

Water Safety Scotland
 Minutes of the 12th Meeting held
 6th June 2017
 SFRS, Cambuslang
 1100 - 1500



Item		Action
1.	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Michael Avril, chair of Water Safety Scotland, welcomed everyone to the 12th Water Safety Scotland meeting and thanked everyone for their efforts in attending.</p> <p>A safety briefing was given and round table introductions were made.</p> <p>In Attendance:</p> <p>Robert Hamilton, RhSwim Carlene McAvoy, RoSPA Michael Avril, RNLI Becs Miller, RNLI Stewart Prodger, Scottish Environment Protection Agency Neil Malcolm, Scottish Ambulance Service George Baggley, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Kate Blackwell, Police Scotland/ Fife Project Amanda Woods, RNLI Dan Price-Davies , Aberdeen Water Safety Group Chair Steven Gillies, Police Scotland Iain MacKinnon, Argyll and Bute George Rawlinson, National Water Safety Forum James Jopling, Samaritans in Scotland Gillian Barclay, Family Representative Mark Bryce, SFRS/ Fife Project George Baggley, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Jim Riach, Keep Scotland Beautiful George Parsonage, Glasgow Humane Society William Graham, Glasgow Humane Society</p>	
	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Mike Garfitt, RNLI Jayne Smith, Scottish Swimming David Birrell, Safety Advocate Roddy Macinnes, Aberdeenshire Council Kenny MacDermid, RLSS UK Sally Harris, Scottish Surfing Federation Elizabeth Lumsden, RoSPA Dean Cowper, Scottish Government Dave Rossetter, Glenmore Lodge/Scottish Canoe Association</p>	

	<p>Jane Campbell Morrison, Adventure Activities Licensing Authority Carol Dick, Scottish Water</p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p>Steering Group Report</p> <p>MA explained that the rather than have a separate chair and secretariat report, a Steering Group report would be the new format for the meetings. The full Steering Group report can be found here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A response for the National Drowning Prevention Strategy One Year Review was prepared by the Steering Group which will be included in the NWSF report (due Summer 2017). • The terms of reference has been updated significantly which will be discussed in more detail later in the session. • The RoSPA 2017 conference has brought many new members and requests – one of which being that WSS had been invited to attend the next Building Safer Communities meeting on the 19th June. • The Steering Group has been working on a communication plan following the November 2016 Situational Analysis. • The Response to the UK Drowning Prevention Strategy is still ongoing. The draft is still out for consultation until June 21st. The hope is to have the strategy complete by the end of the year. There will be more on this later in the meeting. • WSS also attended the Beach Mangers Forum which was organised by Keep Scotland Beautiful. • MA suggested that with the success of the 2017 RoSPA conference in collaboration with WSS, a conference should be held every two years. <p>Iain Mackinnon asked about the best way to provide comments on the consultation. Carlene McAvoy responded that all comments and feedback should be sent to watersafetyscotland@rospa.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ALL</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>National Water Safety Forum Update, George Rawlinson</p> <p>GR thanked the group for the invitation to the WSS meeting and the</p>	

