



**Celebrating**  
— 25 YEARS —  
**1997-2022**

# Safety NET-works

October 2022



**Fireworks Safety Edition**

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

## Multi-agency firework safety group launches new campaign

Scotland's leading authorities have launched a new campaign to raise awareness of the devastating impact that fireworks can have on people and animals.

The group, which includes the Scottish Government, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Scotland, the Scottish SPCA and many more have joined forces for the third year running to deliver one clear message to everyone in Scotland – please consider #FireworkSafety.

Head of innovation and strategic relations, Gilly Mendes Ferreira, said, "We always ask that the public enjoy fireworks responsibly and be mindful of the negative effect their misuse can have on people and animals.

"Instead of buying fireworks you can 'get more bang for your buck' by donating what you would usually spend and attending an official public display.

"Not only are organised events less expensive but they allow for those with animals to plan their evening around the time of the fireworks and put measures in place to safeguard their animals. Organised events are also better for the environment and much safer."

This year the group invited all primary and secondary schools to take part in a national competition to raise awareness of how to #BeSafeBeKindBeSmart when it comes to the use of fireworks in their local community.

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## Changes to law on fireworks come into force

New powers to enforce the safe use of fireworks are to come into force.

Legislation making it a criminal offence for anyone to supply fireworks or other pyrotechnic articles to a child or person under 18 comes into effect on 10 October.

From the same date, attacks on emergency workers using fireworks or pyrotechnics will also become aggravating factors that can be taken into account when courts sentence offenders. The measures are set out in the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022 passed by the Scottish Parliament on 29 June.

The key powers are being brought into force in advance of Bonfire Night and build on steps taken last year restricting the times fireworks can be used, when they can be bought, and the quantity.

Read more [here](#).

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## SCSN publishes two new Briefing Papers

### Cost of Living and Community Safety

The Cost of Living Crisis is impacting the whole country, with those who previously felt comfortable beginning to feel it's effects. In Scotland, we're seeing a range of impacts on areas of community safety policy and practice, many posing a real risk to public safety and health.

Our new [Cost of Living and Community Safety Briefing Paper](#) examines this in greater depth.

### Programme for Government 2022-23

The Scottish Government also recently published it's Programme for Government 2022-23, with many legislative proposals of relevance to community safety – and including measures to tackle the cost of living crisis. Download our Briefing Paper [here](#).

### SCSN Blog: Retained EU Law - by Dawn Exley, National Development Officer



The [Retained EU Law bill](#) was introduced to parliament by the UK Government on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022. It is a reform bill which aims to abolish EU law in the UK to easily enable the UK Government to amend, appeal and replace each currently retained EU law. Currently there are at least 2400 retained laws the bill relates to which can be seen via a [public dashboard](#). The Bill includes a sunset date (31/12/22) by which all remaining retained EU Law will either be repealed, or assimilated into UK domestic law.

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

## Question of the Month

Our Question of the Month for September came prior to a roundtable discussion event we held on the Cost of Living Crisis - and the publication of our new 'Cost of Living & Community Safety' Briefing Paper.

We asked:

**'Do you think the Cost of Living Crisis is a Community Safety issue?'**

- 93% said Yes (13 votes)
- 7% said No (1 vote)
- 0% said Not Sure (0 votes)

## Question of the Month October 2022

Our Question of the Month for October is based around our #FireworkSafety theme and comes from our 'SCSN Conversations With...' interviewee Gilly Mendes Ferreira.

We're asking:

**'Does your pet show signs of distress when fireworks are going off?'**

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

## SCSN Conversations with...

### Gilly Mendes Ferreira, SSPCA

#### SCSN CONVERSATIONS WITH...



**Gilly Mendes Ferreira**  
Scottish Society for the Prevention  
of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA)

Our SCSN 'Conversations With...' interview & Podcast this month is with Gilly Mendes Ferreira of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA).

Every year for the last three years, the SSPCA has led a multi-agency #FireworkSafety campaign which SCSN has been proud to support as a partner organisation.

