



SAFETY NET-WORKS

DECEMBER 2022



CHRISTMAS EDITION

www.safercommunitiesscotland.org

Community Safety does Christmas Movies!

For each of the past few years at Christmas, we've taken a light hearted festive look at community safety issues. In 2020 we had our 12 Days of Community Safety. Last year we did our Community Safety Christmas Chart List. This year, we asked our staff team to pick two of their favourite Christmas movies & provide a community safety slant to them!



We hope you enjoy reading our list, check out the movies if you haven't seen them and find some really useful community safety info as well!

And Merry Christmas to all of our members, partners, stakeholders and friends!

The Shop Around The Corner (Kev Chase, NDO)

Based on department store workers who unknowingly become pen pals and despite disagreeing in work, fall in love through writing their letters.

The department store is based in Budapest where you can see products prior to purchasing and also how safe the product is. We all know how tight budgets are going to be this festive season however please don't sacrifice safety for budget in your home.

Make sure you buy goods, especially electrical goods, from reputable dealers!

Continued on pages 6 & 7

**Ready
Scotland
Advice on
Cold, Ice &
Snow**



Snow and ice can disrupt our lives in many different ways.

It can cause frozen or burst pipes, transport disruption and even risk of hypothermia. Then when the snow thaws, a risk of flooding can follow.

Because winter can be a particularly difficult time for elderly or vulnerable people, Ready Scotland have prepared advice to make sure you, and those around you, have the help and support you need.

Check out their website for comprehensive advice on things you can do to prepare in advance of very cold weather, what you can do to stay safe and well when it hits, and advice about how to cope with very icy conditions.

Visit the Ready Scotland website [here](#).

SCSN Updates & Question of the Month - Page 2

Water Safety Scotland issues Ice Safety Advice - Page 3

Police Scotland launches new Domestic Abuse Campaign - Page 5

Climate Crisis Corner - Page 9

Home Safety Scotland News & Updates - Pages 10-11





We can't afford to cut back community safety again - here's why.

Dawn Exley, National Development Officer

When I started with the Scottish Community Safety Network five years ago, and was new to the community safety sector, I learned about a rich history of tireless work to keep communities safe. I learned about a sector that was one of the first to develop effective multi-agency approaches and partnership work and had a deep commitment to prevention.

And while harking back to the 'good ole days' can rightfully set eyes rolling, there are times when it has its place and times when it is crucial to take stock and revisit original ambitions before they disappear. Now is that time. When we are on the precipice of another recession, can we take a moment to reflect on the lessons learnt over the last 14 years of austerity and try to avoid some of the same mistakes?

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

Question of the Month

Our Question of the Month for November to December was based around the #16DaysofActivism on Violence Against Women & Girls.

In our last newsletter, we covered a new online resource from the charity Refuge which helps people to identify and offers support around 'Tech Abuse'.

We asked:

"Would you know how to spot that yourself or someone you knew was a victim of tech abuse?"

- 0% said Yes
- 67% said No
- 33% said Not Sure

New SCSN Consultation Response: Restricting alcohol advertising & promotion

The Scottish Government are currently consulting on proposals to restrict alcohol advertising and promotion.

We have submitted a response supporting a total ban on all alcohol advertising & promotion, citing research & established facts around the highly negative impact of alcohol on numerous areas of community safety.

You can read our response in full [here](#).

Take part in the Consultation yourself [here](#).

Question of the Month

December 2022

Our Question of the Month for December relates to winter preparedness, health & the cost of living crisis.

December has seen arctic temperatures hit Scotland against the back drop of a fuel costs crisis.

We're asking:

"Have you, or has someone you know, struggled to stay warm at home this winter?"

Take part in our poll [here](#).

Water Safety Scotland issues Ice Safety Advice

As temperatures in Scotland head in a downward trajectory, Water

Safety Scotland (WSS) is issuing a warning about the dangers that frozen-over water bodies present. WSS aims to prevent needless deaths and accidents, and also to alert the public that the majority of the ice-related incidents involve children or dog walkers.

