



LGBT History Month Edition

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Rainbow Responders Report on LGBT+ Community Experiences of Covid 19 & lockdowns



The Rainbow Responders project was managed by the Scottish LGBT+ charity, Pink Saltire, and funded by The National Lottery Community Fund.

The project ran from August to October 2020 with 6 part-time team members, all with the aim of improving the understanding of COVID-19 and lockdown and their effects on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Scotland.

The report notes that LGBT+ groups across Scotland have responded empathetically and innovatively to the Covid 19 pandemic, including developing care packs, Zoom services, digital pride events and doing prescription runs.

However, by a big margin, the number one most common challenge among the LGBT+ people surveyed was isolation and loneliness, with 66% of all respondents stating this had been a challenge.

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Event: LGBTQ+ Culture & the Criminal Justice System

This webinar in the Prison and Probation series and part of #DMUpride, celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month, will explore the relationship between LGBTQ+ status and aspects of criminality, culture and the criminal justice system. Chaired by Dr Victoria Knight, Associate Professor of Research, we will be joined by Kath Wilson, Senior Lecturer/ Associate Programme Leader, De Montfort University (DMU) and Dr Sarah Nixon, Lecturer in Criminology, University of Gloucestershire. Drawing upon ex-practitioner research (probation) around LGBTQ+ they will consider why LGBTQ+ people appear disproportionately in the criminal justice system (CJS).

This event also explores the experiences of a former gay female prison officer who served six years in a male category 'B' prison. Highlighting issues around sexuality, sexual objectification, homophobia, heteronormativity and work place incivility, this session will present personal experiences from an autoethnographic perspective.

Book your place [here](#).

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SCSN Community Safety Research Survey

SCSN is undertaking several pieces of research over the coming months which will cover partnership working, championing evidence, what makes a safe community and developing further our understanding of individuals and groups' experiences of community safety.

To inform some of that work, we have issued [a questionnaire](#) to capture initial views on some of the topics above and we are obviously very keen that our partner organisations contribute to that. We'd be very grateful if you would spend the 10 minutes or so answering the questions in the survey by **COP Friday 19th February**.

SCSN 'Manifesto for Safer Communities' published

The Scottish Community Safety Network's ambition is that Community Safety is valued and integrated across all relevant policy areas. We are committed to working to achieve a fairer and more equal Scotland.

There is so much across the Community Safety landscape where we'd like to see focus, investment and change. This Manifesto presents our priorities for the next Parliamentary term.

Download our Manifesto [here](#).



Question of the Month

Our Question of the Month for February is themed around LGBT History Month and our [recent research](#) on Experiences of Community Safety.

Scotland has made a lot of progress on LGBT+ rights over the past 30 years, but there is a long way to go, with some parts of the LGBT+ community still feeling under attack. It's still too often the case that LGBT+ people may feel they have to hide their sexuality or gender identity in certain spaces. We're asking:

'As an LGBT+ person, how often do you feel completely safe to be yourself in public spaces?'

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

Question of the Month Results for January

Our Question of the Month for January was interested in progress made by local authorities on developing digital services. This related to a [report](#) by Audit Scotland on this topic.

We asked:

How confident do you feel that your local authority is making good progress on developing digital services?

- 5.5% said Very Confident
- 39% said Somewhat Confident
- 55.5% said Not Confident

SCSN Conversations with...

David Barbour, Glasgow LGBTQI Substance Use Partnership



Our 'SCSN Conversations with...' interview this month sees us interview a familiar face, our very own Communications Officer David Barbour!

As well as being our comms officer, David also works with the Glasgow Council on Alcohol as an Alcohol Brief Intervention Practitioner. As a gay man and self described recovering alcoholic, he had a personal interest in exploring health inequalities faced by the LGBTQI community and began working on addressing LGBTQI inclusivity in his own organisation, which led to the founding of the Glasgow LGBTQI Substance Use Partnership. We sat down to discuss this work and LGBTQI experiences of community safety. Watch the interview [here](#).

SCSN Webinar Learning Reports: January-February 2021

We've been busy attending lots of webinars over the past couple of months on topics relating to Community Safety and as usual we've produced Learning Reports for our members and stakeholders.

Alcohol Harm Paradox, SHAAP - This webinar examined the Alcohol Harm Paradox. This is the phenomenon whereby we see higher levels of overall alcohol consumption in the least deprived communities in Scotland but see greater alcohol related harms in the least deprived communities, despite lower or the same overall consumption.

