

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM - 6th DECEMBER 2000

SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL - HOME SAFETY COMMITTEE - GAS SAFETY SUB-GROUP

Report by the Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Forum of further developments in the work of this group.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Over two years ago the SAPC Home Safety Committee set up a small working group led by Councillor George Smith, East Ayrshire Council to prepare a report on the dangers from Carbon Monoxide. At that time the group was known as "The Carbon Monoxide Working Group".
- 2.2 The Working Group held a number of meetings and submitted a report to the Home Safety Committee which made a number of recommendations to secure improvements in Home Safety. These recommendations were accepted by the Home Safety Committee and also noted by East Ayrshire Council's Community Safety Forum at the time.
- 2.3 Despite considerable publicity and lobbying attempts, the recommendations of the Working Group have not really progressed and this year it was agreed that there was scope in reconstituting the group in the light of changes of the members of the Home Safety Committee and the advent of the Scottish Parliament.
- 2.4 The reconstituted group is now entitled "Gas Safety Working Group" and again is Chaired by Councillor Smith. The first meeting was held in Hamilton on 18th October 2000.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 At the first meeting Councillor Smith gave a short presentation on the work of the former working group and drew comparisons between the requirements for electrical installations and gas installations, highlighting the fact that while a number of companies were becoming more aware of the problems of carbon monoxide and domestic dwellings and we're now starting to fit oxygen depletion devices in the event of either gas leaks or carbon monoxide production, there were in fact no regulations available for dealing with carbon monoxide problems.

- 3.2 He gave examples of problems arising from the fact that building regulations have changed over the years so that a domestic kitchen with a number of gas appliances presenting potential problems might only be ventilated by an (unspecified size) window in the room.
- 3.3 It was reported that Councillor Smith and Councillor Topping (Chair of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council and Home Safety Committee) had met a Senior Civil Servant at the Scottish Office some time ago but there did not appear to be a lot of enthusiasm for pursuing the objectives of the original working group.
- 3.4 It emerged that the DTI provided a mobile exhibition to highlight public awareness of the dangers of Carbon Monoxide and J F Crawford has since arranged for the vehicle to be available in Scotland during January and February 2001. This vehicle will be available free of charge to any Council for a period of one week at a time.
- 3.5 It was also agreed that Councillor Smith would write to all Chief Executives in Scotland highlighting a number of issues associated with Gas Safety and seeking their support for the work of his group.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Nil

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Home Safety Committee of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council has agreed to re-instate a small working group led by Councillor George Smith, East Ayrshire Council.
- 7.2 The Working Group will build on the recommendations of a former group and seek to pursue changes to legislation and highlight increased public awareness to the Gas Safety problem.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Forum is invited to note the report.

24th November 2000

JFC/SAM

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Implementation Officer- John Crawford (john.crawford@east-avvshire.gov.uk)

AGENDA