



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 21st Meeting held

4th February 2020

HMCG, Aberdeen

1100 - 1500

Item		Action
1.	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Michael Avril (MA), chair of Water Safety Scotland (WSS), welcomed everyone to the 21st meeting of WSS.</p> <p>A safety briefing was given by RG and round table introductions were made.</p> <p>Present:</p> <p>Members –</p> <p>Michael Avril, RNLI Chris Smith, SFRS Carlene McAvoy, RoSPA Dave Rossetter, SCA/Glenmore Lodge Jane Campbell Morrison, AALS Roger Lockwood, RNLI Ross Greenhill, HMCG Ruth Scott, Forestry Commission Ian Prosser, STA (skype) Stephen Lyon, RLSS UK Mairi Gordon, Samaritans Scotland (skype) Brian McCarthy, Scottish Water Graham Dutton, Sport Aberdeen Karin Bloodworth, SEPA Jon Glenn, Swim England Shelley Hague, Angus Council</p>	



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	<p>Apologies received:</p> <p>Jim Hume, Support in Mind Scotland Jane Pritchard, Perth and Kinross Council David Doran, East Ayrshire Council Yvonne Beresford, West Lothian Council Clive Lewis, East Dunbartonshire Council Robert Hamilton, RH Swim Lorraine Gillies, SCSN Iain MacKinnon, Argyll and Bute Council Hannah Blair, Pinkston Watersports Chelsea Charles, Visit Scotland Jason Burns Sweeney, Scottish Canals</p>	
2.	<p>Steering Group Report</p> <p>MA read out the Steering Group report which can be accessed online here.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes from Previous Meeting held on 24th September 2019</p> <p>Accuracy:</p> <p>There were no amendments to the previous Minutes.</p> <p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the meeting.</p> <p>The Minutes were proposed by Brian McCarthy (BM) and seconded by Graham Dutton (GD).</p> <p>The approved Minutes can be accessed here.</p>	
4.	<p>Action Points</p> <p>MA read through the previous actions from the September meeting. Outstanding actions were updated and closed. They can be viewed online here.</p>	



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5.	Vice Chair of Water Safety Scotland CM noted RLSS UK have stepped down as Vice Chair and SFRS have taken over. CM asked for the group to confirm this change. RG proposed SFRS as being vice chair and JCB seconded it.	
6.	The work of HMCG RG provided an overview of the work of the Maritime Coastguard Agency. The presentation can be found online here: JCM asked about British crew and international regulations. RG noted that international crew can qualify here to British standards. MA asked where the aircrafts (for monitoring of lifejacket use) is based. RG responded that it is based at Swindon but will fly around UK waters. MA asked about location rescues. RG noted that they have a number of systems to look at local areas in order to zoom in on exact locations for rescue. A discussion followed on the what3words and its debate (as not all emergency services use it and it is a run by a private company). HMCG however has the ability to use the information now to pinpoint locations. The system is GPS based for use outside data zones.	
7.	NWSF Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• JG provided an update on the NWSF. Key points:• Last coordinating group meeting looked at the future of the NWSF and finance• WAID database is now in the discovery phase• A communications and messages workshop was held to discuss a comms plan and one message. The group agreed that one campaign will be agreed by the NWSF for use this year. DR asked if anyone from NGBs were present. JG noted that the chairs of that group were there. DR noted that SCA were not invited. JCM noted RYA were also not invited. DR noted the outdoor activity providers are needed to be involved from the start if they are expected to share the message. JCM agreed. JG noted he would take this feedback to the NWSF. CM asked if the minutes of the meeting can be shared from this meeting and also asked about how the YCW2020 message would fit in. Although nobody from WSS was present at the meeting, CM sent info on the YCW2020 message to be included .JG noted	JG



