



SAFETY NET-WORKS

JANUARY 2024

www.safercommunitiesScotland.org

Statement from the SCSN Chair on SCSN funding allocation for 2024/25

Firstly, please allow me to wish you all a Happy New Year; I hope you all had a lovely festive break.

This email comes as 2024 begins and as you are aware, the time of year when the Scottish Government is setting its budget, and their partners are notified of grant funding decisions.



Just before the break, the Scottish Community Safety Network met with the Scottish Government to discuss their grant commitments to the network for the financial year 2024/2025. Sadly, the news we received was not good and we would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some brief details, so you are informed as our membership, but also to offer you the opportunity to provide comment on the outcome from the Scottish Government.

For the period 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, SCSN will receive 50% less in grant funding from the Scottish Government than we received for the current year.

Scottish Government has advised the SCSN that this is due to the withdrawal of support for our work on home safety; we understand that overall, Home Safety Scotland has been deprioritised following a review of the expenditure within Building Safer Communities which prioritises work aligned to the Justice Vision, 2023-26.

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Planet Youth in Scotland - National Learning Event

19 March 9.30am - 4.30pm

The Planet Youth Learning Event is a free opportunity for people to come together, think, discuss and learn about what we can do to create a step change in local Planet Youth activity, and in national prevention work.

They'll be joined by a range of expert and lived-experience speakers to inspire, advise and motivate.

It will give space for reflection and discussion on the challenges faced so far and provide tools, ideas and inspiration to build on what has already been achieved.

This event will be interactive and practical and it's hoped that as many people as possible will join us on the day. However, for some, in person attendance may be a barrier so you can also register your interest in watching the keynote sessions online.

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

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SCSN Lunchtime Learning Seminar: 'ScotRail in Your Communities'

The Scottish Community Safety Network are continuing their lunchtime learning sessions and we are delighted to welcome ScotRail to highlight the fantastic work they are delivering in the communities of Scotland.

At the event, we'll take an in depth look at work they deliver assisting Community Safety Partnerships - raising awareness of some of the initiatives they have delivered including Adopt-a-station; school education and working with SACRO. Book your place [here](#).

SCSN Consultation response on 'Enhancing the accessibility, adaptability and usability of Scotland's homes.'

At the end of 2023, we submitted our response to the Scottish Government Consultation on enhancing the accessibility, adaptability and usability of Scotland's homes.

You can read our response in full on our website [here](#).

Question of the Month

Results for December 2023

Our Question of the Month for December 2023 related to our latest [Safer Communities Scotland Podcast episode](#) with Sarah Smith OBE, Deputy CEO of the Office for Product Safety and Standards.

During the Podcast, we discussed numerous product safety issues, including safety of e-bikes.

We asked:

"How many fatal fires have been linked to e-bikes across the UK?"

- **12.5% voted for 'At least 5'**
- **37.5% voted for 'At least 12'**
- **50% voted for 'At least 25'**

The correct answer is that as of September 2023 at least 12 people have died and a further 190 injured in suspected e-bike and e-scooter fires.

Question of the Month

January 2024

Our Question of the Month Poll for January relates to the deeply disappointing news that the Scottish Government has cut our funding by 50% for the 2024/25 financial year.

We strongly believe our network has played a major role in building safer communities in Scotland for 25 years - & our influence & impact has grown substantially in the past few years.

We're asking:

'Do you believe that a 50% cut in grant funding to the SCSN will have a negative impact on building safer communities/ community safety work in Scotland?'

Vote in our Poll [here](#).

The SCSN are discussing this with the Government firstly, as we feel this is an important piece of work that is being lost, but secondly as this work only represents 16% of SCSN activity, so does not equate to the full reduction in funding.

This is of course disappointing and there will be an impact on our work and our membership. The Board along with Lorraine, SCSN's Chief Officer, are continuing to engage with the Scottish Government to understand why such a substantial reduction has been decided and the impact this will have on our delivery and staffing model, and ultimately the outcomes that can be feasibly achieved within Building Safer Communities and the support we can provide to CSPs and member organisations.

