



To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board

On: 3rd February 2015

Report by:

Shona MacDougall, Director of Community Resources

Scottish Community Safety Network Newsletter January 2016

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) is the national forum for officers who are responsible for the strategic development of community safety at both local and national level, in the private, public and voluntary sector. It provides a strategic voice for community safety in Scotland and works collaboratively with members and partner agencies, to champion community safety and influence the shaping and development of national policy and local delivery.
- 1.2 SCSN publishes a monthly newsletter, Safety NET-works, which provides the latest news from the Network and across the community safety sector. The January edition includes:
 - Public Space CCTV - learning from our neighbours
 - SCSN Annual Survey NOW OPEN
 - Empowering Communities Fund: giving communities a stronger voice in the decisions that matter to them
 - Domestic Abuse Consultation Launched

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board notes the content of the January edition of the Scottish Community Safety Network newsletter, Safety NET-works.

3. **Resources**

The Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Action Plan identifies the resources requirements for each individual action.

4. **Prevention**

The Action Plan framework allows the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board to plan resources and direct investment towards prevention and early intervention.

5. **Community Involvement/Engagement**

The Action Plan has been developed through the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board and sub groups whereby the third sector is widely represented.

Author: For more information about the report, please contact Oliver Reid, Head of Public Protection, Renfrewshire Council on 0141 618 7352, oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk



Safety NET-works

January 2016

www.safercommunitiescotland.org

Public Space CCTV - Learning from our neighbours

The public space CCTV landscape in Scotland has undoubtedly been facing challenges over recent years with issues over ownership, management and investment. Having recently read the Surveillance Camera Commissioner (England and Wales) 2014/15 Annual Report, it is clear that Scotland's issues are reflected across the United Kingdom. With the Commissioner reporting evidence of reductions in service provision, threats to proper adherence to the regulatory framework and challenges of replacing aging and outdated equipment. To address these issues the Commissioner has developed a number of resources and projects which we in Scotland can learn from and use.

In Scotland we tried, unsuccessfully, to commission work to build a business case for CCTV. It is therefore encouraging to hear the Commissioner's plans to carry out research into the effectiveness of CCTV which will be invaluable in supporting the future business case for investment.

Sharing practice is at the core of SCSN work and as such, at the request of our members, we have begun the process of developing case studies on local CCTV systems and practice which provide increased efficiencies; the Commissioner has also just published case studies that show how the 12 guiding principles in the surveillance camera code of practice can be met.

It has long been recognised that providing access to training and support is important if

we are to maintain standards. But what are the priorities and where are the gaps? The Commissioner in partnership with the British Standards Institution is currently conducting a short online [survey](#) to find out how people go about finding information about CCTV. The findings of this research will be of interest to us in Scotland and will inform what training and information services need to be developed.

Certification of good practice has been embraced by local authorities with many achieving Green Flag status for parks and Blue Flag Status for night time economy. There is now an opportunity to achieve third party certification in Surveillance Camera Code Compliance. Although launched in England and Wales, it is our understanding that the scheme is open to CCTV Monitoring suites in Scotland and we are looking at how we can support the sector to participate in this scheme.

"Certification enables organisations to demonstrate to communities that they use their CCTV systems transparently, effectively and proportionately. It shows they comply with the surveillance camera code of practice and indicates they follow best practice. I'm determined to raise standards across the industry and following on from self assessment my third party certification scheme aims to do just that."

Tony Porter, the Surveillance Camera Commissioner for England and Wales

For further information visit - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/surveillance-camera-commissioner>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



15 March	Preventative Spend Cost Benefit Training, Edinburgh
22 March	Community Engagement & Resilience Training, Venue TBC
31 March	Applying for Awards & Funding Training, Edinburgh

Build New Skills with our Bespoke Training

We currently provide a range of bespoke training courses, bringing our knowledge and expertise directly to you, at your place of work or preferred meeting venue. The courses we currently offer include.

