



**water safety**  
**Scotland**

# **Local Authority Water Safety Policy Workshop**

**Tuesday 8 November 10:00-12:30**

**Thanks for coming and welcome!**



# Introduction to workshop

**Stuart McDonald, Group Commander Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

**Vice Chair, Water Safety Scotland**



# Water Safety Action Plan

In March 2022, to coincide with the interim review of Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy, the Scottish Government published their **Water Safety Action Plan**

The key areas from the Plan that are pertinent to local authorities include:

- new water safety promotions targeted at areas with a higher risk of drowning, improved signage at popular locations including lochs and reservoirs and a risk assessment of beaches
- roll-out of a drowning incident review scheme to ensure lessons are learned from all fatal and non-fatal incidents
- lesson plans on water safety for pupils
- continued development of the National Learn to Swim Framework delivered with local authorities
- training for businesses and the public on how to use rescue equipment and review of 999 procedures



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# What Water Safety Scotland can offer

Carlene McAvoy & James Sullivan

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# Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy

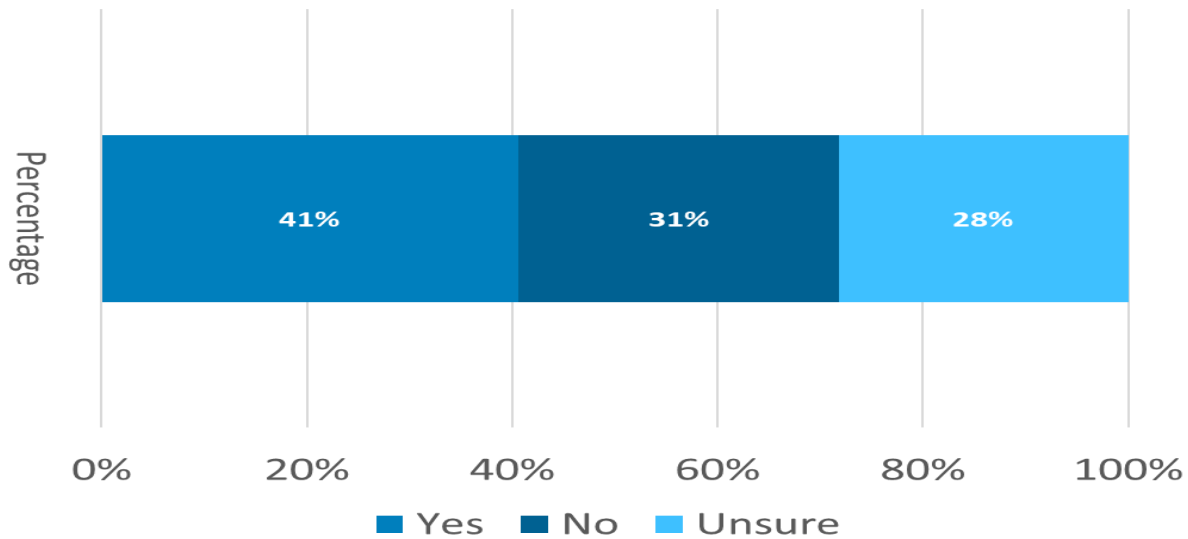


## Targets

- Reduce accidental drowning deaths in Scotland by 50 per cent by 2026 and reduce risk amongst the highest-risk populations, groups and communities
- Contribute to the reduction of water-related suicide