We discussed the recent changes to the law on purchasing fireworks, how they might impact on animals and people in our communities & what a typical fireworks season/Bonfire Night season looks like at the SSPCA.

Listen to the conversation on our [Safer Communities Scotland Podcast](#) or on our [Youtube Channel](#).

## 16 Days Spotlight Workshop: Community Safety and VAWG

### Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Community Safety

**Thursday 1st December 2022, 10am - 12pm**  
**Online - MS Teams**

This online workshop will bring together stakeholders from across relevant organisations and local authorities for a deep dive discussion on the links between violence against women and girls (VAWG) and community safety. Evidence shows that women and girls experience more barriers than men when using the places around them, and are more likely to feel unsafe due to the risk of experiencing violence and harassment.

The topic of VAWG and Community Safety has been identified as a key issue to 'spotlight' during this year's 16 Days of Activism campaign by the National Violence against Women Network. This workshop will explore how stakeholders can work to embed women and girls' experiences and risk of VAWG into community safety policy and practice at a local and national level. The workshop aims to:

- Raise awareness of the links across VAWG and Community Safety, and spotlight examples of good practice responding to the needs of women and children who are affected by violence and abuse in Scotland's public spaces and communities;
- Explore the shared outcomes that Community Safety Partnerships and Violence Against Women Partnerships are working to at a local strategic level;
- Agree actions and support needed to ensure a joined-up, person-centred approach is taken to improving outcomes for women who experience VAWG, and the considerations for Community Safety.

Spaces will be limited for this event so, for now, please register your interest in attending this event and you will be advised whether you have been awarded a place in the coming weeks.

Book your place [here](#).

Visit the 16 Days of Action toolkit page [here](#).

## Exploitation of vulnerable people highlighted in new campaign to tackle County Lines drug dealing in Scotland

CrimeStoppers has launched a new campaign in partnership with Network Rail and British Transport Police to highlight how criminal 'County Lines' gangs target young people and exploit them to carry cash, drugs and weapons.

The campaign aims to raise awareness of County Lines, which is when criminals expand their drug networks to Scottish cities and towns, bringing serious criminal behaviour such as violence, exploitation and abuse.

The term County Lines refers to the use of a single telephone number to order illegal drugs, operated from outside the local area.

This is having a massive impact on Scotland's towns and cities, and also on vulnerable young people and adults who are being exploited. Young people often transport cash and drugs all over the country, so that the criminals behind them can remain detached and are less likely to be caught.

Many travel by public transport, which is why Network Rail has pledged their support by raising awareness of the problem and are encouraging staff and passengers to become familiar with the signs of exploitation.

The gangs often set up a base in a rural area for a short time, taking over the home of a vulnerable person by 'cuckooing' and use adults and children to act as drug runners.

Law enforcement across the UK, including in Scotland, has made significant arrests of people involved in this type of activity. Many vulnerable adults and children who have been coerced into these activities have been safeguarded.

The campaign, supported by Network Rail, will use a series of 'spot the signs' posters, postcards and social media tools to help raise awareness of the issue across Scotland.

Angela Parker, Scotland National Manager for the independent charity Crimestoppers, said:

"County Lines isn't necessarily a term people are familiar with, but as a charity it's important we raise awareness of this issue and help tackle it.

"Gangs coming into our communities here in Scotland are not welcome. We want to ensure that if they do decide to set up their operation here, that your information can help get them removed and keep our communities safe.

"When you contact us, we won't judge or ask any personal details. All we want to know is what you know. We guarantee you'll remain 100% anonymous. Always.

"If you have any information about people who have recently moved into Scottish communities to sell drugs, please contact Crimestoppers 100% anonymously on **0800 555 111** or use the [simple and secure anonymous online form](#) here on our website."

Read more on the campaign [here](#).

### Some thoughts from SCSN on County Lines...

If you read our [October Community Safety Media Monitor](#), you'll have seen this article in The Conversation on how university students are at risk of being targeted by County Lines gangs. You may also have listened to our recent [Podcast discussion](#) with Simon McLean of LEAP Scotland discussing drug prohibition.