Jen Foley from Water Safety Scotland, said: "We encourage people to get out and about to enjoy frosty walks in the crisp cold air, but ice-related drownings are entirely and easily preventable. Frozen water can look tempting, but there is just no way of knowing whether it will hold your weight or how deep the water is beneath. We are urging people to keep themselves and their children off of frozen water, as well as keeping their dogs on leads. If dog-walkers don't wish to keep their dogs on leads, then we advise keeping ball- or stick-throwing to areas away from frozen water. Tragically, many past incidents have involved attempted rescues of another person or dog in trouble on or in frozen water."

If you do encounter someone who has fallen through ice:

- Call the emergency services by dialling 999
- The emergency services will need to know where you are. Accurate information can



save precious minutes. If you have a smart phone and have location services or map tool enabled, this can help. If not look around for any landmarks or signs – for example bridges will often have numbers on them which can identify their location

- Do not attempt to go out on to the ice yourself
- Tell the person to stay still to maintain heat and energy
- Try finding something which will extend your reach, such as a rope, pole or branch
- Throw the object out and, once ensuring you are stable on the bank either by lying down or having someone hold on to you, pull them in
- If you cannot find something to reach with, try finding an object that will float and push that out to them
- Ensure that you keep off the ice at all times during the rescue, continue to reassure the casualty and keep them talking until help arrives
- Once the person has been rescued, keep them warm and take them to hospital even if they appear to be unaffected

As well as frozen-over water, WSS also want to urge the public to be aware of icy conditions which can make surfaces slippery and unstable, meaning the likelihood of slips, trips and falls is increased. Take extra caution when visiting coastlines and walking near cliff edges as icy conditions will make surfaces slippery.

For more information, please visit www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk

Parliamentary Debate: Tackling Health Inequalities in Scotland

Following the publication of the Health, Social Care & Sport Committee's [report on health inequalities](#) and the [Scottish Government's response](#), a debate was held in the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 14 December.

The SCSN was delighted to officially endorse a briefing authored by Voluntary Health Scotland highlighting the recent work of the Health Inequalities Cross Party Group (of which SCSN are members) and how this links into the findings of the Health, Social Care & Sport Committee inquiry into health inequalities.

You can read the full briefing prepared for members [here](#).



Recorded crime below pre-pandemic levels

Crime recorded by police remains lower than before the pandemic, according to new statistics released today – reflecting the long term trend of fewer victims and people feeling safer in communities.

The latest National Statistics: Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin shows recorded crime is 4% down since the year ending September 2018, falling 42% in total since 2006-07.

Overall, recorded crime is at one of the lowest levels seen for a 12-month period since 1974.

The overall reduction in recorded crime is reflected in the Scottish Crime & Justice Survey for 2019-20, which shows that people living in Scotland are less likely to be victims of crime than in England and Wales.

Justice Secretary Keith Brown said:

"The latest figures today show Scotland continues to be a safe place to live. Recorded crime is at one of the lowest levels seen since 1974, and below pre-pandemic levels, meaning the vast majority of people do not experience crime."

"While there are fewer victims compared to 2007, we continue to strengthen support for those who experience crime and to promote work to reduce reoffending. This includes proposals to introduce an independent Victims' Commissioner, making sure victims' voices are heard and placing women and children at the heart of delivery."

"Continuing to reduce crime and the harm it causes both individuals and our society as a whole is central to our ambitious vision to reform our justice system."

Read the full statistical publication [here](#).

Ground-breaking research seeks to 'Rehabilitate Scotland' through mentoring prison leavers

A ground-breaking mentoring system for prison leavers has shown dramatic improvements in re-offending and substance abuse rates, according to a powerful new report.

