

**EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM -7 MARCH 2001**

**SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL**

**HOME SAFETY COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2000**

**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 Home Safety Committee meeting on Wednesday 6th December 2000.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 East Ayrshire Council was represented at the meeting by Councillor George Smith and Leslie Aitchison, Assistant Principal Officer -Trading Standards Service who tendered apologies on behalf of John Crawford, Head of Protective Services.

**3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 3.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Jim France and seconded by Councillor G Smith.

**4 MATTERS ARISING**

- 4.1 Councillor George Smith stated that he had spoken to Cathy Jamieson, MSP regarding the dangers of CO poisoning. Cathy Jamieson has put forward a motion regarding this matter and Councillor Smith read this to the Committee.
- 4.2 Councillor Topping informed the Committee that only 19 MSPs had signed this motion which was not enough to take forward. Councillor Topping raised the question as to whether this could be put forward a second time but was advised that it would only be possible to go forward again in a different format.

**5 GUEST SPEAKER - COUNCILLOR BURNS**

- 5.1 **CoSLA structure and policy development with regard to reducing incidents of accidents and community safety matters.**

Councillor Burns started his presentation by outlining CoSLA's role within the local government framework. This consisted of CoSLA's political decision making system, its meetings timetable, and the make up of party strength within the convention.

**5.2** Councillor Burns stated that the CoSLA definition of community safety is 'protecting people's right to live in confidence and without fear for their own or other peoples safety'. He stated that recently five pathfinder areas were identified to develop community safety partnerships in Angus, Edinburgh, East Dunbartonshire, Fife and South Ayrshire.

**5.3** The main findings of the Pathfinder study were:

- **Community** - safety partnership structures are emerging across Scotland but their form, stage of development, potential and effectiveness vary-
- **Partnerships** are struggling at two stages -into effective existence and from reactive work into planned, programmed, preventive work.
- **An upsurge** in project based community safety activity in Scotland is evident, but in most instances is not yet built on joint local audit or joint planned action. Neither is this type of activity connected to mainstream service delivery or is it accessing regular, occurring resources.
- **Under investment** - in establishing and sustaining a local platform for partnership, particularly in the following areas -partnership building, information sharing, joint auditing and planning, communication within or between partners at all levels, core development funding, monitoring and evaluating performance and impact.

**5.4** During the study, it became apparent that there were five key local issues to be addressed immediately:

- 1 Build a platform for partnership by investing time and energy in building the capabilities and competences of the partnership, and securing resources to provide staff and financial support for community safety.
- 2 Plan preventative community safety for conducting a community safety audit and jointly planning community safety priorities.
- 3 Communicate the community safety message within and between partners by joint training and setting up local operational networks.
- 4 Mainstream community safety by integrating it into community planning, best value, service planning and service delivery for all partners.
- 5 Evaluate the partnerships work by applying the Audit Scotland (Safe and Sound, 2000) balanced scorecard and measuring performance impact.

**5.5** Councillor Burns concluded by saying that community safety in Scotland is currently at a crossroads. Whilst much effort is being extended nationally we are yet to see downlistable sustained benefits. And finally, the challenge is now to build and support local community safety partnerships which harness the energies and sources of partnership, private, public and community.

- 5.6** A discussion followed the presentation and questions were raised. Concern was expressed that community safety was still primarily focused on crime safety. A discussion also took place on the dangers surrounding the use of mobile phones, mainly in relation to radiation and the positioning of receiver masts.
- 5.7** It was the recommendation of the committee that Councillor Topping write to CoSLA requesting that the SAPC be part of any consultation process and that a delegation from the SAPC HSC will be available to have a meeting at any time.
- 5.8** Councillor Topping thanked Councillor Burns for an excellent and interesting presentation.

