

# Safety NET-works

Trauma Informed Practice Edition



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

## Adopting a trauma-informed approach in Scotland - Guest article by Laura James, Improvement Service

"(If people were trained in trauma)... it would have made a huge difference at the start for me" – member of [SafeLives](#) Authentic Voice panel.

Responding to psychological trauma is, now more than ever, a public health priority. COVID-19 and the restrictions put in place to contain the virus have significantly increased the risk of people experiencing trauma and re-traumatisation. The prevalence of trauma is already higher for people facing adversity, disadvantage and inequality and we know that the pandemic has exacerbated existing economic and social inequalities. Without access to high-quality support, people affected by trauma are at higher risk of experiencing poorer outcomes at all stages of their lives. Trauma can impact on outcomes across mental and physical health, education and employment, and we know that trauma and vicarious trauma can cause poor wellbeing, chronic stress and burnout across the workforce. There is growing evidence that embedding a trauma-informed approach in the re-mobilisation of services, systems and workforces can support Scotland's long-term recovery and renewal from the pandemic.

Through the National Trauma Training Programme (NTP), the shared ambition of the Scottish Government, COSLA and partners is to develop a trauma-informed and trauma-responsive workforce across Scotland. The aim of this work is to ensure we deliver services in ways that prevent further harm or re-traumatisation for those who have experienced psychological trauma or adversity at any stage in their lives and support their unique recovery journey.

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## SCSN Event: Thinking about...Climate Change & Community Safety

With climate change ever on our minds and in the present with the upcoming COP26 summit in Glasgow and the recent publication of the IPCC report, the Scottish Community Safety Network are keen to take this opportunity to bring together our stakeholders and partners from the sector to discuss and explore of the impacts of climate change in Scotland and how it will affect key areas of Community Safety, now and in the future.

At this event, we aim to share initial findings from our first steps into researching this area, learn more about what climate change will mean for communities, co-create a picture of how it will affect Scotland and ultimately understand better how to plan and prepare for this by collectively identifying areas of greatest concern and possibilities for Community Safety.

Book your place [here](#).

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## SCSN Annual Report 2020-21 published

We were delighted to publish our Annual Report 2020-21 at our recent AGM held on 15 September.

As ever, we've been keen to present our Annual Report in innovative new ways, so this year we have produced a [highlights video](#) to accompany our more detailed formal Annual Report document. We were delighted with the feedback we received on our video from those attending the AGM!

We hope you also like our video, and please do share with partners and stakeholders both on social media and via the [Youtube link](#).

You can view our Annual Report & Audited Accounts on our website [here](#).



## Blog

### Series: SCSN four day week pilot



The SCSN Board recently approved a six month trial of a four day working week for our staff team. There's been a lot of momentum gaining around this idea, with successful pilots having been trialled in other countries, and Scottish Government backing the idea as a way of improving work/life balance of employees – without losing productivity.

In this blog series, our National Development Manager Dave Shea, looks at how this will work for SCSN and why we're doing it.

Read Dave's blog [here](#).

## Question of the Month Results

Our Question of the Month in our August newsletter came from SallyAnn Kelly, Chief Executive of the Aberlour Children's Trust, & emerged from the #SCSNConversationsWith... discussion with her, which you can view [here](#).

We asked:

***“Should Scotland provide care experienced young people with a guaranteed income up to the age of 30?”***

- 59.26% said Yes (32 votes)
- 24.07% said No (13 votes)
- 16.67% said Not Sure (9 votes)

## Question of the Month for October

Our Question of the Month this month is based around the Trauma Informed theme of our newsletter and comes from our guest contributor Laura James of the Improvement Service.

We're asking:

***Have you ever accessed training or resources related to trauma-informed practice in your work?***

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

## In loving memory of Mark McCall

The SCSN staff team and board are devastated to hear that our former Chair, Mark McCall, sadly lost his battle with pancreatic cancer over the weekend.

Mark was more than just a colleague, to some at SCSN, he was also a personal friend. Alongside his role at Fife Council, Mark was a visionary who along with other colleagues, was instrumental in transforming our organisation, resulting in our continued growth and development over the past three years – bringing new opportunities for us to make a real difference in community safety in Scotland.

The world of community safety in Scotland has lost a fantastic advocate. The SCSN team and board has lost a mentor, confidante and friend. Mark's friends and family have lost a cheerful, vibrant and passionate man who they will miss dreadfully.