Evaluation (1 Day)

Cost: £300 (members) £750 (non-members)

Applying for Awards and Funding (1 Day)

Cost: £300 (members) £750 (non-members)

Community Resilience and Engagement (1 Day)

Cost: £300 (members) £750 (non-members)

Preventative Spend Cost Benefit Analysis (1 Day)

Cost: £300 (members) £750 (non-members)

Evidence Based Strategic Planning Partner Brief (1/2 Day)

Cost: Free (members), £300 (non-members)

Evidence Based Strategic Planning Modules 2-4 Training (3 Days)

Cost: £1,500 (members), £3,000 (non-members)

'The training provided was extremely informative and very beneficial to our organisation'. - Annual Survey 2015

For more information contact us on 0131 225 7778 or email info@scsn.org.uk

SCSN Annual Survey – NOW OPEN

There often have to be differing opinions for the picture to be complete and a wise decision reached.

For the last six years SCSN has conducted an annual survey to measure performance and seek practitioners views on our service's priorities for the coming year. While we do regularly consult with members throughout

the year to ensure our services reflect the current needs of the sector, we are keen to ensure as wide a range of practitioners from the public, private and third sector also have the opportunity to inform our work. The survey is therefore your opportunity to let us know what you think we do well and what we could improve on; what services you think are important to continue to develop and what new services you would like to see.

We would therefore appreciate your support in completing the survey which should only take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

To access the survey, please visit bit.ly/SCSN-annual-survey

60 seconds with ...

**John Wood,
Policy Manager, COSLA**

Tell us a little bit more about your job?

I am a Policy Manager at COSLA, included within my portfolio are Justice and Community Safety.

What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?

I am a bit of a political buff so I really enjoy policy work; it's great to be able to influence legislation that you know will make a really positive impact on people.

If your 15 year old self could see you now, do you think he would be surprised at the job that you are doing?

I'm not sure if me at 15 would even understand what this job is, so I definitely think he would be surprised, he would probably also be pretty disappointed that I'm not a professional footballer.

What do you think is the greatest challenge for public sector organisations over the next five years?

Funding remains a major challenge for public sector organisations and breaking down barriers between different agencies funding pots in order to achieve positive outcomes for communities.

If you could change one law, what it would be and why?

It's not necessary a law, but I would sign Scotland up to the Istanbul Convention. It's the first legally-binding instrument which creates a comprehensive legal framework and approach to combat violence against women and is focussed on preventing domestic violence, protecting victims and prosecuting accused offenders.



What is your greatest achievement and how has it shaped you?

I ran a marathon this year, I know that at 27 I probably should be able to do this, but it still felt good. I enjoyed it so much; I am going to do it again this year.

What is your favourite food?

Anything with avocado – I absolutely love them!

What is the most unusual thing you have eaten?

When I lived in France, I ate frogs' legs; I guess it is one of those things that you have to try at least once.

What words of wisdom would you give your childhood self?

Always choose to do what you enjoy.



More needs to be done to eradicate homelessness say charities

Charities, Crisis and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation have published a report indicating that Scotland's ambition to eradicate homelessness is under threat as efforts to tackle the problem stagnate.

Rough sleeping is experienced by almost 5,000 adults in Scotland each year, with about 600 sleeping rough on a typical night- the majority of them men.

The report reveals that homeless people are being forced to spend more and more time in temporary accommodation due to pressure on the supply of affordable homes, rising demand and cuts to benefits.

The charities single out Glasgow as facing "exceptional challenges" from the unusually

high numbers of people with complex needs sleeping rough in the city combined with a shortage of temporary accommodation for single men.

Lead author of the report, Professor Suzanne Fitzpatrick said,

"There is a lot to praise Scotland when it comes to tackling homelessness. The Scottish Government's renewed focus on homelessness and health, alongside improved protection and entitlements for young care leavers and the Scottish Welfare Fund are all very positive recent developments. But the threat posed by welfare cuts and benefit sanctions – especially for young people – is very real, and risks undoing much of this progress."

To read the report in full, please visit bit.ly/the-homelessness-monitor

New figures show drop in drink drive offences



Just over 12 months on from the Scottish Government introducing a lower drink drive limit, new research from the Scottish Government and Road Safety Scotland reveals that Scots are changing their behaviour, with only 5% opting to drive after consuming alcohol on an evening and 82% agreeing drink driving is unacceptable.



Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Justice said:

"Since the Scottish Government lowered the drink drive limit last December, all the statistics are going in the right direction – fewer people are being caught, but more importantly there's a shift in attitudes to even having one drink and driving, and indeed driving the next day after drinking."

Since the change in the law, figures show that the number of drink driving offences in Scotland has fallen by 12.5% from December 2014 to August 2015, compared to the same period in the previous year. This is a fall in the number of offences from 4,208 to 3,682.

For more information, log onto dontriskit.info or check out the Road Safety Scotland Facebook and Twitter (@roadsafetyscot) pages.

**Empowering Communities Fund:
giving communities a stronger
voice in the decisions that matter
to them**

Funding for the Empowering Communities Fund will be protected in the Draft Budget for 2016-2017, reinforcing the Scottish Government's commitment to giving even more power to communities.

To date, hundreds of projects which are making change happen in disadvantaged communities through training, employment, healthy eating and volunteering opportunities have received a boost through the Fund which was established in 2015.

Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights, Alex Neil said,

"This £20 million investment reinforces our commitment to giving communities a stronger voice in the decisions that matter to them. It

will also help us work with community groups and give them the tools to deliver long-term solutions that tackle poverty. The investment supports the aims of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act which will be implemented over the next year. It will give people more powers to take over land and buildings and is a momentous step in our drive to increase participation in local decision making."

The Empowering Communities Fund is the overall package of support for programmes such as the People and Communities Fund, Strengthening Communities Programme and Community Ownership Support Service and provides money to support communities to tackle poverty and inequalities and take forward regeneration in their areas on their own terms.

For more information, please visit <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/regeneration>

**Applications now open for the
Water and Sewerage Charge
Exemption Scheme**

Applications are now open for the 2016-17 financial year scheme that enables charities and community amateur sports clubs across Scotland to pay less on their bills.

The Water and Sewerage Charges Exemption Scheme, a Scottish Government initiative means that charities registered with the Scottish Charity Regulator and community amateur sports clubs, which meet the schemes requirements and which have an income of less than £200,000 do not need to pay water and sewerage charges.

Charities and community amateur sports clubs must apply each year to the Scheme. Applications can now be made for the 2016-17 Scheme. Applications for 2015-16 can continue to be made up until 31 March 2016.

Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities said,

"Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs make a vital contribution to the well-being of communities across Scotland. I am delighted that more than 7,400 of these good causes have already benefited from more than £4m in savings, and I want to see even more benefit from next year's scheme. This scheme means charities, with an income of less than £200,000 do not have to pay anything. Thus means more of their money can be invested in supporting the valuable services they provide. As such, I urge all charities and community amateur sports clubs to check their eligibility and to apply as soon as possible for the 2016-17 Scheme."

Further information on the exemption scheme is available at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Business-Industry/waterindustryscot/watercharges/exemptionscheme>

New justice centre to be built in the Highlands



The Scottish Government will invest £5m in 2016-17 towards the development of the new Inverness Justice Centre. This collaborative new centre will bring together justice and other bodies and provide a hub for justice technology, freeing up the iconic Castle building for other uses.

The development will create a strong community justice approach by co-locating justice partners and third sector organisations in the same building and will provide services

for offenders as well as creating specialist facilities and support for victims and witnesses of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and child abuse.

The design of the new centre is underway, with a projected completion date of three years.

