

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM - 6th DECEMBER 2000

SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL - HOME SAFETY COMMITTEE- MANDATORY POWERS SUB-GROUP

Report by the Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Forum that the Home Safety Committee of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council has agreed to reconvene a working group to pursue changes to the legislation so that the provision of Home Safety service is made mandatory for all Scottish Unitary Authorities.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Forum has been advised in previous reports of the SAPC Home Safety Committee's aspirations to have Home Safety made a mandatory responsibility of Unitary Authorities.
- 2.2 While many Councils currently employ Home Safety Officers and others would do so if finance were available, there is no mandatory requirement to do so and it is felt that this is a major omission.
- 2.3 The Home Safety Committee has now reconvened the originally Mandatory Powers Sub-Group and East Ayrshire Council is represented on the group by Councillor George Smith and John F Crawford, Head of Protective Services.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The advent of the Scottish Parliament is seen as an opportunity to rekindle public interest in this important area of work and Councillor Smith has sought the support of Cathy Jamieson MSP .
- 3.2 It is understood that the MSP is keen to see further investigation into provision of Home Safety service being made mandatory and will provide as much support as possible.
- 3.3 While statistics on accidents in the home are not collected on a uniform basis, it is felt that investment in the employment of Home Safety Officers and provision of publicity to reduce accidents in the home would reduce pressure on hospital admissions and also avoid significant amounts of pain and suffering.

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 feel it is appropriate to reconvene the Mandatory Powers Sub-Group and East Ayrshire Council is represented by Councillor George Smith and John F Crawford, Head of Protective Services.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Forum is invited to note the report.

JFC/SAM

24th November 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

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

AGENDA