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### Young people commended for helping to beat crime during the Coronavirus pandemic

### Charity reveals significant response from young people across Scotland during lockdown

Fearless – the youth programme of independent charity Crimestoppers – is launching a new campaign to thank young people for speaking up about crime 100% anonymously during the Coronavirus crisis.

The charity has worked around-the-clock to produce a series of Scotland-wide youth resilience campaigns to keep young people and their families safe from crime throughout the lockdown. These included doorstep crime prevention, key signs to look out for child harm and neglect and, most recently, drugs.

From the very first days of lockdown restrictions being implemented in March, the charity say that they have been overwhelmed by the number of young people sharing their campaign messaging with over 16,000 young people in Scotland swiping to their website [fearless.org](http://fearless.org) to find out more.

Anonymous reports have rocketed, with young people speaking up with significant information about crimes such as child harm and neglect, drugs and violent crime. Careful to maintain anonymity at all times, the charity explained that one young person reported their concern about two children being seriously neglected and harmed. They said that the youngest often cried in pain. Another reported a gang who were forcing young teenagers to carry and sell drugs for them through threats of violence and intimidation. **Continue reading on page 3.**



### SCSN Covid Webinar Briefings

Over the past couple of months we've been attending numerous webinars on Covid-19 run by a wide range of our partners and friends in the community safety sector.

We've compiled these into Covid Webinar Briefings summaries with questions on the implications which we hope you will find useful!

Webinars covered include:

- Social Distancing in the pandemic: Policing and compliance - University of Cambridge, Institute of Criminology
- Will social distancing aggravate polarisation? - European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS)
- Terrorism and the pandemic - EFUS
- Ageing Well - Voluntary Health Scotland

Download the document [here](#).

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### SCSN AGM 2020 and Annual Report 2019/20

The SCSN AGM is scheduled for October 1st and will be our first virtual AGM. We are currently working on developing the programme for the day, which will also see the publication of our 2019/20 Annual Report. We will provide further updates in due course.

### SCSN Hate Crime Bill Submission

The Scottish Government issued a Call for Evidence regarding the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill and SCSN has submitted a response.

In the main, we welcome this Bill as we agree there is a need to consolidate, modernise and extend hate crime legislation, especially with regard to ensuring there is a consistent approach across the protected characteristics, including any new protected characteristics. We would encourage the committee, however, to explore whether some of the measures included in this Bill might be over-reaching the original policy aim. We also suggest that this Bill is not the sole route to achieving the policy aim of a Scotland where hate and prejudice are not tolerated and other work to tackle inequality and prejudice will be required.

Read our response in full on our website [here](#).

### Question of the Month June 2020

***Should over 80s have their driving  
ability tested annually?***



Our Question of the Month for July comes from Roar Connections for Life and follows on from the thoughtful guest blog by Nicola Hanssen, Roar Chief Executive, on some of the dilemmas faced by families and older people.

If you missed it, you can also view an interview we conducted with Nicola and Clare Robertson, who works within the Stay Mobile Stay Connected project, by visiting our Youtube channel [here](#).

Take part in our Question of the Month poll by visiting our website [here](#).

## Fearless Scotland - continued from front page

### **Lyndsay McDade, Senior Youth Projects Officer for the charity Crimestoppers Scotland, said:**

*"In what has been a really challenging time for young people – not being able to see friends and family or attend school, the changes to the exam diet and even, for some, missing proms, I'm so proud of how well they've responded."*

Young people living in Scotland have engaged with our campaigns and spoken up more than anywhere else in the UK and their engagement with our charity shows just how invested they've been in supporting their communities.

As a charity, we have been able to continue to provide our invaluable service 24/7 during these unprecedented times and that's been incredibly important to our young people. They know that they can trust us with information about crime 100% anonymously – we can't trace their IP addresses or any contact details that could identify them. Nobody will ever know the information came from them but they will have made a such a positive difference."

### **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 Fearless and the children and young 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**

*"Fearless, and indeed Crimestoppers as a whole, 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 children and young people and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the young people of Scotland for the crucial role they are playing in the collective effort to stay safe, protect others and save lives."*

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## **Covid-19 Justice Analytical Services Data Report**

This is the first release of a [monthly data report](#) on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the Justice System in Scotland, including information from Police Scotland, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Courts and Prisons.

