



accidents don't have to happen

Homeward



Newsletter 200

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HOMEWORD 200

Welcome to the **200th edition** of Homeword. For nearly 20 years, staff at RoSPA have been bringing you up to date information about what is happening in the community safety world. Thank you for signing up to our newsletter and supporting us.

RoSPA remains deeply passionate about preventing accidents wherever they might happen but the focus of this newsletter has been mainly about the preventions of accidents that happen in what should be the place where people of all ages are safe. Unfortunately, it is usually the place where you are most at risk – especially for those at either end of the age spectrum ie those that spend more time in the home. As we all know, though, accidents can be prevented and we are always looking for new partners to work with so do get in touch if you would like to chat through any home safety ideas further. For those of you who are already doing great work in the prevention of unintentional injuries why not share the details more widely and submit your initiative for inclusion on the new Building Safer Communities Unintentional Injuries Online Hub: <https://harmandinjuryhub.scot/about-us/>

Salus – The Goddess of Safety and Wellbeing

The concept of safety has always been paramount within humanity. A good example is through looking at ancient Roman culture. Salus was the Roman Goddess of safety and welfare for both the state and individual. She had a temple dedicated to her in 302 BC. She is sometimes identified with the Greek Goddess Hygieia – the Goddess of health, hygiene and cleanliness.

Salus was provided offerings for the safety of the city of Rome and also for the health and fertility of the entire Roman community. She is typically represented with a snake and offering plant as well as with salt which in ancient roman culture was associated with good health.

Hairband Risk

A mother has warned others after her 14 week old baby suffocated from a bow headband: <https://www.heart.co.uk/lifestyle/parenting/mum-warning-bow-headbands-baby-died/>



Picture source: http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-3KKTg_SOixg/UjmW0ybf2JI/AAAAAAAAAB6E/EJH-ZKXIV_o/s1600/Hermitage+2.jpg



Workplace accidents on the rise

HSE figures show that accidental fatalities in the workplace in Scotland has risen by 70% over the past year:

Year	Fatalities
2017/18	17
2018/19	29

New Chief Executive of NHS Scotland

Malcolm Wright has been appointed as Chief Executive of NHS Scotland and Director General of Health and Social Care at the Scottish Government. Read about it here: <https://www.gov.scot/news/chief-executive-of-nhs-scotland/>. RoSPA has recently written to Mr Wright to welcome him into post and to ask him to consider re-directing some of the recently announced funds for reducing waiting times into accident prevention instead.

Inquiry into decent and accessible homes for older people

This report from the All Party Parliamentary Group in England highlights the evidence showing the link between poor housing conditions and the impact on falls and other accidents. It also mentions that *many older people are forced to spend longer periods in hospital because their homes are unsuitable or ill equipped to allow them to be discharged*. The report relates specifically to England but there are similarities with Scotland.

See: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/reports-and-publications/appg/appg-for-ageing-and-older-people---report-on-decent-and-accessible-homes-for-older-people.pdf>

Stay afloat

Hampshire Council, RNLI and the University of Portsmouth have released an educational resource for secondary schools. You can view the materials online here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/stayafloat>



Avoidable deaths in Scotland

We have released a new blog article in response to the BMJ's finding that avoidable deaths in Scotland have 'stalled'. Our article looks into the recent statistics and shows that accidents now account for four per cent of all deaths in Scotland, more than assault or suicide, and the numbers are on the rise. You can read our blog report here: [https://www.rospa.com/lets-talk-about/2019/August-2019/Avoidable-deaths"-in-Scotland.aspx](https://www.rospa.com/lets-talk-about/2019/August-2019/Avoidable-deaths)



Return on investment in public health

The following is taken from the current consultation 'Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s – consultation document', published 22 July 2019.

Value for money: *A recent systematic review has found that for every £1 spent on public health interventions, there was an average £14 of benefit to wider society.*

The UK needs to invest more in prevention. Read more about the return on investment of public health interventions here: <https://jech.bmj.com/content/71/8/827>

Consultations

- Strategic police priorities for Scotland - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/strategic-police-priorities-scotland-consultation/>

Did You Know?

- Currently, there is no widely accepted, standardised system in Europe for home occupants to know whether their home is safe. Countries rely on building regulations but many hazards in the home are not covered. Regulations also vary widely within countries. (European Child Safety Alliance)

Some useful links:

- Public Health and Community Safety Masterclass – a masterclass is being held by SCSN: <http://www.safercommunitiesscotland.org/public-health-community-safety/>
- Social Justice in Public Health – Faculty of Public Health Conference, 28 – 29th November 2019. More information available here: <http://www.fphscotconf.co.uk/98332>
- Health and Social Care Gathering 2019 Improving health and wellbeing across Scotland, 25th September 2019 : <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/health-and-social-care-gathering-2019-improving-health-and-wellbeing-across-scotland-shared-and-registration-61159210846>

Finally, follow us on Twitter for all our latest news @RoSPASCOTLAND

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