



Safety NET-works

April Bulletin

#Covid19 #StayHomeStaySafe

www.safercommunitiesScotland.org

Preliminary Results of Covid 19 and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) Survey

Over the last few weeks, SCSN have made contact with a number of CSPs and community safety practitioners to find out how they have been coping under the strain of COVID-19, the immediate effect of this unprecedented situation and the key emerging themes so far.

We have managed to make contact with 20 local authorities and 5 other partners. We have, as yet, been unable to make contact with a number of local authorities, which we believe is indicative of their redeployment into front line work as well as issues around IT and system accessibility at this time.

Over time, there might be implications for information flow if these important link roles continue to be deployed to the frontline for the foreseeable future.

We will continue to collect as much feedback as we can in the coming weeks and update you on this changing national picture and emerging issues as they unfold. As always, we continue to offer support, assistance and help making connections at this time.

View the full preliminary results [here](#).

Was there ever a better time for partnership working? The rise of Community Safety Partnerships

Our Chief Officer, Lorraine Gillies, has been reflecting on the incoming results of our CSP survey and thinking about how CSPs are able to step up to the mark during this moment of crisis. Read her new blog [here](#).



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Police Scotland Survey: Your Police

Police Scotland are seeking to gain an understanding of the views and priorities of the public and other stakeholders, placing particular importance on this as they respond to the Covid 19 epidemic.

The Survey runs until 31 March 2021 and is an opportunity for you to share your views on policing in Scotland during this coming year and beyond.

The survey takes around 10 minutes to complete and all personal information is anonymised.

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

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SCSN continuing to work with partners to respond to Covid 19

SCSN continues to work closely with partners to support responses and help to build resilience within communities in these challenging times. We continue to attend weekly Zoom meetings with Building Safer Communities Executive Group partners, covering a wide range of topics. We have also invested in increasing our communications capacity via social media to assist with disseminating important safety messages from our partners!

European Forum for Urban Security Web Conferences

Co-operating in a crisis: a web conference series for local authorities

The European Forum for Urban Security is offering a series of virtual meetings on the subjects that concern local authorities in managing the coronavirus crisis. These themed meetings will take place every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. You can find out more and take part in these meetings [here](#).

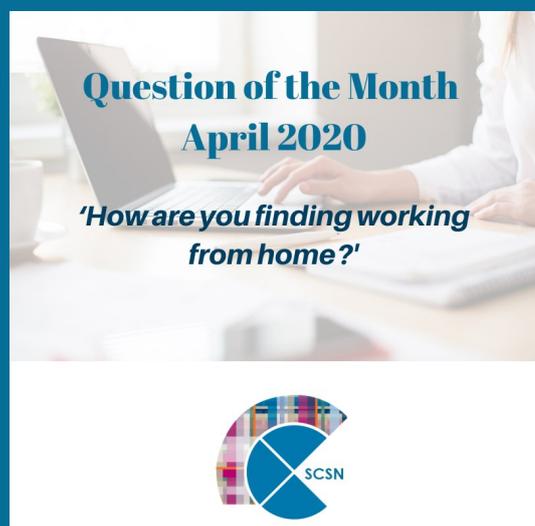


Question of the Month

Very many of us have now been working from home for several weeks. We want to know how you are finding it. We're also interested to hear whether you've been encountering any unexpected issues from home working, particularly in the areas of home safety, fire safety and cyber security - e.g. parental controls, scams, phishing etc.

Take part in our poll [here](#).

Let us know about any other issues you've been having with home working by emailing us at info@scsn.org.uk.



Community Organisations, Activists and the Coronavirus – Poverty Alliance Briefing



the
**POVERTY
ALLIANCE**

WORKING TOGETHER TO COMBAT POVERTY

In a short space of time, the Coronavirus has impacted our society in almost every possible way.

With one million people in Scotland already living in the grip of poverty, the social and economic impact of the current crisis has the potential to sweep even more people into poverty in the coming months. It is essential that every step is taken to prevent that from happening, and to take action to help keep people afloat.

In response to the unfolding crisis, the Poverty Alliance has sought the perspectives of community organisations and activists from across the Poverty Alliance network.

