



Community Safety



Media Monitor

April 2022

The SCSN Media Monitor provides a snapshot of Community Safety related media/press stories from across Scotland, the UK and sometimes internationally.

Some of the stories are not from Scotland, but are included as developments in the rest of the UK and internationally may be relevant to community safety here in Scotland and we hope will be of interest and contribute to sector conversations.

We will only source articles from media/press sources that correspond with our values as an organisation and that refrain from using stigmatising language or images.

Crime & Justice

Under-18s will no longer be sent to young offender institutions

The Scottish Government is ending the placement of 16 and 17-year-olds in young offender institutions. The announcement is one of a number of changes introduced with the delivery plan for The Promise – an initiative to improve the lives of people in and around the care system in Scotland. The Government is also introducing a national allowance for foster and kinship carers and providing a £200 grant each year for 16 to 25-year-olds with care experience.

Ministers want to see a shift away from crisis interventions to early interventions in order to help families. - Read more [here](#).

Almost a third of Covid prosecutions wrongful as Partygate 'questions legitimacy of system'

Almost a third of [Covid](#) prosecutions have been wrongful, new figures show as Partygate sparks scrutiny of the legal system around [fines](#). Data obtained by *The Independent* shows that 29 per cent of charges reviewed by the [Crown Prosecution Service](#) (CPS) since March 2020 were found to be "incorrect" – 839 in total. The figure includes 528 of over 2,500 prosecutions under the Health Protection Regulations, which were the laws broken by politicians and civil servants fined over Downing Street parties. - Read more [here](#).

Bricks and bottles thrown at firefighters tackling Fauldhouse blaze

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said the crew were forced to withdraw after they were targeted by the group of youths in Fauldhouse on Monday. They were only able to return to extinguish the blaze once Police Scotland officers arrived at the scene.

SFRS group commander Steven Michie said the youths' behaviour was "completely unacceptable". - Read more [here](#).

Scotland's proposed dog theft offence lacks bite to match its bark (Comment Piece)

For all the good achieved at Holyrood over the past two decades, it still has the capacity to produce some legislative clangers which risk doing more harm than good. The proposal for a new law which would establish a specific offence of dog theft is a case in point. Under plans being brought forward by Maurice Golden of the Scottish Conservatives, the existing common law provisions around theft will be codified so as to ensure that beloved pets are treated as valued members of a family as opposed to mere commodities. - Read more [here](#).

Drug Deaths

Scottish Government plans to tackle drug and alcohol misuse 'remain complex and fragmented', Audit Scotland report finds

The Scottish Government's arrangements to deliver drug and alcohol misuse services remain "complex and fragmented" as the Auditor General for Scotland calls for a holistic plan to tackle the "tragic loss of lives."

The call comes after it was reported 1,339 people died from drug-related causes in Scotland in 2020 – the highest ever reported figure and the highest rate in Europe. A recent Audit Scotland report tracks the impact the pandemic has had and the potential implications of alcohol usage over the course of the past two years. - Read more [here](#).

Zero-tolerance drug policies stop UK students seeking help, report says

Zero-tolerance drug policies at universities can do more harm than good and discourage troubled students from seeking help, a report by a UK thinktank has concluded.

The report from the Higher Education Policy Institute (Hepi) highlights surveys that suggest just three in 10 students would be confident to disclose information regarding their drug use, or abuse, to their institution without fear of punishment. Meanwhile, 16% of students surveyed who use illegal drugs reported having scary experiences but did not go to hospital or seek help. - Read more [here](#).

Suspected drug deaths in Scotland fall in latest figures

The latest figures on suspected drug deaths in Scotland show an 8 per cent decrease in 2021 from the previous year. There were 1,295 suspected drug deaths between January and December last year, according to Police Scotland's quarterly management information.

In 2020, the equivalent number was 1,411. However, this method of recording differs from the official statistics produced by National Records Scotland (NRS), which found there were 1,339 confirmed drug-related deaths in 2020. The NRS data for 2021 has not yet been published. - Read more [here](#).

Violence Against Women & Girls

Ten years on, men must take responsibility (Comment Piece)

UNBELIEVABLY it's 10 years since a young woman called Laura Bates launched what she called the Everyday Sexism Project. It was born of a particular week when she had a series of unwelcome encounters with men. The all too usual "get yer tits out" to inappropriate touching.

As she later admitted in a powerful Ted talk, had these incidents happened a week or so apart rather than one after the other she might have filed it under -"normal". - Read more [here](#).

