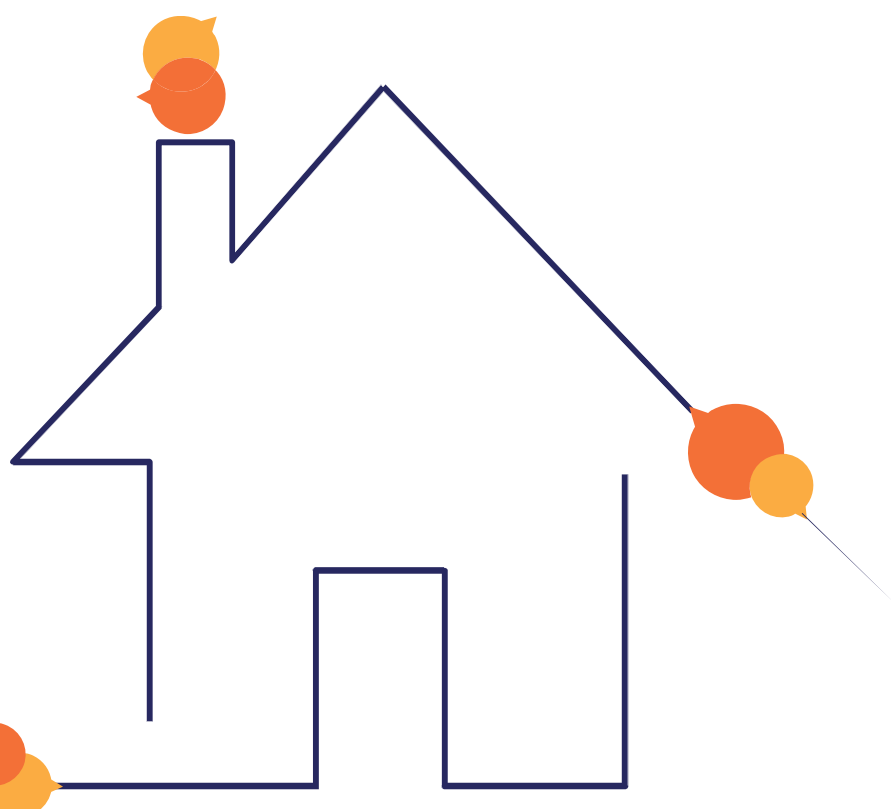




accidents don't have to happen

Community Safety: 2020/21 Annual Report

April 2021



About RoSPA

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) has been at the heart of accident prevention in the UK for over 100 years. Through awareness-raising campaigns, research, expert consultancy, education and training, RoSPA is committed to standing up for safety at home, on the road, in or near water, in the workplace, at leisure and through safety education. Every accident statistic **represents a real person**, a life lost or affected, often severely – and a family left enduring the consequences. Our work, therefore, is focused on preventing unnecessary injuries.

Scotland's Community Safety Team

RoSPA's community safety team for Scotland is located at Heriot Watt Research Park in Edinburgh and is managed by RoSPA's public health adviser. Current grant funding from the Scottish Government's Safer Communities and Cashback Unit allows work programmes to be carried out in respect of home and water safety under the "community safety" umbrella.

Those employed in 2020/21 to deliver on home and water safety grant-funded programmes in Scotland include:

- a community safety manager (Elizabeth Lumsden)
- a community safety development manager (Carlene McAvoy) – promoted to UK leisure safety manager in January 2021
- a part-time home safety officer (Jen Foley) – took up post January 2021

Our Work

Our work is directly relevant to both local safety and home safety within the wider community safety picture. We focus our attention on dealing with home and water safety issues.

We believe in a whole person, whole life approach but mainly focus our activities on the 0-5 and 65+ age groups. We are subject matter experts and cover the following topic areas:

- Falls
- Burns and Scalds
- Drowning
- Poisoning
- Choking and Suffocation
- Strangulation

Our vision:

“Life,
free from
serious
accidental
injury”



