



August 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

Transport Police urge people to report sexual harassment as incidents rise

TRANSPORT police have launched a campaign urging people to act on incidents of sexual harassment they witness while travelling.

British Transport Police (BTP) launched the initiative as figures showed sexual offences on the rail network were up by more than one-third (34%) since before the pandemic, with 20 more incidents in 2021-22 compared to 2019-20. It is hoped the new Speak Up, Interrupt campaign will encourage those who witness any form of "inappropriate sexual behaviour" on the rail network to report these as well as safely intervene if they can. - Read more [here](#).

UK could force messaging apps to adopt new technology to tackle abuse images

Heavily encrypted messaging services such as [WhatsApp](#) could be required to adopt cutting-edge technology to spot child sexual abuse material or face the threat of significant fines, under changes to UK digital safety legislation.

The amendment to the online safety bill would require tech firms to make their "best endeavours" to deploy new technology that identifies and removes child sexual abuse and exploitation content (CSAE). - Read more [here](#).

Prison sentences should be reserved for those who would do us most harm – Karyn McCluskey

I feel there is so much happening just now it's easy to become inward looking and lose focus on what and who is important. You can become entangled in the process and neglect the humans involved. But it's important to be brought back to the reason we do what we do.

This week I had the privilege of listening to a woman talk about a short prison sentence she had (gratefully) received for an offence she admitted. She had been in the depths of alcohol addiction. Not an excuse, but at the heart of her offending. - Read more [here](#).

Prison inspection flags 'troubling' overcrowding issues at HMP Low Moss

Issues with overcrowding in a Scottish prison have led to its population exceeding its design capacity from 10 years ago, an inspection has found. Inspectors said the problem at HMP Low Moss became "particularly troubling" during the coronavirus pandemic, after an effort to create more capacity resulted in reductions to the individual living spaces available to prisoners.—Read more [here](#).

Children could be radicalised over summer break, Met police warn parents

The Metropolitan police force has taken the unprecedented step of writing to parents of school-age children, urging them to look out for signs of radicalisation because it fears the six-week summer holiday could lead to a rise in extremism. Det Supt Jane Corrigan, of the Met's counter-terrorism command and lead officer in the anti-terrorist Prevent programme, sent a letter to primary and secondary schools in London – the first time such a step has been taken – to distribute to parents last week. - Read more [here](#).

Over seven million victims of ASB in last three years – report

There have been more than seven million victims of anti-social behaviour (ASB) over the last three years, according to a new report released this week. The YouGov findings also show that, despite almost one in two adults being personally impacted by ASB, the majority of incidents go unreported. - Read more [here](#).

Alcohol & Other Drugs

Minister says drug death report provides 'bold blueprint of what needs to be done' as funding to tackle drugs death named 'woefully inadequate'

Scotland's drug policy minister has re-iterated her commitment to drug consumption rooms after a scathing report criticises the Scottish Government's handling of the drug death crisis. The Drug Deaths Taskforce published its final report after three years of work examining how to deal with Scotland's drug death crisis. It makes 20 recommendations and calls for 139 specific actions to be taken by the Scottish and UK Governments as well as other organisations. - Read more [here](#).

Scotland Drugs Death: Cultural change needed to tackle drug deaths crisis in Scotland, says taskforce

A major cultural change is needed to reduce drug deaths in Scotland by reducing stigma and ending discrimination around addiction, a new report says. - Read more [here](#).

Priti Patel plans 'to confiscate passports of drug users' ruled out by Scottish Government

Plans by Priti Patel, the UK home secretary, to confiscate passports and driving licences from people using drugs for so called "recreational use" have been dismissed by the Scottish Government. Patel has published a White Paper which would introduce a three-tier system of measures targeting use of drugs like cannabis and cocaine. - Read more [here](#).

Lockdown drinking increase could cause 25,000 excess deaths in England

Up to 25,000 more people than usual could die over the next 20 years in England as a result of heavy drinking habits that began during the Covid lockdowns, two studies have found. They could also result in almost 1m more hospital admissions and cost the [NHS](#) more than £5bn. - Read more [here](#).

Water Safety

Heartbroken parents campaign for water safety following son's death

"It was horrendous what happened", says Duncan Spiers of the night his son Christopher drowned in the River Clyde. "We know he's dead but we're still waiting on him coming through the door with his big smile on his face." It was January 2016 and Christopher Spiers was making his way home from a night out in Glasgow. - Read more [here](#).

