

**EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM –
26 SEPTEMBER 2001**

**SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL - MEETING OF THE
HOME SAFETY COMMITTEE ON 5 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 Home Safety Committee meeting on 5 September 2001.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 East Ayrshire Council is represented at the quarterly meetings of the Home Safety Committee by Councillor George Smith and John Crawford, Head of Protective Services. As neither of the usual representatives were able to attend the September meeting East Ayrshire was instead represented by Joe Donnelly, Principal Officer – Trading Standards and Alison J Smith, Principal Officer – Licensing and Community Safety.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Members heard G Torrie outline the progress of the Mandatory Powers Sub Committee in having the matter brought to the attention of the Scottish Parliament. The matter was debated in Parliament in December 2000 and a presentation for MSPs has been devised with the aim of keeping the matter in the public arena and enlisting the support of more MSPs. G.Torrie then gave a powerpoint presentation and asked for members comments or proposed changes. The Committee approved the presentation and agreed it could, with amendments for clarification, be used to promote the issue to local authorities and community groups. Speaker's notes and handouts will be devised for use in conjunction with the presentation.
- 3.2 Elizabeth Lumsden reported that the number of delegates confirmed to attend this year's SAPC conference on 10 and 11 September was encouraging and reminded any delegates present to confirm which workshops they intended to attend.
- 3.3 Elizabeth reported on various ROSPA issues. Of particular interest is a forthcoming free seminar for those involved in experiential learning events. It will be held in February 2002 in Edinburgh City Chambers and speakers will cover a wide variety of issues/topics related to experiential learning events.

- 3.4 Jim France, in the absence of Laura McDermott, gave a brief report on the activities of Scottish Home Safety Officers Group. He referred to the success of the Off the Job Seminar in Glasgow in April and indicated that a great deal of positive feedback was still being received from the business community. It was hoped to hold a similar event in about 2 years time. The Home Safety Officers were enthusiastic about the work and achievements of the Mandatory Powers Sub Committee and he emphasised the need to keep up the momentum, which had been generated.
- 3.5 Brian Topping (Chair) reported on the National Home and Leisure Safety Committee and indicated that a number of home safety issues were being considered nationally, including safety by design. Among the features being looked at for new build houses were the incorporation into the structure of a building sockets for easy and safe attachments of devices such as stair gates and fire guards. Another benefit of the national meetings was the opportunity for information exchange – a standing agenda item. The next meeting, the AGM, will take place in London in October.
- 3.6 Brian Topping touched again on the work of the Mandatory Powers Sub Committee and there was further discussion on the presentation and how it could be adapted for a wider audience. It was suggested that an explanation be included of what mandatory powers would mean for the community and the local authority/health board. Comparisons could be drawn with the statutory responsibility for road safety.
- 3.7 Cllr Andrew Burns spoke on the work of the Fire Safety Sub Committee particularly in relation to residential sprinkler and smoke detection systems. In response to enquiries he undertook to investigate (a) the use of smoke detectors which are wired to light fittings and (b) the fire safety regulations in respect of hotels. He advised members that Michael Mathison, MSP, would be launching a private member's bill on 18 September to promote residential sprinkler systems.

4. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Nil.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Representation at the Home Safety Committee ensures that East Ayrshire plays its part in the promotion of Home Safety generally. Councillor Smith and other representatives of the Council have been active in promoting gas safety and mandatory powers.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

William Stafford
Director of Community Services
As/cs3/homesafety.0901

7 September 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Agenda and papers issued in respect of Home Safety Committee meeting on 5 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