



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 24th Meeting held

9th Feb 2021

Online

11:00 – 13:00

Item		Action
1.	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Michael Avril (MA), chair of Water Safety Scotland (WSS), welcomed everyone to the 24th meeting of WSS which was held online via teams.</p> <p>Present:</p> <p>Members –</p> <p>Michael Avril, RNLI/WSS Carlene McAvoy, WSS/RoSPA Chris Smith, WSS/SFRS Eamon John, East Lothian Council Jane Campbell Morrison, Scottish Adventure Activities Forum Graham Dutton – AWSG/Sport Aberdeen John Ireland – Forestry and Land Scotland Kirsten Pointer – MCA Laura Erskine, RNLI Andy Murray, SCA Ross Greenhill, HMCG Roger Lockwood, RNLI David Walker, RoSPA/NWSF Louise Robertson, Shetland Islands Council Alan Fraser, Highlands Council George Rawlinson, NWSF Victoria Gibbons, Angus Council Jim Hume, Support in Mind Scotland Iain Mackinnon, Argyll and Bute Council Susan Robertson, Visit Scotland</p>	



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	Apologies received: Gena Falconer, Highlands Council Karin Bloodworth, SEPA	
2.	One minute silence A minutes silence was held for Stuart Ballantyne who sadly passed away before Christmas. Stuart was an active and helpful member of WSS.	
3.	Steering Group report MA read out the Steering Group report, which included information on new members, key events and key priorities. You can read the full report online here: https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1714/steering-group-report-final.pdf	
4.	Minutes from Previous Meeting held on 13th October 2020 Accuracy: There were no amendments to the previous Minutes. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from the meeting. The Minutes were proposed by Roger Lockwood and seconded by Jane Campbell Morrison. The approved Minutes can be accessed here: https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1685/minutes-oct-2020.pdf	
5.	Action Points CM noted the previous actions from the October meeting. All actions are complete and can be accessed online here: https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1685/minutes-oct-2020.pdf	



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<p>6.</p>	<p>NWSF Update</p> <p>George Rawlinson thanked the group for the invite and provided an update on the NWSF. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WAID – the NWSF remains committed to improving and investing in the database. The aim is to improve data contribution and the processing of data with improved accessibility. Some additional resource is still needed to ensure this happens• Public messaging – effort and resource is being put into public messaging by NWSF and individual organisations• Suicide and self-harm – NWSF plans to put in more effort and resource into this work stream by using the experts in this field and going further than the current UK DPS objective• Beach Review – to be covered later in the meeting• Networking – NWSF is growing the depth and experience of the various working groups and promoting good practice.	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Managing Beach Safety</p> <p>Kirsten Pointer provided a presentation on the report of the review of legal responsibilities for beach safety that was commissioned by MCA. You can read the full report here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-the-legal-responsibility-for-beach-safety</p> <p>Kirsten provided a background to the report, the key points and the recommendations made within it. Robert Courts, Minister for Aviation, Maritime & Security recently wrote to numerous government departments to consider the pros and cons of any new legal duty as well as the NWSF to consult on the views of members on numerous aspects of the report.</p>	



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<p>8.</p>	<p>Review of legal responsibilities response – beach safety</p> <p>GR noted that the Minister posed five specific questions to be consulted on by the NWSF members as well as feedback on other areas of the report. GR noted that this was a fantastic opportunity for the NWSF to have their voice heard. GR wanted to thank CM on her hard work and input in helping with the consultation.</p> <p>The consultation had 4 stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An online survey• Semi structured interviews with key organisations• Feedback sessions with the NWSF Co-ordinating Group and further Forum members• Report to the Minister <p>GR then provided some brief feedback on the key themes.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>JH – will there be input from Scottish Ministers? GR – the response will be sent to the UK Minister. However, throughout this, the devolved governments have been made aware. The aim is to make it as joint up as possible CM – agreed but wanted to note that Minister in Scotland for Community Safety is aware through the relevant Scottish Government department</p> <p>GR also noted the CEO meeting of the NWSF CG meeting was held last week. GR provided a brief update on this and noted Call to Action letters for Ministers.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Data Subgroup update</p> <p>Carlene provided an update on the data subgroup, which last met on the 18th January 2021.</p> <p>Following the preventing future fatalities report, the subgroup has been working on how the Drowning Review Process will work so that we can explore lessons learned following a fatality. We are in the beginning stages but the subgroup has agreed general aims and objectives of the</p>	



