

Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th June 2014.

Scottish Parliament Committee Room 4

1. Welcome

Clare Adamson, MSP and convenor of the Group welcomed all those present. A special welcome was extended to Mark McDonald, MSP. Ms Adamson mentioned the busy agenda ahead and noted the exciting focus of today's meeting on the topic of child safety.

(The list of those present and apologies received are attached as an appendix to these Minutes.)

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

These were agreed as a true record of proceedings – Proposed by Mr Brian Topping and seconded by Ms Jean Brown. (With the addition of apologies received from Mr Alistair McNab of the HSE.)

3. Secretary's Report

This was distributed and Ms Elizabeth Lumsden drew the members' attention to its contents.

4. Child Safety

1) Dr Sheila Inglis, Director, SMCI Associates: *Evaluation of Scotland's Home safety Equipment Scheme*

Questions following Dr Inglis' presentation included: (from Mr Topping) Have you considered recycling the safety gates when the child reaches the age of two? Ms Inglis responded that she intended exploring this issue when speaking with people in the local areas. Sustainability is an issue and a recommendation may be put forward for local areas to consider this but they would need to have a reliable system in operation to check the gates were still suitable for purpose.

2) Mr Gregor Walker, Consultant Paediatric Surgeon: *STOP – Burns and Scalds to Children in NHS GGC*

Questions to Mr Walker included: (from Ms Brown) Could Ms Brown have a copy of the presentation plus the STOP poster in order that she could help distribute these messages around Scotland. Mr Walker advised that Ms Lesley Nish would send them on to her.

- 3) Ms Katriona Wilson, Associate Director – Projects, Scottish Youth Theatre: *Rail Respect*

Ms Adamson asked that the following speaker give her presentation and time would be allowed for questions at the end.

- 4) Ms Marguerite Hunter Blair, CEO Play Scotland: *The Competent Child Needs Risk*

5. Questions and Discussion

Mr Mark McDonald, MSP, advised that he represented the constituency of Aberdeen Donside and asked when the speakers were going to visit there to exchange this information. Mr McDonald went on to discuss some of the challenges he has with his autistic child and that additional safety measures in the home were often required. He asked that consideration be given to those with additional needs when only distributing safety equipment to families with a child under the age of two and that sometimes one size does not fit all. Mr McDonald described Ms Hunter Blair's presentation as being very apt and we should be using the media more appropriately as we are often being assaulted by the notion that there are 'bad' people on every street corner resulting in parents wanting to keep their children indoors. He also suggested we can be, however, more willing to let our children go out as they have mobile phones to keep in touch.

Ms Kathy Jenkins followed on by asking Ms Hunter Blair if she felt there should be a separation of health and safety at work from health and safety in schools. Ms Hunter Blair responded that the document on play safety <http://www.playscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/MRPP-no-HSE-logo.pdf> states we should try to do that and gave examples of cases where over-exaggerated responses had been given in school situations eg when a primary school cancelled sports because it was wet underfoot. Surely it is worse to be kept cooped up when the children would rather be playing outside. Taking responsibility can be a challenge. The document can be used to dispel the myths surrounding what the HSE did and didn't say.

Mr McDonald suggested we live in a litigious society and people can be worried about being sued.

Mr Bryan Finlay from RLSS spoke about the risks highlighted in social media such as cold water nominations. Mr Finlay highlighted the need for children to learn that things can still be fun without taking high risks and that they often don't understand risks because they don't get to experience them. Mr Finlay passed on the following link to a very powerful message about risks from drowning: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=814337008584288&id=756905827660740

Ms Adamson went on to mention the life skills for other elements of safety being learned by children in the Rail Respect initiative.

Mr Richard Park of Crossreach raised the question about organised activities for children ie managed supervised risks versus taking their own risks in natural surroundings. Mr Park suggested we need more of a focus on supporting local groups for families who can't access groups like Scouts etc. There are options that exist other than keeping children in or putting them out the door for the day. Mr Park also enquired about whether Scottish Youth Theatre plans to look at other issues such as construction site safety and that the potential was there to raise awareness of other hazards. Ms Wilson highlighted that Rail Respect was enabled via the partnership with Network Rail but that she strongly believed drama could be used for any issue and had, in the past, covered topics such as

anti - sectarianism, alcohol and drugs etc. The Scottish Youth Theatre will respond to potential partners coming to them and other topics such as outdoor play can be adapted using the existing model.

Mr Russell Brownlie stated that he had been to several of these meetings, representing the Partnership on Safety and Health and still we don't have a common understanding of health and safety terms such as 'hazard', 'risk' and 'danger' etc. There is, however, lots of information available to enable people to make proper judgements. The importance of education, engineering and enforcement can't be underestimated but with an additional two 'e's – everlasting effort.

Mr Bill Smith made the members aware of resources which were made available to local children by the construction firm Wimpey when the M77 was being built.

Ms Tricia Spacey asked about the evaluation of the SHSES project and what impact it had on local authority priorities as in Fife other partners had bought into their local scheme because of the local need. Ms Inglis responded that she would be looking at sustainability and capacity building. At least one area in the project was being led via a community safety partnership. One question being asked will be about how the equipment scheme relates to relevant local policies. In Glasgow the Scheme is led by NHS employed people and links are being built. It will be essential for local groups to consider ongoing planning.

