



*Celebrating*  
25 YEARS  
1997-2022

# COMMUNITY SAFETY MEDIA MONITOR



## June 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.

### Crime & Justice

#### Scotland's real-life 'justice league' truly are superheroes worth celebrating

I have always loved being involved in the justice world, particularly the work being done to prevent people from taking a route that could lead to crime. Walking alongside people as their lives transform is a joy.

However, anyone working in justice will tell you that the changes in someone's life can sometimes be infinitesimal and can happen after many years of chaos and harm. - Read more [here](#).

#### Majority of Scots see benefits of community payback orders

VISITORS to Hawick's Williestruther Loch are able to step out on a safer walk thanks to extensions to a boardwalk which was built by people as part of community payback orders.

The aim is to cover two-thirds of the loch at a cost of materials only, as the labour has been provided by the unpaid work service teams. Most Scots see the benefits of someone who's broken the law carrying out unpaid work as part of a sentence in the community, according to a new poll. - Read more [here](#).

#### Criminal acts of violence at UK GP surgeries almost double in five years

Criminal acts of violence at GP surgeries across the UK have almost doubled in five years, new figures reveal, as doctors' leaders warn of a perfect storm of soaring demand and staff shortages. Police are now recording an average of three violent incidents at general practices every day. - Read more [here](#).

## **Ministers refuse to release details of cyber attacks hitting Scottish public bodies once a month**

Scottish public bodies have been hit by a cyber attack at a rate of one every month since the start of 2021, new figures suggest, but ministers say the public should not be told about the impact to services or budgets.

The figures come as critics call on the Scottish Government to proactively release a list of cyber attacks on public bodies to help public understanding. - Read more [here](#).

## **Children & Young People**

### **Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry: Scale of foster abuse may never be known**

The scale of child abuse in foster care may never be revealed due to historic issues with record keeping, the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has heard.

The admission came as the seventh phase of the inquiry, highlighting abuse in local authority foster care, began. Opening submissions from 14 of Scotland's local authorities were heard by inquiry chairwoman Lady Smith. - Read more [here](#).

### **'Dire' uptake of free bus passes for under-22s, figures reveal**

Just three out of ten young Scots have claimed a free bus pass as part of the Scottish Government's flagship scheme, figures obtained by Scottish Labour have revealed.

Across Scotland just 284,328 children and young people aged between five and 21 have been issued with a pass, out of the 949,000 who are eligible, Labour's research showed. - Read more [here](#).

### **Record 420,000 children a month in England treated for mental health problems**

More than 400,000 children and young people a month are being treated for mental health problems – the highest number on record – prompting warnings of an unprecedented crisis in the wellbeing of under-18s.

Experts say Covid-19 has seriously exacerbated problems such as anxiety, depression and self-harm among school-age children and that the “relentless and unsustainable” ongoing rise in their need for help could overwhelm already stretched [NHS](#) services. - Read more [here](#).

## **Policing & Counter Terrorism**

### **Priti Patel's own officials warned her about easing stop and search conditions**

Priti Patel was warned by her own officials that lifting restrictions on police stop and search powers could damage community relations and lead to more people from minority ethnic backgrounds being targeted.

An equality impact assessment of stop and search options, commissioned by the Home Office, found that making it easier for the police to stop people may lead to more people from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds being stopped. - Read more [here](#).

### **Alarm as leak reveals Prevent 'carrying the weight' for mental health services**

Mental health campaigners have sounded the alarm over a leaked review of anti-extremism programme Prevent, which suggests those without extremist views are being referred to the programme to access faster mental health services. - Read more [here](#).

## **Leaked Prevent review attacks 'double standards' on far right and Islamists**

The government's counter-terrorism programme has been too focused on rightwing extremism and should now crack down on Islamist extremism, according to leaked draft extracts from a landmark review of the Prevent strategy.

In one particularly provocative recommendation, seen by the Guardian, the review claims there has been a "double standard" approach to tackling different forms of extremism, with individuals targeted for expressing mainstream rightwing views because the definition of neo-nazism has expanded too widely, while the focus on Islamist extremism has been too narrow. - Read more [here](#).

## **Violence Against Women & Girls**

### **Anti-abortion group operating in Scotland receiving huge US donations**

A UK-BASED anti-choice group that gives talks to schoolchildren about what it calls "coerced abortion" is receiving thousands of dollars from anonymous American donors.

According to VICE World News, nearly £73,000 (91,885 US dollars) has been anonymously paid to the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child's (SPUC) through an agency called NPT Transatlantic over the last two years. - Read more [here](#).

### **Street harassment law being blocked, adviser Nimco Ali says**

The government's independent adviser on tackling violence against women and girls has suggested her calls for street harassment to be made a crime are being blocked.

Nimco Ali, a friend of Boris and Carrie Johnson, told the BBC's Political Thinking with Nick Robinson podcast that her plan had endured "pushback". - Read more [here](#).

### **UK to partially ratify domestic abuse convention after 10-year delay**

The UK government has been criticised for failing to protect migrant women from perpetrators of domestic abuse, as the UK moves to finally ratify the Istanbul convention after a 10-year delay, while reserving a key article. - Read more [here](#).

## **General Community Safety**

### **Removing benches, blocking cycle paths: why are police interfering in the UK's public spaces? (Comment Piece)**

The Secured by Design initiative is damaging British cities, robbing them of greenery and public amenities while promoting fear. Last month, police officers descended on public green spaces in Stanhope, a 1960s residential estate in Ashford, Kent, to fight crime. Rather than arresting any suspected criminals, officers [took away five benches](#) and uprooted low-lying shrubs from small parks. In a since deleted tweet, Ashford Police explained that the benches had provided "places to gather" and their removal would help "design out crime". - Read more [here](#).

### **Upcoming Highway Code changes after over 1500 fatalities are recorded on UK roads in 2021**

The number of fatalities on roads across the UK increased over the past year according to new government data. Figures released by the Department for Transport revealed that there were 1,560 people who lost their lives on the roads in 2021. - Read more [here](#).

## Climate Crisis Corner



### **Humanity's broken risk perception is reversing global progress in a 'spiral of self-destruction', finds new UN report**

World could undo social and economic advances and face 1.5 disasters a day by 2030, according to UN's flagship Global Assessment Report. Human activity and behaviour is contributing to an increasing number of disasters across the world, putting millions of lives and every social and economic gain in danger, warns a new UN report. - Read more [here](#).

### **Sustainable Scotland: How Dundee is using tech to accelerate green action and benefit communities**

Dundee sits at number four on the list of Scottish cities when it comes to size, but it's proving a strong contender for first place in the field of green innovation and work to slash greenhouse gas emissions. The city's location on the east coast leaves it especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including extreme, unpredictable weather events such as flooding. - Read more [here](#).

### **COP26: 'Serious lessons' to be learned as Glasgow summit proves to be the most polluting COP in history**

Greenhouse gas emissions from the United Nations climate summit in Glasgow were nearly 30 per cent higher than first forecast, with the UK government using a firm in an offshore tax haven to buy carbon offsets in the wake of last November's gathering of world leaders. - Read more [here](#).

### **Smethwick designed flood-safe home rises above water**

A new flood protection system that lifts a whole house above rising waters is currently undergoing tests. The houses have been designed in the West Midlands and built by the Hadley Group using lightweight materials. - Read more [here](#).

### **How are local councils tackling climate change?**

The UK has a national ambition to be net zero by 2050. Although councils are limited in their powers, they can still exert significant control over emissions at a local level. - Read more [here](#).

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