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	<p>that he did not think it was mentioned. MA and CM will bring up with the NWSF (GR and DW).</p>	<p>CM/MA</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Petition PE1770</p> <p>CM explained that WSS has been asked for an official response to the Petition PE1770 that states:</p> <p>Improving Water Safety Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to work with all relevant bodies across Scotland to improve water safety by ensuring that: • All waterways have life-saving equipment such as lifebelts and buoyancy Throw Bags, with ropes, to allow multiple attempts at rescue; and • Tampering with water safety equipment is made a criminal offence of endangering public safety</p> <p>The SG of WSS has prepared a response, which the group has been asked to consider. A discussion on edits and wording followed. SH mentioned that local authorities through resilience is responsible for all waterways in their local authority. A discussion followed on signage. BM suggested we have a meeting agenda on signage at a future meeting. MG noted if there is a suicide prevention aspect then we could link to NHS Health Scotland and LOCS guidance.</p> <p>The following response was agreed at the meeting by all members:</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Water Safety Scotland supports a strong relationship with the Scottish Government through Building Safer Communities but would welcome further focussed partnership work to improve water safety in Scotland.</p> <p>Water Safety Scotland supports the call that tampering with rescue equipment should be made a criminal offence of endangering public safety.</p> <p>With regards to “all waterways have life-saving equipment such as lifebelts and buoyancy throw bags, with ropes, to allow multiple attempts at rescue”, Water Safety Scotland would like to note the following on the terms used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “life-saving” equipment should be referred to as “public rescue equipment” 	<p>SG</p> <p>CM</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no such thing as a buoyancy throw bag – it should be referred to as a throw bag Water Safety Scotland advocates for wider education and safe participation near, in and around water. <p>Water Safety Scotland agrees that ropes can be fitted to public rescue equipment to help with multiple rescue attempts. However, Water Safety Scotland does not agree that all waterways in Scotland should have public rescue equipment but we recognise that in certain locations this may be an appropriate measure.</p> <p>Water Safety Scotland advocates for local authorities and landowners to create a water safety policy covering the waterways they have responsibility for. Such a policy would include a process to assess risk which would cover control measures (such as public rescue equipment) that could be put in place if appropriate.</p> <p>As part of the consultation process, Water Safety Scotland would advise that contact should be made with National Governing Bodies of Sport /Scottish Governing Bodies of Sport.</p> <p>This policy should be made publicly available.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>This was agreed by the group and proposed by JCM and seconded by RG.</p> <p>CM will send the official response and also send round the beach review guidelines and safety at inland water guidelines.</p>	<p>CM</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>SDPS Two year Review</p> <p>Everyone had opportunity to provide comment on the two-year review document. CM, on behalf of the subgroup, thanked everyone who provided comment or suggestions. The document is now in design and will be ready for the Conference in March.</p> <p>Overall things are going well and the subgroup have identified key areas to work on going forward including the recreational/NGBs work.</p>	



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10.	Governance Documents CM noted that a number of the Governance Documents have changed. Key changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Terms of Reference –update to purpose of WSS (which has been brought in line with SDPS) as well as reference to the events guidance in the governance section. It is not anticipated that the TOR will be updated again until Feb 2021• Roles and Responsibilities - key change was to edit the Vice Chair organisation• Events Guidance – suggestions from the last meeting made• Branding Guidelines – addition of a “supporting” logo for events has been created• Environmental statement - suggestions and edits welcomed The group agreed with these documents.	
11.	Suicide Subgroup Update MA provided an update on the suicide prevention subgroup. Key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next meeting to be held in April around the bridges as a theme• The group has discussed membership of the group and relevant organisations that could join• Discussed plans for common misconceptions on the WSS website. Information and landing pages created, next steps to get official permission from partner organisations• Discussed campaigns to be shared via the WSS website.	
12.	Education Subgroup Update SL provided an update on the education subgroup. Key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experts consulted and information from Australia and New Zealand gathered• Benchmark standard of education is currently being created by the subgroup on what WSS thinks primary and secondary school children should have knowledge and experience of. This will be shared with the main group once ready• A situational analysis is being worked on about what water safety education projects are available e.g. fife project• The subgroup is also looking into participation of school	



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	<p>swimming but issues with data are holding this back</p> <p>JG suggested he could share some information with this subgroup on work in England.</p>	<p>JG</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Data Subgroup Update</p> <p>CM provided an update on the data subgroup. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plans finalised for press release and letter for interested parties for WAID 2019 data release• WAID sign ups currently ongoing. As you will have read from the Two year Review there are seven organisations currently signed up to WAID in Scotland, a further six or ongoing.• NRS have agreed to compare the 2019 data again (once released)• CM and MA met with SCOTSID to discuss data. It was agreed that will be pushing WAID signups to Local Authorities in order for them to get data on Locations of Concern• The data document <i>Preventing Future Fatalities – Improving Water-Related Fatality Data in Scotland</i> is now in design. CM thanked everyone for their comments and welcomed ways to help publicise and promote the document• As per the actions of the last minutes, preliminary research was gathered on Public Rescue Equipment. Overall, there is little evidence on effectiveness. The results can be viewed here: https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1585/public-rescue-equipment-pre.pdf	
<p>14.</p>	<p>Year of Coast & Waters 2020 Subgroup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• JCM provided an update on the data subgroup. Key points:• No updated position table but lots of meetings and communications have taken place to ensure the message is produced• This message has now been produced via a poster. JCM noted that this message shouldn't be different to any message that the NWSF is producing• JCM thanked everyone in the subgroup for their efforts in the subgroup. CM mentioned SEPA and KSB Beach Managers Forum were interested. JCM will confirm the message is final and it will then be put on website as well as discussion on promotion.	<p>JCM CM</p>



