



Annual Report 2014/15



Introduction

It is always interesting and remarkably rewarding to look back and reflect on the activities and achievements of an organisation; and as demonstrated in this 2014/15 Annual Report, to observe how SCSN continues to grow and evolve. SCSN have created an environment which encourages the effective development of policy, partnership working and practice sharing for community safety in Scotland. Indeed 2014/15 has seen an increase in all services areas, wider engagement from the community safety sector and engagement with a broader range of partners. A small company with a big reach; this could not have been achieved without the commitment and dedication of all our members, partners, staff and Board.

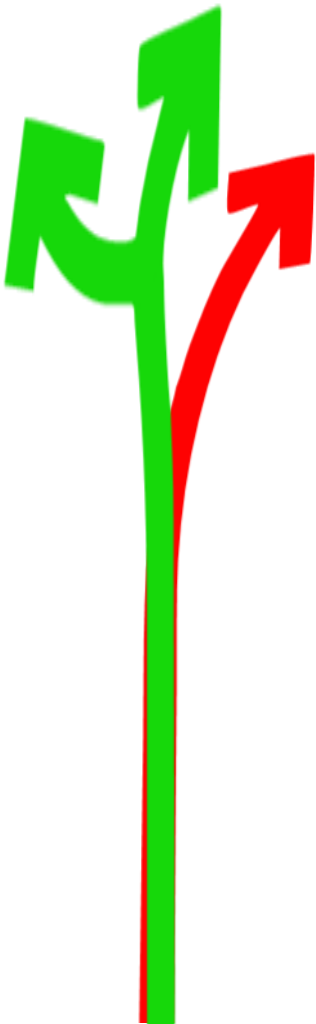
As the SCSN Business Plan was due to end in March 2015, SCSN began consultation on a new [SCSN Strategic Plan for 2015-18](#) in August 2014. While the Vision and Objectives remain the same as those in the company's Articles of Association, following consultation with members and partners the organisational aims and outcomes were refreshed. In summary the aims are:

- To provide leadership and be a centre of excellence for the community safety sector
- To champion community safety and influence the shaping, development and delivery of national policy and local delivery
- To be a collaborative learning, developing and sustainable network

The next three years will undoubtedly have their challenges, but will also have opportunities. The tight fiscal climate means we will need to be more creative and widen our partnership working further, particularly with the private sector, to develop mutually beneficial collaborative working opportunities which contribute to making our communities safer. In addition, SCSN will continue to champion community safety, in all its guises, evidencing the excellent preventative spend outcomes that can be achieved in the present and the future by investment in community safety initiatives.

There is still much to be done, both for the organisation and for the sector, if we are to challenge the cross cutting issues affecting the quality of life and safety of the people of Scotland. Collectively we can, and do, make a difference. We look forward to the year ahead where we can cement present partnerships and create new ones to achieve SCSN's shared vision:

"People are safe from crime, disorder, danger and free from injury and harm; and communities are socially cohesive and tolerant; are resilient; and able to support individuals to take responsibility for their wellbeing."



SCSN Strategic Plan at a Glance 2015-18

People are safe from crime, disorder, danger and free from injury and harm; and communities are socially cohesive and tolerant; are resilient; and able to support individuals to take responsibility for their wellbeing.

SCSN Outcomes

- 1 SCSN will promote leadership, championing community safety so that stakeholders are informed and engaged with new and emerging practice and national policy, and the capacity of our members is strengthened.
- 2 SCSN will collect and promote evidence of where partnership and other working has demonstrated an improvement so that members and others can evidence the impact of community safety interventions and shape local delivery and national policy.
- 3 SCSN will provide appropriate support and training to develop the capacity and confidence of local community safety partnerships and others so that they can deliver service improvements and engage with national policy.

SCSN Aims:

We will:

To provide leadership and be a centre of excellence for the community safety sector.

- Support effective local partnership working by collecting and promoting evidence of good and emerging practice
- Provide support to develop the capacity of local community safety partnerships and others delivering community safety work
- Improve collaboration around cross cutting issues to share evidence and learning from research and practice
- Support members to evidence the impact of community safety interventions with communities, across partnerships and nationally
- Provide current and timely information on a broad range of topics that impact on community safety

To champion community safety and influence the shaping, development and delivery of national policy and local delivery.

