

Cross-Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

Tuesday 6th June 2023 18:00-20:00

(Scottish Parliament and online)

Minute

Present

MSPs

Clare Adamson (SNP) Convenor

Claire Baker (Lab)

Miles Briggs (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party) (online)

Speakers

Dr Stephen Bridgman PHS (online)

Laura Erskine WSS

Jen Foley WSS

Prof Denise Kendrick Nottingham University (online)

Carlene McAvoy WSS

Katrina Phillips CAPT

James Sullivan WSS

Non-MSP Group Members

Cathy Barlow	SFRS (online)
Chris Bell	SCOTSS (online)
Gill Burton	Scottish Cot Death Trust
Andy Cathro	Safety Advocate (online)
Kevin Chase	Home Safety Scotland
Heather Dewar	Wild Wimmin'
Jim Dorman	St Andrews First Aid
Lorraine Duncan	Clare Adamson's Office
Yvonne Gilfillan	IOSH Scotland
Bill Harley	Fife Safer Communities
Sheena Harper	Safety advocate (online)
Lynn Hill	Fife Safer Communities
Karen Hillen	BEIS (online)
Andrew Jardine	NASUWT
Kathy Jenkins	Scottish Hazards
John Johnston	Technip FMC
Elizabeth Lumsden	RoSPA (Secretariat)
Michelle McKenna	BSI Consumer and Public Interest Network (CPIN) (online)
Andrew McNair	IOSH Scotland
John Nelson	AECOM
Jenny Paterson	Venture Trust/Wild Wimmin'
Konstantina Scott-Barrett	RCPCH (online)
Robert Thomson	Care and Repair Scotland
Alistair Taylor	Clare Adamson's Office

Apologies

Michael Avril	RNLI
Elisa Bevacqua	COSLA
Cllr Maureen Chalmers	COSLA
Emelia Creighton	NHSGGC
Hannah Dale	Division of Health Psychology - Scotland
Gena Falconer	Highland Council
Jill Hepburn	RNLI
Martin Hunt	Tartan Silk
Karter Kane	ESF
Mark Lilley	Safety Advocate
Jan Miller	UWS
Cherie Morgan	Play Scotland
Andy Murray	Canoe Scotland
Lesley Nish	NHS GGC
Dave Roy	Kingdom Housing
Duncan Spiers	Christopher's Life Saving Campaign
Brian Topping	Safety Advocate
Liz Young	Safety advocate

1 Welcome

The convener, Clare Adamson MSP, welcomed everyone to the meeting, highlighting that the theme of the meeting was Child Safety and that this was Child Safety Week. Clare Baker MSP was welcomed to the meeting as was Miles Briggs MSP who was attending online. Clare thanked John Nelson of AECOM for funding the cost of the refreshments. She went on to give thanks to all those who took part in the recent 10 year anniversary celebrations, including the then Minister, Elena Whitham, and expressed how much she enjoyed the evening.

2 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting on 21 March were proposed as accurate by Jim Dorman and seconded by John Nelson.

3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4 AGM

Clare Adamson handed over to Liz Lumsden of RoSPA (Secretariat) to conduct the business of the AGM. Liz thanked the Convenor for her ten years of leadership of the Group. Liz went on to thank all the speakers she had worked with over the years as well as all the members of the Group who had been so supportive and the members of Clare's Parliamentary team. She expressed that RoSPA would be honoured to continue to provide the role of Secretariat. Liz invited nomination for the position of Convenor. Clare Baker MSP (Lab) nominated Clare Adamson MSP and this was Seconded by Kevin Chase. Clare accepted and then nominated Claire Baker as Deputy Convenor, Seconded by Kathy Jenkins. Claire Baker accepted the position. Clare gave tribute to Liz and Carlene and the team at RoSPA for the Secretariat and suggested that RoSPA continue in the role. This was Seconded by Bill Harley. Mark Griffin MSP (Lab) had earlier indicated he would also like to be a Member of the Group.

Annual Return – Clare advised that the Group Annual Return would be submitted within the next 30 days as required by the Standards Committee and asked members to check the website and advise Liz of any required changes.

5 Headlines

Liz Lumsden went over the key points from this edition of the Headlines newsletter – see attached at Appendix A. Clare reminded folks to use this opportunity to share activities and information from their areas.

