



# Safety NET-works

September 2022

*Celebrating*  
— 25 YEARS —  
1997-2022

**25th Anniversary Edition**

[www.safercommunitiesScotland.org](http://www.safercommunitiesScotland.org)

## Parliamentary Reception celebrates 25 years of Community Safety Partnership Working

On Thursday 8th September, the SCSN was delighted to host a celebration of 25 years of Community Safety Partnership work (and SCSN!) at the Scottish Parliament.



Clare Adamson MSP, Chair of the Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness, sponsored the event. We were delighted to also be joined by Minister for Community Safety, Ash Regan, who stayed for the duration of the event.

Along with opening remarks from Clare Adamson MSP, we heard from RoSPA Community Safety Manager and long-time SCSN supporter Liz Lumsden and SCSN Chief Officer, Lorraine Gillies.

We were pleased to launch a short video highlighting some of the big moments in Community Safety since 1997, featuring clips of community safety experts and former SCSN board members discussing the contribution of SCSN during this time. You can watch the video on our [Youtube Channel](#).

Prior to the event, we also filmed a short conversation with Clare Adamson covering a variety of topics - especially focussing on home safety - which you can view on page 3.

## New Research Published: Community Safety and Community Justice Joint Working Arrangements



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

These arrangements can range from a fully joint CJ and CS 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) undertook a piece of research which has now been published.

Download the research [here](#).

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## SCSN AGM & Annual Report 2021/22

We held our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 14th of September. This year's AGM was a brief affair focussing on official business, with the previous week's 25 year anniversary reception at the Scottish Parliament replacing our usual extended AGM event and presentations.

However, as usual we have now published our Annual Report for 2021/22, which you can find on [our website](#), along with our [audited accounts](#). And just like last year, we've published an accompanying Annual Report highlights video which you can find on our [Youtube Channel](#).

## SCSN Board Changes

Following our AGM, the SCSN have said fond farewells to some fantastic and long serving board members. We thank them for their dedication and service. Standing down from the SCSN board are Ian Hanley, Patricia Spacey, Karen Moir, Shirley McClaren, Linda Jones & Stephen Jack.

We are delighted to welcome Rebecca Evans and Stewart Prodger to the SCSN board. Remaining on the board are Ann Fehily, John Wood, Cathy Barlow, Gemma Fraser & Jennifer Middlemiss.



## Question of the Month

### Results for August

Our Question of the Month for August related to our 'Alcohol & Other Drugs' themed newsletter, and our Podcast/SCSN Conversations With...[interview with Simon McLean](#) of LEAP Scotland.

We asked:

**"Do you believe prohibition of drugs makes communities safer or more dangerous?"**

- 16% said 'Safer' (5 votes)
- 75% said 'More Dangerous' (24 votes)
- 9% said 'Not Sure' (3 votes)

## Question of the Month

### September 2022

The Cost of Living Crisis is affecting vast swathes of the UK population as energy bills & food prices have pushed inflation to highs not seen in decades.

Too many people are likely to face a choice between heating or eating this winter. Sir Michael Marmot has [recently warned](#) of the major health implications of people being cold & poor this winter.

We're asking:

**'Do you think the Cost of Living Crisis is a Community Safety issue?'**

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

## SCSN Conversations with...

### Community Safety Leaders - Celebrating 25 Years

#### In Conversation with...Clare Adamson MSP, Chair of the Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention & Safety Awareness

Prior to our Parliamentary Reception celebrating 25 years of Community Safety Partnership work (and SCSN!) we were delighted to sit down with Clare Adamson MSP in her Motherwell constituency for a short conversation on Community Safety.

Our Chief Officer, Lorraine Gillies, chatted with Clare about Community Safety over the past 25 years, also touching on the work of the Accident Prevention & Safety Awareness Cross Party Group and future priorities, including home safety.

You can view the interview with Clare Adamson on our Youtube channel [here](#).



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#### More Conversations With...

Rather than our usual one 'SCSN Conversations With...' interview this month, we've got three! We sat down with some community safety leaders, all of whom have served on the SCSN Board.

We discussed their memories of the major developments in community safety over the past 25 years, how community safety policy & practice has evolved over that time, the role SCSN has played - and looked to what lies ahead for community safety.

You can view all of the interviews on our Youtube Channel or on our [Safer Communities Podcast](#).

- [In Conversation with Ian Hanley, SCSN Trustee](#)
- [In Conversation with Liz Lumsden, Community Safety Manager, RoSPA](#)
- In Conversation with Shirley McLaren, Edinburgh Council, SCSN Trustee (To be published shortly)

#### SCSN become official members of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance

We may have been focussed on looking back over the past this month for our 25th Anniversary Celebrations, but we've also been looking forward to the future.

