



SAFETY NET-WORKS

JULY 2023

WATER SAFETY EDITION

www.safercommunitiesScotland.org

SAVE THE DATE: Equally Safe: Building Safer Places & Communities in Scotland

As part of the 2022 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence the Improvement Service, the Scottish Community Safety Network and Public Health Scotland hosted a successful [spotlight event](#), where we explored how stakeholders could work to embed women and girls' experiences and risk of VAWG into community safety policy and practice at a local and national level.



The spotlight session explored opportunities for collaborative action and the [Learning Report](#) from this event, and others in the series, detail these key messages and actions.

This roundtable will build on the spotlight session and seek to fulfil the commitment made at the session from national partners to work with strategic partners to ensure that the issues and actions highlighted through the spotlight session are considered as part of the upcoming refresh of Equally Safe: Scotland's Strategy for Preventing and Eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls.

Attendees will be invited to consider how the refresh of the Equally Safe Strategy can be utilised to increase the profile of violence against women, and taking a gendered approach, across community safety and place-based planning.

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

SCSN Annual Member & Stakeholder Survey 2022/23



Each year we canvas your views and opinions via a Member & Stakeholder Survey.

The Survey is open to our Members, Partners and Stakeholders and helps us to assess how well we are achieving our outcomes; and if our work and support continues to be perceived as valuable.

The Member & Stakeholder Survey is critical to inform our efforts towards continuous improvement.

This year, we're providing a small incentive! Everyone who completes and submits a survey response will be entered into a prize draw!

You can complete the survey [here](#)

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Community Safety Conference Learning Report

On Monday 26th June, the SCSN and CoSLA, hosted an in person and online conference event at CoSLA HQ, Edinburgh. The event was an opportunity to learn more about various topical community safety issues, with the opportunity for discussion. The conference was also a fantastic opportunity to bring people together again, post-pandemic, to network in person.

Download the Event Learning Report [here](#).

Latest SCSN Consultation Response published

We've published our latest consultation response, responding to the Scottish Government Consultation on 'Local Living and 20 Minute Neighbourhoods: Draft Guidance.' You can read this and all of our recent consultation response on our website [here](#).

SCSN signs #StandWithTrans Pledge

The SCSN was delighted to sign up to the Charity So Straight #StandWithTrans Pledge.

We are deeply concerned at [the rises in hate crime](#) experienced by the trans community and wider LGBTI community in the UK over the past few years.

We note that [the United Nations has said](#) that this has been driven by the unhelpful tone adopted by politicians, media and others in the UK in discussions around trans rights.

You can read our statement in full and sign the Pledge yourself [here](#).

Question of the Month June 2023

Results

Our Question of the Month for July was based on our 'Equalities/Diversity' themed newsletter - published at the end of what was also Pride Month.

LGBT rights issues have been in the media a lot in the past few years, with hate crimes increasing over the past five years.

We asked:

"In your view, is Scotland still a safe and welcoming place in which to be an LGBTI person?"

- 43% said Yes (6 votes)
- 7% said No (1 vote)
- 50% said Not Sure (7 votes)

Question of the Month July 2023

Our Question of the Month for July relates to this month's Water Safety theme.

With calls for parents to discuss water safety with their children after a report showing an increase in drowning deaths (see page 7), we're asking:

"Are you confident your children know how to stay safe around water?"

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

Safer Communities Scotland Podcast

With Prof. Niven Rennie, The Hope Collective



We're delighted to welcome back Professor Niven Rennie to the Safer Communities Scotland Podcast, in his new role at the head of the recently established Hope Collective.

Niven [previously appeared on our Podcast](#) in his former role as head of the Scottish Violence Reduction Network.

In this episode we chat about the work of the Hope Collective, of which SCSN is a member, why hope is so crucial to our lives and societies and what we can do to foster hope locally, nationally and internationally.

Listen to the episode on Spotify [here](#).