Public Health Approaches in Crisis: Covid 19 - looked at the principles of a public health approach to policing. IN particular it looked at the '5C' approach:

- Co-production – that we are all on the same agenda
- Collaboration – classic resilience work and strategic co-ordination
- Co-operation – sharing data and intelligence
- Community consensus – what is the problem from a public perspective?
- Counter narrative – different strands of approach

Tackling Crime and Delivering Justice in Scotland

- In this webinar a number of speakers from public and third sector organisations spoke around issues such as; Policing, Prevention and Rehabilitation; The Changing Nature of Offending - whose responsibility is prevention; Delivering Multi-Agency Justice Policy; Making Restorative Justice a Reality.

Trauma Informed Approaches - talks were given about the lessons learnt over 30 years in relation to trauma informed approaches. Key lessons from the webinar include that people inside organisations don't talk to each other as much as they should and it is very important to understand staff perspective, systems and culture. People on the frontline see 100% of the problem and suitable solutions while leaders only see 4%. Its important to engage and include frontline staff in all levels of decision-making.

Unravelling the Interwoven Dimensions of Geographic Inequalities

- This webinar explored spatial inequalities and how in the last 80 years. For example; deaths of despair (suicide, drugs and alcohol) have rapidly increased in the US since 2000; upward mobility has steadily decreased since 1940; there has been a dramatic rise in economic inequality since 1980; enormous poverty gaps have not narrowed at all; mass shootings are steadily rising; police killings have not decreased.

Focus on LGBT History Month

Rainbow Responders Report on LGBT+ Community Experiences of Covid 19 & lockdowns - *continued from front page*

Almost half of all the people who took the survey (49%) said they feel mental health support would be useful for them in the coming months, rising to 62% for bi/pan and trans people, 60% for young people under 30 but only 30% of those aged over 50.

The report notes that many such services have been provided by local councils, the NHS and other charities and organisations and wanted to find out whether LGBT+ people would turn to these services and whether they would trust them.

LGBT+ Trust in Services

Only 19% of all the people who took part in the survey said Yes when asked if they trust these public services to meet their specific LGBT+ needs (from responses Yes, Sometimes or No). Although there was greater confidence amongst lesbians (21%), gay men (28%) and people aged over 50 (31%), there was very low levels of trust among most other groups. In fact, less than 10% amongst young people under 20, trans, queer and asexual people.

Home Life for LGBT+ people

The report found that home life had been very difficult for lots of LGBT+ people too.

More than 1 in 3 LGBT+ people under 30 (35%) had to hide who they are at home, compared to just 9.6% of the overall survey sample. This was also considerably higher amongst bisexual/pansexual people (16%) and asexual people (27%).

Financial Pressures & Substance Use

Financial pressures were high too, with 38% of ethnic minority LGBT+ people facing challenges, compared to 17% of lesbians. More than 1 in 3 people (36%) said they didn't have enough food at points during the crisis, an issue especially amongst asylum seekers and refugees.

A significant number of LGBT+ people have turned to other means to help them cope during lockdown, with more than 1 in 5 people (22%) saying they were drinking more and more than 1 in 3 people (36%) saying they had turned to other substances to help them through.

Read the full report and recommendations [here](#).

LGBT History Month 2021

LGBT History Month is celebrated every February. In Scotland LGBT History Month Scotland is a project run by LGBT Youth Scotland. The theme of this year's LGBT History Month in Scotland is 'Unsung' LGBTQ+ life and stories.

There is a downloadable Action Pack if you want to share anything throughout February to support LGBT History Month, as well as a full schedule of events being run by organisations across Scotland. If you wish to add an event to the event schedule, there is no deadline, so there's still time for you to do so!

Find out more about LGBT History Month in Scotland and what's on [here](#).



Thinking about LGBTQI Experiences of Community Safety

By David Barbour, SCSN Comms Officer & current Chair of the Glasgow LGBTQI Substance Use Partnership



February is LGBT History Month.

There is so much I can write about on this topic in normal times, but of course these are not normal times. As with other minority groups, the LGBTQI community has unsurprisingly also been disproportionately affected and this has exacerbated many underlying issues we face. But in this article I want to focus on broader issues and how they relate to our research on LGBTQI experiences of community safety.

My own brief history of LGBTQI time (1986-present)

I was born in 1986 and grew up in Scotland through the 1990s and 2000s. I began to realise I was not as other girls (as Stephen Fry so delightfully puts it) at around the age of 13/14 and came out as gay in 2005 at the age of 19. Previous generations of LGBTQI people had things much harder, but LGBTQI people of my generation grew up at a queer time, if you'll pardon the pun.