This report includes information on COVID-19 related interventions undertaken by Police Scotland. In addition to this, information on the public's compliance with measures to help restrict the spread of COVID-19 is collected from surveys of the population. Findings from these surveys can be found in the Public Attitudes to Coronavirus: May report. Overall, self-reported compliance was high and had remained stable through May, albeit with falls in the latest survey wave.

Recorded crime was 9% lower over April to June compared to last year. The number of incidents remain below 2019 levels. Domestic abuse incidents were 9% higher in June 2020 compared to last year. Coronavirus interventions were down by more than a third between May and June.

# Covid-19 raises risk of public-sector fraud



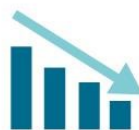
## 1. Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought significant challenges across the public sector as bodies seek to deliver services for individuals, communities and businesses in an extremely difficult time. Since the start of the pandemic, the risk of fraud and error has increased as organisations become stretched and controls and governance are changing.



## 2. Outcomes

Since we last reported on the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) in Scotland in June 2018, outcomes valued at £15.3 million have been recorded. The cumulative outcomes from the NFI in Scotland since the first exercise 2006/07 are now £143.6 million. Across the UK, the cumulative total of NFI outcomes are now £1.93 billion.



## 3. Results

NFI outcomes in Scotland have fallen by £2.4 million to £15.3 million in the 2018/19 exercise, despite an increase in participating bodies. Reduced levels of outcomes could be due to less fraud and error in the system, strong internal controls or less effective detection of fraud and error.



## 4. Process

Most organisations demonstrate a strong commitment to counter-fraud and the NFI. Some could act more promptly and ensure that sufficient staff are in place to investigate matches, prevent frauds and correct errors.



## Audit Scotland Report: The National Fraud Initiative 2019/20

Scotland's public finances have been boosted after a data-sharing exercise identified over £15 million of potential fraud and errors across the public sector. But auditors have warned that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought additional fraud risks.

Specifically on Covid-19, fraud risks have been identified pertaining to:

- Public sector staff working remotely
- An increase in cyber crimes as more public sector staff connect remotely

Public sector staff working under extreme pressure

- An increase in phishing emails and scams trying to get staff working under pressure to click on links which allow fraudsters access to public sector systems
- Government stimulus packages to support individuals and businesses being provided quickly with a lower level of scrutiny and due diligence than has previously been in place for similar schemes

Our August newsletter will pull together some of the wider considerations raised by this report. You can download the report [here](#).

## Three quarters of Scots have volunteered during Covid-19 pandemic

Volunteer Scotland has produced new research showing how the Covid-19 pandemic has transformed the way people are volunteering. Despite seeing a decrease in formal volunteering due to lockdown and social distancing, this has been more than offset by the appetite of people in Scotland to help out in other ways, with 50,000 people having signed up to the Scotland Cares Campaign, which aims to support communities and the NHS through the pandemic.

You can download the Volunteer Scotland research [here](#).

## Concerns raised over alcohol use as lockdown begins to ease



As lockdown has eased and we have begun the process of returning to some degree of normality, a number of concerns have been raised about alcohol consumption and its impact both on community spread of Covid-19, as well as issues including anti social behaviour (ASB), violence and hospital admissions.

Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems produces a regular Media Monitor detailing the latest stories and research on alcohol.

Following the easing of lockdown in England, the Chairman of the Police Federation said it was crystal clear that drunk people cannot socially distance.

The Met Police has warned UK government ministers that plans to allow late night pub openings and to sell takeaway alcohol may

result in more street violence and drunken disorder - though pubs in Glasgow have been banned from selling takeaway pints after a spike in ASB complaints.

Glasgow has also introduced alcohol spot checks in parks for when crowds are expected to prevent breaking of the ban on outdoor drinking in the city. We recently spoke to Shirley McLaren of Community Safety Edinburgh, including discussing the issue of outdoor drinking and ASB. You can view the video [here](#).

SHAAP also featured a blog looking at Swedish data on the impact of lockdown on alcohol consumption, and what it can teach us when designing alcohol policy in the future. The blog considers how Covid-19 has brought health resilience and preparedness into sharp focus and the role that alcohol plays in that, saying:

*'Alcohol plays a key role in health resilience - It is a strong risk factor for non-communicable diseases and a major strain on emergency care units around the world. Reducing alcohol consumption thereby has the double value of making the population more resistant to illness in general, and COVID-19 in particular, and reducing the burden on health care systems and staff.'*

You can access the SHAAP Media Monitor [here](#).

