



SAFETY NET-WORKS

JANUARY 2023

LOOKING AHEAD EDITION



www.safercommunitiesScotland.org

New Home Safety Fund Launches with Focus on Children's Safety

A new Home Safety Fund, focussing on children's safety at home, launched on 16 January. The Mark McCall Home Safety Fund will award £3,000 to a single winning application for projects providing safety equipment to children under the age of five.



The winner will be announced at the Scottish Parliament during the Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness meeting on the 21st of March.

1,399 children under the age of five were admitted to hospital in the year 21/22 due to an accidental injury that happened at home.

Research published by the Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN), as well as data shared by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), Public Health Scotland (PHS), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and others shows "falls are the second leading cause of deaths worldwide". Unintentional harm and injuries at home also include a tragic list of poisoning, choking, drowning, cuts, burns, strangulation and others. The young (under fives) and elderly (over 65s) are most at risk, and 94% of accidental deaths take place in our most deprived communities.

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SCSN Statement on Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill



The Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) strongly opposes the UK Government's decision to block the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill.

We are adding our name to this [joint statement](#), shoulder to shoulder with other Scottish civil society organisations, condemning this intervention.

SCSN's primary consideration is to community safety. We have noted the concerns, regarding possible conflicts between the aims of the Bill and women's safety and equality. We do not believe these concerns are sufficiently evidenced, or that the Bill changes the status quo for women accessing services, or that it represents a risk to women's equality, rights and safety in Scotland.

Read the full statement on our website [here](#).

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Looking ahead to 2023/24

We're excited about what we're cooking up in 2023/2024. Some events – although months away – are already being planned in detail, like our annual Chairs & Leads meeting, inviting every Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Lead Officer and Chairperson to an in-person community safety extravaganza of shared learning. Our Home Safety Scotland forum is gearing back up for regular, quarterly meetings, harnessing collective knowledge to help improve home safety across Scotland. Our Reconnect Roadshow will soon transform into the Continuous Roadshow; a never-ending (in a healthy way!) dialogue between CSPs and SCSN, building strong links between our staff and every region.

We'll also be focussing on emerging issues, like cyber community safety and its effects, and revisiting perennial problems like anti-social behaviour. And this is also the year SCSN renews its Strategic Plan. We'll be writing

it in consultation with our stakeholders and members, to help point us in the right direction, to deliver support in areas that matter to our partners.

There's gloom but we're optimistic, flying our hope like a battered old kite!

Community Safety Calendar 2023 Published!

We've produced a calendar of notable awareness days/weeks/months in Community Safety for 2023. The calendar also provides (where possible) links to webpages where you can find out more, including how to get involved!

We've listed as many awareness days/weeks/months as currently possible - but will update the calendar as new listings are announced, so do check for updates throughout the year.

Download the Community Safety Calendar [here](#).

Question of the Month

December Results

Our Question of the Month for December focussed on the Cost of Living Crisis, in particular, the energy crisis.

We're concerned about whether people are able to stay sufficiently warm in their homes - especially older people. Cold housing affects dexterity and increases the risk of accidents, with attempts to save money using electric fires increasing fire risk.

We asked:

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

- 100% said Yes (17 Votes)

Question of the Month

January 2023

Our Question of the Month for January relates to recent shocking revelations of large numbers of officers in the London Metropolitan Police (and other forces) being under investigation for serious crimes against women.

We're asking:

"Is reporting of misconduct in the London Metropolitan Police diminishing your trust in policing where you are?"

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



MONTHLY REFLECTIONS SCSN CHIEF OFFICER



How do you plan your plan?

I always think January of as a planning month. It's when the SCSN staff team and board sit down together and plan our activity for the year. The events we will deliver, the meetings we will facilitate, the briefing papers we intend to produce, the dates for our board meetings etc..

This year we are planning a new Strategic Plan. For us, this starts with the staff team. In my career, it's often frustrated me that, as a front line worker or service manager, the hallowed *STRATEGIC PLAN* was a thing that

came down from above, with very little involvement from anyone outwith the senior management team. But this was the thing you were expected to deliver on! That your work plan was designed to reflect.

