



# Community Safety



## Media Monitor

### March 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.

### Experiences and Perceptions of Community Safety

#### 'Toxic culture of sexism' in police, says former police chief

A former police chief has said she would think "very carefully" about reporting a crime committed against her because of how she would be "judged". Susannah Fish, former chief constable of Nottinghamshire Police, said there was a "toxic culture of sexism" in significant parts of policing.

But the police chiefs' body said women who came forward would be listened to. It comes after the killing of Sarah Everard sparked concerns for women's safety in public. - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-56427167>

#### Putting undercover police in Britain's bars and clubs won't make women safer (Opinion)

Amid a national reckoning about women's safety, the government has shown that it has little understanding of what actually makes women safe. In response to an outcry following the abduction and death of 33-year-old Sarah Everard, No 10 has announced new measures to protect women from sexual harassment and assault, including a proposal from Boris Johnson that [plainclothes police officers will patrol bars and clubs](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/mar/20/undercover-police-bars-clubs-women-boris-johnson) at night to "identify predatory and suspicious offenders". - <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/mar/20/undercover-police-bars-clubs-women-boris-johnson>

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## **North Lanarkshire Council defunds Women's Aid groups to better help men**

Serious questions have emerged over domestic abuse support services after a council defunded Women's Aid groups. North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) says its new £1.4 million contract with community justice organisation Sacro is better value for money and will better help male victims. - <https://www.thenational.scot/news/19115916.womens-aid-groups-defunded/>

## **Non-fatal strangulation to carry five years in prison under reforms**

Ministers will make non-fatal strangulation a specific criminal offence punishable by five years' imprisonment following pressure from campaigners. Campaigners had pushed for a change in the law, with Lady Newlove, the former victims' commissioner, putting down an amendment last month when the bill came to the House of Lords. - <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/mar/01/non-fatal-strangulation-to-carry-five-years-in-prison-under-reforms>

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## **More trans people hiding identity at work than five years ago — report**

The number of transgender people who hide their trans identity at work has risen sharply in the past five years, research has shown.

According to [a report](#) by recruitment firm TotalJobs, almost two-thirds of trans people, 65%, believe it is necessary to keep their identity secret from colleagues to feel safe and secure in their jobs. Five years ago just over half of trans people felt this way. - <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/mar/22/more-trans-people-hiding-identity-at-work-than-five-years-ago-report>

## **Alcohol and Drugs**

### **Glasgow minimum alcohol pricing study shows effect on men and women**

Alcohol campaigners have said that a new study showing minimum pricing is less effective at targeting problem drinking in women backs their call to raise it further.

Research by Glasgow University found alcohol pricing policies – such as duty increases and minimum unit pricing (MUP) – appear to be more effective at reducing consumption and harm in men than women. - <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19135578.scotland-minimum-alcohol-pricing-affects-men-women-differently/>

### **How drug and alcohol addiction has soared in lockdown**

For millions of people who struggle with mental health issues, the isolation and stress of lockdown has made life even more difficult. And some people are turning to drugs or alcohol to help them get through each day. One addiction charity says the number of people seeking help at the start of this year was 86% higher than the year before. - <https://www.channel4.com/news/how-drug-and-alcohol-addiction-has-soared-in-lockdown>

## Poverty

### Joseph Rowntree Foundation report calls for Scottish Child Payment to be doubled in wake of 'huge harm' caused by pandemic

Officials must double the Scottish Child Payment if they are to have any hope of hitting their own poverty targets on time, a stark new report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has concluded.

The charity warned that without increasing the weekly payment to £20 per family, there was no "credible" way for the Scottish Government to meet its goal of having just 18 per cent of children living in relative poverty by the end of 2024. - <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/coronavirus-in-scotland-joseph-rowntree-foundation-report-calls-for-scottish-child-payment-to-be-doubled-in-wake-of-huge-harm-caused-by-pandemic-3176145>

### Scotland sees soaring number in temporary accommodation during pandemic

Campaigners have called for thousands of people to be moved into "safe and settled homes" as new homelessness statistics show the number of people being sheltered in temporary accommodation has soared during the pandemic – while unresolved homelessness cases have risen by one fifth. - <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19180683.scotland-sees-soaring-number-temporary-accommodation-pandemic/>

### Life expectancy gap rises between most and least deprived in Wales

The gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived parts of [Wales](#) has increased, particularly for women, new research has found.

Women in the most deprived parts of Wales can expect to live approximately six years less (life expectancy 79 years) than those in the least deprived areas (85). For men, there was a seven-year gap between the most and least deprived areas (74 v 81 years). - <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/mar/24/life-expectancy-gap-rises-between-most-and-least-deprived-in-wales>

## Fly-Tipping and Littering

### Fly-tipping: Panorama finds licensing system is failing to stop dumping

A BBC investigation has revealed how the government's licensing system for waste carriers fails to stop fly-tipping. Panorama filled a garage in Harlow with rubbish and then asked a licensed company to collect it. Tracking devices had been placed in the rubbish by the programme team to see where the items ended up. The team was shocked by what it found. - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-56149921>

### The 'LitterCam' that's watching you

CCTV cameras will soon have a new target - litter louts. AI software can now match footage of motorists throwing rubbish to their car's number plate and issue an automatic fine of £90.

The first trial of the potentially controversial new system will begin in Maidstone in Kent in a few weeks with other councils expected to follow. - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-56255823>

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