The 1990s was the first full decade in which it was legal to have same sex relationships in Scotland (disgracefully only legalised in Scotland in 1981, vs 1967 in rUK), the legal age of consent was gradually equalised through the early 1990s, and at the end of the decade we finally saw the repeal of the odious Section 28 (AKA clause 2a) which had banned teachers from discussing our lives in schools.

The 2000s continued to see great strides for legal equality being made with the Gender Recognition Act of 2004 and the legalisation of Civil Partnerships for same sex couples in 2005. So I grew up in two decades of the fastest changes in legal equality in favour of LGBTQI people this country has ever seen.

And yet...

Read the full blog [here](#).

SCSN Learning Report: LGBT Experiences of Domestic Abuse

This webinar by LGBT Youth Scotland explored LGBT experiences of accessing support around domestic abuse.



In particular the webinar explored some of the barriers facing gay/bi-sexual men and transgender people in accessing support. Among barriers for gay/bi men were: pressures of gender stereotyping and masculinity; gay/bi men's invisibility in domestic abuse campaigns and a fear of loss of community, especially in small towns.

For trans people, identified barriers included having to out yourself to access services; fear of transphobia and misgendering.

All LGBT people worried about services not understanding or being accepting of their sexuality or identity. Suggestions for how to make services more inclusive were included.

Download the Learning Report [here](#).

Scotland's LGBT Spaces: Then and Now



**SX Scotland
Event: 26
February 2021**

To coincide with LGBT History Month, join SX Scotland for an online panel event discussing LGBT+ spaces in our community from the past to today.

The panel will be selected from business owners and individuals involved with LGBT+ community and business spaces in Scotland. The event will include a Q&A with the panel after the talk.

You can book your place at this event [here](#).

Scotland's Suicide Prevention Action Plan: Review

Every Life Matters, Scotland's Suicide Prevention Action Plan (SPAP) 2018 - 2021 (Scottish Government, 2018), sets out the Scottish Government's cross-sectoral plan to further reduce the suicide rate by 20% by 2022 (from the 2017 baseline). The Plan contains 10 'Actions' and is being led by the National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group (NSPLG).

Commissioned by the National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group, the following is a rapid review of progress over the period September 2018 to October 2020. This is based on responses to a brief survey completed by the delivery leads for each of the Actions and the Lived Experience Panel co-ordinator. The aim of the Review is to draw out the lessons from the implementation process to date, taking into account the ongoing implications of COVID-19. The findings are intended to contribute to the continuing work of the NSPLG and Scottish Government Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Policy Team. They also offer learning to inform the development and implementation of any future suicide prevention strategy and action plan.

Key Learning Points

Among key learning points the report noted that there had been clear progress toward implementation of the Suicide Prevention Action Plan and building momentum - but that Covid-19 had necessitated some pauses to work and reprioritisation of effort.

There was good evidence of engagement, collaboration and partnership working across the different Actions and the review highlighted the importance of the Lived Experience Panel in contributing to the planning and development of the Actions.

However, there is limited available evidence concerning whether and how the different Actions, collectively or individually, may contribute to the ultimate goal of a reduction in suicidal behaviour. The review suggests there may be value in investing in further support for evaluation and monitoring.

Read the review in full [here](#).

You can follow or support the United to Prevent Suicide campaign on Twitter [here](#).

#TalkToSaveLives

#UnitedToPreventSuicide

Scottish Health Survey - Telephone Survey 2020

Scotland's Chief Statistician has [released the results](#) of the Scottish Health Survey – Telephone Survey, providing information on the health, and factors relating to health, of adults aged 16 and over in Scotland in August and September 2020. Questions on general health, cardiovascular conditions, caring, mental health and wellbeing, social capital and loneliness, alcohol, smoking, diet, obesity, food insecurity, physical activity, and dental health were included in the survey.

This is the first time the Scottish Health Survey interviews have been conducted by telephone. The results are published as Experimental Statistics and are not directly comparable with the survey results for previous years.

Among some of the key findings were that:

- Over a fifth (22%) of adults recorded a GHQ-12 score of four or more (indicative

of a possible psychiatric disorder). Rates were highest for those aged 16-44 (24%) and 45-64 (25%) compared to 13% - 15% among those aged 65 and over. Among those who had been advised to shield, around a third (32%) had a score of four or more.

