



# SAFETY NET-WORKS

OCTOBER 2023

## FIREWORK SAFETY EDITION

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



## Scottish SPCA #FireworkSafety Campaign

Fireworks and bonfires can be very distressing and dangerous for many people and animals across the country. The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) are asking the public to **#BeSafeBeKindBeSmart** around fireworks.

They have once again taken a multi-agency approach to work in partnership to deliver one clear message to everyone in Scotland. Please consider **#FireworkSafety**.

It is illegal for the general public to set fireworks off before 6pm and after 11pm in the evening. This extends to midnight on 5 November and 1am on New Year's Eve, Chinese New Year and Diwali.

Continue reading on Page 7.



## SCSN AGM 2023 & Community Safety Conference

Wednesday 1st November

On 1st November, we're holding our Annual AGM followed by a Community Safety Conference with a range of presentations on some of the hot button topics in Community Safety right now!

Our confirmed agenda currently includes the following presentations and/or speakers:

- Jim Wilson, Dangerous Dogs
- Karter Kane, Electrical Safety First - Home Safety/Electrical Safety
- Martina Flynn - Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP Northern Ireland
- Kevin Chase, Care & Repair Lanarkshire Report - Mark McCall Home Safety Fund

We'll also be publishing our Annual Report for 2022/23. Book your place [here](#).

SCSN Updates - Page 2  
Lunchtime Learning: Glasgow's Drug Consumption Room - Page 3

Go Safe with Ziggy - Road Safety Resource - Page 5  
Focus on #FireworkSafety - Pages 6 & 7

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



## **SCSN Lunchtime Learning Event: Improving Community Safety & Wellbeing through Cross Service Collaboration** **14 November (Online)**

Join us with Professor Nadine Dougall and Dr Andy Tatnell to discuss this fascinating initiative, which saw Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and other key stakeholders establish a 'team around the community' model of cross-service response.

The findings of the research found perceptions amongst police and fire service participants were that the initiative transformed traditional practice and helped to address several problems faced by people who found it hard to engage with services.

The study, funded by the Scottish Institute for Policing Research, and supported by the Scottish Ambulance Service, Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, was conducted between March and June 2022, using in-depth interviews with the services involved.

The Police and Fire Service officers who were based full-time in the community hub, developed a connective form of working to pro-actively to establish, through serial encounters, trusting relationships with hard-to-reach people in the community, many of whom had multiple and complex needs. They worked beyond their professional boundaries to 'get things done' quickly for those in crisis, and thereby helped improve individual and community resilience. Researchers were of the view that this initiative reflects the "new, innovative, collaborative culture" which the Christie Report (2011) called for.

The study made 17 recommendations, such as the need for more robust evidence on the vanguard initiative, resolving tension between 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' operational working and carefully selecting the officers involved, while retaining the ones who helped to build trusting relationships.

The event will include a presentation and the opportunity for questions and answers.

Please find the full research document [here](#) for your information.

Book your place [here](#).

## **Latest SCSN Consultation Responses**

We've recently published responses to several consultations. All of our Consultation Responses are available to download from our website [here](#).

You can download our most recent Consultation Responses below:

- [Alcohol: MUP Continuation & Future Pricing](#)
- [A Human Rights Bill for Scotland](#)
- [Smarter Regulation: UK Product Safety Review](#)

## SCSN Lunchtime Learning Event: Glasgow's Safer Drug Consumption Room & Community Safety

21st November (Online)



**Join us for a presentation by Dr Saket Priyadarshi on Scotland and the UK's first ever safer drug consumption room.**

This is an opportunity for those working in community safety to learn more about safer drug consumption rooms - and to begin to discuss how we can bring communities with us as we work to tackle Scotland's drug deaths crisis.

### **Glasgow City HSCP Plans for a Safer Drug Consumption Facility**

Glasgow City are piloting Scotland's first safer drug consumption facility (SDCF). SDCFs are supervised and controlled healthcare settings

where people can consume drugs, obtained elsewhere in the presence of trained health professionals in clean, hygienic environments. The service aims to reduce the negative impact that injecting outdoors has on local residents, communities and businesses and reduce the harms associated with injecting drugs and support people to access appropriate help.