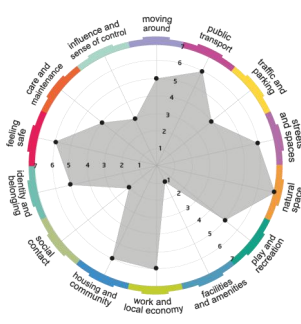
Listen to the episode on YouTube [here](#).

Placemaking in Practice Symposium 8 September 2023

This collaborative symposium will bring together the eight Member Administrations of the British-Irish Council to explore the challenges and opportunities for shaping places that better address the needs of people in the context of rapid change and inequalities that characterise our society, as well as the impact of climate and nature emergencies. How can current and future generations live well? How can placemaking contribute to supporting the green economy and efforts towards decarbonisation?

This event provides space for examining key perspectives; for discussion, debate and the exchange of ideas across sectors and disciplines seeking to identify ways in which decision makers, professionals and civic society can play leading roles.

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



Council Tax Changes: Consultation



Potential changes to the council tax system that could see those in the highest value properties asked to pay more if they can afford to have been published.

A [joint consultation](#) with COSLA is seeking views on plans to increase the amount paid by people in bands E, F, G and H. This aims to address criticism that the system is unfair, because at present those in the lower bands pay a higher proportion of the value of their property than those in the higher bands.

Around 75% of properties would be unaffected if the proposals, which could be phased in over a period of three years, were implemented. The Council Tax Reduction scheme would continue to offer lower bills for those unable to afford their council tax, regardless of what band they are in.

Read more [here](#).

Scottish Government lays out drug policy reform - including decriminalisation of possession

The Scottish Government has laid out plans for a radical approach to tackling Scotland's drug problem.

Titled "[A Caring, Compassionate and Human Rights Informed Drug Policy for Scotland](#)", the policy paper has received substantial backing [across Scottish civil society](#) & the media, including from the Scottish Community Safety Network.

The proposals include:

- decriminalisation of drug possession for personal use
- Introduction of supervised drug consumption facilities
- A roll out of heroin/diamorphine assisted treatment
- Exploration of regulating drug markets

The proposals would see drug use treated as a public health issue rather than a criminal justice issue.

Why the SCSN supports the new proposals

Blog by David Barbour, SCSN Comms Officer

Last week, the Scottish Government published [a new policy](#) on tackling drug deaths and wider drug related harms in Scotland. These included proposals for safer drug consumption rooms, decriminalisation of possession and exploration of regulating drug markets.

Our role is to take an evidence-based approach to building safer communities in Scotland.

The international evidence is overwhelming that our current drug laws and the War on Drugs have failed on every metric by which they could be judged – whether on reducing deaths, improving health, reducing violence, reducing exploitation of vulnerable people etc.

Drug prohibition makes our communities more dangerous in a variety of ways.

It hands the control of drugs over to criminal gangs with no interest in the wellbeing of people who use drugs – meaning that drug users often have no idea what the drugs they use contain and are more vulnerable to poisoning & overdose.

Total prohibition of drugs means we hand over control of drug markets, worth hundreds of billions of pounds each year, to organised crime gangs and cartels. A [recent report](#) commissioned by the UK Government valued the UK illicit drug market at £9.4billion. That's money freely surrendered to organised crime.

This drives violence in our communities as gangs fight for control of territory and local markets.

It results in the exploitation of vulnerable people to be used by county lines gangs and in '[cuckooing](#)'.

The vast revenues from the drug trade are used by criminal gangs to corrupt civil society, including democratic institutions and the police – including in the United Kingdom.

Organised Crime can reinvest profits made from the drug trade to diversify into other forms of crime, including human trafficking and cybercrime.

Instead, regulated markets could see funds invested into tackling the causes of problematic alcohol and other drug use (i.e., economic inequality, poverty and deprivation) – and treatment – through taxation. All of this whilst simultaneously denying organised crime the funds to carry out other illegal activity.

