



Safety NET-works

September 2019

www.safercommunitiescotland.org

New SCSN Briefing Paper: Will more prisons, more stop and search and more police officers make us safer? - Hannah Dickson

There has been extensive coverage in the past few weeks of the emerging proposed approaches to justice and safety in England and Wales with commitments to put more police on the streets, increase use of stop and search, and incarcerate more offenders with longer sentences. The idea is that these proposals will reduce crime, deter offending and therefore make people safer. As an organisation that feels passionately about community safety and evidence-based decision making we wanted to challenge the narrative that these are activities that will reduce crime (they don't) and which will make people and communities feel and be safer (they won't).

We've been thinking about what makes a safer community as part of our work stream on 'Making the Case for Community Safety'. Some of the evidence we have found includes:

- Feeling safe is about more than just the absence of crime, there are many more factors that create a safe community. It is also more than just about the presence of police, policing activities and prisons. (Reassuring the Public programme and What Works to reduce reoffending, 2014 and 2015)
- Understanding the underlying causes and contributors of crime is a key element in prevention. (What Works to Reduce Crime, A summary of the evidence, 2014)

Continue reading on Page 5.

SCSN Annual Report Published & AGM



We're delighted to have published our Annual Report for 2018/19 at our AGM on 10 September!

2018/19 was an exciting year for SCSN with many really positive changes taking place for the organisation, both in terms of how we work and what we offer to our membership.

We've been heartened to receive a lot of positive feedback on our work, and on our new, stripped down Annual Report, which is a mere five pages long and presents a round up of our year as a graphic illustration thanks to Cath at ListenThinkDraw.

Read more on pages 2 & 4.

Review of September
Masterclass Events
Presentations & videos
Page 6

Focus on Violence
New Research & Violence
Against Women Event
Page 7

Transforming Offender
Management Event - Page 8
Consultations & other news -
Page 9



Changes to the SCSN Board following our AGM

Following the SCSN AGM, the following changes have been made to the SCSN Board of Directors.

Standing down are:

Mark McCall (Chair) (Fife Council), Andrew Wilson (Falkirk Council), Stuart Stevens (SFRS), John McKenzie (Police Scotland), Jennifer McOmish (Perth & Kinross Council).

The following directors have agreed to **remain on the board** for a further year:

Ian Hanley (Inverclyde Council), Ann Fehilly (Glasgow Community Safety Services), Gemma Fraser (Community Justice Scotland), Shirley McClaren (City of Edinburgh Council).

Newly elected directors are:

John Wood (COSLA), Tricia Spacey (Fife Council), Cheryl Glen (SSSC), Rona Gold (CPMG), Davie Duncan (Police Scotland), Liz Lumsden (RoSPA), Cathy Barlow (SFRS).

SCSN would like to thank all outgoing directors for their contribution to the organisation over the past year or more, and a warm welcome to our new directors who will help build on the exciting new work we've undertaken over the past few years!

Question of the Month

Last month we asked:

Do you feel that public health and community safety are well aligned in your area?

Results were:

- 17% said Yes
- 25% said No
- 58% said Work to be done

This month's Question is based on our new Briefing Paper on evidence around prison sentencing.

You can take part in our September poll by visiting our website [here](#).

NOTICE ON SCSN EVENTS

CANCELLATIONS POLICY CHANGE

It is with a heavy heart that from October onwards, we will be introducing cancellation fees of £40 for those who withdraw from a registered event up to four working days beforehand.

We have not taken this decision lightly, but we hope this will encourage turnout, stop excess waste and expenditure and allow those on waiting lists not to miss out when they need not have to.

Our events will still be free to attend and we look forward to continuing to bring you a varied and inspiring programme!

60 seconds with...

Ian Hanley, New SCSN Chair Person



You've just been appointed Chair Person of SCSN, what will your first six months look like?

At the recent AGM, Lorraine Gillies, spoke of the changes to the organisation from October 1st we will be hosting Neighbourhood Watch Scotland which has been an enormous piece of work by both staff groups over the last year or so, therefore I'm keen to ensure that our board is visible to the NWS staff group and their board of trustees. I'm also looking forward to our work with the BSC Executive Group so I'll be keen to meet with our partners there. Crucially though, the Board and the staff group have a clear remit through our strategic plan and I am looking forward to us all working on this over the coming months.