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15.	<p>Recreation Subgroup</p> <p>MA noted that there was not a subgroup created but that this would be made a priority going forward after the RoSPA conference. JCM noted she would chase the Outdoors Pursuit Group for the next meeting date.</p>	JCM
16.	<p>Water Safety Conference</p> <p>CM provided an update on RoSPA's Water Safety conference in collaboration with Water Safety Scotland. CM thanked the sponsors and everyone that has agreed to come along. Spaces are full. The programme is available online here and promises a full packed interesting day: https://www.rospa.com/About/Around-the-UK/Scotland/Water-Safety-Conference</p>	
17.	<p>Individual updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HMCG - nothing to add• Sport Scotland - nothing to add• Scottish Water continue their partnership with Scottish Swimming. Scottish Water are also maintaining winter and summer messages but would be keen to point to once message going forward• AALS is changing shape and going to a new contractor. It is therefore unlikely that AALS will be represented at this group going forward• SFRS is preparing for the RoSPA conference. SFRS is also providing education through events at schools to numerous areas across Scotland• RNLI will have their 200th birthday event in 2024. 2019 was a busy year due to milder weather. RNLI has also gone through a major reorganisation from control at Poole to move it out to the regions. RNLI is also moving to Water safety rather than Drowning Prevention• SEPA reactive campaign was activated – testing messages early which worked very well. SEPA currently considering	



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	<p>awareness raising and developing education materials to push out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SCA – From BCA they have teamed up with the coastguard to ensure 50,000 Canonists get a boat sticker when they renew membership. BCA are also doing work with RNLI around messaging and making appropriate decisions From SCA – they feed into the BCA on training and messaging. Concern was also raised around Hydro schemes which have caused paddlers to worry about water levels and has led to some serious incidents• Glenmore lodge – a winter campaign #thinkwinter was created to help people make decisions in winter about what they do e.g. using phone, mapping and compass, avalanche terrain etc. This could be useful for water safety messaging going forward• Forestry commission had no update but noted they enjoyed the meeting and found it worthwhile• RLSS UK is going through an organisational change and SL's job is changing and working more with volunteers to do more lifesaving, water safety and lifeguards. Drowning Prevention Week is coming up in June and an event is likely to take place with Scottish Swimming, Scottish Water and RNLI. Don't Drink and Drown was successful and some statistics were shared• Swim Safe provided an update on the organisation and project which takes swimmers (minimum 25m) into sea pools, provides key messages and teaches key skills. The programme is delivered in Wales and Ireland now – roughly 30 locations across UK (both inland and coastal). There is also an indoor programme and it has been attached to Drowning Prevention Week last year. The project is currently looking for partners in Scotland• RoSPA finalised their report into the water safety policy workshop with RNLI. RoSPA will be looking to repeat this with other landowners this year. RoSPA has also been leading the two year review and leading the work on the comparative document on Scots law with others areas of the UK. A presentation in December to the Keep Scotland beautiful beach Mangers Forum took place and a report on the inflatables	
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	<p>campaign with RNLI, HMCG and SCOTSS is underway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Samaritans Scotland has a new executive director who may attend a future meeting. A new campaign will also kick off in march about men's mental health and some research that has been undertaken• STA international learn swim week will be held on 18th – 24th may. Last year got 26 countries were involved and STA are hoping to increase this year. STA have also set up new Water Safety squad which includes different young people of varying ages to help spread water safety messages.	
18.	<p>Close</p> <p>MA thanked everyone for attending. He also thanked the speakers and HMCG for hosting the meeting and lunch.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held 11am-3pm on Tuesday 2nd June 2020 and will be hosted by Angus Council at Arbroath Bruce House.</p>	