- Promote the value of community safety for the public, voluntary and private sector at a national and local level
- Represent the sector at a national level and advocate on behalf of the sector
- Broadly promote SCSN to increase the profile and value of community safety contributions
- Support and develop connections between new and existing partners to develop cross cutting links
- Proactively seek to influence, share and contribute to the development and implementation of national frameworks and strategies
- Build a strong evidence base of what works to shape local and national delivery

To be a collaborative learning, developing and sustainable network.

- Consult with and represent our membership with integrity; engaging and listening to our members so that services reflect current sector needs
- Provide relevant training and continuous professional development opportunities creating a more informed and skilled sector workforce
- Provide appropriate networking opportunities and facilitate events and forums which increase members capacity and improve partnership working
- Develop practical guidance and toolkits which increase resilience and empower people to deal with issues themselves
- Support the sector to evidence the value, cost benefits and impact of community safety so that sustainable solutions can be achieved
- Provide information, advice and support to increase knowledge and understanding of new and emerging practice

Aim - To provide leadership and be a centre of excellence for the community safety sector

While SCSN's strategic aim is to provide leadership and be a centre of excellence for the community safety sector, we acknowledge we cannot do this solely as an organisation, we need to pull on the expertise of the sector and as such our members and partners contributions are essential.

To bring together key players in the wider community safety agenda to share knowledge and information and consider joint working opportunities, SCSN facilitates two **sector forums**- the National Operational Group and Partnership Analysts Forum. The groups meet on average three times per annum, and consider emerging practice within the sector. From an SCSN perspective these groups provide a vehicle to consult on emerging issues and projects; and ensure SCSN is apprised of current local issues and initiatives. SCSN is proactive in escalating issues raised with relevant agencies and in seeking solutions. SCSN are currently developing new guidance resources, identified through these meetings, which will support local delivery:

- Standard Procedures for Co-locating services with Police Scotland
- Using Intelligence Resources
- Partnership Analysts Induction Pack

In addition to these forums SCSN continues to provide secretarial support to the Scottish Community Wardens Network and the Anti-Social Behaviour Officers Forum.

Member organisations also benefit from **Link Officer** support. A number of members have taken full advantage of the support available to help develop local services; whether that be an SCSN input to their partnership, assistance in developing a strategic assessment, support in evidencing cost benefits, signposting to other relevant partnerships or just an external sounding block. This is highly valued by our members with 100% of respondents rating Link Officer support as useful to extremely useful.

The **Safety NET-works** newsletter reach is increasing month on month, reaching over 720 direct web members monthly (686 13/14) with an estimated circulation of over 1000. 95% of recipients rate the newsletter as good to excellent, indeed as one respondent wrote 'it's better than excellent'. The newsletter regularly promotes relevant national consultations and is used to illicit sectors views. Over half (52.4%) state that they have responded to requests for information in the newsletter and 64.3% of respondents forward the newsletter to colleagues and partners.

The **Safer Communities Scotland Website** is constantly expanding, and as with the newsletter it is also increasing its reach, with increased visits per quarter from 1500 (2013/14) to 2080. Indeed, members increasingly rate the website as good to excellent 93.7% compared to 80.9% (2013/14).



One year on SCSN continues to embrace **social media** seeing small increases in our Facebook 'likes' and a doubling of our twitter followers from 98 (2013/14) to 189 (2014/15). We know our reach could be much greater and a Social Media strategy will be developed to increase our reach and following in 2015/16.

SCSN continues to build its library of [Briefing Papers](#) on current and emerging issues. 64% of Annual Survey Respondents have read and used the briefing papers, and of those 2/3rds found them useful/very useful, the remaining third found them of some use.

A further eight [Practice Notes](#) have been produced covering the Safer Communities Awards shortlisted projects, these are available on the Safer Communities Scotland website, bringing the total number of Practice notes on local projects available up to 62.



The [Safer Communities Awards](#), recognise and reward excellent and innovative practice across the community safety sector in Scotland. In order to reflect the broad scope and nature of different initiatives carried out, SCSN promoted four distinct award categories, attracting a range of applications which demonstrated innovative, new and emerging practice. The eight shortlisted projects tackled a range of issues; Disability Hate Crime, Stalking, Scams, Outdoor Safety, Pre-School development, supporting those in recovery and sectarianism and prejudice. In addition to the Practice Notes written on each project short videos were produced to showcase the finalists.

