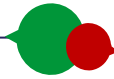




accidents don't have to happen

## Homeword



## Newsletter 217

Version: 01

Date: December 2020

## HOMEWORD 217

Welcome to Homeword 217. For over 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.

### Thank you!

Thank you also to each and every one of you who have supported us in one way or another this year: Our funders at the Scottish Government; RoSPA Members; Homeword subscribers; webinar attendees and presenters; those who have shared social media posts; project partners, and; those who have contributed to various meetings and subgroup meetings, including those supported by RoSPA such as Water Safety Scotland and the Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness.

We look forward to continuing to work with you all in 2021 and continuing with our newsletter. Please do contact us with any news items you would like to share. Please also contact us if you have any ideas for future webinar themes as we plan to continue with these in the new year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at RoSPA!



### New roles

Congratulations to Carlene McAvooy who is moving post within RoSPA to take up the position of Leisure Safety Manager for the UK! Carlene will remain as our lead on Water Safety issues relating to Scotland. To ensure the home safety part of her previous role remains a priority, we have recruited a part time home safety officer who will introduce herself in January – watch this space!



Fife Cares Service Dealing with Covid



Dealing with home safety and security in Fife through the pandemic has been a challenge but this is how we have dealt with it. All processes are under constant review and take cognisance of the Scottish Government advice and regulations. Fife cares has historically provided a service of advice and equipment for families with children under 5 years, vulnerable adults as well as the Safe Secure and Supported at Home service which



provides safety and security advice and equipment for victims of domestic abuse all within Fife. The service involved a Home Safety Advisor receiving referrals electronically and making an appointment to attend at the home where a relevant discussion would take place and any equipment available and thought necessary would be provided or fitted.

The global pandemic has obviously changed this landscape considerably. Throughout the initial lockdown period no home visits could take place and Home Safety Advisors were redeployed delivering prescriptions. Child Safety and Vulnerable Adult visits were suspended. Domestic Abuse visits were identified as a priority and Police Scotland carried out these visits with equipment supplied by Safe Secure and Supported at Home.

When lock down conditions were eased Home Safety Advisors took up their own jobs again and have been carrying out domestic violence related referrals as well as child safety referrals. This has been managed in the following ways:

**Child Safety** - the client is contacted by telephone when a discussion takes place regarding the circumstances within the home and related safety issues. An assessment is made over the phone of what equipment would be suitable. This includes cupboard locks, etc through to child safety gates. The equipment is later delivered in a paper bag to the client with a copy of a booklet which highlights the most common child safety issues and how to avoid the dangers. It also has web links for relevant safety sites and contact details for more information. This was produced and supplied pre-covid. Safety gates are delivered separately.

This process is working well and visits are being well received with minimum risk to staff and the client.

**Vulnerable adult** visits remain suspended due to the vulnerable nature of the clients and risk to them and staff.

**Domestic Violence** – the client is contacted by telephone when a discussion takes place regarding the circumstances and related security issues. An appointment is arranged and the Home Safety Advisor attends where, with appropriate PPE they speak to the client, assess their needs and provide advice and equipment as is relevant to the individual and their home. Contact time with the client is kept to a minimum and should always be less than 15 minutes. Access to the home is minimal and kept to just inside the doorways. This minimises risks to staff and client as well as provides the client with the much-needed support.

This process is also working well and is gratefully received by the clients.

We continue to look at ways to best use resources and provide the service to clients.

## UNCRC

Together has launched its 'List of Issues report' which highlights 30 key issues for children's rights in Scotland as we approach the [UK's next review](#) by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. This report recognises the importance of the contributory factors to children's accidents – see section 6 on Gaps in data collection and monitoring. [https://www.togetherscotland.org.uk/media/1763/together-loipr\\_final.pdf](https://www.togetherscotland.org.uk/media/1763/together-loipr_final.pdf)

## Goods in Rented Accommodation

This useful and easy to read guide covers all goods supplied as part of a let of furnished residential accommodation which must be safe, including gas installations and appliances. See <https://www.businesscompanion.info/en/quick-guides/product-safety/goods-in-rented-accommodation>



## Virtual falls prevention roadshows

RoSPA worked closely with insurance provider RSA to host several *safe and active in later life; falls prevention* roadshows recently. As was highlighted during these events, falls are preventable and you will find many tips on this in the web hub at [www.rospa.com/falls](http://www.rospa.com/falls) There are pages for people in later life, family members and practitioners. The hub includes demo strength and balance exercise videos from Bex Townley at Later Life Training, a series of animated home safety videos, downloadable checklists and an exercise tracker.

## Useful links

Human rights-based approaches in Public Health:

Inclusion Health Principles and Practice: An equalities and human rights approach to social and systems recovery and mitigating the impact of COVID-19 for marginalised and excluded people

<https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/2832/inclusion-health-principles-and-practice.pdf>

Guide to the AAAQ Framework (WHO)

<https://www.who.int/gender-equity-rights/knowledge/AAAQ.pdf?ua=1>

The PANEL Principles

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/projects-and-programmes/human-rights-based-approach>

**Movement for Health (new coalition to increase physical activity levels of people living with long-term conditions)**

<https://www.movementforhealth.scot/news>

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