

Minutes of the Inaugural meeting of the

Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

Committee Room 4, Scottish Parliament

Wednesday 26th June 2013

1. Present
See attached list
2. Welcome

Clare Adamson, MSP and convenor of the Group, opened the inaugural meeting and welcomed those present. Ms Adamson showed the audience an article she had had in her possession for many months that highlighted those living in areas of deprivation were twice as likely to suffer an accidental injury. She emphasised how important the prevention of injuries is and how she was delighted that this Cross Party Group (CPG) had been formed.

Ms Adamson explained the format of the meeting would be to hear from a selection of speakers before opening the floor to questions and comments.

A note of thanks was given to Haytham Kubba for funding the cost of the buffet lunch.

All present were asked to sign the Sederunt.

Ms Adamson invited Minister for Children and Young People to say a few words. Ms Campbell expressed how good it was to see the interest this topic had generated and how appropriate it was to have the inaugural meeting of the CPG in Child Safety Week. Ms Campbell advised there were many policy areas affecting the prevention of injuries and emphasised the Scottish Government's aspiration to make Scotland the best place in the world for children to grow up. She was pleased with the considerable progress already made and that the number of child injuries had been coming down in recent years. However they still accounted for one in 16 of all childhood deaths and one in seven of the admissions and this was unacceptable.

Ms Campbell went on to discuss the Early Years Collaborative (EYC) and how its work involves applying improvement science and testing change for positive outcomes. She also advised the Group of the EYC's support to RoSPA to provide 800 kits of safety equipment to families across Scotland. Ms Campbell went on to highlight Scotland's Play Strategy and the need to establish the correct balance of play and safety and not to wrap children up in cotton wool but use play to develop the needs of children for their long term well being – and to ensure their resilience. More outdoor play in schools has

shown positive physical attributes and we need to empower practitioners to know the importance of play. Ms Campbell also highlighted the recent Children and Young People's Bill and that undoubtedly this work would feed into that. Ms Campbell expressed that she was keen to work across all sectors – including the private sector – and to open the dialogue here at the CPG to help create the best country for children to grow up in and to ensure children's safe access to the outdoors. Ms Campbell thanked Ms Adamson and all those present who have a role in child safety.

Ms Adamson thanked the Minister for her presentation.

Fiona McLeod, MSP entered and was welcomed to the meeting.

3. Katrina Phillips, Chief Executive, Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT)

Ms Phillips thanked Ms Adamson for the invitation to speak about Child Safety Week and highlighted how pleased she was to see so many people at the meeting. Ms Phillips explained that CAPT had conducted a survey with Scottish parents recently and 85% had said that child safety was of paramount importance to them. Ms Phillips went on to discuss the simple, practical things that people can do to stop the stress, disfigurement and trauma that can occur because of an accident. Child Safety Week (CSW) is about raising awareness of these simple things while maintaining the balance to ensure children still gained resilience. Parents, and grandparents, need an understanding of what can be done. CSW is supported by the Community Safety Unit (CSU) of the Scottish Government to enable the provision of free resources (copies of which were on the tables). The materials in the packs give information of some surprising facts about how long hair straighteners stay hot for after being switched off and that hot drinks can still scald a young child 15 minutes after they've been made. CAPT supports people to run activities and events and to make them fun and engaging such as doing the Bitrex Big Taste Test to think about poisoning in a way that gets people talking. CSW is also about partnership working and gives important information for policymakers and practitioners. 85% of those surveyed say CSW encourages partners to work together and that 75% continue to work in partnership after child safety week is over.

Ms Phillips also expressed the importance of working with the media and that she had given several comments to Scottish radio and press in particular. The theme for this year's CSW is 'Be a Safety Hero' and that you don't have to have superhuman qualities to do this. Parents and practitioners are asked to pledge to do three things in particular and to nominate a colleague who has been a 'safety hero'.

CSW has an impact – the evaluation from last year showed almost half of Scottish Parents took action to make their child safe (this was a higher number than in the other countries of the UK) and this has been assisted by the support of the CSU.

Ms Phillips gave credit to Ms Adamson for recognising and investing in prevention and finished off by thanking all who supported CSW and in particular the CSU and Bitrex.

Ms Adamson concurred we should be proud of the partnership work that goes on in Scotland.

