

Safety NET-works

May 2021



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Major new Community Safety Research published



The Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) are delighted to publish the final reports (including a summary report) for four research projects we commissioned from MainSt Consulting around Community Safety earlier this year. These projects built on previous research into the emerging landscape and future opportunities for Community Safety.

The four projects focussed on:

- Describing the components of a modern and effective Community Safety Partnership (CSP), and the skills required to deliver it.
- Identifying what makes a safe community mapping how the relationships across the partners can support safer communities.
- Exploring the use of evidence in community safety and considering what evidence-informed planning might look like in Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) of the future.
- Understanding what people with protected characteristics (or under-represented groups more generally) think about community safety in Scotland.

SCSN and MainSt Consulting held two seminars to discuss the research on 28th April and 6th May 2021.

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CrimeStoppers. Speak up. Stay safe.

CrimeStoppers Rural Crime Campaign: Charity urges Scots to speak up 100% anonymously about those who harm our treasured countryside

As lockdown restrictions ease across Scotland, independent charity CrimeStoppers in partnership with Network Rail launched a campaign encouraging the public to speak up about people responsible for harming Scotland's countryside.

With many people planning trips to the countryside, the anticipated impact of large visitor numbers and effects of rural crime can be devastating to the environment.

Over 95% of Scotland is classed as rural and NFU Mutual estimate that rural crime costs Scotland around £1.8 million annually, with levels reportedly increasing.

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Animation Launch of Experiences and Perceptions of Community Safety - 2pm-2.30pm, 16 June

SCSN are proud to launch our new animation that captures key findings of the Experiences and Perceptions of Community Safety Research.

Following the Experiences and Perceptions of Community Safety research and webinar in 2020, SCSN are proud to launch our new animation that captures key findings and information on how different people and groups experience community safety.

The animation is 3 minutes long and is intended to be used as a resource for practitioners working in community safety to quickly and effectively share the message that community safety is a diverse landscape with equally diverse experiences.

This 30-minute micro event will share the animation, provide a bit of background, explain the next steps, and share the animation again!

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

Question of the Month

Results from April

Our last newsletter was themed on the Year of Childhood 2021. In that newsletter, we covered the Scottish Youth Parliament Manifesto for the 2021 Scottish Elections. Our Question of the Month was adapted from one of the policy recommendations from that manifesto.

We asked:

'Young offenders under the age of 18 should not be imprisoned but given rehabilitative alternatives.'

- 68% agreed (17 votes)
- 12% disagreed (3 votes)
- 25% weren't sure (5 votes)

Question of the Month May 2021

This month's Question of the Month comes from Carol Burt of I Am Me, who we've interviewed for our monthly #SCSNConversationsWith... interview.

She wants to know:

'Do you know what the Keep Safe initiative is?'

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

If you answer 'No', you can find out more about the Keep Safe Initiative here, and by reading this newsletter!

SCSN Conversations with...Carol Burt

Project Manager, I Am Me Scotland



Our #SCSNConversationsWith interview this month is with Carol Burt Project Manager at At I Am Me Scotland.

We discussed the 'Keep Safe Initiative' (see article below), what effect the Covid 19 pandemic has had on people's feelings of safety (especially disabled people) and how the Keep Safe model might be used by Community Safety Partnerships post pandemic.

You can view the interview [here](#).

Keep Safe Initiative

Keep Safe is a national initiative that works in partnership with charity I Am Me Scotland and Police Scotland to create a network of 'Keep Safe Places'. These are places that disabled or vulnerable people can use to seek assistance, if required, while out in the community. There are currently over 870 Keep Safe places across Scotland. There is no cost involved to become a Keep Safe place and all participating premises are approved by Police Scotland and provided with training.



Keep Safe Awareness lessons are now available for FREE on the I Am Me Scotland Learning Platform. Lessons are available for P1-P4, P5-P7 and also in Easy Read for groups and organisations. The Keep Safe lessons provide an introduction to what the Keep Safe Initiative is, how to find participating venues, keeping yourself safe and how to use the Keep Safe card.

Additional free lessons that focus on a specific disability are also uploaded to the Learning Platform. For example, the lesson currently available raises awareness of Dementia.

