



Community Safety



Media Monitor

November 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.

COP26 & Climate Change & Community Safety

COP26 - ACC Gary Ritchie reflects on first day of World Leaders' Summit

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Ritchie has been reflecting on the first day of the World Leaders' Summit at COP26 in Glasgow.

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Ritchie said:

"Throughout the 18 months of preparation for COP26, Police Scotland has consistently said its aim is to deliver a safe and peaceful event for heads of state, delegates, protesters and members of the local community alike. - Read more [here](#).

Police Scotland rolls out body worn video camera to armed officers ahead of climate conference

Police Scotland has completed the roll-out of Body Worn Video (BWV) cameras to armed officers ahead of the COP26 climate conference.

Chief Constable Iain Livingstone announced in January 2021 that it was of 'critical operational importance' that the technology be supplied to armed officers ahead of COP26 which begins in Glasgow on October 31. - Read more [here](#).

To avert climate disaster, we need resilient societies built on love, not just technology (Comment Piece)

When things look especially bleak for humankind, it's worth reminding ourselves who we are – what makes us such a special species. Beyond our machines and our buildings, beyond our fiery conquests, beyond all of it, we're exceptional creatures because we are capable of love. And not just one to one and within our families, but on a massive scale. This is especially pertinent as we face the climate crisis. - Read more [here](#).

Fireworks/Bonfire Night

Bonfire night: What are the new firework rules and where are displays in Scotland?

Bonfire night is fast approaching. The annual tradition is going to be different again this year with the ongoing Covid pandemic, in addition to Cop26 in Glasgow impacting events. Another major change is the introduction in June of tighter firework laws in **Scotland**. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is urging the public to attend organised public displays rather than set off fireworks privately. - Read more [here](#).

Sainsbury's bans sale of fireworks while others sell 'silent' versions

Sainsbury's has become the first major British retailer to ban fireworks following concerns for pet safety, three weeks before Bonfire Night. The retailer confirmed it will stop selling the products across all 2,300 of its stores this year. But other major shops are keeping fireworks on their shelves and instead are selling 'silent' versions or including safety advice to protect animals. - Read more [here](#).

Poverty

Almost half of children in ethnic minority communities in Scotland growing up in poverty

Nearly half of children in minority ethnic communities in Scotland are growing up in poverty, according to a new report. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) said people in ethnic communities faced "shocking inequalities" in Scotland, with unequal access to secure, well-paid work, affordable housing and social security. - Read more [here](#).

Poverty and inequality a top concern for Scotland, survey reveals

Tackling poverty and inequality is a key concern for Scots – though those living in the least-deprived areas are more likely to be worried about the economy. Just over one-third of people (34%) described dealing with the problem of poverty and inequality as the top issue of concern facing Scotland right now, compared to 26% who cited the economy. - Read more [here](#).

Prisons

The financial cost of putting a mother in prison will shock you. The true cost is even greater

Cleaning out my desk yesterday, I found a report I'd hoarded from 2006 about women in prison. They were in crisis because there were 365 women in prison in Scotland – the highest number ever. One of the headings is from the Chief Inspector of Prisons in 2004 who said: "Most women who come to prison are in a desperate state... their life stories are consistently and overwhelmingly sad... This is not a cross-section of society: these are women that are very damaged. What will prison do for them?" - Read more [here](#).

Britain's prisons are becoming ever more like the failed US system

From numbers behind bars to drugs, mental health and regressive legislation, our prisons are in a shameful state. Just around the corner from where the Krays used to hold sway in east London's Brick Lane there is an establishment called Alcotraz. Described as "London's first immersive theatrical cocktail bar", Alcotraz allows you to dress up in a prison uniform, get locked up in a cell, have a cocktail or two, and get your photo taken. So Britain is channelling – in the cause of entertainment – a famous prison in the United States. But look closely and you'll see that we are also mirroring that country's relentlessly unforgiving and counterproductive penal policy. - Read more [here](#).

Cybercrime & Scams

Hackers had second go at Sepa during cyber attack

Hackers responsible for a cyber attack on Scotland's environmental watchdog tried to sabotage efforts to fix the problem, a new report has revealed. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) had more than 4,000 digital files stolen in the incident. - Read more [here](#).

UK phone networks to block scam calls from abroad

Phone providers are to automatically block online calls from abroad that are made to look as if they come from UK numbers, as part of efforts to crack down on a rise in foreign scams. The communications regulator, [Ofcom](#), said it had been working with telecoms companies to tackle the "complex problem" and would introduce the new measures "at pace". - Read more [here](#).

General Community Safety

'Spiking by injection' Scotland - what we know so far as cops probe several reports

[Police](#) are probing a number of alleged incidents at Scots [nightclubs](#) and bars amid a growing number of claims of spiking over social media. Women are said to have been targeted in a string of incidents across the country - with pub bosses and police responding to claims made at nightclubs in Stirling, [Edinburgh](#), Dundee and Glasgow in recent days. - Read more [here](#).

Charity seeks new police focus on domestic abuse

A domestic abuse charity has called for an amendment to a new policing bill to recognise the seriousness of violence against women and girls. Refuge wants sexual violence, domestic homicide and domestic abuse specifically named as crimes that police and other public bodies must develop strategies to prevent. - Read more [here](#).

Scotland won't prosecute personal possession of class A drugs, but outdated laws prevent deeper reforms

In Scotland, a person in possession of a class A drugs will be issued a police warning in most cases, effectively decriminalising personal possession. This recent announcement comes hard on the heels of a record-high 1,339 drug-related deaths in 2020. England and Wales also saw a record year of drug-related deaths. - Read more [here](#).

Prevent 'must build trust with communities' to overcome fears of referring people at risk of radicalisation

A Government strategy to stop people being drawn into terrorist-related activities needs to build trust with the communities fearful of the consequences of reporting individuals at risk of radicalisation, a former national counter-terrorism coordinator has said. - Read more [here](#).

Mansfield Traquair Centre,
15 Mansfield Place,
Edinburgh, EH3 6BB
0131 225 8700/7772

Email: info@scsn.org.uk
Company Ltd. SC357649
Charity No. SC040464

www.safercommunitiescotland.org