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Leah and Sam talk to Parliament

In July Leah Malady and Samantha Ashurst from Swanshurst School visited the Children and Young People's Parliament at Birmingham Council House to share a presentation about road safety with them. This is what they found...

First of all, Cassius Francis the youth liaison officer spent five minutes introducing the workshop to the parliament then followed Sam's 20 minute quiz. This allowed the Parliament to discuss answers within small groups and think about what their safety knowledge is like as individuals, but also in relation to their peers.

Cassius then spent a further 10 minutes talking about what they could find in the pack which was handed to them when they arrived. This pack contained a booklet about RoSPA and road safety with profiles of Cassius, and

ourselves which introduced us to them and talked about what we are doing here at RoSPA.

It shared our aims of what we wished to achieve by doing our presentation and three examples of some young people who have tried to do something to raise awareness about road safety. There was also a road facts and statistics sheet in the booklet and a page which included website links, so they could research more on road safety and other safety organisations in general.

Finally, the last page was about the Youth Network



group on Facebook. It briefly told them RoSPA was launching a Facebook group to raise awareness of teenagers about road safety and gave members of the parliament the details, so they could become members if they would like to.

A school that Cassius has been working with, called

Park View, came along to the Parliament with us and spent around 15 minutes sharing what they had learned about road safety. Their presentation contained, a short video clip and a poster with some "did you know facts".

The final part of our presentation was Cassius's asking for feedback from the Parliament on the presentation and Sam's final question of her quiz that asked them to discuss something they could do about road safety. The group responded well to our presentation and had a lot of questions to ask as well as sharing about projects that they had already developed with their schools.

Overall, we agree that the presentation went very well and the children and young people from the Parliament enjoyed what we did and gained a good understanding of road safety.

£20,000 for coaching

A project evaluating Staffordshire County Council's young drivers' coaching programme, conducted by Irene Williamson of Staffordshire County Council and Dr Helen Wells of Keele

University, will receive £20,000 under a new scholarship scheme.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents established the scholarship scheme after BNFL (British

Nuclear Fuels) donated £500,000 to fund research which will have a significant impact on improving safety in the UK and around the world.

Thirty-two research proposals addressing key themes in road, home, work, water and leisure safety, safety education and risk communication were received in response to the first call for applications.

The RoSPA/BNFL Scholarship Scheme is believed to be one of the biggest accident-prevention scholarships ever funded.

BNFL won many top awards from RoSPA for its commitment to health and safety and, now that nuclear power management has moved into the private sector, the scholarship will ensure its name lives on as a safety champion.



Lord Brougham and Vaux, RoSPA vice-president, Irene Williamson, Staffordshire County Council, Dr Helen Wells, Keele University, and Tom Mullarkey, RoSPA chief executive

Children get hurt

HSE report that 138 children were admitted to hospital after accidents at school in 2007-8. This was a slight reduction from the 147 total the previous year.

Sad message aimed at drivers

The mother of a young driver killed as he raced a friend at speeds of up to 95mph hopes a new film and song about him will save lives.

David Wares, 22, was killed instantly in the crash in August 2008, just yards from his home near Prestatyn.

A pop song penned by a friend has been turned into a lavish anti-speed film by Denbighshire's road safety team.

Mother Edwina Wares said if it helped just one family avoid their tragedy it was a "job well done".

Mr Wares had nearly reached the turning for his home when the collision occurred.

His friend, 20-year-old David Bexon was later given two years, nine months in youth custody for his role in the crash, after admitting dangerous driving.

The anti-speed video has been posted onto the YouTube

website, after members of the Denbighshire council road safety team were played the song written by close friend Katie Benbow.

It led to a full blown video shoot, featuring Katie and other friends of David.

She not only wrote the song, but also performs it in the film, against a flowing backdrop of black and white images of her friend.

Called 'To Day', the video's title remembers that David Wares was known to his friends as 'Day'.



Fun packed day for junior road safety officers

A junior road safety officer conference was held at the Newport International Sports Village, Wales National Velodrome. It was a fun, ac-

tion packed and educational, with 16 schools participating.

During the morning session the fire and rescue services, Heddli Gwent Police, DHL's heavy goods vehicle, and the road safety team played their part. In the afternoon the junior road safety officers experimented with stationary bicycles, rowing machines and a 'beer goggle' obstacle course!

