

**EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM –
5 DECEMBER 2001**

**SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL - MEETING OF THE
WATER AND LEISURE SAFETY COMMITTEE ON 26 SEPTEMBER
2001**

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Forum of matters dealt with, and discussed, at the SAPC Water and Leisure Safety Committee meeting on 26 September 2001.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 East Ayrshire Council is represented at the quarterly meetings of the Home Safety Committee by Councillor Jimmy Carmichael and William Stafford, Director of Community Services. As neither of the usual representatives were able to attend the September meeting East Ayrshire was instead represented by Alison J Smith, Principal Officer – Licensing and Community Safety.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 At the beginning of the meeting members received a presentation from Paul Bush, Scottish Swimming, on the subject of teaching of swimming in schools. Mr Bush outlined the current situation as regards teaching of swimming in Scottish schools before explaining his organisation's aims and objectives. These include the extension of swimming lessons to younger children in order that all children can swim 25 metres by the age of 10 years, swimming to be confirmed by the Scottish Executive as an entitlement, and for standards to be adopted in relation to number and duration of classes. It was also recommended that children receive between 2 and 5 hours classroom based water safety education which would encompass risk education in addition to rescue skills. Scottish Swimming will issue a questionnaire shortly to all local authorities in order to assess swimming provision nationally and intend to report their findings to the Scottish Executive in the Spring of 2002.
- 3.2 Forum members may be interested to know that East Ayrshire pupils attend swimming lessons during P7. Most pupils have 10 or 11 half hour lessons, except where the local swimming pool does not open until May or June, when 8 lessons are provided. In the majority of cases lessons are taught by a PE teacher, assisted by a swimming instructor.

3.3 The remainder of the meeting was concerned mainly with the SAPC conference, which was the subject of a report to the September meeting of the Forum.

3.4 There was some lively discussion on the question of how best to use available funds to promote the work of the Committee. Suggestions included poster and leaflet campaigns, videos versus DVDs/CD Roms and television advertising. It was agreed that 14 to 25 year old males should be the target audience as research shows that they are most at risk of drowning. However, they are also a very difficult-to-reach group.

4. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Representation at the Water and Leisure Safety Committee ensures that East Ayrshire plays its part in the promotion of Water and Leisure Safety generally. The results of the Scottish Swimming research will be made available to the Water and Leisure Safety Committee and in due course to the Forum for information.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Forum is invited to note the contents of the report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services
As/cs3/SAPCwater.leisure.260901

21 November 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Agenda and papers issued in respect of Water and Leisure Safety Committee meeting on 26 September 2001.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers detailed above should telephone 01563 576111 and ask for Mr John Crawford, Head of Protective Services or email at john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk.

AGENDA