

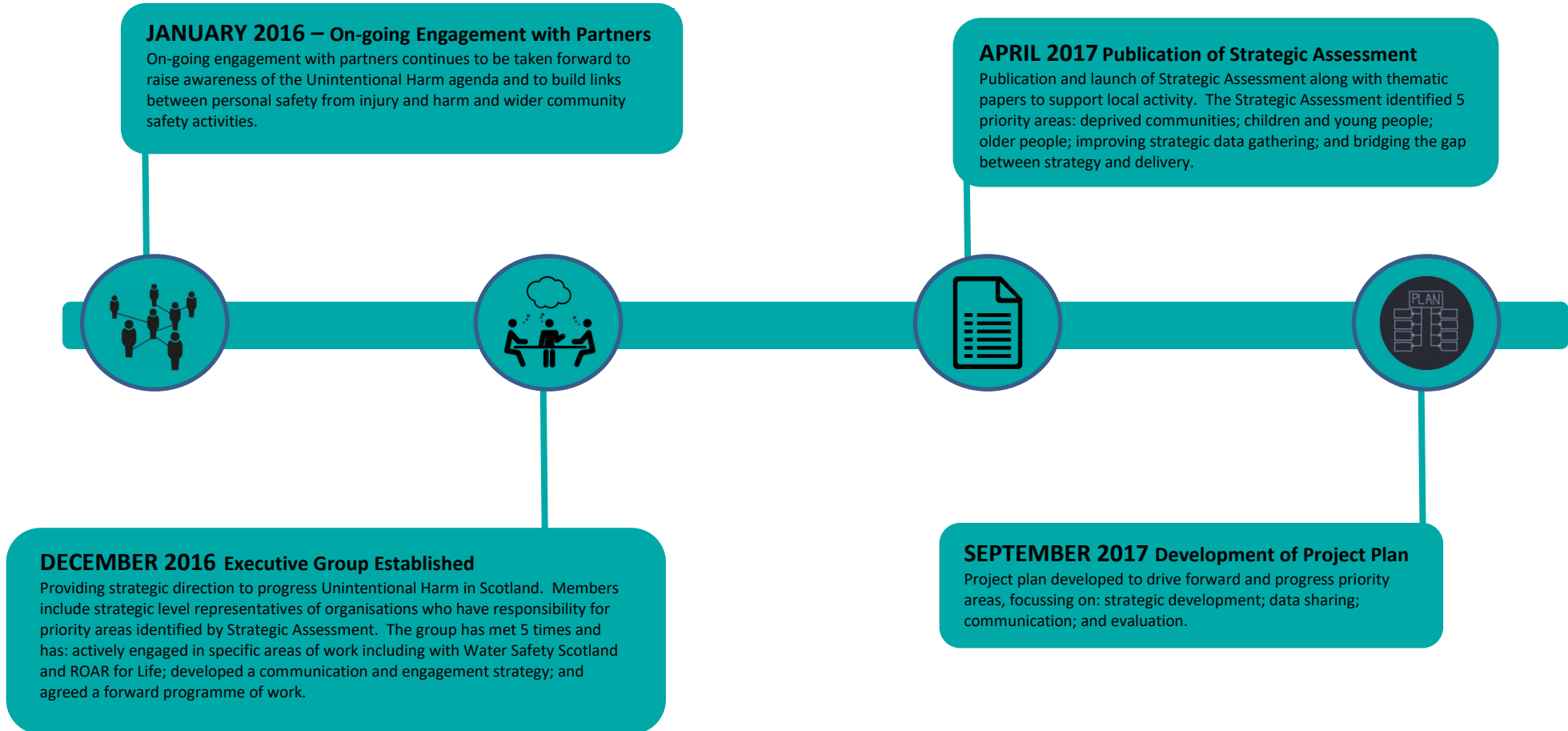


BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES: UNINTENTIONAL HARM

PROGRESS REPORT

DECEMBER 2017

Key Milestones Achieved



Introduction

Building Safer Communities (BSC) is one of the key strands that contributes to the [Justice Vision](#) of a safe, just and resilient Scotland.