The children were given the opportunity to explore Maindee Station's fire appliance and see their emergency cutting equipment, which can be used to extricate passengers from crashed cars. The Roads Policing Unit brought in two motorway police cars and gave some children the experience of being breathalysed!

DHL provided a HGV which they use for their trucks and children presentations. The children were advised about where large vehicle's blind spots are, how big they are and to never cross the road in these spots.

The road safety team also held a cycling quiz, the

JRSOs worked in teams to figure out what was wrong with two broken bikes. They were also given some useful information about looking after their own bikes and the importance of wearing their cycle helmets.

During the lunch break everyone had a special treat of watching the semi-professional cyclists using the specialised track, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The afternoon sessions were a lot more active. They visited an anti drink drive station, where they had to complete an obstacle course and other tricky tasks wearing 'beer goggles'.

The JRSOs also tried out two stationary bicycles and rowing machines, they were challenged to cycle or row as fast and as far as they could in a minute. Luckily for the teachers, they were excused and instead received presentations and a trouble shooting question time with representatives from the Schools Travel Plans, South East Wales Transport Alliance and Kerbcraft programmes.

New website

Launching in late September, www.twothirtyvolts.org.uk is a new website designed to complement key stages 3 and 4 of the national curriculum relating to electricity, and furnish 11-16 years olds with everything they need to know to understand and stay safe around this energy source.

Created by the Electrical Safety Council, the site will offer a range of material for science and PSHE teachers, including lesson plans, revision notes, guides to practical experiments and revision quizzes, using a wide range of electrically related information.

The TwoThirtyVolts education zone will also feature sections providing information on careers in the electri-

cal industry, environmental issues and vital first aid tips. Learning support materials for students will also be available.

"TwoThirtyVolts has a fresh and funky design to appeal specifically to a teen audience," explains Lorraine Carney, campaign manager for the ESC. "However, a key objective of the site is also to support teachers - by providing them with the tools to deliver information about electricity and electrical safety in an engaging and informative way.

"We want to make sure that teenagers are well-informed about electricity to better understand the risks and the benefits of this energy source, so that it can be used safely and effectively."

100% of school children sign up

Every Year 3 pupil in Richmond upon Thames primary schools has been signed up for road safety coaching as the borough equips the 'next generation' with the tools to stay safe.

The council's road safety education team are delighted at achieving 100 per cent take up for the pedestrian training scheme, which will see all the youngsters complete the course by the end of the school year. Having already been named as the London Borough with the highest percentage of children receiving National Standard Cycle Training, this is another big step forward for the borough on the safe and sustainable travel agenda.

The scheme aims to rein-

force the message of staying safe on the pavement and crossing the road carefully while walking to school. The training - practical teaching on roads around their school - also promotes the many benefits of walking both for the youngsters and the environment.

Cllr David Trigg, cabinet member for transport, traffic and parking, said "The safety and welfare of youngsters on their way to and from school - and out and about in general - is a priority. The dedication and enthusiasm of the officers and trainers is to be applauded."

Each child who completes the training, which comprises 30-minute sessions over three days, receives a much-



coveted blue enamel Richmond Safe Walking badge. The scheme uses a variety of on-road situations which pro-

vide a realistic learning experience. More than 3,500 children have already benefited from this scheme.



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THE UK's NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY ORGANISATION
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Joining forces to prevent fires

The Fire Fighters Charity and the Communities and Local Government Fire Kills Campaign have joined forces to encourage schools across England to work with their local fire and rescue service, and help launch a National Schools' Fire Safety Day on Wednesday October 14.

Latest statistics have shown that 29 children under the age of 11 are killed in fires in the UK every year, and over 1,100 are seriously injured. The two organisations have put measures in place which will help reduce this statistic. Over the next couple of years they aim to make learning about fire safety an annual, high profile event listed in schools' diaries up and down the country. By introducing a different fire safety topic each year, pupils taking part will learn valuable fire safety lessons that might one day save their lives.

Supported by The Department of Children, Schools and Families, this year's campaign will focus on

'planning a safe escape' and will be specifically targeted at Key Stage 1 children. The main objective is for Year 2 children to learn five related key messages, which they can take home and relay to their families.

