Safety NET-works

November 2020



Home Safety at Christmas Edition www.safercommunitiesscotland.org



Concerns around Covid-19 have led many Scots to desert their High Street to buy online. Here, Lesley Rudd, Chief Executive of leading consumer protection charity, Electrical Safety First, explains why people could be swapping one safety risk for another.

In the run-up to Electrical Safety Week (23rd-29th November), we undertook some research around online shopping during the pandemic. We found that three out of five Scots (59%), will use online marketplaces for 'safer' Christmas shopping. And 58% of them are planning to use these websites more than ever before. However, shopping online, as an alternative to visiting your local High Street, may not be as safe as it seems.

In fact, such consumer confidence is not supported by our findings. We have undertaken multiple investigations into unsafe electricals for sale from online marketplaces - including Amazon Marketplace, eBay and Wish.com. And we have repeatedly found dangerous electrical products are easily bought from online marketplaces' third-party sellers.

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New Research Published: The Scottish Picture of Anti -Social Behaviour

The Scottish Community Safety Network, has launched a significant piece of research. 'The Scottish Picture of Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)' report, produced by Robyn Bailey, Social Researcher for the Scottish Government was commissioned as part of our ongoing conversation around a 'new dialogue' on ASB in Scotland and facilitated as part of the Scottish Government's Analytical Exchange Programme for third sector organisations. The research looks at ASB in terms of how common it is, which types are most common, who is engaging in it and what is driving

 Levels of ASB have decreased over the past 10 years and the public have noticed this decline in their areas. 29% of adults in 2017/18 thought ASB was common in their area which is down from 46% in 2009/10.

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SCSN Update



SCSN Webinar: Experiences of Community Safety in Scotland - Tuesday, 1st December 2020

We have had a long-standing interest in what makes people safe; and a curiosity about the role that various factors and 'actors' in the system play in creating safe communities.

Find out more and sign up for our latest webinar here.

NEW: SCSN Briefing Papers

We've recently published four new Briefing Papers on some recent surveys and other publications. Click on the links below to access our Briefing Papers:

- Programme for Government 2021 Briefing
 Paper
- <u>Scottish Health Survey 2019 Briefing Paper</u>
- Scottish Crime Statistics 2019/20 Briefing

Paper

 Scottish Household Survey 2019 Briefing Paper

SCSN Learning: Overview of webinars

Over the past couple of months SCSN has been attending webinars as well as running our own, and we've produced summary learning reports on these webinars which you can access on our website here.

Congratulations from SCSN to Iain Keegan Smith on Lawyer of the Year Award

SCSN send our congratulations to lan Keegan Smith on winning Lawyer of the Year at the Scottish Legal Awards 2020! We've been delighted to work with lan, who recently attended our AGM to talk about rehabilitation and changing attitudes towards people who commit crimes.

Question of the Month

Our Question of the Month for October related to Bonfire Night and fireworks safety. SCSN was delighted to play a leading role in both the Fireworks Review Group and in a major campaign led by the Scottish SPCA on #FireworksSafety.

We wanted to know how prepared community safety partnerships felt for Bonfire Night this year in the unusual circumstances we find ourselves.

We asked:

Are you confident about partnership measures you have in place for Bonfire Night this year?'

- 25% said Yes
- 25% said No
- 50% said Not Sure

Question of the Month November 2020

Our Question of the Month for November relates to Electrical Fire Safety Week & our interview with Wayne Mackay of Electrical Safety First. We're asking:

'Are you planning to buy electrical gifts from online market places this Christmas?'

Take part in our poll here.

SCSN Conversations with... Wayne McKay, Electrical Safety First





This month's #SCSNConversationsWith interview sees our Communications Officer David Barbour sit down for a chat with Wayne Mackay of Electrical Safety First. In this 30 minute chat they cover the upcoming Electrical Fire Safety Week campaign, discuss top tips for electrical safety around Christmas and winter, consider how working from home has raised the importance of electrical safety as a consideration for people and finally discuss partnership around home safety in general. Wayne also gives us his view on what our priority should be for achieving the vision of an injury free Scotland!