This briefing, while only providing an initial snapshot view, details some of the immediate impacts on community organisations, as well as some of the key perspectives and concerns of community organisations and activists.

Download the full briefing paper [here](#).

Covid 19 Charity Wellbeing Fund launched

Third sector organisations across Scotland are being encouraged to apply for emergency funding to help cope with the effects of coronavirus (COVID-19).

More than 2000 charities, community and voluntary groups, and social enterprises are being offered immediate financial support from the £50 million Wellbeing Fund, which has been established to assist third sector organisations working with people impacted by the pandemic.

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

Police Scotland Guidance for Parents and Carers

Police Scotland have provided useful links, support and guidance for parents/carers to enhance the safety, security and awareness of their children or young people at a time when they will be spending more time online. You can access this guidance [here](#).

YoungScot 'Lockdown Lowdown' Survey

YoungScot are currently running a survey to gain an insight into the main concerns or worries affecting young people during the Covid 19 crisis. You can access the survey [here](#).



Covid 19 and Vulnerable Groups

Supporting people affected by alcohol and drug use - Covid 19



Extra support for people affected by alcohol and drug use during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has been announced by the Minister for Public Health, Joe Fitzpatrick.

Funding of £166,000 from the Scottish Government will support:

- a programme to increase access to naloxone in new settings, including investment in kits to add to the existing outlets for naloxone supply
- increased capacity within the 'Know the Score' helpline and webchat service
- a COVID-19 publicity campaign signposting support for alcohol and drug users during the pandemic
- funding to link people with others in recovery through the Scottish Recovery Consortium

Help will also be available for those affected by another's alcohol and drug use through the Supporting Families Fund. This includes a

discretionary emergency fund for families, online wellbeing activities, family meals, wellbeing packs and counselling support.

Drug Charity Crew publish latest survey responses on drug markets & Covid 19

65% of respondents to Crew's survey on drug markets have said that they have noticed changes to the supply of drugs since the Covid 19 outbreak began.

The main drugs where people were observing changes were in benzodiazepines, cannabis, cocaine and alcohol.

The most common changes in supply being reported were shortages of products and a decrease in quality.

Just under half of respondents were still using the same drugs as always, with around a third using drugs they hadn't previously.

A majority (54%) of people responding to the survey said they were taking drugs more frequently due to lack of other commitments and increased alcohol use leading to other drug use.

Other issues including worries or anxiety over changes to drug supply, issues around opiate substitution prescribing and continued access to support are also covered.

Download the full survey results [here](#).

You can still take part in the survey [here](#).

Covid 19: Framework to Support Gypsy Traveller Communities

A framework for supporting gypsy/traveller communities living on public and private sites, and in unauthorised encampments in Scottish local authorities during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The guidance may also support other mobile communities, however, there are additional considerations for Gypsy/Travellers based on the cultural background.

You can download the Framework [here](#).

National Domestic Abuse Campaign Relunched

A national campaign is being relaunched to reassure anyone experiencing domestic abuse that support is available to them during these difficult times.

Social isolation measures put in place to tackle coronavirus (COVID-19) may be adding pressure to those in abusive domestic situations.

If you, or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse and needs help, support is in place and available. You are not alone.

To speak in confidence, call **Scotland's Domestic Abuse 24 hr Helpline** on **0800 027 1234** or visit <https://safer.scot/> for more information and advice.

If you feel someone is in immediate danger call 999

Domestic Abuse is a crime. Call 101 to report it or call 999 in an emergency.

Help is available.

Evidence that domestic abuse killings have 'more than doubled' in the UK in three week lockdown period

Evidence collated by a prominent anti domestic violence campaigner has been presented in evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee.

Karen Ingala Smith, founder of [Counting Dead Women](#), a project that records the killing of women by men in the UK, has identified 16 killings (including those of children) during the period of 23 March to 12 April, compared with an average of five deaths in the same period over the last 10 years.

Read this story in full in [the Guardian](#).

Covid 19 and the LGBT+ Community

By David Barbour, SCSN Communications Officer

I'm a gay man who has worked within the LGBT+ community for many years to tackle health inequalities that affect us.

There has been a lot of talk about how the Covid 19 virus doesn't discriminate in terms of who gets sick and which groups are most affected – especially after even the UK Prime Minister ended up seriously ill in hospital!