All teachers or parents wishing to participate in the event can request a free resource pack which will include activity worksheets, a poster and guidance notes. The campaign will be supported by a fun and educational microsite, lead by fictional character - Neenaw the fire engine, and will include individually designed zones for adults and children.

The resource pack can be ordered by calling 01202 653 360, or by completing an online request form at: www.nationalschoolsfiresafetyday.com. Additional materials can also be downloaded from the website, where teachers will be able to discover more about the event.

To support the day's activities, The Plan a Safe Escape Team recommends that



teachers contact their community fire safety team at their local Fire and Rescue Service who will be aware of the campaign. They may be able to support the day by coming in to school and talking to the children about 'planning a safe escape'.

The five key messages that children should learn in relation to planning a safe escape are:

- Plan an escape route and make sure everyone knows how to escape.
- Take a few minutes to practice your escape plan.
- Make sure exits are kept clear.
- The best route is the normal way in and out of your home.
- In the event of a fire, GET OUT, STAY OUT AND CALL 999.

Quick response

When 10-year-old Joseph Jones' mum Shirley was choking on a piece of meat he knew exactly what to do.

Joseph, a pupil at Ashurst Primary School in St. Helens, patted her back and when that did not help he carried out the Heimlich movement which dislodged the meat. He then put his mum in the recovery position.

Joseph puts his quick response down to the fact that he recently attending a Crucial Crew course run by St. Helens Council, Merseyside Fire and Rescue and police. It is a RoSPA LASER accredited scheme.

Joseph, 30 classmates, his mum and teachers were treated to a special day out at St. Helens Fire Station

where they had rides on a tender and tour of the station. Merseyside police donated gift vouchers to allow Joseph to attend the climbing wall in Warrington. Joseph is also the first recipient of the Captain's Cup - a special award made by Captain Crucial and the Crucial Crew steering group.

Councillor Carole Kavanagh, executive member for environmental protection said: "This is a wonderful example of just how useful and vital Crucial Crew is. This news just underlines the importance of helping youngsters to take health and safety very seriously while at the same time providing a fun and interesting event."

Get in Gear

The Get in Gear young driver course has been successful in securing the support of 'Young Marmalade', who provide car insurance specifically for young drivers. They offer low cost insurance, packaged together with a range of new or nearly new cars.

Nigel Lacy from Young Marmalade said "Additional training is an integral part of the Young Marmalade scheme and Get in Gear can help new drivers to ensure they are prepared for those first solo journeys on the open road. We offer an easy, value for money way for young people to get behind the wheel of a safe new car."

Buckinghamshire County Council developed the Get in Gear course, which is designed for drivers who have

recently passed their driving test and aims to give them advanced skills for driving in towns, motorways and on rural roads.

Since its launch last September more than 100 young drivers have taken part in the scheme. The course consists of a theory session which is an opportunity to discuss their driver risk profile and what they can do to reduce the risk at this vulnerable stage of their driving.

Following the theory they are contacted by an Approved Driving Instructor who will take them out on two two hour drives. The drive covers the types of routes where novice drivers are most likely to be involved in a crash where they will be killed or seriously injured.

Six self starters have a k

When the Child Safety Education Coalition was launched in February this year, it was clear that its bold vision would require a highly-motivated team of staff.

The coalition, launched by RoSPA and the National Children's Bureau and funded by a £1.6million grant from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, aims to promote the provision of high-quality practical safety education in England.

But, how do you go about implementing such an ambitious remit?

The answer is to appoint six bright self-starters as co-ordinators and give them freedom to work in ways which best suit their own experience and skills.

CSEC project manager John Vallender is delighted with the enthusiasm and mix of skills brought by the new co-ordinators.

"These are people who have the experience, dedication and enthusiasm to promote national safety educa-

tion in effective ways which will ultimately save lives and reduce unintended injuries to children and young people," he says.

"The coalition is off to a great start thanks to the initiative of this team and indeed everyone who is playing their part in getting the project off the ground."

Meet the co-ordinators

Nicola Smith is relishing the chance to encourage learning about risk through adventure. The Falkirk-born, Glaswegian-bred mother-of-two is driven by a desire to help unwrap the "cotton wool generation". And, with a strong background in education, she is perfectly placed to do so.

