



# SAFETY NET-WORKS

NOVEMBER 2023

## CLIMATE CRISIS EDITION

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

### 'Reviewing Scotland's Approach to Anti-Social Behaviour' - Joint Report Published

We were delighted when former Minister for Community Safety, Ash Regan MSP, asked the Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) and the Scottish Government to undertake a review of antisocial behaviour (ASB).

[This report](#) presents the findings from work undertaken to gather views on the current approach to antisocial behaviour in Scotland.

It is based on discussions with key stakeholders across Scotland including those who have experienced antisocial behaviour, frontline staff seeking to prevent and tackle antisocial behaviour and community and equality groups including those representing minority communities in Scotland. The discussions included people from both urban and rural settings across different areas of Scotland.

The SCSN is equally pleased that our Chief Officer Lorraine Gillies will co-Chair an independent working group set up by the Scottish Government look at the current approach and make recommendations on what long-term changes can be made to reduce such behaviour and support victims.

Lorraine will be joined by Director of the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice Fiona Dyer as co-Chair of the working group.

Community Safety Minister Siobhian Brown, who is bringing together the working group, said: "We want everyone to be, and feel, safe in their community and we are committed to tackling all forms of antisocial behaviour."

**Continue reading on page 4**

### SCSN Lunchtime Learning Seminar: 'Reviewing Scotland's Approach to Anti-Social Behaviour'

12 noon - 7 December



The Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) has held a long interest in anti-social behaviour (ASB). It's something our members have been telling us they want us to support a change in.

We are delighted to be able to bring this report to our members and stakeholders, many of whom took part in the consultation process.

Join us to discuss the findings of the report in greater depth, we will present on the report findings with an opportunity for Q & A. Lorraine Gilles, co-chair of the independent working group on ASB, will be in attendance for comments and reflections.

Book your place [here](#).

SCSN Updates - Page 2

Safer Communities Scotland  
Podcast with Stuart Stevens,  
SFRS - Page 3

16 Days of Action - Page 5

Focus on the Climate Crisis &  
Community Safety - Pages 6-7

Latest Home  
Safety Scotland  
News & Updates -  
Pages 12-13



## SCSN Annual Report 2022/23 Published

We held our annual AGM & Community Safety Conference on 1st November at Glasgow Clyde College. Along with hearing a wide range of presentations from Community Safety Experts at the Conference, we were delighted to publish our Annual Report for 2022/23.



You can download our Annual Report from our website [here](#).

Watch a short Annual Report highlight video on YouTube [here](#).

You can download and read our Community Safety Conference Learning Report [here](#).

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## Vision for Justice & Community Safety Video

One year on from publication of the Scottish Government's [Vision for Justice](#) – we decided to take an in depth look at the Vision for Justice and the current reality of the Scottish Community Safety landscape.

We believe that Community Safety Partnerships have a strong role to play in helping to achieve the Outcomes of the Vision for Justice.

To explore this further, we've published a new video and accompanying document making

the case for the crucial role of the community safety sector – especially around prevention and partnership working to tackle the root causes of crime & reduce re-offending.

We asked SCSN Board Member Pete White to do the voiceover for our video because Pete has lived experience of the justice system in Scotland having previously spent time in prison. Our sincere thanks to Pete for doing a great job!

Download the detailed PDF document [here](#).

View the video on YouTube [here](#).

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## SCSN welcome back Network Rail as our latest Members

The SCSN was delighted to recently welcome back Network Rail to our burgeoning membership following a brief absence.

We're looking forward to working closely on a variety of rail safety issues in the near & medium term future. Speaking upon rejoining as SCSN members, Allan Brooking of Network Rail said:

*"We're always working hard to make Scotland's Railway safer for passengers and local communities and we're delighted to re-establish our membership with SCSN. Our partnership with the SCSN will provide opportunities to access a wider audience across Scotland to educate and raise awareness of our key messaging on rail safety and promote our national safety campaigns."*

*Such partnerships not only help drive our critical messaging on rail safety, but they are aligned to our social values and our long-term commitment of how we can continue to engage and make a positive contribution to the communities that we serve".*

## Safer Communities Scotland Podcast

With Stuart Stevens, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service



### SAFER COMMUNITIES SCOTLAND PODCAST

For our latest Safer Communities Scotland Podcast, we were delighted to welcome back former SCSN Board Member Stuart Stevens, Deputy Chief Officer of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service.