You can watch the interview on our Youtube channel here.

Continued from front page main article...

Given that three-quarters of fires in Scotland's homes are caused by electricity, with most arising from electrical products, this is a risk you don't want to take.

This year, 20% of those we surveyed are planning to buy an electrical item as a gift this Christmas. Yet we have previously discovered that three out of five fake electricals in the UK are purchased online, with a third of buyers experiencing major problems with the item.

So we are urging people to reduce their chances of buying dangerous electricals by sticking to the stores or websites of known manufacturers and retailers. And to beware of buying from third party sellers online.

To help people shop safely from online marketplaces, we have developed a 'Check it Out' browser extension, available for Chrome, Firefox, MS Edge and Safari. It alerts consumers - when shopping on Amazon or eBay - if they are buying from a third-party

Guest blog by
Lesley Rudd, Chief
Exec of Electrical

seller, rather than directly from the manufacturer, or a High Street name, they know and trust.

We all love a bargain and Christmas is always expensive! But unlike a fake designer handbag or dress, a counterfeit or substandard electrical can have a life-changing impact. With us all staying at home to keep safe this Christmas, an unsafe electrical product would be a most unwelcome seasonal gift.

For more advice on how to shop online safely this Christmas, visit:

www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/spotthefake

Alcohol Awareness Week coincides release of alcohol related hospital admission and death stats

Alcohol Awareness Week ran from 16-22 November and came with mixed news on alcohol harms in Scotland.

Scottish Alcohol Related Hospital Admission Stats published

Figures on <u>alcohol related hospital admissions</u> in 2019/20 have just been published by ISD Scotland.

Main points

- In the financial year 2019 to 2020 there were 35,781 alcohol-related hospital admissions (stays) in general acute hospitals in Scotland.
- These 35,781 admissions to general acute hospitals relate to 23,685 patients, some of whom had multiple admissions to hospital. Around half of these patients (11,901) were admitted for the first time for alcoholrelated conditions.
- Men were 2.4 times more likely than women to be admitted to general acute hospitals for alcohol-related conditions (937.3 per 100,000 population compared to 396.0).

 People in the most deprived areas were seven times more likely to be admitted to general acute hospitals for an alcoholrelated condition than those in the least deprived areas (1,078.7 per 100,000 population compared to 155.0).

Commenting on the new figures, Alison Douglas, chief executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland, said, "Beneath the headline figures we have seen a worrying increase in admissions from people living in our most deprived communities. One of the key benefits of minimum unit pricing is that it can help to reduce health inequalities as it targets those at greatest risk: heavier, poorer drinkers."

Alcohol Related deaths down by 10% since 2018

Some good news in the form of a decrease in alcohol related deaths since 2018 after the publication of the first full year's figures since the introduction of MUP. Commenting on the figures, Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP) said whilst encouraging, this definition of alcohol deaths did not include cancers, suicides and road accidents where alcohol was thought to be a contributory factor and that there is much more work to be done.

Read SHAAP's manifesto for the 2021 Scottish Parliament elections <u>here</u>.

Continued from front page inside box

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- Perceptions of ASB and who engages in it are also often inaccurate and influenced by stereotypes.
- Court action for ASB has decreased over the last 10 years, reflecting a shift from treating ASB as an issue of law and order that requires sanctions to one of addressing perpetrator vulnerability to prevent ASB.

Lorraine Gillies, Chief Officer of Scottish Community Safety Network says "We are delighted to launch this research today. This important piece of work helps us gather an updated picture of antisocial behaviour in Scotland. This builds upon the event we held in February where SCSN were keen to reframe conversations on ASB to be asset based, recovery-focused and trauma-informed. The

key findings from the report point to the need to address false perceptions around ASB and its prevalence but also how best to approach this issue in a holistic way, working with all members of the community. The report clearly indicates that the community safety sector are on the right track in Scotland but reiterates a message that we have further to go in finding solutions together. We hope that Community Safety Partnerships will find this research useful to shape local conversations about ASB."