Despite the dreadful tragedy of Mark's untimely death, we hope that it is some consolation to those whose lives he touched that Mark made a huge difference to the lives of many, not least by one of his final acts, in raising thousands of pounds for MacMillan Cancer Care.

Our thoughts and all of our love and sympathy go to Mark's family and friends at this terribly sad time.

The SCSN Staff Team and Board



## SCSN seeking new Chair person and trustees for our board

Following our AGM on September 15th, Ian Hanley of Inverclyde Council, stepped down from his role as SCSN Chair Person after 2 years. We thank Ian for all of his work and enthusiasm in the role!

SCSN are now seeking applications for the vacant position of Chair person, as well as seeking new trustees for our board.

You can find out more & how to apply [here](#).

## SCSN joins multi-agency campaign asks people to consider #FireworkSafety

Scotland's leading authorities are issuing a stark reminder of the devastating impact that fireworks use and the sight and sound of fireworks can have on people and animals.



The Scottish Government, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Scotland, the Scottish SPCA and many more have come together for the second year running for #FireworkSafety, an initiative to educate young people about the dangers of fireworks and bonfires and how to keep themselves safe.

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

## Scottish Government Consultations

### The Next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland

The Framework is the statutory vehicle through which Scottish Ministers set out priorities and objectives that SFRS must have regard to in carrying out its functions. The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 states that Scottish Ministers will keep the Framework under review, and 'may from time to time revise it'. The consultation seeks views on the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland.

Take part in the consultation [here](#).

### National Strategy for Community Justice: Review

This consultation invites comments as part of the review of the National Strategy for Community Justice.

As per [section 16](#) of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016, Scottish Ministers must review the current strategy by 24 November 2021. Following this review, Scottish Ministers have committed to developing a new strategy, and it is expected that this will be published in Spring 2022, following a public consultation exercise in due course.

Take part in the consultation [here](#).

## SCSN proud to support Challenge Poverty Week 2021

Challenge Poverty Week 2021, a campaign by the Poverty Alliance, ran between 4th-10th October.

The SCSN was pleased to support Challenge Poverty Week on social media. We believe that tackling poverty is central to building safer communities. We absolutely stand behind the key messages of Challenge Poverty Week, which are:



- Too many people in our society are locked in the grip of poverty, restricted from playing a full role in society.
- But in Scotland, we all agree that poverty can, and must, be solved.
- By redesigning our economy to reflect our shared values of justice and compassion, we can unlock poverty's grip.
- Action must be taken to boost people's incomes, reduce the cost of living, and create the just and green Scotland we all want to see.

The links between poverty and numerous social problems are clear. Poverty, and especially childhood poverty, increases the likelihood of people falling behind in education, experiencing stress/trauma, developing mental and physical health problems and experiencing issues with substance use and/or addiction.

Poverty and multiple deprivation are also strongly linked with an increased likelihood of anti-social behaviour, violence and other crime - by creating the environmental circumstances that make it less likely people will be able to regulate their emotions and behaviour and limiting their life chances and social capital.

Communities where **everyone** lives or grows up in such a way that they can lead healthier and happier lives are essential in order to help prevent violent crime, anti-social behaviour, substance use problems and the other social issues which make people feel unsafe. This is why we themed our last newsletter on '[Poverty and Community Safety](#)', as well as focussing on poverty in our [2021 Manifesto for the Scottish Parliament](#) elections.

If you missed our last newsletter, you may want to check out the guest articles on '[Poverty and Community Safety](#)' by Niven Rennie, Director of the Violence Reduction Unit - and '[Poverty and Scotland's Drug Deaths Crisis](#)' by Austin Smith, Policy Officer at the Scottish Drugs Forum.

You may also want to check out our [YouTube interview](#) with SallyAnn Kelly, Chief Executive of the Aberlour Childcare Trust.

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### Report: The State of Child Poverty 2021 - Buttle UK

The [State of Child Poverty 2021 report](#) tells the story of the ongoing impact of COVID as witnessed by frontline services that support an estimated 36,000 vulnerable children and young people.

This is the third annual publication of the report, and it shows that whilst these children have had to deal with the same disruption to schooling, isolation from friends and wider

family and the broader anxieties of living through the pandemic as all children have, many are also dealing with trauma brought on by a range of adverse childhood experiences that have been made worse by the COVID crisis. Those living with challenging home situations where there is, for example, domestic abuse or parents themselves have mental health problems, have found their situations getting worse. This has duly impacted their mental health and their ability to overcome any trauma these experiences have created.

