



Neighbourhood  
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[www.safercommunitiesScotland.org](http://www.safercommunitiesScotland.org)

### 'Let's take a fresh look at life's dilemmas'

Guest blog by Nicola

Hanssen, Roar Connections  
for Life



For me, community safety isn't about 'safety-ism', it is about enabling people and communities to flourish. We know that loneliness and falls are two of the most prevalent forms of unintentional harm and now older people's risk of both has skyrocketed as a result of the pandemic. Roar's organisational approach appreciates the correlation between safety, health and humanity. Our delivery is focused on the intersection between these overlapping elements. My huge frustration before lockdown was the over-dominance of the medical model and how this translates into ridged and inflexible systems and sets of expectations about what is important and places the avoidance of disease in a context-less bubble. This 'western-world' view is difficult to argue against because 'don't smoke, keep physically active, practice the Highway Code are 'the safest options' but it rarely resonates with the complexities of our lives.

Sir Michael Marmot explores this in his book, The Health Gap where he cites a set of 10 alternative top health tips, if you are poor, developed by the Centre for International Poverty Research at Bristol University. This inspired me to write an alternative top 10 health tips, if you are over 85 (I don't actually believe in pigeon holing people by age so take the number with a pinch of salt), aimed at urging clinicians and policy makers to see how an older person, who is running out of time and health, no matter which way you look at it, may want to maximise their possibilities, not just avoid harm.

**Continue reading on pages 6 & 7**

### SCSN bid a fond farewell to Gordon Paterson and welcome Elinor Findlay back to lead the Building Safer Communities team

It is with a touch of sadness that SCSN bids farewell to Gordon Paterson as the head of the Scottish Government's Building Safer Communities team.

In his years with the BSC team, we worked closely with Gordon and established a fantastic relationship with him and the wider team.

Having been seconded to a Covid response team role, Gordon will now be moving on permanently to a role within the Health Directorate. We wish him the very best of luck!

However, sad as we are to see Gordon go, we're delighted to welcome Elinor Findlay back from her own Covid secondment as his replacement! Like Gordon, we have worked closely with Elinor over a number of years, and look forward to continuing to work closely with Elinor and the BSC team in the coming years to make communities safer for everyone!

SCSN Conversations with...  
Nicola Hanssen & Clare  
Robertson, Roar Connections  
for Life - Page 3

Summary of the Scottish Crime  
and Justice Survey - Pages 4  
Why we must protect youth  
work - Page 5

Neighbourhood Watch  
Scotland News - Page 9  
Home Safety Scotland news  
Page 10



## Community Safety Support during Covid 19 Survey

We may still not be back to normal working yet, but we're busy moving forward on a number of pieces of work this summer. We're currently conducting a survey on support for Community Safety Partnerships and partner organisations during the Covid-19 pandemic

And these are currently out with CSP leads, elected members and community council chairs. We hope to be able to share these results from these surveys shortly.

## UK Nations and Ireland call

We recently hosted a call with some safer communities colleagues from the UK nations and Ireland to share experiences, responses and learning from Covid 19 in the community safety sector. We'll publish a summary of this in due course. We look forward to planned follow up calls in July and August and we'll share notes from these calls as well.

## Seminar Briefings

Our Business Support (Events) Officer Mariah Kelly is currently working on collating our notes and learning from recent online seminars we've been attending and we'll be publishing these in the near future also.

## Question of the Month

Our Question of the Month for June focussed on the ongoing demonstrations and rejuvenated campaigning on Black Lives Matter in the wake of the murder of George Floyd in the United States.

Systemic racism is also a problem in the UK, including in Scotland, with the Covid 19 pandemic highlighting structural and systemic inequalities faced by black and other minority communities.

We asked: ***'With systemic racism having been highlighted again recently, are you confident about how you involve and represent black and other minority voices in your work?'***

- 39% of respondents felt very confident
- 17% of respondents felt somewhat confident
- 44% of respondents felt not confident

## Question of the Month July 2020

Our Question of the Month for July comes from Roar Communities for Life and ties in with topics discussed in our featured blog by Nicola Hanssen.