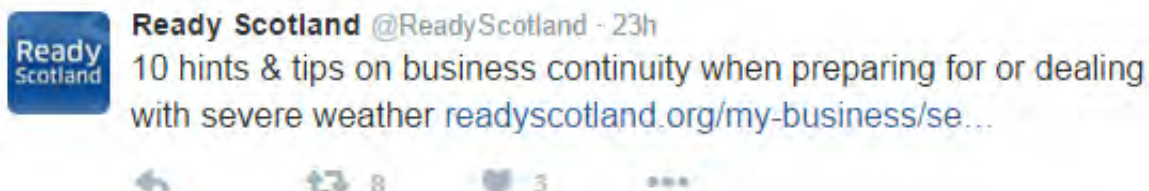
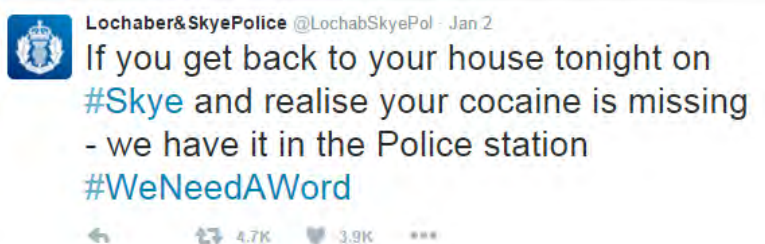
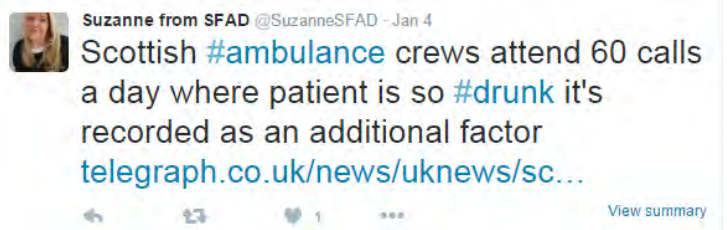
Justice Secretary Michael Matheson said,

"I am committed to delivering a justice system that is accessible, modern and fit –for–purpose and I am delighted that, with the development of the new Inverness Justice Centre, we are providing facilities that will enable us to deliver a truly 21st century service. By working with the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service to create a justice centre and co-locating the court with other justice partners, the people of Inverness and the wider highlands will have access to modern facilities and co-ordinated support and services from the relevant organisations."

Tweet of the Month

As it is the start of another new year, we wanted to introduce a new feature to our newsletter. Tweet of the month showcases some of the best or most informative tweets we have seen from a range of different individuals and organisations.

We hope you enjoy this new feature and if you have any suggestions, please get in touch by emailing info@scsn.org.uk



Statistical report provides rich source of outcomes data

A new statistics publication, The Scottish Surveys Core Questions has brought together key data from three major Scottish Surveys (Health, Household and Crime and Justice) and provides a rich source of outcomes data for over 21,000 people.

SSCQ data shows strong associations between deprivation and a range of outcomes and the publication provides us with an overview of health, crime and police perceptions, household characteristics, equality characteristics and economic participation and is a useful source for all involved in community planning.

Some of the key findings include;

- Adults in less deprived areas reported better health, higher police confidence and higher educational levels than those

- in areas of greater deprivation
- There was a strong association between smoking and areas deprivation, with 10% of adults in the least deprived areas and 38% of adults in the most deprived areas reporting being a current smoker
- Nearly one third of adults in the most deprived areas reported a limiting long-term physical or mental health condition, this was around double the proportion in the least deprived areas
- People born outside Scotland were more likely to hold higher qualifications: more than half of adults born outside the EU held degrees of professional qualifications, compared to less than a quarter of those born in Scotland
- Around one in ten people in the most deprived areas held a degree or professional qualification compared with nearly half of people in the least deprived areas

For more information and to read the full statistical publications visit www.gov.scot/

Scottish Government seeks your views on Policing



As we approach three years since the introduction of Police Scotland, the Scottish Government is seeking your views on how the police services can match the needs of the people and communities of Scotland.

What is important for you about policing in your community? What sort of police service do you want to have? And what is your ambition for policing in the future? are three questions that are being posed to help prompt discussions and encourage participation.

Responses can be submitted until Friday 12 February and the results will be used to draft revised Strategic Police Priorities which will then be the subject of a formal consultation. Further information, including a discussion paper and introductory letter can be found on the Scottish Government website, bit.ly/policing-in-Scotland.