A health issue, not a criminal issue

Drug use should never be considered a criminal issue. Almost all of us use some form of psychoactive drug regularly. We wouldn't dream of criminalising someone for possessing or using alcohol. The [vast majority \(90%\) of people who use currently illicit drugs do so recreationally](#), without developing a drug use disorder (but due to our current laws, are vulnerable to poisoning).

Read the blog in full on our website [here](#).

2023 Symposium on Illicit Drugs

19-20 September, University of Strathclyde

The global drug landscape is a fluid and constantly evolving situation, and one which requires our joint collaboration.

Come to Glasgow for a comprehensive update on the current global drug scene. Featuring a panel of international experts who will highlight the impacts illicit drugs have on forensic science, policing, and policy.



This event, hosted by Strathclyde's Centre for Forensic Science, will serve as the first of its kind in Scotland for those working in fields related to drug use. Participants will have an outstanding opportunity to gain valuable ideas, insights, and knowledge, so that we may take one collective step closer to countering the effects of illicit drugs on society.

The Symposium will benefit those working in fields directly or indirectly related to illicit drugs, including police officers, emergency services personnel, health professionals, advocates, barristers, members of the procurator fiscal service, scientists, toxicologists, public policy personnel, social workers and more.

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

Enablers and barriers to trauma-informed systems, organisations and workforces: evidence review

This [research report](#) presents the findings of a rapid evidence review of the international literature published between 2016-2022 describing the enablers that support the effective implementation of trauma-informed approaches across different systems, organisations and workforces, alongside barriers to implementation.

This review was conducted by the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Analysis Unit in 2022 with the initial search and screening phase conducted by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) Knowledge Services.

Among key findings were:

In relation to the workforce in the services covered by the studies in our literature search, evidence shows that trauma-informed approaches can have a positive impact on staff wellbeing and satisfaction, improved communication and collaboration between systems and services, as well as increased confidence, knowledge and skills in relation to responding to psychological trauma.

For people with lived experience of psychological trauma, evidence shows that trauma-informed approaches can improve wellbeing, reduce emotional difficulties for children and young people and have a positive impact on families and caregivers. It can also increase knowledge and skills of people with experience of trauma, improve access to specialist treatment or services where required, increase completion rates of treatment and result in a reduction in the experience of seclusion and physical restraint.

Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Published

This Strategy lays out our long-term vision and approach to improving the mental health and wellbeing of everyone in Scotland.

This document therefore sets out the shared vision of Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) vision to improve mental health and wellbeing – including the role of other key areas such as poverty, housing, employment and our communities.

Read the Strategy [here](#).



Spotlight on: The Water Safety Signage Audit Report (2022)

Last year, in partnership with Water Safety Scotland & the RNLI, we published a report on Water Safety Signage in Scotland.

This report outlines research carried out in 2022 into water safety signage across Scotland. The research is a 'snapshot' of the current signage in place across key areas of owned land in Scotland.

The report found that water safety signage in Scotland is not uniform and lacks clarity.

The key findings were that:

- water safety signs had little consistency in terms of font size, sign size, colouring and amount of written information

- 63% of the signs were not specific to water safety
- 69% of the signs included the correct use of British Standard symbols
- 19% of the signs did not include information on what to do in an emergency
- Only 44% of the signs included a location code, although there was little consistency in terms of the type of location code.

The report recommends that funding should be sought to explore the minimum critical information needed for inclusion on water safety signs, and investigate options for reforming and simplifying water safety signage across Scotland.

Download the report [here](#).



Anyone can drown,
no one should.

World Drowning Prevention Day - 25th July

Every year, an estimated 236,000 people drown, making drowning a major public health problem worldwide. Drowning is one of the leading causes of death globally for children and young people aged 1-24 years. Drowning is the 3rd leading cause of unintentional injury death, accounting for 7% of all injury-related deaths.

The [Global report on drowning](#) is the first World Health Organization (WHO) report dedicated exclusively to drowning – a highly preventable public health challenge that has never been

targeted by a global strategic prevention effort. This report aims to change that.