- During the fieldwork period, 5% of adults felt that they were lonely 'often' or 'all of the time' and a further 15% that they felt lonely 'some of the time'. Rates were higher for those in the shielding group, with 11% reporting that they felt lonely 'often' or 'all of the time' and a further 16% some of the time.
- Just over one in ten adults (12%) reported that the **amount of alcohol** they consumed on a typical day had increased between the start of the March 2020 lockdown and the fieldwork period while just under two in ten (18%) reported a decrease.

Two new funds open for improving drugs services

Applications for additional support open this week.

Two funds, worth £1 million each, will open this week to support grassroots, community and residential organisations to improve drugs services.

A £1 million Grassroots Fund will provide resources to third sector organisations to enable them to increase capacity and provide further reach into the community. Eligible organisations must have an annual income under £1 million and can apply for grants up to £50,000.

A £1 million Improvement Fund will support service development and increases to capacity across residential and community services. It will consider applications for grants up to £100,000. The funding is part of the £5 million support package announced by the First Minister last month to ensure immediate action on addressing Scotland's drug deaths emergency before the end of this financial year.

The Corra Foundation will administer both funds. Both will open to bids on 18 February 2021. All allocations will be made before 31 March 2021.

Find out more [here](#).

JRF Webinar: Ethnicity and Covid-19: Addressing the impact of the pandemic on black and minority people - Thursday 25th February



For far too long, 'race' has been a social determinant of health. The opportunities and socio-economic outcomes of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) people continue to be determined by structural racism. BME people face unequal treatment in the labour market, education, housing and health. The pandemic has both exacerbated and shone a light on these stark inequalities.

From higher Covid-19 infection and death rates, to being harder hit economically, BME people have faced more insecurity and have borne the brunt of the harshest impacts of this pandemic. In a society like ours, this is simply wrong.

Join the Joseph Rowntree Foundation for an interactive webinar discussion on Thursday 25 February, 11am-12pm, to explore evidence and policy recommendations tailored to these issues, which have often been missing from national discussions of the pandemic.

Register to attend this webinar [here](#).

Voluntary Health Scotland (VHS) research on Equitable vaccination distribution



Voluntary Health Scotland (VHS) is conducting research to help ensure equitable distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, among all those who need it and would like your help to complete this short survey.

The deadline for completion of the survey is: Friday 19th February

You can access the survey [here](#).

Citizens Assembly Report Published

The Citizens Assembly of Scotland, the first citizens assembly created in Scotland, has published a report of work they've undertaken together over the past year considering what kind of country they want Scotland to be, how Scotland might overcome the challenges of the 21st century; and what further work they'd like to see carried out to provide them with the information the people of Scotland need to make informed choices about the future of the country.

The report sets out a vision and recommendations for Scotland agreed upon by members of the Assembly for implementation from the next parliamentary term (2021-2026) onwards.

Included within the vision and recommendations, the Assembly makes specific mention of wanting open data, transparent decision making and the chance to participate in those decisions - with a focus on fairness and equality. They recommend the setting up of local citizens assemblies and taskforces on a range of issues, e.g. poverty, building around both communities and individuals.

There is a clear opportunity for Community Safety Partnerships to lead and embed some of the recommended approaches locally.

Download the Report [here](#).



Domestic Abuse: Ask for ANI Service in pharmacies

The Home Office has issued a briefing for local partners on the new 'Ask for ANI' codeword scheme developed to help victims of domestic violence signal that they need emergency assistance from their local pharmacy.

What is 'Ask for ANI?'

Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately) is a codeword scheme developed by the Home Office to provide a discreet way for victims of domestic abuse to signal that they need emergency help from the safety of their local pharmacy.

The 'Ask for ANI' scheme is intended to work alongside and build on existing work and provide an additional tool that can be used to help the most vulnerable victims access emergency support in the community. The scheme has been developed with the help of partners including the domestic abuse sector, pharmacy associations and the police and is being rolled out from January 2021.

Read more on [our website](#).

New Legal Aid Resilience Fund

A coronavirus (COVID-19) resilience fund for legal aid firms and law centres, worth up to £9 million, has opened for applications.

The Coronavirus Resilience and Recovery Fund for Legal Aid has been created to provide financial support to enable legal aid services to the public to continue - assisting those practitioners that have had a reduction in legal aid business levels because of the restrictions in place.

The resilience fund forms part of a wider Scottish Government package of support for the legal aid sector worth up to £20 million. Regulations increasing fees, worth up to £10 million, were laid in Parliament at the beginning of February, and £1 million has been committed towards supporting traineeships.

Read more [here](#).



Neighbourhood Watch SCOTLAND

NWS Webinar: Cyber Security Basics

Our Cyber Security Basics webinar will provide an accessible introduction to raise awareness and understanding to online risks.

