

The Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

Minutes of the Twelfth Meeting held on

Wednesday 20th January 2016

6.00pm till 8.00pm, Committee Room 5, Scottish Parliament

1. Welcome

Clare Adamson, MSP, and Convener of the group, welcomed everyone present to the Twelfth meeting of the Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness.

Ms Adamson acknowledged the election in May, and that this is the last meeting for the group before the election.

Ms Adamson went on to thank everyone who has participated in the workings of the group and hopes that the group will be carried forward following the election.

Brian Topping thanked Ms Adamson on behalf of all members of the CPG for providing a forum to network, and gave thanks to Elizabeth Lumsden from RoSPA for supporting the group.

Ms Adamson gave thanks to Wayne Mackay from Electrical Safety First for sponsoring the cost of the refreshments, and went on to thank all those who offered to support catering costs: Grant Taylor from Scotland's Gas Networks, Robert Thomson from Care and Repair, Ron Ewing from CSI Safety Ltd, Robert Atkinson from Healthy Working Lives and Michael Avril from RNLI. (*Martine Nolan of Xodus Group also offered to cover catering costs at a future meeting.*)

Ms Adamson asked everyone to please sign the Sederunt before leaving this evening.

Ms Adamson thanked RoSPA for the support they give to the group, and gave welcome and thanks to Jessica Munshaw for taking the minutes.

Ms Adamson welcomed George Adam MSP for Paisley to the meeting.

2. Present and Apologies

Please see Appendix 1 for attendees and apologies.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

a. Accuracy

Elizabeth Lumsden highlighted she had received alterations from Andrew Fraser and Ron Ewing. With these amendments these were then proposed as accurate by Brian Topping and seconded by Ron Ewing.

b. Matters Arising

Clare Adamson, MSP stated that the group did not take a formal decision about the request for comment received from Margaret Dekker regarding the recent appointment by Mr Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of UN Secretariat, of FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile) president Jean Todt as special envoy to road safety. Ms Adamson highlighted she had spoken to Transport Scotland about this and that it was viewed as a positive move. She asked the group if anyone had any comments they would like to make. No one raised a concern, therefore Ms Adamson stated that the CPG would not be forwarding a response.

4. AGM

a. Minutes of the previous AGM: 20th January 2015

Ms Adamson pointed out that the minutes have been re-circulated and tabled, and drew everyone's attention to the section referring to election of office bearers. Ms Adamson stated that no elections would be taking place this evening but that members may want to think about this if the group is to reconvene in the future.

b. Annual Return

Ms Adamson directed the group's attention to the tabled copies of the Annual Return. Ms Adamson invited any questions or amendments to the Annual Return but none were forthcoming.

5. Secretary's Report

Elizabeth Lumsden, RoSPA Scotland, gave thanks to all the members of the CPG for their engagement and attendance rate. Ms Lumsden stated that it can be disheartening when people don't attend but this has not been the case with this group. Ms Lumsden gave thanks to those who have sponsored the costs of refreshments.

Ms Lumsden went on to thank the group for the positive comments received from those who completed the CPG survey sent out in November.

Ms Lumsden gave thanks to Clare Adamson MSP for acting as Convenor and allowing RoSPA the opportunity to provide the Secretariat role. One of the highlights from Ms Lumsden's time in the group has been standing in the Gallery and hearing Ms Adamson debate on Scotland's Home Safety Equipment Scheme. Ms Lumsden expressed her interest in continuing to provide the Secretariat role if the Group continues into the next Parliamentary session and if Clare and the membership agrees.

Ms Lumsden gave thanks to all those assisting behind the scenes including RoSPA staff and Kate Barclay and others in Clare's office. Elizabeth gave special thanks to Lis Bardell for her support and guidance over the last three years.

Ms Lumsden directed the groups' attention to the Annual Return and the list of speakers and topics included in the last three years of meetings, and requested that they direct any comments back to herself.

Ms Lumsden concluded by highlighting that the CPG has allowed for new opportunities and a more holistic approach taken towards accident prevention and safety awareness than before the group was formed. Ms Lumsden thanked everyone for listening to a variety of topics and actively participating in the meetings.

6. Brief input – Simon Main, Think CO Project

Clare Adamson, MSP introduced Simon Main and Hilary Bath who would be providing a 5 minute brief on a project they are working on.

