

Film launched to help tackle domestic abuse

A powerful film showing how professionals such as GPs, dentists, hairdressers and emergency workers, can help to spot the signs of domestic abuse has been unveiled.

Routine or private appointments – like a haircut, dental check-up or a home safety visit – can often provide an opportunity for domestic abuse victims to be given advice on how to get help.

The Ask, Support and Care (ASC) programme, set up under the pioneering Medics Against Violence project and the Violence Reduction Unit, has so far trained more than 2,300 professionals.

The new film – entitled ‘Harder’ – shows how the signs of domestic abuse can sometimes be visible, though not necessarily in bruises or injury, and includes advice about how to broach this sensitive subject with someone who may be the victim of abuse.

As well as being used in training sessions, the video is being made publicly available to further raise awareness of how many more people can spot the signs of domestic abuse.

Community Safety Minister Annabelle Ewing launched the new film on a visit to Kirkcaldy to see firefighters taking part in ASC training. Ms Ewing said:

“Domestic abuse can often be a hidden crime, inflicting long term damage on victims who are too afraid to speak out. Training professionals to spot the signs and have the confidence and information to broach the subject is an important way of making a difference.

“Thousands of professionals have already been trained under the ASC and I am glad that work is continuing and being bolstered by the new and powerful film.

Christine Goodall, founder of Medics Against Violence, said:

“We firmly believe that this is everyone’s issue and we can all help on some level even if just to offer contact details for one of the specialist domestic abuse organisations. Those affected are our patients, our clients, our colleagues and our friends and as professionals we have a duty of care towards them, for too long domestic abuse has been the elephant in the room and we hope to change that.



Community Safety Minister Annabelle Ewing launches the new film by Medics Against Violence which will help people spot signs of domestic abuse.

Building Safer Communities Board Member and Assistant Chief Officer David McGown, Director of Prevention and Protection, said:

“The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has identified a need to train officers about domestic abuse as there is a clear link with fire raising. Firefighters operate in all sections of every community which means our crews are in a position where they may be able to notice abuse and help someone access the support that’s available.

“Domestic abuse affects people of every background and victims are often very reluctant to seek help. By identifying this ensures that those who are vulnerable receive the correct support.

“Medics Against Violence already train other professionals who work with the public and training firefighters how to identify and act on domestic abuse can make a real difference and help protect our communities.”

You may view the video at: <https://vimeo.com/197415152>

In March 2015, the First Minister [announced an additional £20 million](#) would be invested over three years in a range of measures to tackle all forms of violence against women. The Justice Secretary announced that £115,000 of that funding will be given to [expand the Medics Against Violence work across Scotland](#). This is in addition to the annual grant of £956,000 already awarded to the Violence Reduction Unit.

BSC Board meeting—focus on trauma and loss

The 14th BSC Board meeting was held on 12 January at Polmont. The Board heard from BSC Board Member Assistant Chief Officer David McGown, about progress on Phase 2 including the output from the first meeting of the Executive Group on Unintentional Harm in Scotland, that met in mid-December.

The work of the Executive Group will be led from the Strategic Assessment to better understand the causal factors and patterns of unintentional harm and injury across Scotland, including contributing factors such as deprivation, loneliness and isolation with focus on areas including in the home, on the road, fire and outdoor safety. An early action agreed by the Executive Group is to progress engagement across the country, to be led through the Scottish Community Safety Network, to identify work that is ongoing and good examples to share. The Board then focused on Bereavement and Trauma. Sue Brooks, Governor of Polmont YO1 shared stark evidence of the psychological impact of trauma on boys – in particular the impact of early childhood loss. Research undertaken at Polmont suggested that young men

in the institution have on average been affected by at least five bereavements, many of them traumatic.

