

**Joint Meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness and the Cross-Party Group on Visual Impairment  
Wednesday 5 February, 18.00 - 20.00, Committee Room 1,  
Scottish Parliament**

**Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness**

**#cpgapsa**

**Purpose of the group:**

To promote all aspects of safety through safety awareness and accident prevention.

**Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Visual Impairment  
#CPGVI**

**Purpose of the group:**

The Cross-Party Group on Visual Impairment draws together the blind and partially sighted sector in Scotland to identify issues competent to the Scottish Parliament and seeks, in a reasonable fashion, to influence policy, legislation and decision makers to better reflect the needs of blind and partially sighted people.

## **Minutes**

### **1. Welcome:**

Ms Adamson thanked everyone for attending the joint CPG and noted that Stuart McMillan, MSP and Maurice Corry, MSP would shortly be joining the meeting. Ms Adamson suggested the presentations be brought forward and the business of the meeting pushed back to ensure the meeting was quorate.

Ms Adamson gave thanks to Roger Lewis of Lion Safety and to RNIB Scotland for sponsoring the catering. Mr McMillan entered the room.

Ms Adamson noted that the purpose of the joint CPG was to engage organisations in how messaging for safety awareness could be targeted to those with impairments.

Mr McMillan noted that joint CPG meetings are very useful and informative and welcomed everyone.

**2. Present - see joint sederunt at Appendix 1.**

**3. Apologies (from CPGVI members) - see joint sederunt at Appendix 1.**

#### **4. Presentations**

##### **a. Alasdair Perry, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

Ms Adamson introduced the first speaker of the evening as Ali Perry. Ali is the Head of Prevention and Protection, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Senior Responsible officer for the Safe and Well project.

Ali noted that his colleague, Kevin McKusker had been unable to attend due to the ongoing incident at a local school. The presentation concentrated on the Safe and Well Project that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has been undertaking with the hope that it will be rolled out across Scotland in full by 2021. Ali's notes can be viewed at <https://www.rospa.com/About/Around-the-UK/Scotland/Cross-Party-Group>

##### **b. John Johnstone, The CLan**

Ms Adamson introduced John Johnston from The CLan (Collective Lanarkshire) which is a collective advocacy group for adults affected by learning disabilities across North Lanarkshire, funded and facilitated by North Lanarkshire Advocacy, the independent advocacy provider for younger adults in North Lanarkshire.

John's presentation concentrated on his experiences in Wishaw on crossing roads and how his friend David was hit by a car and broke his hip whilst with his support worker. This led John and others to argue for change within North Lanarkshire Council to help make the roads safer in the area for pedestrians and people with impairments and additional support needs. John's presentation can be viewed at <https://www.rospa.com/About/Around-the-UK/Scotland/Cross-Party-Group>

##### **c. Claire McGeehan, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital**

Ms Adamson introduced Claire McGeehan who is an Occupational Therapist currently working as Major Trauma Coordinator in the

Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow - a role which she took on in November 2018. Prior to this she worked as an Occupational Therapist in orthopaedics – covering trauma and upper limb injuries.

Claire's presentation concentrated on a specific case of a person who had visual impairment and was involved in a serious accident. Clare asked that this case **should not be discussed out with the CPG in order to respect privacy.**

Maurice Corry, MSP and Emma Harper, MSP joined the meeting during Claire's presentation.

## 5. Questions

Before moving onto questions, Ms Adamson noted that Errol Taylor the CEO of RoSPA was in attendance and thanked Maurice Corry, MSP and Emma Harper, MSP for attending.

Ian Clement noted that he is a community councillor in Edinburgh and raised the following two points:

1. Does SFRS have any intentions of bringing priority services into one register for vulnerable people?
2. Waverley Train Station is not friendly to those with visual impairment. Ian went to a meeting with the station manager and suggested changes which were rejected.

Ali from SFRS responded that bringing priority services into one was not currently in his remit but that he would be happy to discuss with Ian direct.

Brian Topping thanked all speakers and noted his concern around vulnerable people and housing. He asked SFRS if there should be a methodology put in place that people get housing if they sign up for help.

Ali responded that people's safety is SFRS's primary concern and that they will take any route to work with vulnerable people. It is not however for SFRS to say that being given housing should be compulsory.

Ms Adamson mentioned that there are many initiatives across Scotland looking at these issues around housing and vulnerability.

Errol Traylor thanked the various speakers and suggested it should remind us of the chain of causation which brings us back to the very basics of injury prevention – engineering, enforcement and environment, the three Es. For example, red traffic light jumping should be tackled through enforcement and the law.

Ken Reid from RNIB Scotland echoed comments on the useful presentations. He asked John Johnstone if he felt it is education or a different kind of action is required to help in the North Lanarkshire area.

