

# Issues to consider when developing your local policy

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LEISURE SAFETY TEAM



accidents don't have to happen

*As safe as necessary, not as safe as possible*



- Gather drowning and other leisure activity data
- Develop policy
- Produce guidance
- Train, audit and consult
- Campaign for change
- Raise awareness in the public of safety issues

***“As safe as necessary, not as safe as possible”***



# Why the importance of Policy



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national  
water  
forum

A future with  
The UK  
Strat  
20

## How Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy fits into the UK Drowning Prevention Strategy

Theme	Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy	UK Drowning Prevention Strategy
EDUCATION	Promote and develop learning to swim, water safety education and initiatives within early years, primary and secondary schools	Every child should have the opportunity to learn to swim and receive water safety education at primary school and where required at Key Stage 3
COMMUNITY	Develop water safety across Scotland's 32 local authority areas and promote the development of water safety policies	Every community with water risks should have a community-level risk assessment and water safety plan
SUICIDE	Contribute to the reduction of water-related suicide	To better understand water-related self-harm
AWARENESS	Promote public awareness of water-related risks and ensure a consistent message through campaigns and communications	Increase awareness of everyday risks in, on and around water
RECREATION	Promote the safe participation of recreational activities across Scotland	All recreational activity organisations should have a clear strategic risk assessment and plans that address key risks
DATA	Improve fatality incident data and intelligence across Scotland by advocating WAID and sharing WAID reports with partner organisations and local authorities	