You can have your say;

- By emailing ScotPolicePriorities@gov.scot
- Via the Scottish Government Digital 'Dialogue' feedback platform <https://ideas.scotland.gov.uk>
- Via Twitter using the hashtag #ScotPolicePriorities
- By posting your comments to Strategic Police Review, Police Division, Scottish Government, 1 WR St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Domestic Abuse Consultation Launched

Domestic abuse can have a devastating impact for victims and for children. It damages health and wellbeing, restricts freedom and can limit individuals' potential. Between March and June 2015, the Scottish Government consulted on whether a specific domestic abuse offence would improve the ability of the police and prosecutors to tackle domestic abuse. Analysis of the consultation responses suggested strong agreement that the current law does not reflect the experiences of victims; however, there was no consensus on how such an offence could be developed.

The Scottish Government now wishes to seek views on a draft offence to enable the views of consultation respondents to inform the development of this offence before it is introduced into the Scottish Parliament. The draft offence provides that it is a criminal offence for a person to pursue a course of behaviour which is abusive of their partner or

ex-partner and which a reasonable person would consider would be likely to cause the victim to suffer physical or psychological harm. It also provides a non-exhaustive definition of what constitutes "abusive behaviour" for the purposes of the offence.

The Consultation seeks responses to a series of questions covering the scope of the offence, the structure of the offence, the definition of abusive behaviour, relationships to which the offence applies, defences to the offence being committed, penalties and power to convict for alternative offences.

Responses to this consultation can be made up to Friday 1 April, you can respond in various ways including;

Online at: <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/criminal-law-and-sentencing-team/criminal-offence-domestic-abuse>

Or by writing to: Patrick Down, Criminal Law & Sentencing Team, GWR St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

'I am Me' project helping to keep people safe

Keep Safe is an initiative that works in partnership with I Am Me and Police Scotland and is the first of its kind in Scotland. The initiative works with a network of local shops, businesses and local authority buildings to create safe places for disabled, vulnerable or older people to go if they need help, if they are lost, scared or if they are the victim of crime.

The Keep Safe initiative originated in Renfrewshire, where there are currently 126 Keep Safe places. The initiative is growing nationally, and has already been adopted in Inverclyde, Dumfries and Galloway, and the Scottish Borders.

If you would like to support the initiative in your area, or would like more information about Keep Safe or the I Am Me project, please contact iammeproject@yahoo.co.uk or call 0141 618 6241/6266.

Check us out on social media



/ScottishCommunitySafetyNetwork



@scsn2

Legislation to modernise the criminal justice system

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, a new law setting out improvements to the criminal justice system has been passed by the Scottish Government. The Bill takes forward a range of proposals to modernise and improve efficiency within the criminal justice system.

The new legislation includes a number of important reforms including a new code of practice to underpin how Police Scotland use stop and search and raising the maximum sentence for handling knives and offensive weapons from four years to five. Other key measures include;

- The modernisation of arrest, custody and questioning procedures including enhanced protections for child and vulnerable adult suspects

- Creation of a clear framework for the fundamental police powers to arrest, hold in custody and question people suspected of having committed a crime
- Improving the right to legal advice for individuals taken into police custody
- Making greater use of technology in criminal procedure
- Establishing a police Negotiating Board for Scotland for the negotiation of police officer pay and conditions

Justice Secretary, Michael Matheson said,

"The Bill represents a significant step forward in ensuring our criminal justice system continues to be modern and efficient while striking the right balance between strengthening the powers available to police and prosecutors while protecting the right of the accused."

New legislation will help protect children from second-hand smoke



MSPs have voted in favour of legislation to protect more children from the effects of second-hand smoke by prohibiting smoking in cars with children on board.

When the Smoking Prohibition (Children in Motor Vehicles) (Scotland) Bill commences next year, anyone caught smoking in a private vehicle carrying someone under the age of 18 will face a fixed penalty notice of £100 or a court fine of up to £1000.

Minister for Public Health, Maureen Watt said,

"Smoking remains the primary preventable cause of ill health and death in Scotland – ultimately killing one in two long-term users. This costs the NHS as much as £300 million to £500 million each year. The evidence on the harmful effects of second-hand smoke is also clear, which is why last year we announced a target to reduce the proportion of children in Scotland exposed in the home from 12 per cent to six per cent by 2020 – potentially saving 50,000 children from second-hand smoke.

The purpose of this legislation is ultimately to achieve culture and behaviour change. Scotland has led the way with the ban on smoking in public places, the display ban and our commitment to a tobacco free generation – these have had a positive effect on public health and we are confident that a ban on smoking in cars with children will do likewise."