The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service has already begun to see the Climate Crisis impact on their work - in particular via sizeable increases in flooding and wild fire incidents in Scotland.

We discussed the impact the climate crisis is already having on community safety in Scotland, what further impacts might come & how we can work together to adapt and respond to current & future impacts of our changing climate.

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

Listen on Spotify/Anchor [here](#).

## Question of the Month

### October Results

Our Question of the Month for October related to our Firework Safety & Bonfire Night newsletter theme for last month.

We wanted to know to what extent people were aware of changes to legislation around fireworks in Scotland since 2022.

You can find out more about changes to fireworks legislation in Scotland [here](#).

We asked:

***"If asked, could you name one of the changes to fireworks legislation in Scotland since 2022?"***

- 28.6% said Yes
- 57.1% said No
- 14.3% said Not Sure

## Question of the Month

### November 2023

Our Question of the Month for November 2023 relates to our Climate Crisis newsletter theme.

We know that governments around the world, including in the UK, are 'neither adequately addressing their emissions, nor adequately preparing for adaptations that will be required for extremely serious consequences of climate breakdown which are now unavoidable.

We're asking:

***"Do you believe that your local authority is taking the climate crisis seriously & is planning/preparing adequately for climate adaptation?"***

Vote in our Poll [here](#).



## **Continued from front page main article: 'Reviewing Scotland's Approach to Anti-Social Behaviour' Report published**

Reported antisocial behaviour has broadly been in decline over the last decade, but the recent disorder on Bonfire Night, in particular, has shown that where issues arise, these can have a very serious impact for many people.

"The report published today recommends that we need to consider how we best develop our long-term approach to preventing and addressing this type of behaviour. That is why I will be convening an independently chaired working group. It is nearly 20 years since the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 was introduced and it is right that we examine whether this remains fit for purpose and that we assess our wider approach."

Director of the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice Fiona Dyer, who will be one of two chairs of the working group, said:

"I am really looking forward to working with colleagues to support the prevention of antisocial behaviour across Scotland. Research demonstrates the vital importance and value of better engaging, enabling, and supporting individuals and their communities to reduce incidents of antisocial behaviour."

"Through encouraging actively social behaviour within local communities, we can collectively address current issues and develop an inclusive and effective strategy that Scotland will be proud of."

SCSN CEO Lorraine Gillies said: "The Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) has held a long interest in anti-social behaviour (ASB). It's something our members have been telling us they want us to support a change in."

Given all that we know about trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's), it leads us to wonder why we refer to behaviour as "anti-social" when more often than not, we're really discussing distressed behaviour. We want to change the narrative, promoting things like pro-social behaviour; early intervention and preventative work; and active citizenship.

Ultimately, we believe victims will experience less anti-social behaviour with a changed approach to ASB, making our communities safer places."

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

View a short video of our CEO welcoming the publication of the report [here](#).

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## **Domestic Homicide Review Contribution**

The Scottish Government Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) team would like to extend their thanks to everyone who participated in our Domestic Homicide Review consultation and targeted engagement, which closed on 30 October.

The VAWG team are incredibly grateful to all those who facilitated and provided support during and after the sessions. The responses, which will be used to shape the detail of the model, are currently being analysed with a report scheduled to be published in December. This will be available on the Taskforce website: [Domestic Homicide Review Taskforce - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/domestic-homicide-review-taskforce). If you would like to receive a copy of the report, please contact [DHRmodel@gov.scot](mailto:DHRmodel@gov.scot)

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## **Police Scotland maintains world leading homicide detection rate**

Every homicide committed in Scotland since 2013 has been detected by Police Scotland, new figures confirmed today. In 2022-23, all 52 homicides committed in Scotland were detected.

Latest statistics from Scottish Government, published today, show the number of homicides committed in Scotland continues to reduce. Police Scotland's 100 per cent homicide detection rate means that every one of the 605 murders committed since the inception of the single national service in 2013, has been solved.

