



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 16th Meeting held

5 June 2018

Glasgow City Council Chambers

1100 - 1500

Item		Action
1.	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Michael Avril, chair of Water Safety Scotland (WSS), welcomed everyone to the 16th meeting of WSS and thanked everyone for attending.</p> <p>A safety briefing was given and round table introductions were made.</p> <p>In Attendance:</p> <p>Members</p> <p>Michael Avril, RNLI Gillian Barclay, Family Representative Grant Donaldson, Scottish Water Jennifer Gracie, Samaritans in Scotland William Graham, Glasgow Humane Society Ross Greenhill, HMCG Robert Hamilton, RH Swim Roger Lockwood, RNLI Kenny MacDermid, RLSS UK Sharon MacDonald, Scottish Swimming Colin MacDougall, NHS Tayside Carlene McAvoy, RoSPA George Parsonage, Glasgow Humane Society George Rawlinson, NWSF Dave Rossetter, Glenmore Lodge, SCA</p> <p>Guests/Speakers</p> <p>Stuart Ballantine, Trossachs SAR Brian Devlin, Trossachs SAR Mike Dunn, RLSS UK Carol Raeburn, RNLI Julie Robertson, Police Scotland Andy Waddell, Glasgow City Council</p>	
	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>George Baggley, SFRS Yvonne Beresford, West Lothian Council David Birrell, Volunteer Jane Campbell Morrison, AALS</p>	



Water Safety Scotland

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5 June 2018
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1100 - 1500

	<p>Stewart Griffiths, DuckStew Michelle Harrity, Scottish Government Natalie Innis, Aberdeenshire Council Iain MacKinnon, Argyll and Bute Council Neil Malcolm, SAS Kevin Paterson Jane Pritchard, Perth and Kinross Council Ryan Tozer, Ipowerboat</p>	
2.	<p>Steering Group Report</p> <p>The full Steering Group report can be accessed here. The main points can be found below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Roles and Responsibilities document and Terms of Reference have been finalised. A revised MOU with the NWSF is also under development• A stakeholder analysis was completed at the last Steering Group meeting and new organisations are now being contacted to join WSS• WSS have been working with the Scottish Government to help plan events in water safety across Scotland• The campaigns section of the website has been updated but is still under development.	
3.	<p>Minutes from Previous Meeting Held on 6th March, 2018</p> <p>A) Accuracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were no amendments to the previous Minutes. <p>B) Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were no matters arising from the meeting. <p>The Minutes were proposed by Dave Rossetter and seconded by Robert Hamilton.</p>	
4.	<p>Action Points</p> <p>MA read the through the previous action points from December 2017 and noted that there were two outstanding actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MA will get in touch with SEPA to check their outstanding action• RG noted that information on HMCG campaigns will be passed on once available.	MA



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 16th Meeting held
5 June 2018
Glasgow City Council Chambers
1100 - 1500

	<p>MA also read the previous actions from March 2018. RoSPA have a number of outstanding actions, which Dave Walker is working on. All the information on the actions is available here.</p>	
5.	<p>Terms of Reference</p> <p>CM talked through the Terms of References updates. The main change to the ToR is the reduction of meetings from 4 to 3 per year. There have also been changes to the accountability section. The document also now matches the main aims and objectives of Scotland’s Drowning Prevention Strategy.</p> <p>There were no comments or objections to note. The Terms of Reference will be signed by the Chair.</p> <p>MA thanked CM and KM on their work on the Terms of Reference.</p>	MA
6.	<p>Participation levels, uptake and challenges in school swimming, Sharon MacDonald</p> <p>SM provided an overview of school swimming in Scotland. SM’s presentation focussed on a number of different aspects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • why swimming is important • the main challenges of school swimming in Scotland • the work so far of Scottish Swimming (including the Top Up Swimming Programme, Ministerial visit and Parliamentary reception in 2017) • what Scottish Swimming would like to see <p>SM’s full presentation is accessible here.</p> <p>Questions were then welcomed.</p> <p>DR asked where the research into cognitive benefits around school swimming came from.</p> <p>SM noted there were two new international research papers which focused on this. MA asked if the group could get links to this and SM agreed.</p>	SM



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 16th Meeting held
5 June 2018
Glasgow City Council Chambers
1100 - 1500