For more information on the stages of the bill please visit <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/84734.aspx>

Report highlights high impact to well-being from flooding



A recently published report summarises research into the assessment of social vulnerability to flooding and flood disadvantage.

The report is aimed at policy-makers and practitioners working in flood management, resilience, emergency services, public health, social care, housing, environment and other areas that would benefit from an improved understanding of vulnerable communities and flooding across Scotland.

Flooding is already a significant issue in Scotland and climate change is likely to exacerbate the frequency and severity of flooding that we experience. However not all individuals or communities are affected equally by flooding, as their ability to cope with these events is different. For example groups such as those on low incomes or in poor health are more prone to harm. This uneven distribution of climate impacts has implications for social justice, which in relation to flooding is about ensuring that people, both individually and collectively, have the

ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from flood events and that the policies for reducing the risks take account of existing and projected vulnerabilities, resources and capabilities.

The report provides a strategic-level estimate of the numbers of people, residential properties and neighbourhoods associated with flood disadvantage, and the underpinning information on the factors influencing flood disadvantage. The high number of people (estimated 100,000) whose well-being may be adversely affected by flooding due to their personal, social and environmental circumstances suggests that closer links should be made between policies relating to flooding and health, aiming to reduce the impact of flooding on vulnerable communities.

The report shows that there is a need for the development of tailored policy responses for vulnerable groups. For local authorities, mapped flood disadvantage provides a useful framework for planning actions in anticipation of the increased risk of flooding and developing recovery strategies in the aftermath of flooding.

For more information, including further recommendations for actions on reducing flood disadvantage, please visit the Climate Just online resource: www.climatejust.org.uk

If you would like to read this report in full, please visit bit.ly/mapping-flood-disadvantage

— SHARE YOUR —
NEWS

If you would like to include an article, request information or share some good practice in our newsletter, please get in touch. Email info@scsn.org.uk

The closing date for article submissions are;

27 January for the February edition
26 February for the March edition
25 March for the April edition

Walkers and climbers encouraged to be prepared



Outdoor enthusiasts are being urged to make sure they're well prepared before heading to the hills this winter.

Scotland's weather can be challenging and extremely changeable, particularly on higher ground, however with some simple precautions, basic knowledge and appropriate equipment, individuals can greatly reduce the risk of accident and injury.

In 2014, volunteers were called out 552 times to assist a total of 608 people and 12 people died in mountaineering related incidents. This year £1.81 million will be used to support mountain rescue teams, the Sport Scotland Avalanche Information Service, the Mountaineering Council of Scotland and Scotland's national outdoor training centre run by Sport Scotland.

Some top tips for winter safety include:

- Check the weather forecast and avalanche information service and change your plans if necessary
- Carry a compass and map and know how to use it. Don't rely on GPS or smartphone
- Have an alternative plan in case weather conditions worsen
- Attend a winter mountaineering course to brush up on your skills
- Have all the appropriate equipment, including ice axe and crampons if condition demand it

- Leave a note with details of your route and when you expect to return
- Read up about the risk of avalanche and know how to spot the warning signs.

Jamie Hepburn, Minister for Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health said,

"Scotland's wild places can be at their most beautiful during the winter months, and we want people to be able to enjoy them right through the year. There's no doubt that the weather conditions make this more challenging, and while the challenge is part of the appeal for many, it must be treated with the utmost respect."

For practical advice about planning your journey into the hills this winter, and for other practical winter safety tips, visit ReadyScotland.org

Also of interest the Western Isles Shortlisted (PN56) SMART Signs project which had three components: seasonal safety advice booklets, outdoor activity 'Route Cards' and utilising smart phone QR technology including Coastguard registered location numbers and grid references onto safety signage.

To read more about this project please visit our website bit.ly/smartsigns-practice-note





Scottish Community Safety Network

Scottish Community Safety Network

2 Hill Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3JZ

0131 225 8700/7772

info@scsn.org.uk

Company Ltd. SC357649

Charity No. SC040464

www.safercommunitiesscotland.org