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New Paper Unveils Impact of Court Delays on Victim-Survivors of Serious Sexual Crime

Researchers from the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR) have published a new paper detailing the impact delays to prosecutions of serious sexual crime during Covid-19 are having in Scotland.

It outlines the wide-ranging adverse consequences that come from extended delays on victim-survivors' health and wellbeing.

The paper written by Professor Michele Burman and Dr Oona Brooks-Hay has been referenced by Rape Crisis Scotland on the day it publishes a [legal opinion](#) that states these delays may be 'unlawful'.

Co-author of '[Delays in Trials: the implications for victim-survivors of rape and serious sexual assault](#)', Dr Oona Brooks-Hay said: "Delays in rape cases are not new; waiting times have been unacceptably lengthy for some time.

"The challenges faced by victim-survivors as a result of delays in their case progression, poor communication, the uncertainties about trial dates and last-minute changes to court locations are well-established and very problematic.

"Our research has shown that many develop mental and physical health problems including anxiety, night terrors, depression and suicidal thoughts because of these inordinate delays. Recovering from such a traumatic event is also delayed as access to therapeutic resources has to wait."

Continue reading on page 4

Event Report:

Let's Talk about ASB

On Monday 3rd February, we hosted a fishbowl discussion on antisocial behaviour as part of the Firestarter Festival. The discussion centred on how society and policy could view antisocial behaviour with a more compassionate, trauma-informed lens that accounts for and addresses the social determinants underlying behaviours and still supports victims. We discussed what 'pro-social' behaviour might look like, and how to move the discourse towards one that celebrates strengths rather than shortcomings.

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

Covid 19 Survey Briefing Paper

This [briefing paper](#) pulls together some of the statistics related to community safety that have been emerging since May. In doing so we have been able to provide an update on some of the trends identified in the previous briefing paper, including confidence in policing and mental health and wellbeing. There has also been a large amount of new data published relating to the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people. Finally, we highlight some of the data relating to the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on disabled people, and on the Third Sector.

SCSN Conversations with...

Dr Christine Goodall
Scottish Health Action on
Alcohol Problems - Page 3

Child Sexual Offences
increase by a third in 5 years
- Page 4

Neighbourhood Watch
Scotland News - Page 9
Home Safety Scotland News -
Page 10



Scottish Community
Safety Network

SCSN Update

SCSN Welcomes Shona Fleming and Josh Box to our team!

We are delighted to welcome two new staff members to the SCSN team who have started work with us in August. Josh Box joins SCSN as National Development Officer whilst Shona Fleming has taken up the post of Business Support Officer. This follows some restructuring which saw Hannah Dickson take up post as National Development Manager and Dawn Exley become National Development Officer.



We're really excited about what this means for us going forward in terms of increasing our capacity and making the case for community safety across Scotland!

You can find out more about Josh and Shona on our Meet the Team website page [here](#).

SCSN bids a fond farewell to Mariah Kelly

It's with a heavy heart that SCSN says goodbye to Mariah Kelly, who has been with us for a year as our Business Support Assistant (Events).



Mariah has been a valuable member of the SCSN team during her time, contributing to the success of our events, writing well received blog pieces and doing a huge amount of important work in the background to support the organisation.

We wish her very well in her future endeavours!

Question of the Month

Our Question of the Month for July related to a guest blog by Nicola Hanssen of ROAR Connections for Life. She wrote about some of the dilemmas we face as families and as a society when seeking to look after the health of our elderly relatives.

We asked,

Should over 80s have their driving ability tested annually?

- 68% said Yes
- 12% said No
- 20% said Not Sure

(25 votes)

Question of the Month August 2020

Our Question of the Month for August 2020 relates to our conversation with Dr Christine Goodall of SHAAP. We discussed alcohol related anti-social behaviour, isolation and loneliness, domestic violence and Covid 19 transmission.

We're asking:

Have you been aware of increases in anti-social behaviour related to alcohol use in your area since lockdown restrictions began to ease?

Take part in our poll [here](#).

SCSN Conversations with...

Dr Christine Goodall

Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP)



This month, we sat down with Dr Christine Goodall of Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems to discuss some of the emerging issues on alcohol around the Covid 19 lockdown and pandemic.