Simon Main thanked Ms Adamson for the introduction. Mr Main informed the group that today has been the start of their work in Scotland and it has been a very positive start. The Think CO Project is not aimed at the general public, it is aimed at the frontline staff and volunteers from organisations and charities that go into people's homes to deliver services. It considers the duty of care employers have for their staff who go into people's homes. The project isn't only about the serious cases of carbon monoxide poisoning, but also about low level CO exposure. Mr Main stated that they are currently entering the second year of the project.

Hilary Bath explained that they are concentrating on working with partners to test and develop their materials. They have worked with contacts in the third sector, including charities such as Age UK, Alzheimer's Society, British Red Cross and The Royal British Legion. These charities have all taken on board CO awareness and have integrated it into their induction programs, staff training and volunteer training. Ms Bath stated that Mr Main and herself have developed an accompanying script to go along with the CO awareness presentation so that anyone can deliver it. The purpose of the project is so that those people who go into the homes of others can spot the signs and symptoms of CO exposure, and to also address the duty of care of employers. Ms Bath stated that they have worked closely with Health and Safety and Human Resources departments, and this is their first foray into Scotland, as they are looking to expand the project into Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Ms Bath requested that if anyone comes from an organisation or knows of an organisation that would be interested in integrating CO awareness into their programs, to please come talk to Ms Bath or Mr Main at the end of the meeting. Ms Bath concluded by stating that they are looking to organise a Scottish briefing event in 2016, which would gather people together to train in CO awareness and then cascade this awareness through their networks.

Ms Adamson asked, is there a cost involved for organisations?

Ms Bath responded: It is entirely free, including materials and the event, other than travel costs to get to the event.

Brian Topping asked: What contact have you had in England with local GP practices? I don't know if doctors would necessarily pick up on the signs and symptoms of CO exposure.

Ms Bath responded: Not very much at the moment, this is on our radar for year two. We have focused so far on charities rather than the public sector like the NHS and on GPs. We have a number of case studies of people who have gone to the GP and the GP hasn't picked up on their signs and symptoms of CO poisoning, especially when it is low level CO poisoning.

Mr Main responded: Gas Safety Trust focuses on research, and have done some work with GPs as there has been low CO awareness. The amount of CO in the blood drops very quickly, so may not be detected by the time people go see their GP.

Grant Taylor asked: Have you had any interaction with Scotland's Gas Networks?

Ms Bath responded: We've had meetings with Robbie Stevenson who we met with Age Action Alliance. It is our goal to hopefully meet with Robbie to take it further.

Mr Main responded: Through training we have noticed people's lack of awareness that CO poisoning isn't just due to gas.

Sylvia McKay asked: Have you had any contact in North of Scotland? The Highlands and Islands Council have a training establishment, HiMATS, and place people on short term contracts into homes, for childcare and other purposes. Sandra Tucker is the Executive Manager of HiMATS.

Mr Main responded: Thank you, there is an email on our leaflet, please email us any other contacts you may have.

Kathy Jenkins asked: What resources are there to support people with low incomes getting CO detectors?

Ms Bath responded: Very little. Some fire and rescue services in England will do it free of charge. One of our resources is a Frequently Asked Questions, where we have pulled together a list of organisations who will fund the fitting of CO detectors, or some will even fund the replacement of boilers. We haven't found anyone who will fund it on a regular basis.

Ms Adamson responded: We still have a boiler repair scheme in Scotland so if people are on benefits there is a replacement program for boilers. They will fund the boiler replacement but not any ongoing maintenance, which is an issue.

Ms Adamson thanked Mr Main and Ms Bath for their brief presentation.

7. Headlines

Elizabeth Lumsden stated that RoSPA's Children and Young People's Safety conference is on February 23, and there are a few spots remaining so if anyone is interested to please let her know. The conference will focus on a storytelling theme and will take place at The Scottish Storytelling Centre. Mr Paul Wheelhouse, MSP has agreed to open the event, and there is an excellent line up of speakers talking about children and young people's safety. At the end of the day there is an event by Karen McDonnell, head of RoSPA Scotland, called 50 Voices from 4:30pm to 5:30pm in The Scottish Storytelling Centre. The purpose of 50 Voices is to have a group of 50 people who can advocate for safety in Scotland and for the Big Book of Accident Prevention. Errol Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive of RoSPA, will chair the meeting. Ms Lumsden asked for those interested in the meeting to please let her know.

