

## Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 27th Meeting held  
8<sup>th</sup> February 2022, 10:00-13:00  
Online

Item		Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Introduction</b></p> <p>Michael Avril (MA), chair of Water Safety Scotland (WSS), welcomed everyone to the 27th meeting of WSS.</p> <p><b>Present:</b>  Michael Avril, Chair  Carlene McAvoy, Secretariat/RoSPA  Rachael Brogan, RoSPA (Minutes)  Albert Bruce, SFRS  Alex Smith, HMCG  Yvonne Beresford, West Lothian Council  Brian Devlin, Trossachs SAR  Carly Bryce, Police Scotland – in for Hilary Sloane  Carol Raeburn, Scottish Flood Forum  Chris Cousins, Water Safety Wales  Clive Lewis, East Dunbartonshire council  Gillian Barclay, Family Representative  Gillian Hay, Scottish Water  Gillian Kelly, Fife Council  Ian Sherrington, Glenmore Lodge  Jane Pritchard, Perth and Kinross Council  Jason Burns-Sweeney, Scottish Canals  John Ireland, Forestry and Land Scotland  John Murray, Visit Scotland  Eamon John, East Lothian Council  Josh Box, SCSN  Kayle Brightwell, STA  Neil McDonald, Scottish Ambulance Service  Stuart Prodger, Scottish Environment Protection Agency  Louise Robertson, Shetland Islands Council  Shona Smith, RNLI – in for Rodger Lockwood  James Sullivan, SFRS  Vincent McWhirter, The Outdoor Partnership  Calumn McNicol, SCA  Adrian Kay, HMCG  Rachel Cackett, Samaritans Scotland</p> <p><b>Invited guests</b>  Paul Allen, Scottish Government  Dawn Whittaker, NWSF Chair – NFCC chair</p>	