Water Safety and World Drowning Prevention Day in Scotland

Our colleagues and friends at Water Safety Scotland are once again holding an interactive water safety open day at The Helix on World Drowning Prevention Day and the SCSN team will be represented.

We hope everyone who attends has fun and learns something they can take away to stay safer around water!

Last year for World Drowning Prevention Day, we published a Podcast interview with Carlene McAvoy of Water Safety Scotland.

The Podcast discussion is still highly relevant, so if you'd like to check it out you can listen to it [on Spotify](#) or [on YouTube](#).

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Water Safety Advice

Our partners at the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service provide a range of great advice and tips on how to enjoy water safely in summer. Below is an introduction to advice on their website.

Scotland enjoys some of the most beautiful rivers, lochs, canals and reservoirs that the UK has to offer. But it is vital to be aware of the risks before contemplating being in or around water.

Even in summer months, our waters remain perilously cold. Sadly, our firefighters often see firsthand the consequences of people entering water without the knowledge to remain safe.

To help reduce risk, we have put together some useful advice about what you can do to stay safe around water. If you are a parent, guardian or teacher you can also use

information on this page to talk to children about water safety.

We would also strongly advise you follow the [Water Safety Code](#) before contemplating being in or around water.

Sometimes it can be tempting to go for a dip in a river or loch, especially during the summer months, but swimming in unsupervised open water can be extremely dangerous.

Open water can become very cold just a few feet under the surface and can cause cramps or [Cold Water Shock](#). Very cold temperatures can also affect your stamina and you may find your strength and ability to swim deteriorates rapidly. You might find yourself getting tired a lot more quickly than you would in a heated pool.

Find out more, including viewing a variety of safety resources on the SFRS website [here](#).

Parents urged to talk to children about water safety after rise in child drowning deaths in England & Wales

Parents are being asked to speak to their children about water safety after new data revealed an 85% increase in the number of child drownings in [England](#) between 2019 and 2022.

There were 84 drownings of children and young people during the 3 years. Nearly half (38 (45%)) occurred in children under 5, 20 (24%) in children aged 5-14 years and 26 (31%) in those aged 15-17 years.

The most common place for drownings for

children under five was in the bath. 83% of these incidents occurred whilst the child was unsupervised.

The most common place for drowning for 15-17 year olds was in inland water.

The report also uncovered inequalities in death rates, with ethnic minority children having the highest death rate (deaths/population distribution) - and the report called for further investigation of this disparity.

Read more [here](#).

Download the Full National Child Mortality Database Report [here](#).

Water Safety on Holiday

The Royal Life Saving Society are urging people to keep themselves safe around water whilst on holiday. In 2021, more than 85 British Nationals drowned whilst on holiday.

Among advice on [their website](#), they recommend:



- When visiting new places, take time to **review safety notices**. Find out what local signs and flags mean.
- Always **look out for potential hazards** and warn members of your group to avoid possible risks.
- **Never use inflatables in open water** – although they look fun, inflatable water toys can quickly get caught in the wind and be blown out to sea.

New 'Pro-Social' Behaviour animation launched on Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week

The I Am Me Scotland team have been working with children from Thorn Primary and Renfrew High, to design and develop a new Anti Social Behaviour resource for schools across Scotland.

The team also worked with Renfrewshire youth groups and 10 organisations from across Scotland to develop an awareness lesson which encompasses a [short animation](#), videos and case studies.

The lesson aims to turn anti social behaviour into active social behaviour, encouraging children and young people to make a positive difference in their community.

All lessons are free for schools in Scotland and can be accessed from iammescotlandeducation.org.uk. A parents and carers section will be available soon, enabling access to a range of resources from disability awareness to alcohol and substance use.

The team at I Am Me Scotland said "All of our lessons are developed with children and young people, ensuring a unique, interactive and engaging approach to learning. The resources are also developed in partnership with Police Scotland, helping to support safer communities across Scotland".

You can access the full resource [here](#).



Event: Talking to boys and men about gender-based violence

An event as part of the Festival of Politics looking at how we address gender based violence through talking to boys and men.