Before moving onto the next presentation, Ms Adamson took the opportunity to advise those present of a **change to the date of the next meeting** and to confirm the following meetings as follows:

Wednesday 2nd October 2013 (not 25th September as previously intimated), Committee Room 6 from 5.30 pm till 8.00 pm.

Wednesday 27th November 2013, Committee Room 2 from 1.00 pm till 3.00 pm

Wednesday 29th January 2014, Committee Room 2 from 1.00 pm till 3.00 pm.

Ms Adamson also thanked Elizabeth Lumsden and RoSPA for providing the Secretariat to this CPG and went on to remind the members this Group was about their needs and requested people to get in touch with proposed future topics for discussion. The members were also asked to consider funding the catering at future meetings.

4. Haytham Kubba, ENT Consultant, Yorkhill Hospital.

Liquitabs – the potential dangers

Mr Kubba opened his presentation by advising the members that a nine month old baby girl was due for release from hospital today having been on ventilation in Yorkhill after being brought in because her two year old brother had 'fed' her a liquitab. The girl suffered severe burns down through her throat and gullet – this is a genuine, real and immediate problem.

Mr Kubba has been a consultant for many years and had noticed that poisoning incidences were becoming very rare in the UK because of good preventative measures and awareness raising. However, in 2009, he started to see incidences in Scotland and flagged the problem up. However, he was told this was a Glasgow phenomenon! Mr Kubba then went on to write a piece for a medical journal on this topic.

Mr Kubba has seen 11 cases in intensive care since 2009 with one requiring major reconstructive surgery. There will undoubtedly be dozens more attendances with eye and throat injuries. The UK Poisons Information Service receives around 4,000 internet enquiries and around 650 telephone enquiries on this topic per year. Mr Kubba is also aware of cases in Belfast, Liverpool, Toulouse, Italy and the USA.

This is a big problem in Scotland and a new one. Liquitabs are becoming very popular (no wrappers to open, the perfect dose is in each one). However, the liquid is much more concentrated – making this a new, potentially dangerous product.

Mr Kubba also discussed the challenges faced around finding detailed information on similar incidences as it they are not specifically coded and come under 'poisoning, not otherwise specified' so it is difficult to get a handle on the problem and to spot the pattern of injuries.

5. Lesley Nish, Health Improvement Senior, NHS Great Glasgow and Clyde

Liquitab dangers – raising awareness and providing practical solutions

Ms Nish described the two multi-disciplinary workshops that were held in Glasgow to look at this new problem. A wide variety of agencies took part including RoSPA, public health colleagues and the industry (UK Cleaning Products Industry Association). The cases from Yorkhill were considered along with their relation to areas of deprivation. The packaging standards were also considered. The group considered how traumatic it must be for the families of the children involved as well as the children themselves eg having to be blue-lighted to hospital and being placed on a ventilator. Prevention is better than cure, it was decided.

The workshops findings were fed into NHS Great Glasgow and Clyde's Unintentional Injuries Steering Group who considered the 'Es' of prevention – Environment, Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Empowerment and consulted with parents and carers about what should be done. The group also did a scoping exercise around the evidence of the use of cupboard catches and considered the most appropriate educational approach to take.

This resulted in the need for 16,000 (the number of births in one year in the Glasgow area) packs being required to be distributed by the Health Visiting teams across the area over the coming year. Every family will receive a pack when their child is 12 – 14 weeks old and the health visitor will discuss the potential dangers of liquitabs and other cleaning products with the parents. A follow up visit at 12 months will look at what has changed and will provide both quantitative and qualitative information.

Parents wanted simple solutions, simple messages. The packs will contain a cupboard catch, some clear prevention information and an evaluation form. This initiative will be officially launched on 8th July at Yorkhill Hospital. RoSPA will highlight the project via social media.

Ms Nish highlighted the average cost of treating one of these injuries as being £19,000 versus the 60p per family cost of each information pack and that typical spend to save research indicated for every \$1 spent on prevention a further \$6 is saved in treatment costs..

6. Ms Adamson thanked all the speakers and invited questions and comments from the floor.

Frank Creighton from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar asked about making the liquitab containers child resistant and Mr Kubba acknowledged the engagement with the industry who have looked at more child 'frustrating' packaging, the provision of prominent warning stickers and the supply in future of liquitabs in opaque packaging. This is a voluntary code but the main manufacturers in the EU have 'signed up' to it.

