



Building Safer Communities

Bulletin

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Moving Forward with CashBack



Earlier this month, Cabinet Secretary for Justice Michael Matheson met mentors and young people taking part in The National Autistic Society's Moving Forward Initiative, which is supported by the Scottish Government's CashBack for Communities Programme. The initiative has supported more than 50 autistic young people from West Central Scotland to take positive steps towards employment. The programme helps young people aged between 16 – 24 on the autistic spectrum who are also from areas of deprivation, to help them develop skills for the workplace, gain social confidence and find employment. The programme offers a flexible, person centred pathway for autistic young people. Working with a range of public partners NAS is the leading UK charity for autistic people (including those with Asperger syndrome) and their families. NAS provide information, support and pioneering services, and campaign for a better world for autistic people.

Sign up for the BSC Unintentional Harm Learning event

Are you working at a local level to keep people and communities safe? Are you helping to build resilient and empowered communities? Are you in a position to help prevent people and communities from potential injury and harm?

If so, this is the event for you!

As part of our collective ambition to Build Safer Communities, we're hosting a learning event for managers and practitioners responsible for local delivery to share approaches and examples of preventing unintentional harm and injury within homes and communities across Scotland - anything from home safety to outdoor and water safety. The event will bring together colleagues from community safety, public health, community empowerment and partners to discuss how we are, and can, collectively engage and work together to build safer communities and reduce unintentional harm and injury.

We invite you to join the discussion with speakers including Paul Gray (Chief Executive of NHS Scotland), Davie McGown (Assistant Chief Officer, Scottish Fire and



Rescue Service) and Gillian Russell (Director of Safer Communities, Scottish Government) who will share their own stories and reflections. But, the event will be structured around what matters to you at a local level. Would you like to discuss partnership working? How to better measure and demonstrate progress? How to involve and empower communities?

Sign up for the event, and find out more on the [Eventbrite](#) website.

Tackling nuisance and scam calls for older and vulnerable people

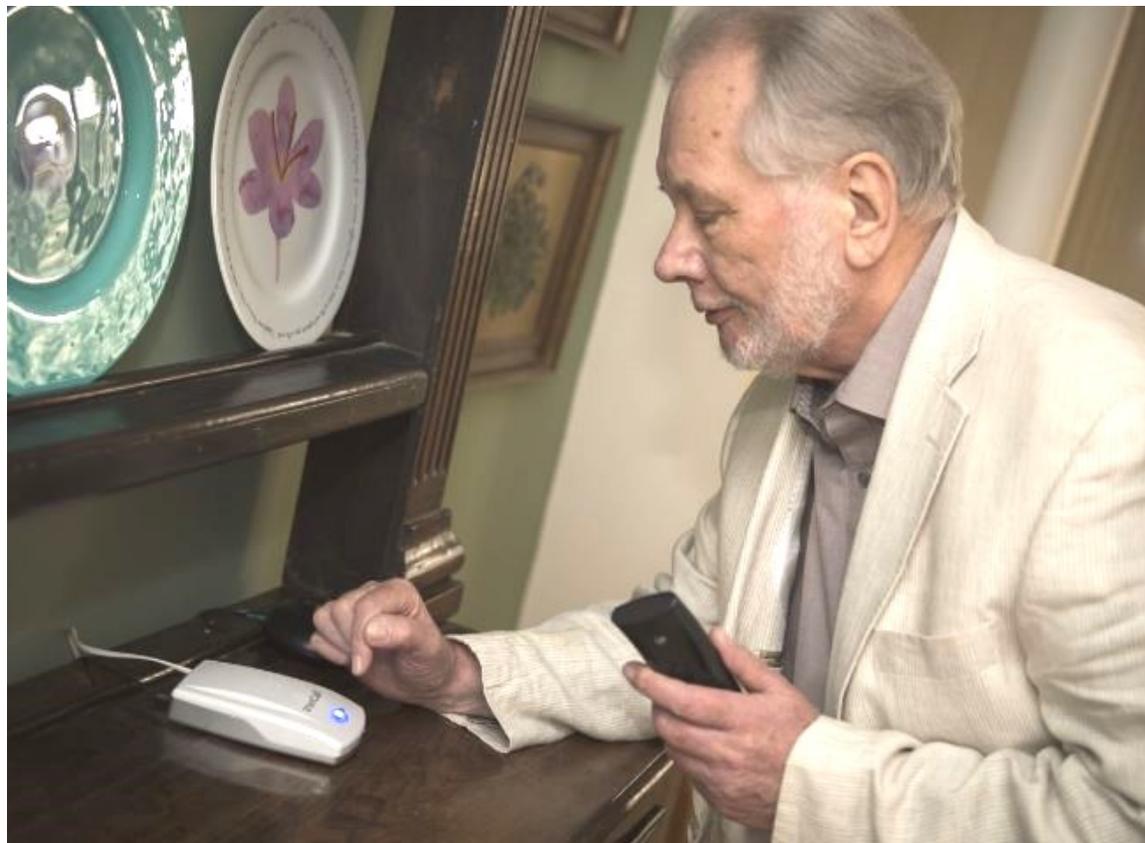
In August 2015, a study by Trading Standards Scotland (TSS) found that older and more vulnerable people in Scotland received around 60 nuisance and scam calls per month - this is around 58% of all calls they receive.