Nicola explains: "As the mother of two small boys I'm acutely aware that people are wrapping children up in cotton wool these days. I feel

sometimes you get looked at as a bad mum for letting your children climb a tree!

"I hate to think of children not getting opportunities to have adventurous play and I really believe they learn by doing – my type of teaching is that you don't actually learn anything by sitting on your bum, you need to get out there and do it."

As a co-ordinator, Nicola now has the opportunity to challenge "cotton wool thinking" in a number of settings. Her main responsibility is to develop resources on CSEC's website, especially interactive learning activities, or as Nicola prefers to call them, "computer games". Not that she intends to get to grips with the world of gaming all by herself – Nicola will be approaching universities with computer game research units to involve students in developing resources for their slightly younger contemporaries.



Jason Cole addressing his colleagues

Her remit also includes supporting local safety education provision and advising education agencies by developing teaching resources which can be used throughout the curriculum.

And, aware of the fact that schools are only one partner among many in safety education, Nicola will also be working with uniformed organisations, such as Girlguiding UK and the Scout Association. As a former Guide and Brownie leader herself, Nicola is well aware of the issues facing such groups.

"There's plenty to keep me busy," she laughs.

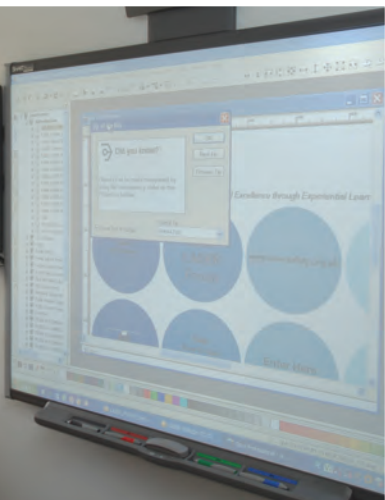
Jason Cole also joined CSEC from an education background, leaving his previous role as a primary school teacher.

Jason had a particular focus on PE at his school in inner-city Birmingham, and he brings his enthusiasm for the active life to his co-ordinator



... the team listening to Jason, joined by John Vallender, project manager, (back right) and Ian Featherstone, LASER manager, centre

bold vision for the future



s...

position, which will emphasise partnership with sports clubs.

Jason, originally from the Forest of Dean, is already developing partnerships with



Kathy Shortt left and Nicola Smith below



national organisations, including the Football Foundation, where he is looking at ways to engage teenagers through the KICKz programme with activities which will include a focus on life skills as well as safety messages.

He also plans to promote road awareness in schools by working with Birmingham City Council's road safety team.

And despite only being in post for just over a month, Jason is getting stuck into improving safety education by developing an evaluation tool for Sandwell IMPS (injury minimisation programme for schools).

He says: "IMPS is a good project and I'm working with them to develop worthwhile assessment tools, based on observation as well as more common approaches which don't always give enough information about progress."

Jason is confident that, with an accent on practical observation, the evaluation tool could also be transferred to other CSEC projects.

Kathy Shortt is a RoSPA "veteran", and was previously a valued member of the road safety team. Her experience and skills in education and coaching are informing her project choices as a CSEC co-ordinator.

Having taught English as a second language, coached children with special needs, and taught in both mainstream and special needs schools, Kathy is well equipped for her first scheme with the Birmingham Playcare Network, a quality assurance group for childminders and people who work at children's centres.

Over the course of six



Cassius Francis has two roles

months, starting this autumn, Kathy is taking on the challenge of overseeing training sessions for 20 network affiliates at a time covering vital skills about burns and scalds, slips, trips and falls, and road safety.

"Becoming a CSEC co-ordinator seemed a logical step for me having worked most recently in road safety," Kathy says. "This new position allows me to build on that experience."

Kathy, originally from Boston, USA, is also looking into the possibility of a project involving college and university age young people.

"So many 16 and 17-year-olds need basic safety training before they go off to live independently," Kathy says. "Really basic things like cooking chips, or preventing and dealing with small fires, need to be addressed because safety awareness seems to go out the window for some students, especially in their first years."

In the meantime, preparing the resources, training sessions and follow-up work-

shops for the Playcare Network project is keeping Kathy occupied.

