



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 25th Meeting held

1st June 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 25th meeting of WSS.</p> <p>Present:</p> <p>Members –</p> <p>Michael Avril, RNLI Carlene McAvoy, RoSPA Andy Murray, SCA Callum Wilson, Angus Council Gillian Hay, Scottish Water David Doran, East Ayrshire Council Ian Sherrington, Glenmore Lodge Jim Hume, Support in Mind Scotland Joanne Wibberley, Fife Water Safety Group Susan Robertson, Visit Scotland Eamon John, East Lothian Council Rachel Cackett, Samaritans in Scotland James Sullivan, SFRS Albert Bruce, SFRS John Ireland, Forestry and Land Scotland Josh Box, SCSN Roger Lockwood, RNLI Laura Erskine, RNLI Louise Robertson, Shetland Islands Council Jane Pritchard, Perth and Kinross Council Dawn Whittaker, NWSF Jason Burns- Sweeney, Scottish Canals Gillian Barclay, Family Representative</p>	



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	<p>Apologies received:</p> <p>Ross Greenhill, HMCG Mairi Gordon, Samaritans in Scotland Jane Campbell Morrison, SAAF Frank Creighton, Western Isles Council</p>	
2.	<p>Steering Group report</p> <p>MA read out the Steering Group report which can also be found here: https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1770/steering-group-report-final.pdf</p>	
3.	<p>Previous minutes Meeting held on 9th Feb 2021</p> <p>Accuracy:</p> <p>There was one amendment to the previous Minutes on page 7 around restriction on lifeguard cover (RNLI).</p> <p>With the amendment rectified, the Minutes were proposed by Roger Lockwood and seconded by Laura Erskine. The approved Minutes can be accessed here: https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1775/minutes-feb-2021-final.pdf</p>	
4.	<p>Action Points</p> <p>CM noted that there were no outstanding actions from the February meeting. All actions are complete and can be accessed online here: https://watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1763/actions-feb-2021.pdf</p>	
5.	<p>NWSF Update</p> <p>Dawn Whittaker, the new chair of the NWSF provided an update from the NWSF. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communications – the NWSF has agreed to joint up messaging and collaboration (with support from the CEOs of NWSF organisations). The #RespectTheWater campaign will be under	



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	<p>the NWSF and there will be an increase in joined up comms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new WAID figures were released which showed that there were 631 water-related fatalities last year in the UK• A suicide prevention working group has been established by the NWSF and is aligned closely with colleagues in health. This group will be looking at ways to help reduce water-related suicides• The NWSF is planning to increase its newsletters and blogs. DW offered WSS to have the first feature on the monthly blog. DW noted she is keen to have updates from all areas of the UK• Plans are also underway for the 25th July World Drowning Prevention Day <p>Carlene provided an update on WAID version two. You can view the slides here: https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1772/new-waid-poc-intro-brief-for-wss-01-june.pdf</p> <p>MA asked what version two will add. CM explained that it will take into account the suggestions of stakeholders such as more specific data and possibly in the future –predictions. DW added that it will allow data to be filtered in a different and more specific way and can be used to drive activity better and help with campaigns and communications.</p>	
6.	<p>WAID 2020 Figures</p> <p>The SFRS speaker was unable to join the call for the allotted time slot and so the agenda was moved around to accommodate.</p> <p>CM provided information on the 2020 figure release. The data trend report can be accessed here: https://watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1758/waid-2020-trend-report.pdf</p> <p>CM's presentation can be accessed here: https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1776/waid-data-wss-cm.pdf</p> <p>JH asked if we are looking at the inland water fatalities in more depth because of the change in location. CM noted that we can look at this in</p>	



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	<p>more detail but we need to be cautious due to the number of “not recorded” fatalities. DW suggested that some of these figures may be due to open water swimming and recreation as COVID-19 has meant people have had less opportunity to have tuition or join clubs. The increase in recreational activity was echoed by others in the room.</p> <p>RC asked if such shifts of location will be included in the presentation CM will present to the suicide subgroup on Friday and when it is expected that the “not recorded” outcomes would change. CM noted that she will provide that information on Friday and it’s unclear when outcomes might be updated but with improved relationship with the Procurator Fiscal, it is hoped more information will be received on these cases.</p>	
7.	<p>Suicide Prevention Subgroup update</p> <p>RC provided an update on the suicide prevention subgroup. The group last met in January but have their next meeting on Friday where they will get a presentation on suicide-specific data from CM and will discuss their future priorities. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing information to organisations on how to talk safely about suicide around waterways• Media guidelines on suicide• Awaiting information on the process for the new suicide prevention strategy and how water related suicide might link into that• Looking at Location of concerns and potential for wider work and how to influence	
8.	<p>Data Subgroup update</p> <p>CM provided an update on the data subgroup, which last met on the 10th May 2021.</p> <p>The annual WAID trend report has been released, a WSS press released went out on 20th May and soon a letter will go out to all CEOs of Local Authorities, Research and Rescue organisations and also every MSP on the data and how they can support WSS.</p>	