Partnership involvement in strategic planning can also be a bit haphazard - is this what you thought it might look like?

So, our plan is planned a little bit differently, it looks a wee bit different too!

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

Plumbers & Joiners: Police, Mental Health & Vulnerability

By Kevin Chase, SCSN National Development Officer

On Friday 9th December I attended the Police Mental Health and Vulnerability conference in Edinburgh, hosted by Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority. Why? Having recently retired from the police, from my own experience it is one of the biggest challenges facing policing in Scotland today. I will explain...

My last posting before retirement was as an operational Inspector based in Perth. My responsibilities were to ensure that incidents reported by the community had a commensurate response and were resolved. This included mitigating risk, protecting my team from violence, and to ensure human rights were upheld. The most operationally challenging incidents were calls either from or for vulnerable people. One of Police

Scotland's core objectives is to improve the safety and wellbeing of citizens, with a focus of "keeping people safe". This strapline has been ingrained in all officers since the inception of Police Scotland in 2013.

Why are these calls operationally challenging? Police officers are not trained mental health practitioners. However, they routinely attend calls from people who are mentally unwell or members of the public expressing concerns for themselves or another. In an operational setting, police routinely attend and engage with the vulnerable people situated within their own property. If they refuse to engage then dynamic, live decision mainly is needed to either enter the property or "contain and negotiate". I was involved in numerous incidents like this. If a mentally unwell individual displays irrational behaviour, I would supervise the incident and determine the strategy for officers to follow. The plan would be based on the principles of "keeping people safe", including the individual, my officers, and the wider community.

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

Funding of more than £13.2 billion for councils

Details of how more than £13.2 billion in Scottish Government funding for 2023-24 will be distributed among local authorities have been published.

They include a cash increase in day-to-day revenue funding of 3.5% for next year, compared with the 2022-23 Scottish Budget.

The settlement represents a total cash increase of £570 million or 4.5%. This is equivalent to a real terms rise of 1.3% to support vital council services and follows the most challenging Scottish Budget settlement since devolution.

The Scottish Government has enabled local authorities to make their own local decisions, with financial flexibility on council tax, employability and homelessness services, as well as early learning and schools workforce provision.

Deputy First Minister John Swinney said:

"I recognise the challenge which local councils face in delivering services during the current bleak economic climate.

"The 2023-24 Budget confirms that, despite the most turbulent economic and financial context that most people can remember, and the huge pressure on public finances, we are providing councils with a real terms budget increase of 1.3% next year."

"Local government had sought even more funding but – candidly – there was no way in the current climate we were going to be able to meet the request in full. The entire country is having to make difficult choices, including government and local authorities, but we have managed to find an extra £570 million for councils on top of last year's budget allocations.

"That means tackling problems through early intervention before they become acute. It means creating a more effective way of working together with local government by focusing on outcomes, not process."

Whilst SCSN would share concerns around cuts to services, we welcome a focus on early intervention and prevention and on outcomes and people over process.

Full details of the provisional allocations can be viewed [here](#).

New Robertson Trust report raises concerns on public bodies pushing people into debt



The Robertson Trust, one of Scotland's largest independent funders, has published new research showing that many low-income families are being pushed into debt and arrears by the public bodies meant to be helping them through the cost-of-living emergency.

The Trust, which works to build solutions to tackle poverty and trauma in Scotland, commissioned the report [Debt and Arrears in Scotland](#) to understand the level of debt and arrears in Scotland as we go through the cost-of-living emergency. The report includes new polling and looks, in particular, at money owed by low-income families to public bodies, for things like council tax, water charges,

school meals, and other fees and charges.

With prices increasing faster than we've seen for decades the report finds that while many households in Scotland are struggling with essentials such as energy and food, it is the poorest families that are struggling the most.