**Joseph Rowntree  
Foundation  
publishes Annual  
State of the Nation  
Report on Poverty in  
Scotland**



Scotland risks seeing a rising tide of poverty due to the economic impact of Coronavirus unless political parties commit to bold action on job training, affordable housing and an income lifeline for families at next year's Holyrood election.

In its annual [state of the nation report](#), Poverty in Scotland 2020, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) shows that the country went into the pandemic with unacceptably high levels of poverty. It also reveals that people and places already at greatest risk of poverty are facing mounting challenges.

The analysis sounds a warning bell: Scotland is not on course to meet its interim child poverty targets within three years. Currently, 230,000 children are growing up in poverty (24%) – an increase on 5 years earlier – while the target is to reduce this number by a quarter to 18% by March 2024.

The pandemic has had a serious impact on jobs and financial security, with workers

already in poverty hit hardest. Areas with a high number of lower-paid at-risk jobs - in accommodation and food, retail and wholesale, manufacturing and entertainment sectors - face the threat of increased poverty.

The pandemic has also resulted in a drop in hours worked. Mean working hours in Scotland dropped from 32 per week at the start of 2019 to 25 in the period up to June 2020. This is a deeply concerning indicator since escaping in-work poverty relies on the ability to work enough hours at the Real Living Wage.

Jim McCormick, Associate Director Scotland of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, said:

"We went into the pandemic with unacceptable levels of poverty. The resulting economic storm risks blowing us even further off course. People and places already at greatest risk of poverty face tougher times ahead unless we are bolder in our approach to recovery.

"Now is a crucial moment for Scotland. The decisions we make will determine whether we reach our ambitious child poverty targets by the middle of the next parliament. As the shape of our economy changes, it is vital to do all we can to protect people's jobs, homes and living standards, so more families are not pulled into poverty."

**Police Scotland  
take quick action  
to reassure public  
following Sarah  
Everard case,  
introducing officer verification process**



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

Police Scotland is immediately introducing a simple officer verification process to provide reassurance to any member of the public who may be concerned about whether or not they are being spoken to by a genuine police officer working alone.

The move follows the understandable public concern surrounding the horrendous murder of Sarah Everard.

On duty officers operating on their own will now proactively offer to carry out a verification check for anyone they come across who

appears to be concerned for their safety. A member of the public can also request that a verification check be done.

Although police officers normally work in pairs in Scotland and it is very rare for a lone police officer to approach a member of the public, there are occasions when this could happen.

Read more [here](#).

**Police Scotland nationwide campaign on  
COP26 security operations**

Police Scotland is launching a six week campaign to highlight the work of Project Servator - a tactic designed to disrupt a range of criminal activity, including terrorism, while providing a reassuring presence for the public.

Find out more [here](#).

A trauma-informed approach is made up of many different components, but at its heart is the recognition that everyone has a role to play in tackling the causes and impact of trauma, minimising barriers to accessing support, and in improving the outcomes of people affected by trauma. Not everyone in the workforce needs to be able to treat trauma, but it is vital that everyone has the knowledge, skills and confidence to respond to trauma appropriately and effectively. But learning also tells us that there are a number of key drivers that support training to be successfully translated into practice, including leadership that embodies the key principles of safety, trust, choice, control, collaboration and empowerment; prioritising staff wellbeing; collecting data and information about people's experiences and embedding feedback loops; and valuing the contribution of people with lived experience of trauma.

At [the Improvement Service \(IS\)](#), we provide a range of support to local authorities and other key stakeholders to raise awareness of the benefits of a trauma-informed approach across systems, services and the workforce, and to strengthen the capacity and capability of councils and partners to implement a trauma-informed approach.

### Trauma deep dive event series

In partnership with NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and Scottish Government, the IS recently facilitated a series of learning events over 2020-21 that explored how adopting a trauma-informed approach can support key community planning priorities. The events featured keynote speakers highlighting good practice and learning across a range of services/ organisations, including stakeholders from police, health, councils, and the third sector. There were a wide range of attendee roles, organisations, sectors, and a broad geographic spread from across Scotland. Learning resources from the events are available on our [website](#).



Across all of the learning events, participants highlighted consistent themes as essential to supporting the implementation of a trauma-informed approach in services/ organisations, including:

- Ensuring systems and services are informed by lived experience;
- Strengthening awareness raising and multi-agency working at a national and local level;
- Embedding a trauma-informed approach into practice and policy beyond workforce training;
- Prioritising support for staff wellbeing; and
- Buy-in for trauma-informed approaches from leaders locally and nationally.