Read more [here](#).

## Western Isles Council urges people to keep safe this winter

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is calling on the public to stay safe this winter and to consider the additional safety measures we must all be aware of throughout the winter months.

The information contained within the [‘Keep Safe this Winter’ guidance](#) will help you make informed choices on how to stay safe and keep well this Winter: How to keep you safe at home and when venturing out, healthy eating advice, nurturing your mental wellbeing whilst avoiding physical illness; looking out for vulnerable neighbours; and who to contact should you require additional information or assistance.

A key theme of this year’s campaign is avoiding trips and falls, and the guidance contains handy tips on staying on your feet, at home and when venturing outside.

Launching the 2023/2024 Winter Safety Campaign, Comhairle Leader Paul Steele, commented:

*“With a little preparation we can all stay safe throughout the Winter months and this excellent resource provides invaluable information on all aspects of personal safety, including emergency contact details.*

*I should also like to highlight that Winter can be a particularly challenging time for our more vulnerable neighbours and that we should all try to offer any assistance we can to make things less difficult for them in the coming months.*

*Taking a few simple steps now and planning ahead could make things a lot easier, and, crucially, safer for you this winter.”*

Please also see the full ‘Keep Safe this Winter’ guidance [here](#):

[Winter Safety \(cne-siar.gov.uk\)](http://cne-siar.gov.uk)

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## Police Scotland Big Youth Conversation

Our partners at Police Scotland want to hear from young people about how best to deliver their services.

They want young Scots to tell them what they love and what they think needs to change. Their ideas and opinions will help Police Scotland to deliver effective policing and services for young people in local areas, helping them create safe and well communities for everyone. Their **Big Youth Conversation** aims to reach young people aged 11-25 in all of Scotland’s communities.

The Survey will remain open until the 31st of March 2024. Find out more and take part [here](#).

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### 16 Days of Action

The [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#) is an annual

international campaign that starts on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

The campaign was started by activists at the inauguration of the Women’s Global Leadership Institute in 1991. It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

The SCSN are delighted to be supporting 16 Days of Activism once again this year through



our social media & website. You can find out more, including viewing a calendar of events in Scotland, on the Improvement Service website [here](#).

### Support to leave an abusive relationship

Women experiencing domestic abuse will be able to receive up to £1,000 from a new pilot fund to pay for the essentials they need when leaving a relationship with an abusive partner.

The £500,000 Fund to Leave will be delivered by Women’s Aid groups in the five local authority areas with the most women’s homelessness applications due to domestic abuse. In 2022-23 almost a quarter of all homelessness presentations by women and their children were due to a violent or abusive dispute in their household.

Read more [here](#).



## Climate Change Impact Assessment Guide Launched for Local Authorities

The Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) has launched a new practical guide for local authorities and other public bodies on developing and implementing a Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA) process.

A Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA) is intended to provide real value in determining the way decisions impact the climate. It can be a valuable tool for public bodies when putting net zero and adaptation commitments into practice or meet related statutory requirements.

Developed by the SSN Climate Change Impact Assessment Task and Finish Group, with support from the Improvement Service, the guidance aims to:

- set out areas to consider or questions to ask yourself when introducing a CCIA into your decision-making frameworks;
- show how you can achieve better value outputs;
- address some of the hurdles you will likely face, and;
- propose solutions to overcome these hurdles

Read the full document [here](#).

## Climate Intelligence Service

The Climate Intelligence Service is a new programme designed to support local authorities to deliver local climate action and benefits for their communities.

Delivery of the Climate Intelligence Service will be led by the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute, a centre of excellence within the

University of Edinburgh, and the Improvement Service, the go-to organisation for local government improvement in Scotland. This uniquely placed partnership brings together expert knowledge and key practitioner insights and will support councils and their partners to unlock the broader benefits of climate action for health, equality and resilience.

Read more [here](#).

## The Week - A Climate Conversation Tool

*The Week* is a tool designed to help create a safe space for courageous conversations about the climate amongst friends, colleagues, neighbours, and communities.

