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Safety NET-works

February 2022



Equalities Edition

www.safercommunitiesScotland.org

LGBT Organisations demand UN review of Equality & Human Rights Commission (EHRC) after interventions on transgender rights

Following recent interventions on transgender rights, including a sudden change in stance on the progression of Gender Recognition Reform in the Scottish Parliament, and omitting the inclusion of transgender people in a recent consultation response on banning so called 'conversion therapy' - the Equality and Human Rights Commission has come under intensive scrutiny from LGBT+ organisations who are calling for it to lose its status as an internationally recognised human rights body.

A [coalition of 19 LGBT+ organisations led by Stonewall](#) and supported by the Good Law Project says the Equality and Human Rights Commission has taken a "recent and significant" shift on trans rights that has prompted them to make a submission to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions calling for the body to lose its "A-rating".

The SCSN has publicly backed the position of the LGBT+ organisations and signed a petition to the Prime Minister calling for a review of the EHRC.

We are deeply concerned that the current discussion around trans rights in particular is contributing to a hostile environment for LGBT+ people in the UK and is/is likely to be contributing to [increases in incidents of hate crime against the LGBT+ community](#). Our recently published '[Experiences & Perceptions of Community Safety](#)' research showed that hate crime directed against any part of the LGBT community can affect the whole community, as well as listing numerous health & social inequalities experienced by trans people.

Fireworks & Pyrotechnics Bill introduced

This Bill would seek to restrict the supply and use of certain kinds of fireworks and pyrotechnic articles. An example of a pyrotechnic article would be a distress flare.

The Bill impacts businesses and individuals. It creates a new licensing system which means that:

- members of the public will need a licence to buy, possess or use certain fireworks,
- businesses supplying fireworks will need to confirm that the people getting the fireworks either have a licence or don't need one.

It will be a criminal offence to buy, possess or use fireworks without licence, or to supply fireworks to a person without a licence. It will also be an offence to give fireworks or pyrotechnic articles to a child, or buy them on behalf of a child.

Find out more on the Scottish Parliament website [here](#).

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Community Safety Partnerships in Scotland: A relic of the past or a necessity for the future? A comparative case study analysis – Prabhkaran Singh, 2022

SCSN have been collaborating with students and staff at Strathclyde University & Glasgow University on shaping community safety partnerships. We recently published this Masters dissertation by Prabhkaran Singh taking an in depth look at the extent to which community safety partnerships have or can continue to have a real local impact, involving and engaging with communities to make them healthier, happier and safer.

You can read Prab's dissertation [here](#).

View other Community Safety Policy Memos on our website [here](#).

SCSN Consultation Response

We recently published our response to the 'Bail and Release from Custody Arrangements in Scotland' consultation. You can read our response, as well as all previous consultation responses on our website [here](#).

Question of the Month

Our Question of the Month for January related to our ongoing four day week trial. The SCSN has been working a four day week since October and so far so good! Our Senior National Development Officer Dave Shea has written two blog posts at the beginning and midpoint of our pilot. A final post will be published when it comes to an end.

We asked:

'Do you believe that moving to a four day working week, where possible, would lead to an increase in wellbeing in Scotland?'

- 92% said Yes (23 votes)
- 4% said No (1 vote)
- 4% said Not Sure (1 vote)

Question of the Month February-March

Our Question of the Month for February-March relates to LGBT History Month, the recent PACE statement on LGBT rights in the UK & rising hate crime against the LGBT community in Scotland.

We're asking:

'Do you feel that Scotland a safe and welcoming place for all LGBT people?'

You can take part in our poll [here](#).

SCSN Conversations with...Rewind to Feb 2021, David Barbour on LGBTQI Inequalities & Causes



Last February for LGBT History Month, our then National Development Manager Hannah Dickson sat down with our Communications Officer David Barbour, also of the Glasgow LGBTQI Substance Use Partnership, to discuss hate crime and the effect that homo/bi/transphobia has on health and social outcomes for LGBTQI people.

