



## Poverty and Community Safety

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

### POVERTY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Guest article by Niven Rennie, Director, VRU Scotland

How do we achieve community safety? To my mind the best way of achieving that aim is by preventing issues from arising rather than dealing with the aftermath.



When I was a young police officer, a new recruit, the first thing we learned was the legal definition of a constable as defined by law in the Police (Scotland) Act of 1967. You learned it off by heart....'Guard, patrol and watch to prevent the commission of offences, to preserve order and to protect life and property'. The emphasis was most assuredly upon prevention.

Prevention rather suppression was also one of the key principles drafted by Sir Robert Peel when he designed the Metropolitan Police, the first police service (many say it was the second after the City of Glasgow Police, but that's another story).

Somewhere along the road, however, how we respond to crime became paramount and the desire to prevent it occurring in the first place became much less of a priority. To my mind, there are many reasons for this. Amongst these is the need to ensure value for money - it is much easier to measure a number of crimes committed and the detection rates for solving these than the number of crimes prevented. Moreover, the constant level of demand leaves little room for 'proactive policing' or the dedication of valuable resource towards preventative measures.

*Continued on page 6*

### New campaign urges homeowners to improve fire safety

Homeowners are being urged to install interlinked heat and smoke alarms in a nationwide media campaign launched before new fire safety laws come into effect next year.

From February all homeowners will be required to have interlinked alarms under legislation brought forward after the Grenfell Tower tragedy in 2017. These alarms significantly reduce casualties by alerting everybody in a property to a fire. Most homes will also require a carbon monoxide alarm.

Private rented and new-build homes must already meet these standards, but from February they will apply to every home in Scotland, regardless of age or tenure.

The cost for an average three bedroom house which requires three smoke alarms, one heat alarm and one carbon monoxide detector is estimated to be about £220.

Read more [here](#).

SCSN Updates &  
Question of the Month  
- Page 2

Drug & Alcohol Deaths Stats -  
Page 5  
Focus on Poverty - Pages 6-7

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



## SCSN responds to UK Government's 'Beating Crime Plan' and Prime Minister

On Sunday 25th July the Prime Minister wrote in the Express newspaper about his government's plans to tackle crime. A few days later, the government unveiled their 'Beating Crime Plan'.

SCSN were deeply concerned by the Prime Minister's use of language and by the Beating Crime Plan - especially the suggestion that a UK wide approach would be sought on what we feel are reactive, retrograde and ineffective plans.

We wrote to both the Prime Minister and the Scottish First Minister to express our concerns and to highlight some of the research evidence which supports our positions.

Read our full response [here](#).

## SCSN AGM 2021

**Wednesday 15 September**

Alongside formal business, including the presentation of our Annual Report, at this year's AGM we will be discussing the Economic Exploitation of Under 18s and showing the Animation which shows the Experiences & Perceptions of Community Safety. We will also be discussing Climate Change & Community Safety.

The agenda and associated papers will be sent to attendees closer to the event along with a link to the AGM.

Book your place [here](#).

## Question of the Month

Our Question of the Month for July related to the first ever Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week which was run by Resolve UK between 19-25 July.

The question related to research and feedback from around the UK that opening up after lockdown had seen a rise in anti-social behaviour.

We asked:

***Would you say that since Covid restrictions began to lift in your area, anti-social behaviour has been - Increasing, Decreasing, Stayed the Same?***

- 68.75% said 'increasing' (11 votes)
- 6.25% said 'decreasing' (1 vote)
- 25% said 'Stayed the same' (4 votes)

## Question of the Month

Our Question of the Month for August comes relates to our Poverty & Community Safety theme and comes from SallyAnn Kelly of Aberlour, with whom we conducted this month's #SCSNConversationsWith interview.

We're asking:

***Should Scotland provide care experienced young people with a guaranteed income up to the age of 30?***

You can take part in our poll at [here](#).

## SCSN Conversations with...SallyAnn Kelly, Chief Executive, Aberlour Childcare Trust



For our #SCSNConversationsWith interview this month, we spoke to SallyAnn Kelly, Chief Executive of Aberlour Childcare Trust.

