



Celebrating
— 25 YEARS —
1997-2022

Safety NET-works

July 2022



Water Safety Edition

www.safercommunitiesscotland.org

Water Safety Open Day

In support of
World Drowning Prevention Day

25 July, Helix / Kelpies Falkirk
11am – 3pm



water safety
Scotland



World Drowning
Prevention Day 25 July
Anyone can drown,
no one should.



Water Safety Scotland to host its first Water Safety Open Day

Water Safety Scotland is delighted to be hosting its first-ever Water Safety Open Day at Helix Park, Falkirk on Monday 25 July 1100-1500 to coincide with the second annual World Drowning Prevention Day.

This event is being funded jointly by Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and Scottish Water. The focus of the day is of course drowning prevention and encouraging safety around water, but our intention is to do this in a fun way with plenty of learning opportunities provided.

There will be approximately 20 stand holders which will include, among others: Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service, Young Scot, Water Safety Scotland, Scottish Water, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Scottish Canals, Scottish Community Safety Network.

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Lunchtime Launches: Climate Change and Community Safety Zine



Join us for a 30 minute micro event, to launch our 'Climate Change and Community Safety Zine' which looks at how our changing environment might influence our safety.

In light of COP26, and the impact of climate change becoming ever more apparent across Scotland and the UK, the Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) facilitated a workshop last year with a broad spectrum of community safety representatives and organisations, to identify how climate change might affect community safety.

The event will be an informal micro event where we have a look at and discuss the content of the zine, as well as the process and experience of creating it.

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

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Scottish Community
Safety Network

SCSN Updates

SCSN Climate Action Case Study

We were delighted to be invited recently by the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations to submit a case study to their series of case studies of civil society work on the climate crisis. We believe the climate crisis is the biggest challenge we face and that taking action is everyone's business.

Last year, SCSN began thinking seriously about how the climate crisis might impact on community safety, and what impact we have as an organisation on climate change.

This case study details the work we have undertaken so far, and lists some of the work we're looking to undertake in the future.

Read our case study [here](#).

You can view case studies from other third sector organisations on the ACEVO website [here](#).

SCSN seeking new National Development Officer

We are seeking a motivated National Development Officer (NDO) to join our small, agile team, to help push forward improvements to community safety in Scotland. You will become an integral part of the organisation and our National Development Team.

This is an excellent opportunity for candidates passionate about community safety, keen to help build resilient communities, and alive to issues affecting citizens and neighbourhoods in Scotland. You will be welcomed as an essential colleague and co-worker, into a team who are looking forward to working with you. SCSN is a progressive, person-centred, compassionate organisation, among the first to trial and permanently adopt 4-day working, with no loss of pay or conditions. Find out more & apply [here](#).

Question of the Month

Our Question of the Month for June-July was based around our June newsletter's theme of anti-social behaviour. We interviewed Mark Nicol of the Wheatley Group on their new approach to ASB. You can view the interview [here](#).

As is tradition, we had Mark provide our Question of the Month. He wanted to know:

"Is it time for a new approach to anti-social behaviour in Scotland?"

- 86% said Yes (18 votes)
- 9% said No (2 votes)
- 5% said Not Sure

Question of the Month July 2022

Our Question of the Month for July is based on our newsletter theme of water safety and comes from our 'SCSN Conversations With...' interviewee, Carlene McAvoy of RoSPA/Water Safety Scotland.

We're asking:

"Do you know what to do if you see someone struggling in the water?"

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

SCSN Conversations with...

Carlene McAvoy, RoSPA/Water Safety Scotland

SCSN CONVERSATIONS WITH...



Carlene McAvoy

RoSPA/Water Safety Scotland

For this month's 'SCSN Conversations With...' interview, we sat down for a chat with Carlene McAvoy of RoSPA. Carlene represents RoSPA as members of the Water Safety Scotland partnership.

In this interview, we discuss how community safety partnerships can engage with Water Safety Scotland, what we can learn from other countries' approaches to water safety, impacts of climate change on water safety in Scotland & what people can do to stay safe around water.

You can view the interview on the SCSN Youtube channel [here](#).

Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) Strategy (2022-2025) launched

SCSN was delighted to attend the launch of the new Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) Strategy for 2022-2025 on 24th June at the Royal Highland Show. SCSN is one of a number of community safety organisations who are members of the SPARC partnership.

The new three year strategy will seek to tackle rural crime and 'develop resilient rural communities'.

