

Cross-Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

Tuesday February 18th 2025 18:00-20:00

(Scottish Parliament and online)

Minute

Present

MSPs

Clare Adamson (SNP)	Convener
Claire Baker (Scot Lab)	Deputy Convener

Speakers

Steve Cole	RoSPA
Stephen Bridgman	Public Health Scotland, NHS Highland, University of Aberdeen
Carlene McAvoy	RoSPA
Andrew Watterson	Scottish Hazards
Scott MacRory	Fire Brigades Union

Members

Alistair Taylor	Clare Adamson's office
Andrew Watterson	University of Stirling
Carlene McAvoy	RoSPA
Scott MacRory	Fire Brigade Union Scotland
Stephen Bridgman	Public Health Scotland, NHS Highland, University of Aberdeen
Caroline Lawrie	SGN
Clare Adamson	Member Scottish Parliament (Convener)
Elizabeth Lumsden	Safety Advocate
Judith Montgomery	Royal Hospital for Children and Young People, STN
Kathleen Jenkins	Scottish Hazards
Laura Kelly-Hill	Royal Hospital for Children and Young People
Mathew O'Grady	HSE
Michael Avril	RNLI
Michelle McKenna	North Lanarkshire Council Trading Standards and Consumer and Public Interest Network (CPIN)
Emma Dudley	Water Safety Scotland

Online

Alex Petrie	IOSH Scotland
Andy Cathro	Safety Advocate and H&S Trainer
Ben Tocher	City of Edinburgh Council
Bob Cairney	SELECT
Bob Raj	Safety Groups Uk
Brian Topping	Safety Advocate
Cherie Morgan	Play Scotland
Eleanor Griffiths	Trading Standards, East Renfrewshire Council
Gill Burton	Scottish Cot Death Trust
Heather Wright	Lifeways
Jeanette Reid	City of Edinburgh Council
Jenny Paterson	Wild Wimmin
Jim Dorman	St Andrew's First Aid
John Johnston	TechnipFMC
John McNicol	John McNicol Electrical Engineers
Katrina Phillips	Child Accident Prevention Trust
Kirstin Thomson	COBIS network
Rhian Reynolds	RoSPA
Robert Thomson	Care and Repair Forum Scotland
Sheena Harper	Royal Life Saving Society UK
Steve Cole	RoSPA
Katie Bruce	Royal Hospital for Children and Young People
Lesley Weber	COSLA
Iain Sutherland	HSE
William Harley	Fife Council Housing and Safer Communities Service
Alex Petrie	IOSH Scotland

Apologies

Andy Murray	Paddle Scotland
Andy Howat	NHS Dumfries and Galloway
Caitlin Taylor	RoSPA
Carol Wood	NASUWT
Caroline Wilson	The Risk Factory
Christopher Bell	Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland
Cllr Maureen Chalmers	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Fred Cullum	Safety Advocate
Hannah Dale	British Psychological Society
Lynn Hill	Fife Council Housing and Safer Communities Service
Marguerite Hunter Blair	Play Scotland
Martin Hunt	Tartan Silk
Nicholas Sabo	The Wise Group
Sarah Hill	Gas Safe Register
Sylvia McKay	Safety Advocate
Duncan Spiers	Christopher's Life Saving Campaign

1 Welcome

The convener, Clare Adamson MSP, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Scottish Gas Network for sponsoring the refreshments.

Clare Adamson encouraged everyone to read the paper on the change of name proposal that was circulated with the meeting papers as this will be discussed at the next meeting.

2 Present and apologies

See lists above.

3 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were proposed as accurate by Clare Adamson and seconded by Claire Baker.

4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Speakers

Steve Cole, RoSPA – the National Accident Prevention Strategy

Steve has more than 20 years' experience in the private, public and voluntary sector. Professionally he specialises in policy, strategy and change management and is RoSPA's Policy, Campaigns and Public Affairs Director.

Professor Andrew Watterson, Scottish Hazards - Toxic Use Reduction

Dr Watterson is Emeritus Professor of Health in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Stirling. He is currently working on hazardous materials in electronics, energy and wood and plastics industries and their effects on public health and occupational health and safety globally and in Scotland

Carlene McAvoy, RoSPA – Six-year review of Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy

Carlene is a Senior Policy Manager for RoSPA and is a Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health. She is also the Founder and Secretariat of Water Safety Scotland.

