

Safety NET-works

January 2021



Neighbourhood
Watch SCOTLAND



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Scotland's Wellbeing: The impact of Covid 19 - new report

The Scottish Government and COSLA have produced a new report looking at the impact of Covid 19 on Scotland's National Performance Framework Outcomes.



The times in which we live are far from normal. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound and continuing impact on our way of life: on our health and wellbeing; our businesses and economy; and how we relate to and connect with each other as members of society.

This report has been prepared by analysts within the Scottish Government, with input from COSLA and the Improvement Service. It brings together evidence on the ways that the pandemic has affected Scotland's progress towards our National Outcomes, including what people have told us about their experience, and the ways in which it might continue to have an impact in the future. It provides data and 3 analysis to inform all those across Scotland who are faced with having to make decisions in response to COVID-19 where there are no easy answers. It summarises the significant ways in which the pandemic has affected Scotland and our communities and points to what this might mean for the future.

The report notes that unsurprisingly, the pandemic has had significant negative impact on the wellbeing outcomes for Scotland, but has also seen some grounds for optimism.

Continue reading on page 4.

National Trauma Training: Trauma is everybody's business

Wednesday 19th
February 2021



The experience and impact of trauma and adversity in the lives of Scottish people is more pervasive than has previously been recognised and has been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic.

The National Trauma Training Programme supports the shared ambition of the Scottish Government, COSLA and partners from across Scotland of a trauma informed and responsive nation and workforce that is capable of recognising where people are affected by trauma and adversity, able to respond in ways that prevent further harm while supporting recovery and can address inequalities & improve life chances.

For more information about the NTPP click [here](#).

To book on the 19 Feb session, click [here](#).

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Annual Member Survey

We're currently conducting our Annual Member Survey. But you don't have to be an SCSN Member to take part. We welcome survey responses from anyone who has an interest or stake in community safety.

You can take part in our Member Survey [here](#).



SCSN Written Evidence to Scottish Parliament on Drone Use

SCSN recently submitted written evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Joint Sub Committee on Policing on the Police Scotland use of RPAS (drones), having already submitted a letter to the group on this subject.

You can read the original letter from SCSN as well as the Police Scotland response to the Joint Sub Committee on our website [here](#).

Question of the Month

Our Question of the Month for December followed the release of the latest Drug Death figures for Scotland, which saw another record set with 1,264 deaths recorded in 2019.

SCSN put out a position statement on the drug deaths figures and policy calling for significant changes to our policies on drugs to reduce preventable deaths and crime.

We asked:

'Is it now time that we decriminalised drug use?'

- 44% said Yes (11 votes)
- 8% said No (2 votes)
- 48% said Only alongside other measures (12 votes)

Question of the Month

January 2021

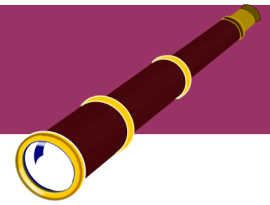
This month's Question of the Month relates to a new report published by the Accounts Commission on digital progress in local authorities (see page 6 of this newsletter).

We're asking:

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

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

Looking ahead through 2021



It's not been the most fantastic start to the year with the whole country once again in lockdown for the foreseeable future. For us that means we continue to work from home and most of our upcoming work will take place on line.

But we do have plans for lots of exciting stuff through the year! Here's a taster of some of what you can expect!

Research with Community Justice Scotland

We continue to progress research with Community Justice Scotland on joint Community Safety and Justice Partnerships exploring the drivers, benefits and challenges of a joint approach.

We will provide updates on this throughout 2021 in the build up to a launch later in the year!

Events and Campaigns

We'll be looking to run some online events (or with a bit of luck in person!) throughout 2021, including a planned joint event with Voluntary Health Scotland and another with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

We're also in early discussions on some major work and a possible event in conjunction with numerous partners in the community safety field on poverty, and will provide updates on this in the coming months!

Community Safety Calendar

We're planning to run some Community Safety Roundtables throughout the year as well as our usual Chairs and Leads Event—however this has been postponed from February due to the new restrictions and school closures.