Cassius Francis is another familiar face at RoSPA's Birmingham headquarters. He joined RoSPA last November as the charity's first ever youth liaison officer, so becoming a CSEC co-ordinator was a natural opportunity for him to extend the sterling work he already carries out. Cassius, who describes his two roles as complementary, is currently working on the development of CSEC's Young People's Advisory Group, but also has plenty of other projects in the pipeline, including the possibility of developing a secondary school age curriculum with Birmingham's Safeside Centre.

However, the task of putting together the advisory group is more than enough to be getting started with. The group, which will advise the CSEC steering group and gather information from young people, will be comprised of children from four areas around the country -

Six have freedom to work for coalition in own ways

Birmingham, Halifax, London and Runcorn – Cassius will be working specifically with the group from Birmingham.

Once composition is finalised, Cassius will be supporting the delivery of the specialised residential training being put together by the National Children's Bureau to equip the children for the other aspects of their role, including presenting the views of young people on safety education and contributing to a reduction in unintended injuries among their peers.

As a long-time youth worker, Cassius becomes animated as he talks about the chance to empower young people to make a difference for themselves in such a crucial area.

"I really appreciate the crystallised vision of CSEC," he says. "It's about practical safety education so that we can enable young people to be equipped to reduce the number of unintentional injuries they or their peers may suffer."

Craig Keegan will be applying the lessons learned from his years in the outdoor pursuits and sports development sectors to a number of CSEC projects. The Chester man is looking into forming a package of safety education resources for coaches and clubs with the British Canoe Union.

In addition to seeking partnerships with governing bodies of different sports, he is



Christine Tame and Craig Keegan enjoy the lecture

working with Salford Watersports Centre and Youth Afloat to pilot differing approaches to safety education. He is excited about getting to grips with youth development at the coal-face again.

"The opportunity to become directly involved in outdoor education as a CSEC coordinator was a big carrot for me," Craig says.

"The CSEC role gives me the chance to continue helping young people develop in areas like personal confidence - which is what I always enjoyed about being an instructor - albeit that I'll be helping in a different way now.

"Outdoor experiences allow young people to develop risk awareness, and although there's a lot of focus on safety at clubs, it is usually to do with the activity itself. I'd like to see it extended to include things like getting to and

from the club.

"Clubs are an outlet that a lot of young people are tapping into, and if we can get clubs and governing bodies on board with the safety messages around more than just the activities themselves, we're going to reach a massive audience."

He adds: "Not only that, but there are a lot of transferrable skills in outdoor activities which are useful for safety in everyday life, and that's a message we're interested in getting across."

Finally, London-based Christine Tame will be investigating safety education in several of the capital's boroughs, while at the same time considering the potential for working with organisations and agencies supporting young mothers' groups for girls aged 14 and over.

Christine has served on the very frontline of home safety and education in the past, with roles as a Metropolitan

Police constable, special needs support worker, children's centre coordinator and accident prevention officer. In fact, she was in one of the first waves of female police cadets to be integrated into the Met's all-male cadet corps in the 1970s - clearly a woman who likes a challenge.

"I really am enjoying my work with CSEC," Christine says with enthusiasm. "At the moment, I'm looking at what safety education and resources are available for children in some of the London boroughs and pondering how CSEC can get involved in filling in the gaps."

In addition, Christine is keen to see whether CSEC can help establish the concept of home safety with new mums and their parents or carers.

She says: "Having worked in children's centres I've seen an increase in the number of young mums. I noticed they can sometimes find it hard to take up the offers of support which are open to all parents because they feel it might not apply to them as younger parents.

"Of course, there are already lots of organisations working with this group, but it would be good to see if CSEC can deliver practical safety education to those organisations as well as the girls themselves."

With such a broad range of approaches to CSEC's work, John Vallender is already seeing positive outcomes for the first wave of partnerships.

"I'm very much looking forward to seeing how the coordinators' projects take shape," he adds.

Getting young people talking

The idea of the RoSPA Youth Network started with a need to engage with young people and involve them in developing more effective strategies in safety and risk education.

Our hope is that the Youth Network will allow us to consult with a range of young people about striking the right balance between safety and risk. We also want to hear from young people about campaigns which they have developed themselves and the hope is that they will be inspired to prompt us into initiating projects which we can develop together.