It works like this: you get together with a group of your choice 3 times over the course of a week - hence the name - each time to go through a short documentary and tailored guided discussion, which take participants through an emotional, "U-shaped" journey that lets you grapple with the reality of the climate emergency.

By focusing on what's likely to happen to us, and the people we love, over the next 10 to 20 years, *The Week* empowers groups with energy, hope, and ideas for how we can move towards a better environmental story. *The Week* needs no facilitator, and anyone (16+) with an internet connection can organise a session. Since we launched in January of this year, more than 5,000 groups have been through the experience!

Watch their two minute explainer video [here](#).

If you'd like to have a more in depth chat about how to use *The Week*, contact Meghan O'Neill [here](#).

## The 2023 State of the Climate Report: Entering uncharted territory

A report by a group of scientists published in the journal Bioscience has warned that Earth's 'vital signs' are worse than at any other time in human history - and that we are entering uncharted territory and "a situation no one has ever witnessed firsthand in the history of humanity."

Warning of an 'existential threat to humanity', the report reveals new all-time climate-related records and deeply concerning patterns of climate-related disasters. At the same time, the scientists report minimal progress by humanity in combating climate change.

The report authors urge a transition to a global economy that prioritises human wellbeing and cuts the overconsumption and excessive emissions of the richest in society.

Highlighting the extent of the inequality of emissions - the report notes that the top 10% of emitters are responsible for almost 50% of global emissions.

Dr Christopher Wolf of Oregon State University, and a lead author of the report said:

"Without actions that address the root problem of humanity taking more from Earth than it can safely give, we're on our way to the potential collapse of natural and socioeconomic systems and a world with unbearable heat and shortages of food and freshwater.

"By 2100, as many as 3 billion to 6 billion people may find themselves [outside Earth's livable regions](#), meaning they will be encountering severe heat, limited food availability and elevated mortality rates."

You can read the full report for free in the Journal Bioscience [here](#).

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## Climate Confident Scot - Scorecard

Reducing the emissions of your organisation is an important part of the journey towards a more sustainable future. Use our simple scorecard and template environmental policy to show what you have done already, and what you plan to do next.

The scorecard is for organisations in the third sector in Scotland that want a snapshot of

how they're doing across different areas. It's quick and easy to fill in, and will help you get a sense of where you're doing well, where you're making progress and where you might need to do more.

It'll ask you questions on things like your buildings and energy, travel, buying and selling, waste & engagement.

Find out more and take the Climate Scorecard [here](#).

## Revisiting the SCSN Climate Change & Community Safety Zine

In 2022, the SCSN held a workshop for community safety professionals titled, 'Thinking about Climate Change & Community Safety'. Following this workshop, we committed to utilising an experienced graphic designer to summarise the findings from our event in an engaging, easy to understand, illustrated format – and to share this widely throughout our network, including online.

Our [Climate Change & Community Safety Zine](#) summarises the findings and discussion from our event on five key impacts of climate change that we'd identified: Rainfall & Flooding; Heatwaves; Coastal Erosion; Pests and INNS; and Extreme Weather.

In the time since we published our Zine, there have been many examples of climate events & developments in these five areas - clearly demonstrating that the climate crisis is already, and will continue to be, a major issue in community safety policy areas.

We'll be publishing more on this topic in the coming months. Keep an eye out for news of another workshop into early 2024!





## National litter and fly tipping fund to support landowners

**A new grant scheme has been created as part of the 2023 National Litter and Flytipping Strategy to aid private landowners in deterring flytipping on their land.**

Zero Waste Scotland is administering the funding, on behalf of SEPA, to aid private landowners towards interventions that will prevent flytipping on private land.

The fund aims to support innovative projects that will:

- Prevent fly tipping on private land
- Engage local communities
- Facilitate the reporting of fly tipping and enforcement of existing penalties
- Have social, environmental, and economic benefits

### Who can apply for the Private landowners Grant Fund?

The funding is for private landowners to prevent incidents of flytipping on their lands. Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Maximum grant of £10,000



- Project location must be connected to an area of private land
  - Proposed locations must have been fly tipped within the last 12 months
  - Landowner based in the UK and completes the application themselves
- The total value of the fund will be £50,000 and it will be managed by Zero Waste Scotland with SEPA. The maximum funding which can be applied for in one application is £10,000.

