



SAFETY NET-WORKS

AUGUST 2023

**CELEBRATING COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS
EDITION**

www.safercommunitiesScotland.org

SCSN Lunchtime Launches: 'Wilful Fire Raising Prevention' and 'Restorative Justice & ASB'

Wilful Fire Raising Prevention
7 September, 12pm - 12.45pm

We are delighted to invite you to a short lunchtime learning session to hear from Superintendent Lorna Gibson from West Dunbartonshire's Community Safety Partnership on their prevention work around wilful fire raising.

Superintendent Gibson will discuss the events and issues leading up to the work, the approach they took, a look at the learning materials and the outcomes that were achieved. There will an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

Restorative Justice & ASB
19 September 12pm - 12.45pm

We are delighted to invite you to a short lunchtime learning session to hear from Sean Kilday from Midlothian's Community Justice and Safety Partnership and Caitlin Morrow from Thriving Survivors on their restorative justice work with young people to address anti-social behaviour.

Sean and Caitlin will discuss the events and issues leading up to the work, the approach they took, a look at the learning materials and the outcomes that were achieved. There will an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

We hope these short sessions will be of help and interest to other Community Safety and/or Justice practitioners in the country.

Email info@scsn.org.uk if you wish to attend either event.

Redesigning our economy to tackle the climate emergency

The SCSN is a proud member of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance.

On September 20th, the Alliance is hosting an event looking at how we redesign our economy to tackle the climate emergency.

The current design of our economy with its reliance on fossil fuels and relentless focus on GDP growth has been a key driver of the worsening climate emergency. To tackle the climate emergency and rapidly reduce our emissions we need to redesign our economic approach both in Scotland and beyond our borders.

Join the Cross Party Group on Wellbeing Economy as we discuss the need for a new economic approach that can deliver rapid reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in a way that is just and enhances our wellbeing. Everyone is welcome!

Find out more & book [here](#).

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SCSN Member Survey Results Published

As part of our Business Plan, we issue an annual survey to our members, partners and stakeholders to assess how well we are achieving our outcomes and if our support continues to be perceived as valuable.

The feedback from the annual survey is used to inform our efforts towards continuous improvement. We doubled our number of responses from last year's survey to 36, with responses coming from national organisations, local authorities, partnership groups & individual stakeholders spread across urban & rural Scotland.

You can view and download our Annual Member Survey results from the [SCSN website](#). Thank you to all who took the time to help us – help you!



SCSN signs NACWG Gender Equality Pledge

The SCSN has signed the National Advisory Council on Women & Girls (NACWG) Pledge on gender equality. We're committed to continuing to work, both organisationally and within the community safety sector to improving gender equality & reducing violence against women.

You can view our Pledge signature and sign the pledge yourself [here](#).

Question of the Month

Our Question of the Month for July was inspired by our last newsletter's 'Water Safety' theme.

Recent figures from England & Wales saw a sizeable increase in deaths in the water, including babies drowning in baths and calls for parents to be aware of how to keep their kids safe around water.

We asked:

“Are you confident your children know how to stay safe around water?”

- 20% said Yes
- 40% said No
- 40% said Not Sure

Question of the Month

Our Question of the Month for August relates to our theme of 'Celebrating Community Safety Partnerships'.

Many of our readers will be members of CSPs, but many will not be.

We want to know:

“Are you aware of the work of your local Community Safety Partnership?”

You can vote in our poll on the SCSN website [here](#).

Centre for Crime and Justice Studies: A Death Row of Sorts

The Centre for Crime and Justice Studies has recently published a new Briefing on indeterminate prison sentencing in the UK.

Across the UK, an individual can find themselves detained, with no clear sense of when they might be released, under a number of different powers, laws and regulations.

In the case of criminal justice detention, indeterminate detention takes three main forms.

An unconvicted individual can be remanded in prison while awaiting trial. Given the current backlog of cases in the criminal courts, an individual can be left languishing in prison awaiting trial for months, in some cases years.

Life imprisonment – mandatory in the case of a murder conviction – is the second form of indeterminate criminal justice detention. An

individual subject to a life sentence has to serve a minimum period in custody (the so-called 'tariff') before they can be considered for release. Ongoing detention at the end of the tariff period is common. On release, a life sentence prisoner is subject to lifelong supervision, with recall to prison at any point a real possibility.

