

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM - 26 SEPTEMBER 2001

SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL - CONFERENCE 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 Annual Conference.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 East Ayrshire Council was represented at the annual conference of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council, which took place on Monday and Tuesday 10 and 11 September at Crieff Hydro, by Councillor Jimmy Carmichael and Alison J Smith, Principal Officer – Licensing and Community Safety. Gerry Cumming, Road Safety Officer, attended the first day of the conference only.

3. 52ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- 3.1 Delegates were welcomed to the conference by SAPC President, Councillor Jim Shaw, who introduced Jeffrey Ord, Firemaster, Strathclyde Fire Brigade who gave the keynote address stressing the theme of the Conference – Prevention is Better than Cure.
- 3.2 Mr Ord began by showing a video which demonstrated the wide range of functions undertaken by the fire services before going on to concentrate on each of the safety areas covered by the SAPC committees, namely, Road, Home and Water and Leisure Safety. Matters of particular interest to Forum members include (i) his reference to the successful work to reduce false alarms and that the resources saved will be reinvested in community safety partnership working; (ii) the fact that two thirds of UK drownings occur in inland waters, such as rivers, lochs and reservoirs; and (iii) his praise for the Fire Cadet Scheme, and reference to recently approved funding for a new Cadet Scheme to be attached to Kilmarnock Fire Station.
- 3.3 In the afternoon delegates heard from Tom Beattie, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, who gave an Accident and Emergency perspective on the Conference theme. He spoke under a number of headings, including Defining the Problem; Use of Mortality Data; Patterns of Injury – including gender and age differences; Seasonality; Site of Injury; Availability and Accuracy of Data; Research and Audit. He emphasised the need for partnership working and information sharing,

urging partnerships of Councils, Police, Fire and Health Services to establish a common agenda and use existing resources as usefully as possibly.

- 3.4 Delegates were then able to attend two of the following parallel workshop sessions, viz:-

Road Safety

- Safety, Mobility and Environment: Achieving a Balance – John Marran, North Lanarkshire Council
- Road Safety on the Trunk Road Network – Jim Gilmour, AMEY Highways

Home Safety

- SOS Project – Napier University Students and Lecturer.
- Home Safety for Disabled People – Ian Herd, Scottish Executive

Water and Leisure Safety

- The RYA: Education not Legislation – Jane Scott, Royal Yachting Association, Scotland
- The Work of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency – Bill Speirs, Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

- 3.5 The first day of the conference concluded with a presentation by Jim Neill, South Ayrshire Council who gave the Local Government View. Jim started his presentation by listing all in local government who have an input to ensuring safety of goods and services. He touched upon perception of local government and emphasised need for effective partnership working and data sharing. He set out the South Ayrshire partnership model and stressed the need for national guidance on data sharing which would clarify what information should, can and cannot be shared between partner organisations.

- 3.6 Bob Rae, Eurest Offshore Support Services started the second day of the Conference by speaking on the Role for the Private Sector. Eurest provide catering and hotel services to offshore installations throughout the world. The company acknowledges that it needs “safe human beings, not just safe workers”. To this end workers were asked to set home safety objectives and have participated in a number of initiatives, often linked with national initiatives such as National Spring Clean. Workers have undertaken home safety audits and have completed action plans. He stressed the need for feed-back and follow-up. Results of initiatives and

competitions are shared with all workers as recognition of participation is seen to stimulate future participation and encourage ideas.

- 3.7 Later in the morning delegates were able to attend two of the undernoted parallel workshop sessions, viz:-

Road Safety

- Safe School Journeys – Sally Thomas, Scottish Executive
- In-Car Safety – Mike Hayes, Child Accident Prevention Trust.

Home Safety

- Ethical Issues in Experiential Learning – Jim Black, City of Edinburgh Council
- The Cost of Fire – Keith Small, Strathclyde Fire Brigade.

Water and Leisure Safety

- Disabled Access to Leisure Facilities – Richard Brickley, Fife Sports Institute.

- 3.8 In the course of the morning, delegates had the opportunity to hear the winners of the 2001 Public Speaking Competition, Lyndsay Cavanagh and Jennifer Thomson, Strathaven Academy, South Lanarkshire Council.

- 3.9 The last speaker of the Conference was Dermot Gorman of Lothian Health who gave the Health Promotion View. He outlined the three prevention approaches taken by health professionals, ie., tertiary, secondary and primary before going on to look at accident statistics and the various factors which contribute to accidents, including deprivation and low educational achievement. He emphasised the need for partnership in community diagnosis, prevention and evaluation of accidental injuries.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The costs of elected member and officer attendance at the Conference will be met from appropriate budgets held by the Council.

5. LEGAL/ POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Attendance at the SAPC Annual Conference afforded delegates an opportunity to learn about national and local developments in accident prevention. The presentations and workshops were of a high quality, provided participants with useful information and contacts and provoked much discussion.
- 6.2 In addition to the “official” theme of Prevention is Better than Cure, there was a very clear secondary theme of partnership. This was not only described explicitly by the various speakers, but is demonstrated by the background of the speakers who were drawn from local authorities, private sector, fire and health services and special interest community groups.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Forum agree:
- (i) to note the content of the report.

W Stafford
Director of Community Services

17 September 2001
cs3/Forum.09.01/SAPC.conf.2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Agenda and papers in relation to the AGM issued by Michael McDonnell, Secretary, Scottish Accident Prevention Council.
2. Conference Pack held by Principal Officer – Licensing and Community Safety.

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

AGENDA