Older people feeling that they are independent and have control over their decisions is really important, but is it wise for older people to continue to drive when their ability to do so safely might deteriorate? We're asking:

***Should over 80's have their driving ability tested annually?***

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

## SCSN Conversations with...

### Nicola Hanssen & Clare Robertson Roar Connections for Life



We recently sat down for an online conversation with Nicola Hanssen and Clare Robertson from Roar Connections for Life to discuss issues being faced by older people during the Covid 19 crisis. Nicola is the Chief Executive of Roar, whilst Clare Robertson is part of the Stay Mobile Stay Connected project.

This video is a supplement to the guest blog by Nicola Hanssen, discussing many of the topics raised in the blog as well as exploring some of the specific work Roar Connections for Life are currently engaged with, including via Stay Mobile Stay Connected.

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



## Supporting Communities Safely has been updated to reflect the latest changes to Scotland's Covid-19 response.

**[This free, online resource](#)**, developed by SCDC and Public Health Scotland, features a range of practical information and advice, with two new sections added.

The **[Test and Protect page](#)** includes details of the Scotland's contact tracing program, while the **[restarting services section](#)** provides a series of questions around how community groups could think about re-opening safely at an appropriate stage in Scotland's recovery.

In towns and villages across Scotland, community organisations and volunteers are fighting Covid 19 and this resource is designed to help them do this as safely as possible.

The resource also includes updated information around:

- How to safely promote an organisation's services
- Keeping volunteers safe and fit to provide services
- How to get help with complex care needs
- Safely collecting and delivering items
- How to cook and transport hot meals



View the resource [here](#).

## Summary from Scottish Crime & Justice Survey 2018-19

by *Hannah Dickson, SCSN Development Manager*

Full statistical publication [here](#).

The volume of crime in Scotland, including incidents not reported to the police, has fallen by 45% over the last decade and by 20% since 2016/17 from an estimated 1,045,000 incidents in 2008/09 to 573,000 in 2018/19. Most adults did not experience crime in 2018/19. The proportion of adults experiencing crime decreased from one-in-five to one-in-eight between 2008/09 and 2018/19.

The SCJS estimates that the police became aware of 36% of crime in 2018/19, a similar proportion to previous years. The relationships between confidence and trust in the police and willingness to report crime is complex and will account for some of this gap in reporting.

There were an estimated 573,000 crimes in 2018/19, of which 408,000 (71%) were property crimes and 165,000 (29%) were violent crimes. Since 2008/09 property crime has decreased by 44% whilst violent crime almost halved (down 48%) over the same time period. The 2018/19 SCJS found no statistically significant change in the level of crime (including both violent and property crime) since 2017/18.

As in previous years, crime was concentrated among victims of multiple victimisation – just under one-in-ten adults (8.9%) experienced one crime in 2018/19, victims of two or more incidents (3.5% of adults) accounted for over half (55%) of all crime in 2018/19. Repeat victims of violence (0.7% adults) are estimated to have experienced three-fifths (60%) of all violent crime in 2018/19.

The likelihood of being a victim of any crime in 2018/19 was higher for those living in the most deprived areas of Scotland, and urban locations, whilst those aged 60 and over were least likely to be victims.

Violent crime continues to be experienced disproportionately among some groups in the population. For example, despite a fall in the violent victimisation rate for 16 to 24 year olds since 2008/09, this age group has re-emerged in the 2018/19 survey as the cohort most likely

to be victims of violence.

Unlike in previous years, the SCJS detected no difference in the likelihood of experiencing violence in 2018/19 between adults living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland and those living elsewhere (3.2% and 2.0%, respectively). As a newly emerged finding for 2018/19, this will be an area to review in future surveys to see if this trend continues.

Consistent with previous years, the 2018/19 results show that most violent crimes involved offenders who were male, under the age of 40 and known (or previously seen) by the victim. Offenders being under the influence of alcohol or drugs continued to be fairly common factors in violent crime in 2018/19, though the presence of weapons was relatively uncommon and has fallen since 2010/11 (when this data was first collected in its current format).