Read more and download the full Briefing Paper [here](#).

The SCSN recently wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice Angela Constance MSP, and the Secretary of State for Justice Alex Chalk MP - to ask that they support an amendment to the Victims and Prisoners Bill currently proceeding through the UK Parliament to allow for the resentencing of those affected by Imprisonment for Public Protection Sentencing (IPP) in the UK. We also asked that the Scottish Government move to abolish the Order for Lifelong Restriction (OLR) sentence currently still available as a disposal in Scotland.

Drug Deaths: Scottish Drug Deaths drop to lowest in five years but remain worst in UK and Europe

1,051 people died due to drug use in 2022, according to [latest statistics](#) published by National Records of Scotland.

This is a decrease of 279 deaths compared with 2021, representing the lowest number of drug use deaths since 2017.

Despite this fall, drug use deaths are still more common than they were two decades ago. After adjusting for age, there were 3.7 times as many drug use deaths in 2022 compared with 2000.

Glasgow City and Dundee City had the highest rates of drug use deaths over the last 5 years while East Renfrewshire and Aberdeenshire had the lowest rates.

Opiates and opioids, including heroin, morphine and methadone, were implicated in more than 8 out of 10 drug related deaths in 2022.

The majority of drug use deaths were classified as accidental poisonings, with 7% classed as intentional self-poisonings.

The rate of drug poisoning deaths in Scotland was 2.7 times as high as the UK average in 2021, the most recent year that data is available for the UK as a whole.

Julie Ramsay, Head of Demographic Statistics at National Records of Scotland, said:

"The statistics provide some insight into the people who are most likely to die from drug use. Those living in the most deprived areas of Scotland are almost 16 times as likely to die from drug use compared to people living in the least deprived areas."

Read a Statement on the figures from the Scottish Drugs Forum [here](#).

Read a recent SCSN blog post backing the Scottish Government calls for a new approach to drugs [here](#).

Keeping Girls and Young Women Safe: Protecting and supporting the girls and young women at risk of exploitation, violence, gangs and harm



This report explores how girls and young women are becoming at risk of violence and harm, the impact of gangs, how they can be protected, and how they can be supported to succeed.

[The Commission on Young Lives](#) and the Manchester Metropolitan University's Manchester Centre for Youth Studies have recently published a joint report, [Keeping Girls and Young Women Safe: Protecting and supporting girls and young women at risk of exploitation, violence, gangs and harm](#).

The report estimates there are tens of thousands of girls in England who are vulnerable to serious violence and that many of these girls are likely to also be at risk of sexual or criminal exploitation. It says that behind closed doors there are many vulnerable girls and young women in England who are being groomed into holding weapons or drugs for boys, young men, or gangs, and who are victims of sexual assault, rape, and violent relationships. They are living with extreme risks, and their life chances are being diminished as a result.

The report warns that Covid has worsened many of these risks, yet the support systems to divert and protect girls and young women have not received the same level of attention as those for boys and young men at risk of county lines and serious violence. The number of girls and young women referred to services provided by Redthread, a charity which empowers children and young people to break free from cycles of violence and exploitation, in London, Birmingham, and Nottingham have doubled since Covid.

Event: Introduction to Intersectional Youth Work, 30 November 2023

This training will explore intersectionality and how it fits with your youth work practice. We will look at why intersectionality is important for us as youth workers and how we can include it in our work.

This session is suitable for newcomers to intersectionality and for those who have already started exploring how it can benefit their practice and the young people they work with.

If you have a team you would like to attend then please get in touch and ask about our tailored training which may be more suitable.

Find out more & book your place [here](#).

The impacts of the cost-of-living crisis on disabled people

Written in collaboration with [Glasgow Disability Alliance](#) (GDA), this report presents a rapid examination of the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis on the lives, health, and wellbeing of disabled people. It includes the direct experiences of disabled people living in Glasgow and a scoping review of emergent evidence from across the UK.

