



Community Safety



Media Monitor

August 2021

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

Scottish advocates accuse Boris Johnson of undermining rule of law

Boris Johnson's comments on "left-wing criminal justice lawyers" is part of a strategy to undermine the rule of law in the UK, the Faculty of Advocates has claimed.

In an unusually outspoken move, the organisation has rebuked the Prime Minister for "political posturing" and a "baseless mischaracterisation" of lawyers, which it said was "damaging to the rule of law". - <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-advocates-accuse-boris-johnson-of-undermining-rule-of-law-3327630>

Safer Streets scheme hailed a "huge success" in Leigh

A scheme to improve community safety and tackle anti-social behaviour and crime has been praised for its success in Leigh.

Leigh West was awarded a share of the government's Safer Streets Fund last year, following a successful bid from Wigan Council. - <https://www.leighjournal.co.uk/news/19431923.safer-streets-scheme-hailed-huge-success-leigh/>

Cyber Crime & Scams

'We lost our life savings in a cryptocurrency scam'

Joseph had run his own business for years and had built up a tidy sum in savings for retirement. He planned to use the money to buy a mortgage-free bungalow for him and his wife to live out the rest of their days.

In a bid to top-up those savings he was drawn into investing online - a move into cryptocurrency trading that left him at the mercy of suspected fraudsters and drained his life savings. - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-57983458>

Voice cloning of growing interest to actors and cybercriminals

As voice cloning technology has become ever more effective, it is of increasing interest to actors... and cybercriminals.

When Tim Heller first heard his cloned voice he says it was so accurate that "my jaw hit the floor... it was mind-blowing". Voice cloning is when a computer program is used to generate a synthetic, adaptable copy of a person's voice. - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-57761873>

Organised Crime

The inside story on how organised crime gangs took over Scotland's illegal trade in puppies

IT'S little wonder that organised [crime](#) has moved in on Scotland's dog trade. Just look at how the price of a puppy has changed in only a few decades. Back in the mid 90s, a pedigree puppy cost around £50, before Covid the price had risen to about £800. Today, it's around £2000-3000. A kilo of street cocaine comes in at around £40,000 - that's roughly the price of 10 high-end French bulldog pups. Why deal in drugs when you can deal in dogs? - https://www.heraldscotland.com/business_hq/19450726.neil-mackays-big-read-inside-story-organised-crime-gangs-took-scotlands-illegal-trade-puppies/

Hate Crime

Two gay men beaten and robbed in Edinburgh city centre street in suspected homophobic attack

Two gay men in their 30s were assaulted and robbed by a group of thugs in a city centre street during a suspected homophobic attack. One eye-witness who contacted police said they saw a group of four men, thought to be in their early 20s, punching, kicking and spitting on a man on the ground before stealing a bag and running off in the direction of the Omni Centre. <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/crime/two-gay-men-beaten-and-robbed-in-edinburgh-city-centre-street-in-suspected-homophobic-attack-3330809>

Prisons

Call for Greenock jail to be replaced as leaky roof closes cells

Inspectors have called for one of Scotland's oldest jails to be replaced as soon as possible after a leaking roof forced the closure of 40 cells. Greenock prison was built in 1907 and is operating at 75% of its design capacity due to the condition of its buildings. Wendy Sinclair-Gieben, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, said a replacement was still expected to be a decade away. - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-58005882>

Fifty-two prisoners in close supervision units 'that may amount to torture'

Fifty-two people are being held in prison units in England and Wales in conditions that a UN human rights expert [has said](#) may amount to torture, the Guardian has learned.

Close supervision centres (CSCs) hold some of the most dangerous men in the prison system in small, highly supervised units within high-security jails in conditions [previously described by the prisons inspector](#) as "the most restrictive ... with limited stimuli and human contact". - <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jul/26/52-held-close-supervision-prison-units-may-amount-torture>

Why we should be giving therapy to violent offenders (Comment piece)

Throughout my career, people have asked me why I do what I do. I'm a forensic psychiatrist and psychotherapist; I've spent three decades working with people in prisons and secure hospitals who have committed violent offences. I give therapy to those struggling to articulate unspeakable things and come to terms with their new identities as offenders. - <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jul/12/therapy-violent-offenders-forensic-psychiatrist-prisoners>

Alcohol & Drugs

Drug deaths hit record level for seventh year in a row - here's what the data shows

Drug-related deaths in Scotland have hit record levels for the seventh year in a row, with 1,339 people dying in 2020.

It is the largest number of drug-related deaths since records began in 1996 and the highest number of people dying as a result of drug misuse in Europe.

In 2019, the number of fatalities was 1,264 - three-and-a-half times the figure for England and Wales. - <https://news.sky.com/story/drug-related-deaths-in-scotland-expected-to-hit-record-levels-for-the-seventh-year-in-a-row-12367604>

Road Safety

Low-traffic neighbourhood schemes halve number of road injuries, study finds

London neighbourhoods in which low-traffic schemes have been introduced have seen road injuries fall by half, research has found. The study also found no evidence of an increase in danger on roads at their outer boundaries. - <https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/london-low-traffic-schemes-accidents-b1889222.html>

Community Resilience

Flash floods will be more common as climate crisis worsens, say scientists

Flash flooding of the type [seen in London this weekend](#) will become a more common occurrence as the climate crisis worsens, scientists have warned, and the UK government, businesses and householders must do much more to protect against future harm.

Dr Jess Neumann, a hydrologist at the University of Reading, said: "Flooding from intense summer rainfall is going to happen more frequently. No city, town or village is immune to flooding and we all need to take hard action right now if we are to prevent impacts from getting worse in the future." - <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jul/26/flash-floods-will-be-more-common-as-climate-crisis-worsens-say-scientists-london-floods>

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