All short listed projects were entered into the People's Choice Award which received almost 1900 votes (1000 in 2013/14) with over 600 comments (190 in 2013/14). One project indicated the comments feedback to them would be extremely valuable in seeking further support for their project. This year's People's Choice Winner received a cheque for £2000.



The awards criteria was linked to the Building Safer Communities Programme (BSCP) and provided examples of good practice and cost benefits in relation to community safety activities. Indeed a number of applications were highlighted to the Scottish Government as part of the BSCP Phase two mapping exercise.

2015 Finalist - Safer Communities Awards

Early Intervention and Education



The finalists in this category evidenced how they challenged the root cause of a problem and how this contributed to behavioural change to reduce future risk(s) of injury or offending.

Winner - Friends Request – South Ayrshire

Finalist - Just Play – Angus



Innovative Media Campaign



The finalists in this category demonstrated how by using innovative media campaigns they have addressed local issues, fostered greater information sharing and raised public awareness.

Winner - Judge for Yourself – Bridgeton

Finalist - SMART Signs – Outer Hebrides



Strengthening Community Engagement and Resilience



This award recognises the important role local people and communities play in improving their local areas/communities. The finalists demonstrated asset based approaches to facilitating people and communities to come together to achieve positive change using their own knowledge, skills and lived experience of the issues they encounter in their own lives.

Winner - Recovery Café – East Dunbartonshire

Finalist - Disability Hate Crime – Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability (SCLD)



Wider Partnership



This award celebrates, partnerships between private sector business, the public sector and/or voluntary sector organisations. It recognises partnerships that have contributed to making Scotland's communities safer.

Winner - I am Me/Keep Safe – Renfrewshire

Finalist - Trading Standards Royal Mail Project - Fife



Aim - To champion community safety and influence the shaping, development and delivery of national policy and local delivery

As evidenced through the Annual Survey results, respondents continue to value SCSN's role in providing **guidance on national policy and strategy** as good to excellent (85%) slightly up on the four year average (83%). Of note, the majority of respondents (62%) rated SCSN role in providing national policy and strategy as very good to excellent. A contributing factor to achieving this outcome is partners recognising the value of the SCSN overview of community safety in Scotland. SCSN is increasingly invited to contribute to national groups eg Police Scotland Stop and Search Reference Group; SPA Community Accountability Officers Group; BSCP Advisory Group; Justice Leaders Network; Cross Party Working Groups and a variety of COSLA groups including CCTV and Sectarianism. Through these groups we are able to champion community safety and support local and national delivery.

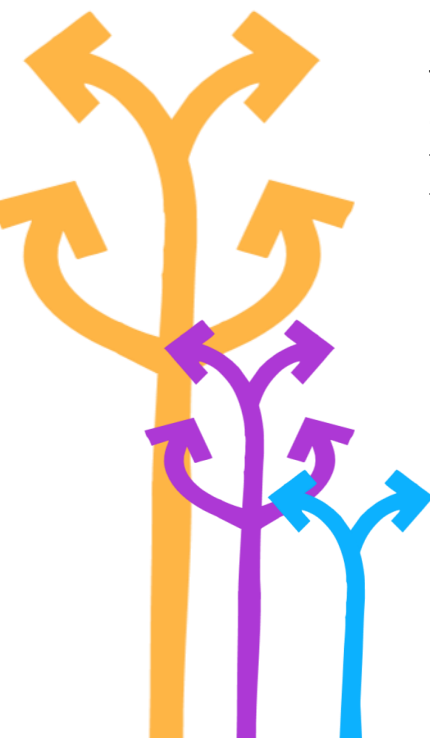
SCSN increased representation at national and strategic meetings in turn has contributed to SCSN being able to identify emerging issues and articulate the key points to its members via meetings, events, newsletter, website and briefing papers. Respondents (81%) consistently rate SCSN role in **representing the sector** and reporting community safety issues as useful to extremely useful.