The applicant will be required to fund any costs that exceed the £10,000 maximum and are responsible for ensuring that they have the available finances to continue ongoing project costs if necessary.

The application form and grant guidance can be found [here](#)

## Public Space CCTV in Scotland

This [report](#) presents findings from a mixed methods research project commissioned to better understand the provision and use of public space CCTV in Scotland.

The study sought to answer the following research questions:

- What is the current provision of public space CCTV in Scotland and how, and for what purposes do Local Authorities and Police Scotland use public space CCTV?
- How do communities across Scotland perceive the use, effectiveness, and value of public space CCTV in their local communities?
- What is the provision, delivery, operation, and maintenance of public space CCTV like in similar jurisdictions, and how does this compare with Scotland?

## Support for young people affected by drugs

A service which provides support for young people affected by substance use in their family is [being expanded to six new areas of Scotland](#).

The Routes youth programme, which is run by Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs (SFAD), offers one-to-one and group support to people aged 12 to 26 and currently operates in East and West Dunbartonshire.

### SDF welcomes applications to Addiction Worker Traineeship from across Scotland

SDF are happy to announce that [applications are now open](#) for the Addiction Worker Training Project (AWTP) and Recovery Worker Training Project (RWTP). For the first time they are able to accept applications from anywhere in Scotland.



## LGBTQIA+ experiences of walking, cycling and wheeling

Sustrans Scotland are looking for people from the LGBTQIA+ community living in Scotland to contribute to some research by sharing their experiences and thoughts on getting around their local area. Sustrans are doing this research so they can show how to make public spaces and active travel networks safer and more inclusive for LGBTQIA+ people.

Participation would involve a 1-hour long interview (a guided chat with someone from their research team) or 1.5-hour long focus group (a focus group is a guided small group chat on a research topic). You would receive a £30/£45 shopping voucher as a thank you.

Find out more & register your interest in this survey [here](#).

## Hate crime strategy: delivery plan

The SCSN was pleased to attend the launch of the Scottish Government's Hate Crime Strategy Delivery Plan in Glasgow on 20 November.

The delivery plan sets out a range of activity to be taken forward with partners over the next two years to tackle hate crime.

Read/download the Hate Crime Strategy Delivery Plan [here](#).

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## 'Let's talk about speed!' says Brake, as road deaths caused by speeding rise by 20% in 2022

The latest road casualty statistics show that, in 2022, 1,766 people died on UK roads (1,711 in Britain, 55 in Northern Ireland), a 10% increase on figures from the previous year. Brake's analysis also found that in the same period, road deaths caused by drivers exceeding the speed limit rose by 20%.

Brake also carried out a [public opinion survey](#), asking more than 2,000 drivers about their driving habits and attitudes to speed and speed limits. The survey found that 92% of

drivers think that speed limits are essential for the safety of our roads.

Despite this, more than a third (34%) of those surveyed said they sometimes or often drive faster than the speed limit, and 40% think that driving just a little bit over the speed limit doesn't matter. Two-fifths (39%) of drivers surveyed also agreed that the default speed limit on roads in built-up areas should be lowered from 30mph to 20mph, supporting changes that are taking place across the UK to make communities safer through the introduction of lower speed limits.

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

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## Event: 20's Plenty for Scotland

**Thursday 7 December, Edinburgh City Chambers**



Once Scotland implements its planned national 20mph norm by 2025 over half of the 204 UK highway authorities will have rejected the old national default limit of 30mph as no longer fit-for-purpose to meet their 21st century requirements for road danger, live-ability, active travel and public health.

This conference will highlight both the national 20mph limit set by Wales in September and also the plans in Scotland for its 20mph roll-out by 2025. It will feature implementations and results from the 20mph cities of Edinburgh and London as well as from Scottish Borders Council. An international perspective on 30km/h and 20mph limits will be given as well as the view from Public Health professionals.

The conference will give valuable insights into the developing best practice around 20mph limits for anyone responsible for, or concerned about, transport, mobility, public health, air quality, live-ability, active travel and road danger.