They offer a compassionate, person-centred service which focuses on reducing the harms associated with injecting drug use and helps people access appropriate services to meet their needs. By doing so, they are able to reach an extremely vulnerable group who often do not engage with existing services.

A large body of high-quality research suggests an SDCF will help reduce the health and social consequences of public injecting in the city centre.

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

You may be interested to read our [recent blog on Drug Consumption Rooms](#) prior to attending this event.

## Question of the Month

### September Results

Our Question of the Month for September was based on our 'Mental Health & Suicide Prevention' themed newsletter.

We published a new Safer Communities Scotland Podcast on '[Working Together to Prevent Suicide](#)' with [John Gibson](#) of the Canmore Trust & marked World Suicide Prevention Day on 11 September.

In the Podcast we discussed suicide stigma and the importance of talking about suicidal feelings.

We asked:

***"Would you feel comfortable raising the topic of suicide or suicidal thinking with a friend or loved one?"***

- 80% said Yes (12 votes)
- 20% said No (3 votes)
- 0% said Not Sure (Zero votes)

## Question of the Month

Our Question of the Month for October relates to our #FireworkSafety & Bonfire Night newsletter theme.

We're interested to know to what extent people understand the laws in Scotland around fireworks.

We're asking:

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

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



## Why 'Why?' is the new 'So what?'

By Lorraine Gillies, SCSN Chief Officer

For something to be really measured by an outcomes approach, the words 'so what' will come up time after time. *Insert organisation name* held 10 events last year – so what?! You know what I mean. We were so what-ed of our heads! Rightly so, no one wants to be measured by the number of things they have done but for the quality of the impact achieved. And that's what any activity should focus on.

I'm using a new word now. It's why. Why – because I don't think we say it enough. And we need to.

- Why are people behaving anti socially?
- Why is there more shoplifting?
- Why is there more violence in schools just now?

I've been asked to participate in recent discussions about stopping these things, tackling them, banning them, licencing them, but never have I been asked to think about why these things are happening. And if we don't know why, then how can we prevent them. Which by the way, will ALWAYS cost less



than stopping something already in traction.

### Let's look at these things –

**Shoplifting** - John Lewis is among 10 of the UK's biggest retailers which have agreed to fund Project Pegasus, a police operation to crack down on shoplifting.

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

---

## A Day with Dr Gabor Mate: ACE Aware Nation Conference

By David Barbour, SCSN Communications Officer

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> of September I was privileged to attend the ACE Aware Nation Conference where for the second time in four years, the guest of honour and keynote speaker was the world-renowned expert on trauma, addiction and childhood development – Dr Gabor Mate.

You may have attended or read about our screening earlier this year of his documentary film, ['The Wisdom of Trauma'](#) at Wheatley House in Glasgow. Whilst the movie was an undeniably powerful introduction to and illustration of the multiple health and social impacts of trauma – hearing the man in person was all the more special. (You may wish to revisit or check out the [recorded panel discussion](#) from that day which is well worth a listen!)

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

---

## Edinburgh Community Safety & Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy Consultation

Under the Antisocial Behaviour Act, every local authority must prepare, publish and review a strategy for dealing with antisocial behaviour in their council area.

Edinburgh Community Safety & Justice Partnership has launched its survey on Community Safety across the City, to find out how residents feel about antisocial behaviour and crime within their communities. The feedback will help to shape the strategy.

If you live or work in Edinburgh, help shape the strategy in your area by submitting your views [here](#).

## Go Safe with Ziggy - New Road Safety Scotland Resource

Learning resource Go Safe with Ziggy from Road Safety Scotland helps equip children with the skills, knowledge and attitudes that will help keep them safe now and in later life.

The nationwide learning resource, for children up to six years old, teaches children road safety skills that will last a lifetime through fun, easy and engaging videos, games and activities available to Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) centres and Primary 1 classes throughout Scotland.