Simon and other retired (and current) police officers like him all over the world are campaigning for drug policy reform and an end to drug prohibition.

LEAP firmly believe that county lines gangs and the exploitation of young and vulnerable people that go with them are a direct consequence of the failed War on Drugs which hands power and huge wealth to criminal gangs. And we agree. Whilst we are forced to continue with these failed policies, efforts to mitigate exploitation of vulnerable people are welcome - but we won't even begin to make communities safer until we radically reform our approach to drug policy and move toward regulated drug markets.



## New Suicide Prevention Strategy - 'Creating Hope Together' - published

Suicide prevention will be ramped up as the Government and COSLA publish a [10-year strategy](#) to tackle the factors and inequalities that can lead to suicide.

The strategy will draw on levers across national and local government to address the underlying social issues that can cause people to feel suicidal, while making sure the right support is there for people and their families.

This fresh approach will help people at the earliest possible opportunity and aim to reduce the number of suicides – ensuring efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, debt, and addiction include measures to address suicide.

The Scottish Government will fund the Scottish Recovery Network as part of the initial three-year action plan. This will boost community peer-support groups to allow people to discuss their feelings and drive down suicide.

The strategy is supported by record funding through the Programme for Government commitment to double the annual budget to £2.8 million by 2025-2026. It will build on the work of the National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group and continue delivering the existing 'Every Life Matters' action plan.

At the invitation of the Minister for Mental Health and Social Care Kevin Stewart MSP, **Rose Fitzpatrick CBE QPM** will continue to chair NSPLG.

She comments: "We warmly welcome Scotland's new suicide prevention strategy.

"Four years ago, we came together to form the National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group, its Lived Experience Panel and Academic Advisory Group in order to support the delivery of Scotland's Suicide Prevention Action Plan. We are privileged to have had that opportunity and now to have positively influenced the development of the new strategy.

"We have always been clear that suicide prevention must be everyone's business. In recommending that the Scottish Government and COSLA jointly develop a long-term approach to reduce suicide we took the view that the strategy must connect across Scotland's public policy and service delivery, and we are glad to see this set out today.

"This is particularly important at a time when both the long-term legacy of the pandemic and the current cost of living crisis are having a significant impact on the life circumstances and mental wellbeing of so many people.

"It is important that Scotland's new suicide prevention strategy recognises these risks, and is ambitious in its plans to tackle them.

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## 'Money Mules' campaign launched

The National Crime Agency has launched a new campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of fraudsters and the practice of 'Money Muling'.

Fraud is now the most likely type of crime to affect all of us, after overtaking theft.

Young people are increasingly the major victims of fraud. Fraudsters' tactics can be highly sophisticated and even the financially aware can easily be duped.

One of the most important enablers of fraud are money mules. This is where you let someone else use your bank account to send criminal money.

Read more [here](#).

## Scottish Government Cost of Living Campaign & Advice

The Scottish Government has launched a campaign and website offering advice and support around the Cost of Living Crisis.

Your local council may be able to help if you need urgent help with things like food, heating and electricity.

[Contact your local council](#)

The webpage features lots of useful information and advice on topics including energy bills, benefits, children and families, debt & money, older & disabled people and health and wellbeing.

Visit: <https://costofliving.campaign.gov.scot/>

# FOCUS ON #FIREWORKSAFETY & BONFIRE NIGHT

## Continued from front page main article

The winning entry will be showcased across all partner social media channels throughout Scotland in the lead up to Bonfire night.

Free educational resources are also available for teachers, parents/carers or anyone who is responsible for the care of a child or young person in Scotland. Through these videos and interactive games, pupils will hear the story of Ben McCabe.

Whilst attending a private fireworks display just outside his house, Ben was seriously injured by a firework when he was just four years old. He suffered third-degree burns and still has to undergo treatment to this day.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service watch commander, Barry MacMillan, said, "Inappropriate use of fireworks can cause a lot of distress for people, pets and the wider community.