Law needs to catch up to help end harassment of women (Comment Piece)

IN September 2019, Adnan Ahmed was convicted of five charges of "threatening or abusive behaviour" at Glasgow Sheriff Court. Ahmed is better known in the Scottish media as "Addy A' Game", a so-called lifestyle coach and "pickup-artist" whose YouTube videos gave tips to sexually-frustrated men about how to approach, talk to and seduce random women and girls in public spaces. #

The Sheriff Court charge sheet told a -fairly consistent story about Ahmed's -behaviour, which was first exposed by [BBC](#) Scotland. He approached women aged -between 16 and 24 in Glasgow -centre and in -Bothwell. He was a -stranger to these -people. - Read more [here](#).

80% of UK police accused of domestic abuse kept jobs, figures show

More than 1,000 police officers and staff accused of domestic abuse are still serving in law enforcement, new figures show.

Eight out of 10 kept their jobs after the allegations were made, with a small fraction being disciplined or dismissed.

Experts and campaigners said the figures were further evidence of problems in policing, not just in terms of misogyny in the ranks but in a failure of leadership to tackle wrongdoers. - Read more [here](#).

Sarah Everard one year on: The people trying to make change

On 3 March 2021, 33-year-old Sarah Everard was kidnapped in South London as she was walking home from a friend's house.

One week later, her body was found. She'd been murdered by Met Police officer [Wayne Couzens](#). Sarah's death sparked national outcry, spurring women to share their experiences of feeling unsafe on the streets. Those conversations led to awareness and also attempts to make change. - Read more [here](#).

Policing

Policing in Scotland has been radically reformed – all UK forces can learn from us (Comment Piece) - Iain Livingstone

Our police services across the UK are under intense scrutiny. The onus is on us to nurture trust and legitimacy by demonstrating no tolerance for misogyny, racism and discrimination within policing and across society. Equally, ensuring an effective and professional policing response for victims and communities is a prerequisite for public confidence.

Two recent reports from [Sir Michael Barber](#) and [Sir Tom Winsor](#) both called for structural, cultural and operational reform of policing in England and Wales, as referred to in last week's [Guardian editorial](#). - Read more [here](#).

Dyfed-Powys Police chief wants one Welsh force

Wales' four police forces should be scrapped and replaced with a single nationwide service, according to Dyfed-Powys Police's new chief constable.

Former Cleveland Police boss Dr Richard Lewis has said this should be in place by 2030. "(If) the Americans can put a man on the moon in eight years, I think we can unify four police services," he said. - Read more [here](#).



Climate Crisis Corner

Corporate tree-planting drive in Scotland 'risks widening rural inequality'

A drive by wealthy companies to plant forests in the Scottish Highlands to offset their carbon emissions risks creating even greater inequalities in rural areas, a major report has warned. The analysis says a surge of Highland estate sales to major corporations and cash-rich investors, such as Aviva, Standard Life [and BrewDog](#), has driven up land prices sharply and increased the elitism and exclusivity of land ownership, while they aim to limit climate heating. - Read more [here](#).

Facebook drives sceptics towards climate denial

Facebook pushes climate sceptics towards increasingly extreme disinformation and conspiracy groups, a human-rights body's research suggests. A report released Wednesday by Global Witness found Facebook's algorithm amplified doubts rather than nudging people towards reliable information. Facebook says its systems are "designed to reduce misinformation". Researchers created two users - climate sceptic "Jane" and "John" who followed established scientific bodies. - Read [more](#).

Climate change: Britain's greenhouse gas emissions rose 4.7% in 2021

Britain's polluting emissions rose by 4.7% in 2021 compared with 2020 levels, government data has today revealed. The levels of global-heating emissions grew as society gradually opened up from the strict lockdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic, and road travel increased. Britain has a legally-binding target to reach net zero by 2050, which requires drastic cuts to emissions from things like the way we travel, eat and heat our homes, with carbon offsets reserved for those emissions that cannot be avoided. - Read more [here](#).

Climate change should be in medical school curriculum as it affects health, report says

Climate change should be embedded in medical schools' curriculums to help doctors understand the climate emergency and its health impacts, a global policy report has recommended. The report by Public Policy Projects, [1](#) an independent institute that advocates global policy reform, says that despite some good progress at the COP26 conference in 2021, the health implications of the climate crisis need to be a bigger part of the climate policy agenda and will only worsen without "swift and meaningful interventions" across the board. - Read more [here](#).

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