Although BSC is managed by the Scottish Government, it is a collaborative partnership with local and national partners and communities, to drive forward and champion Community Safety. This means enabling everyone in Scotland to live in safe, cohesive and resilient communities where they feel safe and secure, focussing not only on the consequences of crime and Unintentional Harm but investing in preventative approaches and tackling the underlying causes. This requires holistic and co-ordinated approaches that span beyond justice into education, early years, regeneration, and the wider public sector reform agenda. Key to this is:

- Effective multi-agency partnerships between local partners including the local authority, Community Planning Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships, delivery agencies, and the third sector.
- Collaborative leadership and approaches that will be sustainable in terms of delivering outcomes.
- A learning and evaluation culture with robust data and performance measures to inform future approaches and investment.
- Drawing on the skills, knowledge and experiences not only of experts and professionals but of communities themselves.

This report focusses specifically on the progress we have made through the BSC collaborative in relation to Unintentional Harm. It briefly sets out: our on-going programme of engagement with partners across Scotland; the setting up of the Unintentional Harm Executive Group; publication of the Unintentional Harm Strategic Assessment; and development of a firm action plan for the Executive Group going forward.

'Unintentional Harm' is predictable and preventable unintentional physical and psychological harm.'

Further information on the remit and membership of the group and relevant outputs is provided at the end of this report.

Progress

Engagement with Partners (On-going)

An on-going programme of engagement continues to be taken forward with partners from across Scotland to raise awareness of the Unintentional Harm agenda and to build links between personal safety from injury and harm and wider community safety activities. This engagement has facilitated learning on unintentional harm by sharing ideas, evidence, experiences and approaches, and has supported critical conversations on the opportunities and challenges in tackling the underlying causes of unintentional harm and investing in preventative approaches. This has helped to mobilise practitioners across Scotland to focus on prevention and achieve better outcomes. Engagement has included:

- Promoting early messages from the Strategic Assessment at national events, including at the Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) Convention in March 2016 and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Water Safety Conference in March 2017.
- Building connections with our national partners (including Crimestoppers, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, Scottish Business Resilience Centre and Water Safety Scotland) and supporting related work (including, for example: the National Falls Programme; development of a National Water Safety Strategy; and engaging with ROAR for Life – a health and wellbeing services for older people).
- Engaging with local authorities and local-level initiatives to identify examples of innovative practice already underway. These are highlighted in the suite of documents published in conjunction with the Strategic Assessment and in Scottish Community Safety Network’s (SCSN) Safer Communities Awards [2016 Case Studies](#). This has enabled us to recognise, learn from and support local level practice, and identify learning from this practice that has wider applicability.

Executive Group Established (December 2016)

The Unintentional Harm Executive Group was formally established in December 2016 to provide strategic leadership and direction to reducing Unintentional Harm and injury across Scotland. The group is designed to build collaborative leadership and strengthen partnership working between key organisations in tackling unintentional harm across Scotland. The group has a key role in championing creativity and innovation and is a welcoming place for new ideas and improvement, to share learning and challenge blockages in the system. The Group has agreed to focus on the following aims:

- To provide strategic support for Unintentional Harm and injury across our respective organisations.
- To oversee the development and delivery of key recommendations identified in the Strategic Assessment, and to develop an action plan to drive forward the Unintentional Harm agenda based on these recommendations.
- To ensure local partnership working in the areas identified by the Strategic Assessment are aware of, and understand, the recommendations and are supported to develop local practice accordingly.
- To develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to monitor and demonstrate progress.
- To identify and link with related areas of work around Unintentional Harm and injury that are being progressed across Scotland.

The Group is chaired by Assistant Chief Officer (David McGown) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, and has met on five occasions. The Group has no statutory or mandatory basis, and membership and participation is on a voluntary basis. Current membership of the Group is outlined under ‘who are we’.

Publication of Strategic Assessment (April 2017)

A [Strategic Assessment on Unintentional Harm](#) was published in April 2017, which has strengthened our shared understanding of the importance, nature and scale of unintentional harm in Scotland. This brings together and analyses collectively, for the first time, incident data¹ to help us understand the scale of Unintentional Harm in Scotland and the resulting impact it has on individuals, families, communities and the public sector. The Strategic Assessment focusses on home safety, falls, sports

¹ Bringing together data from key partners (including the Scottish Ambulance Service, National Records for Scotland, NHS Information Services Division and NHS Accident and Emergency) and data from major Scottish surveys (including the Scottish Household Survey, Scottish Health Survey and Health Behaviour in School-age Children Survey).

injury, outdoor safety (water safety, mountain safety), road safety and workplace safety, mental wellbeing, loneliness and social isolation. It is intended to be used by a range of partners across Scotland to: provide a clear outline of the scale and nature of Unintentional Harm; highlight areas for improvement; and illustrate examples of practice already underway.

