



Celebrating
25 YEARS
1997-2022

COMMUNITY SAFETY MEDIA MONITOR



December 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.

Cost of Living Crisis/Poverty

We need a new economic thinking that works for people and planet (Comment)

At the bottom corner of my computer screen a little box flashes up occasionally informing me on whether the FTSE stock market index is rising or falling. Political commentators debate endlessly how we can get the economy to grow faster. Yet, it is only rarely that we are exposed to a more fundamental question: what is the economy actually for?

At the end of November the University of Glasgow will host the Wealth of Nations 2.0 conference, organised by the Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) and Carnegie UK. - Read more [here](#).

Glasgow has shortest life expectancy in UK for people aged 40

Guardian Carers studied data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to reveal the life expectancy of those aged 40 across each local authority in the UK. Women in Glasgow are expected to live another 39.3 years at 40, nearly ten years less than their female counterparts in Kensington and Chelsea, while for men this number is just 34.8.

The age of 40 is used as a starting point for calculations as it marks the typical midway point of an average lifespan. - Read more [here](#).

Cost of living report calls for further emergency support

A new report by a leading third sector health group has called for additional emergency payments of up to £800 to support those most at risk, whilst addressing root causes of inequality.

The ALLIANCE has published a report, '[Disabled People, Unpaid Carers and the Cost of Living Crisis: Impacts, Responses and Long Term Solutions](#)', looking at the impact of the cost of living crisis in Scotland. - Read more [here](#).

Warning of 'human catastrophe' as more turn to drink and drugs to 'numb stress' of cost of living

Charities are warning of a "human catastrophe" as more people turn to drugs and alcohol to "cope" with the cost of living crisis.

New research, commissioned by The Forward Trust, revealed 32% of people said either they, or someone close to them, had relapsed into substance use over the past eight months. Overall 2.1 million said they had increased alcohol use, while 61% of those said stress over rising prices was the most significant trigger. - Read more [here](#).

Crime & Justice

Deaths in Scottish prisons at record high

A record number of people have died in Scottish prisons in the past three years. A report, by academics at Glasgow University, shows there have been 121 deaths since the start of 2020, with suicide and drugs deaths on the rise.

The rate of suicide and drugs deaths in Scottish jails is significantly higher than in England, the report said. The Scottish Prison Service said it worked to give people the best possible care and wellbeing. - Read more [here](#).

Government running out of prison places and has to ask police for 400 cells

The government is running out of prison places and has had to ask police for 400 cells to make sure there is enough accommodation for the prison population.

Prisons minister Damian Hinds told MPs there had been an "acute and sudden increase in the prison population" in recent months and, as a result, the Operation Safeguard contingency plan had been launched for the first time since 2007. He said the government had "long anticipated" the rise due to bringing in additional measures to tackle crime, and had been "planning ahead" for it. - Read more [here](#).

Violent and sexual crimes in Scotland on the rise, police figures show

NEW figures have shown a rise in violent and sexual crimes in Scotland – despite overall recorded incidents dropping to one of the lowest levels for almost half a century. Police Scotland has recorded 287,374 crimes in the year ending September 2022 – the total down by 3% from the 297,712 crimes recorded in the year ending September 2021. - Read more [here](#).

The Christmas puppy sales funding organised crime gangs

Parents who buy a puppy for Christmas could be funding serious organised crime, Scotland's prosecution service has warned. It says puppy farming is a source of revenue for gang networks and that people should not buy a pet from unauthorised breeders. The trade is often carried out through online platforms, such as Gumtree, free ads and Pets4Homes. The market for illegally traded puppies is believed to be worth £13m. - Read more [here](#).

Encouraging self-harm to be criminalised in Online Safety Bill

The encouragement of self-harm will be criminalised in an update to the Online Safety Bill, the government has said. Content that encourages someone to harm themselves will be targeted in a new offence, making it illegal. The government said the changes had been influenced by the case of Molly Russell - the 14-year-old who ended her life in November 2017. - Read more [here](#).

Police text 70,000 victims in UK's biggest anti-fraud operation

Detectives have begun contacting 70,000 people suspected of being victims of a sophisticated banking scam. The Metropolitan Police is sending text messages to mobile phone users it believes spoke with fraudsters pretending to be their bank. Met Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley described an "enormous endeavour" in gathering evidence after the discovery of an online fraud network. - Read more [here](#).

Scottish Government cuts risk undermining public trust in criminal justice system (Opinion)

There are few areas of the Scottish Government budget that will emerge unscathed from a series of brutal cuts, but the impact on the justice system will be especially pronounced.

Police Scotland's deputy chief officer, David Page, said the funding proposals for the next four years would have major implications for the force's services. Not only may it lead to [the loss of thousands of officers and staff](#), he said it could lead to the non-emergency 101 service being withdrawn, with potential delays to 999 calls being answered. - Read more [here](#).

Glasgow hotel stabbing report a 'shocking indictment of the UK's broken asylum system', says minister

A damning report into hotel housing for asylum seekers is a "shocking indictment of the UK's broken asylum system", a Holyrood minister has told MSPs. The report, [published last week](#) by Baroness Helena Kennedy KC, found a knife attack during the Covid lockdown in June 2020 was an "avoidable tragedy". Six people were stabbed and Badreddin Abdalla Adam was shot dead by police after carrying out the attack at a Park Inn hotel housing asylum seekers. - Read more [here](#).