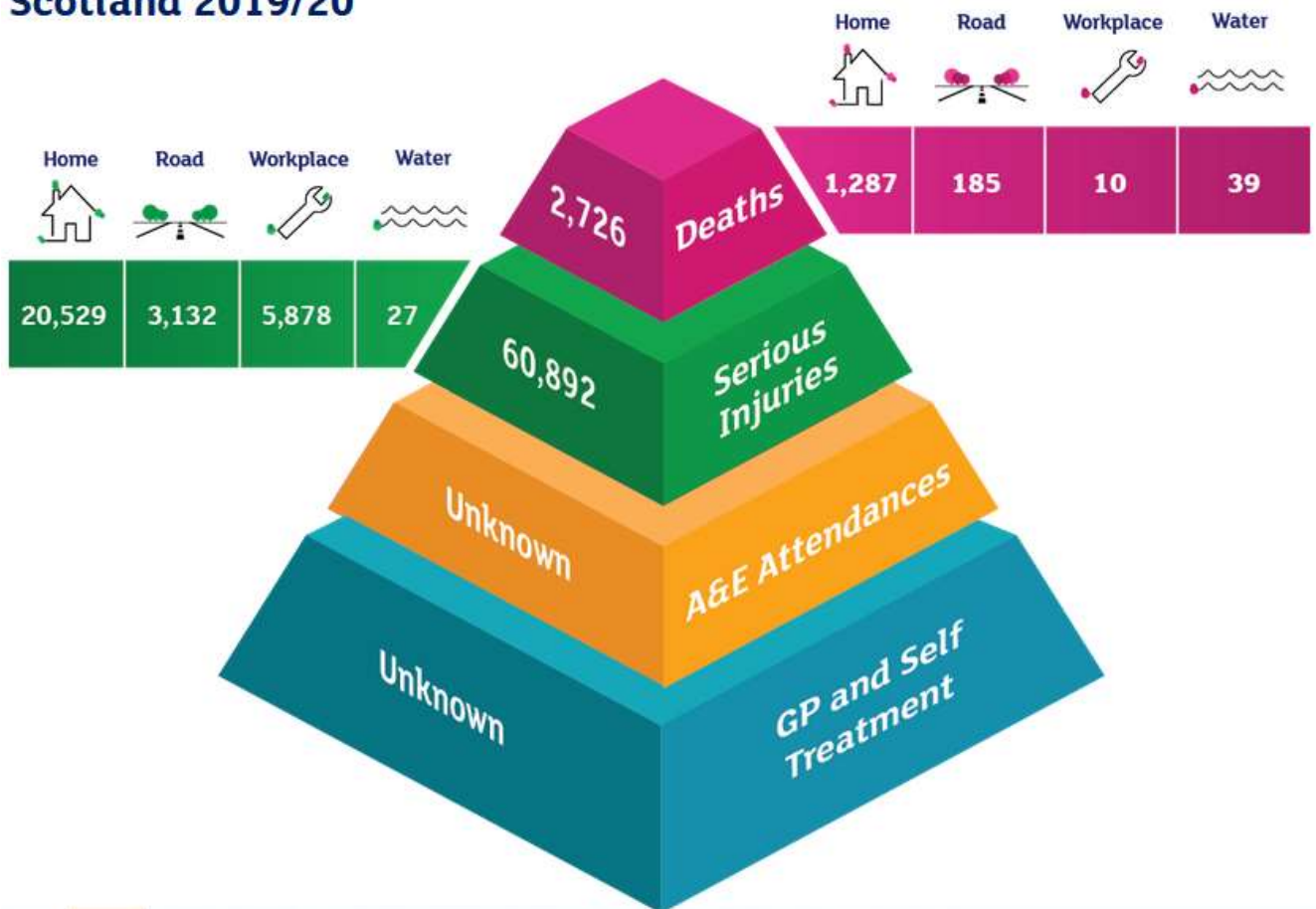
Key Challenges

General accident and injury prevention

Accidents and injuries are a major – and usually avoidable – challenge in Scotland. The overall impact is most significant for the very young, the very old and those living in our most deprived communities, as well as being a significant burden on our public services. There is a strong evidence base which demonstrates the impact of accidental injuries on the people of Scotland:

Injury pyramid

Scotland 2019/20



RoSPA's work programme

To help ensure a life free from serious accidental injury, we work with a range of partners who have a role to play in injury prevention by:

- Providing safety information, support and training for practitioners
- Public promotion and awareness raising
- Strategic influencing and awareness raising at a local, national and European level
- Gathering and disseminating evidence and research
- Facilitating specialist projects where additional funding allows.

This report outlines a snapshot of RoSPA's activities in home and water safety in each of the above areas during 2020/21.

1. Providing safety information, support and training for practitioners.

Providing safety information

- RoSPA Scotland's monthly newsletter, Homeword, has taken on a new format which allows us to gather analytics on readership and will hopefully enable us to widen our reach. The previous circulation list is being used initially, with new subscribers being invited to sign up via <https://www.rospa.com/home-safety/uk/scotland>. Editions have advised subscribers about – amongst other things - updates on fire legislation, Scottish Health Survey findings and the availability of downloadable resources from the RoSPA website and the Office for Product Safety and Standards. A representative of SCOTSS has agreed to supply us with information to include in Homeword on a regular basis.
- RoSPA staff also provide a direct telephone advice service across Scotland and answer email enquiries.



Deliver training courses

No training courses have taken place during this period. Unfortunately, due to the current pandemic, for RoSPA, like other training providers, this has not been possible.

Provide home safety presentations to local communities

As our usual information-sharing and awareness-raising has had to move to online delivery, Carlene and Elizabeth have hosted the following webinars this year:

- An overview of child safety in the home – this was our first webinar and was held on the 20th May. It included basic information on how to keep your child safe in the home during lockdown was attended by 35 delegates. 83% found the webinar helpful and 100% would attend another webinar. The webinar resulted in a number of questions being raised on safety equipment, the role of

housebuilders, drowning and story books for children to help understand hazards. We answered these on Twitter.

You can watch the webinar online [here](#) (please note the first 5 minutes did not record).

- Electrical safety in the home on the 30th June in partnership with Electrical Safety First. Wayne Mackay of ESF presented on this topic. Elizabeth chaired the event and assisted with questions, with Carlene providing IT support. 46 people attended this webinar and you can view [here](#).
- Halloween and fireworks safety on 21st October. This was attended by 56 delegates and can be viewed [here](#).
- Inequalities and unintentional injury on 17th November which was attended by 31 and can be seen [here](#).
- Carbon monoxide poisoning on 25th November which had 88 delegates and is available to view [here](#).
- Christmas safety on 8th December which had 28 attendees and can be seen [here](#).

A great deal of work has gone into organising these webinars including sourcing and confirming speakers, presentations, holding practice sessions/training on using Webex, hosting these webinars and promoting them. This has been a great opportunity to increase our flexibility as we adapt to new ways of working and has only served to advance our ability to deliver key messages.

East Renfrewshire Council agreed to include links to the webinar recordings on their website.



We have benefitted greatly from a productive relationship with Neighbourhood Watch Scotland who regularly circulate notifications of these webinars using their alert system across Scotland. We will continue to work with NWS to publicise our work in the coming financial year.

Campaign in response to pandemic

For Family Safety Week and in response to COVID-19, RoSPA launched its *Accident Free, Avoid A&E* campaign. The campaign has a simple message: Prevent accidents, Protect your family, Help the



NHS. We want to keep everyone injury free throughout the pandemic and resulting lockdown measures, to ensure the country is easing pressure on our vital frontline health workers. A new information hub was developed at www.rospace.com/AccidentFree, where everyone who is affected by lockdown restrictions – whatever their age and circumstance – can find information that is relevant to them. The number of visitors to the RoSPA website doubled during the early period of this webpage being available – from 10,000 per day to around 20,000 per day.

We also secured inclusion of our *Accident Free, Avoid A&E* campaign on the [EVOC](#) website, which is the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) for the City of Edinburgh.



Our annual report and data report were also put online. A new page to highlight our recent research on scald injuries in East Renfrewshire was also created. It can be accessed [here](#).

2 Public promotion and awareness raising

Articles

The following articles were written:

- [Preventing Future Fatalities](#) for the Leisure Safety journal
- [Working online](#) for the Home Safety journal

We also wrote the following blogs:

- [Home injury statistics in Scotland](#)
- [Scald research](#)



Press releases

We created a press release on behalf of Water Safety Scotland on the publication of the two-year review of Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy and the data. The release was circulated on 10th June and can be accessed [here](#).

The press release was picked up by the following media outlets:

- [STV \(online\)](#)
- [Edinburgh Live](#)
- [The Herald](#)
- [Aberdeen Express](#)

Quotes have been given to the Times and the Sun regarding the Scottish CMO's comments about a spike in unintentional injury admissions and comments were given to Clare Adamson, MSP regarding her press release on Child Safety Week.