Rehabilitating Scotland: Exploring the impact of mentoring-based throughcare found that 70% of prison leavers reduced or ended substance abuse. It also found that mentoring has the most success among prison leavers in encouraging non-criminal activity, with a 97% success rate in engagement with interventions. Voluntary mentoring is not generally available to long term prison leavers or those on remand.

This is based around the work of New Routes, Scotland's national voluntary mentoring programme, which this year supported over 1500 short-term male prison leavers. The public social partnership which operates New Routes is led by the Wise Group and is being explored by Scottish thinktank Fraser of Allander Institute.

Reflecting on the significance of the report,

Wise Group CEO Sean Duffy said "This research could not have come at a more vital moment.

At a cost of £38,000 a year to lock someone in a prison cell, individuals, families and communities are undoubtedly better served by a Throughcare service which compassionately turns lives around for less than 3% of that cost.

92% of eligible prison leavers across all of Scotland's prison estate engage with New Routes mentors, and this research reaffirms our firmly held belief that mentoring works. Just 10.5% of those who engage with the New Routes Throughcare programme return to custody within a year. It is time to provide this same service to long term prisoners and those on remand."

Employment and finance were identified as the biggest barriers to prison leavers on New Routes. AJ, a New Routes participant, is currently part of a one-of-its-kind programme, Forming Futures, which gives individuals the opportunity to complete a ten-week business skills course followed by an applied learning placement.

Download the research [here](#).

Prisons are an overflowing, squalid, absurd waste of money. So why do the public want more of them? - Polly Toynbee, Guardian, 2/12/22 (SCSN Comment)

We'd normally feature an [article like this](#) in our monthly Media Monitor, but we felt this one was so good it was worth sharing in our newsletter with some editorial comment.

We could not agree more with the sentiments expressed by Polly Toynbee in this article.

We've [previously written about](#) how more prisons & punishment does not make our communities safer.

In 2021 we [interviewed Professor Fergus McNeill](#) of the Scottish Crime & Justice Research Centre for a wide ranging discussion on criminal justice and the failed punishment oriented system we still employ - despite all evidence to the contrary of what works to reduce crime & keep people safe.

We loved this article because it's so challenging of the tired old approaches to justice. It pulls no punches with not only politicians clichéd responses to crime & justice - but also with unhelpful public attitudes to

crime & punishment, as demonstrated in the selected quotations below:

"...the public's appetite for locking people up seems insatiable. Nothing is ever enough. The more politicians implement tougher sentences, the greater the public taste for even stiffer penalties. Fact-free, tabloid-stoked impulses for vengeance merge with politicians' desire to out-tough each other on crime."

"Ignorance is the blight of democracy, inexcusable when simple information on everything is only a click away on any smartphone. But far more unforgivable are the politicians who keep stoking that "tougher and tougher" appetite instead of explaining the facts."

We'd invite you to read this article and if you haven't previously, to check out our previous linked blog and Podcast on these topics. Reflect on our approaches to crime and punishment in this country. Reflect on your own personal feelings about crime & punishment.

Hopefully, as more of us do this, we can truly move towards an effective, preventative, compassionate approach to crime & justice.

Police Scotland launch new domestic abuse campaign



I don't want you seeing those friends anymore. They're a bad influence.

A new campaign, launched today, calls on men to reflect, take action and stop domestic abuse before it starts.

'Is That Me?' Police Scotland's latest domestic abuse campaign targets young men, aged 18 – 25 years, and highlights behaviours that in new relationships are abusive and might be indicative of future, escalating abuse.

Launching the new campaign Assistant Chief Constable, Bex Smith, Police Scotland said: "Stopping your new partner seeing friends,

checking their phone, demeaning them, is neither caring nor romantic. These are controlling, abusive behaviours.

"In the campaign, we are asking men to reflect on how they behave. If they see themselves and their behaviour in this campaign, then they need to take a hard look at themselves and get help.