I have been very fortunate to have been on the board for a number of years now where there has been an incredible journey particularly over the last couple of years as well as working with a great range of people from across Scotland who are extremely passionate about community safety. In terms of aspirations for the organisation going forward our strategic plan sets out our objectives in the short, medium and long term. I'm keen that the Staff group and the Board are really focused on that.

However, to add! We have a great staff team and a great board of directors who are extremely passionate in driving the organisation forward!

You clearly have a lot of experience in safer communities work, and are a champion of the work SCSN does. Do you have an 'ask' for members/stakeholders in SCSN?

In terms of the 'ask' to our member, as a membership organisation, the work that the staff group do is driven by our membership so please keep us up to date of any issues or pieces of work that you might want the wider membership to be aware of. In terms of stakeholders the ask is about finding those links with the community safety sector and your own organisation in order that we can continue to showcase the breadth of the community sector in Scotland.

What's the one thing you're most excited about in terms of the future of community safety in Scotland?

I was at the recent Public Health and Community Safety event and was speaking about some of the community safety approaches in Inverclyde and its links to Public Health. In preparation for the event I found a report John Carnochan gave to Glasgow City Council back in 2008 when he spoke of the positive leadership separately in health and separately in community safety but very little in the interface between the two. I think that landscape is changing, the recent event began a conversation from which I am hopeful will be the norm between both sectors in years to come.

You've been heavily involved in SCSN for a few years now on the board as Vice Chair. Tell us about your previous work with SCSN, and how that informs your aspirations for the organisation going forward.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

At the time of writing this I am 'in training' for an Ultra Marathon in Dunoon (a bad combination of Hogmanay and bravado!) ; by the time of reading this I might still be trying to finish it! I am also a coach within a local running club so have responsibility for preparing our junior athletes for a number of events. Beyond that myself and wife (Karen) have become glorified taxi drivers for our son Cameron!

SCSN Annual Report 2018/19



Launching our 2018/19 Annual Report, outgoing SCSN Chair Person Mark McCall gave these remarks:

"I am pleased to introduce the SCSN annual report for 2018/2019 and in particular I take great pride in the work of the staff and board members in achieving so much over the past 12 months. Adversity appears to have become part of the day job for our colleagues, yet Lorraine, Hannah, Dawn and David (with help from secondees and students) have delivered a high quality support service to the Network, delivered a wide range of training courses and products, stretched the reach of our organisation beyond recognition, become a real visible presence to our members and really have placed the SCSN as the "go to" place for community safety information in Scotland...and they've done it all with a smile. Having chaired the SCSN for the past 4 years

it's time for new adventures for me and a change of leadership for the organisation. With a motivated staff group and supportive board the SCSN is in a very healthy position to support practitioners in the day to day challenges we all face and influence future policy decisions in collaboration with our national colleagues."

- Mark McCall, Outgoing SCSN Chair

Ian Hanley elected as new SCSN Chair Person

Following the SCSN AGM on 10 September, Ian Hanley of Inverclyde Council has been elected as the new Chair of SCSN.

You can download a copy of the Annual Report in full [here](#).

- Interventions on one issue can improve other outcomes – improvements to housing and the physical environment, for example, can help to reduce crime rates. (Taylor, 2008)
 - Recognising and fostering the wider social conditions that impact upon community safety are key. This includes: people's social networks and personal relationships; volunteering and participation in community activities; the way people relate to each other including trust and shared values; and the extent to which people in communities have control and can influence decisions and actions to improve their local area. (Multiple sources including Hale, C. 1996; work by Jackson, J. et al. 2008 and 2009; Rutledge P, 2011)
 - Investing in upstream interventions such as parenting support, health services, housing, youth services, mentoring; ensuring people are educated, have stable employment and good quality housing all have a role in preventing offending and making communities safer and stronger. (Multiple sources including The impact of community based universal youth work in Scotland, 2019; What Works to Reduce Crime, 2014; research by Prof Kathy Sylva on Sure Start)
 - Recognising the role and expertise of citizens - to bring change that will really help; policy makers and service providers must start listening to and working alongside those who know the problems best. (Multiple sources including the Scottish Community Development Centre and What Works Scotland)
- So, what are the proposals, and what is the evidence?
- Read the full Briefing Paper [here](#).

Scottish Sentencing Council

Research: More needs to be done to explain sentencing

More needs to be done to "demystify" the justice system for the public, the body that advises judges and sheriffs on sentencing has said.

[Research](#) for the Scottish Sentencing Council found most respondents thought the system was fair but 56% said sentences were too soft.