Declared by the United Nations as an 'epidemic' across the world, how do we talk to boys and men in ways that will engage them and stop gender-based violence?

What is being done in the legal world, in schools, with public education campaigns, and perpetrators to understand, challenge and change male attitudes and behaviour on harassment, assault and abuse?

Read more [here](#).

Young Adult Safety Project - Crime & Justice Research Centre

Many young adults face the fear, or the reality, of violence in their lives.

The state and its agencies have an important role to play in tackling the violence faced by young adults and a responsibility to ensure greater safety for this age group. But current approaches are one-sided. Too dominated by policies and practices that seek to police, prosecute and punish, too weak on approaches that offer lasting solutions.

Working in partnership with others, this project will develop a shared knowledge base on current state approaches – how they might help and how they might harm – and consolidate collective knowledge and experience on what effective action, and meaningful change, might look like.

If you would like to find out more about this project, [please get in touch](#).

Where are the women? Nearly 500 women 'missing' from key positions of power in Scotland

In their new report: 'Sex & Power in Scotland 2023' published today, Engender charts the number of women in key decision-making positions and highlights the significant void that exists in women's representation and distribution of power in Scotland.

The report, which examines a range of areas across public life – including politics, health, sport and media – paints a concerning picture. The report identified 3381 positions of power in Scotland, with only 1219 (just over a third) held by women. Men continue to hold two-thirds of positions of power in Scotland and were significantly over-represented in 33 of the 38 areas of public life examined - with only 5

areas demonstrating at least 50% of women in leadership positions. This is despite women making up 51% of Scotland's population, 49% of its labour market, and girls routinely leaving school with higher levels of educational attainment on average.

Engender's previous Sex & Power reports in [2017](#) and [2020](#) looked to track progress towards gender equality over time. Its 2023 research has found evidence of some improvement in areas including political institutions, within the health sector and limited areas across media and culture. However, the rate of change remains disappointingly slow. Women still account for only 27% of council leaders, 22% sheriffs, 26% of university principals, 18% of major newspaper editors and just 7% of CEO's of Scotland's top businesses.

Download the report [here](#).

Victims, Witnesses & Justice (Reform) Bill: Consultation

The Scottish Government is proposing a new law which aims to improve the experiences of victims and witnesses within Scotland's justice system – in particular, the victims of sexual crime. The new law would also make some broader reforms to the criminal justice process.

Among the reforms, the new Bill would create a new Victims and Witnesses Commissioner for Scotland, embed trauma informed practice in criminal and civil courts, increase the availability of special measures for vulnerable witnesses and parties.

There has been some controversy around other proposals contained within the Bill, [with criticisms](#) that moves to reduce jury sizes, remove the 'Not Proven' verdict and pilot juryless trials in rape cases could result in wrongful convictions and undermine defendants right to a fair trial.

Find out more and take part in the consultation [here](#).

Feedback Form: Domestic abuse, rape and sexual crime

This feedback form provides victim survivors of domestic abuse, rape and other sexual crime the opportunity to provide their feedback to Police Scotland.

Police Scotland's own professional Research and Insight team works alongside policing leaders to ensure your feedback is heard and makes a difference. They review responses regularly. This helps us know what we need to do to enhance or improve our policing services and recognise good practice.

Police Scotland invite anyone who has reported domestic abuse, rape or other sexual crime to Police Scotland to share their anonymous feedback with us. If you have any questions please use the contact details on this page.

Read more and submit your views [here](#).

Community justice strategy: delivery plan

This [delivery plan](#) sets out deliverables which detail the work that will be undertaken to drive improvement nationally towards the aims of the National Strategy for Community Justice.

Applications are now open for Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board

Scottish Ministers are looking to appoint four Members to the Scottish Fire and Rescue (SFRS) Board. As a member, candidates will work closely with the Service's Strategic Leadership Team, providing impartial oversight and valuable perspective and achieving optimal outcomes. It is an



excellent opportunity to contribute to an essential public service and make a meaningful difference.