The aim of the SPARC is "protecting rural communities with a focus on prevention, intelligence, enforcement and reassurances".

The SPARC's four objectives:

- Develop resilient rural communities through effective partnerships, utilising holistic innovative and special techniques;
- Listen, be visible and understand local and national concerns relating to rural crime;
- Harness the contribution, expertise and knowledge of individuals, communities and



relevant partner organisations in public, private and the third sector to reduce vulnerabilities;

- Promote and improve rural community cohesion where people feel safer regardless of location.

John McKenzie, chief superintendent of Police Scotland and chair of the SPARC, said the group "recognises the need to tackle rural crime in all its forms, plus target any criminality, including those 'Serious Organised Crime Groups' who want to make money at the expense of hard working, law-abiding people, thus threatening the very fabric of rural communities".

You can view the full Strategy on [our website](#).

The [Breaking barriers to reduce inequalities hub](#) is a new resource specifically developed to help those in public service roles actively reduce inequalities in the services they provide. The hub offers guidance, practical examples, methods and approaches that work to reduce inequalities through various tools, frameworks and activities. It promotes values and behaviours that underpin human rights and contribute to reducing inequalities in practice.

The hub is primarily aimed at essential and emergency public services across all sectors, including health, social care, education, housing, police, fire and rescue services. It is also useful for everyone who works in public service, to support action to reduce inequalities and improve population life outcomes.

Designed as a flexible resource, learners can dip in and out of sections based on their learning needs, source information about how they can improve their day-to-day working practice and take action.

Three-quarters of Police Scotland incidents not crimes, report says



A lack of support for people suffering from mental health crises is having a major impact on Police Scotland, according to a new report.

HM Chief Inspector Constabulary in Scotland found 73% of incidents attended by police last year did not lead to any crime being recorded.

The inspector, Craig Naylor, linked it to more people suffering mental ill-health being referred to the police. Officers were spending more time taking them to A&E, he said.

Mr Naylor said it was an example of where police were filling in the gaps while public sector organisations were still under strain as a result of the pandemic.

"We heard from many police officers about individuals suffering mental ill-health being referred to response policing, either because individuals were receiving community-based treatment but had no assistance out of normal office hours or, in some cases, there was no appropriate support available at that time," he said.

The [inspector's annual report for 2021/22](#) has been published as Police Scotland officers prepare to "withdraw goodwill" over a pay dispute.

Consultation: Police Complaints & Misconduct

Plans for future legislation are part of the Scottish Government's response to an independent review into the handling of complaints against the police.

The Scottish Government has launched a 12-week consultation on a new Bill which delivers on a Programme for Government commitment made in September last year.

The consultation follows the recommendations

of an independent review of police complaints handling, investigations and misconduct in Scotland by Dame Elish Angiolini.

A total of 34 recommendations have been implemented since her report was published in 2020, but others require legislative change.

The consultation on a proposed Police Complaints, Investigations and Misconduct Bill will seek views on a number of key reforms.

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

Evidence Review into Public Experience and Confidence of Body Worn Video in a Policing Context



SIPR was delighted to support Police Scotland in the award of a grant which set out to explore the use of Body-Worn Video (BWV) cameras in a policing context, with specific reference to police citizen interactions and scrutiny mechanisms.

The research was undertaken by with a view to providing advice and guidance to Police

Scotland for the potential widespread future roll-out of BWV in Scotland.

The rationale for the use of BWV in policing is well established and is afforded a good level of public support, however, there is opportunity to learn from 'best practice' in the UK and beyond. As such the authors have provided a number of recommendations which would support effective and efficient role-out of BWV.

You can download and read the full research report on the SIPR website [here](#).

Research Funding: Developing Effective Policing Systems, Capability and Resilience

The Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) is providing research funding to researchers based at [SIPR member universities](#). These innovative and original research projects will contribute to [SIPR Strategic Research Priorities](#) overall but will focus on the challenges and emerging issues related to our third strategic aim “**Policing systems, capability, and resilience**”.

There are increasing and changing demands on policing with evidence of increasing complexity for response, investigations and ensuring best practice to support the public and communities. The level and pace of change in policing

presents both opportunities and challenges including:

- Ensuring colleagues have the right skills, capability and capacity;
 - Supporting new and innovative approaches to operational policing;
 - Making the best use of data, analysis, evidence and insights;
 - Continuing to focus on equality, diversity, inclusion and human rights in policing practice and within the organisation; and
- Colleague wellbeing, safety and protection.