Elizabeth carried out a live interview on Drivetime (BBC Radio Scotland) regarding incidents involving people walking on the ice

We also provided quotes to Scottish Water journal and for their press release on drowning prevention.

A [press release](#), which included a quote from the Minister for Community Safety, was circulated in relation to the child safety campaign focussing (although not exclusively) in the Aberdeen area in respect of the Keeping Kids Safe project.

"I would like to thank the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents for their continued dedication to help keep our children and young people in Scotland safe during these unprecedented times." Community Safety Minister, Ash Denham

Several papers picked this up, including [The Herald](#)

Comments were given to assist RoSPA's Public Health Advisor's BBC Radio 4 interview on the topic of potentially dangerous 'life hacks'.

Carlene took part in an interview on BBC Radio Scotland regarding the risks of inland waters. Carlene also started attending weekly meetings with RoSPA's press team to discuss ways of promoting RoSPA in Scotland.

Elizabeth facilitated a response to a freelance writer preparing an article on DIY safety for the Bulletin of the Royal College of Surgeons, including a statement outlining the need for more detailed data to help inform prevention campaigns.

Elizabeth contributed to a Sunday Post article about [keeping children safe at home in lockdown](#)

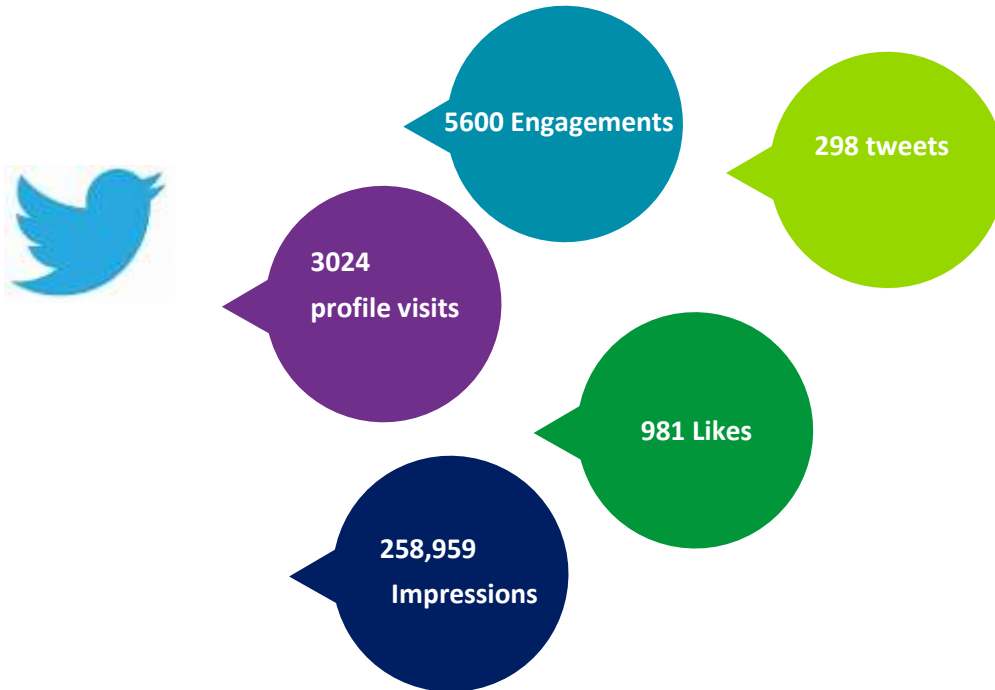
Case studies

We wrote/arranged/supported a number of case studies, blogs and vlogs during the year including:

- [Life in Lockdown](#) – case study by Jen Foley
- Vlog on [staying safe at home](#) by partners in SFRS
- Vlog on [trampoline safety](#) by Colin Munro, NHS Tayside
- Recording by Mark Lilley, Children's trauma consultant, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde on the increase in [cycling injuries](#) which we shared on our Twitter feed
- Chief Fire Officer, Dawn Whittaker, prepared a YouTube video on [safety in the home and garden](#) which we also shared on Twitter
- Fiona's near-miss with [cold water shock](#) whilst walking her dog
- Advice on scald prevention by Mr Watson, Burns Consultant and Plastic Surgeon at the Children's Burns Unit, Glasgow
- RoSPA's [home safety seminars](#)
- A guest [blog](#) by Nicola Hanssen, CEO of Roar - Connections For Life, a Paisley-based charity that works to reduce loneliness and isolation amongst older people
- Elizabeth prepared a vlog on the relationship between poverty and increased risk of falls in older people who live at home. A new collaboration with RoSPA, Independent Age and NWS will facilitate joint messaging – through NWS' alert system - following the discovery that millions of pounds of Pension Credit remains unclaimed and the potential impact the resulting poverty will have on falls incidence

Social media –

- Further progress has been made with our @RoSPAScotland Twitter handle
- The figures below show the Twitter statistics over the period



3 Strategic influencing and awareness raising at a local, national and European level

We published an Annual Activities Report about our Community Safety Work in 2019/20. This snapshot report outlines the key activities of the Community Safety team and the work they have undertaken in the past financial year. The report is not exhaustive but gives a good summary of the work undertaken in Scotland. The full document comprises 19 pages and can be accessed [here](#).

Home Safety:

Elizabeth delivered a presentation on ‘home safety during COVID-19’ at RoSPA’s European webinar.

Contact has been made with Health Improvement Scotland regarding the National Hub for child death reviews and opportunities will be progressed to receive data when the child death review process officially begins in April 2021. Conversations have also taken place with SCSN and others regarding the future of Home Safety Scotland. It was agreed that there was a need for this group to continue as no other forum exists to exclusively discuss home safety and specifically that: “Home Safety Scotland would like to be an open, inclusive, diverse, trusting and safe space for those with an interest in home safety in Scotland. Meetings will be in style of a forum for people to share best practice, exchange knowledge, learn and work collaboratively to advance practise and raise awareness”.