Following a meeting in September, and having completed the application process, we're delighted to announce that SCSN are now officially members of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance!

During the application process, we wrote and published a blog which details many of the reasons we've decided to join - and more broadly why we strongly support a move to a Wellbeing Economy.

You can read our blog, 'Wellbeing Makes the World Go Round' [here](#).



## Scots warned of scams related to the cost of living crisis

Trading Standards Scotland has today launched a month-long campaign aimed at raising awareness of scams linked to the ongoing cost of living crisis. As prices and bills continue to rise, many consumers will have financial worries heading into autumn and winter. Scammers may attempt to exploit these anxieties and to target people online and via cold calls, emails and text messages in an attempt to obtain their personal details and bank account information.

The campaign will run for four weeks and will focus on impersonation scams, misleading information about energy efficiency measures, financial scams, counterfeit goods and online shopping.

Email and text scams connected to the energy bill rebate and cost of living payments have already been reported, as well as fake supermarket voucher and fuel card giveaways on social media.

Doorstep scammers have been giving householders misleading information about grants and funding for energy efficiency measures such as boilers and insulation, while some rogue traders have taken advantage of the global shortage of construction materials to ask customers to pay large deposits, then failing to return to carry out the work.

There have also been reports of dangerous electric devices being sold online which claim to save money on energy bills – consumer safety charity Electrical Safety First recently tested some of these products and found that they all failed basic safety tests, posing the risk of fire or electric shock.

Those worried about making ends meet are also being warned to be wary of online adverts offering ‘quick and easy’ loans or cryptocurrency investment opportunities with supposedly high returns. These adverts often imply that the investment has been endorsed by celebrities such as Martin Lewis.

Trading Standards Scotland recently ran the Big Scottish Scam Survey, asking Scots about the scams they had experienced in the last year.



97% of respondents had experienced an email, text, phone, doorstep or online scam in the last year. For those who lost money to a scam, the amounts ranged from £37 to £25,000.

Some of the most common scams were:

- Delivery scams
- HMRC scams
- Amazon scams
- Energy scams
- Covid Scams
- Prize draw/giveaway scams
- Bank scams
- Remote access scams
- Online shopping scams
- Rogue traders

79% of survey respondents had avoided a scam after seeing or reading about it, with 41% going on to report the scam.

Read more [here](#).

### Trauma & Poverty: Post COVID-19 challenges affecting vulnerable young people in Scotland

Scottish Sports Futures is urging Scottish Government, Governing Bodies and Local Authorities to significantly invest more in access to physical activities and access to sports facilities for young vulnerable people following the findings of a new report highlighting the challenges facing young Scots living in poverty and the impact of Covid-19 lockdowns.

The charity commissioned Glasgow University to undertake a literature and data review, alongside interviews of young people to better understand the trends affecting young people in Scotland today; the role of physical activity; the impact Covid-19 and the lockdowns played in their lives; and what organisations can do to help navigate the trends.

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

## Local Area Research & Intelligence Association Event: Improving Evidence Use to tackle Child Poverty in Scotland

In March, the Scottish Government published its updated Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan. The document

emphasises the importance of effective use of evidence to help tackle child poverty. This is especially true given the declining resources available across the sector.

Local government has a central role to play, recognising that we need more locally-led, joined-up, and evidence-informed action on child poverty. In the wake of the pandemic, and with an escalating cost of living crisis, this is more important than ever.

In support of Challenge Poverty Week, LARIA in Scotland invites you to this workshop to explore how evidence – be it in the form of research, data or intelligence – can support in tackling child poverty.

The aim is to understand how we can improve the use of evidence and identify opportunities for new and strengthened collaborations to support this.

The event will also explore how we can develop the capacities required to support



these efforts and share good practice in this space.

Before spending time in discussion, will hear examples of recent work including:

- How the use of powerful datasets, including commercial and publicly available data, can provide insights that enable Local Authorities to track, understand and address the needs arising at a local level.
- Hanna McCulloch (Improvement Service) on recently developed recommendations for improving the use of data and intelligence in remote, rural and island authorities.
- Dr Rachel Shanks (University of Aberdeen) on recent research on school clothing grants and how school uniform policy could help reduce the cost of the school day.

The webinar is for anyone working with evidence relevant to tackling child poverty, with a particular focus on local government related work, including:

- Policy professionals
- Practitioners
- Researchers
- Data analysts

Book your place [here](#).