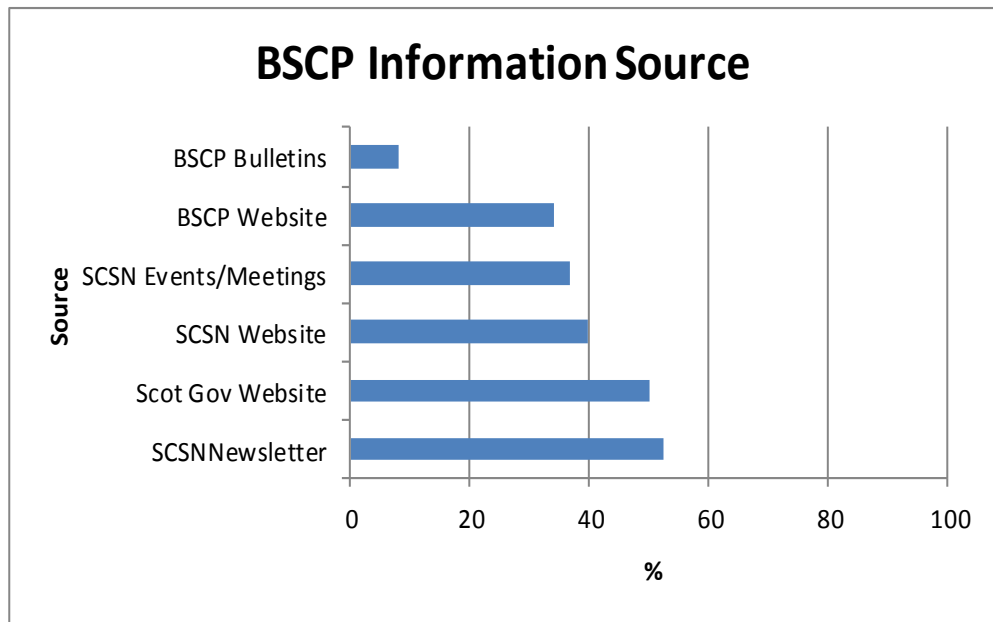
SCSN, collectively with its members, has a key role in influencing the shape, development and delivery of the Building Safer Communities Programme (BSCP). As such we consistently raise awareness and encouraged member contributions with BSCP inputs at all forum meetings, reference BSCP in all presentations and meetings, incorporate the 4 P's of People, Place, Preventions and Partnership in our training, and promote developments through the newsletter.

The National Community Safety Convention programme had very strong links to the ethos and aims of the Building Safer Communities Programme and clearly contributed to increased awareness and understanding of the programme (92%) and attendees feeling better equipped to support the delivery of BSCP (72%).

Results from our annual survey indicated that less than a quarter of respondents are fully aware of the BSCP, as such SCSN resources are and will continue to be a key source of information to the sector.

The chart opposite provides a baseline of where members are sourcing information in relation to the Building Safer Communities Programme and show the SCSN resources are key to disseminating information on the programme.





Respondents increasingly (94%) identify commissioning and carrying out **research** on community safety issues as useful to extremely useful. SCSN has undertaken and contributed to a number of research documents over the last year.

In July we undertook research on how CSP's contribute to the national agenda. The report, [Community Safety and the National Agenda](#) highlights examples of local practice linked to national drivers ie BSCP and Justice Strategy. The links to BSCP Phase 2, Reducing Unintentional Harm, were further researched in November- March. SCSN has used the data from these and previous research documents to inform a number of reports to stakeholders and members including the Scottish Government.

SCSN also acts as a conduit for other agencies research and invites members to inform the development of local and national practice eg invited to respond to an Improvement Service query in relation to specific indicators for community safety.

Aim - Members have access to appropriate resources and training

In 2014/15 SCSN increased the number of [training](#) events available from 10 (2013/14) to 17 (2014/15) and delivered 14 of the planned courses to 169 delegates compared to just 90 in 2013/4. The quality and standard of the training is monitored through training evaluations which consistently evidence that delegates have increased confidence and are better equipped to deliver on the topics cover. This is further supported by the Annual Survey indicating that 93% respondents rate SCSN training and resources as good to excellent, with the 2/3rds rating training as very good /excellent.

'The training provided was extremely informative and very beneficial to our organisation'

Annual Survey

Two new training course have been designed and delivered which link clearly to Christie and Building Safer Communities Programme – 'Preventative Spend Cost Benefit Analysis' and 'Community Resilience and Engagement'. The first courses of each of these were fully subscribed. This interest is further supported by respondents of the Annual Survey placing these courses in the top two (from seven choices) of the courses respondents would be interested in attending.

