

# Cross-Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

Tuesday 21 March 2023 18:00-20:00

(Scottish Parliament)

Minute

Present

MSPs

Elena Whitham                      Minister for Community Safety

Clare Adamson (SNP)              Convenor

Invited guests and speakers

Lis Bardell                              Safety Advocate

Chris Bell                                SCOTSS

John Burrough                        Care and Repair Lanarkshire

Kevin Chase                            Home Safety Scotland

Lorraine Gillies                        SCSN

Jen Foley                                WSS

Bill Harley                               Fife Safer Communities

Kathy Jenkins                         Scottish Hazards

Ashley Martin                         RoSPA

Carlene McAvoy                        WSS

Claudette McCall	
Ross McCall	
Katrina Phillips	CAPT
Bob Rajan	Safety Advocate
Louise Richardson	ABSAFE
Duncan Spiers	Christopher's Life Saving Campaign
James Sullivan	WSS

## Non-MSP Group Members

Robert Atkinson	Public Health Scotland
Michael Avril	WSS
Elisa Bevacqua	COSLA
Diane Burrough	
Gill Burton	Scottish Cot Death Trust
Cllr Maureen Chalmers	COSLA
Fred Cullum	IOSH Scotland
Jim Dorman	St Andrews First Aid
Lynn Hill	Fife Safer Communities
Martin Hunt	Tartan Silk
Andrew Jardine	NASUWT
Karter Kane	Electrical Safety First
Elizabeth Lumsden	RoSPA (Secretariat)
Iain Macleod	SFRS
Wayne Mackay	ESF
Karen McDonnell	ScORSA
Michelle McKenna	BSI Consumer and Public Interest Network (CPIN)

John Nelson	AECOM
Jess Nicholls	HSE
Alan Purves	SSERC
Gemma Richardson	RCPCH
Alastair Ross	Association of British Insurers (ABI)
Dave Roy	Kingdom Housing
Konstantina Scott-Barrett	RCPCH
Norman Stevenson	Safety Groups UK
Alistair Taylor	Clare Adamson's Office
Fiona Taylor	SPFL Trust
Brian Topping	Safety Advocate
Harriet Topping	HSE

## Apologies

Fern Barclay	Kingdom Housing Association
Marguerite Hunter Blair	Play Scotland
Vince Bowles	Scottish Autism
Stephen Bridgman	Public Health Scotland
Linda Bruce	Early Years Scotland
Bob Cairney	Select
Mark Carroll	HM Inspector of Health and Safety
Andy Cathro	Safety Advocate
Frank Creighton	Comhairle nan Eilen Siar
Hannah Dale	Division of Health Psychology - Scotland
Scott Darroch	Gas Safe Register
Laura Erskine	RNL!
Gena Falconer	Highland Council

Sheila Hanney	Key and Community Lifestyles
Sheena Harper	Safety advocate
Fiona Hodgson	SNIPEF
Andy Howatt	NHS Dumfries and Galloway
Roger Lewis	Lion Safety
Mark Lilley	Safety Advocate
Euan Lowe	Scottish Swimming
Cherie Morgan	Play Scotland
Lesley Nish	NHS GGC
Jenny Paterson	Venture Trust
Allan Thomson	Central Training Services Limited
Caroline Wilson	The Risk Factory
Lynn Young	Scottish Government

## 1 Welcome

The convener, Clare Adamson MSP, welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded those present of the occasion as being a celebration of 10 years of the existence of the Group. Ms Adamson reflected on key developments within the Group from early themes such as the dangers to children of liquid laundry capsules to the ongoing range of topics covered across home, road, water and occupational safety.