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## Cost of Living Crisis - What's the impact on disabled people?

Disabled people are already much more likely to be living in poverty in Scotland and are being hit hard by the current cost of living crisis. They are facing this on top of the extra costs many already experience from simply living as disabled people, and are at significant risk of financial hardship, fuel poverty, food insecurity and destitution as energy costs spiral and prices for other essentials continue to increase.

Inclusion Scotland wants to hear from disabled people about what you're having to go without or cut down on because of the crisis and what you're most worried about as we approach winter.

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

## #RunningCostsCrisis: SCVO Online Information Hub for Charities

A vital new resource has been launched for Scotland's charities to help them get through the toughest of times.

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) has created an [online hub](#) full of practical advice on how to deal with the escalating cost of living crisis.

The hub, which will be continually updated, contains free expert advice, news on webinars and training, the latest policy actions to combat the crisis and news from around the sector.



## MONTHLY REFLECTIONS SCSN CHIEF OFFICER



September...

That month when late summer sunshine is still felt on your face while you kick up all the autumn leaves at your feet. It's a transition time, usually fairly predictable and quiet. For the SCSN, it's been unusually busy. We were in the midst of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at the Scottish Parliament, at an event kindly hosted by Clare Adamson MSP, when news that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was gravely ill started to come in. It wasn't long until the worst news was confirmed – that we had lost our Queen and things would never be the same again.

For me – neither a republican or a royalist, it's been disquieting, fascinating and a privilege to see so many traditions and rituals being made accessible to us via media. A time like no other. My condolences to everyone affected by this sad event and the turmoil that comes with it.

You will read more about our anniversary event in this newsletter but that's not the only thing that's kept us busy. Note to self – don't ever think it's good idea to hold a significant event

in the same month as our AGM. Annual General Meetings depend on 2 things being ready – an annual report and the signed audited accounts, attendance by people with an interest in the organisation and significant administrative and staff time. By the time you read this, that will be done, complete – until next year.

Other things to mention that have kept us busy in September include our involvement in a significant new piece of research into CCTV; brilliant chats with the Office of Product Safety and Standards; a hate crime roundtable hosted by COSLA; contribution to the under development Violence Prevention Framework and joining the Wellbeing Economy Alliance - <https://weall.org/about>

We are also looking forward to our staff development day at <https://wistonlodge.com/>

Once again, I'm grateful for continued interest in our work from our readership! Thanks for reading.

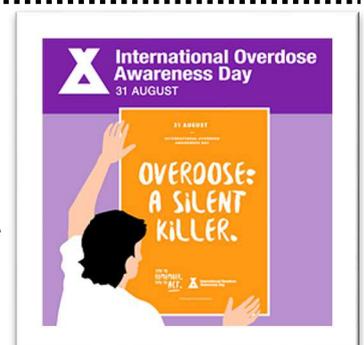
**Lorraine Gillies, SCSN Chief Officer**

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### SCSN Blog for International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD)

#### 'Swift, Certain, Tough? More like Sick and Certainly Tired'

August 31st was International Overdose Awareness Day. Our [August newsletter](#) was themed on Alcohol and Other Drugs, and we featured an [interview/podcast](#) with Simon McLean of LEAP Scotland - where we discussed whether drug prohibition makes our communities safer or more dangerous.



To mark IOAD, and following our submission of a response to the UK Government's new 'Swift, Certain, Tough' proposals on further criminalising drug users, we published a blog further exploring the effects of our current drug laws and their enforcement on community safety, not to mention their effect on health and overdose deaths.

You can read our blog [here](#).

## Programme for Government 2022/23 launched



The Scottish Government launched its new Programme for Government in September.

The Programme for Government contains a welcome range of measures being taken to address the Cost of Living Crisis - including a rent freeze and £25 increase to the Scottish Child Payment.

Among other priorities and legislation announced relevant to Community Safety were:

- A National Strategy for Economic Transformation committing to a fairer, greener wellbeing economy
- Legislation for a National Care Service

- A continued commitment to reducing drug related deaths, including expansion of access to residential rehabilitation and continuing to lobby the UK Government on drug consumption rooms
- Criminal Justice Reform Bill: Abolishing 'Not Proven' verdict and granting automatic anonymity to complainers in sexual assault cases - and developing proposals to introduce new criminal offences relating to misogyny
- The Children's Care and Justice Bill - ensuring children who come into contact with care and justice services are treated with trauma-informed and age-appropriate support and will put an end to placing under 18s in Young Offenders' Institutions.

