



# SAFETY NET-WORKS

JUNE 2023

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

## EQUALITIES/DIVERSITY EDITION



New Scots communities are making Scotland a more welcoming and supportive place to live.

Find out more  
[www.newscots.scot](http://www.newscots.scot)

>< NewScots

### Website celebrating immigration to Scotland launched on World Refugee Day

June 20th was World Refugee Day, and to celebrate, the Scottish Refugee Council have launched a [new website](#) showcasing the incredible work of groups and organisations across Scotland working to build supportive and welcoming communities.

The website provides a range of resources and information to help new Scots to adapt to their new home country, as well as for local authorities and other service providers.

This includes ['The New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy: A report on the local and international dimensions of integrating refugees in Scotland'](#); based on the academic research conducted by the University of Glasgow on the NSRIDP project. It therefore provides a comprehensive presentation of the academic research undertaken over a two-year period (2020 – 2022).

**Continue reading on Page 3**

### 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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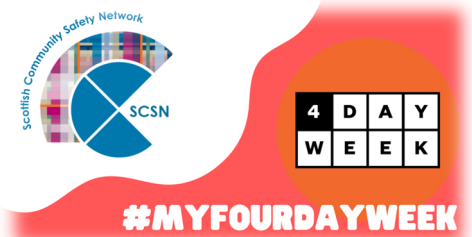


## SCSN Publishes #MyFourDayWeek story video

The SCSN were early adopters of the four day week in 2022, following a successful 6 month trial period. We adopted a four day week with no loss of pay or conditions, just a straight 20% cut in working hours. That's why we've been certified as Gold Standard Four Day Week employers with the global Four Day Week Campaign.

The Four Day Week campaign are running a #MyFourDayWeek story social media campaign, and we decided to create a short video detailing our staff teams experience of working for a four day week employer.

You can view our video [on YouTube](#) and read our in depth staff accounts on our website [here](#).



## SCSN Publish Consultation Response on Reforming Criminal Law on Misogyny

The Scottish Government Consultation on Reforming the Criminal Law on Misogyny closed on 23 June. We submitted a response at the beginning of the month which you can download and read [here](#).

## Question of the Month

### Results for May

Our last Safety NETworks newsletter was themed on Home Safety. It featured our latest Safer Communities Podcast episode with Dr Vikki McCall of the University of Stirling - where we discussed her work and wider research on inclusive home adaptations and inclusion by design.

For our Question of the Month, we asked:

***"Do you think we should be integrating inclusive design into our homes and environments more systematically?"***

- 100% said Yes (18 votes)
- 0% said No
- 0% said Not Sure

## Question of the Month

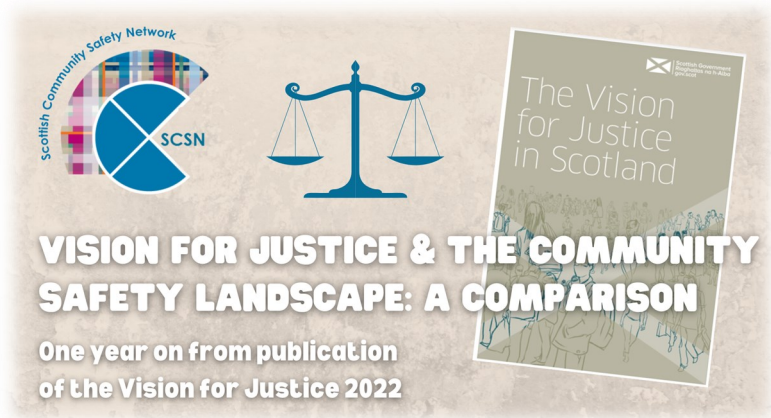
Our Question of the Month for June relates to our Equalities/ Diversity newsletter theme of the month.

We chose this theme because June plays host to both Pride Month and Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Month.

This month we're asking:

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

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



## Comparing Community Safety Landscape to Vision for Justice - one year on

The [Vision for Justice](#) in Scotland was published in February 2022. To mark one year since its publication, we decided to take a look at the outcomes for the Vision and compare them with the current community safety landscape.