We'd very much appreciate hearing from you any concerns or comments you may have on how this decision will affect the support we give to your organisation or Community Safety Partnerships. We are particularly interested to hear from you on what you think we should be prioritising within the funding allocation we will now have, taking into account a potential reduction in staff and capacity, and whether you think there are avenues we could or should explore for other funding to complement that of the Scottish Government.

The Board would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all your support with this.

Jennifer Middlemiss
Chair of the Scottish Community Safety Network

New report warns homelessness in Scotland could rise by a third by 2026

The Homelessness Monitor series provides an independent analysis of the homelessness impacts of recent economic and policy developments across Great Britain, including a survey of local authorities and interviews with key informants from the sector.

This fifth Scotland-focused Monitor report provides a state-of-the-nation look at homelessness in Scotland, and focuses in particular on ongoing implementation of the Scottish Government's Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan, as well as the homelessness impacts of the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Key research findings

Homelessness trends

- Most local authority homeless services are reporting **increased footfall from service users** in the past year, with more than half



saying this has increased significantly.

- The most severe and immediate forms of homelessness ("core" homelessness e.g., rough sleeping, sofa surfing, staying in hostels, refuges or unsuitable forms of temporary accommodation) have risen by 11% since 2020 to an estimated 18,400 households.
- Without action, these forms of homelessness are **predicted to increase by one-third** by 2026, driven by housing market pressures, a cost of living crisis, fixed Local Housing Allowance rates, low levels of social rented lettings and weak economic performance. After that they are expected fall back. **A comprehensive programme of measures could reduce core homelessness by 56%** in four years' time (2026) and 50% against projected levels in the long term (2041).
- Most local authority survey respondents (22 of 30) believed that the **cost of living crisis had led to an increase in homelessness** in their area, despite UK and Scottish Government support initiatives, with an even higher number (26 of 30) expecting the crisis to drive further increases during 2023/24.

You can download and read the report in full on the Crisis Scotland website [here](#).

Homelessness Prevention Task And Finish Group: Scottish Government response

The Scottish Government has published its response to the Homelessness Prevention Task and Finish Group report and recommendations.

The Homelessness Prevention Task and Finish Group ('the group') was asked by the Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group (HPSG) to consider the groundwork needed to ensure the successful implementation of Scotland's new homelessness prevention legislation. The commitment to develop wide-reaching homelessness prevention duties is at the heart of Scotland's homelessness strategy, [Ending Homelessness Together](#).

The group's [report and recommendations](#) were published in August 2023.

The Scottish Government has welcomed the report and expressed gratitude to the co-chairs, Matt Downie and Ewan Aitken, and to the members of the Task and Finish Group, for their carefully thought-out and comprehensive set of recommendations. We would also like to thank those who took part in the engagement sessions and fed in their experience of good practice in homelessness prevention.

The Scottish Government has confirmed its intention to include prevention of homelessness duties in its 2023-2024 legislative programme.

Read the full Scottish Government response [here](#).

Tackling Sectarianism CPD for Youth Workers



7th February, 1pm-3pm

The Tackling Sectarianism CPD training will provide youth workers with the tools they need to engage young people on the topic of sectarianism, prejudice and hate in Scotland.

The training will explore the various resources available to youth workers to use in their practice. Participants will have a brief introduction to the topic of sectarianism and will also be able to have a go at some of the interactive activities available. Finally, there will also be information available on where participants can do some self-directed learning at a later stage.

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

Insights to Wellbeing: Practitioner Training

29th February

Train the Trainer for the NKBL Insights to Wellbeing course. This is for practitioners who wish to train in the course for working with young people.

Insights to Well-being

Insights to Wellbeing is a new programme being rolled out by

No Knives Better Lives to help support young people with their innate wellbeing and resilience.