<p>DR then discussed licensing and issues of ratio and qualification. A discussion on this then took place by the group.</p> <p>BD suggested that 6 weeks is not enough time to teach 25 children of different swimming capabilities. SM responded that the Top Up Programme attempted to remedy this.</p> <p>GR asked if the work of Scottish Swimming looked at the research and recommendations to Government by Swim England. SM noted that they had a relationship with Swim England and the recommendations could be useful but the issue for Scotland is that school swimming is not a statutory curriculum item. SM also noted that despite it being part of the curriculum in England, the situation does not seem to be different. This however might change with Ofsted inspections.</p> <p>MA asked what the National Standard is in Scotland for swimming. SM noted that the standard is the National Silver Standard which means that a person can do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swim 25m• Float on their front and back• Tread water for 30 seconds• Enter/exit the pool safely• Submerge their head <p>MA asked if there was anything around hazards. SM confirmed that it was only around swimming. MA then asked if Scottish Swimming was aware of the percentage of children who achieve this standard.</p> <p>SM noted that initially it was believed that 40% of children who leave school could not swim but it is now believed to be much higher. The statistics on this are hard to monitor.</p> <p>RH highlighted some research that looked into this as well as other aspects of swimming. SM believed that this was outdated and current statistics are incomplete.</p> <p>GB asked if there was a local authority that WSS could promote. SM suggested that WSS could help with political influence and noted Glasgow City Council as a great example of school swimming in Scotland.</p> <p>DR asked if there was much difference in more remote areas. SM noted there is better cover in cities but transport continues to be the main</p>	
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Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 16th Meeting held
5 June 2018
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1100 - 1500

	<p>issue. The group then discussed some local practice in North Lanarkshire.</p> <p>GP thanked SM for her presentation and noted that he wrote an open letter about the availability of swimming in Glasgow City. GP highlighted that rather than money being spent on fencing up quarries, money should be spent on swimming availability. SM noted that some research carried out in 2009 around free swimming showed that as a standalone measure, it was ineffective. Only with free swimming lessons was it found to be effective.</p> <p>The group finished by discussing further local practice and initiatives such as the Fife School initiative and North Lanarkshire Crucial Crew.</p>	
7.	<p>WAID update, Carlene McAvoy</p> <p>CM provided a short update on the 2017 WAID figures. The report on the 2017 figures is available here.</p> <p>JR asked how Scotsid links up to WAID. CM explained that it currently does not link up but it is hoped that this relationship can be developed.</p> <p>DR asked if there was still scope to get more specific information e.g. on paddling. MA noted that it would be useful to have this in writing to feed back to WAID. CM also noted that at the last meeting, Dave Walker had asked for feedback on WAID and what members would like to see. Any feedback should be sent onto the secretariat.</p> <p>GR went on to discuss the data and noted that specialist reports can be undertaken but the issue is around resourcing. The Forum is keen to solve the main issues of WAID and make the data as best as it can be.</p> <p>A discussion then took place on near misses. DR pointed out that WAID is the most critical thing and nothing has changed – the data the NGBs need is still not available. GR noted that the financial implications to WAID are the issue here and if NGBs or other organisations were able to invest then things could be different.</p> <p>MD noted that a current pilot is running with one of the Fire Services in England which is looking to capture non-fatal data.</p>	ALL



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 16th Meeting held

5 June 2018

Glasgow City Council Chambers

1100 - 1500

<p>CMac discussed the issue of flash flooding in Perthshire and the potential gap of capturing near misses and pre information on conditions. GR noted that this sort of information was not available on WAID but flood warnings would be available via MCA and SEPA.</p> <p>GP asked if Scottish Rowing were involved with WAID. GR noted he was unsure and CM noted that no Scottish NGBs are currently sign up to WAID.</p> <p>CM also noted that the data subgroup was being set up but only herself, GB and MA were interested. If anyone is keen to be involved, please get in touch with watersafetyscotland@rospa.com</p> <p>MA also noted that the recreational subgroup was also available to sign up to.</p> <p>JR asked how Police Scotland were providing data to WAID as there is no collation of drowning statistics in Police Scotland. CM confirmed this and noted the link with Police Scotland is not strong but that it would be great to discuss improvement.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
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Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 16th Meeting held
5 June 2018
Glasgow City Council Chambers
1100 - 1500

