

Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

Minutes of the Fifth Meeting held on

25th March 2014

Committee Room 5, Scottish Parliament

1. Present and Apologies

See attached list

2. Welcome

Clare Adamson welcomed everyone to the Fifth Meeting of the Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness and extended a special welcome to Stuart McMillan, MSP (Convenor of the Cross Party Group on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism) and Rod Campbell, MSP. Ms Adamson thanked Robert Atkinson and Healthy Working Lives for funding the refreshments and put out a plea for others to consider supporting a future meeting in this way.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr Creighton asked that the Minutes be amended to reflect his work with the main partner, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, to reduce inappropriate call outs. (Mr McNab of HSE had earlier asked for an amendment to be made re the role of the HSE in Scotland.) Mr Cathro asked the Minutes also be amended to reflect that Mr Cathro informed the group he represented the College Sector, and mentioned that this was his first meeting and commented on how interesting the presentations were. He informed the group that HSE will not be considering Colleges as high risk areas, even though they could be seen as mini industries, and therefore will not be conducting proactive inspections. This was now an issue that the H & S College Network Group would have to consider.

With these amendements made, Mr Topping proposed they were a true record and this was seconded by Mr Creighton.

Ms Adamson thanked the RoSPA staff for the support they provide to this Group.

4. Secretary's Report

Elizabeth Lumsden referred to the Secretary's Report which had been circulated and highlighted the total membership of the Group has now

risen to 155. Ms Lumsden also mentioned that part funding had been received for RoSPA's Big Book of Accident Prevention and work had begun on it. She also distributed copies of Scotland's Child Safety Report Card and the related European Summary of 31 countries. Ms Lumsden mentioned the campaign work with NHS GG&C on the prevention of liquid injuries and highlighted the recent paper on Liquidabs (of which she is a co-author) She invited other Health Boards and Local Authorities interested in taking up this campaign to contact cmcavoy@rospa.com.

Finally, members were asked to accept the offer of RoSPA hosting the meeting papers on its website. This was agreed.

Stuart McMillan, MSP, highlighted his support, in theory, of having a joint meeting with this CPG and the CPG on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism and that the next opportunity to do this would be 30 September but that this decision would be ratified at the next meeting of his group on 31 March. (*Update: Mr McMillan has since confirmed the joint meeting will indeed go ahead on 30th September.*)

5. Water Safety

Ms Adamson introduced each of the speakers on the topic of water safety as follows: (Where available, speakers' presentations will be uploaded to the RoSPA website. Further details to follow.)

Jim Watson, Deputy Chair, National Water Safety Forum: "*National Water Safety Forum – Strategy for improving water safety*".

Questions to Mr Watson included: Clare Adamson MSP: Is the Forum still engaged with Fire and Rescue and Police following the new single services arrangements? Mr Watson confirmed that the engagement process was much easier especially relating to input to the WAID database. Stuart McMillan MSP: Has there been any resistance by service users to input to WAID? Mr Watson responded that very little direct information is received in this way. They agree the benefit of having this level of information but don't want to contribute to it. Mr Maxwell went on to discuss the issue of information relating to sailing and boating communities and that he is doing a piece of work to get more information in other business streams not just accident prevention but it is proving a challenge to ensure people input information. Mr Watson responded that it would be good to have other organisations more involved in reporting.

Ms Adamson highlighted that unfortunately Adrian Lole's flight was cancelled. Mr Lole, of RLSSUK was due to speak about water safety education. However, thanks were given to Sharon MacDonald, Director of Development, at Scottish Swimming who agreed to give a presentation.

Ms MacDonald showed the Group a video which was created in partnership with Save the Children. She highlighted the strapline of Scottish Swimming is 'Everyone can swim!' however, evidence shows that 30 – 40% of school leavers cannot swim.