The much-loved series of colourful Ziggy books explores road safety themes including holding

## Go Safe with Ziggy



hands, safe places to cross and safety in the car, and is also available in Scots (online only) and Gaelic versions.

### Go Safe with Ziggy aims to:

- Set young children up with road safety skills they'll use for life.
- Encourage and inspire young children (and the adults around them) to go on their own road safety journey – playing, talking and reading together.
- Create a hands-on, multimedia experience at home, nursery or school for children in three key age groups: 0-3, ELC and Primary 1.
- Maintain a link between school and home by inviting ELC centres and Primary 1 classes to order the little books for children to take home.

You can find out more and order Go Safe With Ziggy resources [here](#).

## Arlo's Adventure – read by author Bessie Matthews



Arlo's Adventure is a fantastic 'pick a path' rail safety book, written by one of Freightliners train drivers, Bessie Matthews.

The book is designed to help you understand the risks of the railway, so you can be safe.

Can you join in with Bessie and help Arlo the Badger make his travel on a train safely to see his friends. Which path will you choose for Arlo to take... was it the safe choice?

[Children's rail safety book Arlo's Adventures now available for online orders](#)

If you would like to read Arlo's Adventures online, click [here](#)!

You can also access other resources including Colouring Sheets via the Primary Live UK website [here](#).

## Police Scotland launches campaign targeting sexual perpetrators

Police Scotland in partnership with Stop It Now! Scotland has launched a new campaign targeting sexual perpetrators who groom and abuse children online. The #GetHelpOrGetCaught campaign targets men who are either already offending or at risk of offending and directs them to support to help them stop.

Reports of online child abuse continue to increase, with nearly 2,000 crimes recorded by Police Scotland between 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023.

During this same period, Police Scotland carried out 700 investigations resulting in 500 arrests, and 800 children were protected. Read more [here](#).



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe  
**POILEAS ALBA**



## FOCUS ON #FIREWORKSAFETY & BONFIRE NIGHT

### 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, Lead Clinician for the Care of Burns in Scotland (COBIS) network and Consultant Plastic Surgeon at Scotland's Burn Hub said: "Unfortunately we see a rise in burn injuries around Bonfire Night, in both adults and children. We carry out an annual audit of firework injuries across Scotland, and last year there were 41 injuries recorded over the four-week period around Guy Fawkes night.

"The majority of these occurred at private properties. Injuries reported ranged from minor, such as burns to the fingers, to severe including loss of fingers and complex eye injuries with loss of vision.

"Children are frequently burned with sparklers. There's a misunderstanding of how hot they can get. They can cause severe burns to fingers and hands, or catch clothing alight. Sparklers should never be given to children under the age of five.

"Great care should be taken around fireworks, especially when children are near. To minimise the risks to you and your family, a publicly 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 set off fireworks in public places, including streets and parks.
- 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'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 impairment, and pet owners know only too well the distress they can cause animals. If you are worried about an animal call 03000 999 999.

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.



## Continued from front page main article

Young people are more likely to be the victim of an accident or injured in the use of fireworks and around bonfires. If you are responsible for the wellbeing of a young person in Scotland, please support #FireworkSafety and help inform young people of the dangers and keep them safe from harm.

Meet Ben who was seriously injured by a firework when just four years old. Ben's story highlights the dangers for everyone and how important it is to #BeSafeBeKindBeSmart

Find the hazards and dangers of fireworks and bonfires in our interactive game and complete the quiz to test your knowledge.

Find out more and access videos for Primary & Secondary school pupils [here](#).

## SCSN Update: Local Firework Prevention Plans

This is our second year of collecting the local Firework Prevention Plans that highlight the coordinated work being delivered by each Local Authority in Scotland.

This includes the preventative approach to reduce the antisocial use of fireworks in communities. Some examples include proactive visits to licensed premises to remind the licensee of their responsibilities, Community Safety Officers working with Environmental colleagues to clear potential illegal bonfires prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> November.

There is clear partnership working within the local Firework Prevention Plans between Councils, SFRS and Police Scotland under the umbrella of Operation Moonbeam.

## Fireworks buying guide

Using the wrong category of fireworks for the space in your garden is dangerous.