	<p>opportunity to provide an update on the NWSF's history and structure. GR remarked how impressed he was with Water Safety Scotland and its development in drowning prevention since he first attended in March 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NWSF began as a result of the Department of Transport recommending through Search and Rescue, that a forum be created in matters of health and safety around water. With huge input from Canals and Transport, RoSPA, RLSS UK and RNLI, the group was established. • A crucial part of the group was the creation of the Water Incident Database which was originally government funded with practical staff from RNLI, RoSPA and the Maritime Coastguard Agency. • More recently, the NWSF launched the UK National Drowning Prevention Strategy. This project took 2 years to complete and featured a soft launch at the National Water Safety Conference in Durham, October 2015. It was later launched in Parliament on February 2016 and supported by the Department of Transport. The response has set five targets which are underpinned by data and collaborative working. It also fulfils the World Health Organisation's 2014 suggestion that every country should have a National Water Safety Plan. • The NWSF has a number of subsidiary groups including: <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Swimming Advisory Group, chaired by British Swimming, which is looking at a school swimming review and school safety in schools.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Beach Safety Advisory Group, chaired by Pembrokeshire County Council. They are focussing on a lifejacket review.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Inland Water Safety Advisory Group, chaired by the Canals and River Trust.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Watersports Safety Advisory Group, chaired by British Aqua Club.</p> • The Forum is also looking into the issue of self harm and is making progress through individual organisations and collectively as a group. • The Forum's groups are all underpinned by WAID data, which has high financial costs. Every year the Forum asks members to donate a minimum of £2000 to sustain and develop (where appropriate) the 	ALL
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	<p>The main changes are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair and Vice Chair will now be elected every 24 months. The reason for this is that 12 months is not sufficient to develop the role. The next vote will be held in September • The secretariat will remain as RoSPA • A membership process has been put in place and can be found on the last page of the document • All potential members must be approved by the Steering Group first before the main group approves them. JJ asked what the response would be if a potential member was unsuitable. MA agreed that the Steering Group would look at this. • There have also been changes to voting and membership. A member can retain voting rights if they attend at least 2 meetings in a 12 month period • All members can invite guests– but information on this must be sent to Secretariat prior to the meeting • Future meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of March, June, September and December. <p>MA explained that the group had until the end of June to share any concerns with the Secretariat at which time the new Terms of Reference will be adopted.</p> <p>MA offered the floor to discussion.</p> <p>JJ asked how a potential organisation could participate in a subgroup but not the full group. MA agreed that the Steering Group would look into this.</p> <p>GB raised the issue that she was the only Family Representative and wondered how more families could get involved. GR suggested that he speak with RLSS UK to see how they currently use families. MA suggested that WSS could have a subgroup specific to this. GR suggested it could be linked through the WSS website.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Steering Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ALL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Steering Group</p>
6.	<p>Argyll and Bute Council Strategy, Iain MacKinnon</p> <p>Iain Mackinnon gave a presentation on Argyll and Bute, its local issues and the Councils Safety Strategy 2016 - 2020. Iain's presentation could be found here.</p> <p>IM finished his presentation by saying that every local authority in Scotland</p>	

	<p>has water in their area and the task for this group is to think about how we can improve water safety.</p> <p>GR suggested that we should try to get all local authorities in Scotland to do include water safety in their safety strategies.</p> <p>Becs Miller asked if the RNLI Swim Scheme had been launched of which GR said that it had and seems to be going well.</p> <p>Discussion took place on how to involve local authorities. CM noted that RoSPA , as part of their ongoing work, had written to every local authority outwith WSS to ask for feedback on the strategy and to promote the group. She also noted that getting water safety into a Community Safety Strategy was a great achievement.</p> <p>Robert Hamilton suggested that each local authority’s Community Swimming Development Officer could be a useful way in.</p> <p>Discussion then took place on swimming pools. GR asked the group if water safety education was in the curriculum in Scotland . BM noted that it was not in the curriculum but has possibility under Health and Wellbeing. GR noted that the Fire Kills programme is useful and has taken place in England. GR will send the group information on this project.</p> <p>SP noted that SEPA have the future possibility of the development of an initiative with Education Scotland through their Community Resilience Officer. Their task will to be review what is in the curriculum and how community resilience fits in.</p>	GR
	Lunch	
7.	<p>Strategy Response Update, Carlene McAvoy</p> <p>Consultation of the draft strategy was launched on the 21st March and will close on the 21st June. The Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness hosted a WSS session on the 29th March which allowed us to gather feedback on the 6 main areas of what we intend to do. This was very useful and gathered a great amount of feedback from a wide range or partners including MSPs Clare Adamson and Stuart McMillan.</p> <p>In addition, the Steering group of Water Safety Scotland has taken responsibility for getting in touch with specific organisations. Note of these organisations can be found here in our steering group minutes. It is also worth</p>	