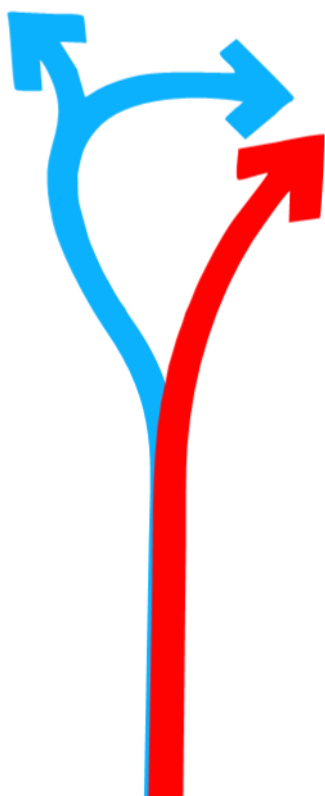
'Good to see SCSN developing other sorts of training out with the general community safety arena'

Annual Survey

As well as delivering the [SCSN training programme](#) staff members also provided inputs to partners training events, including Scottish Police College courses.

To complement and increase accessibility to training SCSN has developed [eLearning packages](#), these continue to see year on year increases in use from 14 (2012/13), 46 (2013/14) to 76 (2014/15). Two new courses are currently being designed covering 'Preventative Spend Cost Benefit Analysis' and 'Community Resilience and Engagement', to meet anticipated demand and will be available summer 2015.

SCSN [Events](#) continue to attract delegates from across the sector and consistently received excellent feedback. In 2014/15 we ran four events attracting 286 delegates. The % rating seminars and events as good to excellent has remained about the same 95%; with those who consider seminars and events as very good to excellent 59% (2014/15).





*Supporting
Resilience
Empowering
Communities*

The most significant event in our calendar is undoubtedly the National Convention which this year focussed on supporting resilience and empowering communities. The National Convention is regarded by 100% of delegates as valuable/extremely valuable to the sector; and feedback from this year's event indicated that the vast majority (94%) felt the key note presentations were relevant in providing a national picture in relation to supporting resilience and empowering communities within the community safety sector.

Respondents are increasingly rating SCSN role in developing practical guidance and **toolkits** as useful to extremely useful at an all-time high of 95%, up 5% from 2013/14. The CSP self-assessment toolkit has now been used by nine CSPs with a further CSP planning to use it in April/May 2015. The toolkit supports partnerships to measure strengths and weaknesses; and to identify areas for development. A common gap identified is the lack of a CSP Induction process, SCSN are currently developing a CSP induction pack for use by members. The Preventative Spend Cost Benefit Toolkit has been an enormous success with 78% of those that have used the toolkit recommending it to others.

Prior to last year's AGM (2014) SCSN had the first ever 'volunteers' to become members of the Board since becoming incorporated (if not before that!). Volunteers indicated that they wished to 'give back' something to SCSN in recognition of information, guidance and support the organisation has given them over the years. As one stated: – 'SCSN has been their key training and development provider during their career in community safety'.



Finance

In the area of Finance we again, through careful stewardship, efficiency savings and income generation, managed to return a small surplus of £2,438 in our general (unrestricted) funds. Our reserves at the 31 March 2015 equate to £86,827. Included within these reserves is a contingency fund of £27,000 to cover contracts should the company seize and £37,900 operational reserves to cover:

- The cost of replacing expensive items of equipment.
- To fund staff cover in case of illness, maternity leave, absence of staff while carrying out public duties like jury service.
- To maintain a stable and quality service during short periods of financial uncertainty

After deducting the contingency fund and operational reserves the company has a net general fund carry forward of £21,927

SCSN is primarily a membership organisation with members year on year increasingly rating membership as very good to excellent value for money from 18.51% (2010) to a high this year of 66.7% (2014) – the remaining respondents rated membership as average to good. Membership fees have remained at their current rate of £375 since 2009.

The Scottish Government are SCSN's main funder, providing around 80% of our core funding in 2014/15. Our thanks go to the Scottish Government for their continued belief in the sector and in what SCSN do. Thanks also for the additional project funding of £25,000 to deliver the National Convention and Safer Communities Awards, which allowed us to provide a professional event at a much reduced cost to the public and voluntary sector.



Thanks to Network Rail who invested £47,625 (2014/15) in three grant funds, administered by SCSN, to support rail safety and awareness. These funds are much appreciated and have supported 52 projects across Scotland with grants from £250 to £4000. Since the partnership begun in 2011 the total investment has been £155,875, a detailed report on the four years of the project is currently with Network Rail and will be released in the Summer 2015.



Summary Financial Report

The following is an extract of the financial information contained in SCSN's audited report and financial statement for the year ending 31 March 2015.

The Accounts were audited by The JRW Group of Chartered Accountants from Hawick.

