

SCOTTISH COMMUNITY SAFETY NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24





DAVE SHEA
CHIEF OFFICER

CHIEF OFFICER'S REMARKS

This has been one of the most challenging periods in SCSN's 27-year history. Never has the stinging cliché of our time felt more apt, or consequential, "*do more [or roughly the same] with less*". Our operating budget has been halved. Our staff team reduced by two-thirds. Colleagues – capable, knowledgeable servants for community safety – have left the organisation. A loss to us and you, our network partners.

The gravity of this change alters the orbits of our business outwith this year of reporting, into the next year too – the future, where I am writing from now: a quirk of time-delayed annual reporting, and the peculiar mismatch between financial and calendar years. I am reflecting on the year that was, nearly 2 years ago, and so much has happened since. It can be difficult to restrain myself from telling you about what's happening now. But back to 2023/2024: despite the trials, I can reveal (like a whisper from tomorrow) we are still here and what remains – yes, smaller but nimble, potent, and aspirational – continues to work in the service of helping make communities safer across Scotland.

The eagle-eyed will have noticed, I am not Lorraine. Another change. I'm Dave, previously Head of National Development and – as of June 2024 – Chief Officer. The role is a privilege and a responsibility I am proud to accept, guided by government, scrutinised by our board of trustees, supported by dedicated staff, and shaped – I hope – by your continued engagement with us. If you're not already working with SCSN, I invite you to come in – or welcome you back, if you've been away – and tell us what's happening where you are. Ours is a truly shapeshifting network, evolving and alive to what you need us to be.

Community safety is as significant now as it's ever been, arguably more so. The cold squeeze on funding throughout the public services and third-sector runs contrary to that reality. Yet the effects of being and feeling (un)safe ripple well beyond the obvious, traditionally recognised boundaries of merely 'justice'. Everything is interconnected. Community safety overlaps with multitude aspects of living in education, employment, health, transport, social cohesion, personal happiness, right down to the fabric of what makes a functioning, healthy community a community. Nothing exists in isolation, including the solutions we need to muster in reply to the complexities we face in antisocial behaviour (ASB), retail crime, meaningful citizen participation and engagement, county lines and cuckooing, serious and organised crime, violence prevention, online safety, and other repeating and emerging issues. Pooling resources and knowledge, collaborating and co-producing is now a necessity to meet these challenges effectively. SCSN aims to help encourage that kind of cooperation, to facilitate those exchanges and share what works, and what doesn't.

Our core objective persists: to maintain a vibrant national network for community safety practitioners and organisations; work between all 32 local authorities; link expertise with interest and need; advocate for sharing between disciplines; and facilitate the application of collective knowledge for common cause. SCSN holds a unique, bird's eye perspective across the sector, across the country. With relationships in every jurisdiction, and having close ties within government, we have developed a root system for exchange and sharing. But like any living thing, it needs constant attention and effort and nurturing to thrive. SCSN needs to be flexible and adaptable to shifting priorities, your priorities. And like anything worthwhile – certainly in my experience – that's all about developing good relationships, speaking candidly, making space for honest discussion, building trust. That's what really motivates change. *"Ideas don't move people on their own... people move people"* (Hau Hsu, [What Conversation Can Do For Us](#)).

This annual report is a totem to the achievements of our departed colleagues, and a portent to the exciting things yet to come.

Thank you to all our members, partners, funders and collaborators for your continued support.

2023/24 HIGHLIGHTS

INFORMING



- Published our joint research with Scottish Government into 'A New Approach to Anti-Social Behaviour'
- Presented at the Planet Youth Conference and Tackling VAWG Conference
- Produced briefing papers on Hate Crime Strategy for Scotland, and 'Enhancing the Accessibility, Adaptability & Usability of Scotland's Homes'
- Published our monthly Media Monitor
- Published our monthly Newsletter with themes including Equality and Diversity, Mental Health & Suicide, Celebrating CSPs, and Fireworks Safety

CHAMPIONING



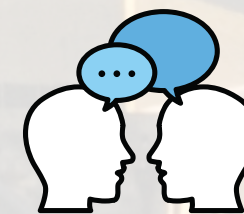
- We attended and represented at conferences such as; Relationships and Behaviour in Schools Summit, Hate Crime Conference, Waltham Forest Citizen Assembly on Neighbourhood Policing and Thriving Survivors
- Were on the steering group for an innovative participatory research project, coordinated by Generations Working Together
- Launched the second year of the Mark McCall Home Safety Fund Supported Safe-Taysiders in a bid to sustain their long-running service
- Funded the fieldwork stage of research into the experiences of survivors of sexual violence in the health care system in Scotland
- Were on the steering group for a research project on Public Service CCTV.