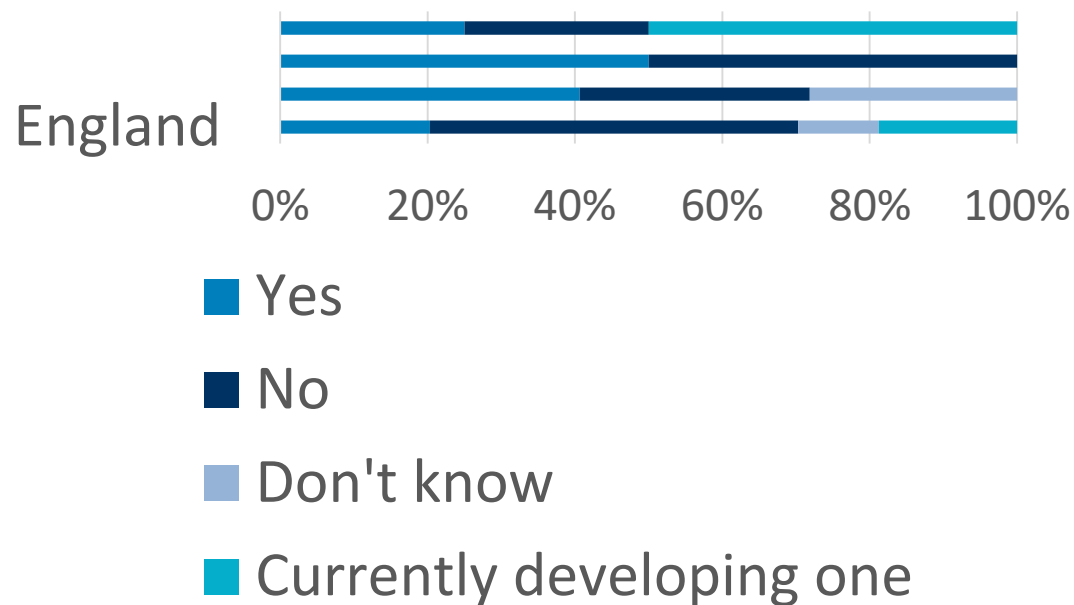
**“Develop water safety across Scotland’s 32 local authority areas and promote the development of water safety policies”.**