Given how prominent LGBTQI issues have been in the past few months, we thought it was worth revisiting this interview, which remains extremely relevant a year later.

You can watch the interview [here](#).

Authentic Voice - Embedding Lived Experience in Scotland

[SafeLives](#), [Improvement Service](#) and [Resilience Learning Partnership](#) have been awarded funding by the Scottish Government to work in partnership with survivors of domestic abuse and trauma on a new project called Authentic Voice: Embedding Lived Experience in Scotland. The project will:

- Support women with experience of domestic abuse and other forms of complex trauma to use their experiences to help shape the pathways to support and service delivery;

- Enable professionals working across a wide range of policy areas to embed survivor voice and lived experience into system and service design processes in a high quality, sustainable and trauma-informed way; and
- Help decision-makers to see how meaningful change can be achieved, and compelled to act, through seeing living examples, having access to evidence & hearing diverse voices of people with lived experience.

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

Public Policy Exchange Webinar: Confronting Hate Crime

Public Policy Exchange will be hosting a webinar on **Confronting Hate Crime: Protecting Vulnerable Groups and Promoting a Tolerant Society** which will take place on **Tuesday, March 15th 2022 from 9:30 AM — 1:00 PM.**

Key Speakers include –

- Claire Waxman, Victims' Commissioner for London
- Rose Simkins, Chief Executive of Stop Hate UK
- Andy Fearn, Co-Exec Director at Protection Approaches

Find out more, including how to register [here](#).

SCSN Understanding Hate Crime Event: Summary & upcoming Learning Report

On 10th February we held our 'Understanding Hate Crime' event, which was a record breaker for SCSN with 104 attendees!

The event saw presentations from numerous experts including Dr Joe Webster on the bonding effect of hate, through his recent publication 'The Religion of Orange Politics' and Nina Munday from The Fife Centre for Equalities on community perspectives and experiences of hate crime

We are currently in the process of writing an event Learning Report which will be published in our March newsletter.

LGBT History Month: Focus on LGBT Equalities



Rights of LGBTI people: advances achieved are under threat, PACE says

The UK has been singled out for criticism by the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council, along with a list of countries with populist far right governments, for creating a hostile environment for LGBT people. Other countries to be criticised were Russia, Turkey, Hungary and Poland.

The Parliamentary Assembly expressed concern at the increase in hate speech, violence and hate crimes against LGBTI people in Council of Europe member States. "The scapegoating and violations of LGBTI people's civil rights come to a large extent from political figures, including government representatives, as well as religious leaders," the parliamentarians warned.

During the debate, in which the European Commissioner for Equality Helena Dalli intervened, the parliamentarians deplored anti-gender narratives, which reduce the fight for the equality and rights of LGBTI people to what some conservative movements deliberately mis-characterise as "gender ideology" or "LGBTI ideology".

The Assembly called on the States concerned to implement without delay the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in which violations of the rights of LGBTI people had been found. According to the adopted text, States should also strengthen their legislative framework against LGBTI-phobic crimes and introduce effective criminal law measures.

Scottish Census 2022: Trans question hugely important, says National Records for Scotland

Peter Whitehouse, the director for statistical services at the National Records of Scotland (NRS), said the 2022 Census was the "only statistical tool" to work out the size of the trans community in Scotland.

He made the point as organisers of Scotland's census said they had "no concerns" that a legal challenge over one of the questions will prevent or delay the population survey from taking place.

For the first time, the Census – a count of people in Scotland that happens every ten years – will ask about a person's trans status as well as their sexual orientation. Both questions are voluntary.

The Court of Session in Edinburgh is considering a bid by campaign group Fair Play for Women over the guidance given to people when answering questions on their sex.

The guidance reads: "If you are transgender, the answer you give can be different from what is on your birth certificate. You do not need a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC)."

The case was heard earlier this month, with no decision yet made.

Read more [here](#).

LGBT Hate Crime on Scotrail trains reaches five year high

A RISING number of gay and transgender people are becoming victims of hate crime on trains, figures have revealed.

