



Community Safety



Media Monitor

July 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.

Alcohol and Drugs

MPs call for drug safety testing amid fears of rise in UK festival deaths

Women whose children died at festivals after taking drugs have urged the UK government to support "life-saving" substance-checking services after an influential parliamentary committee warned it was concerned there would be a surge in youth drug deaths this summer without action. - Read more [here](#).

Drugs policy minister looks at 'safe' consumption and users' checking centres to reduce deaths

Scotland's new drug policy minister, Angela Constance, says she wants to introduce users' checking facilities in Dundee and Aberdeen as part of a national effort to reduce the country's shocking death toll. In 2019 there were over 1,200 drug deaths in Scotland, which is significantly higher than anywhere else in Europe. Dundee is among the worst affected places in the country and there have been recent fears of a significant increase in the Granite City. - Read more [here](#).

New services announced to tackle drugs deaths in Scotland

In a Holyrood debate on tackling Scotland's drugs deaths on Thursday, drugs policy minister Angela Constance announced measures paid for by £50 million already pledged to address drugs deaths this year.

An extra £14.4m will go to [frontline services](#), while £13.3m will be spent on Alcohol and Drug Partnerships, including improving services for children and families. - Read more [here](#).

'Alcohol can fuel behaviour': The link between lockdowns, major football games, and rising domestic violence

Fearful, anxious and forced to spend more time at home – and with those we share a home with – over the past year, drinking rates increased nationwide. Research from alcohol education charity Drinkware found that two in five people who'd been furloughed, and a third of parents of under 18s, began drinking more. Alongside this increase came more stark statistics. Between March and June of 2020, Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures reveal one fifth of all offences reported to police were [flagged as domestic violence](#) (DV), a 9 per cent increase compared to 2019.

Hate Crime and Harassment

Watchdog says Police Scotland do not know scale of hate crime

Police Scotland do not fully understand the scale, nature and impact of hate crime, the police watchdog has said. [A report said](#) there were recurring issues to blame, including a lack of training, limitations of IT systems, and problems with data collection. General under-reporting and problems with third-party reporting of hate crime were also significant issues. The force said it listens to victims and will investigate the circumstances "thoroughly and professionally". - Read more [here](#)

Liverpool attacks: 'Things must change or LGBT people won't feel safe'

"It's 2021, things are supposed to be better for us now," says 19-year-old Josh Ormrod. Josh is a music student from Buxton, living in Liverpool, and he's bisexual. In the early hours of 17 June, he was beaten up outside a bar in the city. The photos he shared of his injuries, posted on Instagram a day later, have been liked more than 350,000 times.

"This isn't about me. I wasn't sharing it for my own gain," he tells Radio 1 Newsbeat. "I was sharing it so that other people are made aware of what's happening to our community, and so that our community knows to be more careful than they usually would have to be." - Read more [here](#).

UN calls for end of 'impunity' for police violence against black people

A UN report that analysed racial justice in the aftermath of the murder of [George Floyd](#) has called on member states including the UK to end the "impunity" enjoyed by police officers who violate the human rights of black people.

The UN human rights office analysis of 190 deaths across the world led to the report's damning conclusion that law enforcement officers are rarely held accountable for killing black people due in part to deficient investigations and an unwillingness to acknowledge the impact of structural racism. - Read more [here](#).

Children's access to online porn fuels sexual harassment, says commissioner

Curbs on children's access to online pornography need to be brought in urgently to stop the spread of an activity that is partly to blame for normalising sexual harassment in schools, according to the new children's commissioner for England.

Dame Rachel de Souza is urging governments and tech companies to introduce age verification checks. She warned that access to hardcore pornography was shaping children's expectations of relationships and was partly to blame for thousands of [testimonies of sexual harassment](#) by schoolchildren published on the Everyone's Invited website over the last few months. - Read more [here](#).

Young teenagers 'were not protected' from predators at gigs

The pandemic has shut down Scotland's nightlife and music scene but as venues prepare to reopen some young women are thinking again about their experiences on nights out and at gigs when they were underage.

The lower age limit for concerts in Scotland is often 14 which means young girls like Sam could mix in the same space as adult men, with alcohol around. Read more [here](#).

Trauma and Multiple Disadvantage

Scottish Government warned it will miss child poverty targets without urgent action

Pandemic has exacerbated problems for Scots on low incomes Scotland will fail to meet child poverty targets unless urgent action is taken, campaigners warn.

Anti-poverty groups urged Holyrood ministers to take greater action to alleviate financial hardship on children after the pandemic with increasing stress being placed on families. - Read more [here](#).

Adopted children facing mental health emergency, charity warns

Adoption UK in Scotland is warning of a mental health emergency amongst some of the country's most vulnerable children, caused by failings in a system that is not set up to meet their needs.

This year's **Adoption Barometer** report reveals that two-thirds (64%) of adopted people in the UK aged 16+ have sought help with their mental health, and the numbers are rising. In Scotland, more than half (51%) of adopted people aged 16-25 were involved with mental health services in 2020. Yet most say they have been unable to access the support they need. - Read more [here](#).

Road Safety

Almost half of motorists picked up bad driving habits in lockdown

Almost half of motorists have picked up bad driving habits in lockdown, according to a recent survey, with 15% of people admitting that they now drive "far too quickly".

Nextbase, a manufacturer of dash cams, surveyed 1,500 British motorists to gauge how they felt about getting back behind the wheel after a year of intermittent national coronavirus lockdowns. Worryingly, 14% of respondents admitted that they had "completely forgotten how to drive their car", with more than one in ten insisting they could not remember a single thing from their driving theory test. - Read more [here](#).

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