The proportion of adults experiencing property crime has fallen from 18.0% in 2008/09 to 10.9% in 2018/19, with the estimated number of incidents occurring down by 44% over the same period. Both the volume of property crime and victimisation rate have shown stability since the previous survey in 2017/18. Vandalism continued to be the most common form of property crime experienced in Scotland (accounting for 38% of incidents) but has more than halved in volume since 2008/09.

This year's SCJS also includes analysis of new questions on cyber fraud and computer misuse, providing information on people's experiences of these types of crime. Whilst findings should be interpreted with a degree of caution due to the limited nature of the questions and how respondents may have engaged with them, the initial results suggest that cyber fraud and computer misuse were issues encountered by a sizeable minority of the population in 2018/19, and that most people did not bring such experiences to the attention of the police. One-in-five adults who use the internet said they had experienced cyber fraud or computer misuse, according to a new report. Most victims reported no impact on them but they changed their online behaviours as a result.

Read our summary in full on our [website](#).



## The approaching storm and why we must protect youth work

By Dawn Exley, Business and Development Officer

In the last months, news of funding losses to youth work services in the wake of Covid-19 have been surfacing. Despite emergency response funds being made available from the government, youth agencies report that the majority have been unable to access these pots and have already seen funds to the sector drop by £20m as a result of Covid-19, with losses of 10s of millions more expected, post-lockdown. In response, youth work leaders have issued a stark warning and plea to all political parties to invest significantly in the sector at a time when it has already been suffering the consequences of huge cuts and when its role in young peoples' recovery from the Covid-19 crisis has never been so important.

So what is it about youth work that is so vital for our nation's young people at a time like this? To begin with – [research](#) has shown the pivotal role youth work has in enhancing health and well-being, tackling poverty, increasing school attainment and employment, protecting children's rights and developing resilience. These areas, as well as the value and impact young people have identified youth work as having on their confidence, experience of inclusion and

equality, ability to form relationships and life skills have a huge part to play in a prevention agenda leading to safer and healthier communities at the best of times. Under normal circumstances, youth work is already a highly subscribed but underfunded resource. Its success in working with those living under challenging circumstances is often attributed to its uniquely voluntary nature which helps build trusted and long-term supportive relationships – something now widely recognised through research on [Adverse Childhood Experiences](#) as vital in developing resilience.

Given what we know, as well as the massive impact the crisis is already having on accessibility and availability to youth work and it's excellent primary prevention functions - the idea that these services will be scaled back even further is deeply concerning. Indeed, as I write this blog, information is trickling through daily regarding the effect the Covid-19 crisis is already having and will most likely have on our young people. One incredibly enlightening piece of research has been the [Lockdown Lowdown](#) done by Youthlink Scotland which puts the spotlight on the extreme pressure and worry young people are feeling at this time around a myriad of issues. These, alongside the new impact of isolation and for some bereavement, all in all, could no doubt create a 'perfect storm' in the months to come.

Read this blog post in full on [our website](#).

### What happens now? Knife Carrying after Covid 19 10.30am-12pm, 27th August

On Thursday 27th August, No Knives, Better Lives are hosting an online network event to discuss knife carrying after COVID-19. This event is the first in a series of online sessions aiming to build a community of practice for prevention practitioners.

During this session you will have the opportunity to connect with others, share good practice, and get an updated picture of the knife carrying landscape from the NKBL team. You will also hear from Professor Gillean McCluskey, University of Edinburgh, about restorative practices and how it relates to prevention.

This session will be hosted on Zoom and will include a short comfort break. This event is free and open to all professionals working in the prevention field in Scotland.

Find out more and register [here](#).



## Roar Connections for Life

### **Continued from front page**

The Covid19 pandemic has made us all examine our lives and the balance of risks we face as individuals, families, communities and nations. We have, in some ways, a far better understanding of the need to juggle the decisions we take and how profound the consequences are on other factors beyond reducing the spread of the virus.

