



*Latest news and updates*

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

### Scottish Fire and Rescue #MAKETHECALL campaign launched



**SCOTLAND's firefighters are calling on communities to help stop preventable deaths in house fires – by making a five-minute phone call.**

Make the Call is a hard-hitting appeal to carers, family and friends of those who are at risk of serious injury or even death because of an accidental fire in their home.

There has been a sharp increase in the number of people who have passed away following fires in homes in Scotland. The latest statistics show that more than 20 people who are over the age of 50, smoke and either have mobility issues, live alone, or use medical oxygen have already been injured, some seriously, by such fires between January 1 and April 30 this year. Tragically, 12 of those people sadly passed away.

SFRS is now appealing to communities across Scotland to help save a life and consider home fire safety when checking in on vulnerable neighbours, patients, friends and family members during lockdown and to put them in touch with SFRS wherever possible using the free Home Fire Safety Visit phone-line.

Many of the people who passed away were not known to the SFRS which can offer guidance, advice and free Home Fire Safety Visits to carers and family or directly to those at greatest risk. Read more on this story [here](#).

### Publication of Independent Review of the 2016 Report on Marches, Parades and Static Demonstrations in Scotland



We are really pleased to be able to share this report by Dr Michael Rosie. [This report](#) provides a comprehensive update to the original 2016 report and we look forward to continuing to work with partners and the SG on the set of recommendations.

The Scottish Government's response to this review has also been published.

Both documents are available on the Scottish Government website. You can find the Scottish Government response at the link below:

[Scottish Government Response to the Review of the 2016 Independent Report on Marches, Parades and Static Demonstrations in Scotland](#)

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## Consultation Response: Research to understand the impact of Covid 19 on communities

We have recently submitted a consultation response to the Scottish Government's research into the impact of Covid-19 on communities from an organisational perspective.

Download the response [here](#).

Our submission details what we at SCSN do and how our work has changed to respond to Covid-19 and continue to support our community safety members and partners and the communities they serve.

At this time, our work has been focused on gathering evidence and sharing key messages through many different ways such as social media, our website, briefing papers, polls, blogs and surveys to name a few. We have also been more involved in 'influencing' by feeding into scrutiny and other decision making processes.

## WE'RE MOVING!



We're on the move again! We are remaining with SCVO but are moving to their flagship office space in

**Mansfield Traquair Centre  
15 Mansfield Place  
Edinburgh, EH3 6BB**

We look forward to getting into our new office space when it's safe to do so!

## Question of the Month

There has been a lot of recent talk about the 'new normal'. Governments, organisations and communities have had to quickly adapt and consider how we might have to adapt longer term to a changed reality, with Covid 19 likely to be with us for some time and also looking to when the pandemic is over. We wanted to know whether people felt optimistic for a better 'new normal' in community safety issues post Covid 19.

- 69% said Yes
- 12% said No
- 19% said Not sure

## Question of the Month June 2020

Our Question of the Month for June is themed on the recent Black Lives Matter protests in the wake of George Floyd murder. We're asking:

***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?***

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



Writing to or  
tweeting your  
MP/MSP

# #BlackLivesMatter

Take action by:



Following:

@ukblm @AoP\_Scotland  
@SRtRCScotland @cemvoscot  
@crer\_scotland @ukblackpride  
@RunnymedeTrust @bemis\_scotland  
@scotrefcouncil @Blklivesmatter

Donating to  
BAME  
organisations



SCSN has been following recent developments around the Black Lives Matter campaigns and protests following the killing of George Floyd in the United States. There will be much for us all to think about in the context of these demonstrations taking place both in the United States and the UK. The United Kingdom and Scotland are far from immune to our own issues with systemic racism, highlighted not least by the exposure of racial inequalities by the Covid 19 pandemic (see the recent Public Health England report [here](#)). Despite the lack of recommendations, this report provides clear evidence that systematic racism leads to health inequalities .