You can read more on the Programme for Government on the Scottish Government website [here](#).

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### I Am Me Alcohol & Substance Use Awareness Education Pack

I Am Me Scotland have been developing a new Alcohol & Substance awareness education pack for use in schools across Scotland. Commissioned by Renfrewshire Children's Services, the pack has been developed with children, young people, partners (Police, Health and Social Care and NHS) and most importantly people who have lived and living experience of drugs, alcohol and addiction.

The innovative new learning materials include animation, videos and are narrated by children and young people.

The resources, which include addiction, stigma, naloxone and county lines, are available on the I Am Me Scotland Education Platform and are free for all schools and police officers in Scotland.

Access the resources [here](#).

Find out more by watching this [short video](#).

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### Rural and Island Communities Ideas into Action Fund open for applications

The Rural and Island Communities Ideas into Action Fund is a £3 million investment from the Scottish Government to encourage and enable community groups to design and deliver solutions to local challenges in rural communities across Scotland. Two strands of funding are available - small grants for projects up to £5,000 and large grants of between £5,001 and £100,000.



Projects funded will contribute positively to local people and local priorities. Projects must be led by their community and **completed by March 2023**.

Before applying you may find it useful to consult the fund [guidance notes](#).

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

## WHO releases new resources and tools for preventing violence



WHO supports efforts to end violence called for in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Target 5.2 is to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls; Target 16.1 is to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere, and Target 16.2 is to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children. The following resources have been updated or released by WHO and partners in recent months to support activities in the areas of research, advocacy and prevention:

### **Update of the Violence Prevention Information System (Violence Info):**

Violence Info, an online interactive collection of scientific information about the prevalence, consequences, risk factors and preventability of all forms of interpersonal violence, has been updated! Find out more [here](#).

### **Online course on INSPIRE: seven strategies for ending violence against children**

The INSPIRE technical package reflects a select group of strategies based on the best available evidence to help countries and communities intensify their focus on the prevention programmes and services with the greatest potential to reduce violence against children. In this free, 8-week, self-paced INSPIRE course, students hear from violence prevention practitioners and learn about evidence-based approaches to preventing violence against children. Find out more [here](#).

### **WHO Violence Prevention Unit: approaches, objectives and activities 2022-2026**

Published in September 2022, this brief strategy document outlines the WHO Violence Prevention Unit's approach to violence prevention, and its objectives and activities for 2022-2026. It is aimed at policy-makers, civil society organizations, academics, funders, and others who would like to know more about the who, why, how, what, when and where of violence prevention efforts at WHO. Find out more [here](#).

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## Free Guide: An Introduction to Cyber Security for Staff

CyberScotland partner [Scottish Business Resilience Centre](#) have released a new staff induction document titled 'An introduction to cyber security'.

This free online resource, developed by ethical hackers at SBRC, provides easily accessible cyber security guidance, helping you to understand common types of attacks and how to defend against them. This non-technical advice is aimed at individuals looking to improve their cyber security practices and can be read as one document or kept for future reference on individual topics.

The guide is an ideal add-on to staff induction packs to help make staff more aware of what cyber threats exist and how to spot them. It covers topics such as phishing, ransomware and password attacks. Download [here](#).

## Police Scotland Your Police Survey



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe  
**POILEAS ALBA**

Police Scotland has continued to meet the needs of communities during a demanding and difficult period for the people of Scotland.

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

They are currently conducting a survey which provides you with a chance to tell the police what you think of the service they provide.

Your responses will help improve how they deliver their policing services in local communities, ensuring they are accessible for everyone.

You can take part in the survey [here](#).

# Climate Crisis Corner



## New report warns we are entering 'uncharted territory of destruction'

Climate science is clear: we are heading in the wrong direction, according to a new multi-agency report coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which highlights the huge gap between aspirations and reality. Without much more ambitious action, the physical and socioeconomic impacts of climate change will be increasingly devastating, it warns.

The report, [United in Science](#), shows that

greenhouse gas concentrations continue to rise to record highs. Fossil fuel emission rates are now above pre-pandemic levels after a temporary drop due to lockdowns. The ambition of emissions reduction pledges for 2030 needs to be seven times higher to be in line with the 1.5 °C goal of the Paris Agreement.

The past seven years were the warmest on record. There is a 48% chance that, during at least one year in the next 5 years, the annual mean temperature will temporarily be 1.5°C higher than 1850-1900 average.