The programme is based on the full 'Insights to Well-being: A Curriculum for Criminal Justice System' created in partnership by: Beyond Recovery CIC, The Insights Alliance & The SPARK Initiative. www.beyond-recovery.co.uk/beyonds-insight-to-wellbeing/

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

Implementing Anti-Racism in the context of policing: A Review

The SIPR seeks applications from researchers

The aim of this research is to identify, review, and synthesise primary qualitative and quantitative literature on the implementation and assessment of organisational anti-racism policies and practices, with a focus on its application in a police context.

Discrimination (racism, homophobia, sexism, misogyny) is a sensitive and complex issue. For many, it is a difficult topic to discuss. Institutional racism and other discrimination (institutional discrimination) as a term can generate a visceral reaction and can be dismissed as being an issue in a workplace. In recent years there has been increased prominence given to the argument that to effectively tackle racism it is necessary to be 'anti-racist'.

The former Chief Constable, Sir Ian Livingston, made it clear that those who hold racist views are unwelcome in policing. He emphasised that "it is not enough to be alert to racism and deal with it on a case-by-case basis. Nor is it enough simply to be non-racist. Police Scotland needs to be anti-racist". He asserted that "Police Scotland should seek to challenge the existence and workings of racism at all levels – personal, cultural, and institutional". The current Chief Constable, Jo Farrell, has echoed these sentiments.

Police Scotland's [Policing Together strategy](#) has a vision which seeks for the service to be "welcoming, inclusive and representative of the communities we serve". An outcome (1) of this is that the service is "an anti-racist organisation [having] zero tolerance for any discrimination, bullying or harassment". As one of the largest public sector organisations within Scotland, it is critical that Police Scotland ensures its policies support minority ethnic people moving into, staying and progressing in its employment.

This review seeks to go beyond reviewing anti-racism as a concept and/or policy. The emphasis is on how others (internal and external to policing and to Scotland) have conceived of, implemented, and evaluated activities related to organisational anti-racism development.

Information for applicants

Applications are welcome from any researchers (who do not need to be based in Scotland or at a university). However, priority will be given to bids involving staff based at one of the [15 SIPR member universities](#).

Interdisciplinary partnerships and proposals can be submitted by a single institution or across organisations (and can include national and international academic and non-academic partners).

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

Police Scotland Consulting on Future of Policing Estate



POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Police Scotland are currently consulting on the future of the policing estate (buildings/spaces). They are proposing reducing the size of the policing estate given changes to how Police Scotland has been operating and financial pressures on policing budgets.

Police Scotland's estate needs to be fit for 21st century policing, putting service enhancement, visibility, and engagement at the heart of the communities we serve. These are core components of the legitimacy and consent on which policing in Scotland relies.

Police Scotland have already introduced

technology that enables officers to remain in local areas, reducing the need for them to return to police stations to deal with paperwork.

Police Scotland inherited a very large and ageing estate, much of which was not fit for purpose, with high maintenance costs, environmental inefficiencies, and in locations that no longer meet the requirements of local communities.

Over the last few years operational bases have gradually been created at key buildings within communities and co-located with our partners, which has meant a number of properties are underutilised.

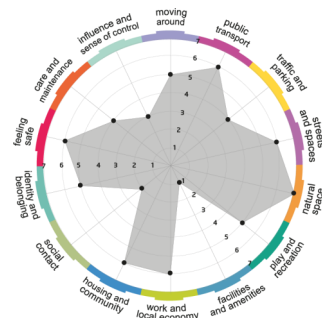
Find out more and submit your views [here](#).

Developing a Community Safety Lens for the Place Standard Tool

For a long time, the Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) has had an interest in place-based work and seen its importance and potential in making communities safer.

We spend a lot of time thinking about what makes a community safe and are well aware it is about a lot more than prison sentences and more police on the streets. As we continue through this decade, we are continually reminded that it is also about resilience, togetherness and feeling heard.