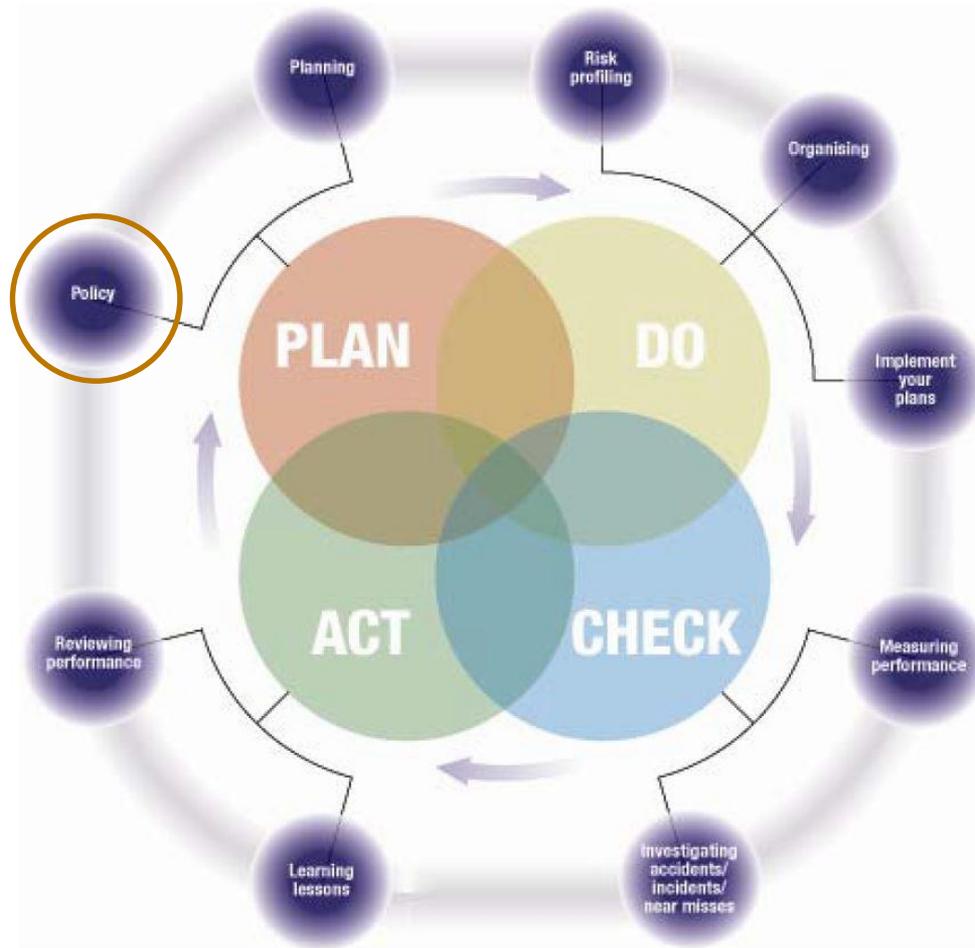
safety

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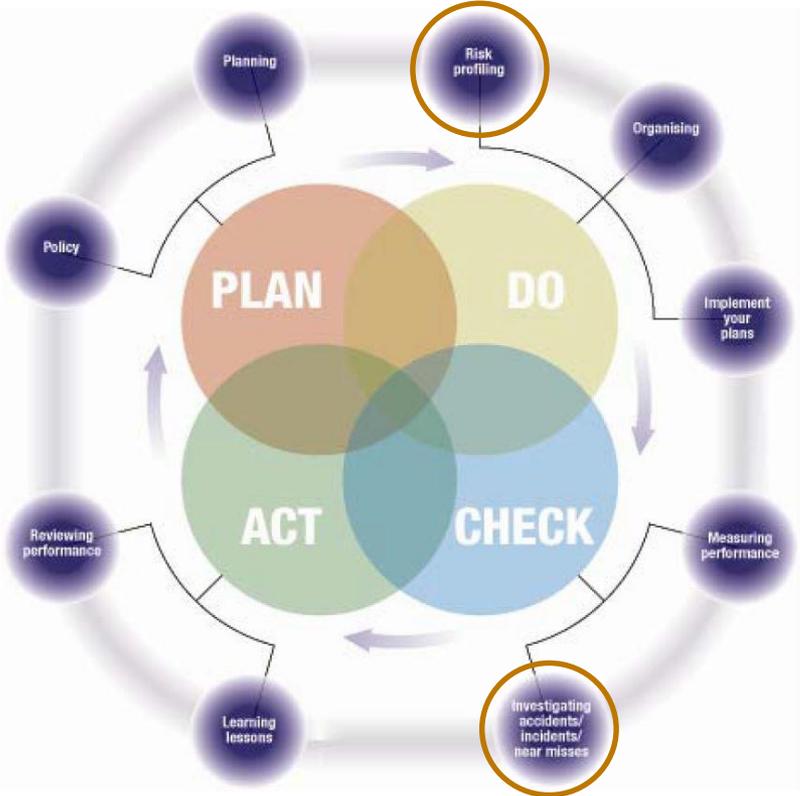


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# Importance of WAID



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# Informing policy

What have you got?