Find out more, including how to apply for a grant, on the SIPR website [here](#).

Latest Monthly Safer Communities and Justice Brief published

The latest Justice Analytical Services monthly [Safer Communities and Justice Brief for June 2022](#) is now available on the Scottish Government website.

Whilst crime is at it's lowest level since 1974, and down 14% since 2013, among some of the notable statistics from the latest brief are:

- **Violent crime increased in the most recent year.** Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded by the police increased by 12%, to 69,286 in 2021-22.
- **Recorded sexual crimes increased in the**

most recent year. Sexual crimes recorded by the police increased by 15%, to 15,049 in 2021-22. These crimes are now at the highest level seen since 1971.

- **Decrease in crime clear up rate.** The clear up rate for all recorded crimes was 54.0% in 2021-22, down from 59.3% in 2020-21 and similar to 54.9% in 2019-20.
- Whilst there was a marginal decrease in recorded hate crime, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity aggravated hate crime charges saw an increase.
- **Small increase in firearm offences.**



Continued from front page (main article)

Aside from this, there will be demonstrations taking place in the nearby lagoon. Those coming to the event will see simulated water rescues by Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, a rescue dog performing a simulated rescue and emergency services demonstrating throwbag water rescues.

By the side of the lagoon, there will be a CPR demonstration taking place by Scottish Ambulance Service and St Andrew's First Aid will be doing a basic first aid demonstration.

Central FM - the biggest independent radio station in the area - will be broadcasting live for the duration of the event. They will be advertising the event and encouraging listeners to come down on the day, and will be

interviewing key stakeholders present at the event on air. The Minister for Community Safety, Ash Regan MSP, will also be in attendance.

There will be two competitions running on the day related to learning the Water Safety Code – one is a fun letter hunt where folks have to spot the letters hidden around the stands and put them together to reveal part of the Water Safety Code. The prizes on offer are Decathlon vouchers and a FitBit Versa and entry to the competitions is via QR code.

We look forward to seeing a lot of SCSN newsletter readers there on the day!

Find out more about Water Safety Scotland's Open Day [here](#).

By Jen Foley, RoSPA Scotland



Summer Water Safety Tips from the Royal Life Saving Society

Drowning accidents are especially high in the summer months and over the last few years, we have heard of too many tragedies that could have been avoided. Last year in Scotland saw a number of high profile water safety incidents and deaths, with several drownings in the space of one awful week last July - including [several members of a family](#) in Loch Lomond.

Every year people drown both at home and on holiday because they don't take simple precautions, so reaching people with water safety messages is vital.

Find out what you should do to enjoy water safely this summer on the Royal Life Saving Society website [here](#).

Water Safety Scotland urges public to be safe around water

Water Safety Scotland (WSS) is urging the public to stay safe around Scotland's waterways during the current heatwave.

As temperatures continue to stay high, WSS is calling on people to follow the Water Safety Code. While it can be tempting to enter the water in warmer weather, sudden immersion can lead to Cold Water Shock (CWS). CWS can affect even the strongest swimmers as it overwhelms the ability to breathe and to swim, which can lead to drowning.

With more hot weather on the way, it is important to learn how to keep safe around water, follow local safety guidance and to avoid alcohol on and near waterways.

Last year, 58 people sadly lost their lives to accidental drowning in Scotland; the majority of which were in inland open waterways such as rivers, canals and lochs (67 per cent).

To help reduce drowning fatalities, Water Safety Scotland is highlighting the Water Safety Code and the new UK campaign, Respect the

Water (which is due for release on July 25, 2022).

The Water Safety Code is an easy-to-remember three-step code, and provides some life saving advice that aims to help keep you and those you are with safe when near open water:

- Stop and Think, Spot the Dangers
- Stay Together, Stay Safe
- In an Emergency, Call 999.

Check out the Water Safety Code [here](#).

Water Safety Case Studies on the BSC Hub

The Building Safer Communities Online Unintentional Harm Hub hosts a range of Case Studies on different topics.



The Hub currently hosts five case studies on water safety projects. Visit the BSC Online Hub [here](#), and select Water Safety in the left hand menu.

World Drowning Prevention Day - 25 July



The United Nations General Assembly adopted a historic resolution on global drowning prevention on 28 April 2021.

The resolution recognises the scale and impact of drowning prevention globally, and calls for coordinated multisectoral action to prevent drowning, a leading cause of injury-related death and disability worldwide.

