

THE HOME SAFETY DIGITAL PEN DATABASE

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The Home Safety Digital Pen and Database Project Northern Ireland

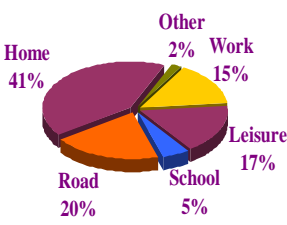
Jennifer Parkinson
Senior Environmental Health Officer, Eastern Group Environmental Health Committee
Chair of NI Home Safety Check Scheme Steering Group






Project Aim

To provide an accurate evidence base of home safety checks and associated interventions aimed at reducing the number of accidents in the home.




Location of Accidents treated in A&E (NI) 2003



Project Objectives

1. Agree a common approach to the collection of home safety data across NI
2. Collect home safety data using digital pens
3. Transfer the data into a database
4. Provide statistical reports
5. Inform on future projects
6. Place evidence in the public domain



Northern Ireland- Home Accident Prevention Strategy







Home Safety Check Schemes



- **First NI pilot scheme began in 1989 - funded by Belfast City Council**
- **Other stand-alone schemes across NI - last 10 yrs**
- **Mainly through Environmental Health Services**
- **Various funders – council, Investing for Health, Big Lottery Fund**
- **SureStarts, Health Visitors, Community Workers – variation in extent of Home Safety Work**



Home Safety Check Schemes (continued)




- **Target over 65s and under 5s**
- **Mainly on request from householder (over 65's) and Health Visitor/Social Worker (under 5's)**
- **Raise awareness of Home Safety**
- **Provide safety equipment**
- **Make referrals to Occupational Therapists, Environmental Health Officers, Health Visitors and Landlords**
- **Refer for 10 year smoke alarm to NIFRS**



Objective 1: Agree a common approach across Northern Ireland

Environmental Health Service Provision in NI



- **Belfast City Council** – 3 Home Safety staff
- **Southern Group Environmental Health Service** (5 Councils) – 3.5 Home Safety staff
- **Eastern Group Environmental Health Committee** (5 Councils) – 2.5 Home Safety staff
- **Western Group Environmental Health Service** (5 Councils) – 5 Home Safety Staff
- **Northern Group Systems** (10 Councils) – 6.5 Home Safety staff

Area: 13,576.5 square Km
Population: 1,788,900 (June 09)

Objective 1: Agree a common approach across NI (continued)


- Partnership with SGEHC & EGEHC
- InphoActive provided digital pen technology
- RoSPA NI
- Etain (formerly EG consultancy) provided database
- WGEHC – Big Lottery funding
- NGS & BCC also signed up




NI Home Safety Check Scheme Steering Group established

Objective 1: Agree a common approach across NI (continued)

- Agreement on proforma (checklist) for Older Person's visit (over 65's)
 - areas to be covered
 - room by room vs. topic
 - extent of advice
- Agreement on roles & responsibilities
 - systems administrator
 - RoSPA support
 - **finance!**



Project costs



Start up development costs £21k (8 pens)

New Pen + licence + delivery £300

Existing pen refills £2.51 for 5

On-demand service £137.50 pa

Copied Pattern fee £1125

Support Service £2757

Printing costs £2070 / 3000

Provision of Database – RoSPA NI



Objective 2: Collect home safety data using digital pens




Cradle for mobile use



Cradle for mobile use
combined with cradle base




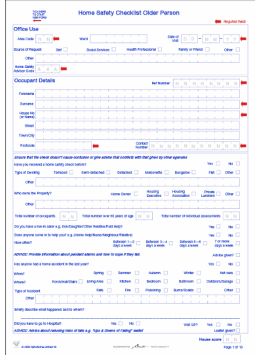




Objective 2: Collect home safety data using digital pens (continued)

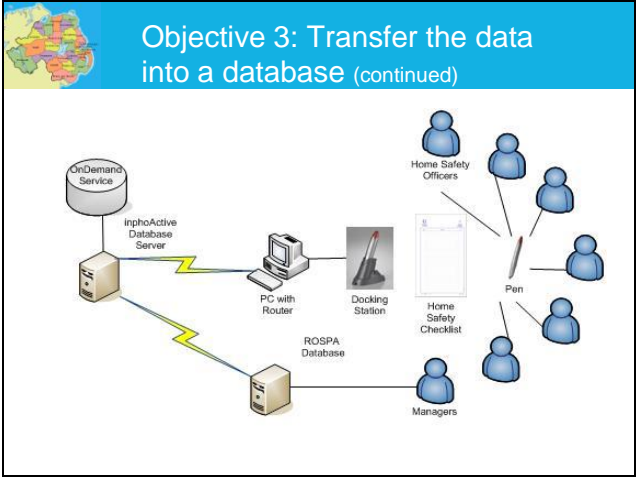
- Standard Proforma
- Write with pen
- Tick box
- Free-hand recognition





Objective 3: Transfer the data into a database






Objective 4: Provide statistical reports

Problems, problems and more problems!

- Linking summary forms to main form
- Verifying accuracy of information transfer
- Prioritising reports required
- Wording of questions
- Detail recorded




Objective 4: Provide statistical reports (continued)

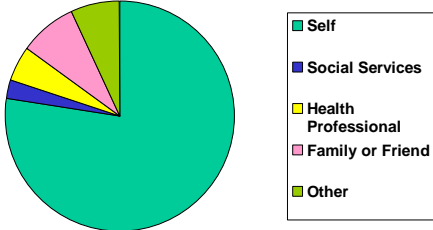
Example of statistics from pilot:

- 628 reports
- Number of Adults

- Number of Occupants	883
- Over 65	826
- Number of Assessments	778



Objective 4: Provide statistical reports (continued)




Referral Source for Home Check Scheme

- Self
- Social Services
- Health Professional
- Family or Friend
- Other



Objective 4: Provide statistical reports (continued)


- 207 had a home accident in last year (34%)
- 104 visited GP
- 85 visited hospital
- Over half used more than 4 different types of medication per day
- 22% had obstructed staircases



 **Objective 4: Provide statistical reports** (continued)

- Over 26% did not have chimney swept regularly
- 10% did not have boiler serviced annually
- 11% did not have a smoke detector
- 21% had a smoke detector that wasn't working properly

 **Objective 5: Inform on future projects**


Statistics from pilot:


- 76% older people did not keep a light on at night
- 39% of older people did not turn a light on when getting up at night

Outcome:


Equipment provision
– low energy light bulbs and touch lamps a priority.

Inform other schemes



 **Objective 6: Place evidence in the public domain**

RoSPA website



- Host statistical reports by Trust area and on NI basis
- Access to specific information on request
- Going live October 2010




The Way Ahead

- Deliver the objectives for the Older People's project
- Pilot and implement the child safety checklist







The Way Ahead

- Develop and implement a public relations/communication strategy
- Encourage province wide participation from SureStarts, Health Visitors and other home safety schemes
- Widen membership of the NI Home Safety Check Schemes Steering Group
- Contribute to UK and European Research












Thank you for listening!

Further information at the afternoon workshops.

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