

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2004**

#### **SAPC HOME SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2004**

##### **Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To advise the Forum of the business dealt with at the last meeting of SAPC Home Safety Committee.
- 1.2 The Committee is chaired by Mr. Jim Black, City of Edinburgh Council.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Home Safety Committee of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council meets quarterly and the last meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2004 in Glasgow. As this date coincided with the regular meeting of the East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum, the East Ayrshire representatives on the Home Safety Committee (Councillor George Smith and John F. Crawford) were unable to attend.

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

- 3.1 The Annual SAPC Conference will be held on 13 and 14 September 2004. Despite previous reports, the conference will again be held at Crieff Hydro. In addition to keynote speakers, it is proposed that there will be 4 workshops, but the subject matter has yet to be finalised.
- 3.2 The Secretary to the Committee gave a report on behalf of RoSPA and provided a copy of the RoSPA newsletter, 'Homeworld'. She also drew attention to grant aided monies for community based projects to improve safety in the home environment.
- 3.3 The Chair gave a report on the National Home and Leisure Safety Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2003 in London. The principal matter he highlighted was the current dispute between the United Kingdom and the European Commission regarding zero VAT rating of safety goods. Basically, the EC considers that all goods should attract VAT. As a consequence, Customs and Excise will not consider placing any further goods in the 'safety' category.

- 3.4 A brief report was provided on the business of the Scottish Home Safety Officers Group. This Group was attended by the Assistant Community Safety Co-ordinator and a full report has been prepared.
- 3.5 The Secretary intimated that the only piece of correspondence was from Michael Mathieson, MSP, seeking the support of the Committee in respect of his bill for home sprinkler systems. Due to time constraints, the Chair, in consultation with the Secretary, had replied in the affirmative to the correspondent.
- 3.6 Under Any Other Business, the Secretary intimated that the winner of the SAPC Award (Voluntary Service) had been Mrs. Jean McFarlane, East Ayrshire (North) Crime Prevention Panel.
- 3.7 Thereafter, those attending were split into 4 groups to discuss the sub committee structure of the Home Safety Committee. Following group work and a plenary session, it was decided that the following sub committees would be established viz. Statistics, Home safety in the curriculum, Mandatory powers, Policy and Awareness and Safety by design.

The Chair asked members to consider taking on responsibility for one or more of the sub committees and requested that members indicate as soon as possible their preference in terms of sub committee chair, secretary and researchers.

#### **4. FINANCIAL/POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Nil.

#### **5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Nil.

#### **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Nil.

#### **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 Following Council elections in 2003, the Home Safety Committee has commenced its schedule of regular quarterly meetings. The establishment, and request for membership of, the new sub committee structure is testament of the committee's commitment to home safety.

## **8. RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 The Community Safety Forum is invited to note the report.

William Stafford  
**Director of Neighbourhood Services**

WS/JFC/DJ

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Minutes of SAPC Home Safety Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2004.

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