A key element of the resolution is that it establishes a new UN-recognised World Drowning Prevention Day, all stakeholders, including governments, nongovernmental organisations and their partners, are invited and encouraged to contribute to, and engage in, this global day of activity.

Find out more about World Drowning Prevention Day & how you can get involved [here](#).

Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week 2022

The second UK Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Awareness Week takes place between the 18-24 July.

As well as recently beginning a series of anti-social behaviour discussion workshops at the SCVO Gathering, last year, SCSN published a major new piece of research on ASB titled 'The Scottish Picture of Anti-Social Behaviour.'

To mark UK ASB awareness week, we've published three short videos which we've been sharing on social media. You can also view them on our Youtube channel [here](#).

Also, check out our [June 2022 Safety NETworks newsletter](#) which featured an interview with the Wheatley Group on their new approach to anti social behaviour.

Funding and Awards

Cashback for Communities Fund Open!

CashBack for Communities supports the Scottish Government's Vision For Justice, helping to build a just, safe and resilient Scotland. The fund focuses on young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system and the communities most affected by crime.

CashBack Phase 6 will deliver a range of trauma-informed and person-centred services and activities for young people between the ages of 10-25 that:

- Support young people most at risk of being involved in antisocial behaviour offending or reoffending towards or into positive destinations
- Provide person-centred support for young people, parents and families impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma
- Support young people to improve their health, mental health and wellbeing
- Support people, families and communities most affected by crime

Find out more, including how to apply for a grant [here](#).



SURF Awards 2022

SURF's annual awards process is delivered in partnership with the Scottish Government. It is open to all community regeneration projects in Scotland that are currently in place or that have been completed within two years of the closing date. The **purpose** of the SURF Awards is:

- To recognise and reward **best practice and innovation** in community regeneration;
- To promote and disseminate best practice across Scotland as means of **sharing knowledge and experience**, and thereby enhancing future policy and practice;
- To highlight the role that regeneration projects have in **improving the wellbeing** of individuals and communities.

The SURF Awards has been running since 1998. It provides an opportunity for regeneration projects of all sizes to **demonstrate value** to funders and partners, support team-building and **develop a national profile**. SURF Award winners also receive additional showcase opportunities through SURF activities throughout the following year.

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

Scotland Loves Local Awards 2022



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, innovation and commitment towards shaping a sustainable, successful future with localism at its heart.

These 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 will include the commendation of a High Street Hero – a business or organisation which has gone above and beyond to support those around them, whether inside or outwith the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

Climate Crisis Corner



Climate 2050x Fund Open!

2050 Climate Group's Leaders Network run a funding initiative called 2050x. Through our 2050x Fund 2050 Climate Group offers financial support for projects aiming to tackle an aspect of climate change. This unique opportunity is open to all 18 - 35 year olds, based in Scotland, who have a project idea that requires some extra resources and support.

Successful applicants will receive a financial contribution, as well as support from the 2050 Climate Group, which can provide climate change expertise from a broad range of sectors and access to a

wide network of contacts. This financial support could be anywhere from £50 to £1,000 depending on the funding needed, and each application will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

2050x projects should be aligned with the 2050 Climate Group's charitable purpose, that is the education, engagement and empowerment of the next generation of leaders to take action on climate change and the advancement of education on climate change and leadership skills. Beyond this condition, projects may be wide ranging and we will consider all applications.

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

ERCS welcomes exemption of court fees for some Aarhus cases

The Scottish Government has published its response to their consultation on court fees, along with [secondary legislation](#) which will implement agreed changes, effective from 1 July.

The Environmental Rights Centre Scotland (ERCS) has welcomed the decision to exempt Aarhus cases heard in the Court of Session from court fees. This is a key demand of their [advocacy manifesto](#), and described as a positive step towards reducing barriers to accessing justice on the environment. ERCS say it is disappointing that Aarhus cases in other courts (e.g. Sheriff Courts) are unaffected by this decision – with litigants still liable to pay fees.

The ERCS says removing court fees is an important step to reducing legal expenses. However, much [more needs to be done](#) to make it affordable for all of us to uphold environmental laws in court and enforce our human right to a healthy environment.

Scotland remains in breach of Article 9 of the Aarhus Convention, that access to justice must not be 'prohibitively expensive'.

Read the full ERCS response to the Scottish Government [here](#).