In our discussion, we looked at changing drinking patterns throughout the pandemic and how these are or could be affecting areas of interest for community safety practitioners, including unintentional harm, anti-social behaviour and domestic violence.

We also discussed some of the concerns around pubs becoming hotspots for transmission of Covid 19 as we emerge from lockdown. View the interview [here](#).

Drug Deaths Taskforce One Year Report Published

The Drugs Death Taskforce was formed in 2019 against a backdrop of record drug related deaths in Scotland in 2018, with 1,187 drug related deaths reported - an increase of 27% on the previous year.

This report details the work that has been undertaken in the year since the Taskforce was formed, as well as some of the adjustments and adaptations that have been made in light of the Covid 19 pandemic, specifically with staff being re-allocated to Covid Emergency Response and limits being placed on the engagement element of the Taskforce's work.

The report lists some of the key achievements that have been realised over the past year, including:

- the provision of naloxone to winter night shelters for the homeless
- the publication in January 2020 of a



document setting out six key evidence based strategies for preventing drug related deaths which was sent to Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs)

- a three month pilot with the Scottish Ambulance Service to distribute take home naloxone to patients who had had a non fatal overdose which the Scottish Ambulance Service is now working to roll out nationally
- progress towards a pilot of Police officers to carry naloxone
- The publication of a Stigma Strategy

You can read the full one year report [here](#).

Child sexual offences have risen by a third over five years



- **More than 5,000 child sex offences recorded by Police Scotland in 2019/20**
- **Childline counselling sessions about sexual abuse in the family triple across UK during lockdown**
- **NSPCC urges Scottish Government to draw up a Child Sexual Abuse Strategy that puts victims and prevention at its core**

Police Scotland recorded an average of 15 child sex offences every day last year, new figures from the NSPCC reveal.

There were 5,311 recorded offences including rape, online grooming and sexual assault against children in Scotland in 2019/20 – up 30% in the five years since 2014/15.

In last year's figures, where gender was recorded, girls were five times as likely to be victims, and in the offences where age category was given, 45% of the crimes recorded were against children under 13.

Across the UK, there were 73,518 recorded offences in 2019/20. The data was provided by

a total of 44 out of 45 police forces after the NSPCC submitted a Freedom of Information request.

NSPCC Scotland believes these figures show the urgent need for national leadership to create a coordinated plan to tackle child sexual abuse, both online and offline, in the country.

The charity is now calling on the Scottish Government to follow other nations in the UK and set about producing a comprehensive Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy.¹

The charity is calling for the strategy to put the needs of children and young people at the centre of how authorities respond to child sexual abuse, with a focus on effective prevention and victims having access to timely, relevant and specialist support to help them recover.

NSPCC Scotland research has shown that the availability of specialist therapeutic sexual abuse services is patchy and inconsistent across the country.

Support should include that provided through Child House initiatives where health, policing, social work, therapeutic and other services provide help to children under one roof.

The call comes as an NSPCC report found contacts from young people to Childline about sexual abuse in the family tripled across the UK during lockdown.

Read the press release in full [here](#).

Continued from front page, main article

Drawing upon an earlier research study with victim-survivors in Scotland, [Justice Journeys](#), the paper highlights significant issues around access to justice and the right of complainers to have their trial heard within a reasonable time.

Dr Brooks-Hay also raised concerns around how delays would impact those wishing to report serious sexual crimes.

“For many victim-survivors the knowledge that a case is unlikely to come to an end for years may act as a real disincentive to report in the first place, effectively undoing all of the work undertaken by the Government and Police

Scotland to encourage victims to come forward”, she said.

Authors of the paper are supporting [calls from Rape Crisis Scotland](#) for the Scottish Government to legislate for judge led trials to be used in the short term to alleviate the untenable backlog. Not doing so – they say – would be ignoring the rights of victims and that would be unacceptable.

You can read *Delays in Trials: the implications for victim-survivors of rape and serious sexual assault* on the [SCCJR website](#).

If you have been raped or sexually abused you can find support and information on Rape Crisis Scotland's [website](#).

'Heids Together' a new mental health resource from Youthlink Scotland



In March this year, when faced with an unexpected pandemic, the youth work sector did what it does best and adapted to extremely challenging circumstances for the benefit of young people. Meeting rooms, community halls and drop-ins quickly moved online as digital youth work became a necessity rather than a quirky innovation.