Ms Adamson reminded the Group that the purpose of the CPG is to promote all aspects of safety through safety awareness and accident prevention, serving in the public interest to reduce the considerable loss of life attributable to preventable accidents in Scotland in a variety of settings. Ms Adamson went on to highlight that after 10 years of working with this group, the members stood out as some of the most dedicated and passionate campaigners she had worked with. Ms Adamson advised that she had been told that this CPG is the best consistently attended group of all the Parliament's CPGs. The members were commended for their work in meeting the founding purpose of group, that the policy landscape had shifted since the Group was set up and big strides had been made in getting safety policy higher on the political agenda. Ms Adamson thanked those organisations who had contributed to the cost of tonight's refreshments: AECOM, SCSN, ScORSA, RoSPA and Water Safety Scotland.

## 2 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting on 7 February were proposed as accurate by Brian Topping and seconded by Dave Roy. Mr Topping continued by extending his thanks to the Convenor for all her work over the last 10 years. Ms Adamson responded to include her thanks for the support she had received from the various members of her staff.

## 3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

## 4 Speakers

**Elena Whitham MSP**                      **Minister for Community Safety**

The Minister commented that it was fantastic to see such a variety of organisations in attendance with a common interest of reducing harm and commended the members on the initiatives they had promoted over the years within their membership of over 100 organisations. The Minister highlighted the funding given to organisations such as RoSPA and CAPT to enable them to continue their work in the area of accident prevention and noted RoSPA's role in providing the Secretariat since the Group's inception.

**RoSPA**                                      **Ashley Martin – RoSPA update**

Mr Martin said it had been a privilege for RoSPA to have supported the Group over the last 10 years. He then went on to give an overview of the work of RoSPA including: the focus on falls prevention as a priority with the setting up of falls prevention hub on the website which included information for both practitioners and the public such as the Falls Fighters initiative; the Safer Stairs campaign to include the Standard within the Building Regulations; the Charity Appeal to provide strength and balance resources; the Protect our People Campaign (regarding retained EU laws affecting health and safety); work on preventing button batteries injuries; research on baby slings; and the pilot data project with four hospitals in England.

Ms Adamson advised of the recent evidence from the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee, which Ms Adamson also Convenes, and can be viewed at [Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Retained EU Law \(Revocation and Reform\) Bill \(UK Parliament legislation\) \(azureedge.net\)](https://www.azureedge.net/legislation)

**CAPT**                                      **Katrina Phillips – Child Safety Week**

Ms Phillips shared information with the Group on this year's Child Safety Week which will take place from 5 – 11 June with the overarching theme of 'Safety Made Simple'. All of CAPT's free resources will be brought together into packs made available to practitioners. Ms Phillips' plea to the members of the Group was to:

1. Put Child Safety Week in your diaries
2. Sign up to receive updates via [www.capt.org.uk](http://www.capt.org.uk)
3. Encourage colleagues and networks to also sign up.

SCSN

Lorraine Gillies - Winner of Mark McCall Home Safety Fund

Ms Gillies highlighted that the Mark McCall Home Safety Fund was set up in partnership with RoSPA and Fife Council (where Mark worked before he sadly passed away in 2021). The Fund was established to ensure Mark's legacy of his passion for child safety was taken forward. Ms Gillies announced the winner of the fund for this year being Care and Repair in Lanarkshire who will provide home safety visits to families with young children and who will carry out risk assessments to establish the need for particular items of safety equipment fitting them where necessary. The representative of Care and Repair Lanarkshire, Mr John Burrough, was delighted to receive the funding award and gave his thanks.

## 5 Pitches

Members were invited to submit 100 word (approx.) 'pitches' for consideration and to speak to them in three minutes as follows:

1. Louise Richardson                      Absafe

We see over 2000 young people each year and 95% state they have learnt something to save their lives and the lives of others, and this is a lifelong impact.

How do we know this?

Cath has recently come back as part of a local college initiative, she described how coming to Absafe made a difference to her, she remembers the kitchen and leaning about inhalation of products and what to do if that happens, she also remembers the train set, she learnt never to go on a train track, she believes that this has helped save her life.