All lessons are fully accessible with audio voice overs and easy read imaging. [Click here](#) to access the Learning Platform and find out more about the Keep Safe card and Keep Safe Scotland App.

The Keep Safe card details important information about an individual and can be used to seek support when out in the community. These are particularly useful for people with dementia or a learning disability. The free Keep Safe Scotland App maps out all Keep Safe places across Scotland, enabling users to plan routes in advance. The App also has a section for reporting hate crimes to Police Scotland.

If you would like more information about Keep Safe, please email us at iamme@renfrewshire.gov.uk.

View the Keep Safe Animation video [here](#).

Keep Safe Police video [here](#).





Community Safety Research 2021

Continued from front page main article

Key messages from the research:

- Community safety in Scotland is complex: the breadth and depth of activity means that successful delivery relies on multiple partners and stakeholders working together at local, regional, and national levels
- Community engagement and empowerment is extremely important for community safety. The skills and techniques needed to maximise the potential for a more community-led approach need to be further developed.
- Data analysis is a constantly developing field which the community safety sector knows well. Further work is needed to ensure access to data, provide help to support the generation of new data (qualitative and quantitative) and overcome some perceived difficulties about restrictions on data sharing.
- The sector is multi-skilled and has been continuously exploring ways to get the best possible outcomes for community safety. Moving beyond the sharing of 'best practice' to the sharing of 'best thinking' would help empower a wide range of partners to find the ideas and approaches that are best suited to meeting the challenges faced by their communities.
- Community safety professionals are balancing responsive services with proactive strategies designed to make communities safer. Early intervention and prevention is recognised by the sector as important and there is even greater potential to work with communities to avoid unsafe situations developing or escalating is well understood.
- Community safety has mostly focused on geographic communities. The safety needs of communities of interest are often significant and warrant a co-ordinated

national approach to ensure that people with particular safety needs are not unduly unsafe.

Lorraine Gillies, Chief Officer of the Scottish Community Safety Network said that "We are delighted to be publishing this research today at this critical time for Community Safety. The research took place during the COVID19 pandemic and its associated lockdowns as well as coinciding with widespread Black Lives Matter protests and increased focus on women's safety. All of these factors heighten the importance of Community Safety. We hope this package of resources will play an important part in providing Community Safety practitioners with the evidence to continue to move forward and adapt to new challenges. The research provides a range of recommendations that SCSN will collate and synthesise to inform future planning and events to ensure that the field of Community Safety remains a responsive, flexible and inspiring area to work within."

David Welsh, of Main Street Consulting, said:

"We were delighted to work with SCSN colleagues on these projects, and we're confident that they will support the future development of the network and its work across Scotland.

There's no doubt that community safety here is complex: the breadth and depth of activity (as shown in the Complexity Map we worked on together) means that successful delivery depends on multiple partners and stakeholders working together at local, regional, and national levels. While there are undoubted challenges, there are real opportunities too.

We really enjoyed working with dozens of community safety professionals and partner organisations over the past few months – and we'd want to thank them for contributing so much when they themselves were busy. It was also a privilege to be involved in some initial conversations with traditionally under-represented groups; we're pleased that SCSN is committed to continue to engage with them and other people with protected characteristics. The whole sector will benefit from those experiences."

Continued overleaf...

Next steps

The SCSN intends to follow up with other organisations that expressed an interest in participating in the project on understanding what people with protected characteristics (or under-represented groups more generally) think about community safety in Scotland, but for whom capacity or timing did not allow active involvement at this time – notably with older people, young women, people from minority ethnic backgrounds, people identifying with religious communities and with groups representing Gypsy/Traveller and Roma communities. Initial contacts have been made and SCSN plan to continue these conversations later in 2021 to develop a richer understanding of these diverse experiences and what the response from public services and communities might be. Please get in touch with josh.box@scsn.org.uk if you would like to find out more and / or share your reflections on the research.

Downloads

You can download the Summary Report [here](#).
Project 1: Partnership working including skills and learning needs

Project 2: What makes a community safe?

