



Safety NET-works

June 2022

Celebrating
— 25 YEARS —
1997-2022

Anti-Social Behaviour Edition

www.safercommunitiesScotland.org

Wheatley Group launches new 'Peaceful Communities' campaign



Wheatley Group has launched a high-profile campaign which will tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and create peaceful communities across the country.

The new 'Keeping the Peace' campaign, which is supported by Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, has been unveiled by Scotland's leading housing, care and property-management group.

It focuses on tackling unacceptable behaviour in Wheatley communities and what people can do to become good neighbours.

Wheatley is regarded as sector-leading in tackling anti-social behaviour. The Group has already created its award-winning Community Improvement Partnership – a UK first which sees a specialist team of police officers tackle anti-social behaviour and promote community safety.

In February this year, Wheatley Group was also named Policing Partner of the Year at the Chief Constable Bravery and Excellence Awards.

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Event: Community Safety & Justice: Joint Working Arrangements

11 July 2022

Recent years have seen significant reform, legislation and policy changes that have impacted local community safety (CS) and community justice (CJ) practices in Scotland, in response to which, several local authority areas have commenced the implementation of joint CS and CJ working arrangements. These arrangements can range from a fully joint CS and CJ partnership to the occasional joint project.

In a bid to learn more about these new ways of working, Community Justice Scotland (CJS) and the Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) have undertaken some joint research, which will be launched at this event. Find out more and book your place [here](#).

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Is there another way to approach antisocial behaviour (ASB)?

The Minister for Community Safety has approved that SCSN, in collaboration with the Scottish Government (SG) take forward a number of consultations with key stakeholders and partners to discuss 'Is there another way to approach antisocial behaviour?'

The impetus to consult on this matter is in response to the findings from our research '[The Scottish Picture of ASB](#)', our discussions with the sector over the last few years on this subject, the increase in ASB over the pandemic and the current justice landscape.

The consultations will take place online and in person throughout the country over the next six months with findings hoping to be published early next year.

One of our first consultation events will be at The Gathering on June 15th, where we will run a large consultation event

SCSN are recruiting!

SCSN are currently recruiting for a new National Development Officer to join our small, agile team, to help push forward improvements to community safety in Scotland. You will become an integral part of the organisation and our National Development Team.

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

View a short video on what it's like to work for SCSN [here](#)!

Farewell to Josh Box

Josh Box is no longer working for the Scottish Community Safety Network. We wish Josh well in all his future endeavours.

Question of the Month

Our Question of the Month for May-June was based on last month's Home Safety themed Safety NETworks newsletter.

We believe there needs to be a greater focus on home safety in the community safety sector in Scotland, and we wanted to know whether you agreed.

We asked:

"Do you feel that home safety is given enough focus in the community safety sector?"

- 8% said Yes (1 vote)
- 75% said No (9 votes)
- 17% said Not Sure (2 votes)

Question of the Month

June-July

Our Question of the Month for June-July comes from our 'SCSN Conversations With...' interviewee Mark Nicol at the Wheatley Group.

Based on our newsletter theme of anti-social behaviour, he's asking:

"Is it time to take a new approach to anti-social behaviour?"

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

SCSN Conversations with...

Mark Nicol, Wheatley Group

SCSN CONVERSATIONS WITH...



Mark Nicol

Community Improvement Partnership Lead, Wheatley Group

Our 'SCSN Conversations With...' interview this month, we sat down with Mark Nicol, Community Improvement Partnership Lead at the Wheatley Group, to discuss their newly launched 'Keeping the Peace' campaign.

This campaign takes a pro-social, early intervention and prevention approach to anti-social behaviour.

We discussed what a pro-social approach to anti-social behaviour looks like, what anti-social behaviour is - and also looked at some other Wheatley Group campaigns designed to improve their communities wellbeing.

Watch the interview on our Youtube channel [here](#).

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Laura Pluck, Group Director of Communities at Wheatley Group, said: "The vast majority of the communities we work in are peaceful, but we also know anti-social behaviour can play a major part in whether our customers are happy in their home.

"Everyone has the right to live in a peaceful community and we believe everyone has a role to play in making their area a better place to live.

"We want people to get in touch and let us know about any concerns before they become a bigger problem.

"Our new campaign has a focus on prevention and early intervention, with the overall aim of tackling unacceptable behaviour. Tenants will see our 'Keeping the Peace' campaign online and in their communities over the next five years."