The report demonstrates the consequences of policies that do not protect the most vulnerable from the potential harms of the cost-of-living crisis, illustrating the damage to the lives, health, and wellbeing of disabled people. The evidence presented demonstrates that many disabled people simply cannot afford to live a healthy or fulfilling life, adversely impacting both mental and physical health and severely compromising condition management. Recommendations are made to mitigate these impacts and to address the historical health and social inequalities experienced by disabled people.

Read more [here](#).

What councils need to unlock place-based prevention

This article first appeared in the LGC Briefing

Government action is needed to ensure councils' ambitious and expansive vision for preventative work can be realised, writes Grace Pollard, head of public services policy at New Local.

Many in Westminster would agree that there needs to be a greater focus on prevention – Labour, for example has spoken of moving away from "[sticking plaster politics](#)", while the health & social care secretary recently set out "[a Conservative approach to targeted prevention](#)".

But much of the discussion remains in the abstract. The real work of making this shift to prevention a reality needs to happen locally, with central government concentrating on

how it can enable this work and help remove the barriers that get in the way.

Councils and their partners deeply understand what place-based prevention should look like – though struggle to achieve this vision in practice given budgetary constraints, demand pressures and barriers to partnership working.

Seen through the lens of a place, prevention is expansive and not limited to a narrow set of services or sectors. Across local areas there are a whole range of services and approaches – often strengths-based, relational or community-focused – working to address the root causes of problems, improve outcomes for people and potentially reduce the need for further support from statutory services. The problem is these ways of working often remain at the edge of the system rather than at the core.

Read the full article [here](#).

Building stronger social connections

More than 50 projects tackling social isolation and loneliness throughout Scotland have received a share of a new fund.

Activities delivered by the organisations include community choirs, walking football, Men's Sheds and volunteering opportunities.

Equalities Minister Emma Roddick visited Inverness Foodstuff, one of the successful projects, to see the impact of their work and hear how support through the Social Isolation and Loneliness Fund will benefit the local community.

Read more [here](#).

New Report: Poverty Proofing for Families in or on the Edges of Care

This report is based on research by OPFS with Child Poverty Action Group. It explores what happens to family finances when a child enters the care system in Scotland and how this affects family reunification. The report is based on interviews with practitioners and parents who have come into contact with the care system. It contains series of short-term and long-term recommendations to mitigate against the negative consequences for families when a child is taken into care.

Satwat Rehman, CEO of One Parent Families Scotland said:

"The overarching ambition of The Scottish Government in its commitment to keep the promise for care experienced children, young people and their families is to keep families together where it is safe to do so and to provide the support that is required to make this happen. Providing young people with the opportunity to return to a safe and economically stable family environment is therefore central to achieving this ambition."

Download the full report [here](#).

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS

This month, we're taking the opportunity to highlight the work of Community Safety Partnerships by looking at some of the work that has been done across the country. Many of these case studies are available on the [BSC Online Hub](#), as well as the SCSN website.

Water/Fire Safety at Backwater and Lintrathen Reservoirs

Due to an increase in water related incidents nationally and due to the potential for fire related incidents within the area both LALO Lewis Duncan (Water Safety) and LALO Gary Wood attended a meeting chaired by Scottish Water where it was recognised that it was important to establish an initiative that would focus on Water Safety and Fire Safety in relation to secondary fires, this would also link in

with the SFRS Thematic Action Plan (TAP) and support local communities in addressing their concerns.

All parties involved were aware of the increase in local communities and visitors using the water for open water swimming, paddle boarding and visitors staying within the local area via camping which had resulted in a number of fires being set resulting in damage to bins and grass areas.

Download this case study [here](#).

South Lanarkshire Unintentional Injuries Sub Group

The Unintentional Injury Sub-Group (UI Sub-Group) was launched in January 2017 and is ongoing. The purpose of the group is to provide Home Safety equipment and education, as information and advice are the most effective way to increasing safety practice and reducing unintentional injuries in and around the home.

Download this Case Study [here](#).

Drivewise Fife

Drivewise Fife is an ongoing initiative and 2018 was the first year of operation.

Drivewise Fife is a road safety initiative seeking to reduce road casualties. It is being led by Fife Council's Safer Communities and relies on a partnership approach, with all Emergency Services committed to it.

Download this Case Study [here](#).