While the overall number of hate crimes on the railways are falling, those against people due to their sexuality or for being transgender has risen in the last five years.

Report launch: What are LGBTQ+ people's experiences of alcohol services in Scotland? A qualitative study of service users & service providers

Join Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP) and researchers from Glasgow Caledonian University on **Wednesday 23 March from 14:00-15:00 GMT** for the launch of a report: *What are LGBTQ+ people's experiences of alcohol services in Scotland? A qualitative study of service users and service providers.*

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

Poverty & Inequality News

Cross Party Group on Poverty: Call for evidence

In January 2022, the Cross-Party Group (CPG) on Poverty launched an inquiry into the relationship between poverty and stigma; seeking to better understand the causes, impacts of and solutions to poverty-related stigma.

To inform the inquiry, the group have launched a call for written evidence, inviting individuals and organisations from across Scotland to submit their views and to help shape the inquiry's final report, which will be published in May 2022.

The call for written evidence can be read in full here: [CPG on Poverty – stigma inquiry – call for views](#).

The deadline for submissions is 5pm, Friday 11th March. Please send your submission to neil.cowan@povertyalliance.org

Poverty & Inequality Commission: Advice on the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-26

The Poverty and Inequality Commission has published its advice to the Scottish Government on its Child Poverty Delivery Plan

2022-26. The report tells Scottish Government that they will have to use all levers available to it to end child poverty and the actions that should be included in the next Child Poverty Delivery Plan. This advice makes recommendations about the approach that the Scottish Government should take to the next Delivery Plan, and about some of the actions that should be included in it.

Find out more and download the guidance [here](#).

Poverty Alliance 'Scrap the Cap' webinar

For those affected by the benefit cap, whose social security payments already fall well below what they need in order to get by, this crisis is even more acutely felt.

By removing the link between need and entitlement, the benefit cap has forced thousands of families into poverty and hardship. The Poverty Alliance's Scrap the Cap Campaign, supported by 60 leading organisations from Scotland, England, and Wales, is calling for the UK Government to remove the unjust benefit cap.

Join the Poverty Alliance, along with our special guests (full line-up to be announced), on 4th March as we discuss the real cost of the benefit cap.

Find out more & how to attend [here](#).

International Women's Day 2022 - #BreakTheBias

8 March 2022

International Women's Day takes place on 8 March 2022. This annual event celebrates women's economic, social, cultural and political achievements - and calls for gender equality.

The theme for International Women's Day this year is #BreakTheBias. Discussing their campaign theme, the International Women's Day website says, "Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day. We can break the bias in our communities. We can break the bias in our workplaces. We can break the bias in our schools, colleges and universities."

You can find out more about International Women's Day, including how to get involved and find resources to support your own campaigning efforts at: www.internationalwomensday.com



Cyber Scotland Week 2022



Cyber Scotland week takes place between 28 February & 6 March. For more information on how to get involved, visit their website [here](#).

FEBRUARY 28TH - 6TH MARCH 2022

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Cyber Security Webinars



As part of Cyber Scotland Week 2022 Neighbourhood Watch Scotland brings you a number of webinars delivered by Police Scotland.

Below you will find a brief description on each event, as well as a link to register your place to attend.

Online Safety Guidance

Learn how the internet is continually evolving and how criminals can use this to their advantage.

Topics covered will include:

- ✓ Passwords
- ✓ Privacy Settings on Apps
- ✓ Using Public Wi-Fi
- ✓ Tips and advice to help you stay safe online

Register here - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-safety-guidance-tickets-251174518747>

Their Safety, Our Responsibility

As a parent you play a key role in helping your child stay safe online. Find out how you can support your child and speak to young people about online safety in a positive way.

Register here - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/their-safety-our-responsibility-tickets-251417214657>

Scams and Digital Footprint

Criminals are experts at impersonating people and organisations.

Safeguard yourself in the digital world and enhance your understanding about online safety, scams and your digital footprint.

