

## **Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness**

### **Minutes of the AGM and Eight Meeting held on**

**20<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**Committee Room 4, Scottish Parliament**

#### **1. Welcome**

Clare Adamson, MSP and convenor of the Group, welcomed all those present for the eighth meeting. A special welcome was extended to Fiona McLeod MSP and Roderick Campbell MSP.

Ms Adamson thanked SGN (Scotland Gas Networks) for funding the refreshments and asked for other members to consider supporting future meetings in this way.

#### **2. Present and Apologies**

Ms Adamson reminded everyone present to sign the Sederunt.

See attached list for attendees and apologies.

#### **3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (circulated previously)

Minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy and these were agreed as a true record of proceedings and were proposed by Mr Brian Topping and seconded by Mr Andy Cathro.

Ms Adamson informed the Group that unfortunately due to Parliamentary changes the St Andrew's First Aid debate has been put on hold. There is however the possible opportunity to have this during the course of the year.

Ms Adamson stated that this Cross Party Group has been very successful over the last two years. The support that has been given to take the group forward has been wholly appreciated.

#### **4. AGM**

Ms Adamson passed over to Elizabeth Lumsden for the election of Office Bearers. Ms Lumsden asked for any nominations. Mr Topping nominated Clare Adamson MSP to continue as Convenor of the Group. Ms Lumsden stated that RoSPA was

happy to continue with providing the Secretariat. Ms Adamson proposed she was also happy for RoSPA to continue in this post.

Ms Adamson added that James Dornan MSP, Jim Hume MSP, Liz Smith MSP and Alison Johnstone MSP all wish to continue being members of the Group.

Due to no members from other parties being available at the meeting, all concerned parties will be informed of the outcome so that the nominations regarding re-elected posts can be ratified. Update: this has since taken place and all posts are now ratified.

Ms Adamson expressed her enjoyment at being part of this Group and thanked everybody involved for their input.

## **5. Secretary's Report**

Ms Lumsden highlighted that the Group has over 160 members with 40-50 people regularly attending each meeting. This excellent turnout is also supported by a number of MSPs who attend meetings and give their input. Thanks were given to those who have provided refreshments to date.

All presentations from previous meetings are available from RoSPA's website. <http://www.rospace.com/about/aroundtheuk/scotland/cross-party-group.aspx>

Ms Lumsden also brought the Groups attention to the Draft Annual Return that had been circulated to those present. This needs to be submitted in 30 days so please give any comments on the draft to Ms Lumsden before this time.

Ms Lumsden also drew attention to the 'Not for play' campaign and informed the Group that RoSPA had been shortlisted for campaigners of the year through the Herald Society Awards. Reference was also made to Ms Adamson who led a Parliamentary debate on safety equipment. Thanks were also given to Ms Adamson in her role as convenor and all she has done for the Group.

Group members had previously been asked for their highlights during their time of being members of the Group and feedback included Mr Robert Atkinson being appreciative of the ongoing work regarding data collection. Ms Jean Brown enjoyed all the Parliamentary meetings and forwards information onto Aberlour and other voluntary organisations. Mr Frank Creighton appreciates the opportunity to meet with representatives from other organisations which in turn has helped to inform forward planning for the community safety partnership.

Ms Lumsden added that her highlight was the Members Debate on child safety equipment schemes.

Ms Adamson asked if there were any questions regarding the Secretary's report, to which there were none. Thanks were given to RoSPA for continued support.

Ms Lumsden drew the Group's attention to 'Headlines' newsletter and reminded everyone that it is a great opportunity to share news. This newsletter has had a good response so far and this edition promotes the evaluation launch of Scotland's Home Safety Equipment Scheme on February 9th and also mentions the Child Safety conference on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. Safety of Older People: presentations**

### **1. Melanie Menzies, North Lanarkshire Leisure Ltd – *Reshaping of Care for Older People***

Ms Menzies currently manages the Active Health Programme in collaboration with NHS Lanarkshire and is the Thematic Lead for Physical Activity through Reshaping of Care for Older People.

Ms Menzies informed the attendees of the work that she is involved in by leading those present through some seated and standing exercises to help emphasise how valuable exercise is for older people's strength, balance and confidence. All those present were given an exercise booklet as well as an exercise band (Thera-Band) to use during the session.

Ms Adamson thanked Ms Menzies for her informative session and added that exercise is beneficial for most people, not just the elderly. Ms Menzies said that we should really start these exercises in our 30s and 40s and not wait until we are 80. This is essential so we don't lose our flexibility.

Ms Adamson opened the floor to questions.

Mr Bill Smith informed the group that exercising with a resistance band was beneficial as he used one when recovering from a break to his elbow and it was very useful.