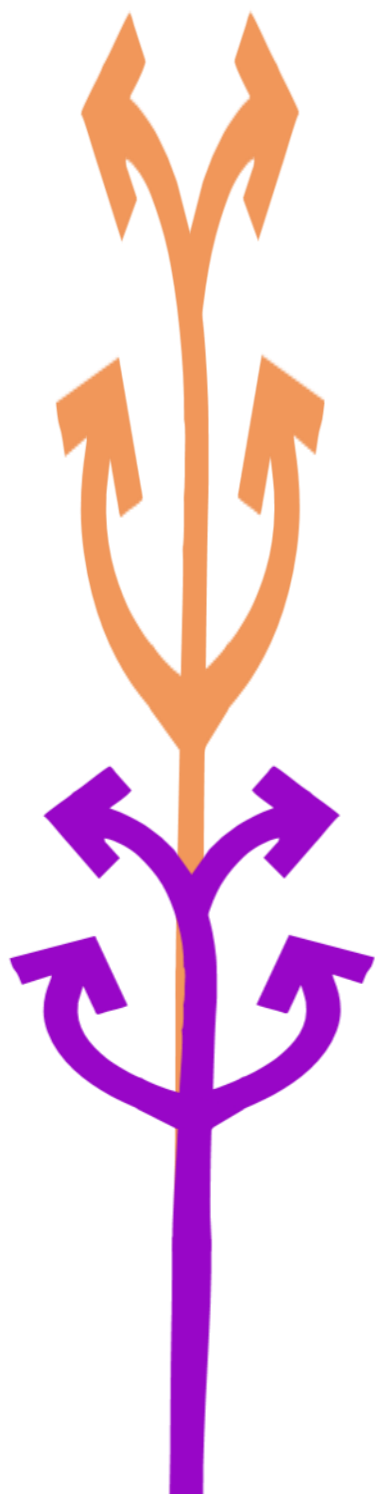
Copies of the full accounts may be obtained from the SCSN registered office.

For the year ended 31 March 2015 (including income and expenditure account)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2015 Total Funds	2014 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming Resources from generated funds				
Investment income	73		73	26
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Direct charitable income	63,964	45,886	109,850	118,599
Grant	<u>196,847</u>		<u>196,847</u>	<u>204,065</u>
Total Income Resources	260,884	45,886	306,770	322,690
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable activities				
Direct Charitable expenditure	53,763	58,514	112,277	116,921
Support costs	<u>199,273</u>		<u>199,273</u>	<u>183,678</u>
Governance costs	<u>5,410</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5,411</u>	<u>7,602</u>
Total resources expended	258,446	58,515	316,961	308,201
NET INCOME/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	2,438	(12,629)	(10,191)	14,489
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	<u>84,198</u>	<u>12,820</u>	<u>97,018</u>	<u>82,529</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>86,636</u>	<u>191</u>	<u>86,827</u>	<u>97,018</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2015

	2015 £	2014 £
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	2,300	1,739
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>85,427</u>	<u>96,179</u>
	87,727	97,918
CREDITORS		
Amount falling due within one year	<u>(900)</u>	<u>(900)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>86,827</u>	<u>97,018</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>86,827</u>	<u>97,018</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>86,827</u>	<u>97,018</u>
FUNDS		
Unrestricted Funds	86,636	84,198
Restricted Funds	<u>191</u>	<u>12,820</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>86,827</u>	<u>97,018</u>



Directors 2014/15

Liz Kay	Dundee City Council	Chair
Andrew Mitchell	City of Edinburgh Council	Vice Chair
Mark McCall	Fife Council	Treasurer
Ian Hanley	Inverclyde Council	
Donald Urquhart	Founder Member	
Robert Cowper	Argyll and Bute Council	
Grant Manders	Police Scotland	
Ross Haggart	Scottish Fire and Rescue	
Neil Carnegie	Aberdeen City Council	
Ann Williams	East Ayrshire Council	
Emma Walker	North Lanarkshire Council	
Lorraine Gillies	West Lothian Council	

Staff 2014/15

Jacqui Doig	SCSN Manager
Denise Huntridge	Business Support Officer/National Development Officer
Heidi Hopkins	Communications Officer (to January 2015)
Hannah Dickson	National Development Officer
John Beresford	National Development Officer (to January 2015)
Andrew Price	National Development Officer



Scottish Community Safety Network

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