Work is [currently being carried out](#) by Public Health Scotland on the impact of Covid 19 on ethnic minorities after initial findings showed no sign of an increased risk for BAME people in Scotland, though PHS has said low volume and incomplete data has limited the conclusions that can be drawn.

## SCSN on Black Lives Matter

We have chosen to ask our Question of the Month on this issue. We all need to think about what we can proactively do to ensure that black lives matter.

We stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter. We stand FOR human rights, the right to peaceful protest and the right to safety. We stand AGAINST racism, violence and hate. BAME communities experience violence more than white people. We cannot stand by and say or do nothing.

Historically, Britain and Scotland have played a major role in exporting racism and racial segregation to many countries around the world - not least the United States - including via the slave trade. Read this [excellent article](#) in the Guardian for more on this.

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## Police Scotland message on Reporting of Hate Crime during Covid 19

Police Scotland continue to urge victims and witnesses of hate crime to report it during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Police Scotland is fully committed to keeping people safe and protecting all our communities and acknowledge communities and individuals may feel vulnerable as a result of COVID-19.

A hate crime can include name calling, harassment, graffiti or a physical attack motivated by prejudice or ill-will towards a social group. Social groups covered by hate crime legislation are disability, race, religion, sexual orientation and transgender identity. What you may view as a minor incident can have a major impact and we

want to assure you that any form of hate crime will not be tolerated and will be fully investigated.

Should you experience or witness such an incident, please report it to us by calling 101, or 999 in an emergency, or by using our [online hate crime reporting form](#) on the Police Scotland website.

If you do not feel comfortable reporting the matter directly to Police, there is a network of Third Party Reporting (TPR) Centres available to provide support remotely during the current situation. Although, at the moment, you cannot attend a TPR centre in person, many organisations are now offering an option to report an incident over the telephone or via e-mail. Please visit the [TPR page of the Police Scotland website](#) for more information on Third Party Reporting and for a list of active centres.

## Focus on Crime



# crime

### **Criminals seek to exploit the Covid 19 outbreak**

#### **Organised Crime Groups targeting vulnerable**

Criminals are exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic and playing on the fears of businesses and the public, Scotland's Serious Organised Crime Taskforce has heard.

Organised crime groups are now focusing on targeting those most vulnerable at home and in the care sector, including:

- a care home in the Forth Valley area was left without a PPE order after the supplier claimed they had not received the £10,000 payment, despite it being sent. A police investigation showed that the payment had been moved from the bank account it was paid into and they believe organised criminals were behind it
- a number of reports of people knocking

doors and offering to disinfect the householder's driveway to rid it of any COVID-19 for a fee

- businesses emailed by scammers urging them to click on an official-looking link for a £25,000 grant. The link leads to a fake 'UK Government'-branded website asking for business and banking details
- £10,000 fraud intercepted by Scottish Borders Council when an application for a business support grant was hacked by criminals who requested the redirection of the payment to a different bank account. Due to the checks in place the council were alert to the scam and the money was not paid out

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### **Report: Crime and Problem Gambling**

The Commission for Crime and Problem Gambling, part of the Howard League, has published a [new report](#) on Crime and Problem Gambling.

Some of the key findings include:

- There is a clear relationship between disordered gambling and crime, with high prevalence rates of crimes being committed by people in order to fund their gambling (Williams et al, 2005)
- A wide variety of crimes are committed as a result of gambling addiction;
- There is a complex interplay of causes of crime linked with the causes of disordered gambling
- Certain demographics are more likely to commit crimes, in addition to having increased vulnerability to gambling addiction
- The more complex, prolonged and persistent the gambling problem, the

more likely that a crime will be committed and, indeed, that many crimes may result

- There has been a growing understanding that gambling addiction is a behavioural disorder, however, little of this has been translated to sentencing; problem gambling is not considered to be a mitigating factor in sentencing in the way mental health problems or drug and alcohol addiction are.
- And issues with problem gambling in prisons, issues with treating this issue in prison and unclear how it impacts upon reoffending rates.