Ms Una Goodwin enquired about the different colours of bands and is yellow the one to start with? Ms Menzies responded that the yellow ones are only used on some occasions and most people start out with the pink ones. The purple bands are the stiffest and offer the most resistance.

Fiona McLeod MSP added that such classes are fantastic and has been to some with her mum however she has found it difficult to get her mum to appreciate why she should be doing these exercises. Now she is in a care home but the message is still not getting through. Ms Menzies mentioned that there is a change in attitude happening with regards to falls in care homes. It is small steps at the moment however an example was given of one home doing exercises every Friday morning. There needs to be more people to deliver sessions and professionals need to

encourage the benefits of exercise. Ms Ann Murray also added that the Care Inspectorate has material available for use in care homes and this can be accessed on line.

## **2. Ann Murray, Framework for Adult Rehabilitation - Falls Prevention and Management in Scotland: a national perspective.**

Ms Murray is the National Falls Programme Manager in Scotland and works closely with Community Health Partnership Falls Leads and all key stakeholders in Scotland.

Ms Murray focused her presentation on the National Falls Programme which addresses falls prevention in community settings, including care homes. Falls in older people are very common and as we get older, the consequence of a fall becomes more serious. Falling can have a profound effect on life and can even be fatal.

Ms Murray's presentation can be accessed via <http://www.rospa.com/about/aroundtheuk/scotland/cross-party-group.aspx>.

Ms Adamson thanked Ms Murray for an excellent presentation and advised that questions will be allowed at the end due to time constraints.

## **3. Robert Thomson – Care and Repair Forum Scotland Ltd – Care and Repair: Contributing to Home Safety**

Mr Thomson is National Director of Care and Repair Scotland, which is the national stakeholders' representative body for Care and Repair.

Mr Thomson gave thanks for the invite to speak about home safety and informed the Group that Care and Repair in Scotland operates from 35 different offices. To clarify why there are differences in what each area does Mr Thomson advised that they are governed by how their grant is spent by the Housing Scotland Act hence the differences in each local area. A health and safety checklist as used by Care and Repair was handed out to the members present. To find out more about Care and Repair please talk to Mr Thomson or visit the website.

Mr Thomson's presentation can be accessed via <http://www.rospa.com/about/aroundtheuk/scotland/cross-party-group.aspx>

Ms Adamson thanked Robert for his presentation, reminding those present that questions were to be kept till after the final speaker.

#### **4. Keith MacGillivray, Sprinkler Co-ordination Group (Scotland) - *Protect Who You Most Care About, Fit Fire Sprinklers.***

Mr MacGillivray is the coordinator for the Sprinkler Coordination Group in Scotland.

Mr MacGillivray gave thanks to Ms Adamson and to everyone for allowing him speak tonight. Mr MacGillivray informed the group he is an advocate for sprinklers in a variety of settings including care homes, schools and hospitals. A sprinkler head was passed round for all to see.

It was mentioned that Angus is only one of two councils that provide sprinkler systems in new homes with Fife being the other one. Pressure needs to be put on all parties to make this a reality in all new homes.

Ms Adamson will forward on information of this meeting to Older People, Age and Ageing Cross Party Group.

Mr MacGillivray's presentation can be accessed via <http://www.rospe.com/about/aroundtheuk/scotland/cross-party-group.aspx>

Ms Adamson thanked Mr MacGillivray and opened the floor to questions.

#### **7. Questions and Discussion**

Ms Adamson advised the Group that she has written to the Scottish Government regarding the provision of sprinklers and following this meeting, Ms Adamson will write to the Health Minister with her concerns on behalf of the Group.

Mr Topping appreciates the work that has been undertaken so far surrounding sprinklers but feels that a trick has been missed with the Building Regulations. Mr Topping asked that new builds *must* incorporate sprinklers and can we encourage this to happen within the Building Regulations to make this mandatory for new places?

Mr MacGillivray replied that research is taking place at the moment to change standards and a cost benefit analysis is taking place. In 2017 it will be mandatory that Sprinkler systems are fitted into all new properties in Wales and it is hoped that this is something that the Scottish Government will follow. Mr MacGillivray will take this point back and also stated that Scottish Fire and Rescue are also supportive of sprinklers in all new properties. Ms Adamson also gave her support to this. Mr MacGillivray mentioned that the Welsh programme normalises sprinklers and this will make it easier to take it up as a safety standard.

Tricia Spacey added that Fife Council fit sprinklers into their new builds but it took a long time of lobbying to get them to see the benefits. She also added that it was important to recognise that it came from RoSPA's Can the Home Ever be Safe policy document. There was perhaps the fear that sprinklers would go off if burnt toast. This view needs to be normalised.

