

Meeting to re-establish the
Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention & Safety Awareness
Wednesday 8th June 2016, 1.00pm, CR4

MINUTES

1. Welcome Clare Adamson MSP

Clare Adamson, MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and clarified the purpose was to carry out the business of re-registering the CPG on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness. Ms Adamson referred to this week being Child Safety Week as facilitated by CAPT (Child Action Prevention Trust) and recommended that those present should visit the CAPT exhibition in the Parliament Foyer, and try the Bitrex taste test. The theme of Child Safety Week this year is 'Turn off Technology' and highlights the potential dangers of parents and carers being distracted by mobile phones and other pieces of technology when caring for young children.

Ms Adamson went on to welcome Oliver Mundell, MSP (Conservative) for Dumfriesshire and indicated support had been received from Alex Cole-Hamilton, MSP (Lib-Dem) for Edinburgh Western and David Stewart MSP (Lab) for Highlands and Islands. A welcome was extended today to Stuart McMillan MSP (SNP) for Greenock and Inverclyde who had been a great supporter of this Group during the previous Parliamentary Session. Ms Adamson reported that the Green Party had been approached for commitment but no response had been received to date. Ms Adamson went on to express her delight that the new Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, Annabelle Ewing, MSP was able to attend for a short time today and invited her to say a few words.

The Minister said she was delighted to be able to attend this meeting of the Cross Party Group that Clare had worked to establish 2013 and highlighted how very, very active the members have been through debates and a number of other actions which had had been taken forward, and that it was a good example of what a CPG was supposed to do. The Minister emphasised how she cared about this agenda and that she had done the Bitrex taste test – still being able to taste it, even after all the chocolate – and that there was potential for this tool to reduced unintentional harm in children. Bitrex coats products such as liquitabs for washing machines and is harmless – but very bitter so that children will automatically spit it out. Ms Ewing went on to mention there were lots of good ideas out there and this Group provided a good opportunity to pursue them. She reminded us that she was the new Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs and indicated that her door was always open and she was keen to work with all here to minimise risk and focus on awareness of what we can all to do keep ourselves safe in our homes and in other areas. Ms Adamson thanked the Minister for attending.

Ms Adamson went on to highlight that the membership of this CPG had remained at approximately 160 and its reputation was good. She was delighted that around 30 people were in the room today and highlighted her passion about this issue and indicated she wanted to continue to take all safety aspects forward. Ms Adamson thanked SGN for funding the refreshments today and mentioned we rely on organisations to do this so would be delighted if anyone else would like to cover the cost of the catering of future meetings.

Ms Adamson went on to mention those members from the last Session who had since retired: David Birrell had retired from Fife Council but was keen to continue to attend this Group as a Safety Advocate; Alistair McNab has retired from HSE and was represented today by June Cairns; Bob Telford has retired from AALS (represented today by Jane Campbell Morrison) and Drew Rankine, safety advocate, had also retired since the last meeting.

Ms Adamson highlighted further points about Child Safety Week and that the Minister had been visiting and speaking with nursery staff locally. The CAPT exhibition will be in the Parliament until tomorrow and Ms Adamson encouraged members to visit and take the Bitrex taste test.

Ms Adamson also drew the members' attention to the recent Motion she raised about Child Safety Week and the resulting Debate which was taking place at 17.30 this afternoon. She mentioned the Smokey Paws initiative which was brought to this Group's attention recently and that she had been invited by Lewis Ramsay to attend the forthcoming launch of this equipment initiative which assists animals to breath in the event of a fire.

Continuing with the same themes as before was discussed and those present agreed to continue under the headings with similar topics i.e. home safety, road safety, water safety and occupational safety. The official business of the day had to be carried out today though and the first action was to elect the Office Bearers.

2. Present and Apologies

See Appendix 1.

3. Election of Office Bearers

Ms Adamson handed over to Elizabeth Lumsden of RoSPA to invite the nominations for the position of Convenor of the Group. Stuart McMillan, MSP nominated Clare Adamson, MSP and this was seconded by Brian Topping. Mr Topping asked if he could say a few words and thanked Ms Adamson for the work she had done in taking this Group forward. No other nominations were received for this position and Ms Adamson was elected as Convenor of the Group. David Stewart MSP (Labour), although unable to attend today, indicated his willingness to serve as deputy convenor with Oliver Mundell MSP (Conservative) also indicating his willingness to serve as deputy convenor. These appointments were agreed by acclaim. Stuart McMillan MSP also indicated his continuing support. Ms Adamson nominated RoSPA to continue to provide the Secretariat role and Elizabeth Lumsden accepted.