John responded that he believed more traffic lights and lighting (for night-time) would help. He also suggested reducing lanes and making them narrower would make traffic slower.

Ms Adamson explained that the road outside the sports centre in Wishaw is a high-speed area with no crossing. She noted her credit to CLan for identifying it as an issue.

A question was asked about eScooters and if we can legislate or regulate their use on pavements as they create a hazard for pedestrians. Ms Adamson agreed there were safety issues and asked RoSPA if they had any specific advice. Errol reiterated the three Es of injury prevention and that 20mph is too fast. Numerous things could be done such as cycle lines being used rather than pavements to make it safe for users and pedestrians.

Gillian Mitchell from Sight Action highlighted that local authorities do not maintain traffic light crossings, and something should be done about this.

Kirin Saeed from RNIB Scotland noted that she was involved in a serious fatal domestic fire incident in Newcastle. She expressed her interest to work with SFRS in order to give them her experience from a visually impaired person's perspective. Ali said that he would welcome the opportunity to learn from her experience.

Diane McDonald noted that people with learning difficulties need to have a noise with the light crossings, so they know the right time to cross the road. Ms Adamson noted how important design and engineering is for safety going forward.

Maureen McMillan of Sight Action noted she had moved into new flats with smoke alarms that have already ran out of battery and her neighbours cannot change the battery as they are up too high. Ali from SFRS responded that there is a home safety fire safety check phone number – 0800 0731 999 - where anyone can get advice, and someone will come and change the battery in this instance.

Jim Mitchell asked about drink drivers and how seriously this issue is being taken. Mr McMillan noted that both drink driving and drug driving laws have recently been updated and implemented by the Scottish Government.

Colette Walker noted she thought that people needed to be aware of the home safety visit that the SFRS offer. She also asked if the Scottish Government were doing anything on traffic signs on pavements that can be dangerous for pedestrians.

Ms Adamson suggested that smart technology going forward could be useful for this and suggested she would discuss this with colleagues in Scottish Government.

## **6. Minutes of the AGM and meeting of the CPG on Visual Impairment held on 17 September 2019**

There were no matters arising. The minutes were confirmed as accurate by Ken Reid and seconded by Alan Stewart.

## **7. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the CPG on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness on 20 November 2019 – circulated to members by email on November 29 2019)**

There were no matters arising. The minutes were confirmed as accurate by Maurice Corry MSP and seconded by Neil McNicol.

## **8. Headlines RoSPA – tabled**

Ms Adamson noted that due to time constraints it was not possible to read through the Headlines Newsletter (Update: the contents were highlighted in a separate email.)

### **RoSPA Secretary's Report – tabled**

As above

## 9. Discussion

Ms Adamson suggested she write to Strathclyde University who are looking at Smart Cities to consider ways or working with them in future and with the Glasgow Subway. Ms Adamson also noted she was keen to speak with Police Scotland in relation to the issues in North Lanarkshire.

Mr McMillan MSP suggested that the CPG on Visual Impairment would have a focus on road signs on pavements at a future CPG and would feedback to the CPG on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness.

Ian Clement noted a report from Heriot Watt University on safer communities for older people. He will share this report.

Emma Harper MSP noted that the discussion on road signs reminded her of Washington DC and LA which both had a more progressive approach relating to those with Visual Impairment. She will investigate this.

Ms Adamson noted that she would try and get the Minister for Disabilities along to a future meeting.

Stan Brown from IOSH noted that train stations and the subway would still have a duty of care to all visitors.

Colette Walker suggested that any reports or safety assessments going forward should consult with Local Authority Access Panels. Ms Adamson noted she was unsure if North Lanarkshire has one but would find out.

Mr Corry noted that there is a current Glasgow Subway review on its modernisation and that it would be a great opportunity to get involved. Ms Adamson noted she would pursue a meeting with other MSP members on this.

The meeting concluded and Ms Adamson thanked the speakers individually and everyone for their attendance.

Brian Topping thanked the two convenors, Clare Adamson MSP and Stuart McMillan MSP.

## **Appendix 1 - Attendees and Apologies**

### **Present**

#### **Members of Parliament**

Clare Adamson MSP, Convenor  
Stuart McMillan MSP, Convenor  
Maurice Corry MSP  
Emma Harper MSP