# Who has a water safety policy?

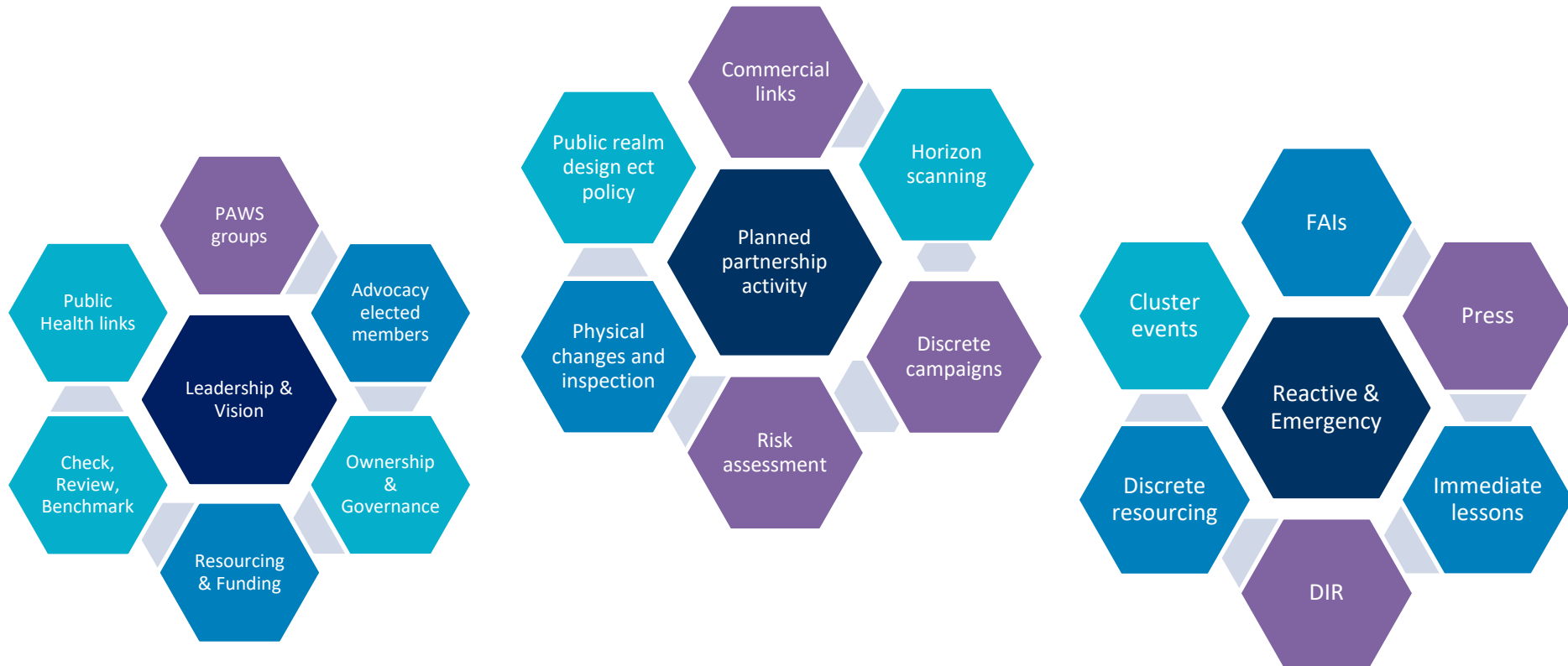




# Who has a water safety policy?

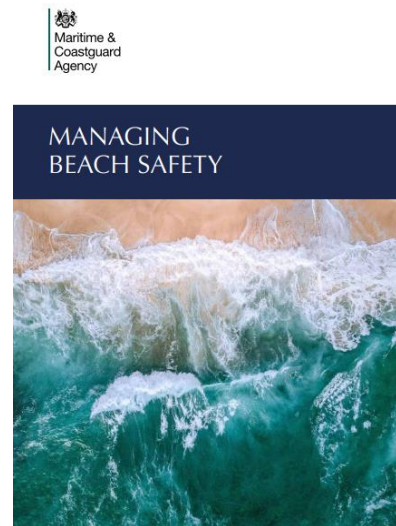
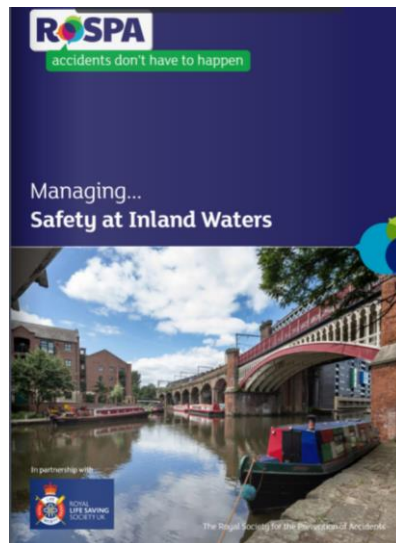


# What is a water safety policy?





# Guidance



# Access to WAID data



[Home](#) [News](#) [Members](#) [Advice and Information](#) [Strategy](#) [WAID](#) [Calendar](#) [Wales](#) [#RespectTheWater](#) [#DrowningPreventionDay](#)

national water safety forum

## WAID

Annual reports and data

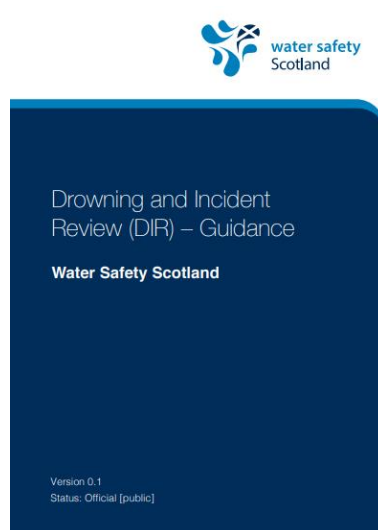
Interactive report

## Annual reports and data

The following table contains the annual fatality reports using data extracted from WAID. These reports are published on a calendar year basis; we aim to release the first edition of the report by the middle of the following year. Within the report we embed links to the underpinning data tables, showing aggregated statistics.

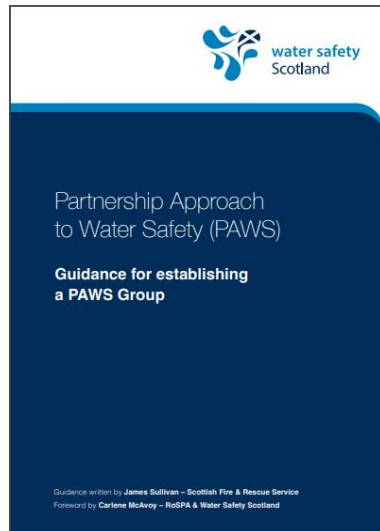
Published annual fatality reports for the UK	Version
<a href="#">2021 Annual Fatal Incident Report</a> Trend and Summary Reports 2021 <a href="#">UK</a> , <a href="#">England</a> , <a href="#">Scotland</a> , <a href="#">Wales</a> , <a href="#">Northern Ireland</a>	1st Release
<a href="#">2020 Annual Fatal Incident Report</a>	1st release
<a href="#">2019 Annual Fatal Incident Report</a>	1st release

# The Drowning and Incident Review



DIR aims to gather data and understand the contributory factors of a water-related incident to help gain a better understanding of how to prevent similar incidents occurring in future.

# Creation of PAWS groups



PAWS is a multi agency approach to raising water safety awareness that combines the knowledge and experience of those people that best understand the risks.

