



# **Scottish Community Safety Network**

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## ***A Manifesto for Safer Communities***



## **2021 Scottish Parliamentary Elections**

The Scottish Community Safety Network's ambition is that Community Safety is valued and integrated across all relevant policy areas.

We are committed to working to achieve a fairer and more equal Scotland. There is so much across the Community Safety landscape where we'd like to see focus, investment and change - but our key priorities are as follows:



## Poverty

Inequality and poverty are among the central drivers for many of the issues we see in Scotland in community safety - including crime, violence, alcohol and drug harm, unintentional harm and injury, modern slavery and more.

To build safer communities, we need to recognise that tackling poverty and inequality lie at the heart of any serious response to these issues.

We want to see:

- A commitment to a Universal Basic Income
- People having more money in their pockets for when they need it
- Cross sector action on eradicating poverty
- A continued dialogue on poverty & its harms



## Community Safety

We believe that communities will be safer if there is/are:

- More involvement of people in communities in the planning, delivery and development of services that they use - more co-production!
- Pro-social approaches to Anti-Social Behaviour
- More investment and recognition of the fundamental importance of youth work & community learning & development
- A continued focus on local partnerships working together to keep communities safe
- Continued support and investment in the Equally Safe Strategy
- Measuring What Matters - follow the science but remembering that stories & perceptions are evidence too!





## Crime & Justice

SCSN believes in fair, compassionate and trauma informed crime and justice policies and practices. We believe the focus should be on rehabilitation and following the evidence of what actually works to reduce crime.

To that end we support:

- Further raising the age of criminal responsibility
- Reducing the prison population
- Investing and increasing public confidence in community justice
- Having a meaningful dialogue on prevention and early intervention, and why that is important
- The decriminalisation of drug use as part of a package of other measures to reduce drug harms



## Unintentional Harm & Injury

We support the goal of achieving a Scotland that is free from unintentional harm and injury. We believe place-based approaches in built environments can contribute to this.

To help achieve this goal, we'd like to see:

- An increased focus on Home Safety
- Delivering more safe and affordable housing
- A commitment to making roads safer for cycling
- A 20mph speed limit in built up areas
- Continued review/reduction of the drink-drive limit for Scotland
- Completion and implementation of a forward thinking Falls and Frailty Strategy for Scotland



## Community Resilience & Participation

We believe that communities that have a sense of belonging, connection and control are safer communities.

To achieve that, we'd like to see:

- A commitment to supporting community resilience with a trauma informed approach
- A commitment to increasing community participation, including expanding participatory budgeting
- Working towards ensuring that services and policies are inclusive and acceptable, designed and delivered with everyone in mind - especially those with protected characteristics
- Better data gathering of minority communities to inform policy & practice



## And finally...

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed our world and our lives in so many ways. The word for 'crisis' in Chinese can mean both danger and opportunity. We have an opportunity to make deep and lasting changes to our society and communities.

Over the next few years, we'd like to see:

- More kindness & compassion
- More positive action
- Zero tolerance of hatred
- Improved public understanding of trauma, ACES and how that impacts on people's lives
- Increased focus on Human Rights and incorporation of the UNCRC across policy and practice
- Increased emphasis on flexible working - putting people before process
- Continued exploration of Gross Domestic Wellbeing as a measure of social progress



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