Upcoming Community Safety Sector Webinars

SCSN may not have webinar events scheduled in quite yet this year but many of our partners in community safety circles have some really interesting events coming up over the next few weeks. Here's a selection of some of the most interesting upcoming events:

- **SHAAP Alcohol Occasionals: Alcohol and Inequalities:** 12.30pm - 2pm, 20 January. Find out more [here](#).
- **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service: LGBT+ Information Session** - 6-8pm, 20 January. Information on careers in the Fire Service for LGBT+ people. Find out more and book your place [here](#).
- **Child Sexual Exploitation:** Scottish Institute for Policing Research - 2-3pm, January 27. Find out more [here](#).
- **How does politics shape inequalities?:** 3-5pm, 28 January. Find out more [here](#).
- **Abolishing Prison: What happens then?** - University of Cambridge Institute of Criminology: 5-6.30pm 28 January. Find out more [here](#).
- **The International Position on Decriminalisation:** Reducing drug deaths - The Scottish Association for the Study of Offending - 6pm, 28 January. Find out more [here](#).
- **The Public's Health after Covid: science and social justice** - Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh, 14 April. Find out more [here](#).



Continued from front page main body article

The evidence presented in this report shows that the pandemic is likely to have significant and wide-ranging impacts, right across the National Outcomes. These impacts will be largely negative, but there are differences across the outcomes in terms of the direction of the changes, the depth and severity of impacts, the level of certainty over the effects and the timeframe over which they may occur. There is considerable uncertainty about long term impacts at present, as the pandemic and response continues to evolve. How these unfold will depend on a number of factors, including the progress of the pandemic and the measures put in place to control it, how businesses, public services, communities and individuals respond to the changes, the policy choices that are made, and changes in the external environment.

A key finding is that the impacts of the pandemic have been, and are likely to continue to be, borne unequally. Unequal outcomes between different groups existed pre-COVID, and the effects of the pandemic have only worsened this. It has produced disproportionate impacts across a range of outcomes for a number of groups, including households on low incomes or in poverty, low-paid workers, children and young people, older people, disabled people, minority ethnic

groups and women. Overlap between these groups mean that impacts may be magnified for some people. The weight of evidence suggests that the pandemic may widen inequalities in income and wealth over the medium term, as well as being likely to make unequal outcomes more severe in a range of other areas.

Download the full report [here](#).

Useful links in context of National Performance Framework Impact report

We thought it'd be useful to remind our readers of some pieces of work we did in 2020 that relate to the National Performance Framework and the impact of Covid-19. You may wish to look at the following:

- [SCSN response to the Scot Gov consultation on Covid 19 impacts](#)
- [SCSN Webinar write up on NKBL webinar on economic stress and violence](#)
- [Implications for Road Safety from Covid 19 - blog by Hannah Dickson](#)
- [More prisons, stop and search and police: will it make us safer?](#)
- [Covid 19 and Domestic Abuse - blog by Mariah Kelly](#)
- [Covid 19 alcohol and drugs—blog](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation publishes annual Poverty Report



This [report](#) highlights early indications of how poverty has changed in our society since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, as well as the situation revealed by the latest poverty data, collected before the outbreak.

It examines overall changes to poverty, with sections looking at the impact of work, the social security system and housing. It also benefits from powerful insights from members of the Grassroots Poverty Action Group, who

have direct experience of living on a low income.

Among the recommendations of the report are that:

- As many as possible need to be in good jobs with bold action to retrain workers & create high quality jobs
- Earnings for low income working families need to be improved with people in good quality secure work - with the government supporting the lowest paid
- The Benefits system should be strengthened and at a minimum the £20 uplift to Universal Credit should be made permanent

New project to help families affected by drugs



A new project which helps the families of people at risk of dying through drugs will start work in early January.

Families as Lifesavers, which is being funded through the Drugs Deaths Taskforce, helps family members to increase their understanding of drug addiction, while building coping strategies and helping them to continue to support their relative.

The project, run by Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs, is one of a number of schemes funded through the taskforce.

Minister for Drugs Policy Angela Constance said: "Finding out that a loved-one is using drugs, and might even be at risk of losing their lives to their addiction, is one of the toughest things any family can face. People want to know the best way to respond, and what they might be able to do to help. They also want to feel they are not alone."

Take Home Naloxone to save lives

Take-home Naloxone will be given to people at high risk of accidental overdoses, in a move designed to reduce the number of drug deaths. This will include those who have been resuscitated by the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) following an accidental overdose.

The Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) is handing out the kits, which can reduce the risk of a fatal overdose from opiates, in a programme funded by the Drug Deaths Taskforce.

SAS crews responded to around 5,000 incidents in which Naloxone, an opiate antidote, was administered in 2019. Providing take-home kits means friends and relatives of those at risk will be able to administer Naloxone themselves while the ambulance is on its way, further reducing the chance of a fatality.

The kits will be supplied at incidents after 999 has been called for a person experiencing an accidental overdose. Those at risk of witnessing a future opiate overdose, such as family and carer groups, will be given a kit and training in how to administer it.

Covid 19 Updates

Covid 19: Guiding Framework to support the delivery of Youthwork Services

Following the announcement of new Covid-19 restrictions by the Scottish Government, the guidance for the delivery of all youth work services in mainland Scotland and Skye has now been updated.

From Tuesday 5th January until at least Monday 1st February 2021, the preferred methods of delivery for all youth work services in mainland Scotland and Skye is online or through detached youth work.

Read the updated guidance [here](#).

National Centre for Social Research: Covid yet to shift public attitudes on welfare, spending and individual freedoms

[Research](#) led by Professor Sir John Curtice has looked at public attitudes to welfare, spending and individual freedoms and the extent to which these have shifted as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. You can read more on this [here](#).

Scottish Business Resilience Centre: Exercise in a Box sessions



A free online tool which helps organisations find out how resilient they are to cyber-attacks and practise their response in a safe environment.

Exercise in a Box is an online tool from the NCSC which helps organisations test and practise their response to a cyber-attack. It is completely free, and you don't have to be an expert to use it. The service provides exercises, based around the main cyber threats, which your organisation can do in your own time, in a safe environment, as many times as you want. It includes everything you need for setting up, planning, delivery, and post-exercise activity, all in one place.

Check out upcoming dates and book your place on a session [here](#).

Digital Learning Sessions from Digilearn.Scot

The Education Scotland Digilearn team will be here to support educators throughout 2021 with online professional learning.

Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety in the Context of Online Learning

4pm, 20th January

Join this webinar to help you to identify and manage possible risks associated with online learning. There will be an opportunity to ask questions, have discussions, and share practical strategies throughout this webinar. This is a repeat of the same webinar delivered on 6th January.

Read more and sign up [here](#).

New Report: Digital Progress in Local Government

Scotland's local authorities have stepped up the pace of developing digital services but need to do more in terms of citizen involvement and building skills, according to a new report.

Published by the Accounts Commission – the spending watchdog for local government that is part of Audit Scotland – [Digital progress in local government](#) says councils are at different stages of digital transformation, although there has been generally been good progress in the response to Covid-19.

In addition, councils have generally been adopting a 'digital first' approach for new services, while they have begun to review strategies and their members are adapting to use virtual tools such as video conferencing.

But the report says that involving users in service design is still limited in practice and councils need to improve how they monitor outcomes. Read full article [here](#).

Dormant Assets scheme set to be expanded



An extra £800m could be made available for charitable activities when the UK government expands the dormant assets scheme.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport said it intends to expand the scheme to include insurance and pensions, investment, wealth management and securities.

If funds are left untouched for 15 years or more and cannot be reunited with their rightful owners, they would come under dormant assets legislation.

Rightful owners are entitled to come forward at any time to reclaim their assets.

Read more on this story [here](#).



Neighbourhood Watch SCOTLAND

The Neighbourhood ALERT platform continues to grow and as of the end of December there are **25,682** individuals registered (12% increase since April) and **1928** groups / schemes registered.

So far this month 54 Alerts have been sent out across Scotland, some COVID related, such as:

- Anti-social / irresponsible driving in Midlothian
- Domestic Abuse – highlighting the “right to ask” disclosure scheme
- Vaccine scam warning (see below)
- Lock snapping warning and advice
- Community resilience – East Ayrshire Council encouraging communities to help each other during winter period and offering support in the form of providing training, PPE, shovels, buckets, equipment and grit locations.

Vaccine Scam Warning

We have received reports that a fake NHS text message is circulating, telling people that they are eligible to apply for the COVID-19 vaccine.