Among the key findings were:

- **Over one in ten (12%) of the lowest-income households are behind on council tax bills**, compared to one in a hundred for the highest income.
- **More than half of households (51%) who are behind on council tax are having to cut back on food to save money.** This compares to one in three (36%) lowest income and around one in five (18%) of all households.
- **More than one in three (37%) of households behind on their council tax have had to borrow from friends and family** due to their debt levels compared to one in ten (9%) of all households.

Read more [here](#).

Mental health and the cost-of-living crisis report: another pandemic in the making? - Mental Health Foundation

People living in poverty or experiencing financial stress are more likely to develop mental health problems.

Due to the cost-of-living crisis, poverty and financial stress will likely rise over the next few years. There are increasing reports across the UK that more people are going without basic living essentials, such as food and a warm home. A UK-wide survey has also shown that [many people across the UK are feeling anxious, stressed and hopeless](#) due to their current financial situation.

The effects of the cost-of-living crisis on public mental health are expected to be on a scale similar to the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey also found that concerns about finances are having a negative effect on people's ability to engage in some of the activities known to help protect mental health and [prevent](#) problems from developing:

- 30% of adults in the UK have poorer quality [sleep](#)
- 23% meet with friends less often

- 15% pursued a hobby less often
- 12% [exercised](#) less often

The Foundations calls on governments across the UK to take action to support people with the same urgency as we dealt with COVID-19.

Download the full briefing paper, '[Mental health and the cost-of-living crisis: Another pandemic in the making?](#)',

CHEX Annual Conference - 21st March 2023

The CHEX annual conference is a chance to come together to explore the key issues for community-led health in Scotland.

This year, CHEX are spotlighting how community-led health organisations and those tackling health inequalities are working on the front line of the cost-of-living crisis.

With communities and groups coming under intense pressure, and still recovering from the impact of the pandemic, this conference will be a chance to share stories of organisations doing vital work under difficult conditions – and a place for you to share insights and ideas from your own lived experience.

Find out more & register your interest [here](#).

Report: Leave no one behind - the state of health and health inequalities in Scotland

Rooted in Scotland and informed by Scottish experts, this report brings together evidence of trends in health inequalities and wider determinants of health since devolution.

The two decades since devolution in Scotland have seen major external shocks which have changed the underlying social and economic context and created new challenges for tackling health inequalities. These shocks include the 2008 financial crisis and, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic and alarming rises in the cost of living.

Against this backdrop, the story of Scotland's

health has been mixed. Since the 1950s, Scotland has had the lowest life expectancy of UK nations and in recent decades its position relative to other western European countries has deteriorated. Inequalities in life expectancy between people living in the most and least deprived areas widened in the years prior to the pandemic – with the gap growing to 13.3 years for men, and to 9.8 years for women by 2017–19.

This report provides a picture of past and present health and inequalities to inform future efforts to improve both. It draws on perceptions of the barriers to progress from relevant stakeholders and concludes by considering how Scotland can build on strong policy intent to reduce stubbornly high inequalities and close the gap in health outcomes.

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

Fearless.org. launch new hate crime campaign ahead of Holocaust Memorial Day

The SCSN are delighted to support the new Fearless.org. anti hate crime campaign, launched on the 23rd January, ahead of Holocaust Memorial Day.

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27th January each year.

A hate crime is any crime which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated (wholly or partly) by malice or ill will towards a social group.

There are five groups or protected characteristics covered by the hate crime legislation: Disability, Race, Religion or belief, Sexual Orientation, Transgender Identity.

The vast majority of young people are anti-prejudice and play their part in a fairer, safer Scotland. Consider what you could do if you witnessed a hate crime.

Could you be an active bystander by asking the victim if they're ok or offering to call the police? You can find out more information about hate crime - <https://bit.ly/3GT9Yxx>

As part of #HMD2023 Fearless.org have produced a podcast with I Am Me Scotland and young people from across Scotland.

You can listen to it - <https://bit.ly/3GT9Yxx>

New report reveals complicated picture of racism in Scotland

This report shares key findings from Reframing Race's groundbreaking message-testing exercise in Scotland and England.

The report provides selected evidence about what messages move the public towards, or away from, productive ways of thinking about 'race', racism and racial justice.