"Domestic abuse comes in many forms, and it's not always obvious at the start of a relationship but there can be early signs of attempts to control and coerce. And we know from victims that it is these psychological, controlling and coercive behaviours that often have the most lasting impact.

"With this new campaign, launched just ahead of the festive period when we see an increase in reports of domestic abuse, we want men to take action and get help. Don't be an abuser: don't turn a promising relationship into an abusive one."

Visit the campaign website [here](#).

Community Safety Does Christmas Movies!

Continued from Front Page



Elf on the Shelf (Kev Chase, NDO)

One of the first Christmas films we sat down as a family on Christmas Eve to watch. This movie and book has led to many elves being hidden then displayed in all kinds of places over the Festive season. With excited children trying to find their elves around the home. It is also important at Christmas to remember the safety of babies, toddlers and small children. Ingesting magnets and button batteries can have devastating effects on families as the statistics tragically report. Please be careful this Christmas especially with the younger and excitable members of your family."

Find out more about Button Battery Safety with this [handy flyer](#) from RoSPA.

'It's a Wonderful Life' (David Barbour, Comms)

One of the all time great Christmas movies. Every year at Christmas people all over the world make time to sit and watch this heart warming story about a man who feels his life has passed him by and that he's been a failure. Eventually, he decides he'd be worth more to his family dead than alive – and is ready to take his own life. He wishes he'd never been born.

This gives his Guardian Angel Clarence an idea. He seemingly grants his wish – George Bailey has now never been born. Clarence proceeds to show him just how much of an incredible difference he has made to the lives of others throughout his life – even through simple little words or actions that made others feel better, sometimes even saved their lives.

A lot of us might sometimes feel that our lives haven't gone as we'd liked. Maybe even we feel like failures occasionally. When we feel down, this negative self-talk can become a negative feedback loop. All of our lives have value. All of us will have done something at some time in our lives that helped someone else. If we hadn't been here, someone, somewhere, somehow – would have been the poorer for it – no matter how much we might sometimes feel otherwise.

If you're struggling with thoughts of suicide at Christmas, please reach out for support.

Contact the Samaritans on 116 123.

'A Christmas Carol' (David Barbour, Comms)

OK, so this is obviously more famously a book. But it has been made into a movie countless times. My personal favourite version (and as far as I'm concerned objectively best ever!) is Muppet Christmas Carol.

We all know the story (or we bloody well should by now). Scrooge is a miserly old boss who hates Christmas. 'Humbug!' he cries dismissively. A grim, cold hearted old man who values money and business above the things that make life worth living – love, family and friendship. And don't his employees know it!

His erstwhile clerk Bob Cratchit more or less has to plead for the day off on Christmas Day. "A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty-fifth of December!" – snorts Scrooge, before grudgingly granting the request – but demanding his staff be in work all the earlier the next morning!

Thankfully, we have a very different work culture at SCSN. We are highly flexible with our work hours – and we recently permanently adopted a four day working week. Our work is important, but we very much feel people should work to live, not live to work. Our staff are more productive, happier and healthier for having more time to pursue the things in life important to them, including time with friends and family.

Scrooge himself eventually comes round to this idea of course. But thankfully it didn't require being haunted by three spirits for us to see the light.

Find out more about our four day week [here](#).

Die Hard! (Dave Shea, Senior NDO)

Definitely a Christmas movie. A thoughtful film that touches on themes of terrorism, explosives, gun control, emergency call handling, buildings and contents insurance, casual recreational drug use, and the legitimacy of cross-border police jurisdiction. HO-HO-HO!

But what John McClane also highlights are the dangers that exist in the home and others places. Everyone - even veteran everyman cops like John - are vulnerable to slips, trips and falls. Broken glass, open or insecure windows, faulty equipment, and much more. All things that can - and does - cause serious injury across Scotland, every day, every year. So why not download our [interactive Home Safety Map](#), and see if you can find the hazards in your home, and avoid bumps, bruises or worse!