## **6 PROGRESS OF MANDATORY POWERS SUB-GROUP**

- 6.1** Recommended by the Committee to C Jamieson that a letter be sent thanking her for her support. Councillor Topping will contact Fiona Hyslop to seek advice on the way forward. A discussion took place on how to take this matter on CO poisoning forward and Councillor Smith stated that he would talk to C Jamieson, MSP .
- 6.2** Councillor Topping suggested writing to MSPs seeking to raise awareness of Cathy Jamieson's motion for debate. Ron Ashton agreed to take this on. Councillor Topping will forward a letter and list of MSPs who should be contacted. Members of committee to personally approach their local MSPs and to report any progress at next meeting of SAPC HSC.

### **6.3 AWARENESS RAISING**

J France summarised the Minutes of the sub-committee meeting on the proposed leaflet on awareness raising for the SAPC and spoke about the suggestions already put forward at the meeting of the sub-committee in Chesser House. Road safety, water safety and home safety are all to be represented. It is hoped that a leaflet will be sent out by local authorities with council tax notices. The scheduled date for finalisation of the leaflet is 2002/2003. Councillor Topping stated that the sub-committee members were Councillor Topping, Jim France, Laura McDermott and Martin Rushton.

### **6.4 GAS SAFETY (COUNCILLOR G SMITH)**

Councillor George Smith summarised the Minutes of the sub-committee meetings and recommended that steps be taken to raise awareness on gas safety by encouraging local authorities to use the mobile CO display vehicle. Local authorities will be responsible for costs involved, insurance, gas, etc. Councillor Topping thanked Councillor Smith and John Crawford for all their hard work. To highlight this service it was suggested that a letter go to all Chief Executives and health boards.

Anyone interested, please contact John Crawford at East Ayrshire Council.

## **6.5 FIRE SAFETY (COUNCILLOR ANDREW BURNS)**

Cost to be investigated for the installation of sprinklers in houses of multiple occupation. A discussion followed on the possibility on having this put into local district plans. Graham Torrie informed the committee that CAC FOA will be holding a meeting on 7th December 2000 to discuss this issue. He said that momentum is building slowly. Mr Torrie circulated a report entitled 'Fire Casualties and House Fires - Scotland 1999'. A discussion followed on sprinklers in schools, hotels, etc. Strathclyde Fire Brigade reported a reduction in accidents with fireworks. All the recommendations in the Minutes were supported by the Home Safety Committee. Councillor Topping thanked all speakers and members of sub-groups.

## **7 REPORT: NATIONAL HOME AND LEISURE SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**7.1** Councillor Topping reported to the Committee on the above. Ashley Martin has been reelected as Chairperson and Councillor Topping as Vice Chair. Details of a domestic sprinkler system used in America are to be sent to Sarah Colles of RoSPA, Birmingham. Mr Towse from CORGI informed the committee that the HSE had taken the decision that CO detectors should not be mandatory. George Smith spoke about the cumulative effect of CO poisoning.

**7.2** Concern had been raised on possible dangers arising from TV chefs using blow torches in cooking and that this practice has now been taken up by enthusiasts in the home.

## **8 REPORT: SCOTTISH HOME SAFETY OFFICERS GROUP**

**8.1** Laura McDermott gave a report on SHSOG. She gave details on SHSOG conference to be held on 5th April 2001 at Scottish Power, Cathcart Business Park, Spean Street, Glasgow. Booking form to be returned to the Secretary, Karen Fitzgerald .

**8.2** A newsletter with a distribution list of about 250 people is being compiled by SHSOG and Laura McDermott asked for suggested items for inclusion. The 'off the job' safety leaflet was talked through by Laura.

**8.3** Councillor Topping thanked Laura McDermott.

## **9 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**9.1** Karen Fitzgerald spoke about Diane McGregor's work on bunk bed safety and suggested that SAPC may want to make their own statement on this research.

MSPs supported this work which had been done on a voluntary basis by Diane McGregor and her team. It was agreed that, if possible, a press release supporting this research should be sent out.

## **10 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

**10.1** The date of the next meeting is to be Wednesday 7th March 2001 at Glasgow City Council, Conference Room 3, Nye Bevan House, 1 India Street, Glasgow.

## **11 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**11.1** It is recommended that the forum members;

- (i) note the content of this report.

William Stafford  
Director of Community Services

WS/JD/PL

20 December 2000

**AGENDA**