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## Children, Young People and Families Covid-19 Evidence and Intelligence Report published

This report provides an overview of the latest evidence and intelligence about the impact of COVID-19 and the response on children, young people and families, in particular, those experiencing the greatest challenges. Concerns have been raised about the impact on the rights of children and young people (CYP); and a review of learning from past pandemics has underlined the importance of involving CYP and developing responses tailored to their distinct experiences. This report follows on from two previous reports (published in April and May) and aims to inform national and local strategy and service developments.

Data on Vulnerable Children collected over the 13 weeks since Easter shows that there have been significant reductions in child wellbeing concerns and child protection concerns/ planning compared with the same period last year. However, on most measures, there has been an increase in activity in the last four weeks compared with the same four weeks, a year ago. Proportionally, domestic abuse has been identified in more child protection cases than in the same period last year.

Download the report [here](#).

## Community Engagement Directorate



The Community Engagement Directorate (formerly known as the Scottish Health Council) officially launched on April 1st as part of the formal launch of Public Health Scotland. The Directorate are keen to promote their new [Engaging Differently](#) web content.

The purpose of *Engaging Differently* is to share information, tips, and case study examples of how to meaningfully engage with communities at a distance. Digital engagement plays a large part of this but they are also interested in alternative forms of engagement. This includes re-purposing and adapting existing tools and approaches to make them work in a physically distant context, especially for people who don't have ready access to smartphones or tablets, or who are maybe unfamiliar with the technology.

Wendy McDougall, Engagement Officer at Healthcare Improvement Scotland said,

*'It has been encouraging to receive examples and suggestions of how people have engaged differently. We will be publishing many of these on our dedicated webpages. As we continue to grow the website, we need everyone's eyes and ears for examples of Engaging Differently both locally and nationally so that we can promote a diverse range of examples. **We're particularly keen to know about examples where groups or organisations are using technology, or other alternative approaches, to meaningfully engage with people and communities at a distance regarding a particular issue or subject.** Where you see such an example, please use our [share your experience](#) webpage to provide us with some details.'*

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### Lockdown funnelling, how the pandemic has changed our relationships

A recent article featured in The Conversation has looked at how the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown has affected our social relationships and relationship ourselves, with some people being confined together for a long period of time and strains emerging in their relationships, and others experiencing lockdown alone, leading to social isolation.

The article quotes a study by insurance firm Aviva showing that the number of adults aged 25-34 who wish to end their relationship tripled between December 2019 and May 2020.

A large scale French study has shown that the pandemic and strict lockdown had the effect of 'funnelling' relationships, with some contacts being prioritised or strengthened through care, support and increased communication and others becoming damaged.

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

### Community Justice Scotland launch new Strategic Commissioning Framework

Community Justice Scotland (CJS) has worked closely with partners to co-produce a Strategic Commissioning Framework (SCF) for the sector. This work has benefited greatly from the contributions of many organisations and individuals and it reflects the insights and perspectives of a wide range of stakeholders, including service providers and those who have experience of the justice system.

The SCF and the Executive Summary are now published and it is hoped that everyone in the community justice sector will be able to apply and benefit from the guidance and processes they set out. Community Justice Scotland (CJS) intends to support the application of the SCF within local partnerships, both directly and through their work to bring about improved practice.

View the Framework [here](#).



# Neighbourhood Watch SCOTLAND

## Latest news and updates

The Neighbourhood Watch Alert system continues to put out regular alerts for the public and other stakeholders, particularly important during these difficult times. NWS will shortly be publishing the results of their annual national Neighbourhood Watch Survey - which received good response rates in Scotland. In the near future, NWS will continue to hold partnership meetings including with the East Lothian Rural Crime Partnership and continues to provide feedback on ongoing work to Building Safer Communities via weekly update meetings. Neighbourhood Watch Scotland is also aware of Heritage Crime occurring and will be looking to support partners in campaign work around this in the near future.

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland also recently published their summer newsletter which you can access on their website [here](#).

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### Latest edition of the ScamShare newsletter published

This edition of **Scam Share** looks at some of the most recent scams which have been reported by consumers across Scotland.