At YouthLink Scotland, we were keen to capture some of this work and were delighted to receive funding through the Wellbeing Fund to create a new mental health & wellbeing resource.

The project engaged with six incredible youth work organisations from across Scotland who have adapted their service delivery and continued the support during Covid-19 - specifically around mental health & wellbeing.

During the 10-week project, youth workers have been taking part in weekly group meetings with us, undertaking five practice development sessions led by YouthLink Scotland, See Me Scotland and Penumbra.

It has been an intense and rewarding project resulting in the creation of Heids Together, a free youth work resource.

We hope this resource will increase the capacity of the sector to engage in mental health support, increase confidence of youth workers, provide creative and innovative ways of engaging in mental health discussions with young people, which have been created by young people. We also hope it will encourage social connection, reduce isolation for young people and provide the opportunity for skills development.

Check out the collection of resources on the Youthlink Scotland website [here](#).

SAMH Survey: Your views and experiences since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic

This survey aims to find out about the impact that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had on people with mental health problems in Scotland.



You can complete the survey if you:

- live in Scotland
- are aged 16 years or above
- have been referred to, or have received, treatment/care for their mental health problems, for example - from a GP, any time since January 2019.

Please read on to help you decide if you would like to fill out the survey.

The survey has been commissioned by SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health). Responses to this survey are being analysed by an independent researcher (Jacki Gordon + Associates) on behalf of SAMH.

CrimeStoppers.

Speak up. Stay safe.

Contacts from Scottish public to charity Crimestoppers hit record high during lockdown

Over the past three months, independent charity Crimestoppers has received a record number of reports from the public across Scotland on domestic abuse, drug dealing and child harm and neglect.

In response to lockdown across Scotland, the charity ran a series of public awareness campaigns to highlight the increased risk of harm and abuse some people would experience.

These included domestic abuse, doorstep crime and frauds, drug dealers targeting the vulnerable, and children at risk of harm and neglect.

Compared to previous months, contacts about those at risk of domestic abuse increased by 81% and doorstep crime calls increased by 30%. Drug dealing reports increased by 40% and visits to the Crimestoppers' website trebled in April 2020.

The charity also heard from concerned friends and neighbours about children at risk. One anonymous report highlighted a child being neglected and constantly crying in pain.

Drug dealers continued to operate despite lockdown measures. One property had several unknown people living there with many other visiting. The residents were supplying heroin and cannabis which had a harmful effect on neighbours and the local community.

Angela Parker, National Manager for Crimestoppers Scotland, said:

'The past few months have been very challenging for people across Scotland. As a charity, we needed to raise awareness of the

risks and harm the most vulnerable in communities would experience during lockdown. Often people know or suspect who's responsible but for whatever reason, don't want to speak to the police or get involved. We are so encouraged and grateful for the people who trusted our 100% anonymous guarantee and told us about those at risk. Thanks to the Scottish public, life for them is better and communities are safer.'

Ash Denham MSP, Minister for Community Safety said:

"The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring communities remain safe and resilient as we emerge from these unprecedented times. I would like to thank Crimestoppers and people who have stepped up in recent months to help keep people in Scotland safe.

"This has resulted in significant, actionable information about child harm and neglect, drugs and violent crimes from all over the country being passed to Police Scotland. This is a remarkable achievement and the courage, community spirit and kindness shown by those reporting is inspiring."

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland said:

"Crimestoppers is an integral partner in helping us offer a tangible and secure alternative for those who wish to remain anonymous in reporting crime and concern for others.

"We recognise how challenging recent times have been for people and I would like to take this opportunity to thank communities across Scotland for the crucial role they are playing in the collective effort to stay safe, protect others and save lives."

You can report crime 100% anonymously to CrimeStoppers via their website [here](#).

HMICS Annual Scrutiny Plan 2020-21



The [Scrutiny Plan for 2020-21](#) sets out how HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) will meet its statutory obligation to inquire into the state, efficiency and effectiveness of both the Police Service of Scotland (Police Scotland) and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA). It is published in terms of Section 75 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and sets out HMICS' inspection priorities for the period April 2020 to March 2021.