The report found that a majority of Scots believe in equality and support tackling racism. However, a significant proportion of Scots agreed with specific racist assumptions or tropes.

Around one in five people in Scotland believe that someone's race tells you something about their character, while around one in 10 even said they think some races are born less intelligent than others.



The report noted that despite calmer waters in Scotland compared with the rest of the UK on issues of race, racism is nonetheless part and parcel of Scottish life - and there is resistance to change.

The report speculates that reasons for this may include Scotland being less ethnically diverse than other parts of the UK, and a Scottish self image of being an enlightened nation - less racist than England.

Evidence from the message testing confirms that there is relatively little grasp among the public of the systemic nature of racism. But the results also show – most directly – through the metaphor of the birdcage⁸¹ but also through other messages that we can move the discussion of racism away from individual 'bad apple' perpetrators and on to a focus on systems and culture.

You can download the report [here](#).

'Unprecedented rise in violence' towards migrants in EU borders

Thousands of migrants and asylum seekers are facing "an unprecedented rise in violence" at the EU's border, including beatings, forced undressing and sexual assaults, according to a report exposing thousands of alleged illegal expulsions in harrowing detail.

Activists interviewed 733 individuals trying to reach [Europe](#) in 2021 and 2022, who provided grim testimony of group pushbacks that affected more than 16,000 others. The work updates the 2020 edition of The Black Book of Pushbacks, offering a total compilation of 1,633 individuals telling of illegal expulsions affecting nearly 25,000 people since 2017.

The dossier is suffused with misery and desperation, recounting beatings at the hands of police and detention in filthy, overcrowded cells, while requests to claim asylum are ignored or laughed off. In 2021, only 5% of interviewees said they had not experienced or witnessed "excessive force" while being expelled from Europe.

You can read more and download the 'Black Book of Pushbacks' [here](#).

Consultation - defining Gypsies and travellers for local development plan evidence report

The Scottish Government wants to ensure planning authorities properly involve the Gypsy/Traveller community in planning the future of their places. The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 therefore requires planning authorities to seek the views of Gypsies and Travellers in preparing the Evidence Report for their Local Development Plans (LDPs) and to include a summary of the action taken by planning authorities to meet accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.



This consultation seeks views on a proposed definition of 'Gypsies and Travellers' for the specific purposes of the planning legislation.

Find out more and take part in this consultation [here](#).

New domestic abuse powers on emotional & psychological abuse 'better reflect experience of victims'

Scotland's ground-breaking domestic abuse legislation better reflects victims' experiences, according to new research.

By recognising abuse as a pattern of behaviour, the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 closer matches victims' accounts of psychological and physical harm over time, according to three small scale research studies from Glasgow Caledonian University, the University of Edinburgh and the Scottish Government.

Responses from 69 domestic abuse victims and witnesses also found most women felt that engaging with the criminal justice system on domestic abuse was 'the right decision' to take.

However, respondents also said improvements could be made to how such cases are handled to provide victims with a greater voice in proceedings and better support through the process. Other areas of improvement included making judicial processes quicker and more efficient and providing better training for justice professionals.

The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 was passed by Parliament on 1 February 2018 and was brought into force in April 2019.

The Scottish Government published, in February 2022, the Vision for Justice, which set out that urgent action is required to ensure women and children are better served by Scotland's justice system.

Read more [here](#).

Data Protection and Data Practitioners in Scotland in 2023: Understanding and meeting the challenges ahead

All organisations need to be aware of their data protection obligations. They have to be organised to comply with those requirements, be proactively engaged with the evolving contexts in which they are operating and they should be supporting their data practitioner staff in their roles and in their professional development. However the context in which organisations store, share and use data is fast evolving - both in terms of law and best practice and in respect of how public and private sector organisations operate.