Therefore the Office Bearers were agreed as follows:

Clare Adamson, MSP (SNP)	Convenor
Stuart McMillan, MSP (SNP)	Member
David Stewart, MSP (LAB)	Deputy convenor
Oliver Mundell, MSP (CON)	Deputy convenor
Alex Cole-Hamilton, MSP (LIB DEM)	Member
Elizabeth Lumsden (RoSPA)	Secretary

4. Re-registration of the Group

Ms Adamson highlighted there were Standards procedures to be followed and that we were one of the first Groups to go through this. The necessary re-registration paperwork will be completed and returned to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee within the required 90 days. Ms Adamson reminded those present of the purpose of the Group, which also required confirmation, was “To promote all aspects of safety through safety awareness and accident prevention.” This was confirmed as an appropriate definition of purpose.

5. Future topics/agendas/speakers/dates of next meetings

Discussion included:

Brian Topping mentioned the Government’s policy to build more houses and suggested the need to ensure sprinklers were part of the planning regulations.

Kathy Jenkins suggested a future session on OH&S focussed on the new H&S Action Plan for Scotland being developed through the Partnership for Health and Safety in Scotland. This was supported by June Cairns and Andy Cathro indicated he would be happy to supply information on what he was involved in. Clare Adamson enquired about this plan being for the UK and Kathy responded that this issue was not devolved but the decision was made in Scotland to develop a plan. Ms Adamson offered to discuss this with some of her colleagues as there was concern expressed around the outcome of the forthcoming EU decision. June Cairns highlighted the earlier plan in 2007 was being re-energised after the Smith Commission report.

Martin Hunt highlighted that Blueproof is arranging a test with Fire Scotland and will invite members from the CPG to attend this event. Brian Topping had supported the trial in Aberdeenshire and there was also a trial in Dumfriesshire. Mr Hunt thanked the Group for their interest in this product. Ms Adamson went on to explain to Mr Mundell how this product works to put out fires using the water from radiators and thanked Mr Hunt for the invitation.

Wayne Mackay of Electrical Safety First suggested there was an emerging theme around fire safety for a future meeting and that he would be happy to contribute information on safe products. Ms Adamson agreed on the topic of fire safety for a future meeting and went on to remind those present of the opportunity for any member of this Group to put forward ideas for Motions and Debates and that she would be grateful to receive any future dates of events that these might tie in with. Lesley Nish also agreed on the topic of fire safety – and suggested a link be made to the issue of burns and scalds.

Michael Avril of RNLI and Chair of Water Safety Scotland (WSS), asked if water safety could be put on a future agenda for this Group in order that he could share what WSS is currently involved with. Stuart McMillan highlighted that a useful joint meeting was held with this Group and Marine Tourism last year and the strategy offered opportunities for joint working. Ms Adamson agreed on the inclusion of water safety as this was a very relevant topic.

Ms Adamson welcomed ideas for further joint meetings with other CPGs such as a previous one with Health looking at Occupational Cancer and Lis Bardell suggested looking into a joint meeting with the CPG on Children and Young People.

Elizabeth Lumsden read out Dr Tom Beattie's suggestion to have a workshop at a future meeting focussing on resuscitation and public engagement and the need to deal with the consequences of failed prevention. Ms Adamson thought this was a good idea.

Kathy Jenkins also suggested that a future meeting be held around Worker's Memorial Day and that she would supply further information to the Secretary. *(This was received as follows: Scottish Hazards hopes to have an exhibition in the parliament for 25/26/27 April next year. This is in the run up to International Workers Memorial Day (28th)).*

Kathy also mentioned that there will be a half day seminar on Occupational Cancer and Silicosis in Glasgow on Friday, 26 August. Eventually an event brite event will be set up, but in the meantime, people can contact Kathy for further information (kajenkins@blueyonder.co.uk). Ms Adamson agreed to circulate the information to other MSPs.

Kathy went on to highlight the Scottish Hazards Centre is now up and running - this website is still being constructed, but gives the relevant information and will soon have more. <http://www.scottishhazards.org/scottish-hazards-centre/>

A reminder was given by Ms Adamson of the opportunity to have events etc included in the Headlines newsletter and to forward any suggestions on to the Secretary.