6 Speakers

The Convenor reminded everyone that all presentation are available on the RoSPA website at [Cross Party Group - RoSPA](#)

Katrina Phillips Child Accident Prevention Trust

Katrina is the Chief Executive of the Child Accident Prevention Trust, a charity working across Scotland and the rest of the UK to keep children safe from serious harm. Katrina thanks Liz for the work that goes on behind the scenes to contribute to these meetings and thanked the Scottish Government and the other sponsors that enable the Child Safety Week resources to be freely available. Katrina highlighted the CAPT approach to Child Safety Week, the topics covered and the resources available. Katrina encouraged the members to visit [Free educational resources | Child Accident Prevention Trust \(capt.org.uk\)](https://www.capt.org.uk) and to stay in touch with CAPT via [Sign up to stay up-to-date | Child Accident Prevention Trust \(capt.org.uk\)](https://www.capt.org.uk)

Professor Denise Kendrick Nottingham University (online)

Denise is Professor of Primary Care Research at the University of Nottingham who has conducted research into risk factors for, and the prevention of, childhood injuries for over 30 years. Denise highlighted what can be learned from the Safe at Home (child safety equipment) scheme in respect of effectiveness and cost-effectiveness and advocated ensuring the long-term funding for child safety equipment schemes.

Claire Baker MSP left the meeting and asked for a copy of Denise's slides. These were sent to Claire on 9/6/23.

Jen Foley and Laura Erskine Water Safety Scotland

Jen is Water Safety Projects Officer with RoSPA and helped to create the water safety education resources for Water Safety Scotland. Laura is Chair of the Education Sub Group for Water Safety Scotland and is Water Safety Education Manager (Scotland) for RNLI. Their presentation highlighted the strategic direction of Water Safety Scotland along with details of where water safety education fits within the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence.

Carlene McAvoy and James Sullivan Water Safety Scotland

Carlene is the Leisure Safety Manager for RoSPA and is an Honorary Fellow with the George Institute for Global Health. She is also the Founder and Secretariat of Water Safety Scotland. James is a Stations Commander in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Chair of Water Safety Scotland. Their presentation focussed on explaining the Drowning and Incident Review system and included case studies.

Dr Stephen Bridgman Public Health Scotland

Stephen is a Consultant in Public Health and Clinical Lead for musculoskeletal disease and injury at Public Health Scotland. Stephen shared key highlights from the currently available

data on unintentional injuries and asked the members to contact him regarding any requested improvements to, or thoughts about, the data. Stephen can be reached at stephen.bridgman@phs.scot

7. Discussion

The Convenor thanked all the speakers and highlighted to Stephen that it would be useful to have access to hospital attendance data but appreciates it would take a lot of work to get this. She went on to give examples of the numerous A&E attendances due to things like liquid laundry capsules and trampoline injuries that did not end up as admissions. Clare also said the lack of A&E data was a common frustration shared by members on data collection in safety policy and that she would like to see Scotland develop an injury surveillance system through A&E data.

Kathy Jenkins requested the inclusion of work-related injuries in the data. Stephen responded that he will take this back to the team at PHS. Clare took this opportunity to mention the Members Bill proposed by Mark Griffin MSP [Proposed Scottish Employment Injuries Compensation Bill | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

Yvonne Gilfillan mentioned her previous work on water safety and site safety in relation to the construction industry and that she was delighted to hear about the water safety education resources. Yvonne asked if WSS was working with the construction industry and Carlene agreed to contact Yvonne to discuss.

Chris Bell highlighted to Stephen the need to have data on products and how the unintentional injuries were caused. Clare suggested that following the theme of falls at the next CPG meeting in November, we consider the data in more detail at the following meeting in February.

Clare mentioned to Denise she thought providing safety equipment was very important and asked what kind of reception her research has had. Denise explained that it was only recently released but that it also only included short term costs and that the potential benefits could be much greater.

Kevin Chase said the coding of data needed to be considered and mentioned the vast differences between ICD10 and ICD11. Kevin went on to highlight the importance of good data to, for example, measure effectiveness of projects such as those involving home adaptations.

Clare thanked the speakers again for their informative presentations and thanked all the members for attending in person and online.

8 Date of the next meetings

The next meeting will have the theme of Falls and will take place on 21st November.

Appendix A:

Headlines Newsletter

Everything you need this Child Safety Week, all in one place

This week is Child Safety Week (5-11 June), and the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) is focusing on the practical, simple things that we can all do to keep children safe.

Accidents often happen when there is a lot going on, which is why it's more important than ever to help families Scotland wide build the confidence and skills in managing the real risks to children's safety through simple safety advice.

Resources to share

CAPT have recently launched a brand new resource centre, making it easier than ever to find free printed and downloadable resources to share with the families you work with, including:

- A Parents' Pack, full of bite sized safety tips that can fit into busy family life.
- Session plans to help support focused activities with families.
- Translated factsheets.