Ms Adamson advised those present that she had received correspondence from Mr Phillip Malpass of the UK Cleaning Products Industry Association which had included a copy of the code. She asked the Secretary to circulate the EU Code with the Minutes (attached) and reminded those present that the Scottish Government does not have competence over UK products.

Brian Topping mentioned the importance of spending on prevention to save on costs of accidents later. Mr Topping also highlighted the cost of giving schoolchildren useful resources such as RoSPA's Little Book of Home Safety but that there was a cost associated with this and he asked if funding could be found to ensure these resources were included in the school curriculum.

Bill Smith of DBDA responded that he was working with Go Safe Scotland (as were others in the room such as Elizabeth Lumsden and Lesley Nish) to facilitate a resource linked to schools in Glasgow and Fife. This pilot will be evaluated and Mr Smith hopes that this initiative will spread across Scotland.

Dr Tom Beattie of the Royal Hospital for Sick children in Edinburgh offered his congratulations to Yorkhill Hospital for raising this important issue around the potential dangers of liquitabs. Dr Beattie went on to mention the lack of injury surveillance and how over the last 25 years the pattern has remained similar – good work is being done but only 20% of attendances are admitted. The only figures available are those collected by the NHS but there is no handle on attendances.

Dr Beattie also mentioned the importance of evaluation and about the need for good quality processes that will accurately reflect the situation by using appropriate denominators and numerators and quoted the example whereby new families coming into a housing estate will involve varying numbers of young children as they grow up so the numbers of injuries involving them will automatically come down.

Ali O'Neale of Cloudline PR invited Cameron Smith of Macfarlan .Smith to speak about Bitrex. Mr Smith spoke of the discovery of this bittering agent 50 years ago and how more manufacturers are including this in their products. He expressed his concern that there may be more cases of poisoning as liquitabs become more popular. Bitrex reduces poisoning as it makes the product taster more bitter. Currently this is a voluntary inclusion as there is no

mandatory requirement to include it in cleaning products. Mr Smith is keen to work with partners on any sponsorship opportunities involving Bitrex.

Patricia Spacey from Fife Community Safety Partnership highlighted how she worked closely with her local A&E departments to obtain good information on accidental injuries. Anti Social behaviour is one of the more popular topics on community safety agendas so it can be a challenge to find resources for accident prevention. However, she is now receiving good data relating to children under the age of five and for the older population. What remains missing though is the detail behind out the incident happened – they will never have the data to say ‘they swallowed a liquitab’. Ms Spacey suggested going along to A&E departments to do surveys.

Haytham Kubba responded that we must have detailed collation of comprehensive information on a routine level in order we can spot changes and trends etc.

Kathy Jenkins of the Scottish Hazards Campaign stressed the importance of this Group considering occupational safety as well as the other areas.

Ali O’Neale mentioned Eleanor Bradford at the BBC as a contact interested in this issue and also that consideration could be given to asking a PHD Student to work on a data collection project.

Duggie Ralph of the Scottish Community Safety Network highlighted the need for carbon monoxide and smoke detection with families who had young children and that ‘safety’ should be built in to new properties. Mr Ralph also mentioned the Network’s coverage of the ‘safety hero’ theme for Child Safety Week (CSW) but wondered if there was a difference in participation in CSW between those in Scotland and in England.

Ms Phillips responded that there had been a good uptake so far but we were still only in the middle of the week and that numbers crunching would happen later. She highlighted the safety hero lessons plans available to all schools and that these were free of charge. Several thousand teachers were already using this resource.

Marcus Baillie of the Adventure Activities Licensing Service expressed his concern that it appeared that nothing could be done without data and that we should be discussing education as there is an absence of teaching children about risk.

Dr Emilia Crighton of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde agreed with Mr Baillie and asked how many more people do the medics need to see. Dr Crighton is also happy to work with the press to publish local statistics and will discuss this with her colleagues across Scotland.

Mr Russell Brownlie highlighted to the Group we appear have not learned any lessons over the years, we know that sweets should not look like medicine and vice versa so how has a hazard like this been permitted to be re-

introduced? Mr Brownlie also mentioned RoSPA's excellent resource – The Big Book of Accident Prevention for England and that one was being prepared specific to Scotland. He held up a copy for all to see.

