

Stockton Home Safety Association

A meeting of Stockton Home Safety Association was held on Tuesday, 4th December, 2007.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains (Chair), Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher (Vice Cllr Julia Roberts), F. Russell (Trading Standards), K. Harrison (Cleveland Fire Brigade), D. Sanders (Cleveland Police), M Wetherall (SDAG)

Officers: M. Jones (LD), V. Chadwick, M. Perkin (CESC)

Also in attendance: T. Redfern (RSVP)

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Julia Roberts, Cllr Jackie Earl, D. Atkinson (Cleveland Fire Brigade), K. Jarvis, A. Moriaty

SHS 36/07 Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked Stockton Independent Living Centre for the use of their facilities.

SHS 37/07 Minutes of the Meeting Held 24th October 2007

It was noted that a letter had not been sent to Graphics departments regarding the Stockton Home Safety Banner, and this was to be sent as soon as possible.

CONCLUDED that:

1. a letter would be sent to Grphics regarding the banner.
2. the minutes of the meeting held 24th October 2007 be agreed as a true record.

SHS 38/07 Stockton Independent Living Centre

V. Chadwick and M. Perkin discussed the facilities at the Stockton Independent Living Centre (SILC). The aim of the centre was to enable people to maintain their independence by developing choices in the aids purchased. It was noted that it was difficult to know what the appropriate equipment was for a person unless they test it. If a person purchased the wrong equipment without testing it, it may be ineffective for them or even dangerous.

SILC was open to the public to visit by appointment and provided a representative range of equipment for them to test, with specialist equipment brought in as required. The all members of the Occupational Therapy Team had access to the SILC, and it was also a useful environment for medical staff inductions. Assessment Clinics were held for people with low needs, and it was hoped that Assessment Clinics for people with low sensory loss will begin in January 2008. However, although the Occupational Therapist could demonstrate and measure users for equipment, they were not able to sell equipment.

The users of the service were mainly adults, as children's' equipment was usually made specifically for the child. The primary interest of parents with children needing aids that use the service was the purchasing of hoists.

Private companies which sold aids and the use of direct payments were discussed. A case when a faulty bath lift was purchased was discussed. This case had been resolved but there were concerns that equipment can be purchased and delivered without it being tested as fit for purpose. The Trading Standards Officer noted that although equipment had to be CE marked as it is classed as medical equipment Trading Standards were not responsible for testing equipment. V. Chadwick stated that she wants people to come to SILC to test the equipment they need before purchasing it privately. She added that there was a plan to provide prescriptions for equipment, which would be very detailed to prevent people purchasing unsuitable equipment.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted and information sheets would be circulated to every member.

**SHS
39/07** **Tour of Stockton Independent Living Centre**

Members were given a guided tour of the facilities at the Stockton Independent Living Centre.

**SHS
40/07** **Doorstoppers**

A meeting was to be held week commencing 10th December 2007 to discuss the agreement for RSVP to use the Association name in funding bids.

T. Redfern reiterated his previous offer to present the 'Not Sure, Don't Open the Door' DVD to the Association. It was agreed to show this DVD at the meeting in February, and open the meeting to all Council Members.

CONCLUDED that the 'Not Sure, Don't Open the Door' DVD be shown at the meeting on 26th February in the Lecture Hall, Stockton Central Library.

**SHS
41/07** **No Cold Calling Zones**

The Trading Standards Officer gave an update report on the No Cold Calling Zones Evaluation. There had been a 40% response rate from the questionnaires distributed in Yarm and a 31% response rate from Burnside. From the responses received the Trading Standards Officer believed that the scheme had been well received and Cold Calling decreased. The report was to be sent to the Trading Standards and Licensing Manager, who would decide which Select Committee and/or Cabinet Member the report would go to for action. The Association noted its support for the report and hoped that the Committee/Cabinet Member would look favourably on it.

The Trading Standards Officer informed the Association that due to the financial costs of the follow up work needed, the scheme could not be rolled out to other areas. When residents approach Trading Standards requesting a zone in their area, the Officer was referring them to their local Councillor.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

SHS **Report of the Secretary**

42/07

The Secretary tabled the Every Child Matters Children and Young People's Plan 2007-10.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

SHS **Report of Sure Start Officer**

43/07

The Sure Start Officer was not in attendance.

SHS **Report of the Trading Standards Officer**

44/07

Toy/Collectors Train

The Officer informed that the issue of model train that had caused serious injury to a child was still ongoing. The Officer reiterated that it had passed all the relevant testing.

Underage Sales

The Trading Standards Officer reported that there had been one underage sale of cigarettes.

Shape Sorter Toy

A report had been received of a child getting their head stuck in the string handle of a bucket shape sorter toy. The toy had failed initial testing and further tests were to take place.

Novelty Witch's Hat

The Officer reported that the novelty witch's hat which had failed trading standards tests was going to court.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

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SHS **Report of the Fire Officer**

45/07

The Fire Officer noted that the next area that would be targeted for Home Fire Safety Checks would be Hardwick, and 75% of this funding would be allocated to this area. A total of 26967 checks had been carried out up to 1st December 2007, and these were broken down into Council Wards as follows:

Billingham Central - 2107

Billingham East - 2641

Billingham North - 1658

Billingham South - 2149

Billingham West - 700

Bishopgarth & Elm Tree - 676
Eaglescliffe - 566
Fairfield - 665
Grangefield - 545
Hardwick - 685
Hartburn - 616
Ingleby Barwick East - 456
Ingleby Barwick West - 274
Mandale & Victoria - 2498
Newtown - 1242
Northern Parishes - 137
Norton North - 1220
Norton South - 1023
Norton West - 738
Parkfield & Oxbridge - 1244
Roseworth - 865
Stainsby Hill - 1105
Stockton Town Centre - 1370
Village - 1125
Western Parishes - 221
Yarm - 441

The Fire Officer noted that there had been no major incidents reported involving fireworks. The Chair requested information on the number of fires that take place over the Christmas season, broken down into reasons, for the next meeting.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**SHS
46/07**

Report of the Police Officer

The Police Officer noted that the number of burglaries had decreased.

Vulnerable Vehicles

The Christmas campaign was tackling the issue of people leaving bags on show in their cars. The Police had approached one member of the public at Teesside Park, and two members of the public at a supermarket in Ingleby Barwick.

Test Purchases

There had been four underage sales of alcohol in public houses.

Take Me To Bed Scheme for Car Keys

This scheme was still ongoing and although the final figures had not been received, the Officer believed that the trend for two for one burglaries had decreased.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

SHS
47/07

Any Other Business

There was no other business to report.