Simple ways to get involved

1. Visit CAPT's [resource centre](#) to find everything you need for Child Safety Week.
2. Follow CAPT on [social media](#) and share posts throughout the week to help reach as many families as possible with simple safety messages.
3. Encourage your colleagues to get involved and [sign up](#) for updates.

CAPT would like to thank the Scottish Government for their support in making Child Safety Week possible.

Submitted by Laura Harris, CAPT

Safety made simple



Parents' pack



Potential reach of CPG

Following a request to forward information to the Secretary, 10% of the membership responded and the following approximations made:

- over 210K newsletter circulation
- Over 30,000 employees
- Around 250k via social media

With only 10% of people responding, it is estimated the potential reach of accident prevention and safety awareness information shared at the Cross Party Group is immense.

Submitted by Liz Lumsden

RoSPA Survey with Young People

RoSPA recently conducted an online survey with young people as part of the UNCRC. The survey link was added to our website [The UNCRC survey on accidental injury - RoSPA](#) along with the following information:

Why are we researching accidental injury in young people?

Accidents can happen in many places including: in the home, on the road, in the workplace and in and around water. We want to learn from young people about the best way to share prevention information so that we can help avoid children and young people suffering from falls, burns and scalds, poisoning, drowning, and the many other accidental injuries often faced on a daily basis. 141 responses were received and indications show us that the key points include:

- Half of all respondents had suffered an accidental injury

Of those injured,

- 46% had a fall
- The most common injuries were cuts and bruises and broken bones
- 46% happened in the home environment
- 24% happened on the roads
- 20% happened in business premises
- Relating to home accidents - the top suggestions for how the accident could have been prevented was 'lessons available at school', 'use of safety gates' and 'better education for parents'
- Relating to accidents on the roads – the top suggestion for how the accident could have been prevented was 'use Stop, Look and Listen'
- In response to the Question 'Who do you think should be responsible for preventing accidents' the answers in order were:
 - - My family

- 'Me'
 - The Government
 - School
 - Emergency services
 - Accident prevention organisations
 - Leaders of youth organisations
- The top three ways the respondents thought were the best ways of getting accident prevention information to them were: Social Media, School/College and Leaflet.

Submitted by Liz Lumsden

Water safety open day

Following the success of last year's inaugural Water Safety Open day, Water Safety Scotland (WSS) and its partners will be hosting the event again in support of World Drowning Prevention Day.

World Drowning Prevention Day is held on July 25 every year and this year's event aims to build on the success of last year. Our key focus is to raise awareness of water safety amongst as many members of the public as we can and to promote an increased knowledge of the potential dangers around water. As well as this, we want to actively encourage people to take part in water-related activities in a safe and enjoyable manner.

Water Safety Scotland, thanks to generous funding and support from Scottish Water, RoSPA, SFRS, Falkirk Council, Police Scotland and Scottish Canals, will be hosting the free water safety open day at the Kelpies/Helix Park in Falkirk from 11am to 3pm on World Drowning Prevention Day (July 25). We will have information stands, demonstrations and activities for children and young people. There will also be prizes to win on the day!

Please come along to support the day and spread the word to colleagues, friends and family!

<https://www.thehelix.co.uk/>

Submitted by Carlene McAvoy

Case study - fall

Details of Sandy's story have been added to the Your Stories section of the RoSPA website. Sandy had a serious fall earlier this year. Please share the link with your contacts to highlight what can go wrong following a fall. Stories can make a difference. They can challenge assumptions, help to raise awareness and empower others to make safer choices. They can mean the difference between a happy ending and tragedy. Read more at [Your Stories - RoSPA](#)



Watch your back

The power of creative learning to achieve a safer and healthier world of work

The coronavirus pandemic and its impact on the world of work has been vast. It acted as a real game changer for the occupational safety and health (OSH) profession as a whole and helped to demonstrate what the profession can really deliver to support people to work, remain in work and return to work.

One place this impact was felt, in particular when it comes to equipping staff with the tools and knowledge they need to possess to adapt as the working world around them evolves, was at Craigie High School in Dundee, Scotland.

Here, we look at the story behind the *Watch Your Back* project. Judith Robertson carried this out in partnership with the the Learning Occupational Health by Experiencing Risks (LOcHER) initiative, along with her ESA3 team and pupils at Craigie High, which

caters to children with special educational needs. Creative learning played a big role in promoting a safer and healthier world of work for all.

The full story

Work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) showed a downward trend before the coronavirus pandemic, but the trend reversed when employees shifted to working from home. In fact, MSDs now make up the second-largest portion of work-related ill health in Great Britain, with [477,000 workers suffering from MSDs in 2021/2022](#). Of these, 139,000 are suffering from a new disorder that began within the 12-month period.