Superintendent Hilary Sloan of Police Scotland's Partnership, Prevention and Community Wellbeing division, said "We look

forward to continuing our collaborative work with Wheatley to deliver the new Keeping the Peace campaign.

"The new approach, focusing on pro-social – rather than anti-social – behaviour, aims to help avoid a repeat cycle of intervention and enforcement.

"As a result, we hope it will contribute significantly to increasingly peaceful and content communities, therefore improving the safety and wellbeing of people and places right across Scotland."

The 'Keep the Peace' campaign will be rolled out to tenants of Wheatley Homes Glasgow, Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership, Dunedin Canmore, Loretto, WLHP and mid-market rental specialists Lowther.

The campaign is part of the Wheatley Group's new Anti-Social Behaviour Framework – Peaceful Places in Thriving Places 2021-26. This will also see Wheatley use the latest technology to curb anti-social behaviour, including launching a new dedicated 'noise app'.

New Report: Tackling abuse of older people



In the context of the annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners published [Tackling abuse of older people: five priorities for the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021–2030](#). The new resource outlines key priorities to prevent and respond to abuse of older people and, hence, contribute to improving their health, well-being and dignity.

Every year 1 in 6 people aged 60 years and older experience some form of abuse, with 2 in 3 staff in institutions such as nursing homes and other long-term care facilities admitting to committing abuse in the past year. Like many forms of violence, abuse of older people has increased during the COVID-10 pandemic. With rapidly population ageing in many countries, this growing trend is expected to continue.

“Abuse of older people is an injustice, which can have serious consequences, including premature mortality, physical injuries, depression, cognitive decline and poverty” notes Etienne Krug, Director of the Department of Social Determinants of Health, WHO. “Despite it being widespread, abuse of older people is largely absent from the global health agenda. The UN Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021–2030 offers a unique 10-year opportunity to address this blight in a concerted, sustained and coordinated way.”

Download the report [here](#).

Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Bill published

New legislation which proposes changes to the way imprisonment is used in Scotland - while placing victims at its heart - has been published.

The Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Bill will refocus the way remand is used, with an emphasis on remand being reserved for those who pose a risk to public safety, or those who wilfully fail to turn up for their trials meaning justice will not be delivered for victims.

The Bill also aims to give a greater focus to the rehabilitation and reintegration of people leaving prison to help them resettle in their communities.

The changes are designed to lead to greater public protection and victim safety and are intended to reduce crime, reoffending and victimisation.

Proposals include the publication of new national standards for support for people leaving prison, ending release on a Friday or the day before a public holiday so people are

better able to access support and a new test the court needs to apply when deciding whether to refuse bail and to remand accused persons in custody.

The Bill will also enable the provision of information about prisoner release to victims' organisations to inform the support they provide and will explicitly recognise complainer safety as a specific factor in how the court makes decisions on bail.

Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans Keith Brown said there will be a continued focus on cutting crime and reoffending, creating fewer victims, with reconviction rates already at one of the lowest comparable levels since records began and recorded crime lower than in the early 1970s.

Mr Brown said: “We know that short-term imprisonment in particular disrupts families and communities, adversely affecting health, employment opportunities and housing – the very things that we know prevent reoffending.”

Read more [here](#).

Final report published on the impact of MUP on people drinking at harmful levels, including those dependent on alcohol

Public Health Scotland (PHS) today published the final report from a study which evaluated the impact of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) on people who drink alcohol at harmful levels, including those dependent on alcohol and those accessing treatment services.

The University of Sheffield, the University of Newcastle (Australia) and Figure 8 Consultancy Services carried out the wide-ranging study to understand how this important, yet hard-to-reach population responded to MUP. A large programme of mixed-methods research was used to examine impacts on alcohol purchasing and consumption, other positive and negative effects of the policy, and the impact on key groups, such as family members or those living in remote or rural areas.

Among those drinking at harmful levels or people with alcohol dependence, the study found no clear evidence of a change in consumption or severity of dependence. Findings also showed that some economically vulnerable groups experienced increased financial strain as the price rises meant they were spending more on alcohol. This led some people who were dependent on alcohol to reduce other expenditure, such as that on food and utilities.

There was little evidence found of other negative consequences in this population

following the introduction of MUP, such as increased crime, a shift to the use of illicit substances or acute withdrawal. People with alcohol dependence were also found to have a limited awareness and understanding of MUP and reported receiving little information or support before its introduction.