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Graphic showing

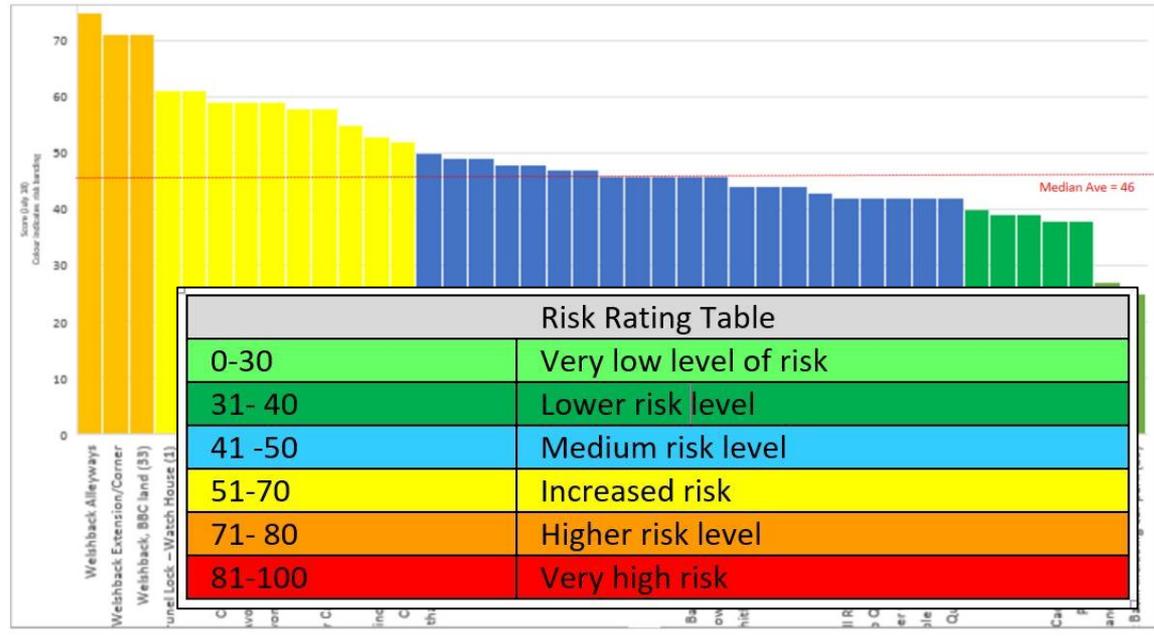


Welsh Back, Mardyke Wharf, Temple Quay incidents within the assessment zone

Outside of the assessment zone, non-fatal incidents.



Note: Not all Sections shown



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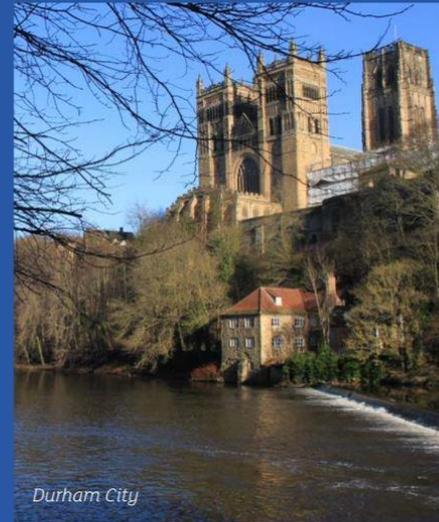
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## Case study Developing water-safe communities in Durham City

Durham is a market town in the north east of England, shaped by the River Wear. The older parts of the city follow an incised valley, leaving a peninsula that has been central to the city's development. The fabric of the river, its banks and bridges vary considerably in terms of design and age, changing from modern canalised structures to semi-urban and green spaces all within a short walk. Set among this are spectacular heritage locations and a designated UNESCO action area. The river – and access to it – is a central part of Durham's heritage and a significant tourist attraction, generating constant visitor and resident footfall with some locations along the river being important routes both day and night. City centre shopping, eating and drinking venues are in proximity and overlooking the river. Just under 4 million tourists visit the city annually, while a significant university population equates to approximately 20 per cent of the city's residents.

In Durham, from January 2010 to March 2015, there were 56 water-related incidents, of which five resulted in drowning fatalities. Common factors included being male, being alone at night, being under the influence of alcohol and being a student. The incidents happened close to the high footfall areas and the heritage locations.

A team led by the Durham City Centre Safety Group worked with RoSPA to undertake a strategic review of the water safety risks within the city. The team included representatives from the local authority, police and fire services, public health teams and various city centre riparian landowners including the cathedral, council and Durham University.