Rather than a dry document, we've created [this short video](#), with a voiceover kindly provided by someone with lived experience of the justice system and rehabilitation, and an SCSN board member, Pete White.

In the video, we also give our recommendations on what needs to happen in the community safety sector in Scotland to turn the Vision for Justice into a reality.

## New 'firework control zone' laws come into force

Local authorities have new powers to reduce the negative impact of fireworks.

From today (Thursday June 22), councils can designate Firework Control Zones that would make it a criminal offence to ignite a firework, or knowingly throw a lit firework in a zone which can include private properties or gardens. The maximum penalties are a fine of up to £5,000 or up to six months in prison.

Organised public firework displays will still be permitted within Zones to allow people to enjoy fireworks safely.

The provisions are one of the key measures from the Fireworks and Pyrotechnics Articles (Scotland) Act 2022.

Read more [here](#).

## Summary of a Place Standard Pilot in Barmulloch, Glasgow

The Place Standard is a widely used resource for discussing community issues and priorities. It encourages users to consider the quality of their neighbourhood by discussing and assessing 14 themes.



This report summarises findings from a Place Standard event in Barmulloch, Glasgow, which was a pilot for the [Wheatley Group](#) to explore the applicability of the tool for engaging with their customers. The event took place in March 2023 and was attended by eight community members, and representatives from six organisations with a role in the local area.

You can download the Report [here](#).

## Continued from Front Page Main article.

It is one of a number of NSRIDP outputs that are intended to inform the development of the third iteration of the New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy.

This report aims to:

- Offer interpretative frameworks drawn from the academic literature on integration and intercultural studies. These frameworks aim to expand, modify and clarify the context in which discussions of functional and service-led integration, and of community-based, human-centred integration occur.
- Report on the research findings and literature review regarding the integration of New Scots in communities across Scotland, for a wide audience.
- Inform the development of NSRIS 3 through a series of recommendations based on the research findings.



## First Female Chief Constable of Police Scotland appointed

The Scottish Community Safety Network welcomes the appointment of Jo Farrell as the new Chief Constable of Police Scotland. The appointment was made by the Scottish Police Authority on June 14.



Jo Farrell has been the Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary since 2019.

The announcement follows the news in March that the current Chief Constable, Sir Iain Livingstone QPM will retire in August 2023.

The appointment was made by the Authority and approved by Scottish Ministers in accordance with the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and follows a robust assessment and selection process. The appointment will be for a fixed term of 4-years with the possibility of extension in line with legislation.

Read more [here](#).

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## Strengthening public confidence in policing

Proposed new laws to help strengthen public confidence in standards of police conduct have been published.

The Scottish Government's Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Bill has been introduced to Parliament with the aim of ensuring allegations of misconduct are dealt with more transparently and effectively.

If passed by MSPs, the legislation would see the outcomes of misconduct hearings published online and police officers no longer able to

resign to avoid disciplinary proceedings.

The Bill would stop officers guilty of gross misconduct from being re-employed in policing by placing them on barred lists, with an advisory list for officers facing an allegation of misconduct and ensures officers can no longer resign to avoid being held to account for gross misconduct allegations.

The new arrangements will be underpinned by placing the code of ethics which sets out expectations of behaviour, in statute, enhanced.

Read more [here](#).

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## It'll Cost You Proxy Purchasing Campaign Launches for 2023

A drive to halt adults buying alcohol for minors will see its latest campaign launch this month across Scotland.

The "It'll Cost You!" programme is a collaboration between Police Scotland, local authorities and alcohol producers and retailers and aims to raise awareness of the damaging effects and criminal nature of buying alcohol for under 18s.

Asking an adult to buy alcohol for under 18s is one of the most common tactics used by young people to access alcohol. It's an offence in Scotland for an adult to buy or attempt to buy alcohol for someone who is under the age of 18. This is known as proxy purchase.