"We want the public to enjoy these celebrations in a safe way and we always recommend going to an organised display wherever possible.

It's important to be aware of the guidelines for using fireworks to reduce the risk of serious injury and avoid drawing unnecessarily on our emergency service resources."

The group are urging members of the public to #BeSafeBeKindBeSmart by encouraging the public to follow the fireworks code, respect others in the community including those who are there to help, and know what to do if someone misuses fireworks or gets injured.

Police Scotland chief inspector, Nicola Robison, from the Partnerships, Preventions and Community Wellbeing Division, said, "We would urge anyone who purchases fireworks to ensure they are used safely and responsibly and never in a manner that puts themselves or others at risk of harm.

"Please be mindful of the time of day and your surroundings when setting off fireworks and remember that vulnerable members of our communities and animals can become alarmed or distressed.

"Officers across the country will be liaising with retail outlets to remind them of their responsibilities when selling fireworks to the public and are continuing to work with relevant partners to ensure the Bonfire Night period is safe and enjoyable."

#FireworkSafety has now launched. For more information on how to #BeSafeBeKindBeSmart please visit the Scottish SPCA website <https://bit.ly/3kZnMgd>.



## #BeKindBeSmartBeSafe Competition Winners Announced!

The winning entries in the #BeKindBeSmartBeSafe poster competition were announced on Monday 17th October.

Congratulations to Layla C from Lawmuir Primary School and the autism provision class from St Modan's High School for their terrific designs.

Their creations will - and have already been used- to help raise awareness of the dangers fireworks and bonfires can pose to both people and animals!



View both winning entries on the [SSPCA website](https://www.spsca.org.uk).

## Remember, remember... the impact of fireworks

While fireworks can be great fun, they can be dangerous if not used properly. During the bonfire season, most firework injuries treated at emergency departments happen at informal private displays. Over half of those requiring treatment are children.

Rockets are responsible for the majority of serious eye and hand injuries, however sparklers, fountains and firecrackers are also frequent sources of injury.

David McGill, Consultant Plastic and Burn Surgeon, said:

*"We see a rise in burn injuries around Bonfire Night unfortunately, and I've seen firework injuries in both adults and children.*

*Children are frequently burned with sparklers. There's a misunderstanding of how hot sparklers can get - they can cause severe burns to fingers and hands, or catch clothing alight. These injuries can be life changing for patients.*

*To minimise the risks to you and your family, a public arranged event would be by far the safest way to view fireworks."*

This Bonfire Night make sure you know the law and rules around the use of fireworks, which are in place to reduce incidents and injury:

- It is illegal to buy, attempt to buy, give or in any way make a firework available to someone under the age of 18, other than category F1 fireworks.
- It is illegal to set fireworks off before 6pm and after 11pm. This extends to midnight on 5th November and 1am on Hogmanay, Chinese New Year and Diwali.



- It is illegal to set fireworks off in the street or public park (unless an organised display).

It's safer to celebrate at an organised event if there's one in your area, but if you're planning a private display at home, make sure you know how to keep you and your loved ones safe:

- Keep a safe distance.
- Follow the Firework Code and read instructions before use.
- Not all fireworks are suitable for private use. It depends on the size of your garden. Visit [firescotland.gov.uk](https://firescotland.gov.uk) for more safety advice and to download our leaflet.
- It's important to think of others and be aware of the impact fireworks can have on those around you. The loud and sudden noises can be distressing for those with sensory issues, and pet owners know only too well the distress they can cause animals.

Enjoy fireworks safely. For more advice visit [firescotland.gov.uk](https://firescotland.gov.uk)

To report the misuse of fireworks anonymously call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Fearless.org Fireworks Safety Podcast

As part of their annual fireworks campaigning, our friends at Fearless.org have this year published a short Podcast episode on fireworks safety with Dave Evans, a specialist pyrotechnics technician.

You can view the Podcast on Youtube [here](#).