Policing

Scottish social cohesion and law and order under threat, says police chief

Strikes, constitutional uncertainty and crisis poverty are threatening the cohesion of communities across the country, according to the head of Police Scotland. Chief constable Sir Iain Livingstone also said planned cuts, which could result in the loss of thousands of officers, would lead to a "fundamental reduction" in the force's ability to fairly and safely police large events and demonstrations. - Read more [here](#).

Hundreds of officers quit Police Scotland after less than a decade, figures show

Hundreds of officers have quit Police Scotland with less than a decade of service, figures from the past five years show. Data obtained by the Scottish Liberal Democrats in a Freedom of Information request shows 847 had left before serving for ten years.

Nearly half of those – 438 – departed with three years or less service. The figures were published today (November 1) in Scotland's policing and justice magazine, *1919*. It comes amid warnings of further cuts with police numbers in Scotland at their lowest level in almost 14 years. - Read more [here](#).

Record numbers of Police Scotland officers facing sexual misconduct claims

A senior officer has called on Police Scotland to 'change culture' after it emerged record numbers of serving officers are now facing allegations of sexual misconduct. While there were 12 sex complaints at this time last year, police watchdogs have been told the total being investigated now has soared to 51. - Read more [here](#).

Home Safety

Cost of living: Electric heaters may pose fire risks despite savings

People are being alerted to the fire risks of unsafe use of electric heaters as they try to keep down costs during the winter.

The popularity of portable machines to heat a single room has increased as energy bills have soared. But charity Electrical Safety First has highlighted the dangers of leaving the heaters unattended, on unstable surfaces, or when used to dry clothes. - Read more [here](#).

Awaab Ishak: Mould in Rochdale flat caused boy's death, coroner rules

A toddler died from a respiratory condition caused by exposure to mould in his home, a coroner has concluded.

Awaab Ishak's father repeatedly raised the issue with Rochdale Boroughwide Housing (RBH) but no action was taken. Coroner Joanne Kearsley said RBH were not "proactive" and asked: "How in the UK in 2020 does a two-year-old child die as a result of exposure to mould?" Awaab's family said RBH needed to "stop being racist" and provide fair treatment to people moving to the UK. - Read more [here](#).

Dani Garavelli: A safe home should not be a luxury

Earlier this year, while shadowing a community links practitioner at a surgery in Govanhill, I encountered a man sick with worry over the sewage that was flooding the back court of his tenement flat.

He was worried about the smell; he was worried about rats; but, most of all, he was worried about the health of his autistic son, who wanted to play there. The man, an immigrant from south-east Asia had recently lost his job and fallen into rent arrears, so felt powerless to fight his private landlord, who was threatening the family with eviction. - Read more [here](#).

Public Sector Reform/Data

Audit Scotland calls for quick public service reform

Scotland's public sector needs to reform quickly to avoid an unprecedented overspend, auditors have warned. An Audit Scotland briefing said the next budget would be "challenging" for the Scottish government. It is under growing pressure from rising prices, including increased pay deals for public sector workers which have already cost an extra £700m. - Read more [here](#).

Audit Scotland calls for bold decisions on poor quality data

When Aneurin Bevan launched the National Health Service in 1948, he wanted to emphasise that its political leadership should be held accountable for its performance. "If a hospital bedpan is dropped in a hospital corridor in Tredegar, the reverberations should echo around Whitehall," the health secretary (is reputed to have) said. - Read more [here](#).

From migration to railways, how bad data infiltrated British politics

Modern governments rely on numbers. They are the lifeblood of departments, used to judge the success or failure of policies. Politicians use them to legitimise their views and ideas and to scrutinise, expose and attack the other side. While in the past it might have been enough for public policy to be justified on the basis of "because I say so", governments can no longer rely on blind faith. They are expected, even required, to back their policies with hard evidence – the unease that greeted Liz Truss government's mini-budget is a case in point – and we tend to view numbers as the most solid form of evidence there is. - Read more [here](#).

Climate Crisis Corner



Enormous emissions gap between top 1% and poorest, study highlights

The top 1% of earners in the UK are responsible for the same amount of carbon dioxide emissions in a single year as the bottom 10% over more than two decades, new data has shown.

The findings highlight the enormous gaps between what [have been termed "the polluting elite"](#), whose high-carbon lifestyles fuel the climate crisis, and the majority of people, even in developed countries, whose carbon footprints are far smaller. - Read more [here](#).

Scotland weather: Climate sceptics should 'think again' after extreme weather, says council leader

The co-leader of Aberdeen City Council has said climate change doubters should "think again" following a weekend of extreme weather in the north east of Scotland. Clean-up operations are now underway across the north east after a major incident was announced across the area on Friday evening as a month's worth of rain fell in just one night. - Read more [here](#).

Climate maps let UK voters see impact of crisis in their area

More people are becoming concerned about how the climate crisis is affecting their lives and will make their children's future difficult and dangerous. Yet when it comes to general elections, less important issues take centre stage and some candidates have thought they can ignore the subject. Perhaps not any more. Some [clever work by a PhD](#) student, Georgia Willits at University College London, has linked the past and future effects of climate change to every constituency in the UK. - Read more [here](#).

It should not be controversial to say a population of 8 billion will have a grave impact on the climate (Opinion)

By a remarkable coincidence, just as governments, campaigners and business owners are meeting in Egypt to address climate breakdown today, the world is officially crashing past the symbolic [8 billion population](#) milestone. This means global population is on its way to 10 billion or more by the turn of the century.

But there will be no attempt by countries at [Cop27](#) to connect the inexorable growth of human numbers with the seemingly unstoppable rise in temperatures. - 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