The image below shows some examples of barriers and enablers to implementing trauma-informed practice and policy, as highlighted by participants across the series of learning events:

**Barriers and Enablers**

Participants at each event discussed the barriers and enablers they experienced in their services/ organisations/ local authority areas to implementing sustainable trauma-informed practice and policy. Some of the key themes highlighted across the events include:

 <p><b>BARRIERS</b></p> <p>Long-term culture change is needed to recognise, understand and embed a trauma-informed approach across Scotland.</p> <p>There is limited capacity for all staff to undergo training and development, particularly in light of COVID-19.</p> <p>Siloed working presents a challenge in developing a shared, whole systems approach that ensures people receive a trauma-informed response.</p> <p>Staff burnout and experiences of poor wellbeing have increased during periods of lockdown/ restrictions.</p>	 <p><b>ENABLERS</b></p> <p>Buy-in and commitment to this agenda from leadership and senior staff is absolutely vital for driving forward systems and culture change.</p> <p>Trauma Champions and TPTICs<sup>1</sup> have been a useful driver for developing a trauma-informed approach locally.</p> <p>Multi-agency, collaborative working across sectors reduces the burden on single services and staff.</p> <p>Staff across frontline services feel supported when they have opportunities to share learning, learn from others and have space to reflect on practice.</p>
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### **Further resources and information**

The NTP website provides information on the training and resources developed by the NTP to support the skills and knowledge of the whole Scottish workforce. This includes access to e-learning modules, videos about the benefits of trauma-informed practice, and information on the Scottish Trauma-Informed Leaders Training programme (STILT). [This interactive PDF](#) summarises the key trauma training resources from the NTP that are openly available to support all members of the Scottish workforce to strengthen their understanding of their role in responding to people affected by trauma.

## **Community of practice**

There is an online [community of practice](#) which is free and available to all professionals across Scotland who are interested in finding out more about trauma-informed policy and practice and who would like to share learning.

## **Resources to raise awareness of trauma-informed policy and practice**

These publications highlight how adopting a trauma-informed approach to Scotland's COVID-19 recovery, renewal and transformation agenda can support key priorities, including improving outcomes for vulnerable people and communities affected by trauma and supporting workforce wellbeing and resilience:

Elected Member Briefing: [Taking a trauma-informed lens to COVID-19 recovery, renewal and transformation](#)

Infographic: [A trauma-informed approach to Scotland's COVID-19 recovery, renewal and transformation](#)

## **Trauma champions network**

The IS is supporting the development of a network of [trauma champions](#), who are senior leaders across local authorities, NHS Health Boards, Health and Social Care Partnerships and other key community planning partners. Through a collaborative action learning programme and 1-1 support, we are supporting champions to drive forward trauma-informed practice and policy across their organisations and local areas in a multi-agency, collaborative way.

## **Public pledge**

The Scottish Government have developed a leadership pledge of support for organisations to pledge their ongoing commitment to embedding trauma-informed principles and practice in Scotland to support anyone affected by psychological trauma. You can find out more about the pledge and how your organisation can sign up [here](#).

For more information about the Improvement Service's work on trauma, please contact: [trauma@improvementservice.org.uk](mailto:trauma@improvementservice.org.uk)

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## **Sentencing Council recommends trauma-informed approach to justice for young adults**

We are pleased to see that the Scottish Sentencing Council has taken on board consultation responses, including our own, and recommended a trauma informed approach to justice for young adults. The Sentencing Council recommends judges take adverse childhood experiences (ACES) into account when sentencing young people in order to break the link between trauma and reoffending.

In a consultation published last year SSC chair Lady Dorrian, who is also Lord Justice Clerk, said the organisation was keen to explore whether rehabilitation would be preferable to custody for offenders under the age of 25.

Read more [here](#).

### **Survey: Understanding the Mental Health Needs of Women in Scotland**

The [Improvement Service](#) is conducting research aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing support for women and girls in Scotland who have had potentially traumatising experiences, such as violence and harassment. The findings from this survey, conducted with support from [SafeLives](#), will be shared with Scottish Government along with recommendations to improve mental health service access for women.

Take part in the survey [here](#).

### **Family & Household Support Service Case Study (Edinburgh Council)**

With the theme of our newsletter being 'trauma informed practice', we felt it was a good opportunity to once again highlight this [case study](#) on trauma informed approaches to anti-social behaviour in Edinburgh!