The Commission has undertaken a first [call for written evidence](#) which provided international examples examining the links between crime and problem gambling;

They continue to hold [evidence sessions](#) to hear oral evidence from witnesses with insight into crime and problem gambling.

To receive more information contact [Anita.Dockley@howardleague.org](mailto:Anita.Dockley@howardleague.org)

## Increased funding to support victims of Human Trafficking announced



Increased funding of £1.5 million has been announced for support services working with victims of human trafficking.

Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf made the announcement as the annual progress report and statutory review of Scotland's Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy was published.

The Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance (TARA) has been awarded £581,252 while Migrant Help will receive £922,065.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has also been awarded £120,000 to continue providing a national psychological trauma support service to adult trafficking victims at The Anchor.

Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf said: "Victims of human trafficking are some of the most vulnerable adults and children in society, and are targeted by organised criminals who prey upon their vulnerabilities. This Scottish Government funding will help our partners support those who have fallen into the hands of unscrupulous individuals."

## Annual Progress Report

Each year since 2013, the number of trafficking victims identified in Scotland has increased. In 2018, 228 potential victims of trafficking and exploitation were identified rising to 512 in the year to 31 December 2019 – an increase of 125%. Greater understanding and awareness of trafficking is supporting increased levels of identification which is in part a result of work by the Scottish Government and partners to implement the Strategy.

This progress report details a significant amount of work that has been undertaken in the three years since the publication of the strategy, but acknowledges that a revised strategy may be useful in the medium to long term.

Key changes that have been identified as areas of focus for a revised strategy include:

- A need to consider gendered aspects of human trafficking and exploitation
- Whether to make Child Trafficking a fourth Action Area & reviewing the Child Trafficking Strategy Group - particularly around child criminal exploitation, including the practice known as County Lines
- Considering longer term outcomes for victims of trafficking

View the Annual Progress Report [here](#).

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## Covid 19 Lockdown halts surge in Modern Slavery

The number of suspected modern slavery victims identified in the UK has fallen for the first time in four years due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Home Office has said, raising concerns that the pandemic is having a negative impact on reporting and driving victims further underground.

Officials said the decrease "is understood to have been influenced by the effects of restrictions implemented in the UK as part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic".

The UK's national referral mechanism (NRM), the official system through which victims of modern slavery are identified and provided with support, received 2,871 referrals of potential victims in the first quarter of 2020 – a 14% fall from the previous three months. This is the first quarter-on-quarter fall since 2016. View the latest statistical bulletin [here](#).

### Scottish Government Vulnerable Children Report published

This is the second report from the Scottish Government with SOLACE and other partners, on the impact of COVID-19 and the lockdown on children and families, and on the ways that services for children have responded. It identifies critical issues for services for children going forward.

This informative report comes with insights into the impacts on Covid19 pandemic on children and families and considerations for the next stages, which in particular can be found in the section on [transformation of services](#). It picks up on many of the issues SCSN has heard about the negative impact of Covid 19, but also picks up on some of the real opportunities for changing how services work.

Some particular sections we picked up on that may resonate and be of interest included:

- Statistics on COPFS SCRA referrals decreasing regarding young people in the justice system, as well as a decrease in 'concern' referrals and people under age 14 attending A&E.
- recognising that as well as reporting on the challenges for families during the lockdown, 3rd sector organisations and others report that they have seen many families thrive over the past eight weeks. The Chief Executive of Children in Scotland says: "we have seen families finding their way through this crisis, often without having to ask for help from services, and through being resilient."
- The Chief Executive of Children 1st says: "there are some incredible stories of strength coming from the children and families that we get alongside" and also that "there are really interesting insights about the relief families feel as they have fewer professional systems and 'helpers' to deal with. We should have conversations about reaching deep into communities, to help find the solutions." The Convenor of Social Work Scotland has responded: "our social workers are hearing the same message....this is a time to reflect."