Helen Chung Patterson, Public Health Intelligence Adviser at Public Health Scotland, said:

“People who drink at harmful levels, and particularly those with alcohol dependence, are a diverse group with complex needs who often experience multiple interacting health and social problems. They are therefore unlikely to respond to MUP in one single or simple way. Many are likely to drink low-cost high-strength alcohol affected by MUP and are at greatest risk from their alcohol consumption. This population therefore have the potential to benefit the most from MUP but may also continue to experience harms.

“This research further develops our understanding of and insights into this important population and how they have responded to MUP across a broad range of areas. It’s crucial to build the evidence base in this area as part of our overall evaluation of MUP.”

Read the full report [here](#).

See also this [previous research](#) on the positive effects of MUP in Scotland.

Alcohol Focus Scotland and Alcohol Marketing Expert Network Report launch

Exposure to alcohol marketing causes consumption. It encourages positive attitudes towards alcohol, influences our drinking behaviour and creates a culture where regular alcohol consumption is considered normal and desirable. At the same time, alcohol causes more than 200 diseases and conditions, and someone loses their life to alcohol somewhere in the world every ten seconds.

This new report presents evidence of the impact of alcohol marketing on people with (or at risk of) an alcohol problem, children and young people, and the general population.

The event is aimed at organisations and individuals who have a principal or significant interest in preventing and reducing alcohol harms. Find out more and book your place [here](#).

Dangerous Dogs in Scotland



The vast majority of Scotland's dog owners are responsible, take good care of their dogs and are able to experience the benefits of dog ownership. A small minority, however, do not properly control their dogs. Very worryingly, in the last 15 years, there has been an [80% rise in dog bites and attacks](#), which led the Scottish Government into increased action back in 2019.

Indeed, in response to the 2019 [PAPLS committee recommendations](#) which stated "there is still an unacceptably high prevalence of dog attacks in Scotland and... numbers have not reduced since the provisions of the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010 Act came into force", Ash Regan MSP, Minister for Community Safety, promised there would be further reviews looking at wider dog control measures with a specific focus on the criminal offence of a dog being allowed to be dangerously out of control contained in the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. The Scottish Government conducted and completed two reviews : [Control of Dogs \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) – review of operational effectiveness of the 2010 Act), plus a [criminal law discussion paper on dog law reform](#) (1991 Act, relevant dogs legislation) was also published.

Building on the above reviews, with [reports of dramatic increases in the dog ownership over the pandemic](#) in the news, the SCSN believe that now, more than ever, is the time to take steps to make communities safer, and we are very pleased to be included in two Scottish Government Working Groups to review the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 as well as general dog control and regulation.

So far, the Dog Control and Dangerous Dogs Working Group has overseen the [establishment of a dog control database](#) to help enforcement agencies keep track of those irresponsible dog owners who allow their dogs to be out of control. It has also guided the

[updating of statutory guidance in respect of the operation of the Control of Dogs \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) which will aid enforcement agencies, especially local authorities, as they seek to help keep communities safe. The group has worked to [refresh the dog control protocol](#) which Police Scotland and local authorities as the lead enforcement agencies can use to help understand who has responsibility for dealing with different types of dog control incidents.

The working group also oversaw the [Scottish Government/SSPCA awareness raising digital campaign](#) to promote responsible dog ownership, which is being re-run this month. Currently, the working group are focusing on where a difference can be made in terms of dog training and dog wardens.

The short life working group to review the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, will take into consideration relevant recommendations from the PAPLS committee and will continue to meet on a monthly basis to support and inform policy thinking on prospective changes to the 1991 Act, with a view to considering what legislative changes may be required in order to make and strengthen existing legislation to help further promote more responsible dog ownership in order to improve the safety of Scottish citizens.

Dawn Exley, National Development Officer

'Your Police' Consultation

Our partners at Police Scotland are currently running a consultation on public priorities for policing.

Understanding the views and priorities of Scotland's diverse communities is fundamental to how Police Scotland responds to the needs of the public.

Responses to this consultation help Police Scotland improve how they deliver their policing services in local communities, ensuring they are accessible for everyone.

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

Youth Justice Improvement Board launches new website



The Youth Justice Improvement Board has recently launched a brand new website created to support their work.