Scottish Community Safety Network are the national intermediary for community safety in Scotland and an umbrella body for Home Safety Scotland and Neighbourhood Watch Scotland. You can tweet us @SCSN2 or contact us at info@scsn.org.uk

Download the research report in full <u>here</u>.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence: Equally Safe Final Progress Report Published



The 25 November marked the beginning of the annual '16 Days of Activism' on gender based violence. To mark the occasion this year, the Scottish Government has published the latest Equally Safe Strategy update.

This is a final overview of progress made since the publication of the Equally Safe delivery plan in November 2017, actions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic and a look forward to plans after the Equally Safe Strategy.

You can find out more and download the full report <u>here</u>.

Scottish Womens Aid Campaign on Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline

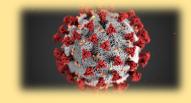
Scottish Women's Aid has also launched a new campaign to mark the '16 Days of Action'.

The campaign begins with the launch of a new animation developed in partnership with survivors of domestic abuse and featuring the real voices of call handlers who work on the Helpline. The video highlights that people in every community across Scotland are experiencing domestic abuse, but that support is available.

The animation was produced by Media Co-Op, with funding from the National Emergencies Trust. The Trust awarded Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline with funding to raise awareness about the service in light of concerns about the impact that COVID-19 and lockdown measures have had on those experiencing domestic abuse.

Read more on this <u>here</u>.

Covid 19 Updates



We're still providing regular updates on

how Covid 19 is impacting on areas of community safety via our dedicated website page. You can check it for updates here. Among recent updates include:

Coronavirus (Covid 19): protests and demonstrations

Guidance for people organising and taking part in protests and demonstrations during the coronavirus pandemic.

Rea the guidance here.

Coronavirus (Covid 19): mental health transition and recovery plan

This <u>plan</u> outlines the response to the mental health impacts of COVID-19. It addresses the challenges that the pandemic has had, and

will continue to have, on the population's mental health.

Learning from Lockdown: 12 Steps to Eliminate Digital Exclusion

Since the outbreak of Covid-19 the scale of digital exclusion in the UK has been exposed and exacerbated beyond previous understanding. While new initiatives have been rapidly and successfully delivered, substantially accelerating progress, there is still much more to be done to ensure no one in the UK is left digitally excluded.

The <u>'Learning from Lockdown: 12 Steps to</u>
<u>Eliminate Digital Exclusion'</u> report from the
Carnegie Trust is a response to this challenge,
setting out a series of 12 recommendations
calling for ambitious action from policy makers,
practitioners, academics and industry to tackle
this issue. The recommendations build on our
work on digital inclusion over the past decade,
and particularly draw on learning and
reflections from the coronavirus outbreak and
lockdown period.

Electrical Fire Safety Week 23 - 29 November



Each year, Electrical Safety First (ESF) works with the Home Office to promote electrical fire safety in the home.

Over half of all accidental house fires are caused by electricity. And nine out of ten electrical fires are caused by electrical products.

During Electrical Fire Safety Week ESF work closely with the Government's <u>Fire</u>
<u>Kills</u> campaign and Fire & Rescue Services across the UK to raise awareness of electrical fire risks and the simple steps that people can take to avoid a devastating fire in their homes.

EFS campaigns offer general safety messages as well as focusing on areas in the home and specific types of product that offer a particular

risk.

Electrical Fire Safety Week 2020

This year EFSW will focus on the potential risks of electrical fires caused by sub-standard and counterfeit products, that are easily available to purchase on online marketplaces.

Christmas shopping is different this year – ESF research shows that almost 60% of consumers in Scotland are planning to shop on online marketplaces, believing it is safer than visiting the High Street during the COVID-19 crisis. But, with less regulation than other retailers, it is easy for third-party independent sellers to use online marketplaces like Amazon, eBay and Wish to sell fake and dangerous electrical products. Our recent investigation found that 14 out of the 15 sampled electrical items purchased from third party sellers on online marketplaces failed basic safety tests and this reflects our previous findings from these sites.