A series of successful pilots by the Scottish Alcohol Industry Partnership across Lanarkshire, Edinburgh and Glasgow, results consistently showed a drop in street drinking and anti-social behaviour.

Police Scotland analysts also reported that youth disorder incidents reduced by 10% in the North Lanarkshire pilot. The campaign also contributed to a 51% reduction of reports of children drinking on the street.

Adults who buy alcohol for children may face a fine of up to £5,000. Depending on the circumstances you could also face a prison sentence of up to three months and a criminal record.

Read more [here](#).

## Research: The impact of a trauma-awareness session on police officers' trauma-informed attitudes in Scotland

This study reports an evaluation of the impact of a brief trauma-awareness training session on police officers' trauma-informed attitudes. The training involved screening of the 'Resilience' documentary, followed by an open expert panel discussion around ACEs and policing.

Among the findings, the research found that officers displayed more positive trauma-informed attitudes towards victims/witnesses than suspects/perpetrators. Female officers, those who had served longer on the force and those who were older were also found to

demonstrate more trauma-informed attitudes towards both victims and perpetrators, but officer rank was unrelated to attitudes.

Findings indicate that the Resilience trauma-awareness training may have limited potential to influence officers' trauma-informed attitudes, which appear to be more dependent upon officer age, gender and experience. However, female officers may be more susceptible to awareness training than male officers.

In order to meaningfully increase trauma-informed attitudes in both female and male officers, a more intensive and tool-based training programme may be required.

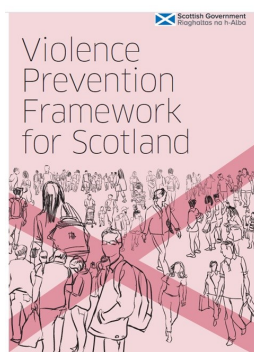
You can download the full study [here](#).

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## Violence Prevention Framework for Scotland Published

This Framework sets out our vision to prevent violence across Scotland, and when it does occur, to reduce its harm. It is supported by an evidence supplement, spotlights some cross government work and includes priority aims and an action plan, outlining the initial activities going forward.

The development of the Framework has been informed by engagement with various partner



organisations and existing research and evidence on violence. It also draws on official national statistics on police recorded violent crime, hospital admissions data and the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey findings, which are the main measures by which we gauge levels of violence in Scotland.

This Framework is supported by an evidence supplement and has been informed by a wide range of existing research and evidence related to violence and its prevention – particularly police recorded crime statistics on non-sexual violence.

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

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## Keeping the Promise that Scotland strives to become a nation that does not restrain its children

Aberlour in partnership with Kibble and a group of charities and councils working in the child and youth care sector have reaffirmed their commitment to The Promise through a pilot programme aimed at reducing the use of restraint in care settings.

Read Aberlour's comprehensive evaluation, and a subsequent report, The Promise – Rethinking Restraint published on 30 May 2023, based on the views of young people, care staff, Promise Development Workers and Leadership teams.

Download [here](#).



## Pride/Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Months

The month of June plays host to both Pride Month and [Gypsy/Roma/Traveller History Month](#).

The SCSN celebrates the diversity that the LGBT+ and Gypsy/Roma/Traveller communities bring to Scotland and call on all partners, stakeholders and members of the public to do the same - and challenge prejudice and discrimination these communities still face in our country to this day!



## Life in Scotland for LGBT Young People Health Report

[Life in Scotland for LGBT Young People Health Report](#) from LGBT Youth Scotland explores experiences of accessing healthcare and the barriers LGBTQ+ young people face to accessing the care they need. With over 1200 participants, this deep-dive report is part of the largest piece of research into experiences for LGBTQ+ young people in Scotland to date. Since the last survey in 2017, the percentage of participants saying they feel safe and

supported within health services has dropped. Around half (45%) of participants don't feel supported by mental health services, and one in four (25%) do not know where to go to get information and help with mental health.