Topics covered will include:

- ✓ Scams
- ✓ Phishing
- ✓ Sextortion
- ✓ Online Grooming
- ✓ Digital Footprint
- ✓ Reporting mechanisms

Register here - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/scams-digital-footprint-awareness-tickets-252131460987>

Seminar series on the future of policing in Scotland

The Strategic Review of Policing is delighted to be running a seminar series with [CGI](#) and the [Scottish Institute for Policing Research](#) (SIPR) to discuss the Review's implications for policing in Scotland.



The next three seminars are as follows:

- **Mon 28th February 2-4pm – Police legitimacy and public confidence** – Andy Higgins (The Police Foundation) DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland and Dr Megan O'Neill, University of Dundee (online event)
- **Thurs 10th March – The future police workforce** (St Andrews)
- **Thurs 28th April 4-6pm – The future of police reform** – Rick Muir (The Police Foundation), DCC Will Kerr (Police Scotland) and Martyn Evans, Chair of the Scottish Police Authority.

Please contact [Ruth Halkon](#) if you're interested in attending any of these events.

Drug Deaths: Scottish Fire & Rescue Officers to carry life saving Naloxone



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Firefighters are being offered the chance to become trained and equipped to help prevent drug deaths.

They will be able to volunteer to carry naloxone - a nasal spray which can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose - as part of a £90,000 project funded by the Scottish Government.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) will join the Scottish Ambulance Service and Police Scotland in recognising the role the medication can play in saving lives.

A naloxone information pack will be available to all SFRS staff. Firefighters who volunteer to undergo training to carry and deploy naloxone will be given guidance on how to identify the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose and how to use the medication to reverse these effects.

Call for Evidence: The UK Drug Framework & Policy

The UK Government Home Affairs committee is seeking evidence on the effectiveness of the UK Drug Framework and UK drug policy.

In particular the committee is seeking evidence on:

- The effectiveness of the UK Drug Framework on today's society
- Whether the Framework, or an aspect of the Framework, needs reformed
- UK Drug Policy, including on drug offences
- The impact of drug use in the UK - including on communities & wider society
- International comparisons - effective laws, policies or approaches in other countries

The SCSN will be making a submission to this call for evidence consistent with our previous [statements](#) and submissions on UK drug policy, including our support for the decriminalisation

The Service will seek volunteers from around the country to create a wide network of staff who are able to administer naloxone.

Read more [here](#).

Police roll out Naloxone after successful pilot

Police officers across Scotland will be able to carry and use naloxone and so contribute to The National Mission to Reduce Drug Deaths.

Police officers in local areas in Glasgow, Dundee, Falkirk, Stirling and Caithness had taken part in a pilot in 2021. That pilot has now been evaluated after naloxone was administered on 51 occasions. It has now been agreed that there should be a national rollout of the initiative.

Chief Constable Iain Livingstone said: *"I know the terrible toll of drugs deaths in Scotland and policing is committed to playing our part in reducing the harm caused to individuals, families and communities."*

Read more [here](#).

of personal drug use and the importance of a public health rather than criminal justice approach to drugs and drug use.

If you would like to submit evidence to the committee, you can find out more and make a submission [here](#).

New Lived & Living Experience Collaborative

A [new National Collaborative](#) to ensure the views of people with Lived and Living Experience (LLE) are reflected in all aspects of the national mission on drug deaths will be chaired by human rights law expert Professor Alan Miller.

The collaborative will bring together people who have been affected by drugs to make recommendations to the Scottish Government about changes to services which could improve and save lives.

This will see the rights of people affected by substance use being recognised in all relevant policy and practice in accordance with the new human rights framework for Scotland.

Scottish Futures Trust Webinar: A Place for Everything

Wednesday 9 March

Living well locally is a key ambition of Scottish Government's Programme for Government.

And building and creating the right conditions for that to happen is about taking a 'place-based' approach to needs, services and investment opportunities.