Introducing the new website, the Chair of the YJIB wrote:

The Youth Justice Improvement Board brings together representatives and practitioners from a wide range of organisations, all dedicated to supporting children, young people and families who come into conflict with the law.

The Board was set up to take forward the priorities of the Scottish Government's [Youth Justice Strategy](#): "Preventing Offending: Getting it right for Children and Young People". That Strategy concluded in 2020 and

we now continue to promote a rights-based approach to youth justice through the new [Youth Justice Vision](#), launched in July 2021.

Since the Board was established, much has been achieved in the youth justice policy space, of which we can be rightly proud.

Programmes such as the Whole System Approach have helped to promote collaboration between organisations, professions and families, addressing the needs of young people in conflict with the law. And, during this time, we have seen dramatic changes in the youth justice sector. The number of children under the age of 18 prosecuted in court continues to fall as does the number of under 18s sentenced to custody. We are committed to continuing to drive down further reductions.

Read more & visit the new website [here](#).

Latest hate crime stats for Scotland published: rises in hate crime motivated by sexual orientation, trans identity and disability

A report on Hate Crime in Scotland 2021-22 was recently published by the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service. This brings together figures on race crime and on crime motivated by prejudice related to religion, disability, sexual orientation and transgender identity.

The main findings are:

- There were 5,640 charges containing at least one element of hate crime reported to COPFS in 2021-22, a marginal decrease of -0.2% compared to 2020-21.
- The majority of hate crime charges contain a racial element. However, the proportion that contain a racial element has generally decreased over the last ten years, from 75% in 2012-13 to 55% in 2021-22. The proportion of hate crime charges that relate to sexual orientation has increased from 13% to 32% over the same period. In 2021-22 for the first time the proportion relating to disability (12%) was higher than the proportion relating to religion (9%).

There were 3,107 charges relating to race crime reported in 2021-22, a decrease of 7% compared to 2020-21. Numbers have fluctuated in recent years but are currently 32% lower than the peak in such charges in 2011-12, when 4,547 were reported.

- The number of charges reported with a sexual orientation aggravation increased by 10% in 2021-22 to 1,781, continuing the upward trend of the last ten years.
- The number of disability aggravated charges increased by 44% to 666 in 2021-22, also continuing the upward trend of the last ten years.
- There were 512 charges with a religious aggravation reported in 2021-22, 16% fewer than in 2020-21. This is the lowest number of charges containing a religious element since 2004-05, when 479 charges were reported.
- There were 84 charges reported in 2021-22 with an aggravation of transgender identity. This compares to 45 in 2020-21, an increase of 87%. This is the highest number of such charges reported since the legislation introducing this aggravation came into force in 2010.

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

Simon Community Scotland launches 'harm reduction' app for women

Simon Community Scotland (SCS) has teamed up with tech consultancy AND Digital to provide easy-to-access evidence-based harm reduction support, advice and resources to people using the charity's services, through their first ever digital app called 'By My Side.'

Angela Constance, the Scottish Government Minister for Drugs Policy, visited the SCS Access Hub in Glasgow yesterday to meet women who use the charity's services and find out how the By My Side app is helping them.

The app came as a result of AND Digital's Glasgow office, known as the Almeida Club, partnering with Simon Community Scotland. Staff, known as "ANDi's" volunteer for the charity, offering their digital skills and expertise

to create this first of its kind digital resource for people supported by SCS.

Designed 'for women, by women', the By My Side app has been co-developed with women supported by SCS, directly addressing the challenges they face in gaining access to the right information.

Initially focused on advice to prevent drug-related harm, the app is now home to wider resources such as mental health guidance, support for those affected by domestic or sexual violence, and information for managing sexual health.

By making relevant advice and resources readily available and accessible, the app will support women to make more informed decisions about their health, wellbeing, and safety.

Find out more [here](#).

Policing: Confidence & Deprivation Action Research



POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

The Scottish Police Authority and Police Scotland, in partnership the Poverty Alliance, are working with wider public / third sector partners - including SCSN - to explore the role of policing in a social justice context. Specifically the statutory role of Police Scotland in promoting individual and community safety and wellbeing, and how this is both experienced and perceived in some of the most deprived communities of Scotland.

The project aims to understand and explore the factors which influence the confidence challenge in deprived communities, as shown through SCJS data, with a view to identifying possible actions which could be delivered by Police Scotland and others, to improve confidence levels in those areas.