The over-arching objective of HMICS is to improve policing for the benefit of the public. It aims to support Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority in delivering services which are high quality, continually improving, effective, and responsive to local needs.

To decide which areas of policing to inspect this year, extensive consultation was carried out with members of the public and key stakeholders, including an online public survey, face-to-face interviews with key individuals, and direct correspondence with key bodies, as well as using information from previous inspections.

Read more on the Scrutiny Plan [here](#).

One in five people living in the UK have felt more at risk of cybercrime and fraud since the coronavirus lockdown was announced in March, new polling has revealed.

In Scotland, 55 per cent of people felt they were at risk of someone accessing their online accounts, including social media and bank accounts, without their permission, with 37 per cent not feeling at risk.

55% of Scots surveyed said they felt at risk of their devices being infected with a computer virus or other malware. 47% in

Scotland said they personally felt at risk of money being stolen from their bank account, with 41% feeling at risk of buying goods online that turned out to be fake or counterfeit (this was 22% for the whole of the UK) and 49% at risk of someone accessing their personal devices without permission (this was 20% in the whole of the UK).

However, 41 per cent of Scots said they had not done anything to protect themselves from cybercrime since lockdown was announced' 29% had taken some steps.

Overall in the UK one in five people, or 18 per cent, said they had received emails, text messages or calls offering investment or money-making opportunities or senders callers impersonating a government department or other public service. Thirteen per cent said they had received emails, text messages or calls regarding the sales of face masks, personal protective equipment or coronavirus testing kits from unofficial sources.

Ipsos MORI associate director James Stannard said when it came to specific risks "people are most concerned about their online accounts being accessed without permission or their devices being infected with viruses or malware".



Key Reported Road Casualties in Scotland 2019

Transport Scotland has published [provisional statistics](#) of reported injury road accidents in Scotland for 2019. Final figures will be published in October 2020.

There was a total of 7,594 road casualties reported in 2019 this is 830 or 10% fewer than 2018 and the lowest number of casualties since annual records began in 1950. Of which there were:

□ 168 fatalities: 7 (or 4%) more than 2018 □ 2,001 seriously injured □ 5,425 slightly injured

By mode, in 2019 there were:

- 4,557 car user casualties (528, 10% less than 2018); including 78 fatalities (3 more than 2018)
- 1,243 pedestrian casualties (13, 1% less than 2018); including 46 fatalities (12 more than 2018)
- 519 motorcycle casualties (121, 19% less than 2018); including 25 fatalities (8 less than 2018)
- 564 pedal cycle casualties (74, 12% less than 2018); including 8 fatalities (2 more than 2018)
- 195 bus and coach user casualties (35, 15% less than 2018)

[Provisional figures for the UK](#) as a whole show a decrease in fatalities, 9% of which occurred in Scotland. Fatality figures are best understood in the context of rates (e.g. number of fatalities per KM/miles of a particular mode of transport) as the most helpful comparator of risk faced by different groups of road user.

Scotland will soon publish a Road Safety Framework to 2030. You may be interested to watch an [interview](#) we conducted last year with Bertrand Deiss of Transport Scotland in which we discussed the upcoming Road Safety Framework for Scotland.



Scottish Business Cares

Scottish Business Cares (SBC) is a goodwill collective formed in response to COVID19, delivered by The Scottish Business Resilience Centre in partnership with the Scottish Government, and supported by in-kind partners Par Equity, Taranata Group, Droman Solutions and Clark Communications.

The focus of the newly formed service is to provide agile guidance, navigation and support around the practical and legal issues facing businesses and offer focused mentoring pre- and post-Covid-19.

Read more [here](#).

Learning Event: Participatory Budgeting in a digital world - 10am - 12 noon 25th August

This online learning event will explore digital approaches to participatory budgeting (PB), including input from contributors who have experience of using these tools, and some who have hosted events online during the pandemic.

As we emerge from Covid19 it is increasingly clear that PB has a role to play in engaging communities to be involved in important decisions about priorities. For many communities and practitioners this will have to take place mainly through digital approaches to meet our continued commitment to PB.

Learn more about this event and sign up on the PB Scotland website [here](#).