You can read the report in full [here](#).

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#### **School re-openings will not necessarily help protect vulnerable children**

[This article](#) featured in 'The Conversation' discusses whether vulnerable children returning to schools necessarily have the benefits being claimed by the UK government, appraising the risks to vulnerable children staying at home - e.g. parental neglect/abuse, parental stress, vulnerability to sexual exploitation via spending more time online - versus the potential risks that exist for vulnerable children within schools - e.g. bullying, abuse from other children and adults supposed to be caring for them. There is also some evidence that other forms of child victimisation, such as County Lines exploitation, has decreased during the pandemic.

#### **Covid 19 Wellbeing and Online Spaces Survey**

This [anonymous survey](#) explores the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and consequential closures of education establishments, on young people (12-24) in Scotland. This project is specifically concerned with emotional wellbeing, the availability of online services, and instances of online bullying behaviours and rates of prejudice (harmful opinions or attitudes against groups of people). All responses to this survey are entirely confidential. Data collected from this survey will support the research and potential development of services and resources for young people and education establishments in the aftermath of and response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Covid 19 Impact Surveys: Scottish Public Health Observatory

Public Health Scotland has compiled an [overview of surveys, polls and qualitative studies](#) which are expected to provide information on the impact of COVID-19 and pandemic response measures on the health and wellbeing of the population of Scotland.

The inclusion / exclusion criteria mean that studies are included only where:

- (i) Information is being collected on the population of Scotland (including UK surveys with a smaller Scottish sample)
- (ii) Findings are being (or are expected to be) made publicly available
- (iii) The target population is the general population or a specific population subgroup (e.g. parents, or young people with lived experience of mental health problems); surveys of professional groups (e.g. teachers, NHS staff) are excluded
- (iv) The study is confirmed as going ahead, i.e. studies at the planning or funding application stage are excluded

Read more [here](#).

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### Covid 19: State of Civil Society Report Published

The annual State of Civil Society Report analyses key events and trends impacting on civil society, and civil society responses to the major challenges of the day. The ninth edition of our report focuses on the main trends from 2019. This report is about, from and for civil society, drawing on 50 interviews with civil society activists, leaders and experts, as well as CIVICUS's ongoing research, analysis and advocacy programmes.

As the report's overview section makes clear, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, accelerated and further exposed crucial global challenges that came to the fore in 2019: restricted civic and democratic freedoms, economic policies that fail most people, widespread exclusion, limited international cooperation and a failure to follow the science and act on the global emergency of climate change.

The report calls for civil society to be recognised as crucial partners in the struggle to build a better post-pandemic world. It suggests that the experiences of civil society strategies deployed and many successes won in 2019, as detailed in the report's pages, can guide a way out of the crisis and help resolve the profound economic, social and political problems that preceded the pandemic.

Download the report in full [here](#).

### Homeless Solutions must continue after Lockdown



Charities across the country have joined up to push the government to end 'sticker plaster solutions' to homelessness post-lockdown.

The collective of 19 organisations, known as Everyone Home, includes leading homeless and welfare charities.

They have agreed a "triple-lock" of measures to protect the progress that has been made during lockdown and underpin next steps.

These include prioritising prevention, creating as much housing capacity as possible and ending avoidable evictions and the threat of illegal evictions.

Read [this article](#) in full on Third Force News.

## No Knives Better Lives Peer Education Programme: Invitation to tender

No Knives, Better Lives (NKBL) is a Scottish Government initiative delivered by YouthLink Scotland that aims to reduce the incidence of knife carrying amongst young people by raising awareness of the related risks and consequences. It is a national initiative that is delivered at a local level.

The NKBL programme supports local NKBL partners to develop and deliver innovative approaches to knife crime prevention which are informed both by the contribution of a youth work approach to prevention outcomes.