This conference examines where data protection terrain is evolving and how and why the role of data protection professionals needs to be supported, invested in and promoted in order to cope with current and future challenges. It will focus on three themes:

- Data protection - the evolving context
- Recognising the value of data protection practitioners
- Current developments in data protection

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

Working together to unlock the full potential of data will lead to more equal and just society

This blog post, written by Research Data Scotland CEO Professor Roger Halliday, was originally published in [The Scotsman](#).

Some of the biggest challenges facing our society are adapting to a changing climate, tackling child poverty, and improving the health and wellbeing disenfranchised people and marginalised communities. It's clear from September's [Data for Diversity](#) conference that tackling these economic, environmental and economic challenges requires collaboration between people, ideas and evidence. And while data has a huge role to play in unlocking our potential to having a more equal and just society, we need to ensure the data collected and connected in the first place, which is used to inform policies, captures all manners of people and behaviour so no one is left behind.

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

Opening of Mother and Child Recovery House

A national residential rehabilitation service designed to support women and their children through recovery has been officially opened in Dundee.

Cowan Grove, which was developed in partnership with Hillcrest Homes, admitted its first residents in December and can support four women and their children up to the age of five at any one time.

The services will enable children of women with problematic substance use to stay with their mothers during their recovery.

The Aberlour development comes two months after the First Minister opened a national family rehabilitation service run by the charity Phoenix Futures in North Ayrshire.

Read more [here](#).

Scottish Government Response to Drug Deaths Task Force Report published

More than 80 actions supported by £68 million over the course of this parliament are outlined in the Scottish Government's [response to Changing Lives, the final report from the Drug Deaths Taskforce](#).

Measures are being taken across a broad range of areas including employment, justice, transport, education and health and social care to improve the lives of those affected by drugs.

The response is underpinned by two principles – that services treat problem drug use the same as any other health condition and that people with lived experience are involved in policy decisions.

Read more [here](#).

Climate Crisis Corner



Circularity Gap Report leaves much room for improvement in Scotland

Scotland is hailed as a world leader for environmental action, boasting ambitious goals for net-zero and a well established *Circular Economy Strategy*.

Its current level of consumption, however, far surpasses our planet's ecological limits.

The Circularity Gap report currently ranks

Scotland among the worst nations for unsustainable material consumption.

Scotland's population currently consumes nearly double the world average: 21.7 tonnes per person per year.

Over 98% of Scotland's material use stems from virgin sources and only 1.3% of the resources Scotland uses are cycled back into the economy.

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

Locked in Car Culture resulting in transport poverty

New nationally representative research has revealed the UK remains locked into car ownership, with 71% of Brits stating they'll expect to always be car owners despite the rising costs associated with owning a car and the cost of living crisis.

Amid rising inflation and an economic recession, the soaring price of petrol and transport strikes are causing strains on the nation's personal finances. Despite this, 47% of the population feel that they have no alternative to owning a car with UK motorists spending 13% of their annual gross income on

motoring.

In spite of car costs, 48% of people say they can not afford a bike even though it's a preferred alternative to the car or public transport ...

Read more [here](#).

Scottish Cycling Groups celebrate after receiving funding boost

GO Cycle Glasgow has announced the recipients of its £160,000 fund, with 29 community groups being successful in winning a share of the cash for their cycling initiatives.

Read more [here](#).

Improving Public Transport: Boosting Infrastructure & Promoting Integration in Local Services - Public Policy Exchange

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, much of public transport became unviable overnight, leaving most sectors dependent on councils and central government paying for services. There is now major uncertainty in the public transport sector around changing patterns of transport usage, demand levels

and financial sustainability, leading to concern at all levels of government about the viability of current infrastructure and the sustainability of current transport projects.

With emergency funding having come to an end, a renewed focus has centred on ensuring that public transport budgets are effectively targeted to meet changing needs.

Register your place at this event [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 kevin.chase@scsn.org.uk.

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

Our changing relationship with the home

The global pandemic changed our relationship with the home. Whether by choice or necessity, more people are now spending more time at home. Lockdowns, self-isolating when sick and changes to how we work have all driven these changes. As RoSPA highlights, *"because accidents happen behind closed doors in isolated incidents, they rarely attract media attention"*.