Not for Play, Keep Them Away (Greater Glasgow & Clyde)

Not For Play, Keep Them away launched in NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board (NHSGGC) area in July 2013. NHSGGC Health Improvement, Public Health leads on the programme and works closely with RoSPA, The Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow, Health Visiting Teams, Health Improvement Teams in HSCP's and with families of young children.

Download this Case Study [here](#).

A place-based collaborative approach to **Fife's Local Development Plan gains** momentum with Key Agencies Group support

Architecture and Design Scotland shares insight into the Key Agencies Group ongoing pilot work, supporting Fife Council to prepare an evidence report for a new-style Local Development Plan.

In the summer of 2020, Fife Council approached the Key Agencies Group to provide input for their Local Development Plan (LDP) preparations. At that time there was a

focus on policy topics and technical aspects. Through the joint work a shift has been made towards a more collective approach to gathering and analysing evidence centred around Fife's places and communities.

The work has developed in support of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and implementation of new LDP regulations and guidance. It recognises the vital role that LDPs have to play in tackling complex challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and health inequalities alongside the need to take a place-based approach.

Read the article in full [here](#).

Emergency services collaboration shows 'ground-breaking' results in disadvantaged communities

A study led by the Scottish Centre for Policing and Public Health at Edinburgh Napier University has found a collaborative initiative between emergency services in a disadvantaged community had a potentially "ground-breaking" impact.

Researchers conducted an exploratory evaluation of a Strategic Delivery Partnership 'vanguard initiative', which saw Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service establish a 'team around the community' model of cross-service response.

The report published earlier this year found the initiative transformed traditional practice and

helped to address several problems faced by people who found it hard to engage with services.

Officers worked full-time in a community hub in the area's primary school and pro-actively established trusting relationships with people to identify problems, provide solutions and protect people in crisis.

The study made 17 recommendations, such as the need for more robust evidence on the vanguard initiative, resolving tension between 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' operational working and carefully selecting the officers involved, while retaining the ones who helped to build trusting relationships.

Read more [here](#).

Webinar: Policing domestic abuse in remote and rural communities

COVID-19 exacerbated challenges that already existed in the policing of domestic abuse in remote and rural northern Scotland. Victims' direct access to the police and third-sector organisations was impeded by social distancing, whilst the pandemic exacerbated extant issues relating to staffing, particularly in relation to female police officers. On the positive side, the flexibility that already characterised rural and remote policing continued, and police officers and third-sector organisations worked together to support victims.

[This event](#) launches a short film and report related to a SIPR-funded project run by Robert Gordon University investigating the impact of the pandemic and lock-down on the policing of domestic abuse in remote, island and rural communities in northern Scotland and relationships with domestic abuse third-sector organisations.



Police Scotland Digital Strategy

This new Digital Strategy sets the direction for future investment and prioritisation of new technology for policing in Scotland.

The five-year strategy outlines the existing and emerging technologies available to policing and highlights the benefits they would bring to Police Scotland's work in keeping communities safe.

It will be discussed at the next [Scottish Police Authority Board](#) meeting in Edinburgh on Thursday 24 August.

Deputy Chief Constable Designate Fiona Taylor QPM said: "This strategy outlines

requirements for further investment in digital technology to better enable our officers and staff to keep people safe in the 21st century.

"However, our ability to achieve our ambitions will depend on appropriate revenue and capital funding being made available to us.

"Police Scotland has an important role in modernising criminal justice to benefit the public we serve by introducing new technology, such as the establishment of a single national crime system, the greater use of video interviews, digital evidence sharing and virtual courts, and improved digital contact services for the public."

Read more [here](#).

Perspectives on Data Science in Policing - 15 September

The Police Foundation and the [Society of Evidence Based Policing](#) welcome you to this online event exploring perspectives on Data Science in Policing. The seminar will bring together experts from policing and academia to discuss the benefits data science can bring to policing through helping mapping crime locations, identifying individuals at risk of becoming victims or offenders and gaining a richer understanding of specific crime problems.

They will also examine the risks and barriers to adoption, such as lack of capability and concerns around ethics, and explore how they can be overcome. The Police Foundation hope to uncover best practice in the use of data science in policing and policing nationally and internationally and explore what can be done to ensure this is shared more widely. They will also seek to discuss emerging trends and what needs to change so the police can respond more effectively to them.