Ms Lumsden stated that Child Safety Week, run by the Child Accident Prevention Trust, will run from June 6-12th, and Family Safety Week, run by RoSPA, will run from March 6-12th.

Ron Ewing stated that he'd like to highlight the work he has been doing with the fire service on animal safety in fires. During a house fire, pets tend to run and hide, and fire-fighters then have to go look for them, often arriving too late. Mr Ewing came across a couple in London, who came up with an animal safety scheme based on a similar scheme in America. Mr Ewing is working in Scotland to promote this scheme to help animals that have been involved in fires. On a future date he would like to do a presentation on this free scheme.

Clare Adamson, MSP thanked Mr Ewing. Ms Adamson stated that she'd seen a briefing on this project, Smokeypaws, which supplies animal versions of oxygen masks and it was very interesting to see that there are some pilot projects taking place in Scotland. Ms Adamson said that she has asked Lewis Ramsay, Director of Response and Resilience for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, if they would be willing to consider this scheme. It is something to look in to in the future.

Mr Ewing responded: The scheme is underway in a lot of areas in England. They have equipped many fire stations with the kits. I want to equip Scotland's fire engines with the kits also.

Ms Adamson asked if anyone had any questions for Mr Ewing but none were forthcoming. Ms Adamson offered congratulations to Mr Ewing for being awarded a Fellowship by the Institute of Fire Prevention Officers.

Alistair McNab asked to give a pitch on HSE's strategy launch. Mr McNab stated that HSE held a partnership event with approximately 100 delegates, with the aim to launch the strategy for Health and Safety across Great Britain. They started in Glasgow as they have a partnership there. Mr McNab stated that they are canvassing views to see if there is an agreement on the six themes, available on the HSE website, over the next 5 years for Great Britain to remain as a leader in Health and Safety. Mr McNab would be happy to talk about this at a future event if it suits the group.

Martin Hunt gave thanks to Ms Adamson for allowing Allister Atkinson and himself to present the nozzle that attaches to radiators to fight fire and smoke. Mr Hunt stated that the importance of these CPG meetings is unbelievable, and the nozzle has now been rolled out in some children's care homes in Scotland.

Kathy Jenkins reminded the group about Workers' Memorial Day on April 28. It is a day to remember people who died at work, and to pledge our hope to improve health and safety at work. Scottish Hazards has launched a Scottish Hazards Centre which will provide information, advice and support to workers, mainly non-unionized, about health and safety. Anyone can phone the centre to get information. Ms Jenkins stated that she will send the group information about this.

Ms Adamson responded: As someone who grew up in Motherwell where there were a lot of steel workers, it was very moving to attend Workers' Memorial Day in the past, and to see the first memorial established for steel traders. She would be pleased to make sure that those dates are circulated to the group.

8. Reflection

a. Survey Report

Elizabeth Lumsden thanked everyone who took part in the survey, and stated that the response rate was 16%. Ms Lumsden stated that she will cover the key findings from the survey. The first question referred to how productive the CPG has been, and over 90% agreed or strongly agreed. When we asked why people chose that score, there were lots of positive comments related: to the topics being varied, informative and well presented, having the weight of Scottish Parliament behind us, and it was a good way to receive information and updates. Constructive feedback stated that the group wasn't necessarily productive, and we will explore this further after the presentation. Ms Lumsden explained that the CPG doesn't have an executive function and it is up to members to take away the action points themselves.

Ms Lumsden stated for question C, "I felt I had the opportunity to participate in meetings," and question D, the speakers and topics were of interest, 100% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed. Ms Lumsden added that basically every speaker had been listed as being of interest to the respondents, demonstrating that the speakers and topics have been well varied to appeal to a variety of people. The holistic approach is demonstrated here, that the group members' interests lay across several topic areas.

Ms Lumsden added that all respondents agreed they had learned new information from attending the CPG meetings, but a couple of people disagreed that they had shared the information with their organisation. Mostly however people agreed, and it is great to see that people are taking away information and sharing it within their organisation. More people disagreed that they had shared the information outside their organisation, so we will have a discussion about that.

Ms Lumsden stated that people responded that they did many things differently after attending the meetings, including consulting and seeking advice more at a national level and including data from the meetings in their own presentations and papers. Ms Lumsden thanked the respondents for unanimously agreeing that the meetings were well organised. Responses to question K highlighted that new groups have been formed and new initiatives have progressed as a result of attending the CPG meetings. Many respondents stated that the most important benefit of having the CPG was knowledge sharing, networking and raising accident prevention and safety awareness to a national level.