Glasgow petition calls for safe outdoor swimming area 'in or near River Clyde'

A petition has been launched calling for the introduction of a safe outdoor swimming area in Glasgow. It comes as temperatures could hit record highs in Scotland today as the country looks set to continue sweltering in a heatwave - with the mercury set to reach 28C in Glasgow. - Read more [here](#).

Road & Rail Safety

Office of Rail regulator raises concerns about Network Rail Scotland's remedial work after fatal Carmont crash

The rail regulator has raised concerns about Network Rail Scotland's work to help prevent a repeat of the fatal Carmont crash in which three people were killed. The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) said the track body had failed to provide "tangible evidence" of the steps it had taken to implement action plans prompted by recommendations by two independent reports into the [derailment near Stonehaven](#) in Aberdeenshire in August 2020. - Read more [here](#).

Doctors to overhaul car wreck rescue techniques amid new evidence

There are plans for a major overhaul of how people are rescued from car wrecks amid growing evidence that current methods where people wait to be cut free may be harmful. Last year there were 127,967 casualties and 1,560 deaths in [England](#) caused by motor vehicle collisions. - Read more [here](#).

General Community Safety Related Topics

Challenging times ahead as data reveals worryingly high levels of child poverty

Campaigners have warned that child poverty could spiral out of control as new data reveals levels remain stubbornly high across Scotland post-covid. Despite families benefiting from the temporary covid-related increase to universal credit, new research published by the End Child Poverty coalition shows little reprieve for low-income families. - Read more [here](#).

Mental health negatively affecting almost 50% of UK students in survey

Universities need "immediate improvements" so students get the mental health care they need, according to a new survey. Out of 7,200 students surveyed by charity Humen, nearly half felt mental health difficulties negatively impacted their university experience. The research also revealed only 4% of staff received "adequate training". - Read more [here](#).

Abortion Scotland: clinic buffer zones backed by huge majority of Scots, poll finds

More than two-thirds of Scots support the introduction of buffer zones around abortion clinics in Scotland, with fewer than one in 12 opposing their implementation, a new poll shows. The results showed half of all Scots (50 per cent) "strongly" supported their introduction, with a further 18 per cent "somewhat" supporting them. - Read more [here](#).

Climate Crisis Corner



The terrifying truth: Britain's a hothouse, but one day 40C will seem cool (Comment Piece)

This extreme heat is just the beginning. We should be scared – and channel this emotion into action.

There's no getting around it, the UK's once equable climate is falling apart. We are now firmly on course for hothouse Britain and the signs are all around us. Just three years ago, the mercury hit 38.7C (101.7F) in Cambridge – then [an all-time record](#). A year later, meteorologists at the UK Met Office [mocked-up a weather forecast for 2050](#), showing 40C-plus temperatures across much of the UK. - Read more [here](#).

Scotland's rail network speeds up eco friendliness with new feeder station installed

The first of several new electricity feeder stations for Scotland's Railway is now in place, a move billed as being set to ultimately help bring about more green and sustainable travel options. The installation is part of a £120 million programme being backed by the Scottish Government in a bid to enhance the resilience and reliability of the infrastructure and to support additional electrically powered passenger and freight traffic. - Read more [here](#).

Court orders UK government to explain how net zero policies will reach targets

The high court has ordered the government to outline exactly how its net zero policies will achieve emissions targets, after a legal challenge from environmental groups. Friends of the Earth, ClientEarth and the Good Law Project had all taken legal action over the government's flagship climate change strategy, arguing it had illegally failed to include the policies it needed to deliver the promised emissions cuts. - Read more [here](#).

We've reached boiling point – nobody should have to work in temperatures above 30C (Comment Piece)

Spain, Germany and China all have maximum working temperatures. It's time the UK followed suit. We love the summer sun, but it can be deadly. The UK's former chief scientist, David King, has warned [this intense heatwave](#) could cause up to 10,000 excess deaths. Despite decades of warnings from scientists that climate breakdown would bring severe heatwaves to the UK, we are still unprepared. Our buildings, public spaces, rules and laws were made for a different climate in a different century. - Read more [here](#).

Mansfield Traquair Centre,
15 Mansfield Place,
Edinburgh, EH3 6BB
0131 225 8700/7772

Email: info@scsn.org.uk
Company Ltd. SC357649
Charity No. SC040464

www.safercommunitiesscotland.org