TSS has received funding from the Scottish Government for the provision of call blocking devices which are to be allocated to older and vulnerable people in Scotland. These devices are easy to install and were found to block over 95% (233,334 out of 234,411 calls) of nuisance and scam calls.

Nuisance calls, and more specifically scam calls, can greatly increase the risk of financial, and physical, harm. Scam calls offering lucrative returns on investments including fine wine and precious jewels are designed to dupe people into parting with large sums of cash.

It has also been reported that people are more likely to experience accidents or falls when rushing to answer the phone.

In addition, doorstep criminals are beginning to move into cold calling before turning up on someone's doorstep. Call blocking technology can help prevent the initial call getting through in the first place, preventing a later visit at the door where in some cases, people have lost thousands of pounds.



Technology can help reduce financial and physical harm to older and vulnerable people.

individuals to move into residential care before they are ready. Pressure to do so can stem from family members simply being too worried that the individual is no longer able to look after themselves, either because of being scammed or as they have experienced too many accidents.

People involved in the study, their families and their professional carers reported that people are able to live independently for longer; the risk of financial harm is significantly reduced; the risk of trips, falls and distraction accidents are reduced; anxiety and stress is minimised for the people themselves, as well as their families and carers; and those living alone feel safer and more in control.

TSS are working with a number of different partners to ensure the units get to those who will benefit the most. If you would like to be involved in the project, contact Laura Jamieson on laura@cosla.gov.uk



This all helps to reduce fear of crime and the fear that someone is watching their home, which can be intensified if a cold call is followed up with a visit. With all of the above in mind, this technology can also reduce the need for affected



Children's Neighbourhood Scotland launched in Dalmarnock

As part of a programme of organised visits, Building Safer Communities (BSC) Programme Board members attended the launch of Children's Neighbourhood Scotland (CNS) in Bridgeton and Dalmarnock on 9th February.

The CNS initiative brings together people, resources and organisations within a neighbourhood area, to work in intensive partnership to improve the lives for the children living there. There is a strong focus on partners agreeing ways of working that will help tackle the big issues that make it difficult for children and young people to live happily and healthily, do well in school and achieve what they want in life.

Bridgeton and Dalmarnock was selected to be the first CNS area as, historically, it has one of the highest levels of socioeconomic disadvantage in Scotland.

The visit gave Board Members the opportunity to find out about the preparatory work the CNS team has done so far, as well as hearing from a number of key speakers about why they are supporting the initiative. Speakers included: Prof. Chris Chapman, (What Works Scotland and Adviser to the Scottish Government's International Education Advisers Panel) ; Cllr Susan Aitken, (Leader of Glasgow City Council); Douglas Hamilton, (Chair of the Poverty and Inequality Commission); Jackie Redpath, (CEO of The Shankhill Partnership) and BSC Board



Member Jackie Brock (Chief Executive of Children in Scotland and Chair of the CNS advisory group).