Bad Santa (Dave Shea, Senior NDO)

A sexually incontinent, alcoholic fraudster who impersonates Santa Claus doesn't sound particularly cheery. But this dark comedy pushes the protagonist, grudgingly into a touching arc of redemption. It also reminds us of the real world dangers of doorstep scammers, charlatans and imitators; folk who prey on the vulnerable and deceive to steal or take advantage of others. Make sure you – and especially the more susceptible in your community – know what to look out for and what to do, now the days are shorter. Helpfully, our colleagues at Police Scotland have created [guidance on doorstep crime](#) and bogus callers. Perfect for reading and sharing!

The Snowman (Dawn Exley, NDO)

A beautiful short film with a haunting soundtrack. More famous in Scotland thanks to an advert for our other national drink!

Make sure and prepare for unexpected weather events ([Check out the Ready Scotland website](#) for useful help and advice).

Amongst many others - things to consider are hats, scarves and keeping an eye on your Irn Bru!

Love Actually (Dawn Exley, NDO)

A romantic Christmas classic.

Sadly, with the cost of living crisis raging on, it won't just be Andrew Lincoln on the street holding up a sign this Christmas. Consider making a donation to appeals for the those without a home or shelter this festive season, for example [Social Bite](#) or [Crisis](#).

Gremlins (Lorraine Gillies, CEO)

A little off beat, but definitely a Christmas movie!

Sometimes gifts bought with love can cause a lot of suffering!

Don't get wet and don't feed after midnight! and, beware of buying pets from unlicensed/unreputable sources. You never know what you will get!

It was recently [reported in the press](#) that illegal puppy farming in Scotland is now worth millions each year to organised crime. So if you're buying a puppy, please check that it's from a properly licensed breeder and cut off this source of funding to serious criminals!

The Polar Express (Lorraine Gillies, CEO)

A heartwarming movie sees a group of children taken on the train ride of their lives to Santa's Grotto!

Between cold weather and ongoing strike action, our train journey's may not be quite so pleasant this year! Make sure to plan your journey in advance and wrap up warm.

You can make sure you stay safe on the railways this year by downloading the British Transport Police's [Railway Guardian App](#).

Deck the Halls (Sandra Black, BSO)

Deck the Halls is a film about the rivalry between two neighbours: Steve & Buddy. Buddy's daughters are working on a computer and show him a website which shows the satellite images of the earth showing how areas are lit up at night. He decides that he wants his house to be seen by satellite and undertakes a mission to ensure that this happens. Buddy feels that his life has been a failure, lending greater importance to this dream!

He begins to set up lights and decorations outside, but has to run an extension cable to his neighbour Steve's house and to steal his electricity illegally. Then he buys up as many lights as he can, as well as a sleigh.

Continue reading on our website [here](#).

Social Attitudes Survey: Improved Public Attitudes Towards People with Problem Drug Use

The latest iteration of the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey has shown [improved public attitudes](#) toward people with problem drug use.

Among the encouraging new findings were changing attitudes around responsibility for problem drug use (Individual versus Societal):

- Individual responsibility for problem drug use was explored with 19% of people agreeing that individuals 'have only themselves to blame' for problem drug use.
- Societal responsibility was explored with the vast majority agreeing that 'it's in all our interests' to help people with problem drug use (91%).

Attitudes around the stigma associated with problem drug use have also changed for the better:

- Public perception of the impact of societal factors on problem drug use were explored. Half of people thought that individuals who use heroin come from difficult backgrounds (50%), which has risen from 29% in 2009. Similarly, just over a quarter disagreed with this (27%) compared with 53% in 2009, indicating a marked shift in attitudes towards factors that may

contribute to problem drug use over the past 12/13 years. Views differed by age, with younger adults (aged 16-34) more likely to agree (72%) compared with those aged 65 and over (35%).