For more information on the Fearless.org fireworks campaign, visit:

[Scotland fireworks - Fearless](#)

### Did you know?

**Scotland's fire crews are up to four times busier than usual on November 5th, wasting time and resources attending unsafe bonfires.**





## SCSN Reconnect Roadshow

**Monthly Reflections from Dave Shea, Senior National Development Officer, SCSN**

'Community Safety' sounds straightforward, doesn't it? A pairing of two plain, familiar words – nothing fancy or jargoned – presenting a simple sum of one plus one. But peel back the cover and there are storied chapters of complexity, authored by citizens and practitioners - people with knowledge and experience – who speak to a deep, varied, overlapping, evolving story.

Ours is a field of work that can be hard to define. It lives in our homes and streets, our public places and spaces; it sparks debate in parliaments and pubs; it weighs on the balance of justice and conscience; and above all, it plays a critical role in how society protects itself from itself, and sees itself. Community Safety is everywhere.

I'm sharing this rather opaque description to help illustrate the breadth and depth of a sector that includes road safety, water safety, home safety, crime and justice – and alternatives to punishment - public health, education, town planning, social care, mental health, substance use and abuse, volunteering, the emergency services, and many more.

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



### UK Road Safety Week 2022

**14-20 November**

UK Road Safety Week, led by the charity Brake, takes place in November.

The 2022 campaign theme, Safe Roads For All, will raise awareness of key areas of road safety, including safe vehicles and speeds, the recent update to the Highway Code and the new hierarchy of road users, and the importance of inclusivity to keep us all safe on the roads, no matter who we are or how we travel.

Find out how to get involved [here](#).

### Cycling Framework for Active Travel consultation

The Scottish Government are consulting on this new framework until 19 December. Find out more and submit a response [here](#).

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## Scottish Co-Production Week 2022

**Putting Co-Production Into Practice  
21st - 25th November**



Co-production Week Scotland is about bringing people together to share ideas, learning and stories about how co-production puts people and communities at the heart of the support and services they're part of.

This year the Scottish Co-Production Network are exploring how we put co-production into practice. With co-production now the way things 'should' happen, we want to find out whether the rhetoric matches the reality – are services and communities truly able to work in a co-productive way?

They'll be bringing together events, resources and stories that show the realities of co-production in Scotland today, exploring what we can learn from each other's experiences and what we need to do to support best practice.

Find out more about the week and how to get involved [here](#).



## Climate Crisis Corner



### Action Not Words: The Climate Hot Seat Wednesday 26 October

Through [YouthLink Scotland](#) and [Our Bright Future](#), Young Climate Activists from across Scotland are joining together for The Climate Hot Seat event with politicians, to make sure the climate and nature emergency is still top of their political agenda. A lot has changed since COP26 in Glasgow, and young people are concerned that climate change is not front and centre. This event is an opportunity for politicians to listen to the concerns of young people and explain what their party is doing to ensure the climate emergency is still a top priority. Find out more & book your place [here](#).

### The consequences of climate change on urban security - EFUS

Last year, during our *Security, Democracy and Cities* conference (October 2021), many Efus member cities said they found themselves on the frontline in managing climate catastrophes. In particular, cities in Belgium and Germany had been faced with the summer 2021 floods, and the City of Nice and its surrounding localities were still reeling from the October 2020 Storm Alex.

Read this article in full [here](#).

### A Pint and A Plan - 2050 Climate Group/SEPA - (Glasgow & Edinburgh) October 27 & November 24

Hosted in pubs around Scotland, this event is brought to you by Tennent's Lager, 2050 Climate Group and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), and will explore how we can be empowered to take action on the climate crisis through the things we use, how we travel and how we use our money.

The event will be focused around positive discussions and is for those who want to make a difference - but aren't quite sure where to start. What's more? By attending, you'll also earn yourself a free ticket to redeem on Tennent's famous Wellpark Brewery Tour!

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

### SEPA Three Day Flood Forecast

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has launched its new [Three Day Flood Forecast](#). The launch coincided with Climate Week 2022.