- Prevention
- Improved Incident Response
- Review

# Education packages

## Progression Pathway



### Our Aim

As part of [Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy](#), Water Safety Scotland aims to drive a generational change in water safety education and enjoyment in and around the water, with a key focus on promoting the [Water Safety Scotland Code](#). Recognising the pivotal role of education, we are supporting all practitioners to further develop children's and young people's understanding and awareness of the dangers of open water, enabling them to safely participate in water-based activities.

The provision of age- and stage-appropriate water safety education supports all children and young people aged 3 to 18 to develop valuable lifesaving knowledge, skills and understanding. The current proposal of one lesson per key educational level will support the embedding of water safety education and progression within Curriculum for Excellence. Additional extension activities to enhance the learning experience will also be made available through the Education Scotland [National Improvement Hub](#) and [Water Safety Scotland website](#).



#### Contents

1	Early Level	2
2	First Level	3
3	Second Level	4
4	Third/Fourth Level	5
5	Senior Phase	6 - 7

### Health and Wellbeing Experiences and Outcomes

- *I am learning to assess and manage risk, to protect myself and others, and to reduce the potential for harm when possible.*  
HWB 0-16a / HWB 1-16a / HWB 2-16a / HWB 3-16a / HWB 4-16a
- *I know and can demonstrate how to travel safely.*  
HWB 0-18a / HWB 1-18a / HWB 2-18a / HWB 3-18a / HWB 4-18a
- *I am developing my understanding of the human body and can use this knowledge to maintain and improve my wellbeing and health.*  
HWB 0-15a / HWB 1-15a / HWB 2-15a / HWB 3-15a / HWB 4-15a
- *I know and can demonstrate how to keep myself and others safe and how to respond in a range of emergency situations.*  
HWB 0-17a / HWB 1-17a / HWB 2-17a / HWB 3-17a / HWB 4-17a

## Water Safety Lesson: Third / Fourth Level





### Learning Objectives

- 1) To develop an understanding of the dangers of water, in particular the effects of cold water shock.
- 2) To develop an understanding of how you can keep yourself and others safe around water, and how to respond in an emergency.





# Campaigns and advice





Water Safety Scotland

Private group ☆ Not following

Home

+ New ▾

Send to ▾

Promote

Page details

Immersive Reader

Analytics

Published 10/13/2020

WSS Comms Toolkit

Recycle bin

Edit



WSS Comms Toolkit

About the Comms Subgroup

The Comms Subgroup aims to provide a consistent and easily implemented toolkit for raising water safety awareness through public messaging in an attempt to reduce the number of water-related emergencies that occur in Scotland's waterways.

WSS Comms Toolkit

[Toolkit Plan](#)

Calender:



# Waterside responder



Waterside Responder equips people with basic knowledge and skills that can save lives:

- Recognise hazards in and around water
- Provide safety advice to people using waterside areas
- Safely rescue someone from the water

[info@watersafetyscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@watersafetyscotland.org.uk)



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# **Time for a break**





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**Leigh Hamilton,  
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs  
National Park Authority**

Overview of LLNPA water safety policy



# Case Study

EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO WATER SAFETY AND THE  
PRODUCTION OF OUR WATER SAFETY POLICY

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EAMON JOHN, SERVICE MANAGER - SPORT, COUNTRYSIDE & LEISURE  
JENNY HARGREAVES, COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER

# Introduction

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According to Maritime and Coastguard Agency (2019):

*It is accepted that those who undertake risky activities do so at their own risk. However, at present, the legal responsibility for safety at the foreshore is unclear with many competing duties. It also appears that there may be a lacuna in legal responsibility which leaves those with land or Councils adjacent to the foreshore acting out of largely moral and social responsibility rather than legal obligation.*

