

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 1 JUNE 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 which 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 6<sup>th</sup> April 2005 in Callander. East Ayrshire Council was represented at the meeting by Councillor J O'Neil and Alison J Smith, Licensing and Community Safety Manager, who deputised for the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.

### **3. CORE SECTION**

#### **3.1 Presentation**

- 3.1.1 The meeting commenced with a presentation on Risk Watch by Cathie Way, Road Safety Office with Highland Council who has been involved in the adaptation of this American injury prevention and risk awareness programme for use in UK primary schools.
- 3.1.2 The Risk Watch package consists of five progressive age related stages and was designed so that injury prevention could be taught as a stand-alone unit or integrated into core curriculum subjects. Teachers are encouraged to enlist help from appropriate community safety advocates, who can assist in the delivery of specific lessons. Following the evaluation, published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, of the initial small pilot in Highland and Nottinghamshire it was agreed to conduct a larger pilot with a wider cross section of schools and pupils.

#### **3.2 Business of the meeting**

- 3.2.1 In response to concerns raised regarding the implications of the new Access Code it was agreed to establish a working group to examine the safety implications of the new legislation and report back to the Committee in the autumn.

- 3.2.2 Concerns were expressed about the declining numbers of schools participating in the Public Speaking Competition. Members were urged to promote the competition within their own areas.
- 3.2.3 In relation to the Committee's efforts to secure the Scottish Executive's commitment to the appointment of a Water Safety Manager for Scotland member authorities were asked to support the representations to the First Minister. Councillor O'Neill emphasised the need to identify the most appropriate cross-party group to deal with this issue.
- 3.2.4 Members suggested topics and speakers for the parallel sessions at this year's conference with a range of subjects including fireworks, countryside access, drowning prevention strategies and potential displacement of activities from Lake Windermere all suggested as relevant themes.

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

- 4.1 Nil.

#### **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The members had the opportunity to hear from and question Cathie Way who was instrumental in the development and promotion of the Risk Watch programme; discuss the impact on safety of recent legislative changes, such as increased access to the countryside and suggest topics and speakers for this year's annual conference.

#### **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**

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#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Water and Leisure Safety Committee papers issued by Melville Mitchell, Secretary, on 16 March 2005.

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