

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME: 2020 VISION



Our vision is of a flourishing, optimistic Scotland in which resilient communities, families and individuals live safe from crime, disorder, danger and harm. Our aim is to reduce the number of victims of crime in Scotland by 250,000 by 2017-18 and to significantly reduce harm from unintentional injury.

Our Vision for Scottish Neighbourhoods in 2020

- People feel part of and proud of their neighbourhood, know their neighbours, and are willing to participate in activity to improve their local area. Public spaces are clean and accessible and vandalism is rare. There is a strong element of self-policing in the local neighbourhood. People rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live and are happy to stay within the community.
- People are aware of the range of local services available in their area and view local community spaces such as the community centre, school and library as their assets rather than seeing them as off-limits or part of 'the council'.
- People choose to engage with local service providers and there are high levels of trust. People can see how their priorities and views have influenced local service delivery and receive regular updates on progress.
- A wide range of local community groups, support networks and social clubs have been established by citizens keen to improve their local area. These groups have a wide social reach and most people know who in the community to contact if they want to report a problem or offer up a solution. People look after each other and help each other out.
- People have a realistic view of how safe their local areas is and of how safe Scotland is compared to other countries. People have a vision for their community and services are built around this.
- People feel safe to walk around their neighbourhood after dark because it is well lit and designed, they know their neighbours and trouble is rare.
- Children regularly play outside in the neighbourhood's well-kept green spaces and groups of young people are not seen as trouble-makers. The local school and its sports facilities are available outside of school hours and are well-used, as are other community resources.
- People are treated fairly and equally. People are tolerant of difference and people from different areas and groups interact positively with one another.
- People take care of their health and wellbeing and levels of both are improving.
- There is much less stigma about the local neighbourhood and new local businesses and community-led cooperatives have sprung up, creating a vibrant, friendly and safe environment, as well as opportunities for employment and training. The community is defined by its strengths.
- People are much more confident to speak up for their area and take the initiative to get things done. Demand for local services and levels of complaints have fallen dramatically as has levels of crime, disorder, danger and harm. People think their area is a great place to live and are positive and hopeful about the future.