You can follow the campaign on social media with the hashtag #EFSW

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Awareness Week - 23-29 November

Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week runs from 23-29 November, and new safety initiative United Against Carbon Monoxide are running an awareness campaign featuring a range of factsheets and guidance documents which you can download from the Home Safety Scotland of the SCSN website here.

United Against Carbon Monoxide is a new safety initiative run in collaboration to give important advice about Carbon Monoxide, and how you can protect those you love from it's deadly effects. With a common goal to raise awareness and education of CO poisoning, United Against CO is formed of charities, organisations, businesses and individuals working together to achieve these goals. This website refers the dangers of Carbon Monoxide, the importance of the



correct installation and positioning of CO alarms, as well as providing valuable details on a wide range of Carbon Monoxide alarms, so you can be sure to only purchase a certified alarm, tested to the highest standards.

Fact sheets include advice on who is most at risk, CO out of the home, staying safe and possible symptoms of CO poisoning.

They've also produced useful guidance for landlords and on carbon monoxide alarms.

Visit the United Against Carbon Monoxide website here.

Fire Alarm Legislation implementation delay proposed due to pandemic

The Scottish Government will ask parliament to delay new regulations on smoke and carbon monoxide alarms by 12 months due to the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19)

Legislation due to come into effect in February 2021 meant the standard which currently applies to private rented property and newbuilds would have been extended to all homes in Scotland.

Due to the practical difficulties likely to be faced by homeowners seeking to make the necessary changes to their homes, the Scottish Government will now seek to move implementation back to February 2022.

Grenfell Inquiry Phase 1 recommendations: Scottish Government response

The Scottish Government has published their response to the recommendations of Phase 1 of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

The Scottish Government Ministerial Working Group (MWG) on Building and Fire Safety was established immediately after the Grenfell Tower fire and has led a programme of work on frameworks, regulations and guidance to improve fire safety. Under the MWG leadership, actions have already been delivered to strengthen fire safety in Scotland. Some of these are in line with many of the Grenfell Inquiry recommendations.

You can read the Scottish Government response here.

National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group respond to 2019 increase in deaths by suicide

Key figures who are leading Scotland's new approach to suicide prevention today reacted to the news that the number of people who died by suicide in Scotland in 2019 rose for a second successive year.

<u>Statistics</u> released by National Records of Scotland show that there were 833 probable suicides registered in 2019, an increase of 6% on 2018 (which was up 15% on 2017). This is the highest annual total since 2011 (889).

Men accounted for nearly three quarters (74%) of probable suicides in 2019, a similar proportion to every year since the late 1980s.

Nearly a third (32%) of all probable suicides were of people aged between 45 and 59. Over the last five years, the proportion of probable suicides was largest in the 45–49 age group (12% on average). This is a shift in age group from the late 1990s when the largest proportions were for people in their late 20s and early 30s.

Data from 2019 shows some specific areas of increase from 2018. In particular there was an increase in female suicide in the 15–24 age bracket (nine additional deaths, 41%), with

male deaths also up (eight additional deaths, 13%). There has also been an increase in male and females over 55.

Figures also showed that those living in deprived areas were three times more likely to end their own lives.

Read the full SPLG response here.

New Research on impact of childhood adversity and mental health on young person suicide

<u>New research</u> conducted by Edinburgh Napier University has looked at the prevalence and causes of suicide in young people in Scotland.

Suicide among young people increased by 53% in Scotland in 2018.

In line with the overall increase in suicide reported in the 2019 figures for Scotland, 76% of young person suicides were male and 24% female - with 38% of deaths in the most deprived communities.

The researchers are seeking feedback on the findings prior to publication of the final report.

Contact <u>n.dougall@napier.ac.uk</u> for more information.

New look for improving the life chances of children who offend paper

A paper that could help improve the life chances of children and young people who are involved in offending behaviour has been given a new look for 2020.

'Improving the life chances of children who offend: A summary of common factors' aims to support all practitioners, managers and policy makers involved in improving the life chances of children. To ensure the information is shared in a compelling and accessible way, infographics have now been added to illustrate each of the paper's six key themes.