Project 3: Evidence Informed Planning

Project 4: Community Safety for groups with protected characteristics

[Research Bibliography](#)

Webinar videos

You can view the Webinar videos on this project here:

[Community Safety Research Webinar 1](#)

[Community Safety Research Webinar 2](#)

Addressing Anti-Social Behaviour: Ensuring Effective Responses and Supporting Victims

Thursday, June 3rd 2021 between 9:30am and 1:00pm.

A webinar by the Public Policy Exchange. Levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the UK surged during 2020, particularly in the months following the first national lockdown. According to the Home Office, the recorded number of incidents increased by approximately 75% in the wake of the March lockdown.

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



Victim Support Scotland Strategic Plan & Stakeholder Survey

Victim Support Scotland has launched its new [Strategic Plan for 2021-2026 - Empowering People After Crime](#). The new strategy builds on progress over the last three years, and takes our ambitions to improve support and the justice system for everyone affected by crime in Scotland even further.

We have committed to continually engage with stakeholders, including key partners, employees and volunteers, to gather honest views on what is working well and what can be improved on.

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

VSS are keen to have as many stakeholders as possible completing the survey, so do please share with colleagues as appropriate. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact [Mike Findlay](#) directly.



Continued from inset box on front page: Crimestoppers Rural Crime Campaign

The key crimes that Scotland's rural areas experience are:

- House-breaking
- Theft of farm equipment, vehicles and machinery
- Livestock-related crimes: theft and dog attacks
- Fly-tipping and industrial waste dumping
- Hare coursing and badger baiting
- Fuel theft – domestic and commercial
- Heritage & cultural property crime including illegal metal detecting
- Wildlife crime
- Wilful fire-raising

Angela Parker, National Manager for Crimestoppers Scotland said:

'Many of us will be impatient to get back to nature and enjoy the stunning scenery Scotland has to offer. Our campaign is encouraging the public to be aware of the harm rural crime and anti-social behaviour can inflict on the environment and the economy, from heritage crime, to wilful fire-raising and theft, these crimes often go unreported and can ruin lives, livelihoods and the rural environment.'

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Inspector Alan Dron, Rural & Acquisitive Crime Coordinator for Police Scotland added:



The majority of individuals wanting to experience Scotland's stunning cultural, historic and natural environments have a desire to do so responsibly and in accordance with the law. Unfortunately the consequences of a rural incident or crime often has a deeper and far reaching impact plus access rights are not an excuse for anti-social or illegal behaviour. Please respect our rural communities and countryside, leave no trace of your visit and don't let any individuals spoil your experience.

Network Rail

Mark Henderson, Senior Community Engagement Manager at Network Rail said:

Network Rail is delighted to be supporting Crimestoppers' Rural Crime campaign. Our Company plays a vital role in connecting people across Scotland, so it's hugely important to us to help our partners protect rural communities from crime. Our partners at BTP and staff across the organisation have been equipped with information on what to look out for and we will be sharing the campaign at stations and with passengers.'

Scottish Government Guidance on Marches and Parades

This guidance relates to marches and parades in Scotland and will be of particular benefit for march and parade organisers, local authorities (as the statutory body responsible for the facilitation of marches and parades in Scotland) and Police Scotland.

It applies in Levels 2, 1 and 0. Marches and parades can take place in these levels, subject to applicable restrictions.

Read the full guidance [here](#).

National Missing Persons Implementation Project

Since August 2019, Missing People have been working to deliver a free programme of consultancy, training and best practice sharing in three local areas in Scotland to build on the excellent work already being delivered to support missing persons and their families, in line with The National Missing Persons Framework.

They will now be extending this offer of support to five different areas. To find out more & apply for support [here](#).



Robertson Trust launch new Partners in Change Fund

As we emerge from the Covid pandemic, Partners in Change aims to generate fresh, deep perspectives and get behind ambitious approaches which prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of poverty and trauma on our society.

The new fund, which is seeking expressions of interest from a range of qualifying organisations by **3rd June 2021**, will focus on the concept of change, and its application to how services and support for people experiencing poverty and/or trauma are designed and delivered. In line with our current

strategy, organisations should be seeking to address one or more of the following; financial wellbeing, emotional wellbeing and relationships and educational and work pathways.