INFLUENCING



- We responded to many relevant consultation papers, such as: 20 Minute Neighbourhoods, Victims, Witnesses & Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill, Licensing of animal activities, the Human Rights Bill, Smarter Regulation Product Safety Review and Domestic Upholstery Products
- SCSN, alongside Education Scotland, co-sponsored the [Community-Based Youth Work Award](#) at this year's event the National Youth Work Awards
- Resubmitted [our co-written report](#) (with RoSPA, RNLI and WSS) to the Minister for Victims & Community Safety with recommendations for next steps and further development
- HSS was invited to join the Inclusive Living Alliance and the Falls 4 Nations Group
- Following the successful submission of abstracts to the EU Safety Conference on our climate change ezine and home safety map, we presented these in Reykjavik.

ENGAGING



- Continued to attend and contribute to BSC partner meetings, looking to share work, best practice, and information with our close partners and collaborators
- Continued to chair our monthly CSP meetings for the leads in each local authority

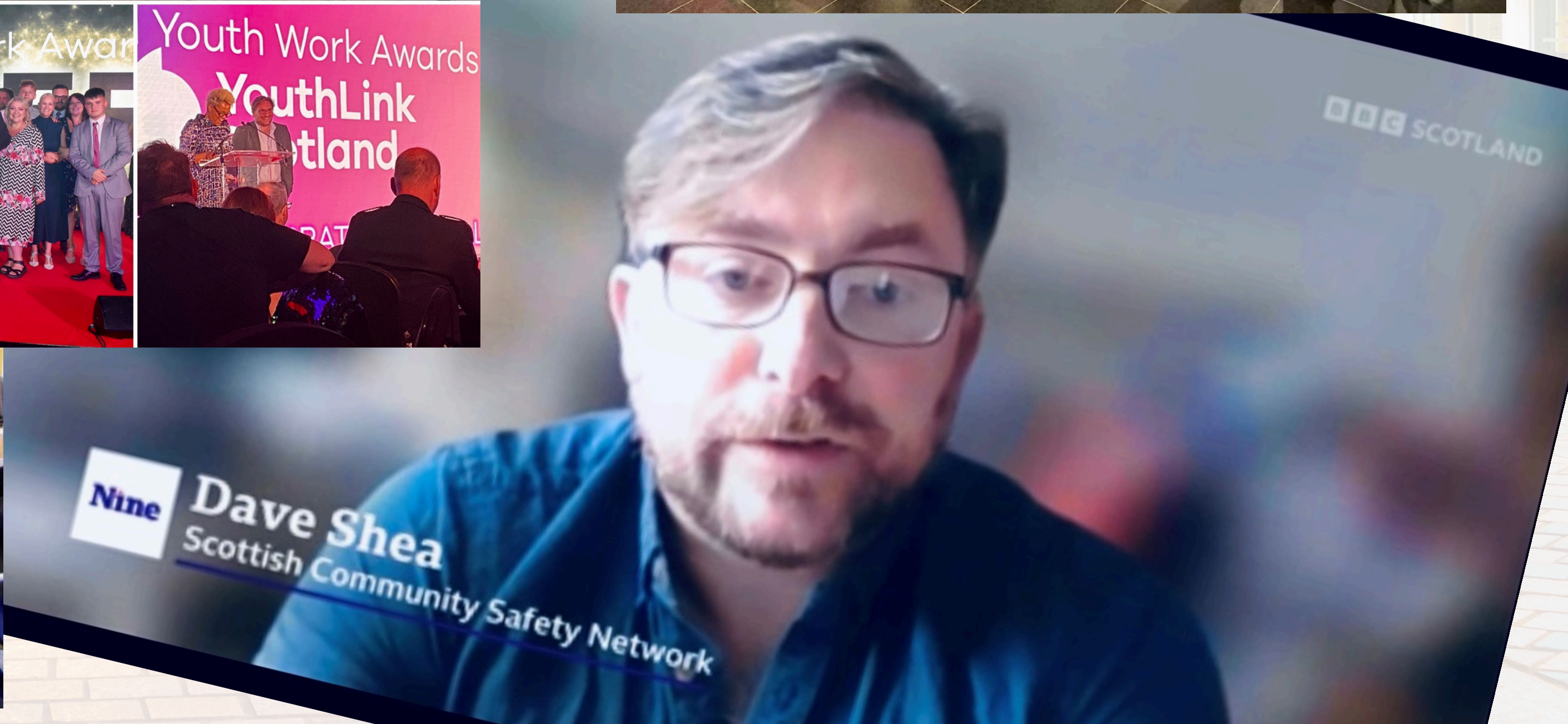
EVENTS



- We held our first hybrid event, a joint conference with CoSLA, for members and elected members, nationwide to come together
- We held our AGM and second Community Safety Conference of the year in November
- Were a joint partner in holding and facilitating the Equally Safe: Building Safer Places and Communities In Scotland event
- Held a launch event for joint project a Community Safety Lens for the Place Standard Tool with Public Health Scotland
- We held a stall at the Annual Water Safety Open Day for Scotland
- We jointly facilitated partners in conversation about the Violence Prevention Framework – 'What does this mean locally?' event with the SVRU
- We held learning sessions on; The Noise App, Firework Control Zones, Rail Safety, Cross Collaboration Research, Glasgow's Drug Consumption Room and Reviewing Scotland's Approach to ASB.