Our longer than usual conversation (we got a bit carried away) covered a range of topics, from the work of Aberlour, looking especially at how the pandemic has hit families who were already struggling hardest and the impacts—all the way through to priorities for the future to reduce poverty and how this can and does affect whether or not communities are safe places to live.

You can view the interview [here](#).

### New Community Safety Practice Exemplars published

We've been busy working with partners in Community Safety to develop new case studies from around Scotland which showcase good practice.

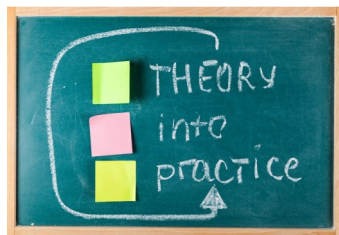
The case studies cover a range of different topics including anti-social behaviour, hate crime, fireworks, crime reduction and unintentional harm.

View the case studies by clicking on the links below:

- [Operation Moonbeam - North Ayrshire - August 2021](#)
- [Family and Household Support Services – July 2021](#)
- [Keep Safe – July 2021](#)
- [Team Up to Clean Up – July 2021](#)
- [Safe Taysiders – May 2021](#)
- [Safe Islander – April 2021](#)

You can view all of our newly published 2021 Case Studies/Practice Exemplars on our website [here](#).

If you have a project or piece of work you've been doing which you'd like to turn into a Practice Exemplar for our website, contact Josh Box at [josh.box@scsn.org.uk](mailto:josh.box@scsn.org.uk)



### New SCSN Briefing Paper

We've just published a new Briefing Paper on Economic Exploitation of Under 18s, following a significant increase in scams & online exploitation throughout the pandemic.

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

### New SCSN Consultation Responses published

The SCSN has been busy over the last few weeks putting together and submitting responses to various consultations.

View our responses to the following consultations by clicking on the links below:

- [SFRS Long Term Vision](#)
- [Use & Sale of Fireworks](#)
- [Police Scotland Body Worn Cameras](#)

## Health in a Changing City: Glasgow 2021 - a report by the Glasgow Centre for Population health



### New report reveals widening health inequalities across Glasgow and early impacts of Covid 19

This [new report](#) provides a comprehensive analysis of changes in population, socioeconomic, environmental and health factors over the last 20 years within Glasgow and in comparison with Scotland. Although most of the analyses precede the Covid-19 pandemic, emerging evidence of the impacts of the pandemic is reviewed.

Many of the challenges the city currently faces were pre-existing prior to Covid-19 and these underlying social and health inequalities shaped and determined people's experience of the pandemic and its impact on them.

Some key findings from the report are:

- Glasgow has become less deprived in comparison to the rest of Scotland over the last 20 years, but remains the Scottish city with the highest concentration of people living in deprived circumstances and with high levels of child poverty, fuel poverty and food insecurity.
- Children in Glasgow are more likely to live in the most deprived areas than any other age group and more likely to experience homelessness than adults. The report also notes inequality in mental health service provision for children.
- Stalling life expectancy improvements in Glasgow and across the UK over the last decade, associated with austerity policies, have resulted in widening health inequalities and shortened lives: life expectancy has reduced for females and for those living in the most deprived areas of the city
- The gap in life expectancy between the

least and most deprived areas now 11.6 years for females and 15.4 years for males.

- Worsening mental health trends are reported, including extensive inequalities associated with gender, age, socioeconomic status and ethnicity, and evidence of a growing inequality in service provision between children and young people and adults.
- Increasing evidence and concerns over ethnic and racial inequality, racial discrimination and gender-based inequality experienced by women are highlighted.

Policy recommendations focus on addressing health and social inequality, tackling gender-based and ethnic and racial inequalities, prioritising mental health especially of children and young people and the need to accelerate action on climate change. There are also recommendations about building a fairer economy including prioritising sectors of the economy that have been undervalued but were identified as essential during the pandemic such as our care and food economy workers.

### Work begins on Minimum Income guarantee, with public views sought

Scotland is taking its first steps on the road to establishing a Scottish Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG).

Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison recently co-chaired the first meeting of a new steering group to drive forward the ambitious new policy with the aim of reducing poverty, inequality and insecurity.