The ambition of the fund is to create space within Scotland's third sector where meaningful relationships and collaboration can be developed. The Trusts plans to work with 6-10 organisations in this initial round of funding, to fund their work through Partners in Change. In doing so they hope to gain a better understanding of the drivers of, and barriers to, change around services and support.

Funding of up to £150,000 per year for a three-year period is available for outstanding proposals and organisations that meet the qualifying criteria are encouraged to share their expression of interest by Thursday 3rd June 2021.

Find out more about applying [here](#).

Supporting Communities Safely Resource Updated

The Supporting Communities Safely resource, developed by Public Health Scotland and SCDC, has been updated to support community organisations to start back safely.



With the immediate impact of the pandemic decreasing, groups will be able to come together again soon. This is fantastic news for communities and the services that support them.

But as we move closer to re-opening, we are morally, practically and legally obliged to take all possible precautions to avoid further infections. The virus still kills people – if we drop our guard it could kill more.

The resource offers practical advice on how to effectively plan and deliver the measures like physical distancing and proper ventilation, both fundamental to achieve COVID safe services.

You can download this resource via our Covid updates website page [here](#).

Digital Participatory Budgeting Workshop: 24th or 25th May

The Scottish Community Development Centre and Democratic Society have been working together to explore what digital participatory budgeting (PB) might look like for communities now and in the future.

SCDC has been working with a small group of PB practitioners and exploring the issues involved in a digital PB approach - and have identified a series of digital tools and resources to move us closer to being able to effectively communicate PB, generate PB ideas, deliberate & vote.

This workshop will give you the opportunity to think about doing PB online, listen to others experiences and get an overview of tools which will help you to achieve a digital PB approach.

Register [here](#).

Community Safety & the parallel world of Cyber Safety - by Dawn Exley

The Scottish Government has put a lot of focus on the importance of the cyber world recently with the new [Digital Strategy for Scotland](#), which is looking to keep Scotland apace by investing in infrastructure, breaking barriers to digital exclusion and providing more education and skills in digital. This comes at a time when use of the digital and cyber world has never been greater. Indeed, due to the pandemic, huge numbers are spending increased amounts of time online, finding new ways of engaging and relying on it for social connection.

The pandemic has however, highlighted and expanded the already overwhelming issue of cyber safety. Fraud has seen exponential growth – up by [63% in Scotland](#), much of this online. Many of those who are open to becoming likely victims of fraud (and other cyber safety issues as well) are adults in particular, who have a 'huge gap' in knowledge and are now owners of devices for the first time, or engaging more online. Children and young people of course, are also at far further risk with the extremely concerning [upsurge of online child sexual exploitation, since the pandemic](#).



All of the above, is additional to what was an already concerning picture of cyber bullying, trolling, misinformation and radicalisation, which have unfortunately, also been exacerbated during the pandemic. With the world utilising the online world more than ever, which is only likely to grow and unlikely to return to the pre-pandemic levels, some are predicting a 'perfect storm' in the next years.

The Scottish Government has responded with a refreshed [Cyber Resilience Framework](#), the launch of [CyberScotland](#) as well as [Police Scotland's 2020 Cyber Strategy](#). They also continue to fund much of the already stellar work that takes place in trying to combat and address many of these issues.

Read this blog post in full on our [website](#).

New Independent Advisory Group for emerging technologies in policing



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POILEAS ALBA

An independent advisory group has been established by government to ensure the use of emerging technologies in operational policing is compatible with equality and human rights legislation.

The new panel of experts will advise ministers on whether current legal or ethical frameworks need to be updated in order to ensure Police Scotland's use of technology is lawful.

Its remit is to consider what potential impact emerging technologies or analytical techniques – 'either currently available or in development, but not presently deployed' – could have on the force's detection and prevention of crime.

You can find out more about the advisory group [here](#).

New app to reduce drug related deaths in the Highlands

The Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership has developed an app to help reduce drug-related harm and deaths across the north of Scotland. It contains information on what to do in an emergency overdose situation for both depressant and stimulant drugs. Harm reduction information and details on how to contact a range of support services are also available on the app.

Further information can be found on the [NHS Highland website](#).