2023/24 IN PICTURES

- SCSN AGM & Mini-Conference
- EU Safety Conference 2023, Iceland
- Youth Link Scotland Awards & Presentation
- SCSN Annual Conference at COSLA HQ, Edinburgh
- SCSN on the BBC's 'The Nine'



2023/24 IN NUMBERS 1/2

Hybrid Community Safety Conference

4 Presentations:

- The Place Standard Tool (PST) - Public Health Scot.
- Positive Masculinity - No Knives, Better Lives
- Home Safety - SCSN
- Cyber Crime - Edinburgh Napier University

31 Local Authority Representatives

5 Councillors

3 Public Sector Representatives

2 Third-Sector Representatives

2023/24 IN NUMBERS 2/2

12

Monthly CSP Meetings

19

Group Participation:

- Research Advisory Groups
- Cross Party Groups
- Ministerial Roundtables
 - CCTV
 - Water Safety
 - Road Safety
 - Dangerous Dogs
 - VAWG
 - Human Trafficking

4

UK & Ireland Community Safety Meetings

Home Safety Scotland Forums

8

Consultations Submitted

Briefing Papers:

- Home Adaptability
- Hate Crime Strategy
- Human Rights

3

Lunchtime Learning Events:

- Reviewing Scotland's Approach to ASB (**65** people)
- Cross Service Collaboration: Police / Fire / Ambulance (**46** people)
- Safe Drug Consumption Room, Glasgow (**77** people)

2023/24 CHANGES & ABSENCES



Sadly, Home Safety Scotland (HSS) - our dedicated, forum for accident prevention, education, and best practice concerning hazards and unintentional harm in the home - has closed. This was a painful decision. The shuttering of this service, and the few others across Scotland (including the loss of RoSPA's support in this area), runs counter to domestic and international evidence. Data and testimony tells us that preventable injuries are rapidly increasing in homes, in our communities. We hope to renew this work in future.

Unfortunately, the inaugural Mark McCall Home Safety Fund - begun in memory of former SCSN Chair and Manager of Fife Council Mark McCall - was the first and last of its kind.

Care & Repair, Lanarkshire won the £3,000 prize fund in March 2023. The money went towards their 'Safe As Houses' project, a scheme offering home safety risk assessments and advice to parents or full-time carers of pre-school age children. This work helped mitigate against hazards in the home that may have resulted in unintentional injury. The project also provided home safety equipment where need was identified and the individual is unable to meet this cost. We hope we will be able to reopen this fund in future.



DEPARTURES

Our thanks to colleagues, friends who helped make SCSN what it is, and on whose shoulders we will build into the future. We wish them every success.



LORRAINE GILLIES
CHIEF OFFICER



DAVID BARBOUR
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



SANDRA BLACK
BUSINESS & ADMIN OFFICER



KEVIN CHASE
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

SCSN ACCOUNTS 2023/24

The Scottish Community Safety Network

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	12,375	270,000	282,375	280,875
Other trading activities	4	500	-	500	2,333
Investment income	5	1,120	-	1,120	275
Other income	6	<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Total		<u>18,995</u>	<u>270,000</u>	<u>288,995</u>	<u>288,483</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	7				
Development, promotion and education of Community Safety practice		<u>8,474</u>	<u>270,000</u>	<u>278,474</u>	<u>288,007</u>
NET INCOME		<u>10,521</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,521</u>	<u>476</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		106,672	-	106,672	106,196
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>117,193</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>117,193</u>	<u>106,672</u>

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

This statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities in both years.

Comparative figures for the previous year by fund type are shown in Note 12.

The notes on pages 8 to 15 form part of these financial statements.



The Scottish Community Safety Network
83 Princes Street
Edinburgh
EH2 2ER

SCSN Registered in Scotland: SC357649
SCSN Charity No. SC040464

WWW.SAFERCOMMUNITIESSCOTLAND.ORG.UK

The Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) is supported by funding from the Scottish Government Building Safer Communities - Safer Communities Division



 **Scottish Government**
 Riaghaltas na h-Alba