A majority of people said they felt public protection was the most important purpose of sentencing.

The majority of respondents (56%) expressed the view that sentences tend to be too lenient, including 26% who felt they were much too lenient, while just under a third (31%) felt they were about right, and 3% felt they were too tough on average. This is consistent with much existing research on public attitudes to sentencing.

The survey also found just under two-thirds (63%) stated that they were confident that Scotland's criminal justice system was fair to all, while just over a third (35%) of respondents expressed a lack of confidence in the system.

However, it found a considerable variance depending on the level of formal education of those questioned. Less than half of respondents (48%) with no formal qualifications had confidence in the justice system's fairness, compared to a 75% confidence rate of those with a university degree.

We will soon see an increase in the number of community-based sentences issued across Scotland but the survey found public opinion divided on their merits. About half of respondents expressed a view that community sentences do not help reduce reoffending (48%), while four in 10 expressed a view that they were an effective means of reducing rates of reoffending.

Review and reflection on our September Masterclass Events




Public Health and Community Safety Masterclass

Our Public Health and Community Safety Masterclass was a fantastic event with some excellent and thought provoking speakers. Eibhlin McHugh of the Scottish Public Health Reform Team kicked off the event, with presentations also coming from Dr Neil Hamlet of NHS Fife on creating safety and wellness in society, Lynne McNiven of NHS Ayrshire and Arran on Whole Systems working in Public Health and new SCSN Chair Person, Ian Hanley of Inverclyde Council on the local authority perspective on public health.

Public Health & Community Safety: Working in Complex Systems

"With public health we need to recognise that we're intervening in a complex system we don't have control of. The system will react in unpredictable ways and there will be unintended consequences - so we need a learning culture and reflective practice."

Eibhlin McHugh, Public Health Reform Team



#SCSNPublicHealth

Identifying Key Transitions

"We need to identify key transitions in life. Key transitions include transitions of leaving & losing, and provide not just safety nets but springboards:

Leaving home, leaving care, leaving prison etc.

Losing a home, losing a job, losing loved ones'

Neil Hamlet, Public Health Consultant, NHS Fife



#SCSNPublicHealth

Much of the discussion focussed on wider determinants of health including social and environmental factors. Among useful resources and reports that were highlighted were the [Resilience Documentary](#) looking at Adverse Childhood Experiences and the long term negative effects on health (which we screened in 2018!) and work by Lankelly Chase on [System Behaviours](#) as well as the Lankelly Chase [Hard Edges Report](#) on complex multiple disadvantages.

You can download the Powerpoint Presentations from the day and view video uploads of these presentations [here](#).

Working in Complex Systems Masterclass Part II: Toby Lowe returns!

Following on from last year's Measuring Outcomes in Complex Systems Masterclass, we were delighted to welcome Dr Toby Lowe back to Scotland for Part II!

Toby returned to Scotland to provide us with updates on his work and look at how the ideas covered in his first Masterclass Event have begun to evolve and be implemented.

You can access the report that started this process, A Whole New World: Funding & Commissioning in Complexity, [here](#). You might also want to look at the follow up report, [Exploring the New World: practical insights for funding, commissioning and managing in complexity](#).

You can view Toby's Powerpoint Presentation and video edited highlights of his talk [here](#).



Campbell's Law



Donald Campbell

The more any quantitative social indicator is used for social decision-making, the more subject it will be to corruption pressures and the more apt it will be to distort and corrupt the social processes it is intended to monitor.

Focus on: Violence

Major new report takes stock of violence in Scotland

Violence in Scotland is becoming more concentrated in the most deprived communities

RESEARCHERS based at the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research have published a major new report which consolidates existing knowledge on violence in Scotland.

A wealth of research has been conducted in Scotland over the last decade which has been essential in helping us understand violent offending in this country, but this is the first time that evidence has been compiled into one document.

The '[Taking Stock of Violence in Scotland Report](#)' not only highlights the key trends and patterns of known violence, but it importantly also shows what areas have been under-researched.

Lead author Dr Susan Batchelor, a Senior Lecturer at the University of Glasgow and based at the SCCJR, said: "As research into violence and associated prevention tools have been developed apace it feels like a good time to take stock of what we know about violence in Scotland and what we don't know".

"We hope this report will serve as an essential resource for practitioners, policy makers and researchers alike who are seeking an overview of our current understanding of the issue".