Find out more and book your place [here](#).

Domestic Homicide Review Model

As part of the work to develop a multi-agency Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) model for Scotland, the Scottish Government are undertaking engagement with professionals and those with lived experience to further inform the development of the DHR model.

Click [here](#) to view a short brief with information on what participants can expect if they wish to take part in this engagement work.

The Scottish Government want to ensure that those wishing to participate do so in a way that works for them. If you would like to participate in the engagement, please complete the following short form to help them understand what would work best for you or your associated organisation so that they can consider how they can best meet

participants preferences: [DHR Model - Engagement Preferences Form](#). The form comprises of 10 questions and should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

On receipt of this information, the Domestic Homicide Review Policy Team will follow up with you to discuss and firm up any engagement session arrangements. In the meantime, please feel free to share the engagement briefing and any of the information provided with others that you think might be interested in this work.

If you would like to discuss this work further or have any issues or questions, please contact the policy team at DHRmodel@gov.scot. For more information on the Domestic Homicide Review Taskforce, please visit: [Domestic Homicide Review Taskforce - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Event: How small steps fuel bold change - Community Justice Scotland

Drawing on the knowledge of expert keynote speakers: [Professor Jason Leitch](#), [Dr Aubrey Fox](#), [Karyn McCluskey](#) and [James Docherty](#) 'How small steps fuel bold change' will inspire you to think about how to implement change.

We pose the question: do we need big, bold and radical change? Or, incremental change across time. What works? And, why failing spectacularly isn't always a bad thing. It is a serious and honest debate about the need for

change – with practical takeaways on how you can approach problem-solving in your own work, or personal life. Over the course of the morning, our speakers will share examples of their work in justice, prevention and public health – from Scotland and around the world - and show how ideas, whether bold or gradual, can gain traction. At a time where Scotland has one of the highest imprisonment rates in Western Europe, **28.8% of Scotland's prison population are on remand*** and more than £442 million is spent every year on Scottish prisons, this debate couldn't be more timely.

Find out more and book your place [here](#).

Why is it important to noise proof your home?

Guest Blog by Leo Clarke

Excessive and nuisance noise can have a significant impact on your living environment and your wellbeing. Noise-proofing can help to reduce the severity of nearby traffic noise, noisy neighbours, construction work, or night-time city noise. It's becoming more important than ever before to protect yourself against excess noise. Here are three reasons why you should prioritise noise-proofing your home.

1. Excessive noise exposure is detrimental to health

According to the World Health Organisation,

over a 24-hour period we should not be exposed to more than 53 decibels. Unfortunately, [48% of adults in Europe are regularly exposed to noise](#) that exceeds these limits. Loud noise exposure runs the risk of causing physical damage to the ears which can lead to permanent hearing loss. Persistent excess noise or nuisance noise can contribute to mental health problems like stress, anxiety, and depression. By noise-proofing your home, you can help to protect your physical health and emotional wellbeing from the negative impact of nuisance noise.

Read this blog in full on the SCSN website [here](#).

Action on Sectarianism CPD Training Pack

The Tackling Sectarianism CPD Training for youth workers is back for another year!

This training will take you through the resources available for talking about sectarianism, prejudice and hate. The training will explore the various resources available to youth workers to use in their practice. Participants will have a brief introduction to the topic of sectarianism and will also be able to have a go at some of the interactive activities available. Finally, there will also be information available on where participants can do some self-directed learning at a later stage.

There are two remaining dates available between November 2023 and February 2024:

[10am to 12pm on 16th November](#)
[1pm to 3pm on 7th February](#)





Publication of an extensive study of the rise of **'influence policing'** as a novel digital mode of policing enhanced by algorithmic technologies

The Scottish Institute for Policing Research are thrilled to announce the publication of a new extensive study of the rise of 'Influence Policing' funded by the SIPR [Future of Policing](#) grants. Policing must continue to evolve. Ongoing political, economic, and societal changes require the police service to adapt and respond to future challenges and maximise the benefits of future opportunities. Policing policies and practices will need to embrace innovation, and work collaboratively and sustainably.

