

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 1 DECEMBER 2004

SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL - WATER AND LEISURE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Forum of the business dealt with at the last meeting of SAPC Water and Leisure Safety Committee.
- 1.2 The Committee is chaired by Janet Castro of the Royal Life Saving Society.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Water and Leisure Safety Committee meets quarterly and the last meeting was held on 6th October 2004 in Dumbarton. East Ayrshire Council was represented at the meeting by Alison J Smith, Licensing and Community Safety Manager, who deputised for the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services. Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Carmichael.

3. CORE SECTION

- 3.1 Having considered the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee it was agreed that it would be appropriate for representatives of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs and Cairngorm National Parks to be invited to attend future meetings together with a representative of the British Waterways.
- 3.2 There was some debate in response to a suggestion that members of the public be invited to attend meetings of the Committee as observers. It was highlighted that such an invitation to the public may well result in press coverage, almost certainly in the local press and possibly also in the national media. The idea was considered favourably and the Chair undertook to raise it at the next Executive meeting and report back.
- 3.3 The Secretary reported to members on the business transacted at the last meeting of the Executive Committee on 18 August 2004. The main items of interest to the Committee were the Strathclyde University Research Project for which it was hoped to obtain funding from the Scottish Executive; the proposal to combine future SAPC AGMs with Committee meetings, with the 2005 AGM to be held immediately prior to the October meeting of the Water and Leisure Safety Committee; and that Michael McDonnell, outgoing Secretary of the SAPC, had been replaced by Elizabeth Lumsden.

- 3.4 It was reported that Bernadette Pickering had now completed her PhD, for which she had been awarded distinction, and that her dissertation on drownings in the under-fives had now been passed to the Chair. It was hoped to make the dissertation available to all members, possibly via the website. The main findings were that young boys were four times more likely to drown than girls, drownings often occurred outwith the child's home environment and that parents/carers supervise boys to a lesser degree than girls. There was considerable discussion of these findings with members keen that this issue be highlighted to parents and carers of this vulnerable age-group and that publicity should be sought through the usual media channels and agencies which work with this age-group. It was also considered vital that further research be undertaken to examine in more detail the issues raised, particularly in relation to supervision.
- 3.5 It was reported that Nina Saunders of Strathclyde University should be able to report by Christmas 2004. This project focuses on (1) the collation of data in relation to drownings in Scotland and will provide eight consecutive years of data and (2) the case for a Water and Leisure Safety Manager, including the rationale and support for the position, the job description and a submission proposal. The SAPC Executive Committee had supported this project by providing funding of £4,000.

4. FINANCIAL/POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Nil.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The members discussed a range of issues, focussing mainly on the promotion and public involvement in the work of the Committee, research projects, their findings and potential impact and the future structured work of the Committee.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 Members of the Community Safety Forum are invited to note the content of this report.

William Stafford

Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

I:\Licensing and Community Safety\Community Safety\Forum December 2004\SAPC.WLSCttee.061004.ajs.doc

WS/AJS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Water and Leisure Safety Committee papers issued by Melville Mitchell, Secretary, on 10 September 2004.

Implementation Officer – Alison.Smith@east-ayrshire.gov.uk