The paper, which was first published in October 2019, was produced by the <u>Improving Life</u> Chances <u>Implementation Group</u> on behalf of the <u>Youth Justice Improvement Board</u>, which was responsible for supporting the Scottish Government's 2015-2020 youth justice strategy <u>Preventing Offending: Getting it right</u> for children and young people.

The group focused on six key themes, on which the paper is based:

- 1. School inclusion
- 2. Strengthening relationships and engagement
- 3. Victims and community confidence
- 4. Improving health and wellbeing
- 5. Opportunities for all
- 6. Transitions

Gill Robinson, Chair of the Improving Life Chances Implementation Group and Professional Advisor, Scottish Prison Service, explained: "When reflecting on their practice with young people and on the findings from research, members of the group realised that particular factors consistently came through as being associated with improved outcomes for children and young people. The group wanted to share these factors as widely and straightforwardly as possible.

State of the Art Review: preventing child and youth pedestrian motor vehicle collisions: critical issues and future directions

New research published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) has undertaken a comprehensive review of the best available evidence related to risk factors for child pedestrian motor vehicle collisions (PMVC) as well as identification of established and emerging prevention strategies.

The review concluded that over the past 30 years, research has reported extensively on PMVC risk factors and that the challenge now is how to move these findings into action and intervene to reduce PMVC injury and fatality rates.

Read the review <u>here</u>.

RoSPA 's 'Take Action Today, Put Them Away' campaign continues

RoSPA's Take Action Today, Put Them Away campaign - which supports families to protect their children from the risks of household cleaning products - has been rolled out to Cornwall, Oldham, Salford, Warrington, Stockport and across Lancashire.

RoSPA is inviting local authorities to take part in the campaign, which has run successfully in many areas of the country and reached more than half a million families. The campaign remains vital as, due to COVID restrictions, children are spending more time at home than ever.

To find out more please visit the campaign web page and contact RoSPA if you are interested in taking part.



Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) Update

SPARC has given an update on some of the latest developments in rural crime:

As with the past few months, for the month of October again in terms of overall rural crimes reported and from all estimated and actual costs quoted, Lothian & Borders division followed by Aberdeenshire and Tayside divisions were the most targeted. Total cost of reported rural crime across Scotland totalled £360,865 with the main offences reported being theft of agricultural + plant equipment. A total of £54,000 has been recovered this month, the majority of which relates to stolen agricultural plant machinery and quad bikes. This

compares to a total reported rural crime figure of £148,834 and a total of £39,000 recovered in October 2019.

The benefits of forming local PARC's was highlighted when a prolific individual who has spent his life targeting rural communities including theft of plant equipment, quads and trailers along with fuel and tools in Ayrshire, Dumfries & Galloway, Lanarkshire and East Renfrewshire was apprehended after a vehicle pursuit involving traffic vehicles and the police helicopter.

Read the full update on the SCSN website here.

Rural Crime Security Review Advice from the National Farmers Union

- Close and lock yard gates at night to deter drive-through thieves
- Check existing lighting, alarms and cameras are working correctly and update if necessary
- Lock outbuildings at night and carry out your usual security checks in winter
- Avoid leaving vehicles and implements where they can be easily seen by criminals scouting for theft opportunities
- Consider infra-red beam alarms, CCTV and floodlighting to protect farm yards
- Store portable tools such as chain saws, jet washers and welders in a secure locked 'cage'
- Join a rural watch group or WhatsApp network to keep updated about local rural crime trends and suspicious sightings
- Mark tools, equipment and implements with your post code to deter thieves and aid

recovery by police

- Know what you own record all makes, models and photograph kit to help police investigate and aid an insurance claim
- Use trackers, immobilisers and CESAR-mark tractors and ATVs to deter thieves
- Consider mechanical devices to anchor down quads
- Remove keys when machines are not in use and store them in a secure cabinet where possible

To hear NFU Mutual's Winter Rural Crime podcast, available from Friday 23 October, please click <u>smarturl.it/aheadofthefield</u> and keep informed about rural crime by following @nfum on Twitter. For more information on trends and advice on how to beat rural crime, NFU Mutual's 2020 Rural Crime report is available at www.nfumutual.co.uk/ruralcrime.