	<p>noting, that as before, both RoSPA and RLSS UK will be lead facilitators of the strategy subgroup.</p> <p>The subgroup has not yet met to discuss the findings, but preliminary judgement has shown two key focus areas that need more work: Recreation and Suicide. As a result, we are planning two focus groups at RNLI, Perth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation – Facilitated by Michael Avril and Kenny MacDermid • Suicide - Facilitated by Carlene McAvoy and Gillian Barclay <p>We would like to invite anyone who is interested in either or both of these topics to come along. You can register your interest by getting in touch with cmcavoy@rospa.com</p> <p>Timescales- KM was successful in getting Water Safety Scotland a Parliamentary exhibition – this is to be held on the week of November 27th. This exhibition will promote Water Safety Scotland in anticipation of the final strategy which will be launched in late 2017/early 2018. A parliamentary event will be planned for around that time.</p>	
8.	<p>Fife Project Update, Becs Miller and Kate Blackwell</p> <p>Becs Miller and Kate Blackwell delivered a presentation on the Fife Project. The presentation can be found here.</p> <p>JJ asked that whilst using the resource if the presenters draw attention to “danger” spots because in suicide prevention, they try to avoid this. BM noted that the presentation was to give information only and the young people make the final decision on risk themselves. GB noted that they do ask for local beauty spots and areas. KB echoed this saying that it is important to use local knowledge to get the point across.</p> <p>BM noted that they would be continuing to visit schools in Fife and two in Perth. KB noted that it has been difficult to get into some schools, but talking through any concerns or issues with the Headteacher tends to overcome this.</p> <p>RT –suggested that if it was taking too long to get into schools, a better approach may be through local authorities.</p> <p>BM and KB would welcome any suggestions on how to take this forward.</p> <p>William Graham asked if there were any lifebelts at the particular quarry. KB</p>	

noted there were issues with this particular quarry because it was privately owned and there were concerns around responsibility. The site is also used as an active diving site. As a result of these issues, the group decided to focus on the education route in order to reduce incidents.

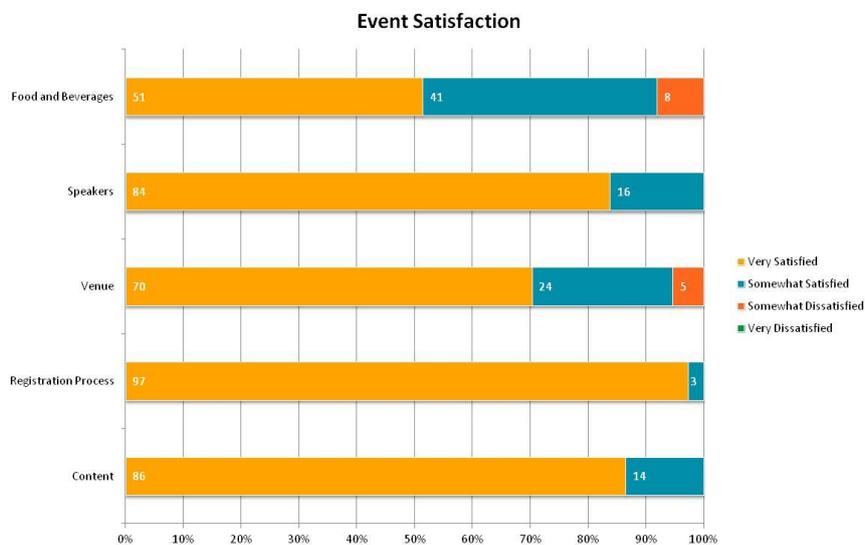
9. 2017 RoSPA Drowning Prevention Conference Update, Carlene McAvoy

The 2017 RoSPA Water Safety Conference had around about 90 delegates. It was delivered in collaboration with Water Safety Scotland and financially supported by the RNLI, RLSS UK and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. CM went on to thank everyone who attended the Conference.

The event started with a keynote address from the Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, Annabelle Ewing. The Minister commended RoSPA and the hard work put in by all the agencies involved and paid particular tribute to those involved in water rescues.

Many delegates ‘signed up’ to the pledge to promote water safety in their area/within their organisation. A photo ‘frame’ was also available and well used to promote water safety on Twitter by using #watersafetypicture. Anneble Ewing was tagged in the picture and retweeted with Michael Avril.