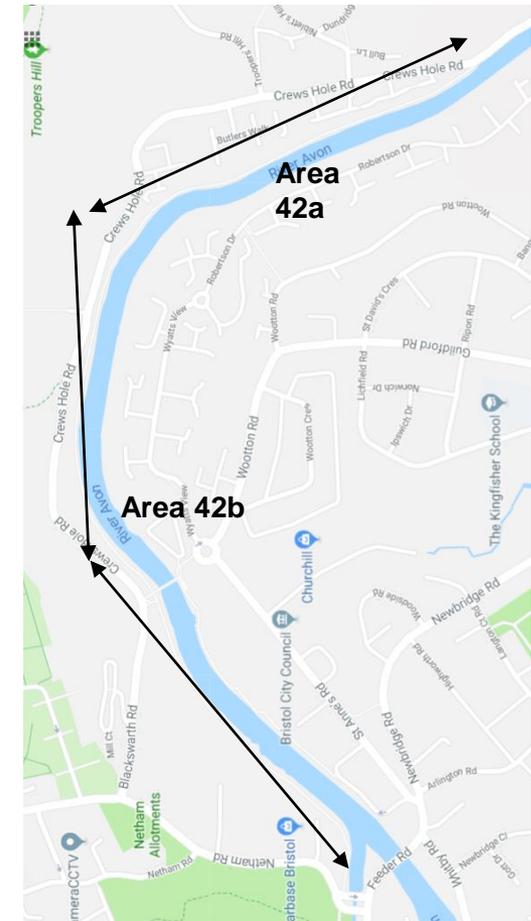
### Key outcomes to date include:

- Improved lighting and safe routing information around the city
- Engineered improvements to key sections of the riverside, considerate of the heritage needs for the location
- Increased provision of public rescue equipment at strategic positions along the riverside
- Improved inspection and monitoring systems and regimes for the key risk areas
- Awareness campaign to highlight new transport and route safety information, as well as alcohol safety awareness messaging and initiatives
- New policy to ensure that all new builds are planned with water safety in mind.

## Section: River Avon footpath

Site Ref: 42a  
Site Ref: 42b

Section score: 59  
Section score: 59



Site description	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A well finished level path along the upper bank of the River Avon. No lighting. Quite well used during afternoon visited. Multiple pedestrian accesses to path from main road and housing development. No/very little overlooking onto path at Area 42b. Area 42a overlooked by the housing but would not see someone in water.</li> <li>- Area 42a path 500mm to 2m from grassed or concrete bank edge, Vertical drop of minimum 2m and no egress back to bank top. Remains of masonry and concrete edge structures and stub bollards are trip hazards and partial concealed by grass.</li> <li>- Alcohol bottle seen along Area 42b. Mainly brambles and woodland on bank but some grassed areas appear worn possibly from anglers accessing the water's edge. Banks over 1 in 3 and with vertical drop of approx. 1m to water.</li> </ul>	
Incidents	Groups at risk
	Tourists, parents and children (escaping parent supervision). Cyclists
Visitors	
Daytime: Walkers, tourists, Parents with buggies, and dog walkers. Night time: no lighting and not desirable to access.	
Principle hazards	Mitigation options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trips and fall into water from vertical banks.</li> <li>- Fall from steep slopes e.g. for fishing.</li> <li>-- Blind corners on path at bank top, fall into water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Signage to warn of steep, unprotected drops.</li> <li>- Provision of life rings near housing</li> <li>- Repair missing fencing. Fencing on corners.</li> <li>-- Highlight stub bollards.</li> </ul>
Other hazards	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collapse of wall at rear of builders' merchants</li> <li>- Entanglement / injury from protruding wire fencing at rear of builders' merchants.</li> <li>- Impalement injury likely at exposed long fence fixings at fence near lock end.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Replace missing fence rails where missing.</b></li> </ul>
Comments	
Grandparents observed with young child in buggy within 300mm of 3m vertical edge showing child the ducks in the water. Fencing provided at built up bank at very steep bank into water.	
Assessments: 19 February 18	



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# Policy driven, consistent controls



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# Evidence led interventions

**Visitor**

**Unrestricted  
access to  
hazard**

**Misjudgement,  
Ignorance or  
disregard of  
danger**

**Absence of  
adequate  
supervision**

**Inability to  
save yourself,  
or be rescued**

**Victim**

**Organisation interventions**

**Individual responsibilities &  
Behaviours**

**ROSPA**

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# Consider

- **Competency of risk assessors**
- **Previous incidents**
- **Visitor profile**
- **Asset profile**
- **Climatic drivers**
- **Reducing access**
- **Signage**
- **Management arrangements**
- **Emergency equipment (PRE) & Arrangements**
- **Consultations**



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**ROSPA**

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