Care and Repair Conference

Jen delivered a presentation to ‘The World of Care & Repair’ conference on 24th March. The title of the presentation was ‘Older People’s Safety in the Home’ and was delivered to approximately 200 delegates from around the world. The conference featured presentations from organisations in Australia, Canada and the

United States that assist older and disabled people to live independently in their own homes. The event also included a presentation on Construction, Design and Management (CDM) by a member of RoSPA's UK team. The conference was opened by Kevin Stewart, MSP, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

Represent RoSPA at relevant groups

- CPG on health inequalities on 14th May online, specifically focusing on the impact of COVID-19 on health inequalities
- Provided comments to RoSPA's coming out of lockdown resource
- CPG on Children and Young people on 28th May on the impact of COVID-19
- National Home Safety Committee – Liz submitted a Scotland report and attended this meeting held on 3rd June. Minutes available in due course. It was agreed there was a need for a blind cord sub group to be set up.
- Met online with Age Scotland on 21st May re their Independent Living project in partnership with Care and Repair. RoSPA advice has been included in the room by room risk assessments being carried out to older householders in Edinburgh. It is hoped this one year project will now be launched in October.
- Carlene prepared a pitch for the CPG on accident prevention and safety awareness to highlight the recent work of the Water Safety Scotland Data Subgroup. Specifically the pitch concentrated on the Preventing Future Fatalities document which was led by RoSPA and published in March
- Carlene attended the Falls and Frailty group (hosted by SCSN) on the 21st July. Information was prepared for this group on what is happening across the UK in regards to home safety and falls (during COVID-19)
- Carlene attended the Health Foundation's webinar "What does the pandemic mean for the nation's health and health inequalities" on the 12th August
- Carlene attended the CPG on Older people, Age and Ageing on the 30th September
- Elizabeth has been re-elected on to the Board of SCSN and has attended the Board meetings this quarter along with the AGM. Reciprocal membership has been agreed for a second year.
- Elizabeth attended the Together workshop on Disability, Basic Health and Welfare and was able to highlight the importance of supplying information on injury prevention to the parents of children who had been admitted to hospital. Elizabeth also completed the *Together* survey on the State of Children's Rights.
- Elizabeth has taken part in the weekly Building Safer Communities Thursday afternoon meetings to exchange information with other key organisations.
- Elizabeth has attended the sub group of the National Home Safety Committee set up to consider the latest information regarding recent blind cord deaths which came to light via the National Child Mortality Database (England).
- Elizabeth took part in an interview with a member of the Data Driven Innovation team regarding her experience of communities' resilience and home safety during lockdown. She went on to attend the online Community Data and Resilience Workshop held on 9th September to highlight the need for better data on unintentional injuries.
- The Lanarkshire Health Board area's Strategy was approved by their Corporate Management Team and, as well as contributing to the Strategy and attending their meetings, Elizabeth took part in the video to promote its launch
- Carlene attended sessions at VHS Annual Conference 2020, #WeArePublicHealth

- Elizabeth attended the National Home Safety Committee meeting held on 14th October and provided input to the Secretary's report submitted by RoSPA, taking the opportunity to highlight, amongst others, the Scottish Fireworks Campaign and Scotland's Injury Pyramid. An interesting presentation was delivered by the National Child Mortality Database. This and the Minutes of the meeting are available on request. Gordon Paterson's name has now been replaced with Wendy McInnes, representing the Scottish Govt.
- Elizabeth attended the re-convened Building Safer Communities Executive Group meeting where a revised action plan is being prepared by SCSN.
- Elizabeth also attended the SCSN AGM and Board Meeting and has been re-elected as a Director.
- CPG Health Inequalities, October: this meeting considered the Human Rights approach to Inclusion Health and highlighted [this](#) very useful document which much of RoSPA's work can relate to moving forward.
- CPG on Children and Young People, November: The theme was the impending incorporation of the UNCRC and the impact of Covid 19. Liz took the opportunity again to highlight Article 24 (e). The Children's Commissioner's office confirmed they had not previously commented on this particular point. There was also mention of the need to ensure connection is made to Scotland's National Outcomes.
- Falls and Fragility Group: Elizabeth attended this meeting re-convened by SCSN and following discussion and investigation advising the Fall Strategy for Scotland and been postponed, it was agreed to put discussion on hold till the Spring when it is hoped further national information will be available
- Elizabeth attended the 'Experiences of Community Safety' event on 1st December organised by SCSN.
- Elizabeth also attended the SCSN/NWS Joint Board session on 26th October to discuss these organisations working together.
- The blind cord working group took place on 8th December. Liz attended and a question set for use with future cases (in England via the National Child Mortality Database) was progressed. It is envisaged that a blind cord safety campaign will take place in due course.
- CPG on Older People, Age and Aging took place in December and Elizabeth was able to ask the Minister for Older People and Equalities about any plans to ensure the availability of strength and balance exercises
- The National Home Safety Committee meeting was held on 9th February and was attended by Elizabeth and Jen. There were attendees from the Office for Product Safety and Standards, Age UK and the National Child Mortality Database amongst others. Discussion centred on existing and emerging issues surrounding home safety such as the notable increase in the cases coming to light about children swallowing magnets (including in Scotland). A report is always included at the meeting from the Scotland team and included updates on the Scottish Fireworks Campaign, the CPG on Older People, Age and Ageing, the Scottish Cot Death Trust and an update on the Keeping Kids Safe Campaign. Other topics discussed included the use of baby slings and children falling from windows.

Establish partnerships with health boards

RoSPA's relationship with NHS GGC continues despite the removal of the post with a remit for injury prevention. Regular notifications are received and discussion held with the Board's Paediatric Major Trauma Co-ordinator on the topics of button batteries, magnets and the possibility of including RoSPA information on child safety in their new App's section 'I am worried about my child'. Staff are also working with the Scottish Trauma Network (STN) to identify emerging issues and liaise regarding relevant prevention messages. RoSPA staff are currently

considering ‘coming out of lockdown’ messages to assist with this process. RoSPA staff and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde specialists also work together to enable timely responses to emerging issues such as the recent case resulting in burns from a table burner. We further continue to provide information on relevant and current topics to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde for circulation among Health Visiting Managers.

We provided information on our webinars to NHS Grampian and are working with Family Nurse Partnership and Health Visiting Teams within NHS Tayside to roll-out the Keeping Kids Safe project in Dundee City.

Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

The AGM of the Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness was held on 24th August. The existing Office Bearers were re-elected meaning that Clare Adamson MSP will continue as convenor (Maurice Corry, MSP as vice convenor) and RoSPA will continue to provide the Secretariat. The Annual Return has been completed and returned to the Standards Committee. Approved Minutes of all meetings are held on the Parliament website [here](#) and all the presentations can be accessed on RoSPA’s [website](#)

Elizabeth did a pitch on RoSPA’s Webinars. RoSPA staff secured and liaised with all the presenters.