CM showed the group the following graph which showed high level satisfaction with the conference in general:



	<p>would be useful e.g. Dundee, Glasgow</p> <p>BM – suggested that an RNLI dive equipment stand could have been used to make it more interactive.</p> <p>MB questioned the relevance of the resource packs.</p>	
	<p>Individual Updates</p> <p>MA opened the floor for individual updates.</p> <p>Dan Price-Davies talked about the Aberdeen Water Safety Group which was set up after the two fatalities last august. He noted that new signage (4 primary signs, 40 secondary signs) has been developed and will be in place before the summer holidays. These signs follow RNLI guidelines and are there to bring awareness and educate the public who are visiting the beach. The group are also working with RLSS UK to develop a river safety walk for primary schools in the area. It is hopeful that the success of this will allow it to roll out across Aberdeen City.</p> <p>MA echoed the work of the Aberdeen group and congratulated them on the work they had achieved in such a short time.</p> <p>Discussion followed on the new signs which will feature a unique location code e.g. AN 1 – 40. This will be linked with Search and Rescue and the emergency services.</p> <p>George Parsonage noted that the Glasgow Humane Society (GHS) has been in operation since 1790 and is linked with Glasgow City Council. GP suggested that Glasgow City Council should be an example to other councils in Scotland. GHS has published a handbook on Architectural Handbook for Safe Waterways which would be useful for any group. They also have written rules on recreational and professional use of their waterways.</p> <p>GP went onto speak about their work in the standardisation of Water Safety Signage as well as the new GPS and classification codes of location. GP expressed his shock that the group were unaware of this work. GP argued that this is system that everyone should be using – all signage should follow this.</p> <p>You can read more about this on GHS’s website : www.glasgowhumanesociety.com</p> <p>IM commented that he had tried to set up the scheme at Loch Awe but ran</p>	

	<p>into some difficulties.</p> <p>MA suggested that when RNLI wrote their signage recommendations in 2008, there were no other current guidelines. He thanked both Dan and George for their contribution.</p> <p>Stewart Prodger noted that he came as a representative of SEPA to see how work could develop with WSS. SP noted that joint resilience education development work with Scottish Government and Education Scotland has allowed them to gain better understanding and links with the Curriculum for Excellence. This will include further networking events for people interested in community resilience education and could potentially be an area that WSS could get involved with.</p> <p>SP also noted that SEPA will soon be working on developing public facing flood guidance. Currently, the Flood Guidance Statement is a product restricted to category one and two responders. He asked that if anyone in the group felt that such information would be useful to them, then to get in touch.</p> <p>SP informed the group that there had been a recent change in legislation in management of reservoirs and safety, which gives SEPA an active role . This means that SEPA has access to all reservoir point of contacts which could be useful to WSS.</p> <p>Bathing Water signage is used from June to September. SP welcomed ideas on what the signs could be used for outwith this time. GB suggested that water temperature in inland water might be useful. The strategy subgroup had discussed this issue previously and it could be an idea for this signage.</p> <p>MA thanked SP for his contribution.</p> <p>RT mentioned that he was the only open water swimming coach in Scotland but was worried by the amount of people with little or no experience getting together to participate in open water swimming. His aim is to create safe events and use the RLSS National Management Programme to disseminate the message of water safety. RT raised the issue of freedom to roam and how it is likely to open up a number of issues.</p> <p>The group then discussed the issue of freedom to roam.</p> <p>As a result of time constraints, the following updates were provided after meeting :</p>	
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9.	<p>Review of Session</p> <p>MA noted that in 2017 so far, he was aware of 23 fatalities in Scotland.</p> <p>MA thanked the SFRS for their hospitality, venue and food.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on the 5th September. If you are interested in hosting a meeting, please contact watersafetyscotland@rospa.com.</p> <p>MA also asked the members to respond as soon as possible to the invites to meetings. This helps with catering and planning.</p>	ALL

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10.	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>5th September 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Future meeting dates for your diary: 5th December 2017 6th March 2018 5th June 2018 4th September 2018 4th December 2018	ALL