However, whilst the virus might not discriminate in terms of who it infects, discrimination in society is having an impact on how severe the virus is for certain groups, and on the wider problems it is creating for people which may also impact on their health.

We've seen higher numbers of [BAME people dying in the UK](#) and the USA ([70% of Covid 19 deaths in one US state](#) were among black Americans). The virus tends to be more severe for those over the age of 60, meaning that older people are more affected than younger people.

The virus is also more dangerous for those with pre-existing underlying health conditions, especially respiratory and heart problems – conditions which often affect the most deprived in society more than the least deprived. Indeed, with the UK being one of the least socially and economically equal societies in the Western World, it is perhaps no real surprise that the UK is one of the worst performing Western countries in terms of numbers of deaths from Covid 19 – along with the most unequal country in the Western world, the United States.

Read the article in full [here](#).

Support for those at High Covid 19 Risk

A new [national helpline](#) has been set up to provide essential assistance to those who don't have a network of support but who are at high risk of contracting COVID-19. The service will offer help to those who do not have family or existing community support and cannot get online and who are over 70, disabled, require the support of mental health services, are pregnant or receive a flu jab for health reasons.

Kindness after the storm?

By Dawn Exley, SCSN Business and Development Officer

At a time like this, kindness is really on everyone's mind. The Covid-19 crisis has brought to focus more than ever before that we need to look out for each other, be good to one another and be empathetic to each person's particular situation, whether it does or does not resemble our own experience.

It feels so natural to be doing this - we are all human and of course this is what we do in an emergency. When I think about the kindness we have been seeing it comes in various forms: Acts of selflessness - health and care workers continuing to work under often dangerous conditions, mass volunteering efforts from people risking exposure to the virus; Giving more of ourselves - buying shopping for strangers, making soup for a whole village, taking time to check in with vulnerable people; Helping without judgement - food and funds provided on the basis that we are all deserving. The need is in us all to 'do something to help' when we see others in crisis.

But is kindness just for emergencies? Should these urgent priorities to care for one another not continue to be first and foremost in our minds once the crisis is over? I'm sure no one would disagree in theory, but once 'real life' returns - will it be the reality? Was it the reality before?

I think it is fair to say that - before the Covid-19 crisis, for many, the world was a less kind place. I think it is also fair to say that the thought of returning to that reality is untenable. So what can we do?

To start with, let's hold on tightly to what we have been doing differently and crucially - what has this *meant* to people? What has it meant to cut back the red tape of bureaucracy? To change our expectations of ourselves and others? To be allowed to work with flexibility and trust? To have our own well being and that of others actively on our minds? To have the time and space to be creative? To be free to respond quickly and without reproach? To have communities taking the reigns?

I could go on.. but I think the message is clear - we need kindness to be safe and we need to make it safe to be kind. As we speak, the world is overflowing with kindness and dare I say it? - it feels good. So let's let's make a commitment not to drive out this kindness when things 'return to normal' but take the time to pause and make sure we don't lose these lessons learned but truly embed them going forward. There has never been a time when we can see so clearly that when we are kind and allowed to be kind - we thrive.

If you are interested in finding out more about what you or your organisation can do - check out The Carnegie Trust's [work on kindness](#).

GCVS launch Glasgow Helps Website

The Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector has launched a new website for people in Glasgow who're looking for help with food, medicine and a range of other kinds of crisis support. Visit the website [here](#).

Random Acts of Kindness

Random Acts of Kindness is a fantastic campaign and hub of resources aimed at promoting kindness in our society. You can sign up to become a RAKtivist (Random Acts of Kindness Activist) as well as exploring a whole host of great ways to promote a culture and practice of kindness in all walks of life.

Visit their website [here](#).



Neighbourhood Watch SCOTLAND

Increase in reports of anti-social behaviour

Reports of anti-social behaviour have increased substantially during the coronavirus outbreak, police have said.

In the last four weeks, there were 178,000 incidents across England and Wales - a rise of 59% on last year.

The National Police Chiefs' Council, which published the figures, said the rise was likely linked to breaches of lockdown measures - with more than 3,200 fines issued in England.

Overall, crime fell 28% - with rape and burglary allegations down 37%.