Legal responsibility for Beach Safety 2019

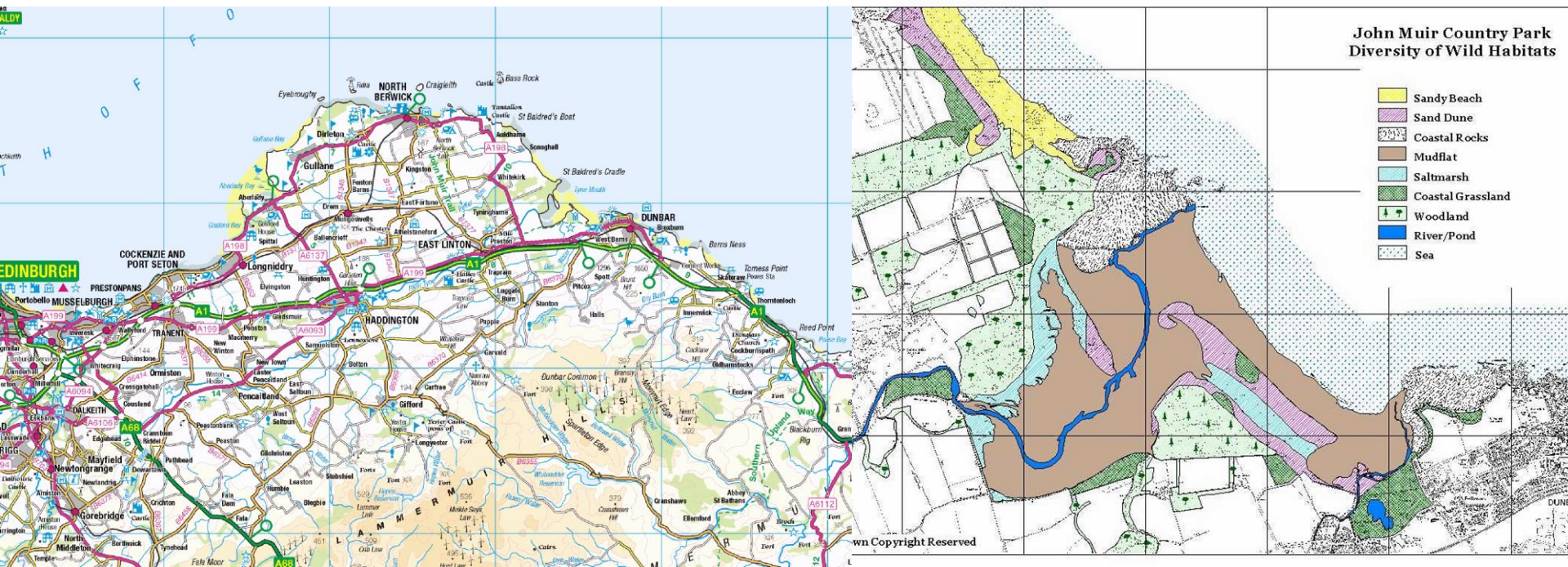
# Partnership working and inclusion of experts in the field

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RNLI	Dunbar Life Saving Club
His Majesty's Coast Guard	Wave Project
Police Scotland	Ocean Vertical
Scottish Fire and Rescue	Skye Monster
Scottish Water	Venturing Out
RoSPA/WSS	Coast to Coast Surf School
EDF - Torness	ELC- Countryside Rangers
Enjoy Leisure- Swimming Development	ELC Outdoor Learning



# East Lothian's Coast



# Activities- Water Based

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Open water swimming*	Paddling boarding*	Tomb stoning
Surfing	Body boarding	Pool inflatables
Scuba diving	Wind surfing	Coasteering
Snorkelling	Water ski-ing	Skim boarding
Paddle	Wakeboarding	Jet ski
Kite surfing	Fishing from a craft	Speed boat user
Sailing	Fishing from rocks	
Kayaking	Spearg Fishing	