Neighbourhood Watch SCOTLAND

Trading Standards Scotland ScamShare bulletin

Scams were once limited to that cold caller who would arrive at your front door to catch you unawares. Before you knew it, you had purchased goods or signed up for something you later wished you hadn't, leaving you feeling duped or that your privacy had been invaded.

Cold calling doorstep scams still exist and whilst we are aware of this we must also remain vigilant to the move Scammers have made to the online world, where they continue to target us with Scams purporting to be from trusted sources and genuine websites.

These scams are cleverly designed to influence and persuade us into doing something we would not normally do by incorporating elements of curiosity, alarm, urgency or just relying on our good nature to react - without us really considering 'why' did I receive that email, text or phone call?

Trading Standards Scotland compile a weekly bulletin known as Scam Share, the content of which is rich with up to date information on trending Scams and other extremely useful information with additional links to support services.

You can access the Trading Standards Scotland site using the link below, where you can learn more about Trading Standards Scotland, their services and can sign up to receive their e-bulletin

<https://www.tsscot.co.uk/>

You can visit the ScamShare bulletin directly [here](#).

If you have been a victim of crime, and it is not an ongoing emergency, you can report this to Police Scotland on 101. For all emergency calls dial 999.



Sign up for regular Neighbourhood Watch Scotland ALERTs [here](#).

Home Safety Scotland News and Updates



Fire Safety in the Home—Self Assessment

The Coronavirus pandemic means that most of us will be spending more time at home. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) want to ensure your home is as safe from fire risk as possible and would therefore encourage you to go through our questionnaire and follow our advice and guidance.



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Working together for a safer Scotland

When answering each question, you will get some useful tips for each topic. Once you have completed the questions, you can download a bespoke PDF that provides additional advice and links to further information. If you feel that you require further, more detailed advice, you can request a free Home Fire Safety Visit from their trained crews.

Due to the current Social Distancing restrictions, SFRS are currently only providing Home Fire Safety Visits to those at highest risk - identified by answering a few questions when requesting a visit. If you don't fit into the highest risk criteria we will still take your details and arrange a Home Fire Safety Visit in the future once our full Home Fire Safety Visit programme has recommenced and restrictions have eased.

Take the Home Fire Safety Checker Self Assessment on the SFRS website [here](#).

To book a Home Fire Safety Visit please call us on: [0800 0731 999](tel:0800 0731 999)

Upcoming RoSPA Community Safety Webinars



RoSPA continues to run a series of fantastic community safety themed webinars over the coming months. Upcoming webinars include:

Home Safety around Europe during Covid 19
- Sign Up [here](#).

What can we do about falls in the home? A webinar for practitioners - Sign Up [here](#).

Preventing falls in the home - Sign Up [here](#).

Halloween and Firework Safety - Sign Up [here](#).

Electrical Safety First

The UK's electrical safety experts

Switched On Kids Campaign

Electrical Safety First have created a [new website](#) solely dedicated to educating children all about electrical safety: Switched On Kids.

Read more about the website and accompanying campaign [on a blog written by Samantha Mager](#).

In other news...



STREET CONES



Online Launch of new Community Payback Order themed short film - 'Something to lose'

1pm, 27th August

About this event

Hosted by Tom Jackson (Head of Community Justice Glasgow). The film will be shown and then special guests introduced. Please submit your questions live via vimeo, youtube, facebook. Please also share the event using #somethingtolose (so we can give you a share).

The film is a mixture of interviews and also follows a fictional character on his CPO journey (Community Payback Order). It was produced by (and the stream designed/delivered by) the team at STREET CONES a social enterprise and registered arts charity. In line with their commitment to lived experience some of the actors have been on CPOs.

You can register for this event [here](#).

Gas Safety Week - 14-20 September 2020

Gas safety is important all year round, but it is not always a household's top priority. Gas Safety Week - coordinated by Gas Safe Register - provides a platform for the gas industry, consumer organisations and individuals to focus all our communications about gas safety in one week, generating interest in the media and having a greater impact among the public.

You can find out more about Gas Safety Week 2020 and sign up to become an official supporter (for which you will receive a campaign toolkit) [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





34b Thistle Street, North West Lane

Edinburgh, EH2 1EA

0131 225 8700/7772

Email: info@scsn.org.uk

Company Ltd. SC357649

Charity No. SC040464

www.safercommunitiesscotland.org