With the cost of living crisis we all need to save money. But many sellers of cheap fireworks don't always make it clear what category you're buying. And online marketplaces don't have to check the safety of what they sell.

Use the CAPT guide to help you buy fireworks safely this Diwali and Bonfire Night.

### Choose where to buy

- Look out for a member of the British Fireworks Association (BFA). All the fireworks they sell have been tested, so you can be sure they meet the latest UK safety standards.
- If you can, go to reputable retailers and avoid pop-up shops.
- When buying online, look for companies who offer helpful advice about what category of firework to buy for your garden. If the seller doesn't list fireworks categories, find one who does.
- Take care buying from online marketplaces. Remember, online marketplaces are not responsible for the safety of the products they sell.
- Avoid buying fireworks via posts in your social media.

### Know your categories

Fireworks are split into four different categories:

- Category 1 are indoor fireworks.
  - **Category 2 fireworks are suited to average-sized family back gardens.**
  - Category 3 fireworks need a minimum safety distance of 25 metres – far bigger than the average family back garden! While non-professionals can buy them, category 3 fireworks are really designed for large displays.
  - Category 4 are for professional use only.
- Don't get caught out by a dodgy dealer trying to sell you fireworks that are too big for your garden!

### Other tips for buying safely

- Did you know that fireworks should be tested against safety standards to make sure they aren't dangerous? Don't assume that, just because someone can sell you something, it must be safe! Only buy fireworks marked with safety standards (BS-EN 15947-2015).

### More information on firework safety

Read [top tips for a safe firework display](#) at home and start [teaching young children how to stay safe](#).

Hear [what can go wrong](#) and find out what to do in an emergency, including [how to react if clothes catch fire](#) and [first aid for burns](#).

Download and share a free [firework safety leaflet](#).

## Women's Fund for Scotland

The Women's Fund for Scotland (WFS) aims to promote systemic change in Scotland to empower women, and to help overcome the multiple disadvantages and discriminatory practices that females experience throughout their lives.

WFS has a vision of a Scotland in which women participate equally at all levels of society, free from any barriers to full and equal engagement in political, institutional, economic, and cultural life, including freedom from the fear of sex-based violence. To date the Fund has distributed over £3m in grants to over 640 community groups and local charities.

All members of the community will benefit from the empowerment the Fund brings to women.

The Women's Fund for Scotland (WFS) has £100,000 in total available to distribute in grants to projects across Scotland that support women's development, self-sufficiency and social and economic equality.

To this end, the grant programme will offer **unrestricted grants** to sustain existing work with women and girls or to support new work in line with our investment themes and priorities.

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

---

## Global acknowledgement for pioneering women's safety initiative

A [pioneering training package](#) for all taxi and private hire drivers in Northamptonshire that aims to help keep women safe on nights out has been shortlisted for an [international award](#).

The online tutorial is currently being rolled out in both North and West Northamptonshire Council areas – to help taxi and private hire drivers spot signs that women may be in danger.

Drivers already play a big role in informally coming to the help of revellers who may find themselves vulnerable. The training aims to consolidate good practice and provide formal support.

The project is part of a package of measures intended to improve the safety of women and girls, particularly in public spaces and at night. The taxi training package and the wider programme of work has been funded largely through the Home Office Safer Streets Fund after a successful bid by the Northamptonshire Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

Now the training package has been recognised on the global stage, making the finals of the Music Cities Awards – a competition designed to acknowledge economic, social, environmental and cultural development in cities and places all around the world.

Read more [here](#).

---

## Domestic Homicide Review: Still time to give your views!

There's still time for you to give your views to shape the development of multi agency [Domestic Homicide Review model for Scotland](#). The Scottish Government are undertaking engagement with professionals and those with lived experience until **Monday 30 October**.

There are a number of ways to take part depending on what works best for you and/or those you support. You can respond directly to the [online consultation](#); take part in a self-facilitated engagement session (online or in-

person) or, for those working in the sector, you can take part in an online session organised by the Scottish Government. Professionals can join one of the sessions which are being held on:

- **Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 – 09:30 to 11:30** (Microsoft Teams)
- **Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 – 13:30 to 15:30** (Microsoft teams)

Please contact the [Domestic Homicide Review Team](#) as soon as possible if you'd like to take part in one of these events or if you would like us to send you a pack that will help you run a self-facilitated session.