Other figures showed that shoplifting plummeted by 54%, with serious assaults, robbery and car crime all down by 27%.

There were also reductions in 999 and 101 calls, as more people reported offences online. However, the figures do not include fraud.

Doorstep Scams

Despite the lockdown, doorstep scammers are still active in communities across Scotland. In addition to scams related to COVID-19 such as offering to disinfect driveways or posing as charity workers and NHS staff, more traditional scams are continuing.

There have been complaints about bogus gardeners in the Perthshire area and the Police have received several reports about fraudsters targeting people who have neighbours suffering from COVID-19 and asking for donations.

If you need to call a trader for emergency repair work during the quarantine, find someone who has been vetted and approved through a national or local authority [trusted trader scheme](#). All cold callers should follow official Government [doorstep selling regulations](#).

Top tips to avoid Doorstep Scammers

- Remember - you are not being rude if you shut the door on unsolicited callers.
- Don't agree to make any payments for goods or services offered by cold callers.
- If you feel uncomfortable or suspicious, call **Police Scotland** on **101**. If you feel threatened or unsafe at any time, call **999**.
- Report rogue traders to **Advice Direct Scotland** on **0808 164 6000** or through their [website](#)

Sign up for [Neighbourhood Watch Alerts](#) to stay up to date with what is going on in your community. Keep an eye on vulnerable neighbours and follow our [Helping Hands guidelines](#).

Latest news and updates from
Home Safety Scotland

HOME
SAFETY
SCOTLAND



Home Physiotherapy Exercises for Older People

Our partners at RoSPA are concerned that older people are not getting enough exercise to prevent them having future falls. The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy has designed exercises especially for older people to help them stay active at home during isolation. The exercises have been designed by expert physiotherapists and can easily be done from home.

Strengthening muscles and exercising will improve mood, help sleep patterns and benefit overall health and wellbeing and importantly prevent deconditioning.

Please help us share them so as many people as possible can benefit during this challenging period. There are lots of ways that you can share the exercises in different formats:

- Share the URL www.csp.org.uk/easyexercises with printable A4 sheet
- Share the animation - downloadable versions are available here <https://vimeo.com/showcase/6900217>
- Share them on YouTube [here](#)
- Share each of the six exercises separately on Twitter or retweet @theCSP tweets using #StayInWorkOut
- Use Facebook to post the exercises online

[Strength & balance exercises from Paths for All](#). Paths for All have also have some [guidance](#) around keeping active .

RoSPA Accident Information Hub

RoSPA has developed a [new information hub](#), where everyone who is affected by social distancing measures – whatever their age and circumstances – can find information that is relevant to them. Please do point your (audiences/users/members/partners) to this webpage for help with accident prevention.



Fire Safety Information Flyer

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has produced a flyer with advice and safety information particularly relevant during the Covid 19 crisis. View the flyer [here](#).



You can also get the most up to date fire safety information during the Covid 19 crisis on the SFRS website [here](#).

In other news...



NHS Guidance for those working in community settings

Working in people's homes, care homes general practices and other community settings can be a daunting step at the best of times, and this can feel magnified just now due to these unusual and unpredictable circumstances we find ourselves living and working in.

Like many people working across health and social care at present, you may be feeling anxious and out of your depth; keen to do your best to protect patients and families within new, emerging ways of working, but worrying about your own wider family's health and ensuring care for them too.

Within [this section](#) you will find resources to support practice in the community relative to COVID-19. You can decide to work through the resources in their entirety or focus on specific sections. Some key areas have been highlighted but you should try and tailor your learning to your specific need.

Road Safety and Coronavirus

Covid 19 has also raised a number of issues around road and travel safety, which we will cover in more depth in our next full newsletter at the beginning of May.

MOT Expiry Date Extension

The UK Government has introduced a 6 month extension to MOT expiry dates that were due on or after 30 March 2020, with the caveat that drivers must continue to make sure that their car is safe to drive and that people should only travel when absolutely necessary. View the full guidance info [here](#).

SPICe blog on safer streets for walking and cycling

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre has published this useful blog on initiatives being taken across the world to make changes to street layouts to facilitate safe walking and cycling during the Covid 19 crisis. Read the blog [here](#).

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