## Improving the National Performance Framework - Article from the National Performance Framework Unit, Scottish Government



Our current National Performance Framework (NPF), launched in 2018, was developed in collaboration with all parts of society: public and private sectors, local government, voluntary organisations, businesses and communities and had cross party support in the Scottish Parliament. At the time, the First Minister said “the new NPF belongs to all of Scotland and together we can fulfil the promise contained in it.” As we have sought to deliver, measure and improve the NPF in the years since, we have benefited from the perspectives of many individuals and organisations across Scotland. As part of that continuous improvement programme we have two asks of you right now.

Firstly, we need you to tell us how you currently use the National Performance Framework (or don't). And to tell us what could make it more useful. Our [short survey](#) will be open until 27th October. [Let us know what you think](#), it'll take no more than 10 minutes.

And we need to hear from as many people and organisations as possible, so our second ask is that you share the survey amongst your networks. If you have organisational newsletters or social media accounts, we would appreciate you promoting the survey via those channels (we can provide some promotional text, just [send us an email](#) and we'll get that to you). There's also a [blog post](#) with a bit more background, if you're able to share that and we're [@ScotGovOutcomes](#) on Twitter if want to retweet us!

In addition to informing our continuous improvement programme, your responses will also help us think about the questions we need to ask during the next NPF review, which we're beginning to plan.

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### Scottish Drugs Forum launch 'How to Save a Life' toolkit

A nationwide marketing campaign to raise public awareness of the signs of a drug overdose and the life-saving medication naloxone has been launched to mark International Overdose Awareness Day.

The Scottish Government and Scottish Drugs Forum have teamed up to help inform the public of the medication which can reverse the effects of an opioid-related overdose.

Read more/access the online campaign toolkit [here](#).

### Online Survey on providing help to people experiencing overdoses

SDF have launched an online survey seeking to gain insight into the experiences of people who have provided assistance when someone has experienced a suspected drug overdose. This survey will support better understanding of people's needs when they are in this situation and any supports that may help people afterwards.

Read more and take part in the survey [here](#).

### Suspected drug deaths in Scotland: April to June 2021

This [new report](#) focusses on Police Scotland management information as a key indicator of recent drug death trends in Scotland.

In January 2021 the Scottish Government announced a National Mission to reduce Scotland's unacceptable drug death rates. Part of this commitment is to improve data and surveillance. This report focusses on management information from Police Scotland on suspected drug deaths to provide as timely an indication of current trends in drug deaths in Scotland as is possible. Statistics from the National Records of Scotland (NRS) are also presented for wider context.

Suspected drug deaths during the first six months of 2021 fell very slightly but were at a similar level to those recorded during the first six months of 2020. Overall, there continues to be an upward trend in suspected drug deaths over the period for which data is available.





# Neighbourhood Watch SCOTLAND

## What is the Herbert Protocol?

The protocol is a form which family members or carers complete for a person living with dementia or at risk of going missing. The form is available to download from Police Scotland's [website](#).

It provides personal details, medical history, significant locations and information about previous incidents of going missing. The protocol can be printed out and stored in a safe, easily accessible place in the person's home or kept by a family member electronically. **It is important to keep the protocol updated.**

It enables police officers to quickly obtain vital information about vulnerable people who have been reported missing.

Since 2017 the Herbert Protocol has been used many times to help police and other agencies quickly and safely locate missing people who have dementia. The scheme was rolled out nationwide on **21st September, 2021**.

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## Trading Standards Scotland Scam Updates

Age Scotland recently published the results of their Big Survey 2021, in which **87%** of respondents said that they or someone they know has been the target of a scam. **71%** had been targeted by phone scams - other common scams involved impersonating an organisation, trying to extort money and trying to obtain personal information. [Read a snapshot of the Big Survey here](#).

UK Finance [have also reported](#) that cases of 'impersonation fraud', where scammers pretend to be from a trusted organisation, more than doubled in the first half of 2021. Over **33,000** cases were reported and nearly **£130m** was stolen by criminals using this tactic.

It's more important than ever to make sure that you stay Scam Aware and share information about scams with vulnerable relatives or friends. Report all scams to [Advice Direct Scotland](#) on **0808 164 6000**. You can also forward suspicious emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). If you have been the victim of fraud, report it to Police Scotland on **101** or **999** in an emergency.

If you receive a suspicious text message you can forward it to **7726**.