The meeting on 2nd November focussed on Water Safety and involved the established process of RoSPA staff considering relevant topics with the Convenor and in this case, Vice Convenor, securing appropriate speakers, all associated admin – including preparing the newsletter and communication with members - and facilitating the meeting online on the day. Carlene prepared a presentation on water safety policies for Water Safety Scotland. Due to unforeseeable circumstances, Carlene was unable to present and so Michael Avril delivered the presentation. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

The final Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness of the current parliamentary session was held on Friday 26th February. As RoSPA provides the Secretariat for this Group, staff carried out all liaison with speakers and the Convenor’s office – Clare Adamson, MSP. RoSPA staff also hosted the meeting via Webex and circulated all relevant communications with the members. 44 people attended and speakers included Mark Lilley, Scottish Trauma Network Lead, who presented on the continuing issue of lithium coin cell battery ingestion amongst children. The network wishes to see a major reduction in these cases and is focussed on improved triage and management of these cases when they present. Mark would also like to see awareness raised around this issue. Other speakers included a representative from Scotland’s Trauma Network, Fife Safer Communities, SFRS, CAPT and IAM RoadSmart. Carlene presented on Public Rescue Equipment. RoSPA staff also compile the Headlines Newsletter for this group, take the Minutes of the Meeting and ensure notification of the meeting is included on the relevant Parliament webpage. The Minutes of the November meeting were approved and are available on request. Both these and the draft February Minutes were sent to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, as requested, by the 24th of March in order that the Group may be re-established within 90 days of the formulation of the new Parliament following the May elections. The end of Session Survey was shared with Members and Jen is pulling together the responses. The responses will form part of the document '[Summary of Success 2013-2021](#)' which will be presented to the first meeting of the re-established Group following the Election.

Cross Party Groups

RoSPA is an active member of and attends the following CPGs:

- Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism
- Older People, Age and Ageing - March 2021 meeting resulted in the opportunity to partner with Independent Age to share messaging about the lack of uptake of Pension Credit and to make the connection with older people who have to choose between eating and heating and the increased risk

of falls. Discussions on this have now involved NWS re the options for sharing messages further in Scotland. This will be progressed in the coming year.

- Children and Young People
- Health Inequalities

Consultations

- We responded to the Consultation on determining the 2020 bathing season in light of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. We included the following in our response “RoSPA support the proposal of postponing water quality testing whilst swimming and other water activities are banned. However, if the government guidance changes, we would expect water quality testing to be revisited and aligned with the reopening of specific bathing sites.”
- Elizabeth submitted a response to the Observatory of Children’s Human Rights Scotland regarding the inclusion of Article 24 (e) of the UNCRC. A response was also given to: Research to understand the impact of Covid-19 on Communities – Organisational Perspectives
- Government Statistical Service User Engagement Strategy – Questionnaire completed
- UNCRC – a response was submitted to the latest consultation on the UNCRC Bill
- A RoSPA response was submitted to PAS 7055, Button and coin battery safety-Specification
- RoSPA was consulted on and contributed to the University of Edinburgh/Data Driven Innovation/ Scottish Futures Trust research on Community Resilience and Data.
- Elizabeth completed the *Together* members’ survey and the survey by the CPG on Inequalities

Home Safety Position Tables

RoSPA’s position statements are used as reference points for staff, practitioners and media. They are generally updated every few years. A template has been compiled and the statements divided up and allocated to members of the team across the UK to be updated and presented to the National Home Safety Committee for approval in due course. The Scotland team has put forward suggestions for any updates to better reflect the individual situations of the component countries of the UK. The products to be reviewed include:

- Baby walkers
- Bunk beds
- Cars and driveways
- Baby slings
- “Bling”
- Doors/finger trapping
- Bath seats for babies
- Home water safety
- Garden ponds
- Bath water temperatures
- TMVs
- Preventing scalds
- Hair straighteners
- Window restrictors

- Safety gates
- Overnight charging of batteries
- Carbon monoxide poisoning

Building Safer Communities

- Provided four exemplars to the Unintentional Injuries Hub
- Provided feedback to the Executive Group on the scoping exercise in May
- Presented to the Executive group on data and evidence
- Presented along with the Scottish Government at the BSC June event on taking a strategic approach to unintentional harm and injury.

Water Safety in Scotland

Awareness raising

A number of articles, blogs and presentations were published to increase awareness of water safety and drowning prevention including:

- Preventing Future Fatalities for the Leisure Safety Journal
- [Preventing future drownings in Scotland](#)
- [Drowning Fatality data released for Scotland](#)
- Errol Taylor, RoSPA's Chief Executive promoting Water Safety Scotland's advice on Staying Safe on and around Scotland's waters:



Smart Buoy – RoSPA Project



Retrofit to ANY existing Unit



<https://twitter.com/i/status/1254741480645804038>

- Presented to the CPG on Water Safety Scotland's fatality review document
- Presented at the CPG on Smart Buoy
- Attendance at numerous water safety groups including: CPG on Marine Tourism and Recreational Boating, East Lothian's Belhaven Bay group, Fife Council water safety group, Dumfries and Galloway water safety group, Port of Cromarty water safety group



Water Safety Scotland (Secretariat)

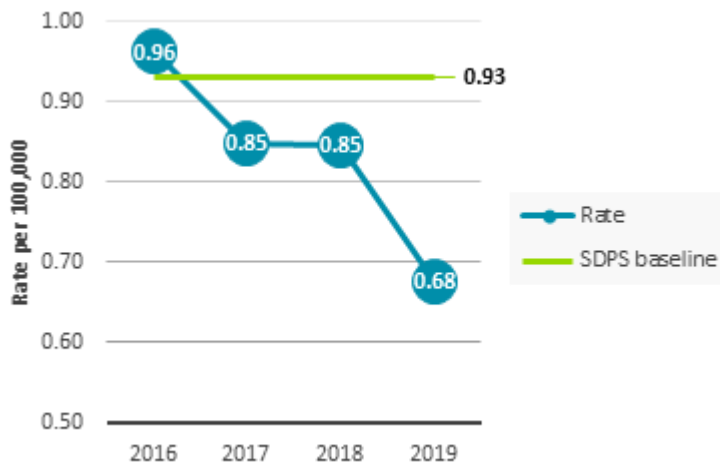
- Steering Group Reports were created by RoSPA for all full WSS meetings
- Moved to online meetings and held three full WSS meetings. All minutes, actions and position tables were collated and published by RoSPA. These can be found [online](#)
- An annual Situational Analysis was undertaken by RoSPA for Water Safety Scotland and can be accessed [online](#)
- Organization and facilitation of support for the NWSF Respect the Water campaign
- Updates to membership lists of WSS
- Edits to the Terms of Reference and Roles and Responsibilities (to be approved October 2021)