	<p><b>Apologies received:</b> Jane Campbell Morrison, SAAF Euan Lowe, Scottish Swimming Andy Murray, SCA Helen Miller, North Ayrshire Council</p> <p>Each attendee gave an individual introduction due the number of new attendees.</p> <p><b>MA</b> advised on Teams etiquette.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Steering Group report</b></p> <p>MA read out the Steering Group report which can also be found here: <a href="https://watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1932/steering-group-report-final.pdf">https://watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1932/steering-group-report-final.pdf</a></p>	
3.	<p><b>Previous minutes for meeting held in October 2021</b></p> <p>Accuracy: There was no amendments to the previous Minutes.</p> <p>Proposed by: Albert Bruce Seconded by: Jason Burns-Sweeny</p> <p>The approved minutes can be accessed here: <a href="https://watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1857/minutes-oct-2021.pdf">https://watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1857/minutes-oct-2021.pdf</a></p>	
4.	<p><b>Action Points from last meeting</b> – Carlene McAvoy</p> <p>Most actions are complete – see below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- COP26 update – see item 6</li><li>- Four year review – see item 7</li><li>- Education communications videos – deferred and to be shared once completed.</li></ul>	
5.	<p><b>NWSF update</b> – Dawn Whittaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The next meeting will be 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 but in the interim, the NWSF CE meeting has taken place and covered WAIDv2 and data publications as below.</li><li>- The new TPM for WAIDv2 has started.</li><li>- 2021 data publication – date tbc. End of year project has commenced. Due to the pandemic, there is still a delay in coroner reports therefore expecting a higher number of unknowns. The data team are working to reduce the impact of this.</li><li>- Support has been provided to two government petitions. <b>CC</b> has supported one in Wales and David Walker in England. These were both regarding throwlines at open water sites launched by Leanne Bartley. Currently waiting on a government decision. There is also a new petition that supported by the MP for Cheshire for changes on leashes for stand-up paddleboards following the death of an experienced paddle boarder in Cornwall in 2020.</li></ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WSS members can sign up to the NWSF mailing list at <a href="https://www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk/news">https://www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk/news</a></li> </ul> <p>Comments/questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>AS</b> re paddleboard incidents asked <b>DW</b> if we were getting feedback from coastguards on these incidents? <b>DW</b> advised there is good network links for providing data. In view of the petition, if anything became regulatory it would dealt with by white/pink papers and then a regulator. It is still a long way off but will be discussed in the next NWSF CG meeting which <b>MA/CM</b> can feedback into WSS.</li> </ul>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>COP 26 debrief</b> – Albert Bruce</p> <p>Debrief presentation can be found here: <a href="https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1940/cop-26.pdf">https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1940/cop-26.pdf</a></p> <p>Comments/questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>NM</b> is looking at ongoing work for training as part of the collaborations done at COP26.</li> <li>- <b>MA</b> asked on the number of preventative/rescues during the event. <b>AB</b> responded by advising that there were no major water safety incidents.</li> </ul>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Interim Review headlines</b> – Carlene McAvoy</p> <p><b>CM</b> gave an overview of the Interim Review (renamed from the four year review) which can found online here <a href="https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1943/wss-interim-review-headlines-1.pdf">https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1943/wss-interim-review-headlines-1.pdf</a></p> <p>Headlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>CM</b> thanked the group for their input into the interim review. Increase in support for Water Safety Scotland.</li> <li>- Key issues highlighted are education and suicide prevention.</li> <li>- Two new subgroups being created which will be in item 9.</li> <li>- Promotion of the review was encouraged – publication is mid-March)</li> <li>- Water Safety Scotland Conference is 7<sup>th</sup> April with another event due to be held on WDP day (25<sup>th</sup> July)</li> <li>- Encouraged members to join subgroups.</li> </ul> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>CC</b> expressed congratulations on how informative and useful the review document is.</li> <li>- Outwith the agenda subject, <b>NM</b> confirmed to <b>DW</b> that he is the ambulance service lead for Scotland only. He will assist <b>DW</b> in ascertaining if there is a national lead.</li> </ul>	
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Ministerial roundtable updates</b> – Paul Allen. Safer Communities Team, Scottish Government.</p> <p>Headlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Events of last summer has focussed efforts on water safety/prevention.</li> <li>- Ash Reagan (Minister for Community Safety) spearheaded two meetings in August and September with key stakeholders on key issues and next steps, encouraging partnership work. Positive outcomes.</li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A meeting held in January was to build a short to medium term action plan for stakeholders and this is with them for comment with an aim to publish a document by the end February/beginning of March.</li> <li>- Communities group will be meeting in May to address any further issues.</li> <li>- It is understood that the action plan will be an ongoing feature aligning with WSS. Stakeholders will be encouraged to engage with this group.</li> </ul> <p>Comments/questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>PA</b> clarified to <b>RC</b> that this is currently focussed on accidental deaths. Suicide may be also become included with the ministerial refresh in May. He also commented on her concern on how two action plans (Government and the WSS interim review) can work in harmony. He iterated that the government and WSS would need to work closely together with their comms teams, reinforcing messages. The actions in the plan should be in line with the interim review. <b>CM</b> advised this is this is important to consider. The government action plan will dovetail from the long-term strategy with short-term actions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> <b>CM</b> to speak with all Subgroup Chairs and feedback further comments to Scottish Government</p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Water Safety Scotland’s New Subgroups</b></p> <p><b>Search &amp; Rescue Subgroup</b> – Albert Bruce’s presentation to the group can be found here: <a href="https://watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1939/sar-ppt.pdf">https://watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1939/sar-ppt.pdf</a></p> <p>Comments/questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>GB</b> is very encouraged the group and its workstreams. Wanted to know how families would be included in communications. <b>MA</b> advised this will be expanded on in the Family subgroup item (to follow) but he will also discuss this with her outside the meeting.</li> <li>- <b>SP</b> has asked how often is flooding a part of the communication and exercise programme. <b>AB</b> invited <b>SP</b> to the subgroup for his input into adding flooding into the group’s work.</li> <li>- <b>CR</b> asked if there could there be the factoring in of community responders. <b>AB</b> is looking to dovetail this group with Local Resilience Partnerships, focussing on water safety. He said it is important to get the right people together to build the group.</li> <li>- <b>RC</b> advised that postvention has been discussed in the suicide subgroup and is happy to support the work of this group.</li> <li>- <b>BD</b> has requested to join the group. Would also be interested in taking part in practical and tabletop exercises.</li> <li>- <b>YB</b> - regarding PAWS asked about the level that recommendations are actioned. <b>JS</b> advised that this would be reported into the CPP level.</li> </ul> <p><b>Families subgroup</b> – Michael Avril People who are affected by water related drowning often come to WSS for support/advice sometime after the event and it was felt that there was a strong requirement to learn and engage in conversation/actions with affected families and friends.</p> <p>Target: To work alongside families/friends who have suffered from water related fatalities and explore opportunities to establish a family group.</p>	



	<p>Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Look at similar interventions and other groups – completed in Q3, 2021. Identified and engaged with experts in the area: CRUSE and Compassionate Friends. Also took some advice and expertise from the Water Safety Wales family group for which <b>MA</b> thanked <b>CC</b>. In addition also looked at NHS leads.</li><li>2. Provide opportunities those who have been affected by water related fatalities in advocating ideas to reduce drowning in Scotland. - An online conference supported by bereavement charities is being considered for Q3 2022.</li><li>3. Bereavement training for selected WSS members to assist in emphatic and effective communication.</li><li>4. Signpost relevant support services – this has been added to <a href="#">WSS website</a>.</li></ol> <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>JB</b> is currently taking part in a project with North Lanarkshire CSP around using audio recordings and GPS to engage with community safety. Equipment has been donated and he would be happy to use this method to support a new subgroup.</li><li>- <b>RC</b> advised that it is important to distinguish between supporting families and strategy aims. Directed <b>MA</b> to the Lived Experience panel to help with setting up the family group, which will involve a further conversation outside the meeting.</li><li>- <b>CC</b>: One point of learning is to be very flexible on objectives until you get the families together.</li><li>- <b>DW</b> agreed that it is important to understand what resources out there. She is currently administrator for a Facebook group called Families Against Drowning, which is focussed on mutual support. Need to be mindful on point of engagement.</li><li>- <b>CM</b> reiterated that this group is still in the early planning and exploration stage and that only the objectives have been set. She suggested that a working group be pulled together to discuss the best way forward for this group. Advised for those with particular expertise to email WSS for future engagement.</li><li>- <b>YB</b> added that it is a fine balance of how much families are involved/wish to participate in interventions.</li></ul>	
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Data Subgroup update</b> - Carlene McAvoy</p> <p>The data subgroup met on the 17/01. The full minutes can be found online here: <a href="#">jan-minutes.pdf (watersafetyscotland.org.uk)</a></p> <p>Headlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Plan for the 2021 data release and trend report.</li><li>- Working on “Not Recorded” data.</li><li>- Invite the new NWSF WAID Technical project manager to speak with the group.</li><li>- DIR guidance has been published and thanks given for those who inputted into this. Also gave public thanks <b>JS</b> for his involvement in the</li></ul>	