So, what kind of young person do we want to join the youth network? As you will see in my diagram, I have crudely categorised four types of young person in relation to risk competence -

- Unconscious incompetence probably won't have much interest in joining the network (or anything else), but are perhaps the teenagers who we would be most concerned about from a safety point of view
- Conscious incompetence for me is probably the largest group of young people and therefore potentially the most influential. Incompetence here is not meant disrespectfully, but is a reflection of the fact

By Cassius Francis

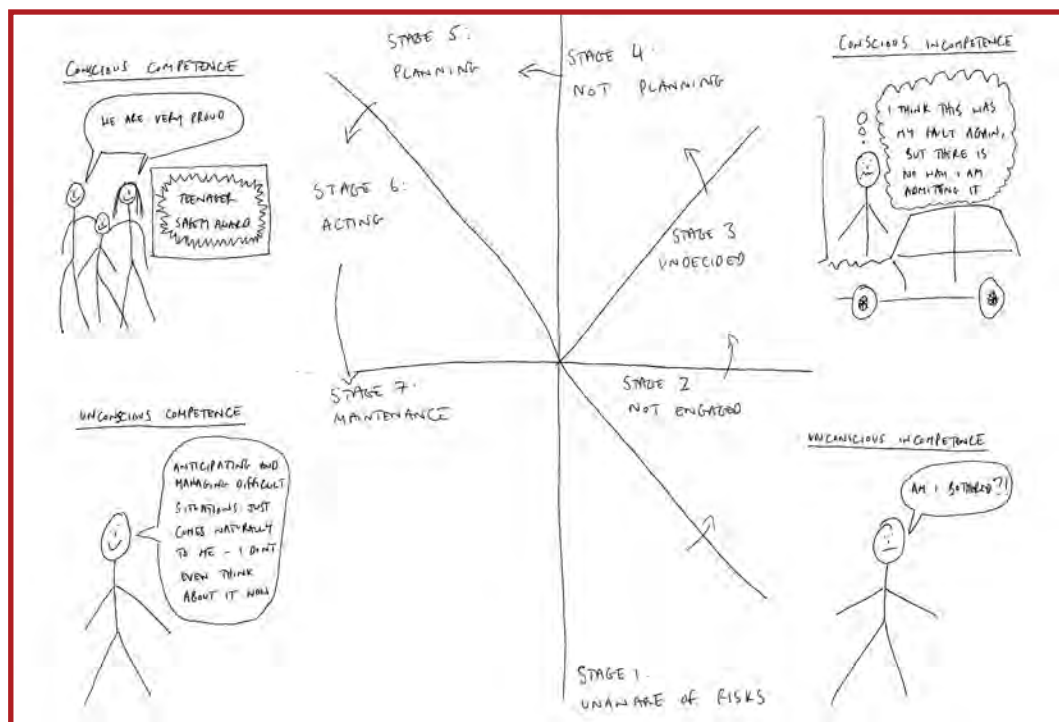
that a lack of experience and maturity can lead to unnecessary accidents

- Conscious competence are probably young people who may have participated in a uniformed group, taken part in a formal challenge like the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and/or is a trained volunteer with St

John's Ambulance

- Unconscious competence is the smallest group. These are your characters like Mark Perham (aged 16 at the time of writing attempting to sail solo around the world) who have to make very calculated risk management decisions without thinking about it.

If you know a teenager aged 14-19 who could benefit from and/or contribute their skills and expertise to the RoSPA Youth Network please ask them to join our Facebook group which can be accessed via our new website www.teen.safetyandrisk.com If you have any question or you would like to know more please call 0121 248 2025 or email tsr@rospa.com



This has been adapted from Individual behaviour change model by Weinstein & Sandman (2002)

Rohan speaks up for drivers

Rohan Bennett has been appointed as RoSPA's second young advocate on the Changemakers Future Leaders programme. This follows a successful placement and road safety research project by Alysha Ong last year.

Established as a charity in 1994, Changemakers advocates the young person led approach to action and learning to policy makers and funders, and supports organisations to develop good

practice. This aim is based on the proven experience that giving young people high levels of ownership of their action and learning is highly motivating for young people and the adults and organisations supporting them.

Rohan is 20 years old and has been driving since he was 17, he considers himself to be a 'good' driver, but is concerned that even though he has never had an accident or made a claim, an insur-

ance company could still quote him £5,000 to provide him with annual cover.