As we reimagine and renew (seems to be the new terms) I want to urge people to take a fresh look at our approach to balancing risk with what a good life looks like. Families and communities have a huge role to play in this balancing act but this needs to be supported by the policy and resource frameworks created by society. We need to work in partnership across the spectrum of our institutions to test the assumptions about who we are protecting and from what!? What do we really feel about rights and responsibilities and how we should actively sign up to play our parts in enabling a culture that leads to better lives?

I lead an organisation supporting older people but I am equally passionate about the rights of young people. The pandemic has surely shown us how inter-connected and dependant on each other's actions we are – no one should be allowed to be a covidiot. We are justifiably outraged by public figures who appear to think the 'rules don't apply to them' but how many of us can say that we are never selfish when it comes to making sure our nearest and dearest are ok, even when we know this could be affecting others?

It's messy and its difficult and no one has a snappy script that fixes the complexity to replace Stay Home, Save Lives, Protect the NHS as we venture forward. We need to empower people to ask better questions of themselves and others. How about these few examples?

*Having the conversation with dad about his driving will make me unpopular and he won't be receptive to it, if he has to stop driving it may strip him of his ability to get about, he'll be at risk of being lonely and I might end up having to drive him to all his appointments but I'm really not sure if he is safe.*

This is a dilemma happening all across the county right now. What is the potential cost on someone else's life or the emergency services if we don't take a fresh look at this dilemma? Are we really waiting for his GP to tell him? There are options but neither she nor Dad know about them. How about investing in more opportunities to take a test, attend an exercise class to strengthen leg muscles, aid mobility of neck muscles, sharpen reaction times and link in with mens support groups where they can go through giving up together?

*Mum's been quite happy really during the pandemic, yes she missed her routine but she is much safer at home, I get her shopping and I've shown her how to use her Facetime, she gets to speak to the family and she's got her garden so this is her safest option.*

Another dilemma for many families, but is this right? Mum will say yes because she doesn't want to inconvenience you and she is really anxious of the world out there and all the changes however mum's risk of falls and frailty is rising daily. If she has a fall will she know how to get up and will it be the 'long lie' rather than the fall itself that means she needs to be admitted to hospital, she is likely to lose her ability to do a sit to stand and need personal care. I think we need a new dialogue on this dilemma. Almost no one want their life to shrink to a chair and that if mum could be helped to see how important her strength and balance is to her confidence, dignity and wellbeing she might overcome her fear, join a class, meet others, hear new chat and start to have a life beyond you and her 4 walls again?

*I'm a really independent 87 year old, I follow the news, I've heard all the official advice and I'm not going to let this hold me back.*

Great! But we still need a fresh look! What this older citizen doesn't know is that the facemask, acquired online, might cause some other challenges such as not being able to see where you are placing your feet as you step onto the bus, that your specs steam up, and that the action of 'donning and doffing' unless you have practiced, could mean your hands being up at your face repeatedly as you touch the surfaces around you. Your balance and grip strength have deteriorated much more than you think and when you try to reach and hold the bus handle you miss and you fall. Well how about we make sure this hits the news? That organisations are supported to give older

people an MOT to make sure they have practiced walking up their stairs at home with a facemask, that their strength and balance matches their passion for life and look at other ways we can reduce their risk of very unintentional harm?

Life has never been fuller of dilemmas but we can resolve many more of them if we start