The assessment identified five areas of priority:

1. Those living in Scotland's **most deprived communities** who are more likely to experience an incident of Unintentional Harm.
2. **Children and Young People**, particularly the under-fives, who are disproportionately affected by unintentional harm. Unintentional Harm is one of the leading causes of death (second only to cancers) in children aged under 15 in Scotland. The child death rate from unintentional injuries in Scotland is 30% higher than in England and Wales.
3. **Older People**, particularly those over 65 years, who are disproportionately affected by Unintentional Harm having higher death and serious injury rates than any other age group.
4. **Improving strategic data gathering, analysis and sharing**. Organisations need to improve their recording of Unintentional Harm and better link relevant data to provide a clearer picture on the nature and scale of the issue and protective factors so that appropriate preventative measures can be put in place.
5. Bridging the gap between **strategy and delivery**, including the potential to develop a national prevention strategy for Unintentional Harm, and the opportunity to influence the adoption of Unintentional Harm as a priority issue within the Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs).

'The majority of incidents of unintentional harm are preventable and...there is a strong argument that this should be focussed in a more coordinated and strategic manner.'
(Strategic Assessment)

The Strategic Assessment has improved our understanding of the opportunities, challenges and benefits of a more co-ordinated and strategic approach to unintentional harm and improved awareness of best practice in policy and evidence of what works to progress this agenda. It has led to a collective understanding of remaining gaps and next steps for Scotland. A project plan (outlined below) has been developed to take forward the five priority areas identified. A suite of [thematic briefing papers](#) were published alongside the Strategic Assessment specifically designed for practitioners with an interest in particular aspects of Unintentional Harm, including a focus on: Children and Young People; Older People; Deprivation; Home Safety; Road Safety; and Outdoor Safety.

Development of Project Plan (September 2017)

Following publication of the Strategic Assessment the Executive Group have developed a project plan to drive forward and progress the priority areas identified above. This focusses on:

1. Exploring the potential for an **Unintentional Harm National Strategy** focussing on, but not limited to, the priorities identified in the Strategic Assessment. This will involve identifying existing strategies and policies in place and considering the difference these have made to practice. Initial scoping work has been carried out to provide an overview of the policy and delivery environment with details on existing commitments, strategic priorities across policy areas and legislative commitments that relate to the reduction of Unintentional Harm (Paper

available on request). It has been agreed that RoSPA will lead on this strand, supported by the Scottish Government.

2. **Evaluation:** Explore and develop approaches that will better enable local level activities and interventions to be evaluated in an appropriate and proportionate way. And at a national level provide an indication of overall progress towards reducing Unintentional Harm across Scotland.
3. Developing a **Communication and Engagement Strategy** to raise the profile of Unintentional Harm and encourage integration into Local Community Planning arrangements, including Community Safety Partnerships, Community Planning Partnerships, and Health and Social Care Partnerships. It has been agreed that Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) will lead on this strand, supported by the Scottish Government.
4. Improve the **sharing and use of data**, ensuring users are aware of where to access the most relevant, up to date, accurate information. Develop a “**portal**” where case studies of practice can be logged and accessed by practitioners and communities. It has been agreed the SFRS will lead on data sharing, and the Scottish Government will lead on development of a good practice portal, in partnership with Scottish Community Safety Network.

Who are we?

Membership of the Executive Group includes strategic level representatives of the following organisations, who have responsibility for, or interest in, the areas identified by the Strategic Assessment:

- SFRS
- Scottish Government (Safer Communities; Health; Resilience)
- Scottish Ambulance Service
- NHS
- CoSLA
- SCSN
- RoSPA
- Community Planning Partnerships
- University of Edinburgh
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO).

The Group is continuing to build links with Health and Social Care Partnerships and the Health and Justice Board. Membership is not restricted to the above organisations, and any other interested parties are invited to attend on a thematic basis, as well as to participate in working groups from the action plan.

Next Steps

Over the next 12-18 months, the Executive Group will focus on driving forward each of the priority areas outlined in the project plan. We will maintain a clear focus on co-ordinating activity already underway,

identifying action to fill remaining gaps, and in further developing the links between personal safety from injury and harm and wider community safety activities.

Further Information

We report on our work through a variety of outputs in newsletters, on our respective websites and on twitter. All of these, and further background and contextual information on the programme can be accessed by visiting the BSC website at <http://www.bsc.scot/> or by contacting us at communitysafety@gov.scot. We are also on twitter, where we tweet about partner campaigns, Ministerial involvement and community safety events - you can follow us at @theBSCprogramme.