To receive local alerts about crime and other threats in your area, simply click the green 'JOIN' button on the Rural Watch Website. www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk.

Home Safety Scotland News and Updates



RoSPA Webinar: Keeping Kids Safe this Christmas

RoSPA's final community safety webinar of 2020 takes place on 8 December on keeping kids safe this Christmas. Attend this webinar to find out more about the main risks to child safety at Christmas and what you can do to reduce the risk of accidents.



RoSPA recently ran webinars on Carbon Monoxide Safety in the home and a webinar for practitioners on inequalities and unintentional harm. Sign up to the Christmas Safety webinar and view their previous webinars here.

Report: Unsafe toys from online market places

A <u>new report</u> by the British Toy and Hobby Association (BTHA) reveals that well over half of the toys they bought from online marketplaces had serious safety failures.



Defects BTHA found with the purchased toys included:

- powerful magnets that can stick together and burn holes in a child's gut
- accessible lithium coin cell batteries that can burn through a child's food pipe
- small parts that can choke a small child
- cords long enough to strangle a child.

Worryingly, the scale of the problem looks to be on the increase: this was more than double the percentage of toys that BTHA tested and found to be unsafe last year (60% up from 22%).

Winter Wellness App - British Red Cross

For many people, winter will feel very different this year and activities will be more limited due to the colder weather. The new <u>Winter Wellbeing Calendar</u> from Brit-



ish Red Cross provides ideas for activities as well as ideas and tips to boost coping skills and connections throughout December January. Printed copies are available to order for you or those you may know or be caring for. You can also sign up to be notified when their digital version is available to be downloaded.

British Red Cross has also released the 4th instalment of their podcast series <u>The Kind Place</u>. This episode explores the theme of motherhood with Hazel and Ifeoma including how this can increase feelings of loneliness and isolation and create an emotional, as well as physical, barrier. They also have <u>a new video</u> in which Caitlin, Stan and Liz tell us about the coping strategies and tools that they've used to manage their wellbeing during lockdown.

In other news...



Scottish Government Consultation on **Digital Strategy for Scotland**

This consultation seeks views on the updated Digital Strategy for Scotland, which will be crucial in helping to build a Digital Scotland.

The Scottish Government and COSLA are aiming to produce a strategy update that:

- Is big, bold and transformative, and recognises that digital is now at the front and centre of how we live and work;
- Is a shared vision of where Scotland is going Scotland on public attitudes to transport, that resonates with everyone that reads it, of it:
- transformation ambitions throughout all sectors in Scotland;
- Reflects the strategic priorities for Scotland as a whole, rather than a list of actions that are appropriate to individual organisations.

Find out more and take part in the consultation here.

Research on encouraging walking and cycling

A recent article that caught our attention appeared in The Conversation recently around encouraging active travel in Scotland as we recover from the Covid pandemic. It cited research carried out by Transport which showed that during the first period of and encourages them to want to be a part lockdown 9% of respondents said they were walking and cycling more and 62% said they Is a catalyst for bringing together the digital were driving less. The article discusses options including so called '20 minute neighbourhoods', school street closures and scaling up existing active travel schemes such as the 'Sustainable Travel Towns' scheme of 2004-09. Read this article in full here.

Can do places seeks support for Microfinance Fund initiative to boost local economies

Can Do Places have been supported by the Scottish Government to look at the potential for a challenge style, micro finance fund, possibly managed by social investment Scotland, to assist community driven entrepreneurship. This follows on from work they've done across Scotland with community groups wanting to strengthen their local economy by turning empty buildings into co-working work hubs, or indeed anything that creates jobs and stimulates the local economy.

Can Do Places is seeking support from eight community groups, four local authorities and agencies and philanthropists to design user journeys for a proposed new fund.

Read more about this proposed fund and how to get involved here.

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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



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