Among findings of concern were:

- 88% of participants said they experience one or more mental health condition or related behaviour, with this figure rising to 94% for trans participants
- Half of participants (50%) reported experiencing suicidal thoughts or actions

## Disregards and pardons for historical gay sex convictions extended to women

If you have a conviction for same-sex sexual activity under an offence which has since been repealed or abolished, you can apply to the Home Office to have your conviction disregarded and pardoned.

In order for a disregard to be granted, any other person who was a party to the same-sex sexual activity that resulted in the conviction must have been 16 or over and the behaviour must not be an offence today.

If the conviction is disregarded, it will be

removed from official records (or where this is not possible, the record will be annotated). You will be treated in all circumstances as if the conviction had never occurred and you will not need to disclose it for any purpose. If your conviction is disregarded, you will also be granted an automatic pardon.

Revisiting your experience of being criminalised for your same-sex sexual offences can be upsetting. If you need emotional support, you can contact the LGBT Foundation helpline, who will be able to provide support for your emotional wellbeing:

Phone: 0345 3 30 30 30

You can find out more [here](#).

## Report: A Year of Hate: Anti-Drag Mobilisation Efforts Targeting LGBTQ People in the UK

[ISD research](#) has found that in the year since June 2022, anti-drag mobilisation in the UK has become a key focus for a variety of groups and actors. Anti-vaxxers, white nationalist groups, influential conspiracy theorists and “child protection” advocates have at times formed an uneasy – even fractious – coalition of groups opposing all-ages drag events. The driving force behind these protests is a mix of far-right groups and COVID-19 conspiracists.

While UK activity has not reached the level of violence seen in the US, abuse and harassment of hosts, performers and attendees at such events is a regular occurrence, and multiple events have been cancelled due to safety concerns.

## Abertay research to ‘aid’ Police Scotland in engagement with LGBT and care-experienced young people

Academics at Abertay University are working with Police Scotland on a research project that aims to help frontline officers improve how they interact with LGBT and care-experienced young people.

Led by Professor Jim Moir of Abertay's School of Business, Law and Social Sciences, the project involves exploring young people's interactions with the police and examining the extent to which empathy and understanding of different “seldom-heard voices” is apparent in Police Scotland. Read more [here](#).

## Disabled people among those worst hit by the energy crisis

Disabled people are among those hardest hit by rising energy bills, new research shows.

A report by statutory consumer body Consumer Scotland found some disabled people are more likely to face additional costs, with potentially severe consequences for their health.

In the case of energy, this includes the inability to pay for the charging of medical equipment, such as stairlifts, hospice beds, electric wheelchairs, ventilators, and hoists.

They may also find it more difficult to maintain their heating needs or undertake basic essential tasks such as washing, laundry or cooking.

Read more [here](#).

## Research: Have you experienced racism on a night out?

The Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights is gathering evidence on racial discrimination in nightclubs and bars across Scotland.

Evidence suggests that black and minority ethnic people are disproportionately denied entry to clubs and are more likely to have negative experiences with security and door staff.

This includes being disproportionately searched, patted down, and questioned and being unfairly policed on venue dress codes.

Share your story and help fight racism in Scotland by completing this [short survey](#).

## MECOPP research on Gypsy/Travellers understanding of vaccines

Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project (MECOPP) are currently carrying out community based research to understand how Gypsy/Travellers view Covid 19 and flu vaccination information such as TV ads, social media and leaflets.

Your valued voice can help shape future health information resources that are culturally appropriate. There are a variety of ways in which you can take part in this research, including via 1-1 chats, informal discussions, focus groups and more.

If you would like to get involved, please contact [Sally@mecopp.org.uk](mailto:Sally@mecopp.org.uk) or call 07930 086780.



## Teenagers Call for Joined-up Action on Anti-Social Behaviour in their Communities

This new report gives voice to the perspectives of young people on antisocial behaviour, the challenges they face in their communities, and how to fix them.

Teenagers may be the most demonised age group in the UK today. They are also least the heard, engaged and understood, according to a new research report.

[Teenagers and Public Space](#) gives voice to the perspectives of young people on antisocial behaviour, the challenges they face in their communities, and how to fix them.