Ms Robison has also [launched a consultation](#) to gather views on how establishing a Minimum Income Guarantee - which would provide an assurance that everyone would have enough money to live a dignified, healthy and financially secure life – could be designed and delivered in Scotland.

Read more [here](#).

## Another record year of drug related deaths for Scotland

More than 1,300 people died of drug misuse in Scotland last year, with the country seeing a record number of deaths for the seventh year in a row.

The [annual figures](#) showed that there were 1,339 drug deaths last year - an increase of 75 from the 1,264 recorded the previous year.

It means Scotland continues to have by far the highest drug death rate recorded by any country in Europe, with a rate more than 3.5 times that of England & Wales.

Drug deaths in Scotland have been increasingly substantially over the past 20 years, and are now almost three times higher than a decade ago.

For an in depth analysis of the drug deaths crisis and how poverty plays a central role, read our guest article by Austin Smith, Policy Officer at the Scottish Drugs Forum, on page 7.

---

### Alcohol deaths in Scotland rise by 17% to highest level since 2008, most deprived 8x more likely to die

The number of alcohol-specific deaths has increased by 17% to 1,190 in 2020, up from 1,020 in 2019, according to statistics on deaths by various causes published today by [National Records of Scotland](#).

This is the largest number of deaths due to alcohol recorded in Scotland since 2008.

Other key findings show that in 2020:

- Probable suicide deaths decreased by 3% to 805 deaths, from 833 in 2019. There was a downward trend in probable suicide deaths in Scotland from the early 2000s until 2017, followed by increases in 2018 and 2019.

- There was a 1.1% decrease, to 6,352, in deaths where Alzheimer's and other dementias were the underlying cause.
- There were 2,759 accidental deaths in Scotland, a 1.2% increase compared with 2019. The majority of accidental deaths were the result of accidental poisonings or falls.

The death rate from all causes for people in the most deprived areas is 1.9 times that of those in the least deprived. Death rates for drug-related (18.4 times as large) alcohol-specific deaths (4.3 times as large), and suicides (3.0 times as large) were notably higher in the most deprived areas.

You can read more on this by viewing the Alcohol Health Alliance UK's full response [here](#).

---

### Nourish Scotland workshop: Dignity & the right to food

An online workshop to find out more about how dignity, the human right to food and a food systems framework, can support sustainable solutions to food insecurity.

COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of everyone having a dignified access to food that is affordable, nutritious, and sustainable. It has also become clear that community food initiatives are key in supporting people's

wellbeing by building community and signposting to sources of support. Yet, tackling food insecurity remains the responsibility of local and national governments. To achieve sustainable change, community food initiatives, national and local authorities need to work together to tackle food insecurity. The human right to food offers a common plan for these actors to follow so that everyone has a dignified access to affordable, nutritious and sustainable food.

Find out more & book your place [here](#).

# Focus on: Poverty & Community Safety

## Continued from front page main article

Despite this, I firmly believe that the desire to prevent crime from occurring in the first place is surely the more important. A society with fewer crimes would have fewer victims, a reduction in the level of fear amongst its citizens and would be able to spend more money on the provision of hope and opportunity than on punishment and deterrence. So, how could that be achieved?

Going back to my experience as young police officer, we did try to prevent crime by patrolling areas both on foot and by car in the hope of deterring people from committing offences. We even had 'crime prevention officers' who specialised in providing security advice – what kind of lock to fit or what type of alarm system might best be deployed to protect premises. Unfortunately, these approaches concentrated on an understanding that crime would be committed in any event but that steps could be taken to prevent individuals from becoming the victims.

True prevention means much more than this.

Scotland had long been troubled by the issue of violence and the traditional response was police driven, increased enforcement once the situation had become a crisis. In reality, a strategy of suppression dealing with the manner in which violence presented itself rather than the causes.

The introduction of the 'Violence Reduction Unit' in 2005 showed a willingness to look at this problem in a different way. By adopting a 'public health model', the VRU began to look at the causes of violence and take a more preventative approach.

