

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 4 JUNE 2003
COMMUNITY SAFETY CO-ORDINATOR - REVIEW OF EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To advise Forum members of developments and initiatives undertaken by the Community Safety Co-ordinator

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In accordance with East Ayrshire Council Community Safety Strategy a Community Safety Co-ordinator was appointed to implement the strategy and to co-ordinate and drive forward safety initiatives.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1. **Community Learning Plan:** Development of the following plan is ongoing with Community Safety as a key theme.
- 3.2. **Fire and Security Working Group:** The Group continue to meet to discuss and consider a wide range of options to minimise the service and financial impact of fire, vandalism and breach of building security issues.
- 3.3. **Community Health Improvement Project (C.H.I.P. van):** The Community Safety Co-ordinator continues to visit communities throughout East Ayrshire.
- 3.4. **Scottish Home Safety Officers Group:** The Group continue to meet and discuss ways of taking home safety issues forward. The next meeting of the Group will be on Wednesday 18th June at Dumfries. See attached press release on change of priorities for the Department of Trade and Industry with regard to Home and Leisure Safety and response from ROSPA.
- 3.5. **Scottish Local Authorities Community Safety Forum:** The Forum's AGM took place in Hamilton on Friday 16th May. Discussion included the National CCTV Forum and ongoing Training for those involved in community safety activity. Minutes of the meeting are available on the website www.communitysafetyscotland.org
- 3.6. **Grass Fires:** A meeting was held in Dalmellington on Wednesday 16th April to discuss the recent spate of grass fires in East Ayrshire and to

set an agenda on the best way forward to prevent a repeat of this year's appalling devastation to land and wildlife as a result of the malicious and irresponsible behaviour of young people and those responsible for them. A further meeting will take place on Tuesday 27 May at Dalmellington.

- 3.7. **International Women's Week:** A Ladies Safety Evening was held at Kerr and Smith motor dealership in Cumnock. A total of 40 women attended and each were given a personal attack alarm.
- 3.8. **Talks and Presentations:** Home and Personal Safety talks have been delivered to Primary 2 children in the area.
- 3.9. **Child Safety Week 23 – 29 June:** Posters, leaflet, Competitions etc will be distributed to various outlets including Libraries; local offices; schools; kids clubs and the CHIP van. For more information on Child Safety Week contact www.capt.org.uk Tel: 0207 608 3828.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. Projects are financed from existing budgets held by the partnership organisations and from the Scottish Executive Community Safety Awards.

5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Nil

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1. The Community Safety Co-ordinator will continue to liaise with other departments and outside organisations to promote the initiatives described in the report.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

W Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/AW

19 May 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. For further information please contact John Crawford, Head of protective Services on 01563 576111 or email: john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk
2. Implementation Officer: Ann Williams

DTI REFOCUSSES STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN RELATION THE PROVISION OF STATISTICS

Consumer Minister Melanie Johnson today signalled a change of focus in the DTI's approach to presenting information on consumer safety by announcing that the department will no longer collect statistics on the nature and causes of home and leisure accidents (the "HASS" statistics).

Miss Johnson said: "We remain committed to ensuring that products in the UK are safe and we continue to have a key role in setting the regulatory framework around product safety which includes firework safety regulations, negotiating and implementing EU directives on product safety; and working with organisations such as Citizen Advice and trading standards departments.

"However, with increased pressure on resources, I have decided that the DTI should withdraw from the ongoing collection of home and leisure statistics and the provision of an enquiry service relating to those statistics"

This move takes into account work by the Department of Health on how to improve the local surveillance of accidental injury .

Notes for Editors

1. HASS collects information on the nature and causes of home and leisure accidents, by interviewing patients who attend the A&E departments of a representative sample of UK hospitals. Each year approximately 320,000 cases are added to the database, which now holds in excess

of 7 million cases. DTI expects to be able to add the data collected in 2000, 2001, and 2002 to the database during 2003.

2. The DTI collects HASS statistics at a cost of £1.5m per annum.
3. DTI will continue to maintain the database and assist with enquiries on it until the autumn of 2003. For the longer term, the DTI will be seeking proposals from organisations who might be interested in taking on and running the database.
4. NHS hospitals currently record details of patients who are admitted to hospital following an injury. These statistics include home and leisure accidents, but not in the same detail as the HASS statistics.

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

TO: NEWS EDITOR

Note to broadcasters: RoSPA has its own ISDN studio

MAY 2, 2003

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GOVERNMENT'S SCRAPPING OF ACCIDENT DATA APPALS RoSPA

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents said today that it was "appalled" by the Government's decision to axe the major source of data used in the fight against home and leisure accidents.

The Department of Trade and Industry is to scrap the Home and Leisure Accident Surveillance System, which has been in existence since 1976. The system, often referred to as HASS and LASS, gives details of the types of accidents which people have and the products and equipment that contribute to them.

Home accidents send about 2.8 million people in the UK to hospital each year and leisure accidents result in another three million casualties. Nearly 4,000 people die in home accidents annually, making the home the country's biggest accident problem.

John Howard, RoSPA Director of Safety Policy, said: "We are appalled to hear this news. Without this information safety experts, designers, manufacturers and health watchdogs will be working in the dark as they endeavour to prevent accidents. Because of lack of information, this decision will undermine efforts to prevent people being killed and injured in the future.

"The surveillance system, using data from hospitals around the country, has been the main tool used in planning campaigns.

"If we can't measure what is happening in terms of accidents, we can't manage the problem properly. This short-term cost-saving measure could end up costing society far more in the long run as the bill to the health service for treating accident victims is huge.

"The system plays a valuable role in helping to spot accident trends when new products come on to the market or particular activities, such as DIY and gardening, increase in popularity. For instance, it identified problems with electric lawnmowers and barbecues, which allowed safety improvements to be made.

"The Accidental Injury Task Force, set up by the Department of Health to review the accident problem, stressed how important accurate data is in preventing accidents.

"The home is the place where most accidents occur. At a time when we are pressing for more information to help us to prevent deaths and injuries, the most valuable source of data we have is to be taken away from us. It is a backward step, and we can only hope the Government will change its mind or ensure an alternative system is introduced."

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