



Water Safety Policy 2016

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Community Greenspace



PERTH &
KINROSS
COUNCIL

Securing the future... • Improving services
• Enhancing quality of life • Making the best use of public resources

Perth and Kinross

- Rivers & lochs used for recreation & tourism.
- Council land includes riverside parks eg Perth Inches on River Tay.



Perth City - incidents

Perth bridges – instances of deliberate entry to water - self harm – ‘cry for help’.

River islands – youth parties/camping – tragic accidents/ misjudge dangers.



Policy stakeholders



Environment Service (TES) :

- CG parks & open spaces - RAP site inspections.
- Operations – inspection & maintenance of PRE.
- Roads & Structures – cycle paths & street placement of WSS/ PRE.

Housing & Community Care (HCC):

- Perth & Kinross Water Safety Partnership (PKWSP).
- Community Wardens – role where there's vandalism of PRE.
- Mental health & suicide prevention.

Education & Children's Services (ECS):

- School based water safety messages & 'Safetaysiders'.
- Outdoor Education – rescue skills, teacher training.

Health & Safety

Aim of Policy



To :

- Ensure effective, efficient & sustainable water safety management of Council land.
- Reduce accidental & deliberate entry to water.
- Use a risk assessment process (RAP) to identify appropriate water safety response.

Formalised existing practice – few changes required.

Policy basis

Legislation – duty of care (reasonable steps, RAP based)

RoSPA advice – used to inform both pre policy RAP & policy.

- Consultant advice (1993 & 2006).
- Assessing Inland Accidental Drowning.
- Water Safety Policy in Scotland – A Guide

Drowning incidents information

WSS & PRE in place pre policy
& PKWSP additional WSS
placement ongoing at popular rural
locations on private & Council land.



Policy basis - drowning incidents

Inland accidental drowning (RoSPA)

- 2009-2011 – 260 in UK (equates to 30ish in Scotland)
- Water sports – Council fishing permits have WS advice.
- Falls from land based activities high (big group)

Implications – education, edge protection.

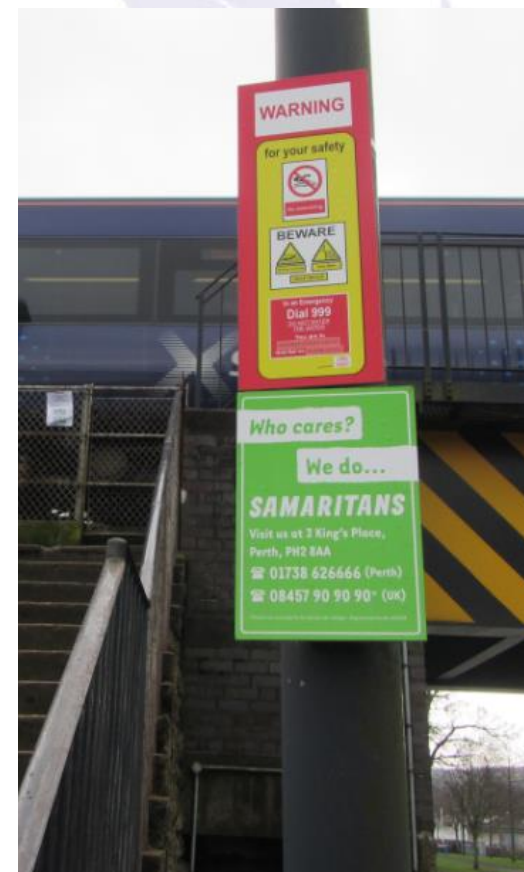


Policy basis - drowning incidents

SFRS – Perth & Kinross Jan 2010 – April 2014

- 68 water rescues attended
- 38 from moving water
- 8 fatalities & 18 non fatal casualties

Implications - first response phone 999,
PRE where there are recurring incidents.



Policy – design for safety & amenity

Public amenity – access to edge or separation from edge?

- Edge protection & views:
 - Design - routing of paths, gradients.
 - Barriers & secure edges.
 - Vegetation management & wide margins.
 - Pond planting to discourage access & encourage biodiversity.



Policy changes – RAP inspections

Site reassessments (RAP) repeated every 4 years unless:

- Change to site (repeat RAP within 1 month).
- Report of incident (repeat RAP within 5 working days).

Appendix to Policy – Guide for Risk Assessors.

Includes easy to follow flow charts for officers – encourages consistent standards based on site characteristics.



Policy changes - PRE

Limitations of PRE:

- Need for training.
- Risk to rescuer.
- Distract from 999.

PRE at locations where:

- There is known & recurring entry to water
- They are highly visible.
- They can be used effectively.
- They can be regularly inspected and maintained.

PRE not to be used where:

- High falls injury, rescuers at risk.
- Fast currents carry casualty out of range.



Policy changes - PRE inspections

Reduce multiple PRE to most effective locations to increase efficiency & enable sustainable inspections & maintenance.

Continue to inspect PRE on Tay Street, Perth daily.

Reduce PRE inspections on greenspace sites (weekly April-Oct & monthly rest of year).

Repeated vandalism – consider relocating PRE or replacing with WSS.



Policy changes - WSS

WSS only at:

- Slipways.
- Deep/fast water adjacent to public facility.
- Known & recurring incidents of entry to water.

Otherwise in parks and countryside sites often located at main access points or car parks rather than at waterside.



Policy in action

Appendix to Policy – Guide for Risk Assessors – consistent standards based on site characteristics. Training to encourage common approach. RAPs ongoing for all parks & countryside sites.



Policy in action – RAP example

Perth's Riverside Park large riverside frontage and feature ponds.
Annual Riverside Light Nights – free lightshow 59,030 people attended 16 nights in Feb 2019.
Pre event RAP in 2017 required additional fencing along riverside.