RoSPA for Water Safety Scotland (Steering Group)

- Promoted the two year review of Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy
- WSS website and twitter updated regularly
- Attended and facilitated six Steering Group meetings and ensured minutes and position tables were recorded and accurate
- Worked with WSS partners to help in the creation of the NGBs/Recreation subgroup for WSS
- Jointly chaired the Education subgroup and facilitated discussion and [presentations](#) on the need for changes to the current education part of the strategy
- Organized and developed significant changes to the Education subgroup and provided resource to update the national presentation to be used across Scotland
- Led discussions with SSERC and Scottish Government to discuss WSS and potential link to the national curriculum

Data and Intelligence

- Chaired three data subgroup meetings
- Wrote to all MSPs, and CEOs of Local Authorities with the WSS trend report
- Met with the Procurator Fiscal to discuss water safety case data and child safety case data. A document specifying data needs was sent
- Led developing and starting drafting Scotland's Drowning Review process
- A number of organisations signed up to get WAID data over the annual period. Scottish Canals and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are ongoing
- Discussions with MCA on data collection in Scotland and subsequent meetings with Police Scotland to tap into available data



RoSPA prepared the trend report for Water Safety Scotland which showed accidental drowning figures for 2019 had a 26 per cent decrease in comparison to Scotland’s Drowning Prevention Strategy baseline. In terms of rates, the accidental drowning rate has decreased to 0.68 per 100,000 in comparison to the baseline of 0.93.

Key stats In 2019:

- There were 37 accidental fatalities and a further 35 suicides
- 86% accidental fatalities were male
- Males 50 – 59 were the highest group for accidental fatalities
- 51% of accidental fatalities happened at **coastal waters**
- Recreational activities, like the previous years, accounted for around 6 out of 10 accidental fatalities
- 11 accidental fatality reports noted the presence of drugs or alcohol (30%)
- When considering rates, ages 50 -59 were the highest at risk group

The full report can be found online: <https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1651/waid-2019-summary.pdf>

Specific data for suicide was provided to the Water Safety Scotland Suicide Prevention Subgroup.

RoSPA Specific Water Safety

- Loch Lomond project complete and report provided to the park. The project included risk assessment of a number of popular areas within the park as well as recommendations and site-specific issues relating to both operation and infrastructure
- Represented RoSPA, WSS and assisted with organizing WSS feedback on the NWSF consultation regarding the [Review of the Legal Responsibilities for Beach Safety](#)’ The full WSS response can be accessed online here: <https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1704/wss-response-to-nwsf-consultation-final.pdf>
- Assistance provided to a number of councils in regards to water safety policies as well as letters written to specific high risk areas to consider the development of a water

Water Safety Policy Workshop

We hosted the water safety policy workshop with RNLI on the 15th January 2021. Presentations included:

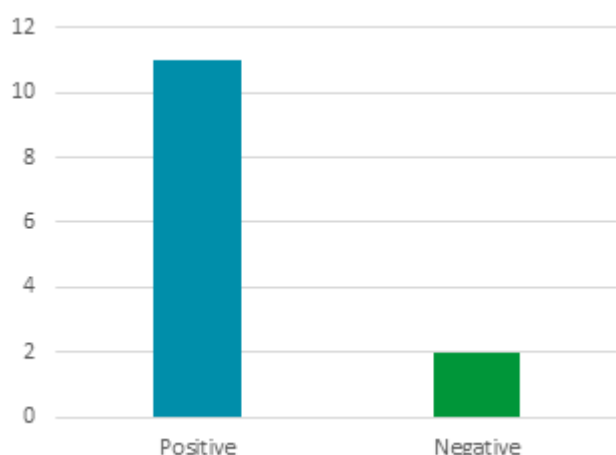
- Understanding the duties and land ownership related to water safety risk, RoSPA
- The importance of campaign inclusion in a water safety policy, RNLI
- Bristol Harbour Experience, Bristol City Council
- Linking education and swimming to a water safety policy, RLSS UK



Review of the Legal Responsibilities for Beach Safety
NWSF Consultation Preliminary Results



Overall 18 attended with 14 different local authorities represented. The Measuring What Matters evaluation framework was used to help evaluate this workshop (as was done at the previous workshop last year). Overall responses were positive. For example, confidence levels to identify water risks and hazards were high after the workshop. A full report can be found online [here](#).



Confidence in ability to identify risks associated with water (post, n – 13)

Water Safety Webinar

Due to COVID-19, RoSPA cancelled all physical events for the financial year. Funders of the conference have agreed to allow RoSPA to hold the contributions until a physical event can take place.

An online webinar event was held for the Two Year Review of Scotland’s Drowning Prevention Strategy. This was held on 14th July and the powerpoint of the event can be accessed online: <https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1661/water-safety-scotland-2020-rospa-webinar.pdf>

The webinar can be watched online here:

<https://rospa.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/rospa/recording/99cedb3f7f1a44e7aec112999a5febed>

Great presentation – thank you

I found yesterday’s webinar really interesting

Consultations

Responses given to consultation during this period include:

- ‘A consultation on fireworks in Scotland’
- Falls and Fracture Prevention Strategy for Scotland, 2019-2024

- Review of Strategic Police Priorities: Consultation
- Children’s Rights: Consultation on incorporating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into our domestic law in Scotland
- Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service - Consultation on securing justice: draft strategic plan 2020-23

The following survey was also completed:

- 2019 'State of Children's Rights in Scotland' survey

4 Gathering and disseminating evidence and research

Data releases

- An Injury Pyramid was released for Scotland for the data released in 2019/20. The pyramid shows fatality data for road, home, workplace and water as well as serious injury data. The pyramid along with the data notes can be viewed and downloaded here: <https://www.rospea.com/about/around-the-uk/scotland/injury-pyramid/>
- Published [Bridging the Gap: Injury Surveillance](#) which looked at current available data in home injuries and consisted of five year averages overall, for the under-fives and the over 65s.
- Published “Bridging the gap: injury surveillance in Scotland’s Local Authorities: An analysis of currently available data focusing on home injury rates in Scotland”. The report focused on admission rates of home injuries only and breaks down injury by local authority. It can be accessed online <https://www.rospea.com/rospaweb/media/Documents/Home%20safety/Bridging-the-gap-injury-surveillance-in-Scotlands-Local-Authorities.pdf>

ISD data

RoSPA Scotland met with colleagues from ISD to discuss improving the data around unintentional injuries. RoSPA agreed that we would want to be involved in any future meetings on improving data. RoSPA received specific data on the following:

- Choking data
- Drowning data
- Poisoning data

WAID data

The 2018 WAID figures were published on 01/05/2019 and can be accessed here: https://www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk/media/1184/waid_fatalincidentreport_2018xlsx.xlsx

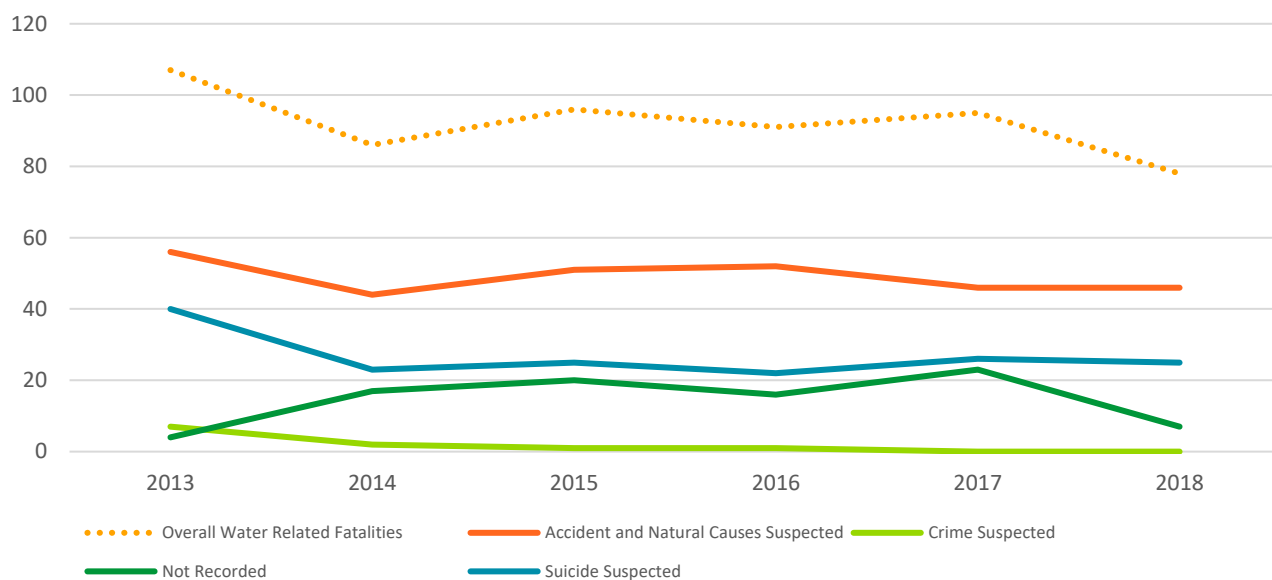
Data report

As part of Scotland’s Drowning Prevention Strategy, RoSPA collated and released figures and an analysis of the 2018 WAID data. The report can be found online:

https://www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk/media/1184/waid_fatalincidentreport_2018xlsx.xlsx

Key headlines include:

- The total number of water related fatalities in Scotland is decreasing
- The number of not recorded water related fatalities is still a challenge, although there has been some improvements
- 2018 saw inland water accounting for the majority of accidental fatalities



Seven organisations have now signed up to WAID with another six in the process.

Preventing Future Fatalities

As chair of the Data Subgroup for Water Safety Scotland, we led the report into how to prevent future fatalities in Scotland. The full report - Preventing Future Fatalities -Improving Water Related Fatality Data In Scotland- can be accessed online: <https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/resources/preventing-future-fatalities/>

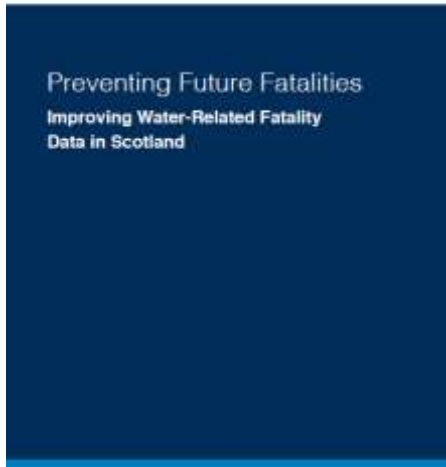
Global and national strategies

Water Safety Scotland (WSS) has developed a Preventing Future Fatalities strategy to reduce the number of water-related fatalities in Scotland by 50 per cent by 2025 and reduce the number of water-related hospital admissions by 25 per cent by 2025. The strategy has three main objectives:

- 1. Reduce the number of water-related fatalities in Scotland by 50 per cent by 2025 and reduce the number of water-related hospital admissions by 25 per cent by 2025.
- 2. Increase the number of water-related fatalities in Scotland by 50 per cent by 2025 and reduce the number of water-related hospital admissions by 25 per cent by 2025.
- 3. Increase the number of water-related fatalities in Scotland by 50 per cent by 2025 and reduce the number of water-related hospital admissions by 25 per cent by 2025.

The strategy also sets out the following objectives:

- To reduce the number of water-related fatalities in Scotland by 50 per cent by 2025 and reduce the number of water-related hospital admissions by 25 per cent by 2025.
- To increase the number of water-related fatalities in Scotland by 50 per cent by 2025 and reduce the number of water-related hospital admissions by 25 per cent by 2025.
- To increase the number of water-related fatalities in Scotland by 50 per cent by 2025 and reduce the number of water-related hospital admissions by 25 per cent by 2025.



The document brings together information on the current legal landscape and explores potential solutions to help prevent accidental water fatalities in Scotland by suggesting three options:

- An amendment to the current law in Scotland and specifically The Inquiries into Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Act 2016
- To introduce a statutory review process such as the Child Death Review process which could be put in place for drowning fatalities
- To create a voluntary review process which is led by the Scottish Government or Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Office which is specific to water-related fatalities.