Read more [here](#).



## LATEST COMMUNITY SAFETY RESEARCH

Research

### **Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility: lessons from the Scottish experience**

This paper explores the history of the reforms in Scotland which led up to the raising of the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) in 2019, from age 8 to 12. It also showcases research evidence, from the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime, which indicates that there is both an ethical and empirical case for raising the MACR further, to at least 15.

The Scottish experience demonstrates the dangers for governments of deploying punitive narratives around youth crime as a means of building political capacity. While progressive policy transformations, aimed at avoiding the criminalisation of children, have been hard won, fears that such practices are 'soft options' that will drive up youth offending are unfounded.

Read more [here](#).

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### **Engaging parents to reduce youth violence: evidence from a youth justice board pathfinder programme**

The Youth Justice Board's 2019–2022 strategic plan set youth violence as a priority. As part of this, a 'pathfinder' approach was launched to assist local authorities and their partners to devise, develop, and disseminate whole systems approaches to serious youth violence.

In partnership with a regional Violence Reduction Unit, seven local Youth Offending Teams worked together with a programme that facilitated peer support networks for parents of children known to the youth justice system.

The aim of the programme was to engage parents of young people involved in the youth justice system, facilitating peer to peer support through a blend of online and face-to-face meetings.

The quantitative findings showed statistically significant increases in parents' self-reported well-being and perceived competence with parenting during engagement with the programme.

The qualitative findings highlighted that the self-care focus was important in engaging parents and helps distinguish the programme from statutory services.

Read more [here](#).

### **The Marshal said 'get out of town!' egressing the night time economy: perceptions of student end users in a Welsh city**

Some perspectives from environmental criminology have hypothesized that broader planning governance issues relating to the provision of public transport and taxis services as egress mechanisms may sometimes act to precipitate crime and disorder and exacerbate public safety issues.

Utilising research findings from a study of regular users of the Night Time Economy (NTE) of Cardiff, [this article](#) examines the hypothesis that poor urban governance may precipitate crime, particularly the use of taxis as egress from the NTE space.

The findings, whilst not being completely representative, indicate the perceived importance of the role of taxis as facilitators for reducing anti-social behaviour and egress from the NTE by customers and end-users of this facility.

# Climate Crisis & Community Safety

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

## Proposed Ecocide (Prevention) (Scotland) Bill

Labour MSP Monica Lennon has introduced a Private Members Bill to the Scottish Parliament, which, if adopted, could see major polluters jailed for up to 20 years for the crime of 'ecocide' - the mass destruction of the environment.

If adopted, the Bill would make Scotland the first part of the UK to enforce tough penalties for ecocide and is supported by 'Stop Ecocide International'. Circular Economy Minister Lorna Slater is to meet Ms Lennon to discuss the Bill further.

Ms Lennon has opened a consultation on the Bill on her website. You can find out more and submit your views to the consultation [here](#).

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## Time to treat the climate and nature crisis as one indivisible global health emergency

Over 200 health journals call on the UN, political leaders, and health professionals to recognise that climate change and biodiversity loss are one indivisible crisis and must be tackled together to preserve health and avoid catastrophe. This overall environmental crisis is now so severe as to be a global health emergency.

Read more [here](#).

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## Nature-based biopsychosocial resilience: An integrative theoretical framework for research on nature and health

[An article](#) published in Environment International has proposed nature based biopsychosocial interventions to improve resilience.

According to the authors, nature-based solutions including urban forests and wetlands can help communities cope better with climate change and other environmental stressors by enhancing social-ecological resilience.

Natural ecosystems, settings, elements and affordances can also help individuals become more personally resilient to a variety of stressors.

## SEPA Floodline

Floodline provides live flooding information and advice on how to prepare for or cope with the impacts of flooding 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

[Sign up and get notified](#) when the area you live, work or travel through is at risk of flooding.

## Ready Scotland: Severe Weather

Ready Scotland provides a wealth of advice on preparing for and responding to extreme weather events. By knowing what to do you can help to keep yourself, your family and your neighbours safe and well.