Between June and December Rohan will be working with RoSPA's road safety department to conduct research among young male drivers, pilot a driver safety programme and speak to insurance companies.

When asked what he hoped to get out of the 10-day placement Rohan responded, "I hope my offer to

support inexperienced drivers will promote positive actions and in turn help young male drivers to get fairer insurance premiums."

If you would like to know more or are in a position to offer Rohan advice to develop his project please contact his placement supervisor, Cassius Francis at cfrancis@rospa.com

To find out more about Changemakers log on to <http://www.changemakers.org.uk/>

Tackling problem of young

RoSPA has recently published a report of a major study designed to get a better understanding of the risks faced, and created, by young (17-24 years) drivers at work.

It is already known that drivers are at a higher risk of being involved in an accident after passing their test, not just in the first weeks and months but several years after. Drivers using the road for work are also a high risk group with the types of journeys they undertake and work pressures being two reasons why this is a risky business.

Both young drivers and at-work drivers were identified as priority groups in the second three-year review of the

By Kathy Shortt and Duncan Vernon

Government's road safety strategy.

This project was therefore to research the intersection between these two, how well employers cope and examples of how employers were managing this risk. To do this, views of employers were sought using a questionnaire and more in-depth interviews, and a series of focus groups were also run with younger drivers themselves.

Working with the DSA, RoSPA also investigated whether employers would recognise and make use of a "driving for work qualification" when recruiting or man-

aging young staff who drive as part of their job, and if so, what should be included in such a qualification or training programme.

This builds on a suggestion raised by the DSA in their recent Learning to Drive consultation and could provide an early opportunity to deliver further training to young drivers.

Training delivered to employees during work time can also have an influence on their safety outside of work, and there is the potential for a qualification to have an influence on outside of work accidents.

The questionnaire was on the RoSPA website for 13 weeks and yielded a very respectable 407 responses from a wide variety of organisations, both large and small. The range of industry sectors and journey purposes was also wide.

The in-depth interviews and young drivers' focus groups provided further opportunity for participants to expand their views and introduce other road safety issues they felt worthy of attention. All were invited to rate the current system of training and testing, to identify areas of inadequacy and to suggest improvements.

There was widespread agreement that the present structure for driver training and testing did not fully prepare young people to take on the responsibilities of driving for work and was lacking in a number of important areas.

Sixty per cent of respondents to the questionnaire and 87 per cent of those interviewed were of the view that the current system of driver training and testing was "not at all or not very" adequate in preparing young drivers to drive for work. Employers frequently cited the differences in the types of journey they undertake during training and for work as the reason why.

One frequently repeated concern was young drivers' lack of experience in driving more than one type of vehicle.

Passing the basic driving test allows an individual to drive cars and light vans but most learners do not have experience of the latter. As a consequence, young drivers found larger vehicles, such as company vans, difficult to handle and manoeuvre.

Young drivers themselves



Young drivers taking part in a classroom based activity

g drivers at work



Apprentices take part in the "Wasted Lives" campaign during the first six months of employment

had a chance to have their say through the focus groups. They were very honest in their appraisal of their own driving and that of their peers, recognising that they were all in need of more practical experience on the road. They were receptive to the idea of further training if this could be shown to be of benefit, either in terms of career development or financially through reduced insurance premiums.

Although many questionnaire respondents said that changes should be made to driver training and testing to make it more relevant to employers needs there was also strong support among them for a post-test driving for work qualification. Accident reduction and compliance with health and safety legislation were the two main reasons why employers would find post-test training useful.

The employers did not see the test as the end of the

training process or a guarantee an employee was competent to drive at the required level of safety and many currently run their own systems of post-test training for employees to build on the skills from the learner training and to keep drivers in the 'training loop'.

Post-test training for employees to build on the skills from the learner training

Some employers had other systems which made young drivers safe on the road. One example of this was apprenticeship schemes run by some employers, which younger employees would go through while learning for the job.

These generally placed less pressure on apprentices to get a large number of jobs done throughout a day and gave a more managed intro-

duction to at-work driving. 'Buddying systems' where younger and older drivers were paired for journeys were also identified by employers as a way of introducing young drivers to at-work driving.

Not surprisingly, a number of the interviewees said they

thought that young drivers also required more practical experience after the test, either to apply some of the skills they had learnt to a different environment, or to learn new skills specific to at-work driving.

