



accidents don't have to happen

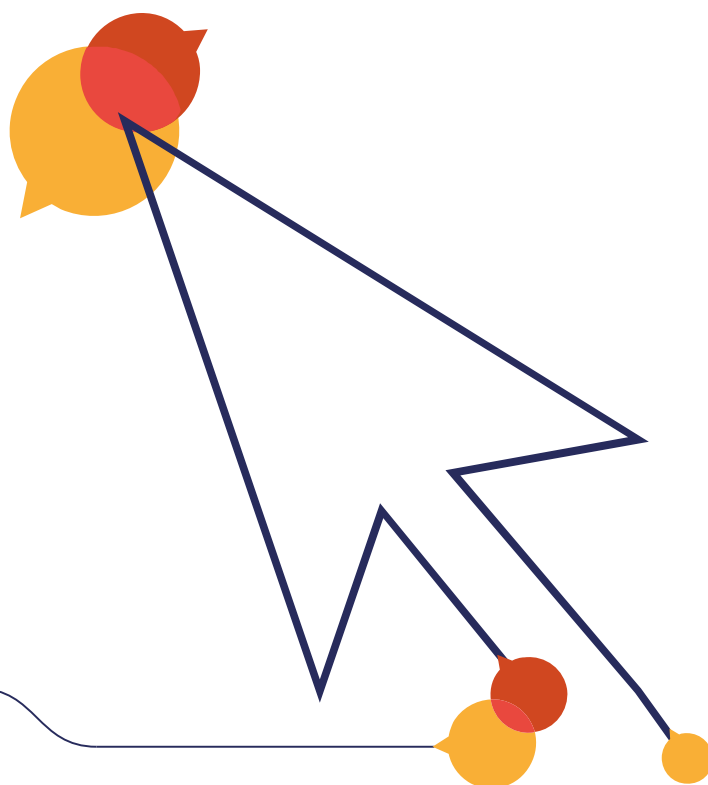
Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

Summary of success

2013-2021

Version: 1

Date: May 2021



Background

The Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness was formed in 2013 so that interested parties could come together in one place to discuss and progress existing and emerging issues within the arena of accident prevention and safety awareness. Another vital function of the Group is to provide a platform for families, individuals and groups affected by serious and fatal accidents that grants them direct access to organisations and policy-makers that can affect tangible change.

The Group receives Secretariat support from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). RoSPA is a long-established charity whose accident-prevention work covers home, road, leisure and occupational safety. The format of the meetings often includes workshops and a series of short pitch presentations, as well as 'traditional' presentations. A short-term subgroup to analyse data was set-up in the early days of the Group and the Twitter hashtag #cpgapsa has been in use since 2016. Like all Cross Party Groups this one is regulated by Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for MSPs and has to provide annual returns, and follow rules around notification of meetings and recording of Minutes etc.

Clare Adamson MSP has consistently been elected as the Convener of the Group since its inception and has been supported by various members of the team from her Parliamentary Office. Previous deputy Conveners have included David Stewart MSP, Oliver Mundell MSP with the latest Deputy Convener being Maurice Corry MSP. The Group has had a wide-ranging and comprehensive membership (around 150 member organisations and individuals). These have included representation from, for example, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Health Scotland, RCPCH, Water Safety Scotland, Electrical Safety First, COSLA, SCSN, NWS, SGN, SELECT, Play Scotland, CAPT, Care and Repair Scotland and many private companies as well as local authority representatives, trade unions and staff from academic institutions and health boards. Scottish Government officials have also regularly been in attendance.



Clare Adamson MSP
Motherwell and Wishaw

The CPG on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness has held joint meetings with other Cross Party Groups including the CPG on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism, the CPG on Older People, Age and Ageing and the CPG on Visual Impairment, leading to cross-CPG networking.

The Group gratefully receives financial support from various member organisations in order to provide refreshments at in-person meetings. When the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the CPG had to consider how it met, the secretariat consulted with members on the best approach and the Group seamlessly moved to meeting on an online platform.

