise in this area. It is mostly national but sometimes focussed on geographical areas. Policing response in the future will depend on what new technologies come to the fore, e.g. virtual reality, AI. Upskilling is a problem, the policing role is already expanding by the day.

Q: Some local authorities have found barriers to getting data on unintentional harm, what can be done about this?

A: Collecting data for unintentional harm can be very difficult, often it depends on local relationships with police and the fire service. Partnership working should help facilitate data sharing but can suffer from changes in personnel. The RoSPA website has a lot of links to data. It is important to think about what you will do with the data before requesting it.

Feedback

Some comments on the event:

"Great session. Very relevant to local challenges"

"Alarmed at some of the Home Safety stats. This is something we really need to address better"

"Good quality speakers, varied subject matter"

"It was good to be in the room to meet people I'd only ever seen on screen"

We also had a twitter # for the day, reaching 112,865 accounts, creating 165 engagements and 3,848 impressions.