8.	<p>Suicide Prevention Subgroup Update, Jennifer Gracie</p> <p>The Suicide Prevention subgroup had its first meeting to discuss the Scottish Government Suicide Prevention Plan. JG noted that there was real value in the subgroup coming together. The next meeting is likely to take place once the new action plan has been published. JG also noted that James Jopling would be giving evidence to Parliament on suicide prevention next week.</p> <p>CMac noted that he informed the national Choose Life group about the subgroup and it would be good to use them to help with WSS in trying to achieve its aims in suicide prevention.</p> <p>MA asked if the group was happy with the process of the subgroup. The group agreed.</p> <p>GP asked the group if they knew anything about the costs and effectiveness of lifeline telephones as there are a number of people in the local Glasgow area who are asking for them to be put in place.</p> <p>JG noted that volunteers have put the current Samaritans lifelines in place but there is not a lot of specific research into their effectiveness. CMac noted that he has links with Dundee University and could ask for research on the issue.</p> <p>A discussion then followed on vandalism around lifebelts and lifelines.</p> <p>GP noted that the group might be interested to know that the Samaritans stickers are included on all Glasgow lifebelts. He also noted that the question of lifelines would be coming to WSS soon from the public. MA noted that the Steering Group will discuss this.</p>	<p>CMac</p> <p>SG</p>
	Lunch	
9.	<p>Education Subgroup Update, Kenny MacDermid</p> <p>KM noted that due to diary constraints, there has not been a meeting for several months. The next meeting date will be August 6th 2018 (information to follow). The group will be looking at how to take forward the education objectives of the Drowning Prevention Strategy.</p>	



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 16th Meeting held
5 June 2018
Glasgow City Council Chambers
1100 - 1500

10.	<p>Scottish Government Opportunities, Michael Avril</p> <p>MA discussed a number of opportunities around water safety and the Scottish Government. Annabelle Ewing, Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs will be attending a day on water safety on 20th June 2018. She will start at Helensburgh RNLI lifeboat station before a round table discussion on recreation.</p> <p>There have been a number of targeted invitations for the roundtable discussion. KM then noted that some people have not responded and asked for responses.</p> <p>CM noted that the Minister attending a day on Water Safety was a massive achievement and urged all members to attend the meeting on June 20th and show support.</p> <p>MA also noted that the Scottish Government have funded 2500 drawstring kit bags. MA asked the members to look for any resources that could be useful for the bag and send the information onto watersafetyscotland@rospa.com . The bags are likely to be distributed by the Minister or by Commonwealth athletes.</p> <p>DR noted that he thought it was excellent for the Minister to attend a roundtable discussion on water safety and recreation but the invitations for the meeting were late and confusing. There was general confusion over the purpose of the meeting.</p> <p>KM noted that he was unaware of the plan for the roundtable until Friday and that it is not a WSS event but is instead a Scottish Government initiative. DR noted that he was under the impression it was a WSS event.</p> <p>MA noted that he was committed to ensuring the event and drawstring bags are a success.</p>	ALL
11.	<p>A consistent approach to water safety education, Carol Raeburn and Mike Dunn</p> <p>CR and MD gave an overview of partnership working in order to improve drowning prevention education. Their presentation looked at the evidence of what has an effect on reducing drownings, shared messaging and Drowning Prevention Week.</p>	



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 16th Meeting held
5 June 2018
Glasgow City Council Chambers
1100 - 1500

	<p>Their full presentation can be found here.</p> <p>DR asked if the information on activities looks at what happens when things go wrong. MD responded that currently it does not and focuses more on the main messages of prevention and stopping young people from putting themselves at risk.</p> <p>DR also asked if the behaviours that people are expected to have from those activities have been linked with experts from NGBs. MD noted that they have not but would welcome NGBs to join the conversation.</p>	
12.	<p>NWSF update, George Rawlinson</p> <p>GR noted his support for WSS and issued a number of updates on behalf of the Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall direction of figures from WAID has shown that fatalities across the UK have fallen to below 600. The Forum is cautiously optimistic that things are changing • The Forum has gone through a governance review which has highlighted four potential ways for the NWSF to operate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue with a collaborative approach 2. Take the lead and deliver action based activities 3. Look at the groups role in advocacy 4. A mixture of all of the above <p>The review has also looked at structure, communication and membership. If anyone is interested in commenting on the review, then get in touch with the Secretariat.</p> • The UK DPS review has revealed three things: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Although the Forum has faced difficulties, there are pockets of excellent world-class practice and the past 5 years has shown progress. 2. It is important to have a plan for 2019/20 to focus organisations on the key things that should be achieved. 3. Although the DPS had a soft launch – people are taking notice of the Forum and its work. • The Forum is also keen to focus on WAID and really work for it • The relationship with Wales is improving (they are looking to create a strategy) and influence is clear in Ireland where a 	ALL