Relevant Ministers have also attended and/or presented at the meetings. These have included Ministers with a remit for Community Safety, Housing and Children and Young People.

Some key highlights from the CPG on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

The CPG has met a total of 29 times since its inception in June 2013 and has been very well-attended with 40-50 members in regular attendance. The CPG has generally met four times per year. Click on this [link](#) to hear a few of the members speaking about the Group.

Some of the vital topics that have been discussed and/or progressed by the CPG includes:



- Scotland's Home Safety Equipment Scheme
- Faulty electrical goods and their role in fire and accidents
- The increasing frequency of children ingesting button batteries, and the resulting serious health implications
- Helicopter safety
- The importance of risk in children's play
- Preventing ingestion of liquid laundry capsules by young children
- The ongoing development of a water safety policy and its implementation in the 32 local authority areas
- Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy, which had consultation from CPG members from the start, as well as the creation of this document: [Preventing Future Fatalities \(watersafetyscotland.org.uk\)](http://watersafetyscotland.org.uk)
- Smokey Paws, a charity focused on saving pets in the event of fire outbreak
- Quad bikes and safety helmets
- Deaths from respiratory diseases contracted at work
- Choosing and using child car seats
- Child death reviews
- Safety of outdoor learning
- Fair work
- UNCRC
- The health and safety implications of changes to the management of waste and recycling

This list is not exhaustive.

As well as the above, a number of issues have been discussed in the Scottish Parliament, having been taken forward by the Convenor via PQs, Motions and Debates. Topics include: Water Safety; Road Safety, Child Safety and Gas and Electrical Safety issues.

Some of the members of the Group, photo taken in 2016.



Seated: from L to R – Elizabeth Lumsden (RoSPA and Secretariat). Clare Adamson MSP (Convenor), Brian Topping (Safety Advocate) and Wayne Mackay (ESF).

Examples (not an exhaustive list) of key presenters have included experts and senior officials from:



All presentations, where permission was agreed, have been stored on the RoSPA website at <https://www.rospa.com/about/around-the-uk/scotland/cross-party-group>



What the members think

In February 2021, members of the CPG were asked to complete a survey on their thoughts and experiences of being involved in the Group:

- All members agreed the CPG had been productive during their time attending – an increase from 92% of the members surveyed in 2016
 - Members gave a 4.3/5 rating for how interesting they found the topics and speakers in general
 - 88% of members felt that they have definitely gained new knowledge having attended these meetings – up from 52% of the members surveyed in 2016. The remaining 12% felt that they had gained and shared new knowledge to some degree.
 - 94% of members have shared this knowledge with colleagues in their organisations, with 84% reporting that they have shared new knowledge outside of their organisations.
 - Members felt that they have engaged with a wider range of individuals and organisations following their attendance
- Members felt the following had happened as a direct consequence of the formation of this Group:
- “Passing on of information and ideas across the different geographical areas as well as subject areas”
 - “It has provided a great opportunity to engage with a wide range of people and industries that previously would not have been possible”
 - “The group has assisted in opening doors for our organisation. We have also had the opportunity to attend the Scottish Parliament events and have been supported by the membership.”
 - “An awareness of benefits of proportionate risk for children and young people”

“It provides a wide view of the various subjects within the remit and allows for high level interventions and support”

“I hope the CPG will continue and grow from strength to strength! The support from RoSPA is amazing.”





Sandra White MSP, convenor of the CPG on Older people, Age and Ageing and Clare Adamson MSP, Convenor of CPG on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness trying out the resistance band exercises at a joint meeting in January 2018.

The future of the Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

The Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness has provided a very useful and effective arena for likeminded individuals across a variety of sectors to raise and affect positive change. Given the chance to continue, the Group will grow and build on the positive relationships already established and nurtured since its inception.

RoSPA is fully supportive of the re-formation of the Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness for the new Parliamentary Session from 21/22 to 24/25. RoSPA would be honoured to again provide the Secretariat to this Group.





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