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	<p>review process. We have also started to look at WSS role within this and how this might work. Currently we are drafting what the review process might look like.</p> <p>If you are interested in this work, the minutes are online and we would be happy for anyone to join the subgroup.</p>	
10.	<p>Suicide Prevention Subgroup update</p> <p>MA provided updates on this subgroup. The CEO of Samaritans Scotland has overtaken as the chair of this subgroup. Key tasks for the next year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To look at how own organisations view suicide• To improve communications and partnerships• Look at WAID and the suicide data for further insight• A Presentation will be created for WSS organisations to help improve knowledge around suicide prevention.• Likely meetings will increase from the standard 3 to 5 this year. <p>DW noted that a workshop with a Public Health Lead from East Sussex and others was held recently on suicide prevention. Minutes can be circulated. DW also noted that there is an agreement in principle to do some matching of data for WAID. DW noted that there is still no UK national lead – but Public Health would be well suited.</p>	DW
11.	<p>Education Subgroup update</p> <p>MA provided an update on the Education Subgroup. The main work is focussing on the current strategy and relooking at its objectives as well as getting research available to justify any objectives. MA thanked CM on her work on this and also asked her to explain recent info from the WHO. CM provided a background and noted the systematic review and guidance from the WHO on swimming ability and drowning will be ready within the next few months. Overall though evidence is mixed. DW added that many of the studies focus on warm climates and noted the environmental angle for the UK.</p>	



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12.	Recreation Subgroup update JCM provided an update on the Recreation Subgroup and its link to SDPS and NGBS that have a relationship to water. A list has been created to invite relevant NGBS. Invitations for a March meeting will be sent out this week.	CM/JCM
13.	Individual updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit Scotland – provided an update on the YCW. Currently in process to reshape the events programme and marketing activity for the end of the year. In December 2021, the industry toolkit was relaunched and included the WSS guidance on water safety• SFRS - Due to COVID-19, there has been no face to face engagement and so all water safety information has been online. SFRS have recently provided information for ice safety• Argyll and Bute Council – COVID19 and Brexit have been huge concerns for the council and so water safety has not been a priority. However, a group is likely to be set up locally and talks have also been held with Loch Lomond and surrounding councils on water safety• Angus Council – COVID-19 and Brexit are currently taking priority• Support in Mind – Running seminars which all are welcome at www.Ruralwellbeing.org/upcoming-events 8th April 11am will have Sgt Laura Gibson presenting on suicide prevention action plan action 6 - digital solutions for suicidal prevention. Email for info JHume@supportinmindscotland.org.uk• East Lothian Council – set up a Belhaven Water Safety Group and aim to have a water safety policy. Thanked George and Kirsten for their presentations• Highlands Council – new to WSS but Highland Council WS policy is still in draft form due to COVID-19 related responsibilities• Shetlands Islands Council – working on drafting a water safety	



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	<p>policy. Started meeting with partners and looking for data. Also provided updates to Community Safety And Resilience meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMCG – National Flood teams are in place for flooding. This is an increase in general capability. Also working with Kirsten and MCA in bringing in community safety officers throughout Scotland and UK. These will be voluntary roles • AWSG – next meeting is tomorrow. Signage along beach front only goes to harbour as its out with jurisdiction but they have been invited to join the group to mitigate the issue. Also interested to see if Aberdeen Council have progressed their policy • SCA – last year annual stats for safety courses was good (despite COVID-19). Not many courses at moment but huge volume of online courses available • Forestry and Land Scotland – reviewing key water sites and management of these sites as well as controls in place. Also developed online course for staff on risk assessments of sites • RNLI – maintaining 24/7 coverage throughout COVID-19. Lifeguards had restricted recruitment last year due to lockdown issues but for 2021 recruitment has started. Expecting a very busy summer. • SAAF - The outdoor sector also has all hands on deck for COVID and Brexit and are working hard to get the doors open when we can. Michael has given a presentation to the Scottish Outdoors Consortium and will be giving a presentation to the Scottish Adventure Activities Forum on Friday. • RoSPA – published the interactive dashboard for WAID https://nationalwatersafety.org.uk/waid/interactive-report/ . DW also discussed Smart Buoy which is a new tech platform to make rescue equipment more robust and smart. The project is about to deploy in a major city in England. Offered a presentation at a future meeting • MCA – By the end of this month local authorities will receive a letter from MCA/RNLI with data information on coastguard incidents. If local authorities present want this data direct – 	<p>STEERING GROUP</p> <p>LA</p>
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	<p>please email watersafetyscotland@rospa.com and a list will be sent direct to Kirsten via CM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NWSF – quick reflection on the involvement of organisations. GR will keep in touch regarding communications	CM
14.	<p>Close</p> <p>MA thanked everyone for attending.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held 11am-3pm on Tuesday 1st June 2021. Location TBC.</p> <p>If you are interested in hosting a meeting, please contact watersafetyscotland@rospa.com</p>	ALL