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## Climate hazards and resilience in the workplace - Sniffer Blog

Climate change is not a problem for the future. It is here, and the most vulnerable members of our society are already on the frontline. Climate change is a stress multiplier that will disproportionately affect those who are already most disadvantaged. Vulnerable population groups are likely to feel the impact of climate risks soonest and hardest. For example:

- Those without access to financial resources find it much harder to get warnings for, prepare, respond, and recover from extreme weather events.

- The impacts of floods will be much harder on those who cannot afford flood protection measures and insurance.
- The cascading impacts of climate change from harvest failures to supply chain disruption will increase the cost of everyday necessities, making it even harder for those on the lowest incomes to make ends meet.
- The pandemic highlighted how the elderly, frontline, and low paid workers, migrants, those in poverty, and those with disabilities, tend to be amongst the most vulnerable and are likely to be less able to adapt to emerging threats.

Read more [here](#).

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## How to Plan for National Power Outages - Scottish Business Resilience Centre

5th October 2022

SBRC is hosting an event to raise awareness and levels of preparedness amongst businesses in the event of a National Electrical Transmission System (NETS) Failure or National Power Outage (NPO).



We all depend on electricity more than we even realise; it literally powers every aspect of our lives.

How would your business cope with a National Power Outage? No lights, no heating, no telecommunications, no internet, no refrigeration, transport infrastructure interrupted, not to mention looking after the people within your business.

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



## Latest news from the Home Safety Scotland Forum

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### **New Mark McCall Home Safety Fund announced**

SCSN are delighted to announce the creation of the Mark McCall Home Safety Fund, in partnership with RoSPA and Fife Council.

Mark McCall was former Chair Person of the SCSN board of directors and played an instrumental role in the evolution and development of our organisation.

Mark was also Service Manager for Housing at Fife Council and was passionate about child safety.

Mark tragically passed away in 2021 after a short but courageous battle with cancer.

#### **What will the fund support?**

The fund will support access to home safety equipment to households with children under the age of five.

Criteria are in the process of being established.

#### **When will the fund be open?**

The fund will be open for applications in January 2023 with funds dispersed in March 2023 for spend in the financial year 2023/24.

Keep up to date with news on the fund coming soon on the Home Safety Scotland section of the SCSN website [here](#).

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### **Age Scotland: Warm & Well Guide**

You may already know quite a lot about staying warm in your home and how to cope with a Scottish winter, but there may be even more you can do to stay warm and to manage your energy bills.

Age Scotland's Warm and Well guide explains about how to make your home energy efficient, manage your bills, keep your home warm, benefit the environment and stay as well as you can over winter.

Many aspects of energy efficiency are simply common sense, but it's worth checking that you know how to use your heating efficiently and make sure it is checked regularly.

Read more and download the Warm & Well Guide [here](#).



## Volunteer with Roar Connections for Life

Did you know that many older adults CANNOT look after their own feet? Did you know that supporting an older adult to look after their feet could prevent them from falling?

Our friends at Roar Connections for Life are urgently seeking volunteers.

Interested? Apply [here](#).



**HELP NEEDED!**

Helping older people to look after their feet helps them keep active, avoid falls & stay independent for longer

Join us for an volunteering or job opportunity supported by the NHS which includes full training, an opportunity to get paid employment, and ongoing support!

If you are interested in making a difference, please get in touch.

Contact us:  
info@roarforlife.org  
0141 889 7481  
www.roarforlife.org

## Recruitment call for firefighters in the north of Scotland

Firefighter recruitment across Scotland recently moved to a year-round approach and based on local area needs. People are reminded that they should only apply for the area in which they want to work.

Applicants for the wholetime role must be aged 18 years old or over, meet the required medical and physical fitness standards and be able to demonstrate valuable skills such as teamwork, communication and problem solving in pressurised situations. Only first applications will be taken forwards so applicants are asked not to submit multiple applications.

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

## Saving money while staying safe: Electrical Safety First guide to safety in the home during the cost of living crisis

In recent months, the cost of living has been on the minds of many. Increases in energy price caps along with a rise in National Insurance contributions have put numerous people under further financial stress.

Electrical Safety First have published this [handy guide](#) on how to save money whilst staying safe at home.

## Gas Safety Map Tool

The Gas Safe Register have a brilliant gas safety tool!

Enter your postcode and the map shows all the dangerous gas appliances that have been found in your area.

Find out if the are you live is 'gas safe'.

Access the safety map at:

[www.staygassafe.co.uk](http://www.staygassafe.co.uk)



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If you would like to submit an article,  
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in our newsletter, please get in touch!

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