### Stay Steady So You'll Be Ready



Enabling ideas to help you take the steps you need to get back out safely

#### Chief Medical Officer's Top Ten Tips for Health and alternative versions:

	The Chief Medical Officer's Ten Tips for Better Health	Alternative Tips	Alternative Tips for Over 85 Year Olds
1	Don't smoke. If you can, stop. If you can't, cut down.	Don't be poor. If you are poor, try not to be poor for too long.	Don't live alone. If you can't live with someone, try to meet up with people regularly.
2	Follow a balanced diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables.	Don't live in a deprived area. If you do, move.	Help yourself to that cream cake and try to start eating more fatty foods again.
3	Keep physically active.	Don't be disabled or have a disabled child.	Do any exercise that will keep you mobile and able to get off a chair and into a car.
4	Manage stress by, for example, talking things through and making time to relax.	Don't work in a stressful low-paid manual job.	Take control of your end of life goals and make the arrangements you need to make.
5	If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation.	Don't live in damp, low quality housing or be homeless.	If you drink alcohol – just make sure you are in a safe environment.
6	Cover up in the sun, and protect children from sunburn.	Be able to afford to pay social activities and annual holidays.	Go out in the sun whenever possible and keep taking holidays as long as you can.
7	Practice safer sex.	Don't be a lone parent.	Have sex. If you can't have sex try to find other ways to be touched, hugged and caressed.
8	Take up cancer screening opportunities.	Claim all benefits to which you are entitled.	Decide how much of your life you want to spend at hospital appointments and don't exceed this.
9	Be safe on the roads: follow the Highway Code.	Be able to afford to own a car.	Use any mode of transport that is safe and helps you stay connected including taxis.
10	Learn the First Aid ABC: airways, breathing and circulation.	Use education as an opportunity to improve your socio-economic position.	Get digitally included and have a device that you can contact people when you want or need.
	Source: DoH (1999) Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation. London: The Stationary Office	Source: Townsend Centre for International Poverty Research, University of Bristol	Source: Nicola Hanssen, Manager of Roar – Connections for Life



## Road Safety Scotland launch #InTownSlowDown campaign

With lockdown beginning to ease in Scotland and drivers begin to return to the roads in greater numbers, Road Safety Scotland has launched their 'In Town Slow Down' campaign to urge drivers to slow down and drive within speed limits in built up areas.

The coronavirus pandemic has created an entirely new landscape on our roads, with more people than ever travelling on foot and on bikes in their local areas. Research reveals that you are seven times more likely to kill a pedestrian if you hit them at 30mph than at 20mph, highlighting just how important it is to drive at an appropriate speed and considering the environment and conditions around you. The Scottish Government and Road Safety Scotland (part of Transport Scotland) have launched a road safety campaign to raise awareness that driving too fast in built-up areas can have devastating consequences. Running across radio, digital and social media, the campaign targets all drivers, pedestrians and people on bikes in Scotland to clearly communicate the importance of driving at an appropriate speed in our towns and cities, and highlight that all road users share the responsibility of keeping our roads safe.

Find out more on [roadsafety.scot](https://roadsafety.scot).



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### The Impact of Covid 19 on Serious Organised Crime in Scotland

A presentation by DI Ricky Hatton on horizon scanning for organisations around serious organised crime (SOC) and Covid 19.

Over recent months, scams and other acquisitive crime have significantly increased throughout the UK as a result of fraudsters using COVID-19 as a new theme for criminality. It is assessed that this area of fraud against the public sector is likely to increase as OCG's look for opportunities to exploit demand for PPE, the business grant scheme and furlough payments.

The pandemic has been widely used as a propaganda tool by SOC. As SOC adapts, so will it evolve in line with societal changes and needs. A short to long term assessment of SOC in Scotland may be a useful way of considering what lies ahead and how best to prepare organisations for the impact of that.

View the presentation [here](#).

### Warning over escalations of violence from Serious Organised Crime as lockdown eases

Simon Harding, Professor of Criminology and Director of the National Centre for Gang Research at the University of the West of London, has warned in a post on The Conversation that we may see increases in gang related violence as lockdown eases.

The article looks at how serious organised crime has adapted to the Covid 19 crisis and changed the way gangs move and distribute drugs to get them to market, also increasingly using social media to target vulnerable young people and bring them into drug dealing.

The article warns of a possible sharp increase in gang violence as we emerge from lockdown and territorial disputes and/or pent up anger and grudges are played out. Read the article in full [here](#).





# Neighbourhood Watch SCOTLAND

## NWS Update

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland have not, as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions been able to meet directly with, or engage in community meetings. This is an important and key role of NWS. We have, however continued to maintain contact with key partners by using teleconferencing and other virtual technology. We have also continued to maintain an ongoing contact with communities via phone and email thus ensuring ongoing support. Neighbourhood ALERT has, crucially, also allowed a platform for ongoing community engagement.

