



## Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting held  
24<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
Xcite Livingston  
1100 - 1500

Item		Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Introduction</b></p> <p>Michael Avril (MA), chair of Water Safety Scotland (WSS), welcomed everyone to the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of WSS.</p> <p>Michael noted that the Spiers who were due to speak have been unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances.</p> <p>A safety briefing was given and round table introductions were made.</p> <p><b>Present:</b></p> <p><b>Members –</b></p> <p>Michael Avril, RNLI Stuart Ballantyne, Trossachs SAR Jason Burns Sweeney, Scottish Canals Yvonne Beresford, West Lothian Council Graham Dutton, Aberdeen Water Safety Group Robert Hamilton, RH Swim Jim Hume, Support in Mind Mairi Gordon, Samaritans in Scotland Victoria Gibbons, Angus Council Stephen Lyon, RLSS UK Carlene McAvoy, RoSPA Ian Prosser, STA Taylor Setton, Trossachs SAR Michelle Stokes, East Ayrshire Council Dave Walker, NWSF Joanne Wibberely, Fife Project Chris Smith, SFRS Michelle Stokes, East Ayrshire Council Lorraine Gillies, SCSN</p> <p><b>Guests</b></p> <p>Gareth Morrison, RNLI</p>	



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	<p><b>Apologies received:</b></p> <p>Chelsea Charles, Visit Scotland Jane Campbell Morrison, AALS Clive Lewis, East Dunbartonshire Council Roger Lockwood, RNLI Colin MacDougal, NHS Tayside Brian McCarthy, Scottish Water Helen Miller, North Ayrshire Council Fiona Paterson, Scottish Swimming Kevin Paterson, Volunteer Jane Pritchard, Perth and Kinross Council George Rawlinson, NWSF Gena Falconer (Unable to skype in)</p>	
2.	<p><b>Steering Group Report</b></p> <p>The full Steering Group report can be accessed <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Minutes from Previous Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b></p> <p>Accuracy:</p> <p>There were no amendments to the previous Minutes.</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the meeting.</p> <p>The Minutes were proposed by Graham Dutton and seconded by Stephen Lyon.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Action Points</b></p> <p>MA read through the previous actions from the June meeting.</p> <p>MA noted JJ has stepped down from his post in Samaritans in Scotland and so those actions are still ongoing.</p> <p>Other actions were updated and closed. They can be viewed online <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Voting for Chair &amp; Vice Chair of WSS</b></p>	



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	<p>Michael Avril was unanimously agreed by the group to continue as chair. All were in favour of this decision.</p> <p>Unfortunately RLSS UK have decided to step down from the Vice Chair role of WSS. Our regulations and rules indicate that the remaining SG will appoint an interim Vice Chair until is was voted in.</p> <p>Going forward if anyone wants to be considered for the role then please get in touch with CM or MA and the Roles and Responsibilities will be sent on.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>NWSF Update</b></p> <p>DW provided an update on the NWSF and the update to the Forums governance. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The coordinating group has been going through the recommendations to make decisions. DW is currently working on an updated ToR. This has just been passed by the RoSPA Board – the next step is for it to be passed at the AGM</li> <li>• NWSF in its current form will stay as it is – an advisory committee to RoSPA</li> <li>• NWSF has broadened the coordinating group – WSS has a seat at the group</li> <li>• Looking at responsibilities for WAID and the Drowning Prevention Strategy and how organisations link into the NWSF</li> <li>• Also working toward a new WAID system</li> </ul> <p>MA asked if the ToR can be shared with the WSS members. DW agreed once it has been passed at the RoSPA AGM.</p>	<p><b>DW</b></p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>WAID Update</b></p> <p>DW provided an update on WAID v2. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• V1 is an old system and is at its end of life</li> <li>• Work so far: updated the taxonomy, aligned data to new</li> </ul>	



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	<p>taxonomy and invested in using Power BI (cost roughly £25,000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also commissioned an independent review of GDPR and risks</li> <li>• Now looking at securing a project manager to start the build of v2 and potential options</li> <li>• Parallel to this they are looking at funding options</li> <li>• Next steps – sign of WAID v2 spec, appoint contractor, workshops for contractor to refine technical and functional specification then deal with any gaps in funding. The build will hopefully take place early next year.</li> </ul> <p>MA asked what advantages we would get out of v2. Firstly changes for the WAID team will mean less resources/times and also v2 has the new taxonomy which is more detailed and more along lines of what the strategy needs.</p> <p>MA asked about GDPR issues in Scotland for signups. DW noted that the GDPR consultants said the forms are solid so we just need to go back to the Scottish organisations who have pointed out any issues.</p> <p>MA asked about near misses. DW noted it is fundamental to v2.</p> <p>DW also noted the RoSPA Water Safety Conference will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> November in London. Link here: <a href="https://www.rosipa.com/events/showcase/water-safety-conference">https://www.rosipa.com/events/showcase/water-safety-conference</a></p> <p>MA thanked DW for his time.</p> <p>MS asked how SFRS and Police Scotland are involved in WAID. CM responded that Police Scotland have confirmed they do not capture drowning fatality data and work with SFRS is ongoing.</p> <p>YB asked about coroners reports and how that links to WAID.</p> <p>CM noted that in England FAIS are mandatory for certain drownings but in Scotland it is voluntary. The Data subgroup is taking forward a document on the comparison on this with the hope to improve Procurator Fiscal involvement and data in Scotland.</p>	
8.	<p><b>The need for Public Rescue Equipment</b></p> <p>Stuart Ballantyne provided an update on the Spiers campaign as he sits</p>	