As part of Cyber Scotland Week Neighbourhood Watch Scotland brings you a webinar by Police Scotland and is intended to help raise members awareness of their exposure to online risks and provide practical steps they can take to make themselves safer.

This is a practical presentation and no technical knowledge is required. The following topics will be covered:

- What to consider when setting up devices
- Sharing and Privacy when downloading Apps
- What parents should look out for
 - Scams
 - Q & A



The event will take place on 24th February at 11am. You can register [here](#).

Cyber Scotland Week - 22-28 February

Cyber Scotland Week will bring together influencers, experts, and the next generation of talent for the third consecutive year to increase awareness of staying safe and secure online.

With various conferences, workshops and webinars going digital, a wider audience from across the length and breadth of Scotland will be able to join in and participate. Sessions will explore the challenges within a fast-changing threat landscape and the innovation that has come about as a result. The 2021 agenda is already taking shape with further sessions to be confirmed via the website in the coming weeks and months. Read more [here](#).

**Sign Up for
Neighbourhood Watch
Scotland ALERTS**

Register for Neighbourhood Watch Scotland ALERTS and receive local alerts on a wide range of topics aimed at keeping you safe.

Sign Up [here](#).

Home Safety Scotland News and Updates

HOME
SAFETY
SCOTLAND



Home Safety Scotland seeking new members!

Home Safety Scotland is an open, inclusive, diverse, trusting and safe space for those working or with an interest in home safety in Scotland. Meetings are in the style of a virtual forum for people to share best practice, exchange knowledge, learn and work collaboratively to advance practise and raise awareness.

We're looking for new members to join our group! If you work in or are interested in home safety and would like to join our forum - please contact josh.box@scsn.org.uk.

The theme of the next HSS meeting is DIY in the home.

Follow Home Safety Scotland on Twitter: [@HomeSafetyScot](https://twitter.com/HomeSafetyScot)

SGN: Keeping you safe and warm during the Covid-19 Pandemic

As we find ourselves in another national lockdown, and while things are far from normal, SGN hope you're continuing to stay safe and well at home.



SGN

Your gas. Our network.

During the unprecedented weeks and months ahead, your safety and the safety of our employees will remain our number one priority. Making sure that all of the gas appliances in your home are regularly checked by a gas safe registered engineer, and having an audible CO alarm in your property will help to ensure you and your family stay safe and warm.

So you're aware, we're continuing to operate the 24/7 National Gas Emergency Service across the south of England and Scotland during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our engineers are also carrying out safety-critical work under extra safety precautions to make sure everyone's protected, so you might still see us in your area.

For our latest COVID-19 updates, please visit [our website](#).

Electrical Safety First Webinar: Creating Safer Products in the Home

Following the previous Thursday session about kitchen installations, Martyn Allen, Technical Director at ESF, will spoke about some of the safety issues electrical retailers need to be aware of to provide a great service to their customers. The kitchen is the hub of the home – and also the largest load centre with many appliances – and therefore the highest risk in terms of fires; Martyn explains why there's a crucial need for competent installation and certification and also product registration.



View the webinar recording [here](#).

In other news...



Police Scotland Consultations

Your Police Consultation

Police Scotland are consulting on the views and priorities of the Scottish public for policing, noting that this is especially important during the challenging times we are enduring with the Covid-19 pandemic - but also looks beyond and to the future.



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

All personal information is anonymised and the survey ought to take around 10 minutes to complete.

You can take part in this consultation [here](#).

Body Worn Cameras Consultation

Police Scotland are seeking views to help shape the use of Body Worn Video by our police officers when interacting with the public. The reasons for using Body Worn Video by police to record interactions with the public include: improving the quality of interactions with the public; reducing and resolving complaints; increase officer safety; reduce delays to justice; and lead to greater public transparency.

The Survey takes around 15 minutes to complete and closes on 24th February.

Take part in this consultation [here](#).

Keeping Scotland Beautiful (KSB) Report: Time for a new approach to tackling litter

Local environmental quality, defined by the indicators of litter, dog fouling, graffiti, vandalism, flytipping and weed growth, is an important measure of the state of our places and spaces – green and blue. For 17 years KSB has been monitoring and auditing these indicators across Scotland and until 2014, the picture was positive: indeed, in 2013 Scotland recorded our cleanest, most litter-free year. In 2016, we started to record and report a worrying decline across Scotland and between 2018 and 2020, standards dropped to their lowest ever recorded levels.

Read the full report [here](#).

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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





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