Researchers at four UK based universities (University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University, University of Strathclyde, and University of Cambridge) studied the Police Scotland strategic communications team, which is leading the use of targeted digital communications for crime prevention, and conducted a separate study of the use of these 'influence' approaches across the UK using a new dataset from the Meta Ad Library. The report makes a number of analytical contributions and recommendations including calling for regulation and greater transparency, including an open register of digital campaigns by public sector bodies with details of targeting approaches.

Read more and download the report [here](#).

Re-Envisioning Public Safety Through an Embedded Police Social Worker (PSW) Model: A Promising Approach for Multidisciplinary Resource Delivery and Diversion

Cities across the political spectrum in the United States are shifting toward co-responder models that involve social workers with police departments in some capacity, but research is lagging about the proper role of police social workers (PSWs).

This case study explores how the micro and macro roles of the embedded PSW model can improve resource delivery and divert people in crisis away from the criminal justice system. Few research studies to date have explored the role and potential effectiveness of creating such a position within police departments. An analysis of 7 months of data found that the PSW was much more efficient than officers in making referrals for high-needs clients.

Read more [here](#).

The New Zealand drug harms ranking study: A multi-criteria decision analysis

The harms arising from psychoactive drug use are complex, and harm reduction strategies should be informed by a detailed understanding of the extent and nature of that harm. [This study](#) aimed to evaluate and rank drug harms within Aotearoa New Zealand using a multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) framework, and to separately consider harm within the total population, and among youth.

When considering overall harm, the MCDA modelling results indicated that alcohol, methamphetamine and synthetic cannabinoids were the most harmful to both the overall population and the youth, followed by tobacco in the total population.

Alcohol remained the most harmful drug for the total population when separately considering harm to those who use it, and harm to others.



Join Public Health Scotland in building a climate-resilient Scotland

Public Health Scotland (PHS) in collaboration with Adaptation Scotland and the Improvement Service has published an [introductory briefing](#) on working together to build climate-resilient, healthy and equitable places.

This resource for local government and other partners, such as Health Boards, Community Planning Partnerships, and local organisations, sets out how our changing climate can affect health and health inequalities both directly, and indirectly through impacts on housing, transport, and access to goods and services, which are the building blocks of good health. People who are socially and economically disadvantaged often experience significantly poorer health and are more vulnerable to climate impacts. These inequalities are underpinned by poverty, lack of power and the unequal distribution of resources and assets in the community.

The briefing discusses what can be done to adapt to these impacts and how to take a preventative approach to building climate resilience at a local level in a way that also benefits health.

Welcome to the Great Unravelling: Navigating the Polycrisis of Environmental and Social Breakdown

In recent years, policy think tanks have increasingly adopted the term *polycrisis* to signify humanity's destabilized status quo.

'*Welcome to the Great Unravelling: Navigating the Polycrisis of Environmental and Social Breakdown*' seeks to build a coherent narrative about the roots of the polycrisis, the signs of its arrival and evolution, and why we should be thinking differently about the future.

Read more & download a free copy of 'Welcome to The Great Unravelling' [here](#).

Nature Restoration Fund open for expressions of interest

The Nature Restoration Fund streams, Helping Nature, for grants of £25,000 to £250,000 and Transforming Nature, for grants of £250,000 upwards, including development phase funding, are both now open for Expressions of Interest.

Read their [Information for Applicants](#) and their [Priorities for Action](#) guidance documents and all other documents in the Resources section of the [How to Apply](#) page.

Vulnerability and strength: islands on the front lines of the climate crisis: LGiU Blog

The first three weeks of July 2023 were the hottest ever recorded with heatwaves and extreme weather events experienced across the world. [Hundreds of people have died](#) in flash flooding across Asia and huge wildfires engulfed the forests of North America causing communities across the continent to be [blanketed in a haze of smoke](#).

Read more [here](#).



Latest news from the Home Safety Scotland Forum

We're always on the lookout for new members to join our forum! If you work in or are interested in home safety, and would like to join or attend our forum, please contact Kevin Chase at hss@scsn.org.uk.

The next meeting of the Home Safety Scotland Forum takes place on Monday 4th September at 2pm.