- Stigma specifically towards individuals with problem drug use was explored by asking how deserving of help, if at all, someone is in different scenarios. **The vast majority of people felt that individuals who are homeless due to problem drug use or due to a family break up are 'deserving' of help (87% and 98%, respectively).** However, a smaller proportion of people (44%) thought those homeless due to problem drug use were 'very' deserving of help (as opposed to 'fairly deserving' or 'not deserving') compared with those who had become homeless due to a family break up (70%).

Naloxone arrives in more Police Scotland divisions

Police Scotland's national rollout of the opioid reversal treatment, Naloxone, is reaching officers the length and breadth of the country.

Around 3,000 kits have been issued throughout Edinburgh, Highland and Islands, Dundee and Forth Valley divisions in recent weeks, where operational officers are now being trained and equipped.

Read more [here](#).

Record alcohol deaths from pandemic drinking

A record number of people died from alcohol last year, which is likely to be the result of increased drinking during the pandemic, according to the Office for National Statistics.

There were 9,641 deaths in the UK in 2021, compared to 7,565 in 2019 - a 27% increase. The ONS says people who were already big drinkers before the pandemic drank more during the Covid years.

Charity Drinkaware said the numbers were "devastating" and "unacceptable". [The 2021 figures are alcohol-specific deaths](#), which are defined as a direct consequence of alcohol. Most are from alcoholic liver disease.

Minimum Unit Pricing reducing alcohol consumption

Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) "is achieving one of its key aims" according to Ministers after a new report concluded that it has been effective in cutting alcohol consumption.

Looking at the first three years since introduction, new research by Public Health Scotland and Glasgow University has concluded that the policy is reducing overall sales.

Read the full report [here](#).

Climate Crisis Corner



Scotland's climate targets are in danger of becoming meaningless

The Scottish Government lacks a clear delivery plan and has not offered a coherent explanation for how its policies will achieve Scotland's bold emissions reduction targets – the conclusion of the latest assessment of Scotland's progress by the Climate Change Committee.

In recent years, the Scottish Parliament has committed to extraordinary ambition to decarbonise its economy, with a welcome focus on a fair and just transition. That ambition should be applauded, but only if targets are achieved. The integrity of the Scottish climate framework is now at risk.

The Climate Change Committee has conducted a methodological review of the

Wellbeing economy toolkit: supporting place based economic strategy and policy development

This practical guide sets out a stage-by-stage diagnostic process designed to aid decision making and prioritisation of economic interventions to facilitate the transition to local and regional wellbeing economies.

The Scottish Government's economic vision for Scotland is to transition to a wellbeing economy, delivering prosperity, wellbeing and resilience for all Scotland's people and places, within safe environmental limits.

This transition requires involvement and action from all spheres – public, private and third sectors and local communities. As such, this guide is applicable to a wide range of policy areas across government, agencies and other public bodies, and third sector and community organisations.

Scottish Climate Targets and assessed progress in cutting Scottish greenhouse gas emissions.

Between 2019 and 2020 emissions fell by 12% – half of 1990 levels for the first time. But the fall in 2020 is only a temporary effect, largely due to travel restrictions in the pandemic. Evidence from across the UK is that Scottish emissions will rebound in 2021. Underlying progress in reducing emissions in Scotland has largely stalled in recent years. Since the Scottish Climate Change Act became law in 2009, the Scottish Government has failed to achieve 7 of the 11 legal targets.

Scotland's lead in decarbonising over the rest of the UK has now been lost. Progress is now broadly the same as the UK as a whole.

Read more [here](#).

Sign up to the SEPA Floodline



Floodline provides live flooding information and advice on how to prepare for or cope with the impacts of flooding 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Sign up and get notified when the area you live, work or travel through is at risk of flooding.

You can sign up to Floodline [here](#).

For advice, videos and materials on how to prepare for flooding visit our [Floodline website](#).



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 kevin.chase@scsn.org.uk.

You can follow Home Safety Scotland on Twitter at [@HomeSafetyScot](#)

New Briefing Paper: Evidence on Home Adaptations - when is a home not a home?