#### **Speakers**

John Johnstone CLan  
Claire McGeehan NHS GGC  
Alasdair Perry SFRS

#### **Members**

Robert Atkinson HWL  
Michael Avril Water Safety Scotland  
Bob Bogle CLan  
Stan Brown IOSH Scotland  
Catriona Burness RNIB Scotland  
Ian Clement  
Laura Erskine RNLI  
Stuart Fair SWITCH Forum  
Anne Marie Fleming  
Niall Foley Guide Dogs Scotland  
Claire Forde MSYP/ Haggeye  
Bill Harley Fife Safer Communities  
David Hart FBU  
Steven Hewitson Actavo  
Lynn Hill Fife Safer Communities  
Ian Hughes Associated Optical  
Kathy Jenkins Scottish Hazards  
Caroline Lawrie SGN  
Roger Lewis Lion Safety  
Mark Lilley Safety Advocate  
Stuart Lumsden SWITCH  
Calum Macdonald Royal Blind and Scottish War Blinded  
Maureen MacMillan Sight Action  
Gwenn McCreath, Vision PK  
Neil McNicol John McNicol and Co (Electrical Engineers) Ltd.  
Philippa Mason International Glaucoma Association

Jan Miller University of the West of Scotland  
Gillian Mitchell Sight Action  
Terry Moody RNIB Scotland Committee  
Cherie Morgan Play Scotland  
David Quigley Optometry Scotland  
Ken Reid Scottish Vision Strategy Ambassador/RNIB  
Kirin Saeed RNIB Scotland Committee  
Fiona Sandford Visionary & Thomas Pocklington Trust  
Angus Scott NHS Forth Valley  
Louise Slorance RCPCH  
Gregor Steele SSERC  
Ross Stephen Optometry Scotland  
Norman Stevenson Safety Groups UK  
Alan Stewart  
Steven Sutherland  
Brian Topping Safety advocate  
Cate Vallis RNIB Scotland  
Colette Walker  
Douglas Watt Actavo  
Sandra Wilson RNIB Scotland Committee  
Jacquie Winning Forth Valley Sensory Centre

**In attendance**

Kate Barclay Clare Adamson's Office  
Susan Carroll CLan  
Charlie Kemp CLan  
Elizabeth Lumsden RoSPA (Secretariat)  
Carlene McAvoy RoSPA (Minutes)  
Diane McDonald CLan  
Jim Mitchell CLan  
Allan Pollock CLan  
Liam Richardson CLan  
Jodie Schofield RoSPA  
Alistair Taylor Clare Adamson's Office  
Errol Taylor RoSPA  
Stephen Tollan CLan



## Apologies

James Adams RNIB Scotland  
Richard Baker Royal Blind & Scottish War Blinded  
Fern Barclay Kingdom Housing  
Anne-Marie Barry Guide Dogs Scotland  
Selina Begley Family Fund  
Chris Bielby SGN  
Vince Bowles Scottish Autism  
Matt Broom Vison UK  
Ian Brown RNIB Scotland  
Marion Butchart Novartis  
Janet Castro Safety advocate  
Andy Cathro Dundee and Angus Colleges  
Willie Clark Neighbourhood Watch Scotland  
Helen Court NHS Education for Scotland  
Scott Darroch Gas Safe Register  
Hilary Davies  
John Donaldson Royal Blind  
Jane Donnelly Connect Radio  
Jim Dorman St Andrew's Frist Aid  
Gena Falconer Highland Council  
Dave Forrester SELECT  
Amanda Foster  
John Furze Macular Society  
Sheena Harper RLSS UK  
Carl Hodgson seescape  
Fiona Hodgson SNIPEF  
Martin Hunt Tartan Silk  
Marguerite Hunter Blair Play Scotland  
Laura Jones RNIB Scotland  
Joan Kerr  
Alastair MacGregor SSERC  
Sheila Mackenzie Scottish Sensory Centre  
Maureen Mcallister  
Hazel McFarlane Macular Society  
Jacqueline McGuire Angus Council  
David McKerral  
Gerry McLaughlin Health Scotland  
Moira McMurchie  
Linda Middlemist Guide Dogs Scotland  
Eilidh Morrison MYSF/Haggeye

Rod Murchison  
Mark O'Donnell Royal Blind & Scottish War Blinded  
Hussein Patwa RNIB Scotland Committee  
Alun Peate RNIB Scotland Committee  
Rosie Pybus RNIB Scotland  
Professor John Ravenscroft University of Edinburgh  
Carolyn Reid SCORSA  
Ann Robertson NESS  
Terry Robinson RNIB Scotland Committee  
Hal Rollason Optometry Scotland  
Stephanie Rose Police Scotland  
Dave Roy Kingdom Housing  
Janelle Scotland ASTN  
Davina Shiell Royal Blind & Scottish War Blinded  
Margaret and Duncan Speirs Safety Advocates  
Danny Sweeney North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership  
Fiona Taylor SPFL Trust  
Sirta Tooth  
Steve Whitehouse RoSPA  
Shirley Williamson Earthgen Ltd  
Caroline Wilson The Risk Factory  
Kat Wilson Audio Description Association (Scotland)  
David Wood GIST Limited  
Lynn Young Scottish Government