This experience can be attributed to an increase in their substance misuse, behavioural issues, entry into prison. In some cases, they report that frequent loss has caused them to cease caring about life. Conversely, the research also suggests that young people involved in offending behaviour are more likely to experience multiple traumatic or parental bereavements than the general adolescent population and can lead to a downward trajectory including depression, comorbidity, poor education outcomes, low self-esteem and risk taking behaviours. As such, grief and loss may further disadvantage an already vulnerable group.

Dr. Suzanne Zeedyk, a leading developmental psychologist, explored issues such as attachment and loss and the physiological impact on babies and children. A key message was about the need for curiosity and compassion rather than judgment. One good example to demonstrate this was where a school changed the language from using the term 'challenging behaviour' to 'distressed behaviour' – so instead of a



teacher reacting to it as 'bad' behaviour, they became curious about what was wrong. This was a very energetic and engaging discussion and Board members identified a number of areas for further engagement through education, aftercare and building connections to wider prevention activity.

The Board agreed consider what could be done to support improved education of key professionals within their own organisations on the issues and impacts of bereavement and childhood trauma.

It was suggested that further material of interest Nadine Burke Harris' TED talk:

<http://www.tedmed.com/talks/show?id=293066>

and Radio 4's Unhappy Child/Unhealthy Adult podcast:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b070dkrs>

Helping to activate local potential

Building Safer Communities is working with Inspiring Scotland and local partners to support more people in communities to attend further Activate courses this year in Possilpark, Craigmillar, Alloa and the Gorbals

Activate is a Community based introduction to Community Development provided by the University of Glasgow in partnership with local agencies/organisations.

Its main aim is to give people who are active in their community an opportunity to reflect on what they do and why they do it. Participants get the opportunity to examine different practice approaches to working in the community, all of which will assist them in being even more effective in their practice. The teaching and learning is informal and participative and yet challenges participants to think more deeply about the work they are doing and how they can

contribute to the development of their community.

Helen Martin, Senior Lecturer at the University of Glasgow said: "Activate also provides access to further and higher education and students who have completed it often move on to study at College or University. People progress into other areas of voluntary experience, further education or work. More than 1,000 people have been through the programme so far since it began 11 years ago!"

In Possilpark, 14 local people recently successfully completed the course with NG Homes. Regeneration Manager Margaret Layden said: "We are committed to working with the University of Glasgow in developing community activists through this programme and we congratulate the latest participants on completing the Activate course."

Co-production in Scotland - what is it and where do we go from here?

Elinor Findlay (Office of the Chief Social Policy Adviser) and Sarah Currie (Ingage Team), Scottish Government explain:

Co-production is gaining momentum in considerations about how best to develop policy and in response to the challenges of public sector reform. An inaugural '[Co-production Week Scotland](#)' took place in November last year to highlight and promote co-production approaches, [celebrate good practice to date](#) and help create [a shared vision for co-production in Scotland](#). But what is co-production? One particularly helpful definition comes from the work of [Julia Slay at the new economics foundation](#) who describes it as:

"A relationship where professionals and citizens share power to design, plan and deliver support together recognising that both partners have vital contributions to make in order to improve quality of life for people and communities."

Co-production is not new – it already exists in various communities across Scotland. Examples range from 'Canny wi Cash' which enables older people to make decisions on small grants for work involving or affecting them to a west Edinburgh time bank working with HM Prison to allow prisoners to earn time credits for voluntary work. There is huge public appetite within communities in Scotland to get involved. [Survey results](#) published last year show that:



96% think people should be involved in making decisions about how local services are planned and run.

81% think people should be involved in making decisions about how money is spent on different local public services.

86% think local people should be able to volunteer alongside paid staff to provide public services.

'Co-production Week Scotland' was organised by the Scottish Co-production Network in conjunction with many partners and colleagues across the country. As part of the week we held a roundtable conversation, chaired by Gillian Russell, Director of Safer Communities, where we: reflected on where we are in relation to co-production in Scotland; considered how we better join the 'co-production dots' between policy and practice; and explored how we support co-production within public services so that it is understood, valued and applied.