Action Fraud have reported that, as of 8th July, a total of **£11,316,266** has been reported lost by 2,866 victims of coronavirus-related scams.

It's more important than ever to make sure that you stay Scam Aware and that you share information about scams with vulnerable relatives or friends. If you are worried about a vulnerable individual who is at risk from phone scams, visit our website to [apply for a free call blocker](#).

View and/or subscribe to the latest Scamshare newsletter [here](#).

### Your local heritage sites are re-opening!

With restrictions easing in Scotland, we are excited to be re-opening some of our free to visit Historic Scotland sites in your local area where safe physical distancing is possible.

Find out on our [website](#) which sites are opening near you!

We want to ensure these places can be accessed safely by all, so we ask that when visiting please be caring, kind and keep your distance from others. Over the coming months where possible, we will be working with local communities to make sure that our historic sites and their surrounding areas remain a safe place to live and visit.

If you do notice any anti-social behaviour such as vandalism or littering, or are worried about safety and security at one of your local Historic Scotland sites, you can report this to either Police Scotland on 101 or 999, or directly to us [here](#).

## Home Safety Scotland News and Updates



### Gas Safety Week 2020 - sign up to support! 14-20 September

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.



Join thousands of others and be part of this national safety campaign. Pledge your support and gain access to free materials designed to help you promote gas safety and keep your customers and employees safe.

#### Here are some of the reasons why businesses take part:

- Corporate social responsibility - help protect your customers and save lives. Carbon monoxide poisoning affects over a thousand people each year and can be fatal.
- Looking for new content? You can use the free gas safety materials as part of your own advertising campaign.
- Improve your brand awareness - all supporters appear on the website.

Find out more about Gas Safety Week and sign up to be an official supporter [here](#).

### RoSPA Fire Safety Webinar now available online

RoSPA's recent 'Fire Safety in the Home' webinar has now been published online and can be viewed [here](#). The webinar featured a presentation from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and directs people to the SFRS [#MakeTheCall campaign](#) - encouraging to book a fire safety visit for those who are aged over 50, who smoke, and either have mobility issues, live alone or use medical oxygen.

RoSPA will be holding another webinar on Burns and Scalds on the 30th of July. You can sign up for this webinar [here](#).

**#MAKE THE CALL**  
AND YOU COULD HELP  
**SAVE A LIFE**

**Do you know someone OVER 50 who SMOKES?**

And do they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Living alone?
- Mobility issues?
- Using medical oxygen?

**THEY MAY BE AT GREATER RISK OF FIRE AND WE NEED TO REACH THEM!**

**#MAKETHECALL**  
**0800 0731 999**  
to book a free  
**HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT**  
or text "FIRE" to 80800 from your mobile phone

## In other news...



### Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS)

This report presents the mental health and wellbeing findings from the 2018 wave of the Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS). The research was commissioned by the Scottish Government and carried out by Ipsos MORI Scotland. Survey background and purpose SALSUS is a continuation of a long established series of national surveys on smoking, drinking and drug use.

These were carried out jointly in Scotland and England between 1982 and 2000, to provide a national picture of young peoples' behaviours regarding smoking (from 1982), drinking (from 1990) and drug use (from 1998) within the context of other lifestyle, health and social factors. Since 2002, Scotland has developed its own, more tailored survey, known as SALSUS. In recent years, SALSUS has also become one of the main sources of mental health data among young people in Scotland with data collected from 2006 onwards.

Particularly noteworthy in the report, is a decline in mental health and wellbeing, a correlation between having a disability, living in a deprived area or being a young carer and poorer mental health and wellbeing - with school continuing to play key role in the mental health and wellbeing of young people along with family relationships.

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

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### Monthly Safer Communities and Justice Brief

The latest monthly [Safer Communities and Justice Brief](#) has just been published including data up to July 20th 2020. Highlights include that:

- recorded crime is at one of the lowest levels since 1974 despite a 1% increase in crime between 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- Overall though, crime has fallen by 45% since 2008/09.
- Violent crime has fallen over the long term but sexual crime continues to rise.
- There was a 2% increase in domestic abuse incidents between 2017/18 and 2019/20
- Hate Crime is increasing on all categories

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### SHARE YOUR NEWS!

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](mailto:info@scsn.org.uk)





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