The research, led by A Place in Childhood, in collaboration with Sustrans Scotland, involved

146 young people, aged 12-18 across three communities Huntly (Aberdeenshire), Denny (Falkirk), and North Edinburgh.

Among key findings were:

- Antisocial behaviour (ASB) is largely attributable to boredom and the lack of purposeful opportunities, or places to hangout, which are accessible and affordable for all.
- Adults tend to tar all teenagers with the same brush, even though ASB is attributable to a minority. Prejudice, unwelcoming and antisocial behaviour directed at young people was an experience common to all, and in itself promotes teenage ASB.

Download the report [here](#).

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## YouthLink Scotland Award Winners Celebrated

The SCSN was delighted to sponsor the Community Based Youth Work Award at the recent [YouthLink Scotland Awards](#).

Our congratulations to this year's winners, TD1 Youth Hub!

Recognising the importance of being responsive to local issues and adapting to changing needs, TD1 Youth Hub has stepped up to address the cost-of-living crisis. They have provided 3,000 meals to young people and have partnered with Galashiels Academy to engage directly with 70% of school students impacted by poverty and financial deprivation.



## ASB Awareness Week 2023 - Resolve ASB

Following a hugely successful campaign in 2022, the return of ASB Awareness Week has been confirmed for **3rd - 9th July 2023!**

The theme for 2023 is 'Know Your Rights', with a particular focus on the ASB Case Review - a powerful tool for victims of ASB that only 6% of people know about.

Find out more & get involved [here](#).

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## Transforming children's experiences of the justice system

Children and young people in the justice system will soon be able to benefit from coordinated, comprehensive support under one roof thanks to a £6 million investment in setting up Bairns' Hoose test sites.

A key action from The Promise, the creation of Bairns' Hoose test sites will ensure a range of trauma-informed support is available to child victims and witnesses, aiming to improve their experience of the justice system and reduce stress when recounting their experiences.

Read more [here](#).



## Rising drug deaths not due to ageing users, says report

**The rise in drug-related deaths in Scotland is not due to users getting older, a major new report suggests.**

**A study of nearly 50,000 people who used opioids** between 2011 and 2020 found death rates increased across all age groups.

It also highlighted that the rate for those not in treatment was three-and-a-half times higher than those who were.

Researchers have now called for increased treatment for heroin and morphine users. But they warn that opioid agonist treatment (OAT), where people are prescribed a substitute such as methadone, will not be enough on its own to solve Scotland's overdose epidemic.

The Scottish government has pledged an extra £250m to tackle the "national disgrace" of drug-related deaths.

Dr Andrew McAuley of Glasgow Caledonian University, was a principal investigator on the study which was the largest of its kind ever conducted in Scotland.

He told the BBC's **Good Morning Scotland** programme that previous funding cuts may have had as much to do with

increased deaths as overdoses among older drug users.

Dr McAuley said: "One of the theories put forward relating to Scotland's overdose epidemic is this so-called ageing cohort effect. But we found that mortality rates had increased across all groups, suggesting that wasn't the main driver behind trends."

He added: "There are no magic bullets here and we're certainly not suggesting putting in measures to replace the existing measures. "This study absolutely confirms the importance of drugs like methadone because the protective effect is very clear."

Read this story in full on the [BBC website](#).

### Further support for drugs services

More than £15 million has been awarded to a range of projects supporting people affected by problem substance use.

These include residential rehabilitation services, support for those affected by addiction and homelessness and programmes working with children and families affected by a loved one's substance use. The number of lives lost to drugs is still too high in Scotland and these funds are vital for those services working on the frontline to help those affected and their families.

Read more [here](#).

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## Cannabis laws in Europe: questions and answers for policymaking

This publication answers some of the more frequently asked questions raised in discussions about cannabis legislation.

While the primary focus is on the use of cannabis for recreational purposes, relevant legislation for other uses, including medical and commercial cannabis-derived products such as cosmetics, wellness products and foods, is included in order to provide the necessary context for various policy initiatives.

Read more [here](#).