Three key themes emerged from this discussion, focussing on how we:

1. Shift the balance of power and

enable safe, neutral spaces for co-production to happen;

2. Address the barriers to co-production by focussing on the practical action that takes account of the demands on people's time; and

3. Further develop the evidence-base.

We're now working to enable people from across Scotland's diverse co-production movement to share stories about the impact co-production is making. We're calling this '100 Stories'. Two events have been held already to share inspiring experiences of co-production and develop an evidence base about this way of working. We're keen to hear stories from across the country – if you have a story to tell or would like to know more [get in touch](#) or have a look at [our website](#).

Co-production ultimately revitalises how we all – policy makers, analysts, practitioners and citizens – think and act when designing and delivering services. There are many more examples on the [Scottish Co-production website](#) and we look forward to hearing about co-production activities you're involved with.

Spotlight on Neighbourhood Watch Scotland



**Brian Connel, Manager,
Neighbourhood Watch Scotland**

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland SCIO (NWS) has existed in various forms for over 10 years and has enjoyed the support of Scottish Government over that period. For 7 ½ years its development was driven by Lisa Toon, who left the organisation in 2015 for new employment opportunities. Against that background the past 12 months have seen a fundamental change in both the team structure, make up and its focus.

Since 2015 NWS have maintained a 3 year strategy that directly supports the aims and outcomes of the Building Safer Communities programme, however its method of delivery has now dramatically changed.

Consistent Community Engagement is key to building resilient communities and with that in mind the focus of the NWS team has been to maximise its direct engagement with existing and new Neighbourhood Watches and other community groups, and the community safety partners serving them. To support that requirement NWS replaced a previous Communications role, which centred on social media, with a Community Engagement Officer.

The team now consists of Brian Connel, Manager, who has 33 years experience in delivery of community safety: Willie Clark, Community Engagement Officer, who has a similar background but added experience with terms of local authority and health board liaison and the private security industry and Liz Campbell,

Admin and Finance Officer whose 5 years with NWS brings continuity in addition to her experience in the finance and charitable sectors. The team is supported by a Board of Trustees chaired by Alan Dobie.

The aim of NWS is to apply the core values of neighbourhood watch in building safer communities and through this reduce levels of harm, intentional or otherwise. Its key delivery programmes for 2017-2018 are: -

- Improving its support to existing and new community groups
- Establishing, developing and sustaining Rural Watch Scotland
- Expanding the concept of community networking across Scotland with a focus on the Building Safer Communities areas of priority in Hawkhill, Possilpark, Craigmillar and Gorbals.

The activities being carried out under these programmes include developing a new and more user friendly website to provide 'community' building resources and good practice; providing real time and localised community messaging through the Neighbourhood ALERT system; improving the products of partnership working to increase

community benefit but most importantly engaging directly with all communities to support and harness the community resilience and innovation that exists throughout Scotland.

Brian Connel, Manager comments "Neighbourhood Watch Scotland represents the core values of knowing, understanding and supporting your neighbours. We are a very small team but I think we possess a wealth of experience, a huge enthusiasm and due to our Scottish wide network of community groups a capacity beyond our size. We are excited about the opportunities that exist to make a lasting difference to community well-being."



Thanks to everyone for visiting our website and retweeting our tweets to help promote the Building Safer Communities programme. Last month: we gained 65 new followers on Twitter; we tweeted 39 times and we now have 1887 followers (and rising!).

-  [@theBSCprogramme](https://twitter.com/theBSCprogramme)
-  www.bsc.scot/
-  <http://www.bsc.scot/blog>
-  communitysafety@gov.scot

Your BSC Bulletin

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

We plan to feature regular updates about what is going on in BSC areas, highlight good practice and innovation and provide useful links and information.

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

Please contact Wendy McInnes with your thoughts:

Tel: 0131 244 2248

email: wendy.mcinnnes@gov.scot