

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 1 DECEMBER 2005**

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> October 2005 in Paisley. East Ayrshire Council was represented at the meeting by Councillor O'Neill and Ann Williams Community Safety Co-ordinator, who deputised for the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.

#### **3. CORE SECTION**

- 3.1 The Committee sent a letter to First Minister, Jack McConnell with regard to funding the post of Water Safety Officer for Scotland. Representation was made to officials from the Scottish Executive in Leith to put the case forward. To date there has been no response from Executive. There is attached to this report a paper from Janet Castro, Chair of the Water and Leisure Safety Committee giving the Executive Summary on Research Project into Drowning in Scotland.
- 3.2 It was agreed that the Coastguard Service give a presentation at the next meeting on 11 January 2005 on incidents and accidents on beaches.
- 3.3 It was reported that the SAPC Conference held in September had the best attendance yet recorded at any previous conferences. Issues for discussion included an awareness raising campaign for safety with regard to garden ponds and it was suggested that this could be done through the media and television campaigns. It was agreed that workshops at the conference produced some excellent discussions however it was suggested that some people who missed the second day of the conference were left out from some important discussions.
- 3.4 A response was made by British Waterways with regard to the ownership of the five canals in Scotland. One is privately owned and the others are owned by British Waterways.

3.5 Discussion took place around the development of the Child Safety Action Plan for Scotland as part of a European Child Safety Alliance (ECSA) Initiative. ECSA has received funding from the European Commission for the project that aims to support the creation of national action plans on child safety in 18 Member States of the European Union by December 2007.

3.6 Discussion took place around the possibility of a Risk Assessment for Parents that would target parents through their children by conducting an ongoing examination of a location in which potential hazards could cause harm to themselves or their children. It was suggested that this would be done through cartoons.

#### **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**  
WS/AW

#### LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Water and Leisure Safety Committee papers to be issued by Melville Mitchell, Secretary.

Implementation Officer – [Ann.Williams@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ann.Williams@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)