The group will be supported by a practitioner group who will design and support delivery of the practical activity in identified neighbourhoods.

For more information contact SCSN at info@scsn.org.uk

3PO: Understanding online risks to protect police officers and their families

Edinburgh Napier University Blog

A new £3.4 million research project, 3PO, will explore the unique challenges faced by police officers and their families online, and offer solutions for greater privacy, protection, and a safer online experience for six UK police services.

Once these are fully understood the project aims to provide technologies and solutions that will empower police officers and their families to participate in online life in a more private and secure way.

The project has been funded by [UK Research and Innovation \(UKRI\)](#) through the Strategic Priority Fund as part of the Protecting Citizens Online programme.

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

Climate Crisis Corner



Green PB in Scotland

Through 2022/23 PB Scotland, managed by the Scottish Community Development Centre, will be focusing on how Green participatory budgeting (PB) is a key part of the response to the climate crisis and in particular contributing to the achievement of a 'just transition' to net zero carbon.

As a key part of these commitment to Green PB approaches, Scottish Government and the National PB Strategic Group, in partnership with SCDC, are supporting the development of both short and medium-term processes to stimulate new Green PB processes as well as consolidate existing Green PB work, and to develop key learning on how Participatory Budgeting can play a key role in achieving a just transition to net zero.

Key elements of this programme of work will include:

- Work with local authorities to support Green PB as part of their mainstream PB approaches
- Strengthening emerging place-based initiatives and to develop PB processes as part of this.
- Work with young people to build on existing and developing activity around climate action and PB.
- Supporting the National PB Strategic Group's Cross Cutting Priorities sub-group

Read more about Green PB [here](#),

New WHO Report shows multiple benefits of Active Travel

A [new report](#) published by the World Health Organisation, and co-authored by Dr Adrian Davis at Edinburgh Napier University, has described the multiple benefits to population health and for the environment of switching to more active travel.

The report shows that swapping driving for cycling just one day a week saves the equivalent emissions of a flight from London to New York, about half a tonne of carbon dioxide.

If one in five residents of Europe could be convinced to make the change, it would reduce emissions from car travel in Europe by up to 8%.

Call for Evidence: Single Use Food Containers & other single use items

Material consumption and waste are the primary drivers of nearly every environmental problem we currently face, from water scarcity to habitat and species loss. Around 75% of Scotland's carbon footprint is caused by the production, consumption, and all too often waste, of goods, and services. In Scotland we use on average 18.4 tonnes of resources per person, well above the 6-8 tonnes per person considered to be sustainable.

This call for evidence will help facilitate the move to a more circular economy by providing an evidence base which will inform policy development on how to reduce consumption of single-use food containers.

Read more & submit evidence [here](#).



Latest news from the Home Safety Scotland Forum

Looking back on #ChildSafetyWeek 2022

Child Accident Prevention Trust Resources

Child Safety Week ran from the 6th-12th of June, with this year's theme being 'Safety in mind'.

Child Safety Week is an annual community education campaign run by the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT), acting as a catalyst for thousands of safety conversations and activities UK-wide. CAPT help families build confidence and skills in managing the real risks to children's safety.



CAPT kicked off Child Safety Week by resharing a host of downloadable resources to help build families' confidence and skills in preventing serious accidents. These included:

- Easy-read [Fact sheets and a parents' pack](#)
- [Fact sheets translated into five community languages](#)
- [Session plans](#) for virtual safety workshops
- Practical, parent-friendly articles on [car seat safety](#), [pedestrian safety](#) and [cycle safety](#)
- [Road safety activity sheets for children](#).

Electrical Safety First: Parents - keep your children safe from electricity

Our members at Electrical Safety First have published a useful list of top tips for first time parents around keeping kids safe from electricity.

Preparing for the arrival of a first child can be a stressful time for parents.

Around two thirds of parents will carry out electrical DIY in the home as part of the preparation. However, they often do so without taking the necessary safety precautions and as children grow they can also be exposed to all sorts of hazards.

There are a few simple steps that you can

Electrical Safety First

take to ensure the safety of your children and the whole family.

Read a full list of their top tips [here](#).

Download the Home Electrical Safety Check App

To ensure your peace of mind, why not [download their free smartphone app](#), Home Electrical Safety Check, and carry out basic visual checks in your home.



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