2. Duncan Spiers                              Christopher's Life Saving Campaign

We campaign for prevention and awareness of water -related accident in Scotland since our son Christopher died in a water accident at the Clyde in Glasgow in 2016. We campaigned to get colour coded ropes on life belts at the Clyde as they were not on there since the 70s. We took the campaign to Glasgow City Council who agreed to attach the ropes to the life belts and many lives have been saved since the introduction of the ropes. The rope is of a great

quality and, as many organisations agree, we would like to see this rope and signage extended to all councils throughout Scotland.

### 3. Katrina Phillips

### CAPT

Warning families about button batteries: the power of partnerships

If a small child swallows a button battery and it gets stuck, it can cause life-changing injuries or even death. Following a death in her constituency, Clare Adamson MSP raised the alarm in Holyrood. Officials in Building Safer Communities spoke to their Parent Club counterparts and worked with the Child Accident Prevention Trust and RoSPA to develop a leaflet warning new parents about the dangers.

This has been included in Scotland’s Baby Box since October 2022, reaching 50,000 families a year – a testament to the value of our CPG and the power of partnerships. See: <https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/staying-accident-free-home>.



### 4. Bill Harley

### Fife Safer Communities

Although Safer Communities Fife Cares has been around since its pilot in 2002, the CPG, and contacts made there has enabled us to change, develop and improve through information and with partners such as RoSPA and CAPT.

We have updated and developed our service as a result, producing new literature and information such as “what to do if something goes wrong’ – child safety, all in an effort to reduce unintentional harm.

We have used resources from CAPT and RoSPA e.g. during the Christmas campaign.

Whilst it is difficult to measure our degree of success quantitatively, what we have found is a clear improvement in our client's awareness of key issues e.g. button battery campaign which has been evidenced in child safety visits over the last month.

5. Kevin Chase

Home Safety Scotland

The Home Safety Map was produced as a collaboration between the Scottish Community Safety Network and the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents. The map was created by local illustrator Laura Darling who uses art and data, to turn it into something new and unique. A deliberate decision was made to keep text to a minimum on the map recognising that in many communities, literacy is limited for a variety of reasons. The map highlights dangers of unintentional injuries in the home for the very young and very old. The map is available via the following link [SCSN SAFE HOME \(safercommunitiesScotland.org\)](https://www.safercommunitiesScotland.org)

6. Bob Rajan

The book on "Improving Efficiency and Effectiveness of COSHH-Risk Management", written by Dr Bob Rajan JP, OBE, is to be published soon by Amazon. It has benefited tremendously from the support and valued contributions, on exposure control solutions, by the members of the CPG group and various institutions of Scotland. This a practical companion is based on simple to use innovative approaches and is aimed at helping coalface Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) practitioners to deliver Process-Integrated Proportional Controls (PIPCs) to help protect people at work.

7. Marguerite Hunter Blair

Play Scotland (apologies on the night)

Play Scotland supports regulators and providers in taking a positive approach to risk to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people.

Risk benefit assessment is about improving professional competencies and providing opportunities for good outdoor spaces for children to play creatively, while experiencing risk, challenge and excitement.

Research confirms a risk benefit approach to outdoor play has a positive impact on mental and physical health and wellbeing. 'Exposure to challenges ... allowing (children) to learn and develop through sometimes risky activities will help build resilience into adult life Scotland's Play Strategy Vision (2013)'

8. Chris Bell

SCOTSS

As Trading Standards teams, we deal with a huge variety of issues, not only relating to direct Physical Harm but also regarding Financial Harm & Scams which often impacts physical wellbeing.



NTS Scam team worked in partnership with the Federal Trade Commission, and as a result of the action taken, we were able to return some of the scam money to victims. For the whole of Scotland there were 353 victims, totalling £43,786.31.

The highest return for the Edinburgh Trading Standards Team resulted in the return of £1000 in January 2023. The elderly resident was extremely grateful for the return of the money and said that it would really help as she was struggling to pay her heating bills for the winter.