The Neighbourhood ALERT system plays a key role in providing locally relevant, targeted, timeous and trusted information relative to community safety. Again, this has never been so relevant or important than in the current COVID-19 crisis. Since April 2020, **279** targeted ALERTs have been sent out via the network. **104** of these ALERTs have been COVID-19 related. These 279 ALERTs have directly reached **1.1M**. Based on normal and average propagation rates for ALERTs we can assume that these ALERTs reached in excess of **3.3M**

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## NWS Summer Newsletter Published

The Neighbourhood Watch Scotland summer 2020 newsletter has just been published. The summer newsletter looks back over the last few months of developments at Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, including that NWS has joined in partnership with SCSN, and the appointment of Stewart Prodger as NWS Chairman. Other news stories include:

- NWS partner with Selectamark to offer deal on forensic marking of property
- Update on the NWS ALERT system
- Focus on Secured By Design
- Water Safety updates
- Local Neighbourhood Watch updates
- SPARC update
- Trading Standards Scotland updates



You can download a copy of the NWS newsletter [here](#).

## Home Safety Scotland News and Updates

HOME  
SAFETY  
SCOTLAND



### RoSPA: Free Fire Safety Webinar

Join RoSPA for their third webinar on home safety on Thursday the **16th July at 10.00 am**. Following the success of their previous webinars, this one will look at Fire Safety in the home. The free session for families will take approximately 20 minutes and will consider fire hazards within the home environment as well as topics such as BBQ safety, and highlight methods of prevention. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will join to give this important presentation.

Sign up for the webinar [here](#).



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### Electrical Product Safety Conference Online 2020

Now in its 12th year, but it's 1st year as a free online mini-conference, The Electrical Product Safety Conference will bring together experts and leaders from across the industry to explore critical issues, solutions and insight in safer electrical products – from conception, through manufacture and production to sale.



We encourage our speakers not only to share their best practice cases, but also to look to the future on upcoming developments the electrical product sector.

If you want to future-proof your business, get feedback about your ideas from fellow professionals and meet potential clients - you are in the right place to do it.

This is a must-attend event for designers, retailers, manufacturers, product testing houses, regulators, trading standards, Government bodies and safety experts.

**JOIN** over 200 leading industry professionals from global retail brands, design, manufacture, import and distribution of electrical goods, lawyers, testing houses, safety experts and government bodies.

**LEARN** from expert speakers looking at the latest trends, innovations and critical issues in electrical product safety.

**SHARE** ideas, findings, innovations and knowledge during lectures, panel discussions and breakout sessions.

Find out more and register for  
the conference [here](#).

## In other news...

news

### Free workshops: Data Privacy and Surveillance in the age of Covid 19

Tuesday 14th July, 3pm-4pm

Exclusive for public servants and policy makers

There are at least [27 countries](#) currently using data from cell phone companies to track entire populations and analyse the spread of COVID-19. Mobile phones are meant to be personal and private; **government-sanctioned surveillance efforts, however well-meant, raise serious concerns about the future of data privacy.**

Who has access to this data? How is it being used? What measures can be put in place to reduce the risk of privacy breaches? And, how can we preserve data privacy during COVID-19 and beyond?

Join this online workshop to learn **how to enforce quarantine regulation without compromising fundamental data privacy rights.**

Experienced public servants will discuss what privacy and data protection issues have arisen during the current crisis, along with the best practices public policy innovators can take to prevent and resolve data privacy breaches.

Find our more and book your place [here](#).

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### Glasgow LGBTQI Substance Use Partnership launch new #KinderStrongerBetter campaign and website

We were delighted to attend the recent launch of the new LGBTQ+ alcohol and harm reduction campaign and website for Glasgow and beyond - #KinderStrongerBetter. The community co-produced campaign features four new short videos with key messages around alcohol and drug harm reduction, with a focus on kindness and not judging people with alcohol and drug issues. You can view the videos and find out more on the new campaign website - [kinderstrongerbetter.org](http://kinderstrongerbetter.org)



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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](mailto:info@scsn.org.uk)





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