## Tens of thousands of young people in Scotland 'swipe' to learn more about keeping safe

Fearless – the youth service of CrimeStoppers – have reported a huge increase in young people engaging with their recent youth violence and weapon possession campaign.

In just a three-week period, **over 33,000 young people in Scotland swiped from Fearless' latest Snapchat campaign to the Fearless website at Fearless.org**. Once there, young people were able to learn more about the common myths around weapon carrying, the Law and listen to

podcasts from people with lived experience of serious violence.

Dozens of intel reports were submitted 100% anonymously to Fearless about people carrying weapons and those responsible for other serious crimes.

The campaign was launched in September at Eastbank Academy, Glasgow. The highly successful Snapchat campaign content was designed entirely by a small group of young people from elsewhere in the city who volunteer with Fearless.

Read more [here](#).

---

## Scottish International Policing Conference 2023 - Community Wellbeing & Safety: Building Partnerships in Policing

This year is the 11th annual Scottish International Policing Conference and will focus the theme of "**Community well-being and safety: building partnerships in policing**" which aligns with SIPIR's first strategic priority and covers a range of topics including gender-based violence, mental health, and public confidence.

Keynote speakers include:

- Delivering the Nick Fyfe Lecture: Professor Aisha Gill a leading academic within the fields of health and criminal justice responses to violence against black, minority ethnic and refugee women and girls, and renowned activist for improving policing of black and minoritised groups.
- Delivering the James Smart Memorial Lecture: Stan Gilmour, former Director of the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit, with expertise in counter-terrorism, organised crime, homicide, and public protection, as well as protecting vulnerable people.

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

---

## Victim Surcharge Fund opens

Organisations that support victims of crime will be able to bid for support from a fund financed by penalties imposed on all offenders who receive a court fine.

Successful applicants will be able to use their share of the £350,000 Victim Surcharge Fund,

which is now in its fourth year, to provide direct, practical help to victims. This includes repairing or replacing damaged items, providing replacement clothes for people escaping domestic abuse, or equipment that helps people impacted by crime feel safe.

Read more [here](#).

---

## Minimum Unit Pricing - Continuation and Future Pricing Consultation

In 2012, the Scottish Parliament passed the [Alcohol \(Minimum Pricing\) \(Scotland\) Act 2012](#) (the 2012 Act) which allowed Scottish Ministers to introduce a system of minimum unit pricing for alcohol. Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) was first implemented on 1 May 2018, with the minimum price of alcohol set at 50 pence per unit (ppu). MUP was introduced to mitigate the significant health harms caused by alcohol

consumption in Scotland.

The Scottish Government is consulting on whether MUP should be continued as part of the range of policy measures in place to address alcohol related harm, and, in the event of its continuation, the level the minimum unit price should be set going forward.

You can submit a response to the consultation [here](#). Read the SCSN consultation response [here](#).



## LATEST COMMUNITY SAFETY RESEARCH

Research

### **Effectiveness of Violence Prevention Interventions: Umbrella Review of Research in the General Population**

To address the societal harms of violence, many violence prevention interventions have been developed, tested, and implemented in the general population. These have been reported in systematic reviews and meta-analyses, which have typically focused on one type of intervention or outcome.

Fazel et al [aimed to provide a comprehensive overview](#) of the current evidence regarding the effectiveness of different psychosocial

interventions in reducing all forms of violence toward others.

Most meta-analyses reported positive effects of tested interventions. The strongest effects were found for sports-based initiatives, and the weakest for general population programs aimed at early childhood, youth development, and reducing sexual assault perpetration by men. Legislative changes had varying effectiveness.

The study concluded that simple, scalable, and cost-efficient programs, such as sport-based initiatives, have the clearest empirical support as population-based approaches to violence prevention.

