

Water Safety Action Plan: July 2019

Workstream		Activity	Actions	Responsibility	Target date
1. Evidence base	1.1	Collate and maintain information on recorded incidents on and adjacent to open water. To be used to inform Risk Assessment process (section 2) and Education and Communications Plan (section 3).	Summary report prepared on water-related incidents 2016-2018. Includes data from the Police, Fire Brigade and SBC.	Dale Metcalfe	Complete
			Update above report on an annual basis, to provide current evidence base to inform on-going interventions. Suggest deadline for next report is end Jan 2020 (covering period up to Dec 2019)	Dale Metcalfe	End January 2020?
2. Risk Assessments	2.1	Map all Council-owned land adjacent to areas of open water.	Request mapping from GIS team.	Graham Clingan	Complete (Feb 2019)
	2.2	Undertake site-based risk assessments for all Council sites including or adjacent to areas of open water.	1 st phase of risk assessments completed: Countryside sites 1. Wynyard Woodland Park – Thorpe Wood Pond 2. Billingham Beck Valley Country Park - Billingham Beck / Ecology Park Pond 3. Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park – car park ponds / lake 4. River Tees Valley Sites – Tees at Black Bobbies Field & Thornaby Riverside / Tees at The Holmes & Bassleton Wood 5. Local Nature Reserve sites – Hartburn Beck & tributaries at the Six Fields / Brick Pond at the Six Fields / Charltons Pond and lake	Derek MacDonald / Dave Askey	Complete (July 2019)

			<p>Other sites:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. River Tees at Yarm Wharf 2. Ropner Park Lake and Fountain 3. Norton Duck Pond 4. Castlegate (town centre)riverside (and Teesdale / Northshore as required) 5. River Tees at Preston Park and Preston Park fish haven 		
			<p>Next steps are to ensure RAs are signed off by duty holder for each site and DM to compile table to identity and monitor actions.</p>	Derek MacDonald	31st August 2019?
			<p>Complete risk assessments for remainder of sites (medium and lower priority)</p> <p>In total there is a requirement to carry out 46 individual risk assessments for ponds and 32 for rivers / streams, although these can be grouped into a smaller number of 'clusters' representing similar types of water body on a single site.</p>	TBC (medium priority sites)	31 March 2020
				TBC (lower priority sites)	30 Sept 2020
	2.3	Identify duty holders for council-owned land (i.e. relevant directorate) and any adjacent sites.	See above		
	2.4	Ensure that those responsible for on-site risk assessments assessing or inspecting water safety issues are competent to do so, this includes local groups and volunteers.	RoSPA to deliver water risk assessment for relevant staff (including SBC, CRT, Tees Active, River Shack.	Derek Macdonald	Complete (April 2019)
	2.5	A process to ensure that assets being acquired have been risk assessed prior to being entered into the control of the Local Authority need to be implemented as part of the overall risk assessment strategy.		-	-

3. Measures to reduce risk at priority sites	3.1	<p>Consideration to be given to the installation of signs at key sites (informed by risk assessments – see 2.2) to warn of hazards and provide safety information.</p> <p>SBC Community Services have considered this in light of their enforcement powers (possible use of Public Space Protection Orders) and have concerns that any signage which restricts swimming may not be enforceable. Therefore ‘advisory’ signage is preferred, warning of potential hazards and providing contact phone numbers.</p>	<p>Signage requirements to be identified through the site Risk Assessment process.</p> <p>Important that the Council adopts a consistent approach to safety signage, selecting appropriate content for each site from a standard suite of symbols and text. This should be informed by the risk assessments and the specific hazards identified at each site.</p>	TBC	TBC
	3.2	<p>Immediate consideration being given to issues raised by the Tees River Users Trust Limited (TRUT) regarding the visibility and accessibility of escape ladders on the urban stretch of the river through Stockton and Thornaby.</p>	<p>Identify SBC and CRT responsibilities and undertake any necessary works to improve safety.</p>	Andy Wood Stuart McKenzie	TBC
	3.3	<p>Measures to be identified through Risk Assessments (1.5). Existing and future controls should be reviewed to ensure they are consistent across the portfolio</p>	-	-	-
	3.4	<p>Samaritans have installed signs at various bridges on the Tees. Since the 24 April meeting Jane Salisbury has confirmed that the following signs are in place, at the request of the Suicide Reduction Co-ordinator (locations previous incidents had occurred):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Princess Diana Bridge – 4 signs • Millennium Bridge – 6 signs • Leven Bank Bridge – 2 signs • Newport Bridge – 4 signs <p>Other bridges where signage was requested due to incidents, but not installed:</p>	<p>No further action at present</p>	-	-

