



Mansfield Traquair Centre  
15 Mansfield Place  
Edinburgh  
EH3 6BB

0131 225 8700 / 7772

Company No: SC357649  
Scottish Charity No: SC040464



SCSN hosts  
Neighbourhood Watch Scotland  
SCIO  
Scottish Charity No: SC036510

08 November 2021

For attention of:  
The Scottish Government, Justice Directorate

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to your review of the National Strategy for Community Justice.

We welcome this opportunity to inform the development and future direction of the new strategy. On this occasion, we have decided to feedback through letter form, which we hope will be acceptable.

The Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) is the national forum for officers who are responsible for the strategic development of community safety at both local and national level, in the private, public and voluntary sector. We are the strategic voice for community safety in Scotland and through working collaboratively with our members and partner agencies, we champion community safety and influence the shaping and development of national policy and local delivery. In 2019, we became an umbrella organisation for community safety, also hosting [Neighbourhood Watch Scotland](#) and [Home Safety Scotland](#). You can find out more about us at our website <https://www.safercommunitiesscotland.org>

We would like to begin by emphasising our continued support of the current vision, mission statement, priorities and principles. In particular, we continue to support the strategy's commitment to:

- Effective use of evidenced-based interventions regarding prevention, offending and reoffending;
- A person-centred, holistic and equal focus on support for recovery, reintegration and rehabilitation;
- Collaborative strategic planning and strong partnership working;
- Working closely with non-statutory partners and the third sector;
- Community participation and the inclusion of lived experience in design and delivery of services;
- Striving to reduce stigma, change perceptions and language.

We would agree that efforts to simplify the strategy and make the document clearer and more concise would be worthwhile.

With regards to the impact of the strategy overall, we feel it has provided an inspirational shared vision for ourselves and partners to align with in our approach to making communities safer.

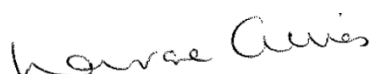
However, from the evidence in the [2021 Audit Scotland Report: Community Justice, Sustainable Alternatives to Custody](#), which details Scotland's lack of progression in making the shift to community sentencing and continued position as one of Western Europe's highest prison populations, it is clear the strategy has not made a big enough impact on the Scottish Judiciary, media and public opinion. We feel strongly that the next strategy must focus on substantially improving this picture.

In addition, from interactions with partners and expertise in partnership work, we would encourage that the next strategy does more to strengthen participation, accountability and commitment at Community Justice Partnership level and parity of esteem with the third sector organisations within these partnerships.

Finally, we agree that any new strategy should be aligned with the sited current relevant policies and frameworks. We would be particularly keen to see the new strategy use the 'Recover, Renew, Transform Programme' as a vehicle and opportunity to further progress a shift to community-based alternatives to custody.

Once again, we very much welcome the opportunity to feedback on the National Strategy for Community Justice and influence the next strategy. We applaud the achievements of partners so far, in their work towards reaching the aspirations of the current strategy and we look forward to seeing these aspirations even further realised in the coming years.

Yours sincerely,



Lorraine Gillies FRSA  
Chief Officer