They are particularly looking for individuals with a proven track record of excelling in driving innovation in service delivery. These roles require unwavering commitment and passion, presenting a unique opportunity to contribute to the safety of our communities.

Find out more and apply before 21 August [here](#).

Domestic Homicide Review Survey

As part of the work to develop a multi-agency Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) model for Scotland, the Scottish Government are undertaking engagement with professionals and lived experience to further inform the development of the DHR model. Please find attached a short brief with information on what participants can expect with the engagement.

The Scottish Government want to ensure that those wishing to participate do so in a way that works for them. If you would like to participate in the engagement, please complete the following short form to help them understand what would work best for you or your associated organisation so that they can consider how they can best meet participants preferences: [DHR Model –](#)

[Engagement Preferences Form](#). The form comprises of 10 questions and should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

On receipt of this information, the Domestic Homicide Review Policy Team will follow up with you to discuss and firm up any engagement session arrangements. In the meantime, please feel free to share the engagement briefing and any of the information provided with others that you think might be interested in this work.

If you would like to discuss this work further or have any issues or questions, please contact the policy team at DHRmodel@gov.scot. For more information on the Domestic Homicide Review Taskforce, please visit: [Domestic Homicide Review Taskforce - gov.scot](#) (www.gov.scot)

An introductory guide to low traffic neighbourhood design

Sustrans Scotland created this introductory design guide to outline the approach, tools and techniques needed to design a low traffic neighbourhood (LTN).

Sustrans hope it can be a useful reference for engineers, urban designers, planners, and anyone else interested in creating liveable cities and towns.

While the principles outlined should apply to

most schemes, the detail will always be context-specific.

A great design is not enough to guarantee a successful low traffic neighbourhood, which will require complementary monitoring, community engagement and behaviour change programmes.

The guide also includes links to existing research on LTNs.

Read more & download the guide [here](#).

Climate Crisis & Community Safety

"We can't have safer
communities without a
liveable climate."

Poll of Academics backs disruptive tactics of protestors on Climate Crisis

A [poll of academics](#) carried out by Apollo Academic Surveys has suggested that disruptive tactics by groups such as Just Stop Oil may indeed be effective in the success of their campaigns.

Experts thought the most important tactical and strategic factor for a social movement's success is "the strategic use of nonviolent disruptive tactics", ranking it as more important

than focusing on gaining media coverage and having ambitious goals.

69% of experts thought that disruptive tactics were effective for issues (like climate change) that have high public awareness and support. For issues with high awareness but low support (like anti-vaccination), only 30% thought disruptive tactics were effective.

90% of experts thought that non-violent climate protests targeting the government are at least somewhat effective overall.

First Green PB Seal Issued! Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Partnership

PB Scotland are delighted to announce that their first dedicated [Green PB Seal](#) has now been issued to the Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Partnership for their recent Green PB Project in the North East of Scotland.

Co-produced and developed by the Green PB Action Group, the Badge and Seal have the main purpose of "recognising, identifying and supporting Green PB activity in Scotland". Read more [here](#).

Tackling the environmental impact of disposable vapes

Up to 26 million disposable vapes were consumed and thrown away in Scotland in the last year, of which an estimated 10 per cent were littered and more than half were incorrectly disposed of, according to a [new report](#).

Read more [here](#).

New grant funding to decarbonise public sector buildings

A new funding scheme has been launched offering up to £20 million in grants to support local authorities, universities and arm's-length external organisations decarbonise their buildings.

Scotland's Public Sector Heat Decarbonisation Fund will eventually replace the existing Scottish Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme, which has been running since 2006 and offered zero interest loans for energy efficiency improvement projects.

The new scheme is intended to increase the number of public sector organisations taking forward heat decarbonisation measures in their buildings.

The funding forms part of the £200 million already committed to the public sector for energy efficiency and renewable heating over the next five years - part of the wider plan to spend £1.8 billion in this current parliamentary session on decarbonising Scotland's buildings.