This need for prevention is also true in relation to issues other than criminality. Let's examine for a moment Scotland's recent history of drug deaths. This is another problem that we have contended with for years, as we have with violence. Currently the debate is about safe consumption facilities, clean needles and rehabilitation. All are doubtlessly important as we address this problem. But the question I ask is why do people become addicted to drugs in the first place? What do we do to prevent

that? These were questions asked about violence in 2005 and they are equally valid questions to be asked today in respect of drug addiction. You can even add to that other problems such as alcohol or gambling addiction.

Indeed, if we were to examine any of the serious issues we contend with a society in 2021 we will find that the people who live in our poorer areas, the areas we class as our communities of 'multiple deprivation', have the worst outcomes. We have covered violence, alcohol, drugs and gambling but to these we can also add health and educational outcomes, the list goes on.

These statistics underline the fact that poverty and inequality are uppermost amongst the major causes of the problems we currently face, if not the key driver. Despite this, I believe that we tend to look at limiting the damage caused or suppressing the problem rather than taking preventative measures to deal with the issues at their root.

There is an urgent need for greater investment in our poorer communities and a willingness to lift people out of poverty. The provision of hope and aspiration to the next generation is likely to deliver far fewer addicts, better health and educational outcomes and a further reduction in violence.

We need to start that conversation. It will deliver safer communities.

## Challenge Poverty Week 2021

**4th-10th October**

Challenge Poverty Week is designed to highlight that poverty is a problem we can solve, and to showcase solutions we can all get behind.

The week is an opportunity for you to raise your voice against poverty and unite with others in calling for a more just and equal Scotland.

Find out more about how to get involved [here](#).



## Poverty & Scotland's Drugs Deaths Crisis

**Austin Smith, Policy Officer at Scottish Drugs Forum, discusses the link between poverty, problem drug use and Scotland's high and increasing rate of drug-related deaths.**

The latest drug related deaths statistics were met with concern and some outrage but sadly there was little real surprise. A seventh year of record drug overdose deaths offered statistical proof that Scotland remains the place in Europe you are most likely to die of a drugs overdose – by far.

This year the National Records of Scotland made clear the link between poverty and drug-related deaths. To illustrate the clear link the report stated:

*"In 2020, after adjusting for age, people in the most deprived areas were 18 times as likely to have a drug-related death as those in the least deprived areas (68.2 per 100,000 population compared with 3.7). That ratio has almost doubled in 20 years. In the early 2000s, those in the most deprived areas were around 10 times as likely to have a drug-related death as those in the least deprived areas."*

This drew some media coverage and some comment from politicians and commentators. Yet it should come as no surprise. To become aware of the link between poverty and problem drug use, people only have to walk around Scotland's city centres or former council housing estates, or pay a visit to the more deprived areas of Scotland's towns. If you live there, you know already. It is a concern that some media commentators and social media personalities seem to have been unaware of this link or have previously failed to report on it.

The media and commentators are not the only people to choose to marginalise poverty as an issue. Perhaps Scots are so used to it that, even when we see it, we do not recognise its

significance or maybe we think that it is not even noteworthy. The fact is that when the UK left the EU it ranked second in terms of the extremity of its income inequality, exceeded only by Lithuania. The UK is a country defined by income inequalities. Deprivation and relative poverty are its defining features. And Scotland is little different. That is the reality we have to face, articulate and change.

It is also important to realise that some of Scotland's health statistics are very poor – A recent paper by an Edinburgh GP, Dr Catriona Morton, is worth quoting

*"The male life expectancy in Greendykes and Niddrie, where our practice is sited, is just 58 years. Men in Tanzania (which has 3 million orphans and ranks as one of the poorest countries in the world) have a life expectancy of 61 years. In Europe, again in terms of life expectancy, Scotland stands between Cyprus and Albania which have per capita GDPs of around \$29,000 and \$13,000 respectively. Since the late 1970s, Scotland has had the highest mortality among working-age men and women in Western Europe."*

Of course, these shocking statistics are partly driven by drug overdose deaths.

Scottish Drugs Forum and others have been emphasising the link between poverty and problem drug use for years. As far back as 2007, SDF collected all the evidence of the link between problem drug use and poverty and published it. Understanding this link is key to understanding Scotland's public health problems of the last four decades involving problem drug use. It is crucial if we are to reduce drug-related deaths.