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria Bridge - declined as it is a listed structure, although it may be possible to look at alternatives not on the bridge structure itself. Yarm Viaduct – Network Rail structure A66 Surtees Bridge – Highways England Structure, contact details passed on. A19 Hilton Overbridge – Highways England Structure, contact details passed on. 			
4. Education / communications	4.1	<p>Prepare Education & Communications Plan, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target audiences Key messages Current education / comms activity Proposed additional actions 	<p>Draft document prepared – requires further revision. Draft has been shared with Carly Dixon (SBC Comms and Engagement).</p> <p>Immediate need to reinforce safety messages via social media.</p>	TBC	TBC
	4.2	<p>Deliver water safety sessions in local schools (Fire Brigade & SBC), and via visits of school and other groups to Tees Barrage (CRT and Tees Active)</p>	<p>On-going, with recent school visits by Fire Brigade and SBC to: Conyers, Grangefield, Northshore, Teesside High, Ian Ramsey, Bishopsgarth, St Michaels and Thornaby Academy.</p> <p>Will make combined request to schools in spring 2020, emphasising the importance of the sessions.</p>	Andrew Bright / Dale Metcalfe	By Easter 2020
	4.3	<p>Fire Service’s Drowning Prevention Drowning Prevention & Water Safety Week – 29 April to 5 May. Andrew Bright has circulated the toolkit to group.</p>	<p>Partners to utilise toolkit, including posters.</p>	All	Complete
	4.4	<p>Linked to 3.1 above, develop additional resources to communicate key messages to the target audience. Could include video resources (with input from Rachel Dodd and School of Computing</p>	<p>No immediate action – will follow on from 3.1.</p>	-	-

		Media and the Arts, Teesside University) and case studies. Need to be aimed at target groups and adopt key messages identified under 4.1.			
	4.5	Article in May edition of Stockton News on water safety.	Article drafted for publication in May 2019.	Dale Metcalfe / Comms	Complete (May 2019)
5. Incident response / procedures	5.1	Confirm current procedures for responding to incidents on the river, including details of access points. The need to collect data on 'near misses' on the river was highlighted.	'Action plan for coordination of emergencies on the River Tees' circulated to group. NOT FOR WIDER CIRCULATION. The Plan is currently being updated by the LRFs Blue Lights Group. Any comments / feedback to be sent to: Stuart Marshall, Chief Emergency Planning Officer / LRF Manager, Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit, Hartlepool Borough Council: Stuart.Marshall@hartlepool.gov.uk	All	ASAP
	5.2	Emergency access points and rendezvous points to be identified and mapped.	CRT have devised a template to record details. To be completed for each location. To feed into above Action Plan (5.1)	Stuart McKenzie	TBC
			Fire Brigade also have details of access points (not for launching of craft). Details have been passed on by Andrew Bright to Canal & River Trust.	-	-
	5.3	Identify any potential changes to existing procedures / emergency access	-	-	-

6. Develop an appropriate water safety training plan for employees and volunteers	6.1	SBC managers to consider water safety is incorporated into risk assessments wherever appropriate.	-	-	-
	6.2	Community group, volunteers and others working for or in partnership with the Council need to be given appropriate training and guidance.	-	-	-
	6.3	Confirm that existing volunteers receive relevant training and information, and that information to be shared with the Working Group.	Details to be shared to confirm consistency in approach.	TBC	TBC
7. Consultation / liaison	7.1	Community Services have arranged for Water Safety Action Plan to be on May agenda of Safer Stockton Partnership.	Report to Safer Stockton Partnership.	Marc Stephenson	Sept 2019
	7.2	Liaise with River User Group as required	Updates at scheduled meetings, or additional consultation if required.	Graham Clingan	On-going
8. Resources	8.1	Budgets should be made available to implement controls which will deliver consistency in water safety across the portfolio. Consideration of resources for education and communication with key risk groups in the area should be included within this budget.	-	-	-
	8.2	Consider whether the existing human resource is sufficient for the work to be undertaken, with adequate resilience. Will need to ensure that work can continue in the event of staff changes and absences	For on-going consideration.	-	-

Next meetings:

- 16 Sept at 10.30 (Stockton Town Hall - please note change of venue)
- 21 Nov at 13.30
- 30 January 2020 at 2.00