#### 9. Kathy Jenkins

#### Scottish Hazards

Scottish Hazards, a registered charity aims to reduce work related injury, ill health and death and improve working conditions. Our service is primarily aimed at non-unionised workers, particularly those most at risk: including those in precarious employment, migrant workers, workers with a disability, young workers, those working for SMEs. We provide H&S information, advice, support and representation to workers without access to it. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Scottish Hazards dealt with close to 500 cases, mostly raised by workers themselves but a significant number by small businesses seeking advice about the law, guidance and how to make their workforce safe.

#### 10. Jen Foley

#### Water Safety Scotland

Water Safety Scotland has developed water safety education resources for use across every stage of the Scottish curriculum. The materials follow a consistent underlying message, which is that of the water safety code. These resources are freely-available on Education Scotland's National Improvement Hub and the WSS website.

Water safety Scotland has also developed a comms toolkit which ensures there is a focus on a different aspect of water safety each month across social media. In addition we are tailoring the water safety code to make it activity-specific to those activities that the data shows is causing the highest number of incidents, as well as short activity-specific safety education videos.

#### 11. Carlene McAvoy and James Sullivan

#### Water Safety Scotland

Water Safety Scotland will shortly be releasing the Drowning and Incident Review (DIR).

DIR is a process that aims to gather data and understand the contributory factors of a water-related incident in order to help gain a better understanding of how to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future. The process was created by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and RoSPA, and is led by Water Safety Scotland (WSS). It is a voluntary process and covers all ages of accidental or 'unknown' fatalities in Scotland.

One of the world's firsts, the DIR has completed its pilot and evaluation phase, has a full training package and is due to launch in early spring.

## **6 AOCB**

Mr Martin Hunt gave a vote of thanks to Ms Adamson for all her work over the last 10 years and highlighted how lucky the Group was to have her as Convenor.

## **7 Date of the next meetings**

The next meeting will have the theme of Child Safety and will take place on 6 June which is during Child Safety Week.

Subsequent dates were noted as:

21 November 2023

06 February 2024

26 March 2024

Members were then invited to network and partake in the refreshments.

Appendix A:

## **Battery fires**

At the last meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Safety, Leslie Mason from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service gave a compelling presentation on battery fires in waste facilities.

In the discussion that followed, it was suggested that fires might be caused by lithium coin cell batteries as well as by lithium-ion batteries.

Katrina Phillips from the Child Accident Prevention Trust undertook to follow this up with the British and Irish Portable Battery Association (BIPBA), the trade association for the UK portable battery industry whose members include Duracell, Energizer, GP Batteries, Advanced Power Solutions and Varta.

BIPBA advises as follows:

### **What's the difference between lithium-ion batteries and lithium coin cell batteries?**

Lithium-ion batteries are rechargeable, whereas lithium coin cell batteries are not.

Lithium coin cells are round, flat, silver-coloured batteries that resemble a 5 pence coin. They power many products in our homes including toys, musical greeting cards, light-up novelties, thermometers, digital scales, car keys, key finders and remote controls.

Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries come in a variety of shapes and sizes, including coin cells. Typically, however, lithium-ion battery packs are used in larger products such as mobile phones, power banks, power tools and e-bikes. As they are designed to be recharged multiple times, they are usually difficult to access within products.

### **Fires from lithium-ion batteries**

Lithium-ion batteries have been linked to incidents of fires in facilities handling electrical waste. This is likely due to fully or partially-charged lithium-ion battery packs in the electrical waste stream being damaged during handling, resulting in an internal short circuit.

The energy density of lithium-ion batteries is often sufficient to cause a fire where a battery is short circuited.

### **What about lithium coin cell batteries?**

While fires from lithium coin cell batteries are theoretically possible, it is larger lithium-ion battery packs that are much more likely to cause issues. The smaller the battery, the lower the likelihood of a fire, as smaller batteries have a lower total energy, irrespective of battery chemistry.

However, lithium coin cell batteries can be harmful if a small child swallows one and it gets lodged in their food pipe.

### **More information**

For more about BIPBA visit: <https://bipba.co.uk/>

For advice on button battery safety visit: <https://capt.org.uk/button-battery-safety/>