



Community Safety



Media Monitor

May 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.

Crime

Tackle poverty and inequality to reduce crime, says police chief

Cutting poverty and inequality is the best way to reduce crime, a police chief has said, calling for more money for deprived areas to thwart criminals' attempts to recruit those left desperate by deprivation.

In an unusually frank interview for a senior officer, given to mark his retirement as chief constable of Merseyside police, Andy Cooke said that if he was given £5bn to cut crime, he would put £1bn into law enforcement and £4bn into tackling poverty.

Cooke, who has started a new role with the inspectorate of constabulary, said that in his experience most criminals, including those committing serious violence, were not inherently bad.

Read this story in full [here](#).

The case for abolishing the 'not proven' verdict

Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf has pledged that should the SNP be reelected, he would work to scrap the not proven verdict.

Scottish Labour, the Scottish Lib Dems and the Scottish Conservatives have all agreed to abolish, or at least review, the controversial third verdict. The verdict of 'not proven' has been in use in Scotland since the late 17th century when the task of a jury at this time was to assess simply whether a case had been proven, or not.

It was only later, in the early 1720s, that 'not guilty' was added by controversial defence lawyer Robert Dundas who believed the jury should have the right to declare an acquittal regardless of the level of proof. Read this story in full [here](#).

Sharp rise in sextortion crime reports

Reports of so-called 'sextortion' have increased significantly across the country according to Police Scotland - with the youngest victim aged just 10.

Between January and August 2020, 283 crimes were recorded, an increase of 44% on the same period in 2019, when 196 offences were reported.

Sextortion is cyber-enabled extortion which involves the threat of sharing sexual information, images or clips to extort money from people, whether images actually exist or not. Footage or images obtained through webcam recording or from footage or images provided by the victim, were used as leverage in 236 (83%) of reported incidents.

Read this story in full [here](#).

Police, cameras, action... 'masterplan' drawn-up to clampdown on antisocial behaviour in Edinburgh Meadows (this headline has been edited as it contains stigmatising language)

Police Scotland and Edinburgh City Council have agreed to a 'Meadows action plan' to clampdown on troublemakers.

An email to elected officials reads: "Police Scotland have confirmed that they have increased their resourcing levels to manage the Meadows as a dedicated policing operation.

Read the full story [here](#).

Legal blank firing pistols being converted into deadly weapons, police warn

Blank firing pistols available to order online from around £100 are being converted into lethal weapons in makeshift factories across the UK, police have warned.

Officers from the Metropolitan Police said that illegal workshops have been set up in a number of areas to change the weapons into live-firing guns and make ammunition to fit them.

Read this story in full [here](#).

Fire Safety

Leaseholders 'horrified' after final vote on £10bn fire safety costs

Homeowners have reacted with "horror" after [parliament finally voted against protecting](#) them from post-Grenfell fire safety costs that could run to £10bn.

Campaigners for hundreds of thousands of people trapped with devastating bills to make their homes safe said the vote in the House of Lords against protecting them "pulls the rug from under a generation of leaseholders".

Read this story in full [here](#).

Minister's aide tells family facing £40,000 fire safety bill to call Samaritans

Ministers have urged a family facing a devastating bill as part of the building safety crisis to contact the Samaritans if they want help with "feelings of distress or despair".

Read this story in full [here](#).

Community and Place

Community compassion can help us recover from great trauma – Karyn McCluskey

Everyone should know first aid, you never know when you will need it; maybe never, but there may come a time when you wished you knew what to do.

The person I stopped to help was beyond the help of anyone and I hoped his passing was quick. I write this not to talk of first aid, although I could write a column alone on the amazing people I've seen stop and help multiple injured souls.

Read this story in full [here](#).

3.7m over-16s in Britain often or always feel lonely, ONS finds

Almost one in 14 people aged 16 or over in Great Britain say they are lonely, up 40% since last spring, according to the [Office for National Statistics](#).

Between April and May last year one in 20 people aged 16-plus surveyed said they felt lonely "often" or "always", and that increased significantly between October and February this year to a proportion equating to 3.7 million people.

Read this story in full [here](#).

Glasgow city centre plan for new river park

A new river park to complement Glasgow city centre's retail, hospitality and arts sectors will form part of ambitious plans to transform the area and drive post-Covid economic recovery.

A major strategy to re-develop the area over the next three decades while meeting a target to be the UK's first carbon neutral city by 2045, has been approved by the Scottish Government.

The plan aims to re-populate and create a more 'child-friendly' city centre, improve the 'neglected' riverside area, reduce car use and create high quality green spaces.

Read this story in full [here](#).

Water Safety

Staff in UK riverside venues to be trained to help stop people drowning

People working in pubs, cafes and other venues near to rivers are to be given special training to help stop people drowning amid concerns for customers flocking back as the Covid lockdown eases.

Firefighters are being trained by the RNLI to go into businesses and show staff how to get people out of the water safely. Read this story in full [here](#).

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