Dr Stephen Bridgman, Public Health Scotland – National injury surveillance system in Scotland

Dr Stephen Bridgman is a Consultant in Public Health and Clinical lead for musculoskeletal disease and injury at Public Health Scotland.

Scott MacRory, Fire Brigades Union - Update on the DECON project and UK firefighter mental health study

Scott MacRory was a Firefighter for 15 years and is currently the Regional Health & Safety Representative for the Fire Brigades Union in Scotland.

Presentations are available on the RoSPA website at [Cross Party Group - RoSPA](#)

6 Headlines

Carlene McAvooy briefly went through the contents of the Headlines Newsletter (appendix 1) which had been circulated ahead of the meeting. Carlene thanked those that contributed and reminded everyone that they are welcome to include updates for future meetings.

7 Discussion

Steve Cole, RoSPA – the National Accident Prevention Strategy

Clare Adamson agreed that, in terms of budgets, the areas of government responsible for prevention are not the ones that benefit from a reduction in unintentional injuries and that it would be better if all responsibility sat within health.

Stephen Bridgman advised Public Health Scotland published a paper showing a five-fold increase in dog bites over 25 years: [Epidemiology of dog bite and strike related hospital admissions in Scotland, 1997 to 2022 - ScienceDirect](#).

Michelle McKenna supported the call for better data collection, especially as this allows for targeted allocation of resources.

Clare Adamson noted that delays are caused in spotting issues due to a lack of data e.g. trampoline injuries.

Kirstin Thomson commented that the data collected in Safer Lives, Stronger Nation, especially on falls, is helpful. Steve advised that more guidance on falls prevention can be found on the RoSPA website here [Falls prevention in the home – free videos and downloadable resources - RoSPA](#)

Steve Cole added that collating UK-wide data is difficult as it is reported differently across the nations.

Stephen Bridgman said he would be happy to have a subgroup to look at falls data in more detail.

Professor Andrew Watterson, Scottish Hazards - Toxic Use Reduction

Clare Adamson asked how a strategy would be enforced, Andrew explained that it would be more important to provide support and education and work with manufacturers on reducing the use of toxic substances in their processes.

Clare Adamson asked what is the barrier for introducing this in Scotland. Andrew advised it is apathy due to not knowing about the issue or understanding that it could be beneficial to bring in. Andrew suggested that everyone write to their MSP and Clare noted that members can table questions to the government through her or the other MSPs in the CPG. Clare also noted that it is possible to look out for opportunities for inclusion in legislation, for example the circular economy bill.

Carlene McAvoy, RoSPA – Six-year review of Scotland’s Drowning Prevention Strategy

Clare Adamson noted that there was a successful event celebrating 10 years of Water Safety Scotland in December which allowed reflection on how much has been achieved in that time.

Clare Adamson asked about how water safety is addressed in the other UK nations. Carlene explained that the work in Scotland is a little further ahead of the other nations and can be used as a starting point to bring in similar projects tailored to the other nations and UK-wide; for example, Water Safety Wales is adapting some of the work done by Water Safety Scotland.

Kathy Jenkins asked if school swimming lessons are mandatory in Scotland, Carlene advised they are not part of the curriculum, but most local authorities do provide lessons. Water Safety Scotland supports Scotland Swimming, however, statistics show that being able to swim does not always prevent drowning, so it is important to focus on teaching water safety. WSS has also released experiential learning guidance which gives different ways to experience water safely e.g. kayaking, and gives safety advice such as how to float, how to get out, and what to do in an emergency. Clare Adamson noted that some local authority pools provide free swimming for children during school holidays. Brian Topping noted that schools often struggle with the cost of transport for swimming lessons, especially in remote areas. He also noted that local authorities providing free swimming in holidays has the added benefit of reduction in vandalism as the children are occupied elsewhere.

Kirstin Thompson asked about resources for use by youth groups, Carlene advised the bolt on education resources produced by Water Safety Scotland can be used in these settings also.

Jenny Paterson commented that she was delighted to have been part of Water Safety Scotland through Wild Wimmin and Venture Trust and she was pleased to see that the improved data is allowing targeted messaging. Jenny asked what they can do to help messaging reach marginalised groups, such as people experiencing poverty.

Dr Stephen Bridgman, Public Health Scotland – National injury surveillance system in Scotland

Liz Lumsden noted that there needs to be more awareness and training on how the data could be used.