## European Drug Report 2023: Trends and Developments

*The European Drug Report 2023: Trends and Developments* presents the EMCDDA's latest analysis of the drug situation in Europe. Focusing on illicit drug use, related harms and drug supply, the report contains a comprehensive set of national data across these themes and key harm-reduction interventions.

Find out more and download report [here](#).

## PB Survey 2023

As participatory budgeting (PB) continues to progress across Scotland, we're keen to hear from you about the PB activity that's happening near you, now and in the future.



This short survey will help us understand the types of activity that are going ahead and also some of the key themes and issues emerging from this work.

This will help us plan PB Scotland work and help promote and highlight your activity to other network members.

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

## Tackling criminal exploitation

Frontline workers, including in schools and the NHS, are being given new guidance to help prevent children and vulnerable adults from being drawn into organised crime.

The first document of its kind in Scotland, the '[Practitioner Guidance on Criminal Exploitation](#)' stems from work commissioned last year by the Serious Organised Crime Taskforce.

It aims to support a shared understanding of criminal exploitation and to help professionals identify those at risk from serious organised crime. This includes watching out for signs such as: individuals travelling to different areas or locations they would not usually visit; changes in peer groups; and individuals who may have been groomed by crime gangs appearing agitated and nervous about answering calls, or texts and going out.

Read more [here](#).

## Water Safety Scotland Open Day

Water Safety Scotland is delighted to be hosting its second annual [Water Safety Open Day at Helix Park](#), Falkirk on Tuesday 25 July 1100-1500 to coincide with World Drowning Prevention Day.

The event aims to raise awareness amongst the public about water safety and drowning prevention and promote the work of WSS and partners. Those attending will see live water rescue demonstrations in the nearby lagoon involving Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland and Scottish Ambulance Service.

There also will be demos by water rescue dogs and lots of other fun things happening on the day, including competitions with the chance to win some great prizes.

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

## Canal Careful School Resources

Scotland's canals are a wonderful place for all to enjoy especially during the warmer summer months. With miles of towpaths and water flowing through them they are incredibly popular. However, it is important for Scottish Canals, who look after our canals, to make sure we look after you too.

Scottish Canals have launched, our #CanalCareful summer safety campaign which focuses on primary school children to help educate and inform how we can all enjoy our canals safely.

The campaign focuses on: **STOP, THINK, ACT**

**STOP** – Pause for a moment to take in your surroundings.

**THINK** – What could cause you or your friends harm?

**ACT** – Do you need move to allow cyclists to pass? Do you need to stay away from the edge? Do you need to slow down?

Read more [here](#).

## Climate Crisis Corner



### Are you signed up to the ACEVO Climate and environmental leadership principles?

Last year, the SCSN signed up to the ACEVO Climate and Environmental Leadership Principles. We also submitted a [case study](#) on our work to help address the climate crisis.

These leadership principles are formed by charity leaders, for charity leaders. It can be hard to give the climate crisis the urgent attention it needs, so the ACEVO member

working group has created this shared commitment supporting leaders to:

- Acknowledge the scale of the crisis, and that we can all do something to contribute to the solution.
- Be ambitious in our pursuit of climate justice, both as leaders of individual organisations and as a collective voice for civil society.
- Act wherever we can to create progress – however small our initial actions may be.

Find out more & sign up to the Principles [here](#).

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### Greta Thunberg returns to Scotland to give talk

Activist Greta Thunberg is returning to Scotland to take part in an event at the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

It's Not Too Late To Change The World will take place at the Edinburgh Playhouse on August 13 and will be chaired by writer and broadcaster Gemma Cairney.

It will be Thunberg's first public appearance in Scotland since her visit to Glasgow for COP26, the UN climate change conference, in November 2021.

Community Groups can apply for free tickets.

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

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### Planning for water scarcity

People and businesses are being urged to use water carefully as dry weather conditions are expected to persist and water demand is rising.

First Minister Humza Yousaf chaired a meeting of the Scottish Government's Resilience Room (SGoRR), attended by Deputy First Minister Shona Robison, Justice and Home Affairs

Secretary Angela Constance and partners including SEPA, Scottish Water and the Met Office, to consider preparations and mitigations in the event of further water scarcity.

