



# Community Safety



## Media Monitor

### December 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.

### Domestic Violence/Violence Against Women & Girls

#### **New police lead on violence against women says trust has been 'broken'**

Police forces will put a "relentless focus on perpetrators" in an attempt to tackle soaring levels of violence against women and girls, according to the new national police lead.

Speaking at the [National Police Chiefs' Council's](#) (NPCC) and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners's joint conference on Thursday, Maggie Blyth, the deputy chief constable of Hampshire police who was appointed into the new role of national police lead for violence against women and girls five weeks ago, acknowledged that trust between women and the police had been "broken through some of the tragic events of the last few weeks and months". - Read more [here](#).

#### **Domestic abuse: Bad date could end in murder, abuse survivor says**

A domestic abuse survivor has described how some women fear a bad date could end with them being "raped and murdered". Speaking to the BBC, she said the worst dates for men could still be a fun and positive learning experience. The woman, who lives in the south of England, said she was in a long term relationship with a violent and aggressive partner. - Read more [here](#).

#### **Rape offences recorded by police in England and Wales hit new annual high**

Police in England and Wales have recorded the highest-ever number of rapes and the second-highest number of sexual offences in a 12-month period, figures show.

Data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show 61,158 rapes were recorded in the year to June. - Read more [here](#).

## Climate Crisis

### **Climate depression is real. And it is spreading fast among our youth (Comment Piece)**

If you are anything like me, you think of the climate emergency a lot. Possibly every waking hour. Perhaps you experience the psychological tension caused by feeling trapped between the truth of climate and ecological destruction on the one hand and inaction from world leaders on the other. I feel this tension myself, and as a parent and climate activist, I see it affecting young people especially hard. - Read more [here](#).

### **'I get scared': the young activists sounding the alarm from climate tipping points**

For millions of young people around the world, climate breakdown is something they have known their entire lives. Many live in regions that are particularly at risk of being affected by tipping points - parts of the Earth's system where small changes, such as increased temperatures, could lead to accelerated and irreversible impacts. - Read more [here](#).

### **More than 120 people arrested after climate protesters block bridge in central London**

Police have arrested 120 people in the past week after climate activists blocked major bridges linking central and south London, including Lambeth and Vauxhall bridges, to stage sit-in protests. The bridges were closed to traffic for hours on Saturday due to the protests. Activists raised placards reading "betrayed by my government" and "COP has failed" during the demonstrations. - Read more [here](#).

## Crime & Justice

### **'Emerging threat' of youth anti-social behaviour on trains and buses in Scotland – British Transport Police**

The head of British Transport Police (BTP) in Scotland said anti-social behaviour on the rail network could spread to buses once free travel is extended to under-22s from the end of January. Chief Superintendent Gill Murray said anti-social behaviour had been "elevated" since the start of the Covid pandemic last year, and included "a wide range of crimes, from low level nuisance and vandalism to threatening and violent behaviour directed towards peers, passengers and authority figures". - Read more [here](#).

### **The care-to-prison pipeline shows our failure of looked-after children (Comment Piece)**

In the past week, we have heard sombre stories about the state of children's social care in the UK. The Department for Education revealed that the number of looked-after children has hit its highest number yet – up 1 per cent from 2020 to 80,850 – and the County Councils Network has predicted that this number will hit 100,000 by 2025. We must urgently address the national epidemic of inequality which has been growing silently in the dark. - Read more [here](#).

### **Ged Walker: Wife of Nottinghamshire police officer killed on duty backs new tough law**

The wife of a police officer, who was killed while trying to stop a car thief 18 years ago, has welcomed a new tough law for people who kill emergency workers. - Read more [here](#).

### **We must address the root causes of knife crime to prevent tragedies like Ava White's death**

Knife [crime](#) is yet again in the headlines, as the 14-year-old boy remanded in custody for the murder of [Ava White](#) has been [charged with possession of a "bladed article"](#). - Read more [here](#).

## **Violence, illegal force, abuse: who will remove G4S from children's prisons? (Comment Piece)**

Children locked in their rooms for up to 23 hours a day, young teenagers exposed to violence and excessive force, safeguarding systems in disarray: for those of us familiar with G4S's record of running prisons, [these appalling practices](#) found at Oakhill secure training centre, a children's prison in Milton Keynes, come as no surprise.

The security giant G4S has a long and undistinguished history of running children's prisons – something that the new justice secretary, Dominic Raab, who has been in post for less than two months, is evidently still naive about. - Read more [here](#).

## **Road Safety**

### **Thousands of UK drivers escape ban despite collecting 12 points**

Figures obtained following a freedom of information request to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) show there are 8,632 licence holders in Britain with at least 12 points. Road safety charity Brake said it was "appalling" that they were not banned, and police leaders said laws should be changed to stop drivers being granted exemptions in court. - Read more [here](#).

### **UK drivers face £200 fines in mobile phone clampdown**

Drivers will be banned from scrolling through playlists on handheld devices from next year as part of a UK government crackdown on road safety. The Department for [Transport](#) (DfT) has announced it is planning to strengthen laws from next year to make it easier to prosecute drivers using and holding their phones at the wheel. - Read more [here](#).

## **General Community Safety**

### **'Scandal' of the 200 homeless people who died in Scotland last year**

NEARLY 200 homeless people died in Scotland during the pandemic despite the offer of hotel accommodation to prevent deaths from Covid-19, according to new analysis. New data reveals that there were nearly 40% more in those 12 months than over an 18 month period to March, 2019. - Read more [here](#).

### **Gambling companies feed on addiction and misery. Why are MPs helping them?**

The Blair government's 2005 liberalisation of gambling laws was intended to be a two-sided deal. Regulation of gambling firms would be overhauled and liberalised, and in return they would operate as businesses within the UK, pay tax and be subject to domestic regulation. The gambling firms had other ideas, and moved offshore anyway – where they set up in tax havens like Gibraltar and the Isle of Man. - Read more [here](#).

### **West Lothian Council's fly-tipping costs down by £16,000**

Fly-tipping complaints in West Lothian have plunged over the last three months, reversing years of soaring costs to tackle the problem. - Read more [here](#).

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

Email: [info@scsn.org.uk](mailto:info@scsn.org.uk)  
Company Ltd. SC357649  
Charity No. SC040464

[www.safercommunitiesscotland.org](http://www.safercommunitiesscotland.org)