Ms Lumsden stated that additional comments about the CPG referred to its excellent organisation and facilitation, being a unique group that must be continued, and raising the profile of injury prevention in Scotland. Comments on areas of improvement included the timing of the meetings, having it during the day sometimes rather than at night. Ms Lumsden responded that it is difficult to book the room for meetings during the day in Parliament. Some respondents commented about a lack of availability of the presentations, and Ms Lumsden stated that all presentations have always been available on the RoSPA website, with the links included in the minutes, and the only presentations missing belonged to speakers who did not give permission to share their presentations.

Claire Adamson MSP welcomed Roderick Campbell MSP for North East Fife to the meeting.

Ms Lumsden asked everyone to join into groups of five and discuss these four main points then feedback to the rest of the group: (1) Anything missing from responses? (2) How can the Group be more productive? (3) How can information be shared externally to our organisations? (4) What will be the most important aims/objectives/tasks if the Group is re-established?

Ms Adamson stated that she would like some time at the end of the meeting left for networking so please take 20 minutes to discuss the questions.

b. Discussion and feedback

Ms Adamson asked for the first group to share their response with everyone.

Brian Topping, on behalf of his group: For question 1, it would have been very helpful for those people who have concerns about the group to please put forward ideas for any changes to be made. For question 2, we should be clear what our objectives are, what we'd like to achieve and how we will go about achieving it. For question 3, we feel it is up to each individual that comes to the meetings, they should have a remit on their agenda to report back to their groups. How to share information widely is up to the individual. Perhaps individuals could send people to RoSPA's website to see the presentations. For question 4, we think it is vital that this group be re-established. Everyone should be aware what this group is about. We need to find out what the big issues in Scotland are, be that home, road, water safety etc...We should be targeting these big issues, and following speakers' presentations we need to discuss what we can actually do to make changes, for example legislation and better practices.

Andrew Price, on behalf of his group: For question 1, it is important for surveys to have a 'not relevant' option, because otherwise you will often get negative comments when questions don't relate to respondents. This survey did not have that, and it would be good to have that in the future. For question 2, often questions are asked in this group but feedback is often missing. It would be good to put time in the agenda for group feedback about presentations and findings. For question 3, we agree with Brian Topping's group's comments about information sharing. For question 4, we think the Group should look at the most important aims and objectives and particularly focus on local aims and objectives, such as the Building Safer Communities Phase 2 project, not forgetting health and welfare as being key issues.

Martin Hunt, on behalf of his group: For question 1, we think we communicate very well as a group, and think that it has been an extremely worthwhile group. As I stated earlier, as a result of the last meeting we have been able to implement these safety nozzles in several children care homes in Scotland. For question 3, it would be a good idea to share information more on social media. It would be good to use twitter and be able to tweet links, photos and re-tweet relevant tweets to get our message out. It would also be good to create action points and share them with other Cross Party Groups related to safety, for example CPGs on children and education, who would benefit from the information we come up with.

Clare Adamson, MSP responded: That is a point well made, for example we had a joint meeting with the CPG on marine tourism and shared some information about water safety.

Kenny MacDermid, on behalf of his group: For question 1, we think the timing of the meetings has been very good for us, it is good that they are after the normal working hours. For question 2, we think this is about people taking ownership for their own actions. More ownership is the most fruitful way, which then means that presenters have to be more objective specific. Michael Avril from RNLI and I frequently work closely together now, as Water Safety Scotland came as a result of the CPG, but that wasn't the case before the CPG. SGN has said that they've had a better working relationship with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service since the CPG was formed. For question 3, next week RLSS is launching our don't drink and drown campaign, and it would be good for people to share this on their websites. For question 4, we think raising the profile of accident prevention is the key thing, and also creating further learning opportunities. It would be good if there's a time for MSPs to share with the group anything that is going on in Parliament that is relevant to the group.

Lynn Young, on behalf of her group: For question 1, it would be good to get specific speaker feedback, finding out the speakers' opinions on presenting to the group, including if there were too many speakers during the meeting rather than focussing on fewer topics. We could also have a contact list with names, emails, organisations and photos to help us remember each other. Even the practice of leaving business cards on the table is useful. Also, more interaction with other CPGs would be good. For question 3, we also think social media would be a good idea. For question 4, we want to continue the good work this CPG does. It would be good to do horizon scanning, picking out the big topics to focus on, and setting aims and objectives to see if we set out to achieve our goals. Health and wellbeing

are big topics right now around the ageing workforce, which could have an impact on accident rates.