When you click on the link, you are taken to a convincing fake NHS website that asks for personal details **including bank account information**. Any text message containing a link should be treated with caution. The best way to find information from GOV.UK, or any other agency, is to visit that particular website via a

trusted source (such as through Google or Bing) and do not click on links in unsolicited texts or emails.

There have also been reports of criminals making telephone calls and asking for payment over the phone before you can attend your vaccine appointment. **The vaccine is free**. If you receive such a call, please hang up immediately.

These scams appear very convincing. If you think you have been a victim of fraud:

Please let your bank know immediately. If you are receiving unwanted phone calls, please let your service provider know. You may wish to consider a landline phone with inbuilt call blocking functions. These are available via some supermarkets and online stores.

Contact Police Scotland on 101 or contact Advice Direct Scotland on 0808 164 6000

For information on the COVID-19 vaccine, visit: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/immunisation/vaccines/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine> or call 0800 030 8013.

ALERTS Sign Up

You can register for the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland ALERTs updates by visiting the NWS website [here](#).

Home Safety Scotland News and Updates



Electrical Safety First: Call for research proposals into electrical safety of those living in mixed tenure apartment blocks

With recent high-profile fires and electrical product recalls, there has been growing concern regarding the electrical safety of those living in mixed tenure apartment blocks in Scotland. Electricity is the primary cause of accidental fires in Scottish homes, with tenements – or 'blocks' of flats – at particular risk, according to official fire data.

Electrical Safety First is calling for proposals for research that allows us to gain further insight into this pressing issue. The findings will support effective policy development and suggest or identify measures which mitigate electrical risk for those living in mixed tenure apartment blocks in Scotland.

Outcomes of the research will be shared with national and local government, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, as well as tenants and landlords. Please note that this initial project has been part-funded by the Scottish Government.

You can view full details of the research project [here](#).

Deadline: 19th February 2021

Please send your submissions to Wayne Mackay, Public Affairs Manager (Scotland & Northern Ireland), Electrical Safety First, at: wayne.mackay@electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk. To discuss any aspect of your application or the research brief, please email Wayne or call on 07973709358.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service LGBT+ Recruitment Session: January 20th

Scotland's national service is reaching out to members of the LGBT+ community to encourage them to consider a career in the fire service.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is inviting underrepresented groups to a dedicated online information session about operational and non-operational roles. This month, an exclusive session is being held for members of the LGBT+ community.

Liz Barnes is the Director of People and Organisational Development for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

She said: "As an equal opportunities employer, we strive to ensure our workforce represents the communities we work in. We want to reach out to diverse groups. This can help increase the number of applicants, which means that we will get the best candidates applying for the right job."

In October 2020, due to COVID-19 restrictions the information sessions moved online for the first time. This month, online sessions continue with a dedicated LGBT+ event on Wednesday, January 20 between 6pm and 8pm. Book your place [here](#).



In other news...



Updated Statutory Guidance on the Control of Dogs

SCSN was pleased to be able to contribute to new statutory guidance being issued as members of the Control of Dogs Working Group.

The Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010 ("2010 Act") came into force on 26 February 2011, and statutory guidance was issued ahead of implementation of the legislation.

The key purpose of the 2010 Act is to promote more responsible ownership of dogs and ensure that dogs which are out of control are brought and kept under control in Scotland. As we look ahead to the 10 year anniversary of the 2010 Act coming into force, the focus of the legislation continues to be on the "deed not the breed" approach in tackling irresponsible dog ownership.

The Scottish Government considers that as local authorities have had nearly a decade of experience of use in their 2010 Act powers, it is an appropriate time to issue updated guidance that reflects lived experience and practical use of the legislation.

This [updated guidance](#) therefore includes examples of best practice of local authorities use of their powers.

Victim Surcharge Fund open for applications

A new fund to help organisations provide support for victims of crime using money paid by offenders has opened for applications.

The Victim Surcharge Fund, drawn from additional financial levies imposed on all offenders who receive a court fine, has opened to bids from organisations that provide direct support to victims of crime and their families.

Payments have been made into the fund since the regulations establishing the victim surcharge were passed on 25 November 2019. The fund currently stands at £87,020.

Victim support organisations that successfully apply to the fund can use it to provide financial assistance to cover the costs of short-term and practical support such as new windows and locks for victims of house break-ins or funeral expenses for families of murder victims.

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

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