## Neighbourhood Watch Scotland ALERTS

Register for Neighbourhood Watch Scotland ALERTS and receive local alerts on a wide range of topics aimed at keeping you and your community safe. Sign up [here](#).



## Latest news from the Home Safety Scotland Forum

The next meeting of the Home Safety Scotland Forum will take place on Tuesday 19th October and the theme will be climate change and home safety.

We're always looking for new members to join our group! If you work in or are interested in home safety and would like to join or attend our forum - please contact [josh.box@scsn.org.uk](mailto:josh.box@scsn.org.uk). Follow Home Safety Scotland on Twitter: [@HomeSafetyScot](https://twitter.com/HomeSafetyScot)

### SGN: Gas Safety & Alzheimers

SGN has a long history of supporting people with dementia. Over the years, we've worked with Alzheimer Scotland and the Alzheimer's Society to encourage our people to become Dementia Friends, learning about the condition in an effort to make sure they're aware of the symptoms when working with our customers.

We're also very proud of our locking cooker valve, a free and simple safety device that can help people with dementia retain their independence at home and provides reassurance to friends, family and carers.

When the valve is locked, the gas supply to the cooker is stopped, eliminating the risk of the cooker being unintentionally turned on or left on. It gives peace of mind to carers or relatives that the cooker can't be used when they leave the house or the room. The carer or relative can then easily turn the valve on using the key when the cooker is required, enabling the household to continue to use their gas cooker safely.

This year, we've teamed up with The Guardian to publish an advert in one of their supplements on World Alzheimer's Day.

'Understanding Dementia', launched on Tuesday 21 September, aims to raise awareness of Alzheimer's disease and dementia by providing a platform to showcase the developments in treatments and the importance of funding research, reaching key dementia audiences, friends and families, and care home managers. The goal is to work towards a cure and provide support and care for those affected, while also showcasing the support, care and products readily available.

With an audience of around half a million readers and a prime spot of the back page of the supplement, it gives us an excellent opportunity to showcase this amazing free safety device. It also includes information about the Priority Services Register as well as carbon monoxide safety.

If you know someone who could benefit from having a locking cooker valve fitted, visit [www.sgn.co.uk/LCV](http://www.sgn.co.uk/LCV) to find out more and to make a referral.

### Gas Safe Charity 'Think CO' workshops

The Gas Safe Charity continue to run their series of workshops on carbon monoxide safety.

The purpose of these virtual workshops is to raise awareness of carbon monoxide risks for people who work in the homes of vulnerable people.

Book your place at an upcoming session [here](#).

### Home Safety Equipment Scheme associated with reduction in injury related hospital admissions in under fives

Research newly published in the British Medical Journal has evaluated a national home safety equipment scheme and shown that it was successful in reducing injury related hospital admissions in the under fives.

# In other news...



## SCDC Communities Channel redeveloped

After surveying people who use the site last year, we've redeveloped the Communities Channel Scotland website to make it even more helpful to community groups across Scotland in their amazing work with their communities.



The refreshed website is now live, and we'd like to invite all community groups, and anyone who works with them, to have a look and take advantage of its updated features, such as...

Straightforward guides to [key developments](#) and [policy](#) affecting community groups, including

- climate change, covid-19 and what's currently happening around human rights in Scotland.
- Easily searchable collections of [resources](#), including tools, ideas for funding and relevant support organisations, to help you carry out your activities and achieve your aims.
- Inspiring [examples](#) of community groups in action, covering everything from emergency responses to Covid-19 to creative ways of engaging with people.

The [Social Impact Pledge](#), which asks public bodies to commit to making changes to what they do that have a direct benefit for communities and community groups.

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## Democratic Society, 'Guide to deliberation: Participatory Budgeting

Deliberative approaches can enable participants to go deeper in considering choices than using proposal submissions, idea generation or voting alone. They bring together a diverse group of people to learn about an issue, share and hear different perspectives, discuss options, consider trade-offs, and ultimately reach informed and considered decisions about priorities for spending. They bring additional benefits by building community knowledge, confidence and connection to decision-making.

This guide is aimed at people involved in the design and delivery of participatory budgeting processes in Scotland, though its content is relevant for people working anywhere. It is intended to be multi-scale - you could be working for a local authority to mainstream PB or supporting a community group in Scotland with small grants.

Download the guide [here](#).

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## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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## SHARE YOUR NEWS!

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)





Mansfield Traquair Centre

15 Mansfield Place

Edinburgh, EH3 6BB

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)**