

# EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 22 SEPTEMBER 2004

## PETITION TO THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

### Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Forum members of the submission to the Scottish Parliament by the Home Safety Committee of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council (SAPC) a petition calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to place a statutory requirement on all local authorities to employ Home Safety Officers and to provide the necessary funding to achieve this.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Jim Black, Chair of the Home Safety Committee and Vice President of the SAPC submitted the undernoted petition to the Scottish Parliament on 27 July 2004 on behalf of the Home Safety Committee of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council:-

“We the undersigned declare that the appointment of Home Safety Officers in local authorities would help educate the public and promote the prevention of accidents in the home environment, thereby saving pain and suffering to the individuals and their families and in turn reducing the burden on the National Health Service.

The petitioners therefore call on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to place a statutory requirement on all local authorities to employ Home Safety Officers and to provide the necessary funding to achieve this”

#### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The Home Safety Committee of the SAPC has for some years campaigned for the employment of Home Safety Officers by local authorities to become a statutory duty. The Home Safety Committee recognises the role played by Road Safety Officers in reducing death and injury on Scotland's roads and is of the view that the employment of Home Safety Officers would have a similar effect on reducing fatal and injury accidents in and around the home.
- 3.2 Elected members and officers of East Ayrshire Council have participated actively in the Home Safety Committee Sub-Group which was established to develop and promote this proposal. In addition, a letter in support of the petition has been sent, on behalf of Councillor Carmichael, to the Scottish Parliament.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil.

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

5.1 Not applicable.

## **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Improving Community Safety is one of the six main themes of the East Ayrshire Community Plan. The petition to the Scottish Parliament complements the aim of the Community Plan to create safe places in which to live by improving safety in neighbourhoods and homes.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

7.1 The petition submitted to the Scottish Parliament by the SAPC Home Safety Committee calls for the appointment of Home Safety Officers to become a statutory requirement of local authorities and for the necessary funding to be made available.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 Members of the Forum are invited to note the contents of this report.

William Stafford

Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

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10 September 2004

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Petition Number PE758 to the Scottish Parliament lodged on 27 July 2004.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576111 and ask for Mr John Crawford, Head of Protective Services.

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