Scald research

RoSPA teamed up with COBIS and East Renfrewshire to carry out some research into the prevalence of scalds, their prevention and first aid knowledge. A survey was created and distributed across East Renfrewshire. The evaluation report for this project will be available online in the next financial year. The main findings from the research were:

- Prevention knowledge of scalds was high within the study population
- However, one in eight respondents had noted their child had been scalded in the past 12 months
- First aid knowledge of scalds was mixed. Only 15 per cent identified the correct time length to hold a scald under cold running water. This suggests that first aid knowledge of scalds could be improved.
- Respondents were very positive towards the coaster resource to remind them of the prevention of hot drink scalds, which provides weight for the continued provision of such a resource.

SCSN

The following activities were undertaken:

- Participated in the Contributory Factors meetings
- Presented with SCSN at the Health and Social Care Gathering 2019 - Improving health and wellbeing across Scotland: Shared and applied learning through the power of data and storytelling. The event took place on September 25
- We applied and were accepted onto SCSN/Evaluation Support Scotland's phase two of the Measuring What Matters Framework
- Elizabeth was accepted as a board member of SCSN

5 Facilitating specialist projects where additional funding allows

Keeping Kids Safe project

The Keeping Kids Safe in the Home project was a success. It launched on June 17 and ran until the end of August.

A short video was also created to provide parents with information on the key accidents, which happen to children. This includes poisoning, falls, burns and scalds, drowning, suffocation and choking. The video was filmed with a local mother and child (Carrie and Ollie) from Pilton and can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exJTd5bCG4Y&feature=youtu.be>



The final report of the Keeping Kids Safe project in the south of Edinburgh can be accessed here: <https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/home-safety/powellite-cic-report.pdf>

The project evaluation found the following key points:

- 84 per cent of parents found the packs helpful or very helpful
- 55 per cent of parents said the pack and information increased their knowledge about risks
- 25 per cent of parents reported making safety changes to their home
- When contacted –two to four weeks after receiving the pack – 65 per cent of parents had used the wash cloth whilst 75 per cent had used, or were planning to use, the cupboard catch
- 31 per cent of parents were unaware of all, or some of, the risks before the project
- The pack should be handed out around the four month mark

- The person centered approach of using the FNP and Health Visitors was considered "very effective" and "empowering"
- Health Visitors and FNP staff also highlighted that short video clips on specific topics could be useful for parents.

Water Safety Workshops

In response to last year's release of "[Local Authority Approaches to Managing Water Safety – Scotland Five Years on](#)" RoSPA and RNLI agreed to hold the very first policy orientated workshop. The aim of the workshop was to help local authorities understand water safety policy, the barriers to implementing a policy, and to share key information and advice.

The workshop was held in Perth on April 9, 2019 and featured presentations on the following:

- Issues to consider when developing your local policy - RoSPA
- Water Safety in Perth and Kinross, Perth and Kinross Council
- Coastal risk processes, RNLI



Overall, 24 attended with 15 local authorities represented. 75 per cent of those in attendance thought the workshop was 'very good' whilst a further 25 per cent thought it was 'good'.

The evaluation of the workshop was also part of testing the new Evaluation Support Scotland framework, supporting practitioners in measuring the impact of their work to tackle unintentional injury. The preliminary report can be found online [here](#) and the final report can be accessed [here](#).

Overall we found that the workshop has shown a lasting effect on the local authorities and their focus on prevention.

Prior to the workshop, one local authority was signed up to WAID and according to the feedback six months later, this has increased to eight. In addition, five local authorities out of eight have said they are currently developing a water safety policy.

Take Action Today

The project ended in East Ayrshire and the Scottish Borders. Evaluation reports were published:

- [East Ayrshire](#)
- [Scottish Borders](#)

Overall, the project was highlighted as successful. In the Scottish Borders 100 per cent of respondents said that they liked the campaign material and 87 per cent said that they had or would share the information they had learned with friends and family.

In East Ayrshire, 100 per cent of respondents said that they liked the campaign materials and 100 per cent said that they had or would share the information they had learned with friends and family.

The feedback received from parents and carers was universally supportive of the campaign aims. I am sure as a result of our collaborative work with RoSPA that we were able to further raise awareness of the risks, and encourage the safe storage of household chemicals. – East Ayrshire Council

There was no hesitation in becoming involved. We have now distributed almost 3,000 safety message notepads across the Scottish Borders, which will hopefully help to reduce these types of hospital admissions. – Scottish Borders Council

Project Unicorn

RoSPA has been working with RNLI, HMCG and SCOTSS on the inflatables project. A number of social media assets were created with social media platforms used to raise awareness of the issues of inflatables.

RoSPA also published a blog here: <https://www.rospa.com/lets-talk-about/2019/june-2019/keep-inflatables-for-the-pool/> and specific inflatable advice here: <https://www.rospa.com/leisure-safety/water/advice/inflatables/>

A press release (headed by RNLI) can be read [here](#)

The project reached an estimated total of 637,000 people and examined 270 items from retailers. The online report can be found here: <https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/water-leisure/inflatables-campaign.pdf>

Lifebelt campaign

RoSPA continued to support the Glasgow lifebelt campaign and attended the launch of the Glasgow Water Safety Group's lifebelt campaign 'Taking a lifebelt is taking a life'. RoSPA was involved in an advisory role. The campaign will see new signage placed near lifebelt stations and includes education in local schools. There is also an accompanying video which can be seen here <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/24262/Taking-a-lifebelt-is-taking-a-life>

Beach guidance

RoSPA worked with the team in England to assist in the "Beach Safety Guidance". The purpose of the document is to inform what would be considered the minimum standards for identifying and addressing significant hazards on beaches around the UK. Carlene ensured the guidance is relevant to Scottish landowners.

The document was published on August 15 and can be accessed here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/825463/Managing_Beach_Safety_guidance_final.pdf

Water Safety Conference

Unfortunately, following a great deal of preparation, and due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the water safety conference, scheduled to take place in March with over 100 delegates signed up, has been postponed until September.

European Study Visit

Due to COVID 19 pandemic, this is also on hold. A full week study visit has been planned with delegates coming from Norway, Austria, Lithuania and Ireland.

Loch Lomond

Our project with Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park was due to begin in March, but due to ongoing COVID-19, the project will now take place in the next financial year.



accidents don't have to happen



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