Lesley Nish asked if the Group would consider the fundamental issue of the lack of relevant data again. Ms Adamson responded that a sub group of the CPG was set up to look at this and fed into the system reviewing the standards but that she did not know if the new standards had been published yet. Ms Adamson went on to explain the current lack of data on attendances and used the example of liquitabs injuries where admission was not required. This information only came from the professionals who highlighted the issue. Ms Adamson said she will write to the Government on this matter.

Andy Cathro of the Health and Safety Development Network for Scotland's Colleges acknowledged the number of topics raised already for potential discussion and confirmed that if there was space he would be happy to share the developments he is involved in through the colleges networks. Ms Adamson confirmed this would be welcomed.

Ms Adamson went on to highlight that she had recently met a representative of the Scottish Youth Parliament to hear more about their road safety project which had won a youth award and emphasised how good it was to see great work going on with young people.

Brian Topping enquired about the timings of the CPG meetings and suggested it might be easier for members to attend if they were held in the afternoon. Ms Adamson did suggest she could arrange for a survey to be sent round the members to enquire if evening or afternoon was most suitable but

highlighted that, although holding the meetings in the afternoon was possible, it might mean that MSPs could not attend as they would have Chamber business at 2.00 pm.

Ron Ewing highlighted he had been contacted a few months ago by the Regulatory Review Group looking at fire safety regulations and if they needed changed. One thing of interest to most people and which came out as a recommendation from the Group was mandatory registration of fire risk assessors. Mr Ewing highlighted that this happens in care homes in Northern Ireland but that we don't have this on the mainland and the fire and rescue service is keen to see regulation on this. It was a recommendation from the Group but nothing has happened since. Mr Ewing enquired if we could get feedback on this. Ms Adamson responded that she will try to find more information – mentioning SELECT has also raised the issue of there being no register for electricians (as there is for gas engineers). Ms Adamson suggested the CPG should have sub groups to look at different specialist subject areas.

Ms Adamson invited members to remain in the room for some networking and closed the meeting with a special thanks to Oliver Mundell MSP and Stuart McMillan MSP for supporting the Group today.

Appendix 1

Sederunt and Apologies

Sederunt

Clare Adamson	MSP
Michael Avril	RNLI
Austin Baird	IOSH
David Birrell	Safety advocate
Jean Brown	Aberlour
Andy Cathro	Health and Safety Development Network for Scotland's Colleges
June Cairns	HSE
Rosie Cowie	Midlothian Council
Danny Doherty	British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association
Ron Ewing	CSI Safety Ltd
Martin Hunt	Tartan Silk
Kathy Jenkins	Scottish Hazards
Caroline Lawrie	SGN
Wayne Mackay	Electrical Safety First
Irene Miller	Health Scotland
Jane Campbell Morrison	AALS
Ali O'Neil	Macfarlan Smith
Lesley Nish	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Katrina Phillips	CAPT
Brian Topping	Safety advocate

In attendance

Kate Barclay	Office of Clare Adamson MSP
Lis Bardell	Office of Clare Adamson MSP

Christie Burnett	RoSPA
Michelle Harrity	Scottish Government
Elizabeth Lumsden	RoSPA
Stuart McMillan	MSP
Oliver Mundell	MSP
David Ross	Scottish Government

Apologies

Robert Atkinson	Healthy Working Lives
Barry Baker	HSE
Tom Beattie	Safety Advocate
Vince Bowles	Scottish Autism
Jim Brown	Enable
Claire Burnett	Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
Janet Castro	Accident Awareness Scotland
Alex Cole-Hamilton	MSP
Brian Connel	Neighbourhood Watch Scotland
Frank Creighton	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Jim Dorman	St Andrews First Aid
Gena Falconer	Highland Council
Dave Forrester	Select
Andrew Fraser	Falkirk Council
Gwyneth Kerwin	Royal Environmental Health Institute for Scotland
Haytham Kubba	Consultant in Children's ENT
Kenny MacDermid	RLSS
Laura McDermott	Dundee City Council
Karen McDonnell	RoSPA

Martin Millar	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Derek Oliver	Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland
Dave Roy	Kingdom Housing
Devin Scobie	Caledonia Public Affairs Limited
David Stewart	MSP
Caroline Wilson	The Risk Factory
Michelle Wood	Early Years Scotland