Ms MacDonald mentioned she came into post in 2009 and her first role was to do an audit. This revealed 25 – 30% of primary school children were not able to swim. In rural areas especially the take up of opting into schemes is very poor. The audit also revealed that school swimming is non-statutory in Scotland – which is different from England and Wales. There is a direct correlation with poorer social backgrounds and children not being able to swim. If children are not learning to swim at school then this will perpetuate with the child's family not learning either. Ms Macdonald went on to discuss the Scottish Government's manifesto in 2010 regarding free swimming but that this is ineffective as a standalone initiative – lessons need to be free too. The £800,000 allocated for this initiative is good but didn't go far between 32 local authorities. In 2011/12 the Scottish Government agreed to continue to top up the programme but the budgets will be reduced to £100,000 by 2015. Another challenge is if pools are far away from schools then this takes a lot of time out of the school day but other things can be learned through swimming such as social skills, young children learning to dress themselves etc. Ms Macdonald emphasised the need for more Government support and that swimming lessons should be made a priority – providing a Commonwealth Games legacy.

Questions to Ms MacDonald included: Frank Creighton: He wrote to Kenny McAskill about allocating Cashback for Communities to swimming lessons and water safety advice for children. Had Ms MacDonald explored this option? Ms MacDonald responded that she had applied for this funding but also highlighted Scottish Swimming's Triple S resource regarding training people to teach swimming. This money came from Comic Relief. Brian Topping: Should local safety groups do what they did in Aberdeenshire over the summer with their 'Splash, Don't Trash' campaign to get young people into swimming pool? Ms MacDonald said it was a good initiative but she had found in her experience it was the young people who could already swim who went along to these schemes. Scottish Swimming did have limited resource to partner with RLSS to go into schools to speak about water safety. Jean Brown: Mentioned the initiative in America to teach newborns to float (because of the prevalence of pools around homes there). Ms Macdonald responded that Scottish Swimming does have a comprehensive programme with parents called 'Start to Swim' but she would also like to see something similar to the Bookstart programme - that ensures children and parents come together at key stages – for children to gain confidence and learn to swim. Stuart McMillan, MSP: Stated he thought the video was excellent but mentioned it would have been useful (for visually impaired) if the statistics were also spoken.

Ms Adamson then introduced the next speaker and reminded the Group that the subject had initially been put forward by Mr Topping.

Graham Watts, Manager, Boat Safety Scheme: *“The safety of boats as dwellings”*.

Questions to Mr Watts include: Councillor Charlie Nicolson: Thanked Mr Watts for the very interesting presentation and asked if he worked with insurance companies regarding supplying certification for safe procedures. Mr Watts responded that his experience was insurance companies could be cautious. It’s difficult to say ‘you must’ and this may drive people away from boating. Cllr Nicolson mentioned local insurance companies in his area are interested and the cost would be worth it if one life was saved.

Ms Adamson introduced the next speaker.

Desmond Oakes, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service: *“Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Water Rescue Capability.”*

Questions to Mr Oakes included: Mr Topping: Has the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service considered carrying out Home Fire Safety Visits on boats? Mr Oakes responded that he will take this forward for discussion with his prevention and protection colleagues and will share the response with the Group.

General discussion then followed: Mr Cathro mentioned there are a number of companies that offer adventure activities and many of these activities are on water. The Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) is designed to ensure that activity providers follow good safety management practices. Do you feel that this a method of control for water based activities? Mr Watson responded and referred to the English and subsequently the Scottish consultation regarding AALA. The UK Government had originally decided to abolish AALA but has subsequently reversed the decision after the Scottish consultation decided that a statutory licensing scheme should be maintained for adventure activities in Scotland. Mr Watson agreed that this was one method of assisting in the control of adventure activities.

Mr Richardson directed his comment to Ms Macdonald and pointed out that the main aim of Scottish Swimming didn’t include awareness of risks in water and that children need to be aware of the risks of different kinds of water. Ms McDonald responded that in Triple S there is education and awareness but it is a massive task to get round all schools. Looking at covering secondary as well as primary schools is a long term goal. Jim Watson also mentioned the need to educate on all safety measures (equipment etc) as this is the root of any safety related issue – people need to understand the potentially fatal consequences of their decisions. Ms Spacey reminded the Group of the previous presentation by George Cairns regarding Go Safe Scotland and how this has a feature on Water Safety. Ms Spacey asked the speakers today if they would look at this

section and feedback on its contents. See www.gosafescotland.com (Please feed back to the Secretary on elumsden@rospa.com) Ms Spacey went on to mention the activities of some people in Fife who were jumping in to quarries and how the messages need to be targeted at the right people. Mr Creighton highlighted the programme he is involved in around safety signs on beaches. This new initiative will use modern technology such as Apps etc to improve communication especially for remote areas. There are beautiful beaches on the islands but there are dangerous rip tides. Local knowledge is crucial. Cllr Nicolson also commented on this initiative and confirmed it was a pilot programme and results would be shared with partners. Mr Creighton advised that the signs would be numbered for identification as, for example, if they were in Gaelic, non Gaelic speakers would still know where they were.