Water Safety Scotland

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5 June 2018
Glasgow City Council Chambers
1100 - 1500

	<p>National Strategy has been launched.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MCA is currently working on an Independent review around landownership as result of the Camber Sands incident. Anyone who wants to get involved or is interested, please get in touch. 	ALL
13.	<p>Individual updates</p> <p>MA plans to work over the next few months on the next WSS meeting and the Suicide Prevention subgroup. RNLI will also be working with CM and KM to ensure the success of the work with the Scottish Government. MA also noted that as a member of the NWSF, he is required to comment back on the governance review on behalf of WSS.</p> <p>CM noted that RoSPA has been working on a number of different things. Firstly, an analysis of the current WAID data was undertaken and an annual trend report for Water Safety Scotland produced. Secondly, RoSPA are about to launch a survey on local authority perspectives to water safety. This research is a follow on from the original research in 2013 (Info here). Thirdly, as per the suggestions from the last meeting around the RoSPA research on fatalities of males aged 60 – 69 year old men in Scotland, RoSPA have started to reach out to anglers and looked at our safety messaging. An article for Trout Fisherman Magazine is currently underway.</p> <p>RH noted that the season for open swimming is now underway with water temperature reaching the double figures. RH introduces people (weekly) to do open water swimming in a safe way. They have a series of events that have taken place around this and still to come. Events are as follows:</p> <p>23rd & 24th May 24 Hr Swim 4th August Length of Loch Lubnaig 18th August River Spey Whisky Swim 10k 8th September Length of Loch Earn Swim 22nd September Firth of Forth Swim Crossing</p> <p>SB provided an update on the SAR Trossachs, which are now in their 20th year. The group is ensuring that all personnel are trained to the same standard. They are also working on flood prevention and response in anticipation for winter.</p>	



Water Safety Scotland

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<p>RG noted that HMCG have been busy and supported the NFCC Water Safety Week in April. They also recently had a meeting in Bruar following a number of incidents. Signage will be put in place but the challenge is to get the right balance as the area is used for commercial activities. They have also trained staff at Atholl estates and House of Bruar on how to use public rescue equipment. HMCG also ran a major exercise with a number of Emergency Services successfully.</p> <p>JG noted that the Samaritans in Scotland's main work has been with the Scottish Government action plan. The plan is as comprehensive as it can be and it is anticipated to help produce change.</p> <p>CMac updated the group and noted that he is working through locations of concern in Tayside.</p> <p>DR noted that it is a busy time of year for paddlesport and there have been a number of near misses. Learning reports are being developed as a result. There was also a recent incident in the River Tummel where a kayaker died. A learning report is anticipated to come from this.</p> <p>RL noted that RNLI has relaunched the Float to Live campaign which had good coverage last year and proved to be effective.</p> <p>GR noted that he attended the SAR volunteer conference and gave a presentation on the NWSF with MCA. GR noted that the link for SAR organisations becoming more active in prevention is happening.</p> <p>CR noted that RNLI have been busy with school visits – 523 for this quarter alone. CR noted that the new Float to Live message is well understood by children but not so much by parents. More work therefore needs done educating families.</p> <p>KM wanted to make the group aware of Drowning Prevention Week on 15th – 25th June. He asked the group to get involved even if it is just sharing information on the campaign.</p> <p>GB noted that the Fife Schools have a number of visits coming up.</p> <p>Information received via email:</p> <p>Argyll and Bute Council - Plans to hold a multi-agency live exercise at Loch Awe to test the response of the police, fire, coastguard and LochWatch. Argyll and Bute is also Issuing general safety messages to</p>	<p>ALL</p>
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Water Safety Scotland

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	<p>visitors during peak periods for water based activities.</p> <p>LochWatch Loch Awe- The patrol boat is in action around Loch Awe most weekends and bank holidays. Safety advice is issued with the greatest concern continuing to be the lack of lifejackets being worn on the water. Also additional volunteers to act as loch spotters have been signed up.</p>	
14.	<p>Close</p> <p>MA thanked everyone for attending. He also thanked the speakers, Glasgow City Council and George Parsonage for hosting the meeting and supplying the lunch.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on 9th October. If you are interested in hosting a meeting, please contact watersafetyscotland@rospa.com</p>	ALL