---

### **Inequalities in neighbourhood features within children's 20-minute neighbourhoods and variation in time spent locally, measured using GPS**

There has been a growing interest in policies that encourage local living by promoting accessible and walkable communities, such as the 20-minute neighbourhood concept. Despite the widespread adoption of this policy worldwide, little research has been conducted on the characteristics of children's 20-minute neighbourhoods and their association with time spent locally.

This study aimed to explore the features of Scottish children's 20-minute neighbourhoods by analysing an 800 m road and path network buffer surrounding 687 children's homes. Based on existing literature, the study identified key features associated with children's time spent locally and the 20-minute neighbourhood policy. The study then examined variations in these features by socioeconomic status, urbanicity, and gender.

The findings revealed significant inequalities in the presence of health-benefiting/harming environments within children's 20-minute neighbourhoods.

Read more [here](#).

### **Impact of a high-volume overdose prevention site on social and drug disorder in surrounding areas in San Francisco**

Between January and December 2022 a multi-service center incorporating an overdose prevention site (OPS) operated with city government sanction in San Francisco.

One concern often expressed about OPS is that they may increase social nuisance associated with [drug](#) use in the surrounding area, despite international evidence that this is not the case.

Researchers [conducted systematic street observation](#) of 10 indicators of drug- and homelessness-related social nuisance around the OPS & around a comparison point in the same city before and after the introduction of the OPS. They found that implementing authorized OPS services in a U.S. city did not increase the prevalence of visible signs of [drug](#) use and homelessness in the surrounding area.

# Climate Crisis & Community Safety

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

## Measuring Carbon Inequality in Scotland

A number of studies have sought to highlight the role of 'carbon inequality' in fuelling the global climate crisis. However, no robust estimates of the scale of carbon inequality have been produced for Scotland.

[This paper](#) aims to address this by presenting new data on the carbon footprint of households in Scotland across the income distribution. It finds a large disparity between the carbon footprints of high-income and low-income households, and argues that cost of decarbonisation measures must be shared in way that is fair and just.

## Manifesto for climate action - Scottish Community Alliance

The climate crisis has been caused by the convergence of so many factors that are so complex it can seem completely overwhelming and make any single climate action appear futile. Which, of course, is one of the best reasons to join with others in order to amplify the impact of any actions we might take. Stop Climate Chaos Scotland is the broadest civil society coalition ever assembled in Scotland. Its recently published Climate Manifesto proposes a vast range of actions

## New Climate 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.

that the Scottish Government and local authorities could take to address this crisis in all its complexity.

Most of the policies are for the Scottish Government, but some are for local authorities, some for the UK Government and some for the international community. Some policies would directly bring about emissions reductions, some would help to enable behaviour change towards those that are pro-climate by making these choices more affordable and accessible, and some would do both.

Read more [here](#).

## Land Use & Climate Change Adaptation in Scotland: Insights report

Current level of global governmental actions and policies will lead to a warming of 2.7°C by the end of the century and will also continue to rise after that date (Climate Action Tracker, 2022). In Scotland, this would bring warmer temperatures in all seasons, wetter winters and drier summers, more extreme weather events such as flooding, and sea level rise.

Scotland's resilience to climate change impacts is closely related to how land is used and owned. Adaptation Scotland's report: "Land Use and Climate Change Adaptation in Scotland: Insights" explores this relationship to inform emerging land and climate change policies and practices. - Read more [here](#).





## Latest news from the Home Safety Scotland Forum

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

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

Next meeting of the Home Safety Scotland Forum is the 11th December.

### Halloween candle safety

Halloween is fast approaching and our colleagues at the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) have published some advice on how to enjoy Halloween whilst being aware of fire risks involved!

#### Fire risks around Halloween

SFRS want everyone to enjoy a safe and spooky Halloween. Every year many adults and children are injured when lit candles come into contact with costumes and wigs.

#### Battery operated candles

Battery operated candles are the safest way to light up scary things at Halloween. They last longer and provide a glow without any wax mess to clean up. And as they don't have a real flame, they are easier and safer to place.

