

Welcome



Gillian Russell Director of Safer Communities, Scottish Government and Chair of the BSC Board.

Welcome to the new BSC newsletter.

It is one of the great pleasures in my current role as Director to go out into communities in Scotland and learn from them about what matters to them in making their communities safer places to live.

We know from the evidence that feeling safe in a community is a fundamental pre requisite to making a place a good place to live. There are very many safe communities across Scotland.

However there are also those places where people do not feel safe and secure.

The starting point of the Building Safer Communities programme is that people in places are the best place to start when looking at better ways to make communities safer.

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Minister addresses National Community Safety Convention 2016



The National Community Safety Convention 2016 was held on 6 September. The Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, Annabelle Ewing (pictured above), was among the speakers to address the conference, which brought together those involved in community safety from the public, private and voluntary sector. Ms Ewing focused on three issues that are central to the Government's priorities for Community Safety: reducing inequality in our society; community

empowerment and partnership and collaboration in decision making. She went on to say that local people and communities must be empowered to identify for themselves the issues and opportunities to tackle poverty on their own terms. Ms Ewing went on to outline how the Building Safer Communities initiative is bringing together a range of agencies in Craigmillar in Edinburgh; Hawkhill in Alloa; and the Gorbals and Possilpark in Glasgow to progress towards our vision of

a flourishing, optimistic Scotland in which resilient communities, families and individuals live safe from crime, disorder, danger and harm.

In the afternoon delegates had the opportunity to attend workshops and hear from speakers, including Andrew Magowan of Inspiring Scotland. Andrew spoke about Link Up - the organisation's assets based approach—and introduced local people involved in the project. This included Gary Hughes from Gallatown, Kirkcaldy which offers a range of community activities introduced by local Link Up Worker, Gary Hughes and members of the North West Archery Group in Kilmarnock. It was very inspiring to hear how this local project had made a difference to people's lives. See page three and four for more details about North West Archery Group and what's happening in Gallatown.

Scottish Community Safety Network Safer Community Awards

This year's Scottish Community Safety Network Safer Community Awards were held on 5 September at the Glasgow Grand Central Hotel.

Pictured right is the winner of the of the Peoples' Choice Award, [the Fife Water Safety Initiative](#). The project aims to reduce risk taking behaviour by young people in, on or near open water by providing an in-depth and hard hitting presentation, where young people are encouraged to participate in engaging activities throughout.



The driving force behind the initiative is effective partnership between Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, RNLI and RLSS UK.

What works?

North West Archery Group is right on target



Members of the local community (pictured above and below) have completed a number of archery qualifications enabling them to coach others.

The North West Archery Club is an asset-based community development project based in North West Kilmarnock and funded by the Scottish Government through [Inspiring Scotland's Link Up programme](#).

Link Up provided support and funding to the club through their local worker Neill Patton, who works with the group to support the club's development and help them navigate funding, red tape, organisational change and conflict in an area of multiple deprivation where



community groups often struggle to make a significant impact.

The group started from one man's desire to share his archery skills with his community. Link Up gathered a group of interested local people together to work to develop their skills and the archery club. Those from the initial group are delighted to see their hard work pay off. Allan Wilson, the Club Treasurer, said: "The club is a huge success. We have over 60 members and raised nearly £10,000 from different activities last year including a ceilidh, race night and the local mud run."

"It's the best stress buster I know" - Group member

received training which helped her find employment and receive her first ever

payslip. She said: "I've got so much more confidence, I'm interacting with lots more people...I've made so many good friends in the archery, it feels like a second family for me."

Neill concluded: "Development was not always straightforward and took a lot of investment from volunteers and Link Up. There have been huge ups and downs but these are the points at which people really develop and change. And the archery group is now a huge asset for the people involved and the local

The club now participates in events all around Kilmarnock: the local community fun day, working with Malcolm Sargent, Disability Days with East Ayrshire Council, open day at the Dean Castle and many more.

Members come from all walks of life - and the group is very active in ensuring they are welcoming to all. "It's a place that has helped many people change their lives for the better," explains Neill. "It's helped reduce isolation, improve mental health and wellbeing and help build cohesion in the community by giving people a place where they feel welcomed and cared for."

Ashleigh, the club secretary is one of many examples of how the club helps local people. Since joining the club Ashleigh's mental health has significantly improved and she has

Members' achievements

27 Community Sport Leader Awards (Archery)

5 level 1 archery qualifications

10 have taken part in Double Goal positive coaching training

6 completed door steward training

14 have completed Standard First Aid

3 Food Hygiene Certificates

2 licences to do bar work

8 have completed child protection training



Recorded crime at a 42 year low

Total recorded crime in Scotland fell by four per cent in 2015-16 and crime is now at its lowest level since 1974, according to the Scottish Government's 'Recorded Crime in Scotland 2015/16' National Statistics. In total, 246,243 crimes were recorded in 2015-16, compared to 256,350 in the previous year.

Key highlights include:

Crimes of dishonesty including theft, housebreaking and shoplifting fell from 126,857 to 115,789

The number of sexual crimes recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 7%. This is in part a reflection of the increased level of confidence the

public has in reporting this type of crime.

Non-sexual crimes of violence are at their second lowest level since 1974 despite a slight rise over the twelve months from 6,357 to 6,775.

The number of offences recorded by the police in Scotland also fell from 379,498 to 339,193. These include motor vehicle offences and breach of the peace.