Following a drier than normal winter and spring, water levels in reservoirs are lower than would be expected for this time of year.

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](mailto:hss@scsn.org.uk).

The next meeting of the Home Safety Scotland Forum will be on Monday 4th September.

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

### RoSPA Accidental Injury in Young People Survey Results



RoSPA recently conducted an online survey with young people as part of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). If you would like to know more about the UNCRC you can visit the website of the [Children and Young People's Commissioner at UNCRC](#). A summary of the UNCRC by UNICEF is also available [here](#).

The survey looked at accidental injury in the home among young people in order to prevent falls, burns and scalds, poisoning, drowning, and the many other accidental injuries faced by children and young people on a daily basis.

141 responses were received, and the results showed that:

- Half of all respondents had suffered an accidental injury
- The most common injuries were cuts, bruises and broken bones
- 46% had had a fall
- 46% of accidents happened at home
- 24% of accidents happened on roads
- 20% happened on business premises

The survey asked children and young people to give suggestions for what they thought would be the most effective prevention methods.

The top suggestions were:

- Lessons at school
- Safety gates
- Better education for parents
- (for Roads) using 'Stop, Look, Listen'

The children and young people surveyed felt that many different stakeholders were responsible for providing safety information and preventing accidents, including themselves.

They said that the best way to communicate safety information to children and young people would be through social media, at school/college and via leaflets.

You can read the survey results in full on the RoSPA website [here](#).

#### RoSPA Child Safety Hub

Odd bumps or scrapes are part of growing up. They are how we learn about the world around us. As parents we accept this: but we won't accept the tragic consequences of life-changing accidents...

Sadly, accidents involving children continue to devastate lives with those under-5s particularly at risk. On average, half of under-5s attend A&E every year following an accident that didn't have to happen. By getting down to our kids' level and seeing the world through their eyes, we can spot dangers, and help to keep them safe.

Visit the RoSPA Child Safety Info Hub [here](#).

## Taking action on dementia

Improving the lives of people with dementia is at the heart of a new 10 year strategy.

The strategy, [Everyone's Story](#), outlines a vision for dementia policy over the next decade and identifies a number of priorities which would improve the lives of people living with dementia, their families and carers.

These include support pre and post diagnosis, actions to enable more people to live well in their communities, involving those affected in the design and delivery of their own support and access to care from a skilled and trauma-informed workforce when appropriate.

The strategy commits to tackling stigma as a priority and aims to do this by making sure two-year delivery plans will be agreed to ensure progress is made. The first plan is to be published at the end of this year.

The strategy, launched during Dementia Awareness Week, is a joint publication by the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).

Read more [here](#).

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## Proposed Commissioner for Older People: Consultation on Private Members Bill

A draft proposal for a Bill to establish an independent Commissioner to promote and safeguard the rights and interests of older people, submitted by Colin Smyth MSP.

The consultation runs from 13 June to 12 September 2023

All those wishing to respond to the consultation are strongly encouraged to enter their responses electronically through this survey. This makes collation of responses much simpler and quicker. However, the option also exists of sending in a separate response (in hard copy or by other electronic means such as e-mail), and details of how to do so are included in the member's consultation document.

Read about the details of the proposed Bill [here](#).

You can read more about the Consultation and submit a response [here](#).

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## Safety Gate: the EU rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products

The Safety Gate system enables that information on measures taken against non-food dangerous products is circulated quickly among the national authorities responsible for product safety in the Single Market countries.

Every day, national authorities send alerts to the Safety Gate. Each alert contains information on the kind of product detected as dangerous, a description of the risk and the measures taken by the economic operator or ordered by the authority. Every alert is followed-up by the other authorities, which take their own measures if they find the same product in their own national markets.

Other countries have the obligation to follow up this information and if they find the same product on their own markets, they have to share this information on Safety Gate as well.

Read more and access Product Safety Alerts (including in the UK) [here](#).

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