



Community Safety



Media Monitor

Early February 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 Abuse/Violence Against Women & Girls

New board to implement additional protections for domestic abuse victims

A Scottish Government-led board will be established to ensure the effective implementation of proposed new measures to protect victims of domestic abuse.

The measures include giving powers to the police and courts to remove suspected abusers from victim's homes, ban them from re-entering the home, and contacting or approaching the victim. - <https://www.scottishhousingnews.com/article/new-board-to-implement-additional-protections-for-domestic-abuse-victims>

Ministers shocked by pandemic rise in referrals of children suffering in violent homes in Scotland

MINISTERS are 'deeply concerned' as helpline referrals about children living with domestic abuse rose by 30% during the pandemic. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children warned that the numbers could rise even further under current lockdown restrictions. - <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19035572.ministers-shocked-pandemic-rise-referrals-children-suffering-violent-homes-scotland/>

UK sex workers face rising violence and hardship during pandemic

Sex workers across the UK are facing increased violence and hardship as a result of lockdowns and coronavirus restrictions, charities and support organisations have warned.

They say sex workers are in more dire and drastic situations than they have ever seen before. [Women](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jan/29/uk-sex-workers-rising-violence-hardship-pandemic) who had left the sex trade have fallen back into it, others who had regular clients and who had stopped working on the streets have had to return and some have taken up sex work for the first time because they have no money and are desperate. - <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jan/29/uk-sex-workers-rising-violence-hardship-pandemic>

Modern Slavery

Slavery survivors moved 'without notice, without reason' in London lockdown

Modern slavery survivors with young children were among refugees allegedly forced to move accommodation in London with as little as one day's notice during coronavirus lockdowns this winter.

Women who are among the UK's most vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers said they were given just 24 hours to pack before being moved from accommodation provided by the Home Office, often having to travel long distances across the capital, in late December and January.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/jan/29/slavery-survivors-moved-without-notice-without-reason-in-london-lockdown>

Hate Crime

SNP U-turn over transgender rights and Hate Crime Bill

SNP ministers have reversed plans to exempt criticism of transgender identity from Holyrood's Hate [Crime](#) Bill.

Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf last week tabled an amendment to the legislation which would have protected it as freedom of expression.

It said behaviour or material was not to be regarded as threatening or abusive solely on the basis that it involved or included "discussion or criticism of matters relating to transgender identity". - <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19056325.snp-u-turn-transgder-rights-hate-crime-bill/>

Community Resilience

Community projects receive £25m funding to tackle inequality

More than £25 million is going to disadvantaged and remote communities around Scotland to support regeneration and employment projects.

A project led by **Torry Development Trust** and **Grampian Housing Association** to transform the 19th Century Victoria Road school in Aberdeen into affordable housing received £1.4 million from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF), which will go to 26 projects to tackle inequalities and deliver inclusive growth.

Over 400 business and organisations will benefit from the projects which will support or create more than 1220 jobs as well as thousands of training places by refurbishing and bringing back into use 26 empty buildings to provide space for community enterprises. - <https://www.scottishhousingnews.com/article/community-projects-receive-25m-funding-to-tackle-inequality>

Millport Support Group to become permanent fixture on the island

A NEW-LOOK Millport Support Group which was formed in response to the first wave of coronavirus is to become a permanent fixture on the island. The group played a significant role in assisting those who were shielding and self-isolating whilst also providing help to the community in other ways. - <https://www.largsandmillportnews.com/news/19015430.millport-support-group-become-permanent-fixture-island/>

Road Safety

Road deaths plummet in wake of lockdown

The number of people killed or injured on Britain's roads fell significantly last year as the [coronavirus](#) lockdown [slashed traffic levels](#) around the country.

[Data](#) from the Department for Transport shows that in the 12 months to June 2020, deaths were down 14 per cent and there was a 16 per cent drop in casualties of all severities. However, the figures reflect a dramatic fall in road traffic and show little real progress on casualty reduction.

- <https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/cars/road-deaths-plummet-wake-lockdown-3116889>

Call for major review of 'inadequate' drink-driving laws

The UK's approach to drink-driving is no longer fit for purpose and needs to be significantly updated, according to a parliamentary advisory committee.

A new report from the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) says that drink-driving offences have plateaued in the last decade and clear weaknesses in enforcement and rehabilitation need to be tackled to end this. - <https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/cars/call-major-review-inadequate-drink-driving-laws-3114091>

Injury risk significantly higher when driving for work

A third of road deaths and a fifth of serious injuries are sustained in accidents involving a working driver or rider, according to research by UCL. Of 520 fatalities recorded by the police in 2018 from road collisions involving a working driver/rider, 432 (83%) of these were other road users. Working drivers and their passengers accounted for 88 fatalities (17%). - <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2020/dec/injury-risk-significantly-higher-when-driving-work>

Crime and Justice

Covid lockdown should help us understand just how devastating a punishment loss of liberty really is – Karyn McCluskey

Pre-Covid, I never needed to think twice about climbing a hill in the Trossachs, seeing friends or visiting relatives, beyond whether I wanted to do it. The state forbidding it can feel uncomfortable for many.

I have worked for many years with people who've had their freedoms removed by the state because of the crimes they've committed, sometimes for decades. - <https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/covid-lockdown-should-help-us-understand-just-how-devastating-punishment-loss-liberty-really-karyn-mccluskey-3109574>

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