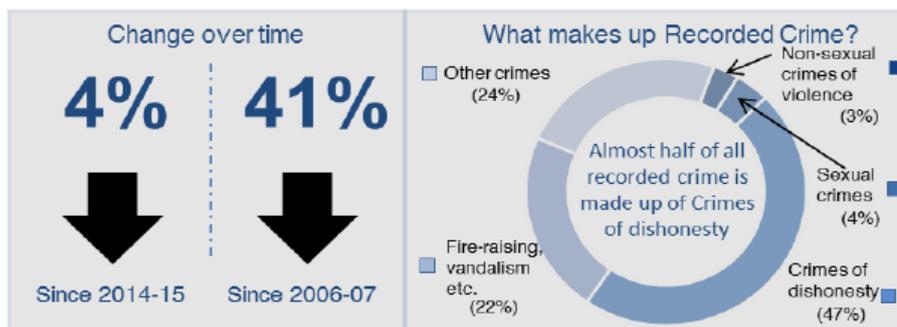
These figures show further progress towards the Building Safer Communities aim of reducing overall victims of crime in Scotland by 250,000 by 2017-18. Progress towards that aim is formally

measured by the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey which shows that there has been a 72% (179,000) reduction in victims of crime since 2012/13 and we are on course to meet our aim.

We know there is still more work to do. The SCJS shows that the risk of being a victim of crime remains higher for adults living in the most deprived areas (21.2% compared with 13.4% in the rest of Scotland). The BSC Programme is working with communities and other partners in the Gorbals, Possilpark, Craigmillar, Hawkhill and HM Young Offenders Institute Polmont to support initiatives, help make links and share good practice about what is working to building safer and more resilient communities.

The Scottish Government's 'Recorded Crime in Scotland 2015/16' National Statistics was published in September.

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey was published in May 2016.



Focus on Gallatown, Kirkcaldy

Gallatown is a suburb in north east Kirkcaldy near Dysart in coastal Fife. Originally called Gallowstown, (from the frequent execution of criminals in feudal times, or from the special execution of a noted robber 300 years ago) it was famous for the making of nails.

The area has a number of serious issues and is the lowest ranked Fife locality in the Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation (and amongst the 2% most deprived in Scotland). Despite suffering from health and income inequality, there is a good sense of neighbourliness and local people are willing to engage and give each other a hand.

The Link Up project in Gallatown, which is funded by BSC has been operational for over 4 years. The Host / Support

Organisation is **Kirkcaldy YMCA**. Since inception, a range of community activities have been facilitated by the local Link Up Worker Gary Hughes. These include Gardening, Bike Clubs, baby massage sessions, the Hot Pots Cookery Group, the Bite and Blether Community Café, a Youth Club and the 'Gallatown Gala and Community Group'.

Recent key successes have included the Bike Group becoming a social enterprise and starting to generate an income, and the Gallatown Gala & Community Group developing to the point of supporting other groups and helping them with funding applications.

Whilst many of the groups operate as 'peer support' entities a number of

young people who have engaged with Link Up have entered work experience – two young people have progressed from attending Link Up groups to 25 hour posts at the YMCA funded through Community Jobs Scotland.

The most significant recent change has been a move out of the Overton Centre which is being demolished/rebuilt. The project has successfully moved to the former Chinese Restaurant – Happy Days. This move has been a huge 'community' exercise building upon the voluntary support of all the groups – including people formerly affected by stress, lack of confidence and low self-esteem. The move has been so successful and well supported local folk now see 'Happy Days' as a place in the community to go for support and advice.

13th Meeting of the Building Safer Communities Board

The Building Safer Communities Board met in the Serenity Café in Edinburgh on Tuesday 7 September. This was the 13th meeting of the Board and it took a different format to recent meetings – a more traditional meeting style with no area visits or additional presentations. The reason for this was to allow members of the Board to take the time to reflect on the past year; take stock of where we are and; look forward to what's next for the BSC programme.

Added value

Gillian Russell, the Director of Safer Communities in Scottish Government has been Chair of the Board for one year and shared her thoughts on the role of "Champion". She said it is important to get out there, to understand the community and be clear where your added value can be placed alongside a range of wider activities and engagements. There was a wider discussion around the need to consider how information is being captured and how the impact of activity is being measured against the BSC aims and objectives.

David McGown, Director of Prevention and Protection, Scottish Fire and

Rescue Service, provided a summary of the Strategic Assessment of the Unintentional Harm report. The report highlights that falls are the most significant cause of death through unintentional harm, accounting for 42% of all deaths.

Key issues

The Board heard that a set of thematic papers for each of the priority areas are currently being prepared for: Older people; Deprivation; Home safety; Road safety; and Outdoor safety. These will include identification of key issues as well as links to activity and ongoing practice.

Impact and Actions

Over the next few months David will be engaging with stakeholders to discuss the findings of the assessment and identify impact and actions. It is proposed that the Strategic Assessment will be formally published in January 2017.

The next meeting of the Building Safer Communities Board will take place on the 13 December.

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We have been working directly with community groups and people in Possilpark, Gorbals, Craigmillar,

Polmont YOI and Hawkhill along with their respective communities to support them to improve the safety of their communities. Fellow [board members](#) Celia, Rose and I have been exploring Possilpark and asking the community there where we can add value, both directly with local community groups and people, but also importantly, by engaging and influencing national policy and decision making.

Many communities feel that they have had their fill of projects, initiatives and what feel like passing fads. What they want is an understanding of the ambition they have for their communities and long term commitment by dedicated people to work with them to find locally based solutions to making their places better places to live. The hard work, kindness and dedication of people who care and want the best for their community is plain to see and leaves me wondering how we enable that and remove all the things that get in the way. All ideas and suggestions welcome.



Building Safer Communities

Building Safer Communities is a collaborative programme which seeks to help national and local partners and communities work together to make Scotland safer and stronger.



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communitysafety@gov.scot

Your BSC Bulletin

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

In the future 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.mcinnis@gov.scot