Ms Adamson reminded everyone about the need to have lockable cupboards in new build properties and the need to continue to raise awareness of this potential danger.

7. Further topics for consideration at future CPG meetings

Ms Adamson asked the Group to consider possible topics to be considered at future CPG meetings along with suggested speakers. She also asked the Group to consider possible sponsors to fund catering for these meetings and to feed back any ideas to herself or to the Secretary on elumsden@rospa.com

In conclusion, Ms Adamson thanked all the speakers as well as the Secretary, Elizabeth Lumsden of RoSPA, her office manager Lis Bardell and assistant Owen Thompson.

8. Date of the next meeting: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE FROM ORIGINAL NOTIFICATION

The next meeting of the CPG will take place on:

Wednesday 2nd October 2013 from 5.30 pm till 8.00 pm in Committee Rm 6.

(Future meetings will be held on:

Wednesday 27th November from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm in committee Room 2

Wednesday 29th January from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm in Committee Room 2.)

Claire Adamson departed for the chamber at 2.30 pm and those remaining were invited to remain and network.

Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

Attendees 26th June 2013

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Adamson, Clare, MSP	(Convenor)
Atkinson, Robert	Healthy Working Lives (on behalf of Steve Bell)
Avril, Michael	RNLI
Bailie, Marcus	Adventure Activities Licensing Service
Baird, Colin	Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS)
Beattie, Dr Tom	Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh
Bell, Christopher	Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland
Bielby, Chris	Gas Safety Trust
Bissland, Karen	Yorkhill Hospital, Glasgow
Brownlie, Russell	Partnership on Health and Safety in Scotland
Cairns, John	Safety Groups UK
Carrol, Collett	Go Safe Scotland
Castro, Janet	Scottish Accident Prevention Council
Creighton, Frank	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Community Planning
Crighton, Dr Emilia	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Dekker, Margaret	Scottish Campaign Against Irresponsible Drivers
Gillies, Lorraine	West Lothian Council Community Planning
Grieg, Neil	IAM
Haggart, Ross	Fire Scotland (on behalf of Lewis Ramsay)
Hayton, Jim	Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers

Jenkins, Kathy	Scottish Hazards Campaign
Johnston, John	FMC Technologies Ltd
Keys, Bert	Scotland Gas Networks
Kubba, Haytham	Yorkhill Hospital
McDonnell, Karen	RoSPA Scotland
McKay, Sylvia	Hopscotch Nursery, Hamilton
McNab, Alistair	Health and Safety Executive
Merchant, Stephen	SAMH
Miller, Irene	NHS Health Scotland
Nish, Lesley	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
O'Neale, Ali	Cloudline PR
Palmer, Graham	Morgan Sindall (on behalf of David Patrick)
Philips, Katrina	Child Accident Prevention Trust
Ralph, Douglas	Scottish Community Safety Network
Rankine, Dr Andrew	Health and Safety advocate
Sleith, John	Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland
Smith, Bill	DBDA
Smith, Cameron	Macfarlan Smith
Smith, Stuart	Scottish Canoe Association
Spacey, Patricia	Fife Council Community Planning
Stewart, Valerie	South Ayrshire Council Community Planning
Strachan, Linda	Author
Telfer, Bob	Adventure Activities Licensing Service
Thomson, Robert	Care and Repair Scotland

Toon, Lisa	Neighbourhood Watch Scotland
Topping, Brian	Safety Advocate
Watson, Fiona	AbSafe
Whitelaw, Audrey	Go Safe Scotland
Wilson, Caroline	The Risk Factory

In attendance:

Jill Mulholland	Transport Scotland
Gill Wylie	Community Safety Unit, Scottish Government
Elizabeth Lumsden	Secretary
Lis Bardell	Office Manager to Clare Adamson, MSP
Owen Thompson	Parliamentary Assistant to Clare Adamson MSP

Supporters:

Richard Simpson, MSP

Apologies:

George Eckton	COSLA
Vivien Smith	Angus Council Community Planning
Ian Tasker	STUC
Newell McGuinness	SELECT
Colin Wallace	REHIS
Wayne Mackay	Electrical Safety Council
Lesley Fox	Smart Play Network
Pauline Nicholas	North Lanarkshire Council Community Planning
Stuart Graham	Renfrewshire Council Community Planning
Sir Harry Burns	Chief Medical Officer