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	<p>on the Glasgow Water Safety Group (the Spiers sent their apologies) along with a few others on the group.</p> <p>Key point of the campaign is that the council agreed to look at different coloured rope that is unique and attach this to lifebelts to cut down on theft.</p> <p>CM discussed the political picture and issues around legislation. There was a discussion on legislation, what WSS would want (perhaps something more e.g. Local Authority policies) and discussion around vandalism, technology and education.</p> <p>JH asked about data or studies around the use of lifebelts. CM suggested the data subgroup could do a short literature review on this.</p> <p>VG suggested that ropes could be made less appealing. Discussion on this followed.</p> <p>SB noted that Stirling has set up a water safety group. RNLI and RoSPA to get involved.</p> <p>MG noted that they have put lifelines around the Clyde so could monitor effectiveness and feedback.</p>	<p><b>Data Subgroup</b></p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Branding Guidelines for Events</b></p> <p>CM noted that WSS has always had branding guidelines which can be accessed via <a href="mailto:watersafetyscotland@rospa.com">watersafetyscotland@rospa.com</a></p> <p>SL discussed the specific branding guidelines for events which at the last meeting was not passed. The SG has updated this based on feedback and put focus back on the organisation running the event.</p> <p>The group discussed this and RH suggested that a method statement be added on how they would deliver the activity prior to the risk assessment. There was discussion on event plans and method statements.</p> <p>The SG will look to add method statement/event plan as well as public liability to the guideline for approval at the next meeting (Feb 2020)</p> <p>JH noted about dual branding wording and asked if it can be changed to</p>	<p><b>STEERIN G GROUP</b></p>



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	“joint branding”.	
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Data Subgroup Update</b></p> <p>The subgroup met on the 10<sup>th</sup> September. Minutes can be accessed on the WSS website. Key developments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WAID sign-ups are increasing from councils and partners</li> <li>• NRS data comparison project is complete and was generally found to be consistent. It is hoped that NRS will conduct an annual comparison with WAID data</li> <li>• The subgroup is developing the first draft of the comparative document between English and Scots law around FAIs and inquests. The group is hopeful the document will be available in the next six months</li> </ul> <p>JH noted that ISD data might be useful especially around suicide statistics. CM asked if we could link up to discuss this.</p> <p>SB also noted SAS data - CM suggested this would be of interest and asked for any details to be passed on.</p> <p>MG also noted a potential link for suicide data. MG to send on details to CM.</p>	<p><b>JH/CM</b></p> <p><b>SB</b></p> <p><b>MG</b></p>
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Suicide Prevention Subgroup Update</b></p> <p>James Joplin has left the chief executive role at Samaritans in Scotland and so no meetings have taken place. MA has been working with MG and has agreed to chair the suicide prevention subgroup for the next meeting. There is a current doodle poll for an October meeting.</p>	
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Education Subgroup Update</b></p> <p>SL noted that the most recent minutes and the position table for this group can be found online. Main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently consulting with Scottish Swimming and how they can support WSS and the education subgroup (especially regarding swimming uptake)</li> <li>• Looking to create a benchmark standard of what water safety education would look like. If anyone wants to feed back then</li> </ul>	



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	<p>contact SL or WSS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conducting a situational analysis on what water safety education activities are happening across Scotland e.g. Fife Project Best practice will then be created. The Fife Project looking to update the presentation so it can be used across Scotland branded as WSS and available for any member to use.</li></ul> <p>YV asked how long the presentation is. JW noted it was about 35 – 40 minutes and is very interactive.</p>	
13.	<p><b>Year of Coast &amp; Waters 2020 Subgroup</b></p> <p>CM noted that JCM and CC were not at the current meeting and so CM provided an update on the subgroup activities. The full minutes and position table can be accessed online.</p> <p>CM showed the draft message. CC noted that SFRS said they would not use 112 but SB noted its potential benefits.</p> <p>The subgroup will look into its use.</p>	<b>YCW2020 Subgroup</b>
14.	<p><b>Recreation Subgroup</b></p> <p>MA provided an update on the recreation subgroup. Work is currently underway to identify any existing groups which could be part of or form a Sports National Governing Bodies Group. The Outdoor Group was identified as a possible alternative and an invite to the meeting was emailed through to the WSS steering group. Unfortunately, we are unable to attend due to other commitments and have asked for dates for future meetings.</p> <p>The generic message for YoCW2020 is going well and could be used as a starter for sports NGBs to look at their own safety messaging which can be hosted on their websites.</p> <p>Once the Outdoor Group has been visited we will make a decision on which direction the sub group will go in.</p>	



