

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM - 6 DECEMBER 2000
SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL HOME SAFETY COMMITTEE -
27 SEPTEMBER 2000
Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the forum of matter dealt with, and discussed, at the SAPC Home Safety Committee meeting on 27th September 2000.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 East Ayrshire Council was represented at that meeting by Councillor George Smith and Joseph Donnelly, Principal Officer -Trading Standards who tendered apologies on behalf on Mr John Crawford, Head of Protective Services.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 3.1 Councillor G Smith said he had spoken to his local MSP, Cathy Jamieson, about the dangers of CO poisoning. She said she would be happy to give her support and suggested that a pressure group be formed by Councillor Smith. It was agreed that Councillor Smith would chair a sub-group on the issue. Previous members were Councillor George Smith, Alison Smith, Councillor B Topping, J France, D Lambie, Laura McDermott, D Smith, M Reilly, David Birrell and J Crawford. Councillor G de Gernier put his name forward and that of Wendy McGuire of East Lothian. Laura McDermott said she would be happy to stand down as Dundee would be represented by Councillor G de Gernier.

**4 GUEST SPEAKER - RON ASHTON
HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION**

- 4.1 Ron Ashton gave a presentation. Statutory Licensing of houses in multiple occupation will be required from 1 October 2000 and landlords will require to make application to Local Authorities for licence to be registered from this date.
- 4.2 Ron Ashton emphasised that included is a requirement for home safety.
- 4.3 Councillor G Smith asked for definition between family and sub tenant in HMO's. A question was raised by Councillor G de Gernier as to whether one licence would be enough for residences which housed students in term time and other occupants during leave time.

- 4.4 Several questions were raised on cost and whether this would be passed on, guidelines, staffing, licensing period, one licence or more for residences which housed students in term time and other occupants during leave time and also the question of fines for lack of licence.
- 4.5 Councillor Topping thanked Ron Ashton for an excellent and interesting presentation and handout.

5 PROGRESS OF MANDATORY POWERS SUB GROUP

- 5.1 Councillor Topping informed the Committee that letters and questionnaires had been sent to local authorities, fire brigades, health boards, health councils, etc. The response has been good with 35.15% returning the completed questionnaire of which 73% supported the SAPC in their proposal. This will be used as evidence of support for the motion when approaching Parliament. M Reilly said that as a result of the April meeting Fiona Hyslop had asked for an evening debate. A number of MSP's have already signed the application. A copy of the proposal is attached. Councillor Topping thanked M Reilly for her efforts.

Councillor Topping will arrange for members of the Committee to be notified when a date has been set for the debate.

The sub-committee on Mandatory Powers will meet on 12 October 2000 at 10.30am. Councillor Topping updated new members on the progress of this sub-group.

Councillor Tam Smith of West Lothian will join the sub-committee for Mandatory Powers.

A discussion followed on funding and Councillor Topping said that recent communication had been quite clear that Mandatory Function should be funded by the government. He will write to Fiona Hyslop asking that the wording of the proposal be changed to reflect this.

Councillor Smith said that Cathy Jamieson, MSP has already raised this on the floor at the Scottish Parliament and she would like more information on Home Safety. Information is being collected locally. Councillor Topping will send briefing papers to Cathy Jamieson with a request for her support for this proposal.

Councillor Topping voiced the committee's appreciation of Fiona Hyslop's efforts.

David Birrell said that Fife Central Home Safety Forum have written to MSP's on the subject of Mandatory Powers.

Councillor Topping suggested that letters be sent to Susan Deacon, Wendy Alexander and Sarah Boyack regarding home safety and with reference to their specific portfolio to try to arrange a meeting.

7 REPORT FROM SAPC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

7.1 Both Councillor Topping and Jim France gave a report on the SAPC conference saying that this was an excellent conference for venue, speakers, etc. it had been suggested that this venue be held for the next three years. George Smith said that a more central venue, such as Glasgow, would be better for travel reasons.

7.2 Councillor Topping informed the Committee that he had been elected as Vice president of the SAPC and voiced his appreciation. Jim Shaw had been elected President and thanks had been recorded to the retiring President, Councillor Logan. Councillor Topping also thanked Mike McDonnell, Steven Irvine and Mary Reilly for their efforts in planning the conference.

8 ACTION PLAN 2000/2001

8.1 Several suggestions were put forward for 2001 and Councillor Topping suggested that if members had any ideas for subjects to please telephone Mary Reilly. At present the suggested topics are:

gas supply, mandatory power, national registration scheme for the use of fireworks, fire safety -sprinklers, garden safety and houses of multiple occupation.

8.2 Jim France to liaise between SHSOG and the SAPC Home Safety Committee on safety matters for discussion, eg press releases. The SHSOG calendar of topics was again discussed and the suggestion made that each SHSOG press release should carry a statement from the Chair of the Home Safety Committee.

9 AOCB

9.1 Councillor Topping said that Jim Shaw requested that each of the three committees provide information and statistics relevant to each discipline for inclusion in a leaflet to be produced promoting the role of the Council. It is hoped that this will be sent to every household in Scotland. It is anticipated that it will be ready by 2002. A sub group of the Home Safety committee will be formed to consider what information is to be presented. Suggestions or contributions should be sent to the Secretary by 12 October 2000. Date to be arranged for meeting of sub-group to discuss content for insertion into leaflet.

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that the Forum members: (i) note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

27 November 2000

AGENDA