	<p>project as a whole.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The third pilot was filmed as a hypothetical case that will used for the research project that is being led by RoSPA and partner researchers. It is anticipated this will be finished by late autumn</li><li>- It was iterated that suicide outcomes are not included in the DIRs. These are referred to Public Health Scotland as they and COSLA are setting up a similar process for this outcome.</li><li>- James Sullivan gave an overview of the PAWS groups (Partnership Approach to Water Safety).</li></ul> <p>Comments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>RC</b> advised the project work being carried out by PH Scotland is only just being rolled out so there may be a time lag with linking in with the work of the DIR. <b>CM</b> also clarified that families are not part of the DIR project and will not get any feedback at this stage. It is something that the group will look at in the future.</li></ul>	
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><b>Suicide Subgroup update –</b></p> <p>The suicide subgroup met on the 07/12. The full minutes can be found online here: <a href="https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1914/wss-suicide-subgroup-minutes-7th-december.pdf">https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1914/wss-suicide-subgroup-minutes-7th-december.pdf</a></p> <p>Headlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Discussed DPS update</li><li>- Main focus was on data and classifications</li><li>- Fed into the Suicide Prevention Leadership Group on a series of workshops to look at locations of concern and jumping from height. This is now complete and PH Scotland will be gathering thoughts to set some actions.</li><li>- Postvention support.</li></ul> <p>Comments/questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Thanks from <b>AB</b> for the work carried out by this group. Does the time lag between the DIR project and similar Suicide reviews cause concern? <b>RC</b> advised this would be more of concern for the suicide sector where families are engaged and possible duplication of reviews.</li><li>- <b>CM</b> – COSLA is looking to map out the reviews that are being carried out to ensure that everything is clear.</li></ul>	
<p><b>12.</b></p>	<p><b>Education Subgroup update –</b> Laura Erskine</p> <p>An overview of December’s meeting given. Full minutes will be found online here: <a href="https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/members/education-subgroup/">https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/members/education-subgroup/</a></p> <p>Comments/questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>AB</b> gave thanks to the subgroup for the work on the language focus in the education videos.</li><li>- <b>CM</b> thanked <b>LE</b> for the work being carried out and noted thanks to the input of the RLSS on the video they are allowing WSS to edit and use.</li><li>- <b>SP</b> asked if the flooding element was included in the education outputs.</li></ul>	



	<p>LE did advise that this would be something that they would be able to action relatively easily.</p>	
13.	<p><b>Recreation Subgroup update</b> - Jane Campbell-Morrison (by email)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- WSS Recreation Subgroup met on Mon 13th December and had a wide range of attendees, from Scottish Governing Bodies of sport to Police Scotland.</li><li>- The group now has a Google folder in place to store information for meetings as well as any resources that may be of use.</li><li>- The group membership has changed slightly, and it will remain a key priority to ensure that the right people are involved.</li><li>- The draft Terms of Reference have been produced and will be discussed at the next meeting of this group on 14th Feb. This document has been modelled on an existing ToR for the Data Subgroup, and the actions identified in the SDPS.</li><li>- The following meeting for this group will take place on Mon 11th April and meetings have been planned for the rest of 2022 and will take place at roughly 8-week intervals.</li></ul>	
14.	<p><b>Comms updates</b> – Albert Bruce</p> <p>Albert Bruce’s presentation to the group can be found here: <a href="https://watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1941/comms-ppt.pdf">https://watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1941/comms-ppt.pdf</a></p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>CR</b> – Important to have programme but this needs to be agile to have a plans in place extreme events such as flooding. She is happy to help with this should the group be established. <b>SP</b> agreed with this and iterated Ready Scotland campaign as an example. He is also happy to help contribute.</li><li>- <b>CM</b> – group is in early stages and a lot of mapping needs to be carried out to tie organisations together. Interested parties are invited to email WSS Scotland</li></ul>	
15.	<p><b>Jamboard</b> – Carlene McAvoy</p> <p>Following past meetings feedback, it was decided to have different approach in gathering organisations activities and thoughts. A <a href="#">Jamboard</a> has been sent round and everyone has been encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Add two positive outcomes since the previous meeting</li><li>- Outline a particular challenge</li><li>- Suggest ideas on how previous meetings should be run</li></ul>	<p>ACTION – All to contribute to the Jamboard</p>