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15.	<p><b>RoSPA/WSS Conference</b></p> <p>RoSPA's Water Safety Conference in collaboration with Water Safety Scotland will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Please keep this date free.</p> <p>RoSPA, RNLI, SFRS and Scottish Water have pledged funding for the conference. It will also be supported by the YCW2020.</p> <p>If you have any ideas for speakers or topics, please get in touch with <a href="mailto:cmcavoy@rospa.com">cmcavoy@rospa.com</a></p>	
16.	<p><b>Individual Updates</b></p> <p>CM noted that RoSPA is about to undertake a 6 month carry on evaluation of the RoSPA/RNLI water safety policy workshops. They have also begun a project in water safety with Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. RoSPA is also speaking at the EU Safety Conference in Luxemburg in October on water safety policies in Scotland.</p> <p>YB noted that West Lothian was looking at prevention through education. The Council also continues to monitor antisocial behaviour around water. The 2019 – 2022 action plan is now available online and although water safety is not within the five main category areas it still remains a priority for the partnership.</p> <p>SB mentioned the Stirling water safety group and importance of linking in with RoSPA Loch Lomond work and RNLI. Trossachs SAR have also been out doing visits on water safety.</p> <p>JH discussed the Rural Mental Health Forum of which WSS is a member. JH noted he is also heavily involved with the Suicide Prevention Action Plan. JH invited members of the group to get involved.</p> <p>VG discussed the new initiative in Angus which ties in well with SDPS around suicide and Angus cliffs. The council have identified landowners in a stretch of land they want to work on and are in discussion about improved signage and information from Samaritans.</p>	



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Information paper to be circulated with minutes.

GD provided an update on AWSG. The policy from Aberdeen City Council is still ongoing and primary signage has still not gone up. GD noted there are no guidelines or policies for renting and using swimming pools. A discussion followed on this with input from other members.

JBS noted that Scottish Canals are looking at expanding their user operations on the canal. Previously Scottish Canals would open the canal locks for you but this will now move to the users themselves. Scottish Canals are now reviewing their risk assessments around the lock infrastructure to make it safer. Also looking at education resources and are interested in the Fife Project presentation when it is ready.

MG provided an update on Samaritans in Scotland. Suicide data for 2018 came out during the summer – suicides have increased especially for young people under 25. Samaritans are now reviewing their messaging and are working with NHS Health Scotland on a joint seminar for locations of concerns.

IP provided an update on STA and success of International Learn to Swim programme. They have also recruited water safety ambassadors (children providing peer to peer education).

RH provided an update on RH Swim. RH noted that recreational activities are increasing with very little water safety knowledge or messaging. RH also noted he is putting together a CSW CPD training day which will include a practical element on 11<sup>th</sup> November in Loch Awe.

CC provided an update on SFRS and their engagement with schools in Perth and Kinross (in a similar format to Fife Group). Moray and Aberdeenshire have done some fundraising for life rings and info for River Spey areas as well as education.

MS provided an update on East Ayrshire Council. The Council has finalised a water safety policy which they are happy to share. They have also created a water safety group for the area and are looking at implementing the policy and making sure departments are taking a risk based approach. Also doing education presentations with SFRS across all schools.

JW provided an update for RNLI from Laura Erskine. RNLI continues to



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	<p>provide education across Scotland and is now working with SEPA RNLI is also working with RLSS UK at the Scottish Learning Festival and during Drowning Prevention Week. JW also did some police training at Portobello as many officers were unaware how to put a life jacket on. JW also noted that last year there five call outs for inflatables and this year there has only been one.</p> <p>SL provided an update on RLSS UK and Don't Drink and Drown. The next phase is in December. The Commonwealth festival is going to be in Leeds in November. RLSS UK has also been doing small seminars called "Small Talks" to provide updates and engage the charity more. RLSS UK has also taken on a youth leadership role (one in Scotland) to get youth more engaged in RLSS UK and water safety. IQL has been shortlisted for innovation of the year award</p> <p>MA read Argyll and Bute's update (see attached report)</p> <p>GM wanted to note RNLIs continued committed to WSS and recognise that WSS is leading the way in the UK.</p>	
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Close</b></p> <p>MA thanked everyone for attending. He also thanked the speakers and RLSS UK for hosting the meeting and lunch.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held 11am-3pm on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Location TBC.</p>	