You can follow Home Safety Scotland on Twitter at [@HomeSafetyScot](https://twitter.com/HomeSafetyScot)

Hip Fracture Audit figures 'real cause for concern'

Public Health Scotland has just published its latest [Hip Fracture Audit Figures](#) for Scotland.

Among the main findings were:

- Incidence continued to increase: An additional 584 patients sustained a hip fracture in 2022 (8,380 cases), compared to 2021 (7,796 cases).
- Patients spent longer in the emergency department (ED) in 2022. Six out of every 10 were admitted to hospital within 4 hours of arrival, down from 8 in 10 in 2021.
- The proportion of patients who were admitted to hospital within the 4-hour target fell significantly to 34.9% in 2022 from 61.2% in 2021.
- The downward trend in completion of inpatient assessments continued and fell to 49.3% in 2022 from 56.5% in 2021.
- Commencement of a comprehensive geriatric assessment (CGA) within 3 days of admission fell to 84.9% in 2022 from 88% in 2021.
- Acute and total length of hospital stay rose by one day in 2022 compared to the previous year. The acute stay was 11 days and total length of stay was 18 days.

Responding to the figures, Age Scotland's Interim CEO said:

"It is shocking that barely a third of people who suffer a hip fracture were seen within 4 hours of admission to hospital. The previous year the Audit showed that nearly two thirds were seen within that timeframe. More than half of

patients are waiting far longer than they should without an assessment. The situation for people with hip fractures is deteriorating across nearly all of the indicators and patients are spending longer than ever in hospital."

Read the full Age Scotland response [here](#).

Become an Older People's Champion in your Local Authority

The SCSN recently signed the Age Scotland petition for Older People's Champions.

Age Scotland believes that every one of Scotland's 32 local authorities should appoint a Councillor as an Older People's Champion. They are working with the Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA) on a joint campaign to make this happen.

With a growing older population, Age Scotland think it is vital that local decision-making in Scotland meets the needs of older people and that councils have a role focusing on older people.

Since our campaign began, more than half of councils now have an Older People's Champion in post or are in the process of appointing one - but there's much more to do and we need your help to get there.

We want to convince councils who do not yet have a Champion to establish the position - [find out how you can help us to do this here](#).

Read more [here](#).

Smarter regulation: UK product safety review

Since issuing a Call for Evidence in 2021, the UK Government has developed proposals for consultation, setting out the next steps in **delivering on the Government's ambitions**. In summary, they want to develop a product safety regime that:

1) Ensures business obligations are proportionate to the hazard presented by their products, exploring how to reduce compliance costs for lower risk products and make the conformity assessment process easier where possible. -

2) Shifts the balance between regulations and industry-led standards to enable a more agile and responsive regulatory framework, allowing business greater scope to innovate when producing safe products. -

3) Uses digital solutions, such as voluntary electronic labelling, to reduce business costs

and explore how digital options can be utilised to reduce burdens. -

4) Addresses concerns regarding the ease with which unsafe products can be sold online, creating a fairer playing field so that shopping online is as safe as on the high street. -

5) Enhances the leadership and coordination role of the Office for Product Safety and Standards alongside addressing identified enforcement gaps.

The Government want to ensure the new product safety framework works well both for consumers and business, and so we are seeking views from all stakeholders to help develop and design the detail of our new framework.

This consultation will be open from the 2 August 2023 to the 24 October 2023.

You can submit your views to the Consultation [here](#).

Smarter Regulation: Fire safety of domestic upholstered furniture

The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988 were introduced to protect consumers from injury and death resulting from highly flammable upholstered furniture.

Important changes are required to take account of modern day hazards and risks. This consultation seeks views from a wide range of stakeholders on the proposed new approach to the fire safety of domestic upholstered furniture.

Find out more and submit a response to this consultation [here](#).

Report: Battery Breakdown

There is growing concern over the rise in fatalities, injuries and devastating fires from electric bikes (e-bikes) and electric scooters (e-scooters).

Tragically, in the first three months of 2023 alone, fires from lithium-ion batteries used to power these devices had already taken four lives in the UK, left others hospitalised or seriously injured and caused extensive damage to property.

Read this Electrical Safety First article in full [here](#).

Download the report [here](#).



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