Mr MacGillvray responded that there does need to be an education programme, and what has been interesting in Wales is that private house builders were against fitting sprinklers but after they took up the opportunity of initial funding from Government they were all fitted as standard.

Mr Smith enquired about the difference in the look of the two sprinklers as shown in Mr MacGillvray's presentation and wondered about the differences in how they operate. Mr MacGillvray responded that basically it's the same sprinkler but one has a cap purely for aesthetic purposes.

Mr Andy Cathro stated that he works in the further education sector and wonders if the college sector is included in work with falls prevention programmes? Ms Murray responded that work is done with health graduates but more needs to be done. E-learning modules are available and there could be an opportunity here for these to be used.

Mr Kenny MacDermid enquired about funding and transport to exercises classes following his granny being unable to get to classes after the provision of transport was cut back (through Glasgow Life). Ms Menzies responded that there is a gap in the numbers of qualified people being able to deliver classes and if this was filled, it would extend the range of people being able to deliver classes locally. Within North Lanarkshire Council classes were self funded. Reshaping Care has allowed some free classes then people pay. Classes need to be affordable though and transport may be an issue for some however in North Lanarkshire transport is also not funded. Ms Murray added that a lot of services are utilising the Reshaping Care programme and evaluation surrounding hospital admissions is very important in putting forward a case for funding. Ms Menzies also added that exercise is not just about physical benefits it's the psychological side also.

Ms Adamson informed the Group that there was no more time for questions and thanks were given to Melanie, Ann, Robert and Keith for their presentations.

A reminder was given that if anyone has any suggestions for future meetings or speakers please do make the Secretary aware.

Mr Topping thanked the Chair for her work this evening.

## **8. Dates of future meetings**

The dates of future meetings are as follows:

- 11 March – Occupational Safety
- 2 June (note change of date) – Child Safety
- 18 November – Road Safety
- 20 Jan 2016 – AGM and Reflection

## **CPG Attendees 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

### **Clare Adamson, MSP**

George Adam  
Michael Avril  
Roderick Campbell  
Andy Cathro  
Jim Dorman  
Andrew Fraser  
Kat Furlong  
Una Goodwin  
Sheena Harper  
Gwyneth Kerwin  
Keith MacGillivray  
Melanie Menzies  
Kenny MacDermid  
Laura McDermott  
Fiona McLeod  
Neil McNicol  
Peter Martin  
Ann Murray  
Lesley Nish  
Carol Raeburn  
Paul Richardson  
Bill Smith  
Tricia Spacey  
Grant Taylor  
Robert Thomson  
Brian Topping

### **Convenor**

MSP  
RNLI  
MSP  
Colleges Health and Safety Development Network  
St Andrews First Aid  
Falkirk Council  
Dynamic Ad Group  
Fife Council  
RLSS UK  
REHIS  
Sprinkler Co-ordination Group (Scotland)  
North Lanarkshire Leisure  
RLSS  
Dundee City Council  
MSP  
John McNicol & Co (Electrical Engineers)  
Gas Safe Register  
NHS Scotland  
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde  
RNLI  
Home Safety Scotland  
Ten Alps Communicate  
Fife Community Safety Partnership  
SGN (Scotland Gas Networks)  
Care and Repair (Scotland)  
Safety Advocate

### **In attendance**

Elizabeth Lumsden	Secretary
Jennifer Henderson	RoSPA
Lis Bardell	Office of Clare Adamson, MSP
Kate Barclay	Office of Clare Adamson, MSP
Owen Thompson	Office of Clare Adamson, MSP

### **Apologies**

Robert Atkinson	Healthy Working Lives
Colin Baird	SCOTS
Vince Bowles	Scottish Autism
Jean Brown	Aberlour
Claire Burnett	RCPCH
John Cairns	Safety Groups UK
Frank Creighton	Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar
Margaret Dekker	SCID
Gena Falconer	Highland Council
Bryan Finlay	RLSS

Dave Forrester	SELECT
Ross Haggart	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Michelle Harrity	Scottish Government
Jim Hume	MSP
Kathy Jenkins	Scottish Hazards
John Johnston	FMCTI
Alison Johnstone	MSP
Wayne Mackay	Electrical Safety First
Karen McDonnell	RoSPA Scotland
Alistair McNab	HSE
Irene Miller	NHS Health Scotland
Cherie Morgan	Play Scotland
Jill Mulholland	Transport Scotland
Ali O'Neale	Cloudline
Richard Park	Crossreach
Stuart Raeburn	Magnox Ltd
Elizabeth Smith	MSP
Janet Sneddon	Scottish Government
David Stewart	MSP
Fraser Thomson	Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland
Caroline Wilson	The Risk Factory
Gill Wylie	Scottish Government