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

# Other Community Safety Stories In Brief

## Families Outside Accredited Training

Families Outside is excited to announce that they are now accepting bookings for their new [accredited training modules](#).



Families Outside training is designed to raise awareness of the impact imprisonment has on families, improve practice and develop the knowledge and skills required when supporting families affected by imprisonment. Attendance will contribute towards participants' Continuous Professional Development.

## Apex Scotland Annual Lecture 2021: Towards a more compassionate justice system

Professor Sir Harry Burns

Tuesday 7th September 2021

Apex Scotland invite you to their Annual Lecture, this year delivered by the eminent Professor Sir Harry Burns on compassionate justice.

The lecture will be followed by a Q&A featuring Sir Harry and Alan Staff, Chief Executive of Apex Scotland.

For joining instructions and further information contact:

[lynn.hannah@apexscotland.org.uk](mailto:lynn.hannah@apexscotland.org.uk)

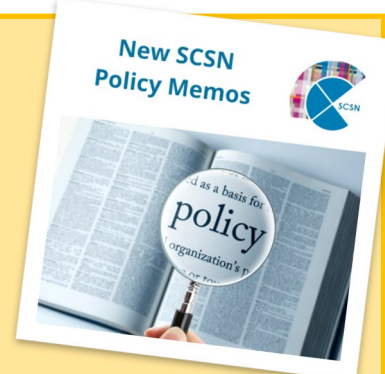
## Place and Wellbeing: Integrating land use planning and public health in Scotland

The way we plan and design the built environment can have a profound impact on people's health and wellbeing. By working together and taking a 'whole systems approach', Scottish public authorities can improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.

This briefing was prompted by the introduction of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, the forthcoming fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) and the adoption of Scotland's six public health priorities. These changes provide a timely opportunity to develop practical guidance for both land use planning and public health practitioners and policy-makers, to help them take health and wellbeing considerations into account when considering the development planning process (the production of Local Development Plans) and the development management process (making decisions on planning applications).

Download this briefing in full [here](#).

## New Policy Memos on Anti-Social Behaviour & the Use of Evidence in Community Safety



SCSN recently teamed up with the School of Government and Public Policy at the University of Strathclyde. The purpose of the collaboration was to create a community safety 'Policy Lab' whereby students on the Public Policy MSc were set an assignment that focuses on community safety activity and partnerships in Scotland. Four completed papers from 2020 are provided below which focus on: the Use of Evidence in Community Safety; and Anti-Social Behaviour Policy in Scotland.

Thank you to Fabrizio DeFrancesco at the University of Strathclyde for helping to make this happen!

You can download the Policy Memos [here](#).





# Neighbourhood Watch SCOTLAND

## Enabling Neighbourhoods and Communities Fund open

**The Enabling Neighbourhoods and Communities Fund has reopened for applications with refreshed criteria.**

The Enabling Neighbourhoods and Communities Fund

is a £1 million Scottish Government fund administered by Corra Foundation. Over £600,000 has been distributed in phase one (February – May 2021). The next phase, commencing 1st July, will support groups to access the remaining funds.



**CORRA  
FOUNDATION**

The purpose of the Enabling Neighbourhoods and Communities Fund is to provide small grants to community and voluntary groups across Scotland who are delivering activities that connect and support people within their local community.

Find out more and how to apply [here](#).

---

## Looking back on Farm Safety Week 2021: NWS and Rural Watch

Rural Watch Scotland backed call for farmers to rethink risk.

Rural Watch Scotland supported this year's Farm Safety Week which ran from 19-23 July, organised by leading farming charity the Farm Safety Foundation, encouraging the farming community to rethink risk so we can finally start to reduce the number of life-changing and life-ending incidents happening on UK and Ireland's farms.



Throughout Farm Safety Week, the Farm Safety Foundation, supported by the Farm Safety Partnerships, the Health & Safety Executive, Health & Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and the Health & Safety Authority, Ireland, encouraged people in the industry to speak up for safety and make our farms safer places to work.

Farming has the poorest safety record of any occupation in the UK and Ireland so this week brings five countries together to encourage farmers and farm workers to view health and safety as an integral part of their business, carry out risk assessments and recognise the changing hazards and risks on any busy farm.