The new forecast is updated every three days with any warnings of flooding across Scotland.

The forecast also has its own dedicated Twitter account, [@SEPAFlood](#), providing information and advice on how you can understand your flood risk and how to prepare to reduce the impacts of flooding.

### Improving Flood Resilience in the UK - Public Policy Exchange

Tuesday 1st November

This timely symposium will provide an opportunity for all stakeholders across the public, private and third sectors engaged in improving flood resilience to assess the current policies in place to tackle the growing problem of flooding and develop new strategies to improve the national policy apparatus.

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



## Latest news from the Home Safety Scotland Forum

### Fire Safety & the Cost of Living Crisis

The cost of living crisis will affect all of us over the winter, with many people concerned about how to keep warm and heat their homes. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are hosting an event on what the cost of living crisis means to our communities and how this may potentially increase fire risk.



**SCOTTISH**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**  
Working together for a safer Scotland

Partners are being invited from across all sectors to learn about how we can identify those at highest risk and what we can do to provide advice and support. Speakers include representatives from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Trading Standards and Energy Action Scotland.

Register to attend this event [here](#).

### New Report: Fuel Poverty, Cold Homes & Health Inequalities in the UK

The Institute of Health Equity has published a new report exploring fuel poverty & health inequalities in the UK.

The report considers the impact of fuel poverty and cold homes on health inequalities across people of all ages.

Among several home safety considerations, the report notes that: 'Cold homes have been associated with lower strength and dexterity and exacerbated symptoms of arthritis, which can increase the risk of falls and unintentional injury'.

The report also notes a worrying impact of cold homes on parental and childhood mental health and child development.

Read the report in full [here](#).

### Button Battery Safety Flyer - RoSPA/CAPT

Our friends at RoSPA and the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) have produced this handy information leaflet for parents highlighting the dangers of button batteries.

Button batteries are small, but powerful, disc-shaped batteries. They are about the size of a 5p piece and can be found in all sorts of toys and household items. If your baby swallows one, it can cause internal bleeding and even death. That might sound scary, but there are things you can do to keep your child safe.

You can download the Button Battery Safety Flyer [here](#).



## Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

The next meeting of this group which has met online throughout the COVID pandemic, is now ready to meet again in person. This will take place on Tuesday November 8 from 6pm till 8pm at the Scottish Parliament.

The overall theme will be 'Product Safety' and attendees will be able to ask questions and discuss the information from a variety of speakers on topics related to product safety.

The meeting, convened by Clare Adamson MSP, is open to members and guests and if you would like to attend – or find out more about joining this Group - please contact the Secretary, Liz Lumsden on [elumsden@rospa.com](mailto:elumsden@rospa.com)

### SCSN Interview with Clare Adamson MSP

The SCSN recently published an interview we conducted with Clare Adamson as part of our 25th Anniversary celebrations. If you missed it, you can view it on the SCSN [Youtube channel](#).

## Electrical Product Safety Conference -

**Wednesday,  
23 November**

**Electrical  
Safety First** 

Now in it's 14th year, the Electrical Product Safety Conference brings together experts and leaders from across the industry to explore critical issues, solutions and insight in safer electrical products – from conception, through manufacture and production to sale.

This is a must-attend event for designers, retailers, manufacturers, product testing houses, regulators, trading standards, Government bodies and safety experts.

Click [here](#) for the 2022 conference agenda.

For more information, including how to book your place, visit -

<https://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/conference>

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## WHO Healthy Ageing Collaborative Launched

In September, the WHO announced the launch of the Healthy Ageing Collaborative, a multisectoral and multi-stakeholder network to advance implementation of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030).

The Collaborative provides a new opportunity for State and non-State actors to work together, leveraging their respective strengths, to address pressing issues that affect the lives of older people, their families, and communities. The Collaborative will raise awareness, strengthen international coordination on healthy ageing, support national level implementation while recognizing the role of older persons, ensuring their meaningful engagement and the applications of human rights-based approaches.

Find out more about the collaborative and apply to join [here](#).



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