Neighbourhood Watch SCOTLAND

Shut Out Scammers Campaign #ShutOutScammers

At the beginning of May, Trading Standards Scotland teamed up with Police Scotland to run their annual 'Shut Out Scammers' campaign.

Campaign Objectives

- To reduce the impact of doorstep crime by providing information and advice on how to prevent falling victim to bogus callers
- To raise awareness of the issues surrounding doorstep crime and the organisations that are able to help
- To encourage reporting of doorstep crime

The campaign shared a number of useful resources for consumers with advice on how to avoid scammers.

Watch this short campaign advice video [here](#).

Download this [useful factsheet](#) on doorstep scams.

As lockdown eases, there have been reports of rogue traders visiting properties across Scotland offering to do maintenance or gardening work. Don't let a cold caller pressure you into making a decision on the spot – always get 3 quotes before having any work done. Avoid rogue traders out who are approved traders in your local area [here](#).



Neighbourhood Watch Scotland ALERTS

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

Sign up [here](#).



Latest news from the Home Safety Scotland Forum

Home Safety Scotland still seeking new members!

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

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

Next Meeting of Home Safety Scotland

The next meeting of the Home Safety Scotland forum will take place on 23rd June at 1pm. The theme of the next meeting will be gardening and garden activities, and will be led by Louise Richardson from Absafe.

We welcome new forum members or participants, as well as anyone who would like to present on this topic to join our meeting. Minutes from the last Home Safety Scotland meeting are available [here](#). Contact josh.box@scsn.org.uk if you'd like to present or to attend.

Hoarding Awareness Week

Hoarding Awareness Week, an initiative started by the Chief Fire Officers Association took place between 17-21 May.

You can find out more about hoarding, including the safety risks & how to talk to people who are hoarding [here](#).

Child Safety Week 2021: Child Accident Prevention Trust

Sharing safety knowledge saves lives

This Child Safety Week, (Monday 7th – Sunday 13th June), the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) are asking people to share because they care – passing on valuable advice and safety knowledge to parents to help keep children safe.

Visit the [Child Accident Prevention Trust](#) website to see the new downloadable resources available for you to share, however you're reaching parents, including:

- Free downloadable factsheets full of bite-sized facts and safety tips

- Session cards to kick off discussions with parents
- A colourful poster to add to your displays
- Information packs full of safety tips, advice and activities for parents

You can also [sign up](#) to receive the latest news and updates on what's available. Start sharing now! Connect with CAPT on [Facebook](#) and share fresh, new safety animations and illustrations, launching on Monday 7th June.

CAPT would like to thank Building Safer Communities in the Scottish Government for their generous support of Child Safety Week 2021.

[Find out more about Child Safety Week](#)

In other news...

news

LGBT+ pupils twice as likely as non LGBT+ peers to contemplate suicide

LGBT+ young people are three times more likely to self-harm and twice as likely to contemplate suicide than their non-LGBT+ peers, new independent research by Just Like Us has found.



Seven in 10 (68%) LGBT+ young people have experienced suicidal thoughts and feelings, compared to 29% of young people who are not LGBT+. Lesbian (74%) and transgender (77%) young people are the most likely to have experienced suicidal thoughts and feelings, followed by bisexual young people (73%) and gay boys (66%).

Black LGBT+ young people are three times more likely than non-LGBT+ young people to contemplate suicide – 89% of Black LGBT+ young people have experienced suicidal thoughts and feelings, compared to 67% of white LGBT+ young people.

A third (31%) of LGBT+ young people have self-harmed, compared to just 9% of non-LGBT+ young people.

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

Glasgow LGBTQI Substance Use Community Champions Event considers LGBTQI health inequalities around substance use

On 5 May, the Glasgow LGBTQI Substance Use Community Champions Project concluded with a community discussion event on substance use health inequalities experienced by LGBTQI people in Scotland and beyond.



The Partnership has since published a video of [guest speaker Matthew Todd](#), author of the seminal book 'Straight Jacket', giving a hugely insightful talk on his book and why he felt compelled to write it. The panel discussion from the event is also available on Youtube [here](#).

The Community Champions volunteers also produced a moving [short animation](#) on their experience of being involved in the project and hopes for the future.

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