Toolkit: Place Standard with Climate Lens

The Place Standard Tool with a climate lens is a project jointly led and delivered by Sniffer, Sustainable Scotland Network and Architecture & Design Scotland, together with and funded by Public Health Scotland and Scottish Government. It builds on the widely used [Place Standard Tool](#) (PST), which provides a simple framework to structure conversation about place, based around 14 themes.

The Place Standard with a climate lens will help people to understand how climate change might play out in a local area and support them to design their future place in mind.

Find out more & access the toolkit [here](#).



Latest news from the Home Safety Scotland Forum

New: Home Safety Map Published

We're delighted to publish our brand new illustrated 'Home Safety Map', developed in partnership with our close friends and colleagues at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

This map illustrates research into common, avoidable hazards in our homes. It highlights tragic causes of injury and death, specific to pre-school children and adults over 65. This resource is for everyone but should be of particular interest to parents and carers. We want all citizens in Scotland, young and old to be safe and aware at home.

You can download the new 'Home Safety Map' on the SCSN website [here](#).



Commissioned and funded by SCSN in collaboration with RoSPA. Illustrated by Laura Darling

Lunchtime Launches: Home Safety Map

We'll be launching the Home Safety Map officially at one of our new brief 'Lunchtime Launches' events on 8 August. The event will be an informal micro event where we have a look at and discuss the content of the map, as well as the process and experience of creating it, with the illustrator and partners present. Book your place [here](#).

New call for UK public to stop using heated hairbrush and dryer model



The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has issued a further warning to the public to stop using a heated hairbrush and dryer which can catch fire during normal use.

The product, originally branded 'One Step model SM-5250', was initially subject to a Safety Gate alert notified by the UK in 2020. However, OPSS has since identified it is again being sold through online marketplaces. OPSS Recall alerts have now been posted on our ['Product Safety Alerts, Reports and Recalls' page](#) where you can check the details.

Read more [here](#).

Green Home Festival Event: Living Safely in the Future



The Green Home Festival will close with a fascinating presentation by Electrical Safety First, who will be throwing the spotlight on the technology of tomorrow. Heat pumps, solar panels, electric vehicle charge points and battery storage could all be commonplace in our homes in just a few years, but how do we ensure that we keep it – and ourselves – safe?

This show will focus on the types of technology we can expect to see in our homes, and the measures that will need to be put in place to ensure they operate safely – and what we should all be aware of before kitting out our futuristic pads.

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

Electrical Safety First Plug Checker



Sub-standard and counterfeit electrical plugs can be deadly!

The Plug Checker has been developed to allow you to quickly check and ensure the plugs on your electrical appliances meet the required standards.

It enables the user to perform 3 simple tests, in which should the plug fail on any of these checks, the appliance should not be used as it could put you at risk. Plug Checkers are available to purchase for just £1 each.

Find out more, including a list of common products which can often be found to not meet the required safety standards, [here](#).

EU Safety Conference in Vienna

On 23rd and 24th June, our Chief Officer, Lorraine and I (Dawn, National Development Officer) headed off to Vienna to present to European delegates at the EU Safety Conference 2022 to showcase our [Experiences & Perceptions of Community Safety animation](#) as well as our [Causation Factors of Unintentional Injury in the Home research](#).

We arrived in Vienna to a cool 35 degrees (!) so were delighted the conference, despite being hosted in a historic Viennese 'palais', was suitably air-conditioned—phew! The conference, which focussed on safety in a digitalized world, began with an inspiring input from Jonathon Passmore from the World Health Organisation, reminding us that no statistic is too small to pay attention to. One preventable death, is one too many.

Read more [here](#).

Falls Awareness Week 2022

Register now for digital campaign kit & invitations to 4 webinars!



Falls Awareness Week
#thinkfalls #keepmoving

The issue of patient deconditioning has never been more important. Accident and emergency (A&E) teams, for example, have reported increases in unplanned admissions of patients with more complex needs, including deconditioning.

We can use 'Falls Awareness Week 2022' to encourage older adults to start doing some of those activities they loved doing before COVID-19—whether that is doing a bit of walking, dancing, swimming or even a Parkrun event.

The idea is to focus on what is easiest and that should make it more likely for those activities to become a habit. #KeepMoving #ThinkFalls

Find out more, including on webinars, [here](#).



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Email info@scsn.org.uk



83 Princes Street
Edinburgh, EH2 2ER

0131 225 8700/7772

Email: info@scsn.org.uk

Company Ltd. SC357649

Charity No. SC040464

www.safercommunitiesscotland.org