With winter upon us, check out their resources & advice [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 is scheduled for 2pm-4pm on Monday 11 December.**

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

### Mark McCall Home Safety Fund: Next funding round

We're delighted to announce that Mark McCall Home Safety Fund will launch its second funding round at the beginning of December! Keep your eyes peeled for more information very soon!



In its inaugural year in 2022, the fund received a lot of interest and was won by Care & Repair Lanarkshire, with a project to improve home safety outcomes for children under the age of 5 in some of the deprived areas of Lanarkshire.

The specific project called "Safe As Houses" engaged with 32 families who needed safety equipment installed within their homes across Lanarkshire. The project received excellent feedback from customers and you can read more about it on the Home Safety Scotland section of the SCSN website [here](#).

### Advice for Shopping Safely

With Christmas fast approaching, many people may be considering making purchases online in the coming weeks.

Although illegal, unsafe toys can still be found on sale so it is vital to shop with care.

Please advise those you work with to buy children's gifts for the correct age group and from reputable retailers, and ensure they comply to safety standards.

The RoSPA product safety webpages include advice on [toy safety](#), [button batteries](#), [Christmas safety](#) and more, as they aim to positively impact purchase decisions made across the year.

### New funding for projects addressing ill health caused by housing conditions

Homes for Health, launched in November 2023, is a funding programme and collaboration between the People's Health Trust and experts from housing, community, and racial justice charities, delivering projects that respond to the growing problem of unfit private and social rented homes and their effects on tenants' physical and mental health.

The programme works with local tenants and organisations in communities to address poor housing conditions in private and social rented homes.

At the centre of the work are marginalised people whose intersecting identities make them more likely to experience poor mental and physical health caused by their sub-standard homes and insecure tenancies. It provides grant funding, resources and training, and facilitates a supportive network of peers to help to find practical, on-the-ground solutions, as well as encouraging action by decision-makers.

The programme looks at how poor health and wellbeing arising from housing conditions can be tackled through local action, and influencing decision-makers and landlords.

Read more [here](#).

## Child Accident Prevention Trust: Podcast on Button Battery Dangers



Watch the [Mini First Aid Family Health Podcast](#) where the Child Accident Prevention Trust are talking about the dangers of button batteries.

They're joined by Hollie, Mum to Ralphie, a healthy, happy toddler who swallowed a button battery. Hear the story of what happened to Ralphie and how his mum's tenacity saved his life.

Plus, learn more about where button batteries are, why they're so dangerous, how to spot the signs that a child might have swallowed one, and what to do if you suspect the worst.

You can learn more about button battery safety on the CAPT [Button Battery Safety Hub](#).

## Product Safety Database annual reports for 2021-22 and 2022-23 published

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has, today, published the annual reports for its Product Safety Database (PSD) for 2021-22 and 2022-23.

[Access the Product Safety Database annual reports](#)

The PSD is a core dataset for OPSS, providing insight into the market surveillance activity of regulatory officers across the UK, highlighting where the greatest levels of activity are taking place in terms of product types. It also provides an oversight of the most reported hazards and corrective actions taken.

Analysis of PSD data can also highlight where there may be emerging safety issues for novel products and within certain sectors, which can help drive OPSS's regulatory activity and decision making to target market surveillance activity, reduce risk and protect consumers.

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## RoSPA seeks feedback on hospital accidental injury/death data

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published a [report](#) on covering emergency hospital admissions and deaths as a result of unintentional injury.

The main points include:

- There were just over 54,700 emergency admissions for unintentional injuries in 2022/23;
- This represents 1 in 10 of all emergency admissions in Scotland. In 2022, unintentional injuries led to 2,677 deaths.

Falls were by far the most common cause of emergency admissions for unintentional injuries in children, for both males and females, accounting for (42.8 per cent) of the 5,601 emergency admissions in 2022/23.

RoSPA would like to hear your thoughts on whether the PHS data adequately meets your requirements, and if RoSPA's previous breakdowns of these reports ([found here](#)) have assisted your work.

Please reach out to [communitysafety@rospa.com](mailto:communitysafety@rospa.com) to provide your feedback.



@TheSCSN



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