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	<p>CM also provided information on the drowning review process which is looking at a voluntary process to hold an incident review following a drowning fatality. As SFRS are doing something similar, WSS and SFRS are working together to streamline one process to avoid duplication.</p> <p>CM offered anyone that is interested in data or the review process the opportunity to join the subgroup.</p>	
9.	<p>Education Subgroup update</p> <p>LE noted that the subgroup has met several times in the last few months to firm up the subgroup's aims and objectives. LE thanked members who have attended and provided input. The objectives and aims have almost been finalised and can be accessed by looking at the Education subgroup notes and minutes online here: https://watersafetyscotland.org.uk/members/education-subgroup/</p> <p>LE noted that the national water safety presentation (which can be used by anyone in Scotland) focuses on lower secondary students (s1 –s3). A focus group has been planned in next few weeks to get young people's views on the presentation. Changes will then be made and a full pilot will take place after the school holidays.</p> <p>LE noted that it is great to have members joining the subgroup and that anyone is welcome to join.</p> <p>EJ noted his interested in joining.</p>	
10.	<p>Recreation Subgroup update</p> <p>MA provided an update on the Recreation subgroup which met for the first time in March. A second meeting is being planned and hopefully a full update will be provided at the next main meeting in October.</p>	
11.	<p>Individual updates</p> <p>RNLI –there has been an increase in staycations in the UK and also an increase in migrant activity in the south. 248 beaches will covered by lifeguards in the UK this summer (7 in Scotland). Kinghorn Lifeboat station recently rescued seven people (three children) involving a dingy</p>	



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	<p>and paddleboard.</p> <p>East Lothian Council – the Belhaven Bay water safety group is now well established and is meeting later in the day. East Lothian Council will be looking at using the learnings from the Belhaven Group to a wider policy group for the council.</p> <p>Samaritans in Scotland – key focus is on in locations of concerns. Currently have a 6 month project looking at these areas and the Samaritans approach in Scotland. Also hoping to meet with Public Health Scotland to look at locations of concerns and applying guidance.</p> <p>SCSN –SCSN is able to share any water-related information and communications nationally.</p>	
12.	<p>SFRS Prevention and Rescue</p> <p>AB provided an update and overview of SFRS, their rescue capabilities and their current partnership approach in water safety.</p> <p>GB noted that she attends as the family representative and has been asking for post incident reviews for a number of years. GB noted her concerns that responsibility in law is not clear and wants to see a drowning fatality on par with a road fatality. AB agreed but noted it was a political question with issues of delivery and resources. CM noted that the current review as outlined by AB (in partnership with the WSS subgroup) will help get initial information but that it is important to look long-term about legal changes and what direction WSS takes. CM suggested the data subgroup should consider this.</p> <p>DD asked if the review includes near misses. AB explained that the process is starting small in order to build momentum and support. RC noted that action 10 of the suicide prevention action plan looks at proposals to investigate every death by suicide. RC noted it would be useful to link up.</p>	



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13.	<p>Individual updates (continued)</p> <p>Forestry and Land Scotland - currently looking at sites and risk assessments as well as how people are using sites as there have been changes in use. There are also extra rangers being employed for the summer season.</p> <p>Support in Mind – with the Scottish election there are new Scottish Ministers to engage with. They will continue to run webinars on different issues related to mental health and are happy to circulate the links for WSS members to join</p> <p>Glenmore Lodge – is run as part of Sport Scotland. The mountain safety group is looking at becoming more joined up as well as looking at data and application of learning (especially near miss reports). Noted they are happy to take learning from here back to the mountain safety group.</p> <p>Scottish Water –have seen an increase of the numbers visiting reservoirs last year. Currently Scottish Water is running a water safety campaign and using a video from last year (Welsh Water video). The data trend report was used to help tailor information and a social media plan has been created to focus on responsible access and safety. There is also an emerging issue of canoers and equipment cleanliness.</p> <p>Shetland Islands Council – looking at a water safety internally and developing a water safety policy. Roles, responsibilities and resources are being considered as well as plans for a coordinated water safety campaign and leaflet.</p> <p>Gillian Barclay – apologies for not attending meetings due to pressures of her day job. She noted that she represents families and is coming back to WSS after a break.</p> <p>East Ayrshire Council – recently updated their water safety policy in February and created some comms for drowning prevention week in June. The council is also looking at deliverables for schools in water safety and noted an uptake in recreational sport in Loch Doon. In response, guidance and signage have increased in the area.</p> <p>Visit Scotland - launching a Year of Coasts and Waters water wellness campaign w/c 14th June, focusing on the benefits of partaking in activities and experiences on or near water. Responsible engagement</p>	
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	<p>messaging is a key focus of the campaign, #respectthewater logo is being used and the landing page links out to the Water Safety Scotland leaflet . The YCW/WSS leaflet/code has been updated with the RespectTheWater logo.</p> <p>RoSPA – updated some webpages to match with #RespectTheWater https://www.rosipa.com/leisure-safety/water/respectthewater . Also tying in with Scottish Government, focussing on the data subgroup and drowning review process as well as looking at preparations for the Four Year Review for SDPS. Any suggestions, pictures, and ideas for case studies etc please get in touch. RoSPA is also monitoring the implementation of its Smart buoy project which will be presented on at the next WSS meeting.</p> <p>Angus Council – keen to take back the learning form the meeting to Angus to implement and help improve water safety in the area.</p> <p>SCA – has seen a growth in sport both in participation and also courses and education. A series of safety videos has been launched that talks about equipment and kit, basics, preparations etc. Noted it's important to share information and raise awareness especially for those buying equipment in shops. BCA is also undertaking a review of its qualifications and training and welcomes any input.</p>	
14.	<p>Close</p> <p>MA thanked everyone for attending.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held 11am-3pm on Tuesday 5th October 2021. Location TBC.</p> <p>If you are interested in hosting a meeting, please contact watersafetyscotland@rosipa.com</p>	ALL