



accidents don't have to happen

Homeword



Newsletter 202

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HOMEWORDED 202

Welcome to the **202nd 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.

Water Safety Policies

We have published a new article about water safety policies on the Unintentional Harm and Injury Hub. Local authorities are in a unique position to help reduce drowning fatalities by creating and implementing a water safety policy. Read our article here: <https://harmandinjuryhub.scot/news/managing-water-safety>

Unintentional Harm and Injury online hub

The new Building Safer Communities online Hub is now available. This Hub provides lots of information and resources including practice exemplars on unintentional injury prevention projects. It can be accessed online here: <https://harmandinjuryhub.scot/about-us/>

Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

The Cross Party Group (CPG) on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness has now been meeting for over six years and has gone from strength to strength. Convened by Clare Adamson, MSP, a very broad range of safety related topics is considered at the meetings and the average attendance number is 45. The membership consists of a wide variety of organisations with an interest in safety: either in the home, on the road, at leisure, or at work - or all four. RoSPA staff provide the Secretariat to the CPG and, following the business of the meetings (including the Secretary's Report and the opportunity to share news in the Headlines Newsletter), members can hear from three speakers relating to the theme of that particular meeting. Additionally, members are invited to be considered to 'pitch' a three minute presentation for future consideration by the Group.

If you would like to be considered as a member of the Group please write a short paragraph in the first instance on why you would like to join and what you could bring to the Group and submit it to the Secretary elumsden@rospa.com

Further information on the Group, including a list of current members, can be found on the Scottish Parliament website <https://www.parliament.scot/msps/accident-prevention.aspx>. All speakers' presentations are held on the RoSPA website at <https://www.rospa.com/About/Around-the-UK/Scotland/Cross-Party-Group>

Blind Cords

Five years after the new standards were introduced regarding the manufacture and fitting of blind cords there is still concern that there are many blinds out there, especially in children's bedrooms, that were fitted before the changes and therefore may not be safer by design. RoSPA recently completed research which showed, of homes which have blinds in the child's bedroom, one in three (33 per cent) were fitted more than five years ago.



In living rooms and hallways this figure rises to 38 per cent, and to 41 per cent in kitchens. Nearly one in three homes (29 per cent) have no safety devices fitted on their blinds.

RosPA urges parents, grandparents and carers to remove looped cords from their homes – particularly from children’s bedrooms – and have new blinds fitted. If this is not possible, there are cheap or free safety devices which can be fitted, such as cleats, which enable the blind cords to be tied up. For more blind cord safety advice and resources, see www.rosipa.com/blindcords

Charity Film Awards 2020

RosPA Scotland have entered the Charity Film Awards 2020 with our short film on Keeping Kids Safe in the home.

Voting is open from 25 October 2019 to 1 December 2019.

Please vote for our video! You can vote here: <https://charityfilmawards.com/videos/keep-kids-safe-in-the-home>

The Fourth “e”?

The traditional ‘e’s of injury prevention are education, engineering (safer environments) and enforcement. However, this article <https://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/early/2019/09/18/injuryprev-2019-043407.full> looks at the fourth ‘e’ as being ‘equity’ and suggests that maybe the traditional approach doesn’t consider opportunities for everyone to experience ‘safe and injury-free lives’.

Luxembourg

Elizabeth Lumsden, RoSPA’s community safety manager, attended EUSafety19 in Luxembourg from 3rd – 4th October. The title of this event, which runs every two years, was “research for enhancing impact of strategies and actions”. The conference – on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion - built on the series of European Injury Prevention Conferences successfully organised over the past decades by EuroSafe and the success of the World Safety Conferences attended by a large European contingent.

Keynote speakers included a very interesting presentation from Nicholas Ward, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Montana State University, USA, who emphasised the importance of “The role of culture in safety”.

As well as delivering a presentation on Water Safety Policy in Scotland following RoSPA’s recent research findings from across Scotland, Elizabeth also moderated several of the sessions on a variety of topics. The full programme can be viewed at <https://sites.luh.lu/eu-safety-2019/eu-safety-2019/programme/> and also included a presentation from Lorraine Gillies of The Scottish Community Safety Network who share information on the new ‘measuring what matters’ framework. The event in 2021 will be held in Vienna.

Water Safety Conference

RosPA in collaboration with Water Safety Scotland will be hosting a conference on Water Safety on the 26th March 2020 in Edinburgh (location TBC). Thanks to donations from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish



Water and RNLI the full day conference will look at the two year review of Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy and the work across Scotland to help prevent water related fatalities.

Did You Know?

- A recent study in the United States on Adverse Childhood Experience found that ACEs such as physical abuse and emotional neglect had a strong influence on the odds of both unintentional and intentional injury. (Sotero, 2015. Available online: <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/62889658.pdf>)

Some useful links:

- NHS Scotland has a useful video which explains the impact of adversity in childhood. The video can be accessed online here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMpli-4CZK0>
- Making a Difference Housing and Health: a Case for Investment has been produced in Wales this year and includes useful information on the costs of injury prevention relating to housing compared with the potential for savings in health and social care. You can view the document at <https://phw.nhs.wales/news1/publications/making-a-difference-housing-and-health-publications/phw-making-a-difference-housing-and-health-a-case-for-investment-pdf/>

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

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