Helen Williams on behalf of her group: We didn't have anything particular to add for question 1. We have combined questions 2 and 4 but I will start with question 3. We think this has been done informally, but how realistic is this formally? It is difficult to share the content and information, but contacts and links have been shared very well. For questions 2 and 4, we think the group can be more productive by engaging with more MSPs. Since we all engage with MSPs outside the group, we need to try to relate that to this group. We need to broaden the reach of key messages raised in the CPG, and make it clear the reach this group has. We think that significant issues the group has raised have been raised well in Parliament. How have we been recording when people have had information sessions outside the CPG? This would be good to know.

9. Sum up and Close

Clare Adamson, MSP thanked everyone for the great feedback and suggestions. Ms Adamson stated that she will look into the use of social media, as there are some rules in terms of what CPGs can do, but that we could look into creating a Facebook group and Twitter account. Ms Adamson said they will try to make sure there are copies of the presentations printed and distributed beforehand.

Kate Barclay added that they can get extra screens to place around the room, so people in the back of the room can see better.

Ms Adamson went on to say that she agrees that speakers should have clear objectives, and that the Think CO Project's handout having a "Next Steps" section is a perfect example of that. Ms Adamson concluded by thanking everyone again and she hoped to see them all again soon.

Appendix 1

CPG AGM 20th January

Attendees

George Adam	MSP
Clare Adamson, MSP	Convenor
Allister Atkinson	Bluerad
Michael Avril	RNLI
Hilary Bath	Think CO Safety
David Birrell	Fife Community Safety Partnership
Roderick Campbell	MSP
Andy Cathro	Scotland's Colleges Health & Safety Development Network Group
Brian Connel	Neighbourhood Watch
Scott Coull	Scottish Gas Networks
Jim Dorman	St Andrew's First Aid
Ron Ewing	CSI Safety Ltd
Andrew Fraser	Falkirk Council
Mike Garfitt	RNLI
Sheena Harper	RLSS
Paul Hendry	Jacobs UK and Ireland
Martin Hunt	Bluerad
Kathy Jenkins	Scottish Hazards
Gwyneth Kerwin	Royal Environmental Health Institute for Scotland
Kenny MacDermid	RLSS
Wayne Mackay	Electrical Safety First
Simon Main	Think CO Safety
Peter Martin	Gas Safe Register
Sylvia McKay	Hopscotch Nursery
Alistair McNab	HSE
Neil McNicol	John McNicol & Co Ltd
Lesley Nish	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Andrew Price	SCSN
Jim Tassell	IOSH Scotland
Grant Taylor	SGN
Allan Thomson	Central Training Services
Brian Topping	Safety Advocate
Helen Williams	RNLI
Lynn Young	Scottish Government

In attendance

Lis Bardell	Clare Adamson's Office
Michelle Harrity	Scottish Government
Elizabeth Lumsden	RoSPA (Secretary)
Jessica Munshaw	RoSPA (Minute Secretary)

Apologies

Robert Atkinson	Healthy Working Lives
Colin Baird	SCOTS Traffic and Road Safety (TaRS) group
Tom Beattie	Safety Advocate

Claire Burnett	RCPCH
Emilia Crichton	NHS Great Glasgow and Clyde
Danny Doherty	Sprinkler Safe Europe Ltd
Gena Falconer	Highland Council
Dave Forrester	Select
Susan Frame	ISD
Kat Furlong	Dynamic Ad Group
Mags Harwood	Early Years Scotland
Andy Howatt	NHS Dumfries and Galloway
Rachel Jones	Totseat
Peter Kirwan	Neighbourhood Watch
Haytham Kubba	Consultant in Children's ENT
Laura McDermott	Dundee City Council
Karen McDonnell	RoSPA
Martin Millar	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Irene Miller	Health Scotland
Cherie Morgan	Play Scotland
Jill Mulholland	Transport Scotland
Graham Palmer	Morgan Sindall
Richard Park	CMIOSH
Carol Raeburn	RNLI
Stuart Raeburn	Magnox
Dave Roy	Kingdom Housing
Janet Sneddon	Scottish Government
David Stewart	MSP
Fraser Thomson	Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland
Liz Young	Edinburgh Napier University