NKBL are looking to appoint an independent organisation/freelancer/company/individual to produce a relevant and accessible peer education programme for the 2020/21 No Knives, Better Lives (NKBL) programme. They are particularly interested in innovative approaches that use digital technology as part of the programme.

If you are interested in applying for the contract, you can download the invitation to tender [here](#).

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## New Fearless youth campaign on harms caused by drug dealers

As part of their covid-19 youth campaigns in Scotland, Fearless are raising awareness of the harm drug dealers can inflict on young people.

To do this, they've created 4 short stories based on real-life case studies. These highlight how drug dealers can prey on those going through difficult times including bereavement and family problems. The stories also raise awareness of the ways drug dealing gangs can exploit young people through county lines and cuckooing.

Fearless is making a difference every day, but couldn't do this without YOUR support.

If you know who is selling or involved in the manufacturing of drugs, you can speak up to Fearless [100% anonymously](#).

Get more information on the campaign [here](#).

Support the campaign on social media beginning Monday 8th June by linking to their webpage, sharing their posts using this suggested post on your own accounts:

*If you know or suspect who is selling drugs or exploiting young people in your community, you can #BeFearless in speaking up 100% anonymously at [fearless.org](https://fearless.org)*







# Neighbourhood Watch SCOTLAND

**Neighbourhood Watch Scotland is working closely with partners to send out a high volume of ALERTs during the Covid 19 crisis. Here is a summary of work undertaken since lockdown began.**

- Since **17.03.20** the Neighbourhood ALERT system has to date sent out **184 ALERTS** across Scotland both Nationally and localised. **99** have been COVID-19 related.
- These ALERTS have been sent out directly and received to over **1.5M individuals** (not including local propagation / sharing)
- In the last week **14 ALERTS** have been sent out directly and received by **165,489** individuals
- **419** persons registered to receive ALERTS during May
- ALERTS have highlighted crime, safety and community resilience issues both relative and not relative to COVID-19.
- NWS continue to support BSC partnership and other relative partner messaging on Social Media as required
- NWS continue to respond to all email and ALERT enquires from communities

- Regular contact with and share intelligence with TSS re weekly Scam Share Bulletin
- In the last 2 weeks Alerts sent out re Hate Crime Support, Scam Share, Fly Tipping Operation – Mid Lothian, Mental Health Support, Resilience Survey for the Scottish Flood Forum, Substance Abuse Support in Forth Valley, Bank Account Fraud Warning In Highland Region, Response re use of Temporary Police Powers during COVID-19 to our national faith communities, Water Safety and Wildfire Warnings by SFRS, Cycle Thefts, Thefts from vehicles and Selecta DNA Forensic Marking availability for domestic property through NWS - £25 per pack (discounted)

## Community Feedback

- SCAMS – Council Tax Rebate – received call from person purporting to be a Council employee stating person was due a rebate. Would have to organize a survey at £150 which would be refunded.
  - SCAMS – phone call, recorded message stating tax fraud case against them and to press button on phone or will be arrested.
- Strong uptake / interest in SelectaDNA House kits since ALERT was posted.

## Rural Crime Alert

There have been several reported thefts of plant and machinery from farm buildings in the Forth Valley area recently, including the theft of a red Honda quad bike from a farm in Stirling over the weekend.

This message is aimed at highlighting the need to be vigilant, to report any suspicious activity to police and consider your security measures with regards to storage of high value plant, machinery and equipment

### Advice

Store all of your property indoors and keep your doors and windows locked. Use additional locking devices for expensive equipment

- Fit British Standard locks with strong locking bars to doors and windows. If padlocks are used make sure they are robust
- Upgrade your storage to reflect the value of your property.
- Install sensor controlled 'dusk till dawn' security lights.
- Consider CCTV as additional security for vulnerable areas.
- Consider an audible and monitored intruder alarm system.
- Mark your property and record model, serial numbers etc. Keep photographs of property
- Consider tracker devices

## Latest Home Safety Scotland News and Updates



### Older people in fears over safe housing

Fewer than half of people over 55 think their home will be suitable in later life, [new research by Age Scotland](#) has found.