Board Members had the opportunity to take part in a series of round table discussions, where they discussed key developmental stages for children and young people.

Jackie Brock said: " CNS brings together the principles of place-based community development with a sharp focus on how these principles can work best for children and young people growing up in this area. It's an exciting approach and one that I think will bring useful learning and importantly, improvements for all in the community."

Local approaches to community safety in the spotlight

Between April 2017 and January 2018, the Scottish Government's Building Safer Communities team, led by Hayley Barnett, a seconded COSLA Policy Manager, undertook a series of discussions with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) and partners in each local authority area.

Hayley explains: "The purpose of my role was to engage with local Community Safety Partnerships to identify key areas of activity, capture learning, identify shared interest; and explore how connections can be improved between local and national initiatives and activity. Further, the work is intended to: identify and influence the future national policy direction around community safety; support local community safety partners by sharing examples of positive practice and improved community outcomes; build up a picture of key operational challenges facing the partnership approach to community safety; and, contribute to and support the Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) to determine its future role.

"Hopefully my report goes some way to achieving these objectives. I'd ask that you consider the opportunities and identify where further progress can be achieved to support safer communities across Scotland."



Hayley provided an insight into what was happening at a local level : "The final couple of visits were pretty challenging due to the snowy conditions but I did witness community safety and resilience in action as a police officer, postman and local business owner pushed car after car up a hill in rural South Lanarkshire.

"Thanks to everyone who contributed to the report and keep up the outstanding work!"

Helping young children thrive in the great outdoors

Minister for Childcare and Early Years, Maree Todd, has announced the number of hours nursery children spend outdoors is set to increase.

Inspiring Scotland will play a key role in encouraging and supporting greater use of outdoor learning in the early years. Ms Todd made the announcement during a visit to City of Edinburgh Council's Lauriston Castle Forest Kindergarten.

Minister for Childcare and Early Years Maree Todd said:

"The significant expansion of funded early learning and childcare gives us the perfect opportunity to define the type of experience we want to offer our children during their early years. That is why we are committing more than £860,000 to increase the use of outdoor learning, to ensure it becomes a defining feature of childhood in Scotland. "Outdoor learning not only improves mental wellbeing and health and fitness, it can make a huge difference to children's confidence levels and their ability to risk assess while encouraging a lifelong love of the outdoors. By supporting our young people to go outside and play we are not only making sure their early years are as happy and healthy as possible we are also ensuring every child in Scotland gets the best possible start in life."

Chief Medical Officer Dr Catherine Calderwood said:

"We know the benefits of outdoor learning, exercise and play for young children, in terms of their health and wellbeing and their physical and mental development. Playing, learning and having fun outdoors helps improve



wellbeing and resilience, increase physical activity and allows children to use the natural world to develop curiosity and science skills. There is also a growing body of research that shows children with higher levels of active outdoor play have improved cognition, which can result in better academic performance and contribute to closing the attainment gap." Chief Medical Officer Dr Catherine Calderwood.

Inspiring Scotland's role will include:

- Working with eight local authorities to deliver outdoor learning opportunities
- Producing a 'how to' guide for practitioners, with practical advice on how to access outdoor spaces
- Driving partnership working between councils, third sector and private companies in promoting outdoor learning
- Helping organisations review the impact of outdoor learning when delivering the expansion to 1,140 hours of funded childcare

Commenting on this new piece of work, Inspiring Scotland Chief Executive, Celia Tennant said:

"We are delighted to be supporting the Scottish Government to establish high-quality outdoor play as the essential catalyst for healthy childhood development and a fundamental part of growing up in Scotland. Our role will include supporting local authorities and social enterprises to develop and scale up outdoor nursery provision alongside supporting good practice to embed outdoor play-based childcare, helping to make playing outside in nature part of the way children in Scotland learn and develop from an early age."

Your BSC Bulletin

We hope you have found this edition of the monthly BSC Bulletin useful and informative.

We would be delighted if you would get in touch with any feedback or ideas for future content.

Please contact Wendy with your ideas or contributions:

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