Towards the end of last year and with support and input from local authorities, public bodies and communities across Scotland, the SFT published the '[Place Guide](#)'. It sets out a practical, step-by-step approach to implementing a place-based approach that can be used to influence future infrastructure decision making and planning.

Speakers include Sam Cassels (Scottish Government), Diarmaid Lawlor (Scottish Futures Trust), Jenni Craig (Resilient Communities) & John Curry (Scottish Borders Council).

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

SCOTTISH FUTURES TRUST

National litter and fly tipping strategy consultation

This consultation, which was drafted in partnership with Zero Waste Scotland, Keep Scotland Beautiful and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), is seeking views on the aims, objectives and actions that will sit under, the new National Litter and Fly tipping Strategy for Scotland.

These proposed actions sit within three strategic themes that were agreed by stakeholders:

- Behaviour change
- Services and infrastructure
- Enforcement

Find out more & take part in the consultation [here](#).

Online Event: How should we talk about suicide? Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival

Art can be a powerful way of addressing the difficult subject of suicide, but how can it be done without sensationalising, stigmatising or triggering? The event discussion will feature:

Mariam Omari, artistic director of Bijli Productions, whose show *One Mississippi* is a powerful piece of verbatim theatre based on interviews with men who have been driven to attempt suicide. *One Mississippi* is touring Scotland in May as part of SMHAF.

Rory O'Connor, Professor of Health Psychology at the University of Glasgow and author of the book *When It Is Darkest*, which explores why people take their own lives.

Bex Singleton, a film-maker whose short

documentary *I'll Love You Till The End* sensitively examines the experience of people bereaved when someone they love takes their own life.

Michael Duke, a playwright and theatre director who is currently developing a new project about the difficulty of understanding, through notes left behind, the worlds experienced by people who have committed suicide.

Hosted by **Andrew Eaton-Lewis**, arts programme officer for the Mental Health Foundation.

Read more [here](#).

Climate Crisis Corner

Strengthening Scotland's resilience to severe weather

A range of changes are to be put in place to strengthen national resilience and protect lives, homes and infrastructure from the impacts of future severe weather events.

A review of the preparations for and response to Storm Arwen sets out 15 recommendations for the Scottish Government and its partners, the Scottish Resilience Partnership, local

resilience partnerships, utility companies, the voluntary sector and national responders.

Key recommendations include improved processes for identifying and assisting those most at risk, and bringing the voluntary and community sector into the heart of local resilience planning and response arrangements. This will involve maximising access to a suitable volunteer pool during future events of a similar nature.

Read more [here](#).



Keep Scotland Beautiful Climate Festival Forum - 23 March

The [Keep Scotland Beautiful Climate Festival Forum](#) is a chance to learn about greening your event.

No matter what event you're planning, Keep Scotland Beautiful can help you find ways to make it more environmentally friendly.

They will discuss steps such as eliminating single use plastic, utilising local food providers, and ensuring your growing event is as planet-friendly as possible with peat-free compost and organic seeds. KSB can also provide you with useful resources!

RoSPA launches new safety guidance for zero emission light-powered vehicles

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) has produced [new safety guidance](#) for users of zero emission light powered vehicles (ZELPVs).

Zero emission light powered vehicles (ZELPVs), also known as powered light vehicles (PLVs), are vehicles with two, three or four wheels that are smaller and lighter than traditional vehicles, and produce zero exhaust emissions. Examples of ZELPVs include small electric mopeds, tricycles and quadricycles (small cars). Electric bicycles and electric scooters are not considered to be [ZELPVs](#).

Climate Emergency Training for Youth Workers

This [free online course](#) is for youth workers and those working with young people. It will provide you with an understanding of the climate emergency and equip you with skills and tools to help the young people you work with take climate action.



Latest news from the Home Safety Scotland Forum

Join our forum! We're always looking for new members to join our group! If you work in or are interested in home safety and would like to join or attend our forum - please contact josh.box@scsn.org.uk. Follow Home Safety Scotland on Twitter: [@HomeSafetyScot](https://twitter.com/HomeSafetyScot)

Make a real difference – become a RoSPA Fall Fighter

Falls are on the rise, and RoSPA need your help.