One in eight people say their current property is unsuitable while 46% either think it will be unsuitable in the future or are not sure.

The main reasons include accessibility, size of home, issues with cold, damp or heating, need for repair or their location.

Age Scotland and ScotInform surveyed more than 1200 people aged 55 and older, from every local authority in Scotland. The study was funded by the Scottish Government.

With the number of over-65s in Scotland set to soar by 59% by 2037 (from 930,000 to 1,470,000), the charity says there is an urgent need to take these views into account and “future-proof” housing stock.

There will also be increasing demand for homes for single older people, and more adaptable properties for those living with health conditions, disabilities, or dementia.

### SGN Coronavirus COVID-19 Update

SGN has recently provided an update on changes to their ways of working during the Covid 19 pandemic and how this will continue to change as lockdown eases in the coming months. Read more [here](#).

### Call for proposals: Electrical Safety in Mixed Tenure Blocks

Electrical Safety First is calling for proposals for research that allows them to gain further insight into electrical safety in mixed tenure blocks in Scotland. The research project has a 18k budget available and they are accepting proposals until 26 June 2020. Full details about this project can be found [here](#).

### Scottish residents in lockdown warned of dangerous electrical beauty products for sale on eBay, Amazon and Wish

Almost a third of those in Scotland either have already or are considering buying an electrical beauty product from an online marketplace during lockdown.

Those looking to replicate the hair salon experience at home during lockdown risk more than just a dodgy haircut, a Charity is warning.

An investigation by consumer safety charity Electrical Safety First has discovered hair clippers, hair remover kits and other beauty salon electrical items for sale on eBay, Amazon Marketplace and Wish that are unfit for sale to UK consumers as advertised, putting them at risk of electric shock and fire.



With hairdressers closed, millions are looking to cut their own hair as analysis of Google Trends data shows web searches for hair clippers at an all-time high in April.

This trend is reflected in consumer behaviour as new research by the Charity reveals almost a third (31%) of adults in Scotland have either already purchased or are considering purchasing an electrical beauty item such as hair clippers or hair remover kits from an online marketplace while salons are closed during lockdown.

As part of a snapshot investigation, 15 listings were visually analysed by the Charity, equally spread across Amazon Marketplace, eBay and Wish. Based on a visual assessment of the listings as they were advertised, all were deemed to be seriously dangerous to the user.

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

## In other news...

news

### Event: RoSPA Drowning Prevention Strategy Update

RoSPA's Water Safety Conference originally arranged for 26th March and then postponed till 16th September has now been cancelled. However, there will be a webinar on the 14th July to give you all the opportunity to hear more about the latest data and the two year review of the Strategy. You can register for this event [here](#).



### Survey: Participatory Budgeting and Covid 19

As the Covid-19 crisis continues we want to find out your thoughts and ideas about the impact this outbreak is having on participatory budgeting (PB) in Scotland.

Whether you're involved in PB or just have good ideas to share, we want to know how we can react to these changes and what support might be required going forward.



The survey should take just a few minutes to complete and will be used to understand the key opportunities you see for PB as we move into the recovery and beyond.

Take part in the survey [here](#).

### New research: How is the Covid 19 pandemic changing our use of illegal drugs? An overview of ongoing research - Society for the Study of Addiction

The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have substantially affected our use of legal and illegal drugs. In the UK, we have adapted to the closure of pubs and restaurants by purchasing considerably more alcohol in supermarkets and off-licences, while hundreds of thousands of people have given up smoking cigarettes. In jurisdictions where recreational cannabis is legal, increased sales have been reported. Those with addictive disorders are thought to be particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, and harm reduction advice tailored to drug users has been disseminated.

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

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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[/ScottishCommunitySafetyNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/ScottishCommunitySafetyNetwork)

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





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