



Community Safety



Media Monitor

June 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.

Police and Policing

'Covid is bringing the frontline to its knees': Survey suggests Police Scotland officers are stressed and close to burnout

Concerns have been raised over the mental health of police officers in Scotland after a new survey revealed around half are suffering from stress and burnout at work.

The new wellbeing survey - which looked at the views of over 2000 officers – also suggests that the force is under-resourced and would struggle to fulfil its duties if officers stopped working overtime when they were due to be off.

Read more [here](#).



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

More than 1,000 coughing or spitting attacks on police during pandemic

Assaults on police officers and workers increased overall by 6.3% in 2020-21 compared to the previous year, with 6,942 attacks recorded, said Police Scotland.

Of these, 1,087 were linked to coronavirus after analysts searched for case keywords including "spit", "cough" and "Covid", the force said.

Reported assaults were up 18% on the five-year average, "continuing a long-term trend of increasing assaults against the police", a Police Scotland statement said.

Read more [here](#).

Crime and Justice

Violent crime convictions jump 20% due to 'bad year' for assaults

Violent crime convictions in Scotland have jumped by more than one fifth, with increases in attempted murder, serious assault and robbery. Figures released by the Scottish Government reveal a 21 per cent year on year rise in convictions for non-sexual violent crime, with a total of 2,142 in 2019/20.

Read more [here](#).

Scottish Justice Secretary says 'compelling case' for reform on rough sex murder defence

Scotland's new justice secretary Keith Brown has said a legal consultation on changes to Scots law could result in the removal of the "rough sex defence", sometimes used when women die at the hands of men who then claim they had consented to be injured.

The Scottish Law Commission (SLC) has launched a paper on potential changes to homicide defences, which could stop the accused in a murder case suggesting the death of a woman was excusable because she died after consenting to violent sexual activity.

The "rough sex defence" was outlawed in England and Wales earlier this year and the SLC is looking for views on whether Scotland should do the same.

Read more [here](#).

Two deaths in English prisons make me wonder how civilised we are in 2021 (Comment piece)

Without doubt, the conditions in jails in England and Wales are currently – and by some distance – the worst I've ever known them: both in four decades as a career criminal after first entering custody in 1957; and latterly, for 17 years, writing about the prison system that held me for about 16 years, on and off.

I base that statement on clear evidence. The past 14 months have been by far my busiest since joining this paper as prisons correspondent; inundated by calls, messages, letters about how Covid has had an impact on [an already grossly underfunded](#), chaotic and [dangerous system](#).

Read more [here](#).

Community Safety General

Rescuers question what3words' use in emergencies

Mountain rescuers have questioned the accuracy of using a location app, citing dozens of examples where the wrong address was given to their teams.

What3Words (W3W) divides the world into three-by-three metre squares, each with a three-word address. It is free and used by 85% of UK emergency services.

Reasons for the errors were not given, but were likely to be things such as mispronunciation or spelling errors. W3W said human error was "a possibility with any type of tool".

Read more [here](#).

Child Mental Health Year Long Waits at Record High

The number of children waiting at least a year for mental health treatment has almost trebled since the pandemic hit.

In March 2020 there were 695 young people waiting at least 52 weeks for their first appointment with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). New figures show that by March this year the figure was 2,012.

The Scottish Children's Services Coalition (SCSC) said the figures were the "worst on record".

Read more [here](#).

North Ayrshire's Youth Strategy is revealed

The North Ayrshire Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy for 2021-2025 launched at a Joint Cabinet meeting last week. North Ayrshire Council's Connected Communities Team worked closely with young people, youth workers and stakeholders on the key themes affecting young people to develop the strategy.

The Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy, known as "Step Up, Speak Out" sets out how young people across North Ayrshire can play an active role in their schools and communities.

Read more [here](#).

New strategy launched to help Camelon become a safer - and happier - place

Our Place Camelon and Tamfourhill (OPCT) launched its new community safety strategy for the area at the group's first anniversary celebrations, which took place online during a Zoom last week.

John Hosie, OPCT community safety engager, said: "This framework can have a lasting positive impact on the local community. The success of the strategy and its proposed projects and initiatives is reliant on the community working in partnership with the variety of agencies and organisations highlighted within the document.

Read more [here](#).

Hidden UK homelessness is about to get much worse, with Covid support being cut (Comment piece)

Rough sleeping is the most extreme and visible experience of poverty and injustice in the UK. So, a year ago, when the pandemic hit and people were advised to "stay home", the vulnerability and visibility of people on the streets forced the government to roll out its [Everyone In](#) scheme.

Read more [here](#).

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