# Activities – Non water based

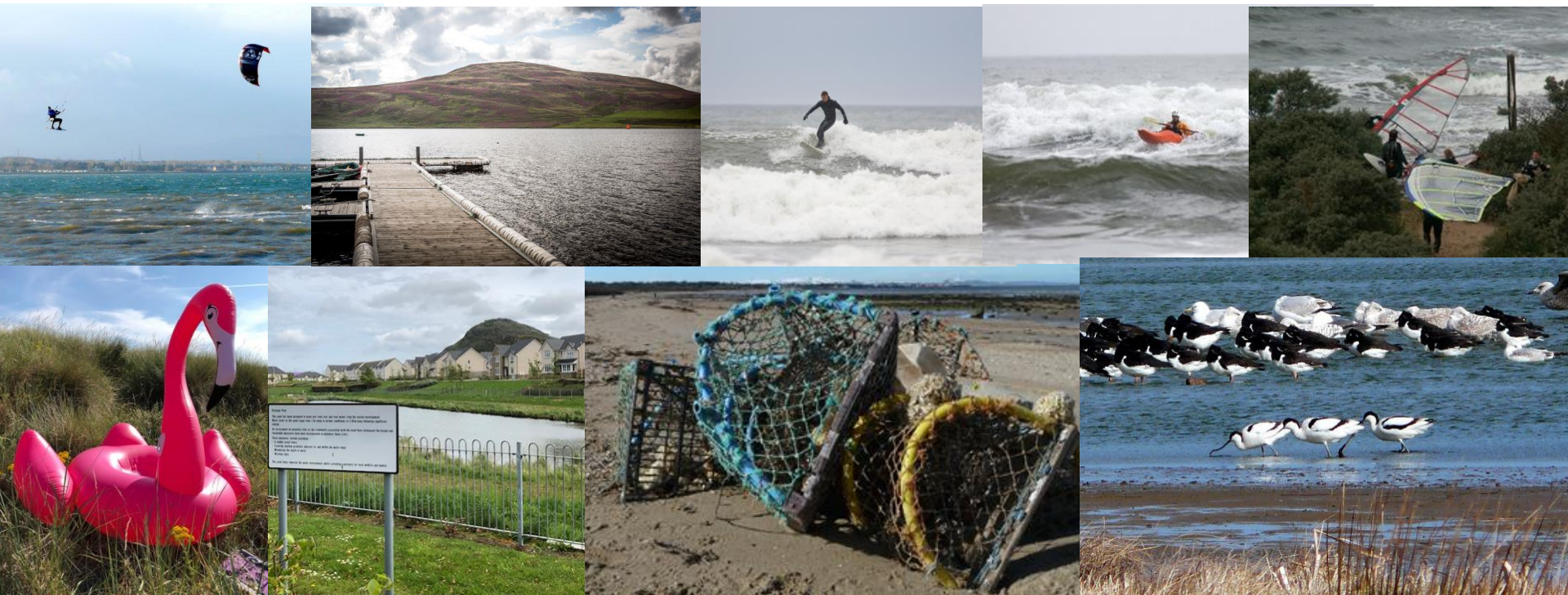
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Kite flying	BBQ and fires	Dog Walking
Horse riding	Fat Bikes	Fishing
Harvesting marine species	Sand castle building/ picnicking	Metal detecting
Bird watching	Rock climbing	Camping
Drone flying		



# Knowing our sites, users and activities

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# Identifying improvements

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1. Partnership working and building upon what is already taking place
2. Education of public on safe use and environmental protection of the site:
  - Signage
  - Interpretation
  - Social Media
3. Ongoing monitoring and adaptation as aspects change
4. Taking lessons learnt and applying relevant aspects to the wider East Lothian Coast

# Why re-invent the wheel.....

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## Information Gathering

- Case studies e.g. Durham
- RoSPA e.g. Managing...Safety at Inland Waters
- National Water Safety Forum
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency
- Royal Life Saving Society UK
- Site visits to different bodies of water
- Google search of other LA Policies e.g.
  - Birmingham
  - Perth and Kinross
  - Leeds
  - East Riding Coastal Booklet and many others!

# Lessons Learnt

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What worked	How we got things to work
Knowing the limitations of ELC in terms of specific expertise	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Invited local experienced and qualified users and organisations to get involved</li><li>2. Started small before expanding</li></ol>
Partnership working	Regular meetings and input from all
Sharing of information	Keeping people informed
Review of activities and participants	On going monitoring and continued partnership working
Trailing of new signage	Uniformity with signage and a little added quirkiness
Finding out what others have done and adapting!	Google can be your friend 😊

# Key Factors

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Partnership working	Building on existing good practice and collaborative work undertaken at Belhaven Bay and continued engagement with respective organisations
Data gathering and sharing	Knowing what activities are taking place and where and to what level
Awareness raising	Linking with respective organisations to have an increased reach to the public in promoting water safety
Skills and education	Delivering programmes to improve knowledge and awareness of water safety through schools and groups
Incident response	Reviewing our sites and looking at ways to deliver improved emergency response access



# Discussion themes and issues that came forward

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1. Regulation of Adventurous Activities for adults- a National ask
2. Expansion and explosion of water sports participation- WS Information to be provided at point of sale- a National ask
3. Ongoing monitoring of infrastructure and developments that may have an influence on visitor numbers and activities e.g. Wave Garden project at Ratho
4. Flexibility to react to different developments
5. Ongoing partnership working

# Thank you for your time

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Any questions?





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# Commercial Services



# Discussion and break-out



# Questions and sum up



# End of session