This is why place-based working speaks to us. Not only is it vital for people in their unique locations and indeed from their unique perspectives (see our [short animation](#) on Perceptions and Experiences of Community Safety) to be able to share what it really feels like to be them and live where they live, it is also essential for the future of safe communities that we get serious about localising



democracy, find ways to give people more agency and get serious about what lived experience really means.

That's why we are so very excited to be working with Public Health Scotland to develop a community safety lens for the [Place Standard Tool](#).

It will be no surprise to anyone that community safety is often a major topic that comes through when already engaging communities with the tool. It is also clear how broad and all-encompassing community safety is, when it features in almost all of the 14 themes already in the tool – for example, public transport, streets and spaces, housing, play and recreation...you can get the picture! And what a nice full circle moment for us – as we continue to promote the importance of looking at community safety through different lenses – to be fashioning one of our own.

We cannot and would not do this alone though. We will be co-producing this new resource with as many of our partners and stakeholders as possible so that it is shaped by the experts and practitioners in the field, at every stage in the process. Watch out for more information on this coming months!

Place and Wellbeing Outcomes

The Place and Wellbeing Outcomes provide a consistent and comprehensive focus for where place impacts on the wellbeing of people and planet.

They are also key features for delivering Scotland's 20-minute neighbourhood ambitions. Their development has been supported by the organisation that sit on the [Spatial Planning, Health and Wellbeing](#)

[Collaborative Group](#), now renamed the Place and Wellbeing Collaborative.

More background information and context to the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes can be found in this [briefing paper](#) and in the [spreadsheet](#), where you can find the core set of data and the indicators linked to them.

Find out more about the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes [here](#).

Tackling Rural Crime Together

Perth and Kinross Partnership Against Rural Crime are hosting a free crime prevention morning on 6 February. This will be a very informative event.

- 10.00 Arrival with tea, coffee and pastries
- 10.30 Welcome by Perth and Kinross PARC Chair
- 10.35 Workshops on: How local PARC can

assist your business? Protecting your property – GPS Kits etc Access – Responsible Access in the countryside Wildlife Crime Cyber Crime Road safety for other users. Flytipping

- 12.30 Summaries Before and after workshops there will be an opportunity to speak with a number of stand holders offering ways and means of protecting your business.

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

EDI Community of Practice – Telling our Stories: YouthLink Scotland

29 January (Online)

This Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Community of Practice will look at how we tell our stories to better demonstrate the impact of our work.

Youth Workers do brilliant work supporting young people, especially those with more specific needs or facing different challenges. How can these communities use stories to demonstrate the powerful impact they have?

YouthLink Scotland would also love to hear your

thoughts and examples of this so there will be opportunity for group discussion within the agenda.

Recording your Professional Learning

Participating in this network meeting can be recorded as 4 hours of Professional Learning time, which can contribute to the 35 hours per year (pro rata) required for membership of the CLD Standards Council, another professional body, or your own learning and development plan.

Find out more & sign up [here](#).

Scottish Government consults on ending LGBT+ Conversion Therapy practices



In the 2022-2023 Programme for Government (PfG), the Scottish Government reaffirmed its commitment to introduce a Bill on ending conversion practices in Scotland, including both sexual orientation and gender identity.

The UK Government committed in its [2018 LGBT Action Plan](#) to end the practice of conversion therapy and published [a consultation](#) in October 2021. However, a Bill has not been included in the UK Government's legislative programme 2023-2024.

The Expert Advisory Group on Ending Conversion practices (EAG) was set up in March 2022, to advise the Scottish Government on its approach to ending conversion practices. Its [report](#) was published in October 2022.

The Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice (EHRCJ) Committee also published a [report](#) in January 2022. This report responded to Petition PE1817: "Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ban the provision or promotion of LGBT+ conversion therapy in Scotland".

You can find out more and submit a response to the consultation on the Scottish Government website [here](#).

The SCSN will soon be submitting its own response strongly supporting a ban on Conversion Therapy practices for both sexual orientation and gender identity. We believe Conversion Therapy is a form of abuse and should never be tolerated in Scotland.