Mr Topping commented that all of us receive a lot of information for these meetings and take things back locally, Safer Highlanders, for example, is an experiential learning approach including building site safety. There were houses being demolished locally and Mr Topping and others gave talks to local schoolchildren who were also given the opportunity to experience sitting on a digger, visit the sites, and name a street etc. Local groups should consider child safety when initiating other projects.

Ms Jenkins asked if rail suicide came up in any of the discussions within the Rail Respect initiative and Ms Wilson responded that although they were only looking at accidents this topic did come up when looking at real life stories.

Ms Adamson asked Mr Walker if he had come across any injuries from the new taps that emit boiling water. Mr Walker responded that he had not but he had seen many from non mixer taps that come from the hot water supply including some from hotels. Ms Adamson also asked if Mr Walker had noticed a difference in the number of scald injuries from hot taps within social housing versus the private sector (with reference to the installation of Thermostatic Mixer Valves). Mr Walker indicated he had not noticed a difference. Mr Brownlie took this opportunity to remind members of the original dilemmas regarding the temperature of hot water being too hot versus encouraging legionella.

Ms Spacey mentioned the intolerance many people have regarding children playing football and that they will often call the police. We need to promote children's right to play.

Ms Hunter Blair suggested everyone forgets they were once a child and Mr McDonald said he would support a campaign to remove the 'no ball games' signs.

Ms Adamson reminded the Group about the next meeting being held jointly with the Cross Party Group on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism. This will be held on 30th September, 6.00pm. The next meeting of the CPG on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness would be held on 4th November.

Ms Adamson then invited Ms Katrina Phillips, Chief Executive of the Child Accident Prevention Trust to say a few words about Child Safety Week.

Ms Phillips explained that this was the 19th birthday of Child Safety Week this year and was about preventing serious injuries and supporting local work in partnership. The theme this year was around 'Safety Heroes Battle Morning Mayhem'. Ms Phillips highlighted that we are the Safety Heroes and Morning Mayhem is the character who goes out of his way to prevent safety. Child Safety Week explores these issues with parents. Printed copies of the resources are available thanks to funding support from Scottish Government's Community Safety Unit and you can see CAPT's website for films and other useful resources and how to engage with parents. Many different organisations are signed up to child safety – people round this table are committed to child safety – but CSW pulls together people from other settings such as childminders. Ms Phillips also acknowledges the support from Bitrex and invited anyone to take the taste test at the end of the meeting. 70% of people said they would continue the partnership working they had started during Child Safety Week. Looking back, support is consistently higher in Scotland with parents taking actions 45 % higher than the rest of UK. The value of investing in prevention is obvious.

Ms Adamson closed the meeting with thanks to her staff and staff from RoSPA.

Appendix - Attendee List

Clare Adamson	Convener
Michael Avril	RNLI
Barry Baker	HSE
Jean Brown	Aberlour
Russell Brownlie	Partnership on Health and Safety in Scotland
Bryan Finlay	RLSS
Dave Forrester	SELECT
Frank Gibson	Fife Council
Ross Haggart	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Andy Howat	NHS Dumfries and Galloway
Marguerite Hunter Blair	Play Scotland
Dr Sheila Inglis	SMCI Associates
Kathy Jenkins	Scottish Hazards Campaign
Gwyneth Kerwin	REHIS
Mark McDonald, MSP	Scottish Parliament
Gina Mercier	BITREX
Irene Miller	NHS Health Scotland
Lesley Nish	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Ali O'Neale	Cloudline
Richard Park	Crossreach
Katrina Phillips	CAPT
Paul Richardson	Home Safety Scotland
Sharon Ramsay	Yorkhill Children's Hospital
Bill Smith	Ten Alps Communicate
Patricia Spacey	Fife Council
Robert Thomson	Care and Repair
Brian topping	Safety Advocate
Gregor Walker	Yorkhill Children's Hospital
Caroline Wilson	The Risk Factory
Katriona Wilson	Scottish Youth Theatre

In attendance

Elizabeth Lumsden	RoSPA (Secretary)
Lis Bardell	Assistant to Clare Adamson, MSP
Kate Barclay	Constituency Caseworker to Clare Adamson MSP
Owen Thompson	Intern to Clare Adamson MSP
Gill Wylie	Community Safety Unit, Scottish Government

Apologies

Robert Atkinson	Healthy Working Lives
Colin Baird	SCOTTS
Dr Tom Beattie	Safety Advocate
Christopher Bell	Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland
John Beresford	Scottish Community Safety Network
Vince Bowles	Scottish Autism
John Cairns	Safety Groups UK
Janet Castro	SAPC
Andy Cathro	Colleges Health and Safety Development Network
Jim Dorman	St Andrews First Aid Supplies
Bryan Finlay	RLSS
Dr Neil Hamlet	NHS Fife
Michelle Harrity	Scottish Government
John Johnston	FMCTI
Haytham Kubba	Royal Hospital for Sick Children Glasgow
Karen McDonnell	RoSPA Scotland
Graham Palmer	Morgan Sindall
Drew Rankine	Safety Advocate
Janet Sneddon	Scottish Government
Paul Timms	CTC
Billy Wales	Scottish Gas Networks