Our hosts, the SCSN, have just published their latest briefing paper.

This Briefing provides overview of the recently published Evidence Review of Home Adaptations in the UK and other OECD Countries. The research was completed on behalf of the UK Collaborative for Housing Evidence. It is a welcome report, providing insights and research - by other professionals - into the effectiveness of adaptations for home safety.

The research was conducted by Dr Yang Wang, University of Glasgow; Professor Kenneth Gibb, Director of the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) and Professor at the University of Glasgow; and Dr Vikki McCall, University of Stirling. The research was supported by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC); Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC); the Joseph Rowntree Foundation; Age Scotland; the Housing Associations' Charitable Trust (HACT); and Horizon Housing Association.

Read the Briefing Paper [here](#).

SGN Safe and Warm Community Scheme

SGN recently launched their Safe and Warm Community Scheme, which will help over 5,000 of our customers in Scotland and the south of England cope with the difficulties they'll face this winter and beyond.



Working alongside the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), the £500,000 scheme will help local community charities and groups to support people who are living in fuel poverty and financial hardship.

CSE is a charity supporting people and organisations across the UK to tackle the climate emergency and end the suffering caused by cold homes. They do this by sharing their knowledge, practical experience and policy insights. The partnership will target those who are most affected by the cost of living crisis.

SGN are keen to encourage smaller organisations who are embedded in their local communities to apply for the funding. If you know or work with any organisations who could benefit, please let them know about the Safe and Warm Community Scheme. You can find more information about the application process on the [CSE website](#).

Help families buy toys safely this Christmas

Katrina Phillips, Chief Executive, Child Accident Prevention Trust

With the cost of living on the rise, we are all on the lookout for great deals and last-minute bargains. However, this can sometimes have unintended and tragic consequences.

Many parents and carers understandably assume that if they can buy a toy for their child then it must be safe. Sadly, an increasing number of unsafe toys are being sold online and finding their way into family homes.

Accessible button batteries, super strong magnets and loose parts all pose a danger to young children. But equipping families with safety information to help them know what to look out for can help prevent serious, life-threatening injuries.

The Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) have lots of [free resources available to download and share](#) to help you spread the



'Don't be Electricked'

The 'Don't be Electricked!' campaign by Electrical Safety First aims to close a deadly loophole that allows dangerous goods to be sold to UK shoppers through online marketplaces.

85% of the UK public back our campaign for sites like eBay, Amazon Marketplace and Wish to be held to the same safety standards as traditional high street shops.

They've produced this striking [campaign film](#) - but need YOU to help spread the word. Please share the below posts featuring their film on your social channels.

You can also sign our [petition](#) urging the UK Government to act and ensure that electrical goods sold by third party sellers on online marketplaces are safe to use.

word to the families you work with and empower parents and carers to spot unsafe toys:

- A visual, colourful, easy-read explainer, to help parents and carers to spot the difference between safe and unsafe toys.
- Button battery resources including a colourful display poster and leaflet to share with families, available to download and also [order free of charge](#).
- More about super-strong magnets and the damage they can do to a child's body if swallowed.
- Videos sharing expert advice on what to look out for and what to avoid.
- Top tips for buying toys safely to share with the families you work with.

Visit [CAPT's Buy Safe Toys hub](#) to find everything you need to know about buying toys safely and help the families you work with have a safe and happy Christmas.

[Sign up](#) to our free safety emails to receive safety alerts, top tips and downloadable resources.



 @TheSCSN

 @scsn.2



/scottishcommunity
safetynetwork



/scottish-community-
safety-network

Share your news
with us!



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



Scottish Community
Safety Network

83 Princes Street
Edinburgh, EH2 2ER

Edinburgh, EH3 6BB

0131 225 8700/7772

Email: info@scsn.org.uk

Company Ltd. SC357649

Charity No. SC040464

www.safercommunitiesscotland.org