Scottish Government Consultation on devolving powers for a Building Safety Levy

The Scottish Government announced in its 2023-24 Programme for Government that it was seeking the transfer of powers from the UK Government to create an equivalent tax to the UK Government's Building Safety Levy.

This consultation, launched jointly by the UK Government and Scottish Government, invites views and evidence in relation to the proposal to devolve the requisite powers to the Scottish Parliament.

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

LATEST COMMUNITY SAFETY RESEARCH

Research

OFF-TRADE ALCOHOL AVAILABILITY AND VIOLENCE: ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF ON-TRADE OUTLET CLOSURES

There is strong and consistent evidence that on-trade alcohol availability is related to violence, but evidence regarding a similar association between off-trade availability and violence is more mixed.

Partly, this is because it can be difficult to disentangle the effects of off-trade (e.g., supermarkets, off-licences) and on-trade (e.g., pubs, bars) availability because consumer decisions and behaviours can be affected by both.

Further, while violence is a reasonably common outcome measure in availability studies, domestic violence is less commonly investigated.

In England, COVID-19 restrictions significantly

altered alcohol availability nationwide, with periods in which access to on-trade premises like pubs and restaurants was closed off entirely. This unique situation, while complicated by other effects of the pandemic, presents a novel opportunity to isolate and examine the impact of off-trade availability on alcohol-related violence.

Police-recorded violent crime data was used to explore changes in the proportion of alcohol-related (i) violence as well as (ii) domestic violence using growth curve models.

Average monthly alcohol-related violence rates were higher when on-licensed premises were open, compared to periods in which they were closed.

On-trade closures did not lead to significant differences in levels of alcohol-related domestic violence, nor in the proportion of domestic violence which was recorded as alcohol-related. Read more [here](#).

ENVISAGING THE FUTURE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROJECT

GLEPHA's Envisaging the Future of Law Enforcement and Public Health project showcases practical examples of law enforcement, public health and community partnerships from across the globe. Since 2020, their research team has been identifying and documenting partnership approaches that innovatively explore effective and humane ways of responding to social and public health issues that have traditionally been criminalised or over-policed.

This seven-part report series looks at innovative solutions to addressing a range of social and public health issues, with a particular focus on policing and policing alternatives. Each report focuses on a different topic – diversion, harm reduction, violence prevention, preventing violence against women, mental health, and working with marginalised communities – and includes practical examples (as program case studies) from around the world that are trying something new. You can view the reports on their website [here](#).



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PUBLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION INC.**

Climate Crisis & Community Safety

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

New Resilience Funding for Community Councils

The National Resilience Centre has launched a new fund for Community Councils looking to develop their own community resilience plans.

Funding of up to £500 is available to Community Councils who want to create resilience plans to support the community response to the impact of bad weather, including flooding, storms, high winds and heavy snowfall. Applications for this fund close on 31 January 2024.

The NCR has also launched a second Third Sector, Community and Practice Fund, which will support the adoption and implementation of place-based approaches to resilience. This fund is aimed at groups which have already developed resilience plans and which are now looking to deliver practical activities which will help their community deal with the impact of natural hazards.

Funding of up to £15,000 is available through this stream, and the closing date for applications is also 31 January 2024.

Find out more on the [National Centre for Resilience website](#).

How can we create cities and communities that are inclusive, age-friendly and climate resilient?

During 2022-23, the Urban Institute at Heriot-Watt University, together with the Stockholm Environment Institute at the University of York, undertook a research project across the United Kingdom (UK) which aimed to explore the challenges and opportunities of extreme weather and climate change on ageing populations.

Funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) through its Healthy Ageing Challenge, the project builds on the World Health Organization (WHO) Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (AFCC) framework. AFCC promotes active ageing by enhancing opportunities for health and community engagement, and overall quality of life as people grow older.

[The report](#) identified six key areas that require action to address the threat posed by climate change to the healthy ageing of older adults living in cities and communities throughout the UK.