Furthermore, as the current cost of living crisis cuts deeper through our communities, families and services access to essential safety equipment, support and resource is becoming far more limited, or unavailable.

Remembering a home safety champion

The Mark McCall Home Safety Fund is a tri-partner initiative of the Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN), the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) and Fife Council in memory of Mark McCall, who sadly passed away after a courageous battle with cancer in 2021. Mark is fondly remembered as former Chair of the SCSN Board of Directors, Service Manager for Housing at Fife Council and a respected colleague and friend.

Mark was an enthusiastic, passionate advocate for home safety, particularly child safety.

Speaking about the launch of the fund, Lorraine Gillies, Chief Officer of the Scottish Community Safety Network said:

"Mark McCall is missed by all who were fortunate to meet him. The creation of this fund in his name with our colleagues at RoSPA and Fife Council is fitting, as those who knew Mark understand how passionate he was to prevent injuries and accidents to children in

the home. The Mark McCall Home Safety Fund provides groups with an opportunity to apply for support for small projects across Scotland. The fund will provide support to the winning applicant who is delivering on home safety outcomes for children under the age of five anywhere in Scotland."

Bill Harley, Project Officer in Safer Communities at Fife Council said:

"This fund has been created to provide a wonderful opportunity for the successful applicant to continue Mark's aspirations. He always worked very hard to ensure that prevention of injury, particularly to children in the home, was a priority both locally and nationally. The funds can be used to contribute to helping parents keep their children safe in such especially challenging times."

Liz Lumsden, Community Safety Manager at RoSPA said:

"RoSPA is honoured to contribute to such a fitting tribute in the name of a valued colleague who worked tirelessly to promote the need for programmes ensuring the safety and wellbeing of young children in the home. Sadly, many children are regularly admitted to hospital following an accidental injury. We encourage those with a role to play in ensuring safety in the home for the under fives to apply to the Fund to help prevent future accidental injuries to this most vulnerable age group."

Those interested in applying can find out more and download an application form via the [Scottish Community Safety Network website](#). The deadline for applications is 17.00 on Tuesday 28th February. Joint bids also considered.

Encouraging Safety in the Home: Home Safety Checks and Mapping - Seminar pack & recording now available



On Tuesday 15 November 2022, the Wales Safer Communities Network hosted a seminar on Encouraging Safety in the Home: Home Safety Checks and Mapping.

Aimed at professionals and practitioners working in community safety, this seminar explored effective, modern, and holistic approaches to home safety checks. SCSN/ HomeSafety Scotland were proud to present our brand new Home Safety Map, developed in partnership with RoSPA which illustrates research into common, avoidable hazards in our homes.

You can download the post seminar pack and view the webinar recording on the Wales Safer Communities website [here](#).

WHO Evidence and Gap Maps for the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing

The UN Decade of Healthy Ageing is a unique opportunity to take concerted action to create a world where all people can live long and healthy lives. To do so effectively, stakeholders need to know which interventions are supported by evidence, which are not, and which need more research.

Evidence and gap maps are interactive tools that help researchers and decision makers discover existing evidence on a given topic, find solutions supported by evidence, and identify gaps in the evidence where more research is required. WHO is developing evidence and gap maps as part of a multi-year project to summarise, disseminate, and increase uptake of evidence towards deeper integration in policies and practices during the Decade.

Evidence and gap maps are essential tools to strengthen data, research, and innovation and achieve the aims of the Decade. Explore the available maps on this page, which will continue to be updated as new resources are made available.

Access resources [here](#).

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland and Electrical Safety First - Working Together to Reduce the Number of Injuries and Deaths Caused by Electricity

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland (NWS) are thrilled to announce that they've been selected by Electrical Safety First for funding from their new initiative, the Electrical Safety Fund. This aims to help communities throughout the UK raise awareness of issues concerning electrical safety.

NWS are looking to ensure communities are kept safe particularly during these financially challenging times we are all facing. They hope to do this by bringing the Neighbourhood Watch family the best information available to keep you, your family, friends and communities safe.



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