While recognising that experience comes with time, practice and opportunity, they identified several situations where further training could compensate for lack of experience, such as motorway driving, hazard percep-

tion skills, driving in adverse weather conditions and driving at night.

The young drivers at work project has shown that employers have identified a need for driver education beyond the basic system of training and testing which will help young people to take on the responsibilities of driving for work.

The second phase of the project will develop, trial and evaluate a workshop for young drivers covering the key areas flagged up by the research, and an online guide for employers and managers on how to run the workshops and use the materials within their own organisations.

You can view the whole Young Drivers at Work Report at <http://www.rospace.com/RoadSafety/youngdriversatwork>

RoSPA will be looking to run some trials of the workshop developed for the next phase of the project. If you want to find out more or how to take part then please contact Duncan Vernon on dvern@rospace.com

School parking tops agenda

Banners to encourage parents to think about where and how they park around New Inn Primary School in Wales have been put on display.

Children at New Inn Primary School took part in a competition lead by the Torfaen Road Safety Team and Gwent Police force. They were asked to design a banner to be displayed outside the school to help make parents think about their parking and make it safer for children entering the school.

More than 130 children entered the competition making choosing the best a difficult task. Finally, the entries were

whittled down to just two winners and two runners up.

Hollie Morgan and Fiona Dodge were the winners. Hollie's banner will be displayed at the front of the school on the fence as you enter the car park and Fiona's on Hillcrest at the back. Torfaen County Borough Council funded the production of the banners.

Alun Jones, head teacher at New Inn Primary, said, "Keeping our children safe is vitally important and we are very grateful to everyone who has helped to bring safe parking to everyone's attention. The children are delighted to see their work on show and



being put to good purpose."

Councillor John Cunningham, executive member for operational services, praised the pupils' work. "Their striking designs will help raise awareness about an important issue," he said. "I would like to congratulate the girls

and all the pupils at the school for their efforts."

School gate parking is a huge issue for many schools across the area, with many trying to find ways to encourage parents to park further away and walk into school, or even leave the car at home.

Teenagers target of stark messages

A stark road safety campaign from Transport for London urges teenagers 'Think! Look out for your mates'

Transport for London has launched its latest advertising campaign aimed at encouraging road safety among the capital's teenagers.

The new 'Don't let your

friendship die on the road' theme is based on the insight that friendship is one of the most important things in young people's lives.

Stark posters show young actors who appear to be lying against a wall, however, a second glance reveals them to be actually lying on the road as a result of a road collision. The message is a clear call to action, 'Think! Look out for your mates'.

Young teenagers are more likely to be involved in a road collision than any other age group. Boys and young people from deprived backgrounds are particularly vulnerable. Posters will be placed in close proximity to schools and in areas of high footfall across London. Figures from 2007 show that incidents are more likely to occur between 3pm and 5pm.

In addition to the poster adverts, a moving radio advert dramatises the effects of young loss as a teenager reads a eulogy for a best friend at their funeral. A series of online banners will appear on popular websites including Bebo and MSN messenger.

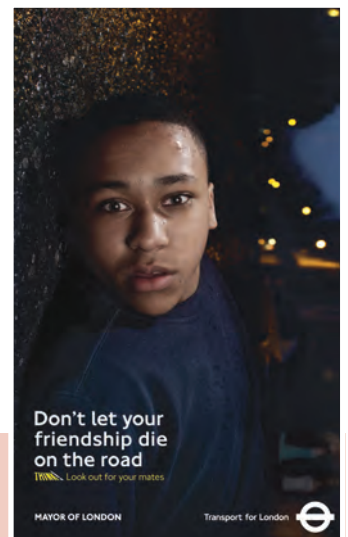
Chris Lines, head of the TfL London road safety unit, said: "Every day a teenager is killed or seriously injured on London roads. While this number is steadily falling, one injury is still one too many."

"This year Transport for London is spending £57m on further safety measures on the capital's roads. These adverts serve as a stark reminder to young people of the importance of taking care when using or nearby

London roads."

The teen road safety initiative is part of a long-term TfL road safety campaign which continues to work to reduce the number of young road users who are killed or are seriously injured in the capital.

For more information go to www.tfl.gov.uk



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