Falls are the single biggest cause of accidental injuries in the home, and sadly the largest cause of accidental death among over-65s in the UK.

Working together with their partner RSA Insurance Group, the Fall Fighter movement has been developed with the aim of creating a global fall fighting community.

Falls have a huge impact on people's lives – from physical injuries and death, long-term health effects and disabilities to trauma and poor mental health, loss of mobility, loneliness, social isolation and loss of independence. Falls also impact hugely on society, costing the NHS and wider healthcare systems over £4billion every year.

But the good news is... this doesn't have to be the case. By empowering people of all ages with the understanding of why falls happen, who they affect, and what they can do to prevent them, we can all help prevent falls from happening.

Read more and find out how to become a RoSPA Fall Fighter [here](#).



Home Safety Update Training

Home safety update training was provided by RoSPA in December 2021 to local authority home safety officers who deliver the Home Safety Check Scheme throughout Northern Ireland.

The course builds on RoSPA's introductory courses on Child Safety and Older People Safety in the home. Core areas of the training include emerging issues, statistics, case studies, campaigns, resources and referrals. The first part of the course focuses on falls, poisoning, fire, choking and suffocation, drowning and product safety.

The second part of the course is dedicated to addressing electrical issues specifically. It

covers the potential of electricity to cause harm, the identification of typical electrical problems in the home environment and how electrical risks can be reduced.

RoSPA are currently taking bookings from individuals for the following training courses:

- Child safety in the home (Online) February 22
- Older people safety in the home (Online) March 9
- Child safety in the home (Face-to-face in Birmingham) - March 14

For further information about the new updated course, or for any of our other home safety training courses, please contact publichealth@rospa.com

Chartered Institute for Housing (CIH) Scotland publishes new guide for landlords on realising right to adequate housing

CIH Scotland has launched a new guide setting out how landlords can ensure the right to adequate housing is realised for all tenants.

The report, [Walking the Talk](#), recognises that human rights is both a rapidly evolving and complex area and it provides information and advice to help housing professionals better understand the relationship human rights has with housing. This includes checklists that help support landlords to take the steps required to ensure each of the characteristics of a right to adequate housing is realised and provides case studies of best practice across the sector. Although principally written for social landlords, the guide can also be used by private landlords and letting agents.

The paper also considers how the Scottish Government can provide better support to landlords so that they can progress adequate housing and improve the lives of those using their services.

Read more [here](#).

Future Homes: Electrical Safety First call for action to meet climate targets & improve electrical safety

Currently, the UK has the oldest housing stock in Europe, and most likely the world.

The state and age of these homes differs between nations within the UK and between tenures; Wales has the oldest housing stock in the UK, whilst Northern Ireland has the most modern housing stock. Across the UK, the private rented sector has the highest proportion of homes built before 1919 with the owner-occupied sector following close behind. Homes built before 1919 have the highest prevalence of electrical problems.

Older properties are more likely to have poor electrical wiring, which may not be able to cope with the increased electricity demand of future homes, which could lead to major events such as electrical fires or outages if not adequately considered and managed.

Read more [here](#).

British Red Cross: Free Wellbeing Workshops

Our [wellbeing workshops](#) will help you learn new skills that will support you during challenging times of your life. They're available online and via the telephone.

In these free sessions, you'll learn how to manage your own wellbeing and build confidence, guided by an experienced and trained British Red Cross educator. These vital skills can make a real impact on your life and those of others.

Book your place on the following workshops below:

- ['Adapt and Recover from Adversity'](#)
- ['Tackling Loneliness'](#)



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Mansfield Traquair Centre

15 Mansfield Place

Edinburgh, EH3 6BB

0131 225 8700/7772

Email: info@scsn.org.uk

Company Ltd. SC357649

Charity No. SC040464

www.safercommunitiesscotland.org