Mark Armstrong from Rural Watch Scotland said: "We are proud to support the annual Farm Safety Week campaign. On a farm, as with any business, the number one resource is the people. A farm incident - whether fatal or causing serious trauma - can have awful, potentially lifelong consequences for a business, not to mention a family. Injuries on our farms are still happening much more often than they should and this needs to stop,"

For more information on 'Farm Safety Week' visit [www.yellowwellies.org](http://www.yellowwellies.org) or follow @yellowwelliesUK on Twitter/Facebook/Instagram.



## Latest news from the Home Safety Scotland Forum

---

### Next meeting of the Home Safety Scotland Forum

The next meeting of the Home Safety Scotland Forum will take place on Tuesday 19th October and the theme will be **climate change and home safety**.

We're always looking for new members to join our group! If you work in or are interested in home safety and would like to join or attend our forum - please contact [josh.box@scsn.org.uk](mailto:josh.box@scsn.org.uk). Follow Home Safety Scotland on Twitter: @HomeSafetyScot

---

### Carbon Monoxide Safety—SGN

It's our top priority to keep everyone safe and warm in their homes all year round – making sure you're aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide is one of the ways we can do that.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a highly poisonous gas that is produced by the incomplete burning of fossil fuels (including gas, oil, wood, petrol and coal). It can't be seen, heard, smelt, or tasted – which is why it's known as the 'Silent Killer'. It's really important to keep you and your loved ones safe from CO poisoning all

year round – you can do this by following our six steps to CO safety:

#### Check the flame

The flame on your gas hob should be crisp and blue, not lazy and orange. You should also check for black marks on or around the appliance, the pilot light frequently blowing out or too much condensation – these can be signs CO is present.

Read this article on the Home Safety Scotland Gas Safety Section of our website [here](#).

---

**RoSPA Webinar Series: The ABCs of home accident prevention for under 5s**



Over the next few months, RoSPA will be hosting a series of webinars on making homes safer for young children. The webinar series begins on 8 September 2021, and will be kicked off by Community Safety Minister Ash Denham.

To book your place on the first webinar, click [here](#).

---

### Electrical Safety First: Plugging into the Future Report - safety considerations for electrical vehicle charging

ESF has published a timely new report considering the safety implications around charging electric vehicles. Download the report [here](#).

### Free electrical safety digital tools for product recalls

ESF has also developed [two new apps](#) to enable people to more easily find out about product recalls, for which there are currently poor response rates .

# In other news...



## #ScotlandLovesLocal Awards open for nominations/applications

The Scotland Loves Local Awards are a celebration of all that is great about our nation's towns and neighbourhoods - recognising and rewarding remarkable dedication and commitment towards shaping a sustainable, successful future with localism at its heart.



They are about highlighting the people, places and projects which are leading the way in making a difference, delivering benefits which will help make our communities cleaner, greener, stronger and fairer whether through design, delivery or sheer determination.

Awards include the commendation of a High Street Hero - a business or organisation (or an individual associated with one) which has gone above and beyond to support those around them, whether inside or outwith the Covid-19 pandemic. The event will also celebrate inspirational leaders; those who embrace heritage and culture to the benefit of their community, positive place-makers; and businesses who are doing their bit for and responding to the climate emergency.

You can find out more and nominate or apply for the Awards [here](#). The final closing date for applications is **5pm, Friday 10th September**.

---

### Mark's Cancer Challenge

The SCSN staff and board have been deeply saddened to hear that our previous Chair, Mark McCall has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.



Mark is currently undergoing chemotherapy and has set up a fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Support - who he explains have been a massive support to himself and his family during this difficult time. If you know Mark, or even if you don't, and would like to donate to his fundraiser, click [here](#).

All of our thoughts and prayers are with Mark that he can make it through this journey.



---

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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



[@scsn2](https://twitter.com/scsn2)



[/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)





Mansfield Traquair Centre

15 Mansfield Place

Edinburgh, EH3 6BB

0131 225 8700/7772

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

Company Ltd. SC357649

Charity No. SC040464

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