Karen McDonnell used the opportunity at the end of the meeting to congratulate Clare Adamson, MSP, on providing a catalyst for safety in Scotland and advised the Group that Ms Adamson had, that afternoon, contributed to a young and novice driver debate within the Scottish Parliament. Ms McDonnell expressed her belief that this was a forum that could make a real difference. She went on to mention that this was also RoSPA's first ever Family Safety Week and that today's topic as 'learning to swim'. These examples of joined up thinking will influence the wider safety agenda and Ms McDonnell expressed her thanks to Ms Adamson.

Ms Adamson closed the meeting by mentioning the invite to a Parliamentary Reception from the Electrical Safety Council which had earlier been forwarded to the members of this Group. Ms Adamson also highlighted the Secretary's charity walk taking place in April to raise funds for a child safety initiative. See www.justgiving.com/elizabeth-lumsden2 .

Cllr Nicolson made a final plea for video conferencing facilities to be made available. Mr Topping gave thanks to the Convenor for a very useful meeting.

6. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 24th June from 6.00 – 8.00 pm and will be on the topic of Child Safety.

(The following meeting on November 4th will focus on gas and electrical safety in the private rented sector.)

Attendee List

Clare Adamson	Convener
Robert Atkinson	Healthy Working Lives
John Beresford	Scottish Community Safety Network
Robbie Blyth	Fife Coast and Countryside Trust
Vince Bowles	Scottish Autism
Jean Brown	Aberlour
Andy Cathro	Colleges Health and Safety Development Network
Frank Creighton	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Jim Dorman	St Andrews First Aid Supplies
Dave Forrester	SELECT
Ross Haggart	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Andy Howat	NHS Dumfries and Galloway
John Johnston	FMC
Mary Kernohan	Totseat
Gwyneth Kerwin	REHIS
Colin McAllister	Police Scotland
Carlene McAvoy	RoSPA
Sharon MacDonald	Scottish Swimming
Karen McDonnell	RoSPA Scotland
Irene Miller	NHS Health Scotland
Lesley Nish	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Adrian Lole	RLSS
Desmond Oakes	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Ali O’Neale	Cloudline
Cllr Charlie Nicolson	Outer Hebrides Community Safety partnership
Paul Richardson	Scottish Borders Council
Tricia Spacey	Fife Community Safety
Allan Thomson	Central Training Services
Brian Topping	Safety Advocate
Jim Watson	National Water Safety Forum
Jill Watson	
Graham Watts	Boat Safety Scheme
Caroline Wilson	The Risk Factory

In attendance

Roderick Campbell	MSP
Stuart McMillan	MSP
Kirsten Leask	University of Glasgow
Gus Black	Scottish Government
Dean Cowper	Scottish Government
Elizabeth Lumsden	RoSPA (Secretary)
Lis Bardell	Assistant to Clare Adamson, MSP

Apologies

Christopher Bell	Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland
Tom Beattie	Safety Advocate
John Cairns	Safety Groups UK
Kathy Jenkins	Scottish Hazards Campaign
Graham Palmer	Morgan Sindall
Stephen Merchant	SAMH
Wayne Mackay	ESC
Michael Avril	RNLI
Fiona McLeod	MSP
Jill Mulholland	Transport Scotland
Gill Wylie	Scottish Government
Simon Bradshaw	Police Scotland
Colin Baird	SCOTTS
Neil McNicol	John McNicol and Co Ltd
Haytham Kubba	Royal Hospital for Sick Children Glasgow
Cherie Morgan	Play Scotland
Bill Smith	Ten Alps communicate
Drew Rankine	Safety Advocate
Paul Timms	CTC
Bob Telfer	AALS