Stephen noted that they are able to use existing data from hospital records called Scottish Morbidity Records 01 and there have been some pilots trying to use some of the other data sources, including emergency department data, but it is not currently usable for surveillance outside special projects, but it's an area being worked on.

Scott MacRory, Fire Brigades Union - Update on the DECON project and UK firefighter mental health study

Clare Adamson asked about the quality of PPE. Scott advised that it is very good in terms of thermal protection but can give off harmful toxins, also there can be contamination from handling afterwards. Scott explained there is an issue with PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in PPE and the Fire Fighting Union in America has taken the supplier to court in two cases which has set a precedence.

Clare Adamson asked about what is currently in place to support fire fighter mental health. Scott explained that support in Scotland is very good, but it is primarily reactive and relies on asking for help. More proactive support is needed e.g. after a traumatic incident, annual mental health screenings.

8 Date of the next meetings

April 1st 6-8pm – Road Safety theme

June 3rd 6-8pm – Child Safety theme

Clare asked the group for a sponsor for the refreshments at future meetings.

Appendix 1

Headlines Newsletter

Launch of the Drowning and Incident (DIR) Dashboard

Water Safety Scotland (WSS) launched its groundbreaking Drowning and Incident Review (DIR) Dashboard in early October.

The Dashboard allows stakeholders to access vital data on drowning incidents, contributory factors, and post-incident measures. This tool will significantly enhance Scotland's ability to take a targeted approach to preventing water emergencies. Many thanks to all those who have helped to support the development and implementation of the DIR.

The Dashboard can be accessed here: <https://watersafetyscotland.org.uk/practitioners-hub/water-safety-data/dir-dashboard/>

The full press release can be accessed here:

<https://watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/w4namt3q/water-safety-scotland-to-launch-dir-dashboard-for-enhanced-drowning-prevention-data.pdf>

Carlene McAvoy, RoSPA

15th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion New Delhi, India

CPG members – Carlene McAvoy (RoSPA) and Dr Stephen Bridgman (Public Health Scotland) – attended and presented at Safety 24 – the 15th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion in September 2024.

Carlene presented on:

- [Scotland's drowning and incident review – insight and implications](#)
- [Water safety Scotland – Scotland's water safety programme](#)

Carlene also presented a poster (co-authored with Elizabeth Lumsden) on the CPG:

- [Scotland's cross party group on accident prevention and safety awareness](#)

Dr Bridgman presented on:

- [National injury surveillance system in Scotland](#)
- [Hospital admission from dog related injury in Scotland, 1982 to 2022](#)



Carlene with Nima Giri MPA (Nepal) discussing the CPG

Carlene McAvoy, RoSPA

SGN Safety Campaign Update

**SGN**


Safety campaign update


ENERGY THEFT

The hidden dangers of stealing gas

We joined forces with Crimestoppers' energy theft brand Stay Energy Safe and the UK's other GDNs to raise awareness of the risks of stealing gas, the signs to look out for and how to anonymously report it.

The group collaborated to produce a new hard-hitting video, radio advert and social media animations depicting a father tampering with his property's gas meter and how his actions will put his family in danger.






25% increase in gas theft cases last year

Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow are theft hotspots

Stealing energy adds an extra £50 to utility bills



Campaign video ran on Facebook and YouTube

Major radio stations aired the ad in regional hotspots

Industry group continuing message amplification



Campaign generated 67% rise in gas theft reports

Received 3.3m impressions in our network areas

Coverage of the campaign featured on BBC and ITV





Caroline Lawrie
Stakeholder & Community Manager


We want to make gas theft socially unacceptable and keep everyone safe and warm.

To build on the success of the campaign, please help spread the message to your constituents that it's extremely dangerous to tamper with gas meters. Stealing gas can impact many lives and is never worth the risk.


Gas meter tampering signs

-  Meter connected in reverse
-  Additional piping
-  Working but no credit
-  Missing or static display
-  Missing or swapped meter
-  Smell of gas

Gas meter tampering dangers

-  Fires and explosions
-  Injury or death

How to report meter tampering

-  Call 0800 023 2777
-  Visit stayenergysafe.co.uk

Caroline Lawrie, SGN

Christopher's Saving Lives Campaign

We have had a meeting with Scottish canals and at the meeting they said that they will take up the ropes we campaigned for, they have 60 ropes now, they are going to do the full canals over 2 years.

Duncan Spiers, Christopher's Saving Lives Campaign