With numbers on the rise, the lack of face-to-face training opportunities over the course of the pandemic played a role in the increase in self-reported MSDs. And that's where Judith Robertson and Craigie High School's story begins. Having been made aware of this context as an issue by retired health and safety officer Andrew Cathro, who's also a member of the LOCHER initiative, and understanding the importance of a safe and healthy working environment for Craigie High's teachers when carrying out various daily tasks, they set about coming up with an original way of highlighting the risks of MSDs so they could be mitigated by the school's staff.

Watch your back for good



As Craigie High's Enhanced Support Area Teacher, Judith worked directly with her ESA3 team and pupil group, catering to children with special educational needs. The project's main goal was to encourage a creative and innovative approach to teaching safer and healthier practices when it came to a range of daily activities across the school for the teachers and broader staff, especially in relation to mitigating the increased risks of MSDs in a post-pandemic era. The pupils started by distributing questionnaires to all teachers and school staff, asking them about back pain, any work-related

musculoskeletal problems, perceptions of lifting heavy goods correctly and any broader requirements for staff development in this area.

From the responses, the pupils developed the training, which they brought to life by reimagining the lyrics to Take That's *I Want You Back* song, which they retitled *Watch Your Back*. The rewritten lyrics focused on teaching staff the safest and healthiest approaches to everyday tasks, from setting up computers to lifting heavy objects correctly.

The next step was to bring their training to life. So the pupils asked teachers and volunteers to participate in a film that visually demonstrated the training concepts in the rewritten lyrics, to clearly identify risks to upper limbs, neck and back when daily tasks are performed without the appropriate training. [Watch Your Back was the film created by these pupils](#), all of whom experience a range of profound and complex needs, including learning and communication difficulties. It also featured Makaton signing throughout for accessibility and as a communication aid.

And the film has been quite the hit, with Judith commenting: "The staff have been blown away by the interest in the film and responses to the film – it really serves as a reminder to us all that what we do is relevant and immensely important towards the development of the young people in our care. It has been so rewarding to have young adults with additional needs represented on a national forum."

The power of creative learning

The results and impact since the release of *Watch Your Back* in August 2022 have been nothing short of significant. Not only are the teachers now working in a healthier and safer environment having taken on board the training and understood the risks in a memorable way, but the positive impact on the pupils has been totally invaluable. Their complex needs had the potential to pose challenges throughout the creative, production and filming process, but Judith's and her team's expertise and trust from the pupils helped to overcome and mitigate those from the outset. That meant that wearing their high-vis vests and playing their role in the film was nothing but a hugely positive and enjoyable experience that's boosted their life skills, in particular team building, self-awareness, confidence and listening skills.

Judith added that "the project provided a brilliant platform for the pupils to think about general health and safety issues". "The pupils gained a tremendous amount of confidence from interacting with staff in the school to initiate the project. They loved designing and making props for the film and practising their signing individually and as a group. Shouting 'STOP' at staff was a real hit, as was seeing themselves performing on film.

The pupils gained an SQA award for their efforts, which was great. They are all really proud of what they have achieved. The training needs identified in our initial questionnaire has now informed the staff training programme moving forward within Craigie High



School."

The

project has been rightfully recognised on multiple occasions as a result of its impact. Its innovative approach made it the winner of The Development Through Education Award at the Safety Groups UK 2022 Awards, which are open to any organisation and industry in Great Britain and Ireland, along with the group receiving the Scottish Chamber of Safety Silver Punch Bowl. Meanwhile, Dundee City Council honoured the pupils and school staff with a civic reception, *pictured above*, which was attended by friends and family along with a number of safety representatives.

Craigie High School's story and the *Watch Your Back* project is an incredible example of the remarkable impact creative learning approaches can have, in particular among a group of pupils whose special educational needs are so varied and complex.

By involving pupils with learning and communication difficulties, and through their involvement celebrating diversity, equality and inclusion, the project showed how everyone can be part of an inspiring story and contribute to health and safety awareness in the workplace.

The project's success also demonstrated how innovative approaches to learning and teaching can be used to address work-related health problems. Andrew's and Judith's approach to encouraging schools and colleges to be more creative in teaching health and safety should inspire others irrespective of background or industry to do the same. By engaging pupils and staff in creative learning approaches, the Craigie High team have shown how it's possible to reduce work-related ill health such as the incidence of work-related MSDs, and promote a safer and healthier working environment for all.

Submitted by Andy Cathro