The New Climate Denial: major new report on YouTube uncovers evolution of climate deniers' tactics – as almost a third of teens believe global warming is “harmless”

Climate denial on YouTube has evolved radically in recent years, a [new study](#) has found, posing a fresh challenge to those seeking public support for climate action – particularly among young people.

Researchers from the [Center for Countering Digital Hate \(CCDH\)](#) gathered a dataset of text transcripts from 12,058 climate-related YouTube videos posted by 96 channels over almost six years – between January 1, 2018 and September 30, 2023.

A survey by the [Pew Research Center](#), published in December 2023, found that YouTube is the most widely used social media platform among 13- to 17-year-olds. 71% of teens say they use the video-sharing platform daily, including 16% who report being on the site almost constantly.



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.

The next meeting of the Home Safety Scotland Forum takes place online on Monday 11th March at 2pm.

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

Important Announcement on Mark McCall Home Safety Fund

Following the recent news that our grant funding for 2024/25 has been cut by 50% by the Scottish Government, the SCSN along with our partners RoSPA Scotland & Fife Council, has had to take the difficult decision to cease taking applications for the Mark McCall Home Safety Fund.

We have not taken this decision lightly but unfortunately, for the moment, these unforeseen circumstances mean we are unable to administer the fund going forward. We will be in contact with anyone who has already submitted an application.

We deeply regret the decision of the Scottish Government to de-prioritise Home Safety in Scotland given the substantial number of injuries & deaths that continue to occur from unintentional harm at home – particularly affecting young children & older people.



Saving money while staying safe: An Electrical Safety First guide to safety in the home during the cost of living crisis

The cost of living has put people across the UK under serious financial stress.

As a result, many are looking to save money on energy bills and reduce their spending overall.

Our partners at Electrical Safety First have published some advice on how to keep you, your home and your family safe whilst you look to save money.

Visit their website for their top tips [here](https://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk).



Register My Appliance Week

Register my Appliance Week took place in January.

The Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Appliances (AMDEA) began this safety initiative to encourage consumers to register their domestic appliances with the manufacturer so that they can be informed of any recalls or safety issues as quickly as possible.

- Be the first to know of any safety repairs or recalls
- Improve your after sales service
- Keep in touch with upgrade news

Register your appliances [here](https://www.registermyappliance.co.uk).

Elderly care: A guide for families new to caring

If you're newly responsible for finding elderly care for a family member or friend, it can be difficult to know where to start.

This actionable starter guide from Home Instead aims to provide you with an overview of elderly care, from what's available to the more practical financial and legal issues. It covers:

- Different types of care
- Financing care
- Care assessments
- Legal considerations
- Home modifications
- Assistive technologies

The guide can't answer every question you might have in just a few pages – but we hope to give you enough information to at least know what questions to ask, as well as suggestions for where to go for further help.

You can view the guide on the SCSN website under External Partner Toolkits and resources or directly on the Home Instead website [here](#).

How to fix blind cords safety devices

The Child Accident Prevention Trust has lots of really useful information on how to avoid harm to children caused by blind cords - including on how to fix their safety devices.



- Tidies and tensioners should be firmly fixed to an adjoining surface so the cord or chain are permanently held tight
- Cleats should be positioned out of children's reach on an adjacent surface, at least 1.5m from the floor
- Cords should be fastened in a figure of eight after every use of the blind, making sure all the spare cord is secured on the cleat.

The [Make It Safe](#) campaign by the [British](#)

[Blind and Shutter Association](#) has a series of films showing quick and easy ways to make different types of blinds safer.

Blind cords safety regulations

Standards governing the manufacture, selling and installation of new blinds came into force in 2014, with the aim of reducing child accidents. New blinds all come with a safety device. It is essential this device is fitted.

However, these standards do not apply to blinds purchased and installed prior to 2014, which is why it's still important to check any blind cords in your home are safe and if necessary purchase and fit a safety device.

For more info and other resources visit their website [here](#).



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