Read more [here](#).



Latest news from the Home Safety Scotland Forum

We're always on the lookout for new members to join our forum! If you work in or are interested in home safety, and would like to join or attend our forum, please contact Kevin Chase at hss@scsn.org.uk.

You can follow Home Safety Scotland on Twitter at [@HomeSafetyScot](https://twitter.com/HomeSafetyScot)

New dedicated tenant and resident safety network for Scotland

A small group of social housing practitioners have come together to establish a dedicated tenant and resident safety network for colleagues across Scotland.

The [Social Housing Safety Network Scotland](#) has been created to focus on tenant and resident safety in Scotland and to provide information, guidance and networking collaboration for local authority and housing association landlords.

The Network is proud to share the skills, knowledge and experience of industry leading practitioners to support its members in understanding their statutory obligations, the importance of measuring their organisation's performance and how to evidence compliance for tenant and resident safety.

The Network was founded by Vicki Cutler alongside three other co-founding practitioners, Matt Dawes, Ryan Hodgson and Louise Burgess, who have over 60 years' social housing sector experience between them!

Their extensive knowledge has enabled them to develop a range of documents that will support organisations to gain assurance of their compliance with all elements of tenant and resident safety.

The Network aims to bring together social housing providers across Scotland to support each other, sharing good practice and enabling, in the future, the benchmarking of tenant and resident safety performance against key performance indicators (KPIs).

Read more [here](#).

Social Housing Safety Network Inaugural Annual Conference - 22nd - 23rd November

The Social Housing Safety Network Scotland is delighted to introduce details of their inaugural tenant and resident safety annual conference; packed full of useful sessions that include a mixture of awareness raising and case studies from colleagues in the sector, we're sure there will be something for everyone. To book your place, [click here](#).

New Research: Home Accidents Awareness Scale for Mothers

A Home Accidents Awareness Scale for mothers has been developed by researchers who surveyed mothers attending a health centre in Turkey in 2019.

The scale contains 55 items and four subscales (awareness of falls, burns, drowning and poisoning, cutting and drilling tool injuries).

Read more [here](#).

Charity urges parents to keep babies in arms' reach in water as bath drownings treble

Shocking new data shows the number of children sadly drowning in the bath increased from 4 in 2019-20 to 12 in 2021-22. Seven of these tragic deaths were of babies under one and, in five cases, bath seats were being used.

In the majority of cases (83%) the child had been left alone in the bath. The most common reasons for leaving the child alone were taking a phone call, leaving the room to get something e.g. a towel, confusion about who was supervising the child or

attending to a sibling or other young children.

The findings have prompted a reminder from the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) to parents that drowning happens quickly and silently, and that babies should be kept in arms' reach whenever they are in water. The charity also warns that bath seats are not designed as safety devices and babies should not be left alone in them.

The charity's plea comes just weeks after [a coroner issued a warning to parents](#) after a nine-month-old baby was found drowned in a few centimetres of bath water.

Read more [here](#).

Corra Foundation Henry Duncan Grants - Funding applications invited

In 2023, Henry Duncan Grants want to fund organisations that increase opportunities for Deaf/ Disabled People and / or people living with long term conditions, helping them to participate fully in society and live independently.

Henry Duncan Grants will be open to grassroots organisations with an annual income of £250,000 or less. Organisations can apply for up to £40,000 across five years (£8,000 per year).

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

Age Scotland Older People's Champion Campaign

Age Scotland believes that every one of Scotland's 32 local authorities should appoint a Councillor as an Older People's Champion. We are working with the Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA) on a joint campaign to make this happen.

With a growing older population, we think it is vital that local decision-making in Scotland meets the needs of older people and that councils have a role focusing on older people.

Read more and add your voice to the campaign [here](#).

Share your experience of caring for someone of pension age

The Scottish Government is designing a new benefit called Pension Age Disability Payment. They want to speak to people with experience of supporting or caring for someone of pension age.

Find out more [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!
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