#### When using real candles

Make sure pumpkins, candles and other lights are placed well away from anything that can burn. Don't put them too close to paths where 'trick or treaters' will walk, as their flowing costumes might catch fire.

#### What to do if their clothing catches fire

It is important that children know what to do if their clothing is set alight. You can make a game of teaching your children to "Stop, drop, cover and roll" if their costume does catch light. This means having them practice:

1. Stopping still
2. Dropping to the ground



3. Covering their face with hands
4. Rolling over and over to put the flames out

#### Fire safety when choosing or making a costume

When choosing or making a costume, avoid billowing or long trailing fabric. Make sure any fabric is flame retardant.

#### SFRS top tips for Halloween candle safety

1. Use a torch or battery candles in pumpkins rather than candles.
2. Keep an eye on children at all times when around lit candles.
3. Teach children how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire
4. Keep flowing items like fake hair and capes away from candle and other flames
5. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so they can see clearly.
6. Place candles, pumpkins or any flame out of way of trick-or-treaters, doorways and paths.
7. Keep overhanging decorations away from candles.
8. Keep pets safely away from any lit flames.

## Unintentional Injuries: Hospital admissions to March 2023 and deaths year to December 22

[This release](#) by Public Health Scotland (PHS) reports on emergency hospital admissions and deaths as a result of unintentional injury.

- In 2022/23, there were just over 54,700 emergency admissions for unintentional injuries. This represents 1 in 10 of all emergency admissions in Scotland. In 2022, unintentional injuries led to 2,677 deaths.
- Admission rates for road traffic accidents in the under 15 age group has been decreasing steadily over the past 10 years from 40.2 in 2013/14 to 22.5 in 2022/23.

## Fall Prevention for Social Housing Tenants

Trent & Dove piloted [a year-long fall prevention project](#) targeting tenants aged 60 and over. It demonstrated a 69% reduction in falls experienced by participants.

The approach was based on raising awareness of the risks and consequences of falls and supporting tenants to implement personal prevention measures to reduce their risk.

## Age Scotland Advice on Staying Warm & Well this winter

Heating our homes to a comfortable level is essential for maintaining our health and wellbeing, especially during the typically colder Scottish winters.

Surging energy bills are a considerable challenge for many older people, causing real concern about their affordability and how to balance tight household budgets.

Understanding your heating system, managing bills, and the efficient use of your home energy is really important but it can be hard to know where to start and who can help.

Age Scotland's [Warm and Well guide](#) explains how to make your home energy efficient, manage your bills, keep your home warm, benefit the environment and stay as well as you can over winter. You can also sign up to a free Energy Workshop [here](#).

## First Brick: LGBTQ+ Housing for the Community by the Community

First Brick Housing are a democratically run, soon to be member-owned, housing focused project founded for the benefit of LGBTQIA+ people.

Their mission is to understand the national picture of LGBTQIA+ housing need and positively respond to this by building homes and community spaces of belonging for those who need it.

The picture of housing for LGBTQIA+ people is unclear, with little evidenced research of the experiences of LGBTQIA+ people and how they find or live in housing. First Brick want to understand your housing journey better, where you are now, what your wants and needs are for housing and what you hope the future of housing for our community may look like.

If you live in the UK and identify as LGBTQ+, please help First Brick gain a greater understanding of LGBTQ+ housing needs by completing the survey [here](#).



@TheSCSN



/scottishcommunity  
safetynetwork



@scsn.2



/scottish-community-  
safety-network

Share your news  
with us!



If you would like to submit an article,  
request information or share good practice  
in our newsletter, please get in touch!  
Email [info@scsn.org.uk](mailto:info@scsn.org.uk)



83 Princes Street  
Edinburgh, EH2 2ER

0131 225 8700/7772

Email: [info@scsn.org.uk](mailto:info@scsn.org.uk)

Company Ltd. SC357649

Charity No. SC040464

**[www.safercommunitiesscotland.org](http://www.safercommunitiesscotland.org)**

**The Scottish Community Safety Network  
(SCSN) is supported by funding from the  
Scottish Government Building Safer  
Communities - Safer Communities Division**