In terms of patterns and trends, she said that: "One of the headline findings to emerge was that people in the most marginalised and vulnerable groups appear to be worse off compared with others than before the crime drop. It seems that [violence in Scotland – or violence victimisation – is becoming more concentrated in the most deprived communities](#) and amongst particular groups of repeat violent victims."

SAVE THE DATE!

Violence Against Women is a Public Health Issue

25th November, 2019 - COSLA Conference Centre, Edinburgh

Public Health in Scotland is changing. This one-day, interactive conference will explore how partners can help create vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities across Scotland by working together to adopt a public health approach to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls.

This interactive, collaborative event will explore how partners can work together to adopt a public health approach to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls to help create vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities across Scotland. This national, flagship event marks Day One of the annual International 16 Days of Activism campaign against Gender-Based Violence. It will explore three critical questions:

- What would a public health approach to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls and gender inequality look like at a local and national level?
- What change is needed to create this shift?
- How can the reform of public health and the national body - Public Health Scotland support this change to be achieved?

To register your interest in attending this event, click [here](#).

Event: Transforming Offender Management: Rehabilitation, Reintegration, and Reducing Reoffending - 27 November

This event examines the direction of policy around justice management in Scotland and asks what the implementation of recent legislation will mean for offenders, victims, communities, and the professionals who support them.

Towards 'Smart Justice'

In June 2019, the Scottish Parliament passed the Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act. The Act provides for the use of new electronic monitoring technologies to support the Scottish Government's intention to maximise community sentences as an alternative to prison. The Act also reduces how long certain convictions must be disclosed to employers to help people move into work, which is expected to improve rehabilitation, ease reintegration, and reduce reoffending.

But critics point to the low completion rates of Community Payback Orders, the lack of additional resources to underpin these reforms, and argue for greater protections for victims.

Key issues that will be addressed:

- Update on the policy context: Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act, the extension of the Presumption Against Short Sentences, and further justice reforms contained in the upcoming Programme for Government
- A review of the best possible services to support rehabilitation and reduce (or prevent) reoffending
- Achieving greater collaboration in planning and delivery across statutory and non-statutory partners
- Resource challenges posed by up to 4,413 extra Community Payback Orders
- Safeguarding the rights of victims and protecting the public

To find out more and book your place at this event, click [here](#).

New Drug Deaths Taskforce established

The Scottish Government is to invest an extra £20million to support a new expert group to reduce drug harms.

The group, chaired by Professor Catriona Matheson of the University of Stirling, has 23 members with a broad range of expertise and experience in this field.

The Taskforce will examine the main causes of drug deaths, will promote action to improve health outcomes for people who use drugs, and will advise what changes, in practice or in the law, could help save lives.

Read more on this story [here](#).

SDF RoadShow Event: 8 October, Edinburgh



Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF) is delighted to invite you to the second round of events in their 2019 Roadshow series.

Roadshow events allow SDF members and other local stakeholders to find out about SDF's work and how you can engage with them in delivering better services and opportunities for people who have experienced substance use problems.

These events are **free** but booking is essential, therefore **early booking is advised**.

To book your place, click [here](#).

In other news...

news

SCSN Consultation Response: Falls Awareness and Prevention Strategy

We recently published our most recent consultation response to the Government's Falls Awareness and Prevention Strategy. You can read this consultation response and view all of our previous consultation responses [here](#).

Consultation on Independent Child Trafficking Guardians

This consultation is seeking views on the appointment, role and responsibilities of Independent Child Trafficking Guardians and other wider operational details. The consultation is open until 17 November. Submit your response [here](#).

Community Resilience Development Framework

The UK Government Cabinet Office has published guidance to help emergency planners ensure communities are central to emergency planning, response and recovery. The Community Resilience Development Framework (CRDF) is an update to the Community Resilience Framework for Practitioners (2016), reflecting the wider landscape of activities and capabilities being captured under the term Community Resilience (individual resilience, social action, voluntary capabilities).

Download [here](#).

Local Housing Strategy: Guidance 2019

The Scottish Government has published a new guidance document to help local authorities prepare Local Housing Strategies. Developing a Local Housing Strategy is a key corporate activity and provides local authorities with a strategic opportunity to consider the operation of the housing system in its area and to plan strategically for meeting current and future need and demand, and the effective delivery of housing-related services over the lifetime of the strategy.

You can download the Guidance document [here](#).

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SHARE YOUR NEWS!

If you would like to submit an article, request information or share good practice in our newsletter, please get in touch! Email info@scsn.org.uk

The closing date for the October newsletter is 16 October.





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