

Building Safer Communities

Safer Homes Working
Group- Best Practice
Report



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Building Safer Communities Phase 2

Safer Homes Working Group

1. Introduction

The Building Safer Communities Programme seeks a flourishing, optimistic Scotland in which resilient communities, families and individuals live their lives safe from crime, disorder and harm.

The programme wants to help communities, and national and local partners, to work together to achieve this in two ways: firstly, by reducing the number of victims of crime by 250,000 by 2017-18; and secondly by reducing the number of victims of unintentional harm by a significant amount over the same period. This figure is currently being determined.

Building Safer Communities works collaboratively with partners, makes best use of the strengths that exist within communities and uses improvement to drive transformational change.

The aim of Phase 2 is to reduce unintentional physical and psychological harm that could have been predicted or prevented.

As part of Phase 2, a Strategic Assessment of Unintentional Harm has been commissioned (due for publication autumn 2016). This assessment will recommend, through robust analysis, environmental scanning and risk assessment, areas of focus and priority for Phase 2.

This report further assists the Strategic Assessment by exploring local and national projects and campaigns within the area of home safety. It will provide useful information on projects being carried out across Scotland and contact details of project leads and home safety officers. The aim of this report is to provide information and promote best practice in order to prevent duplication of work load to promote best practice and reduce risk when implementing projects in local areas.

2. Home Accidents

In the UK every year, almost 5,000 people die in accidents within the home and over two million visit their local accident and emergency departments. In comparison, [around 400](#)¹ people die in drowning related accidents per year and [1,775](#) are killed in road related accidents.

Similar to the rest of the UK, Scotland has a challenge to reduce the number of people killed and injured in the place we all believe should be safe- our own homes. People who spend

¹ RoSPA (2016) [internet] available from <http://www.rospa.com/leisure-safety/statistics/drowning/>

more of their time at home suffer proportionally more accidental injuries, i.e. the very young and the elderly.

Based on previous figures and trends, RoSPA Scotland estimates that every day around 1,000 people are seeking some kind of medical attention following an accidental injury received at home.

Most Recent Statistics 2013-2014 for home accidents in Scotland [\(ISD\)](#)

- 2128 Children aged 0-4 admitted to hospital due to an unintentional home injury, with **891** attendees due to a fall in the home.
- 8,452 adults aged 75+ admitted to hospital due to an unintentional home injury, with **7,835** attendees due to a fall in the home.

To target these vulnerable age groups, safety organisations and charities have been campaigning and working in partnership to implement initiatives to aid the reduction of injuries from home accidents.

The benefits of taking preventative measures are clear and quantifiable in terms of both health and economic costs, resulting in:

- The potential to save lives
- Improved quality of life for all
- Reductions on the cost of acute care
- Reductions in the cost of continued community support required after hospital discharge.

3. Collecting Best Practice

This report provides in-depth examples of best practice solutions to the national challenge of home accidents. The information on the projects was collated through a number of different methods; face-to-face meetings, email questionnaires and online resources. All links to documents and projects mentioned are hyperlinked into this report for ease of use.

A key theme through analysing the best practice is that partnership working, sharing ideas and working together to achieve a common goal is a key attribute to a project's success. With many partners now banding together to promote a consistent message, a better understanding of home safety and a dynamic change in behaviour has developed throughout society. Unfortunately until an accident happens, much of the population does not account for the serious and life-changing events that can be caused by a home accident. Working in partnership to promote the same key messages will assist in this behaviour change and encourage safer home environments for all.

Many of the initiatives detailed in this report have not been evaluated, which is evident across much accident prevention work. It is within our best interest to evaluate every piece of work carried out in order to maintain a cohesive best practice solution to the national problem of accidents in the home. Building Safer Communities has developed an easy [evaluation tool](#) which should be used and followed to produce informative evaluations to social projects.

4. Accounts from Scottish Councils

Aberdeen

Mary J Agnew, Health, Safety and Wellbeing Manager, Aberdeen City Council,
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Aberdeen City Council is committed to ensuring the community lives as safely as possible in their own homes (including council housing). Funding was received through the Common Good Fund to deliver a home safety scheme to the people of Aberdeen. Homecheck is funded by the Common Good Fund to the tune of £71,376 and makes on average 800/900 visits per year. In 2014/15 the service fit 809 child safety gates, 191 grab rails and 110 metal rails.

Home Check offers a free service to any family with a child under the age of two and adults over the age of 65 living in Aberdeen City Council. The service includes a home safety check, with advice given on how to apprehend hazards within the home.

The service is provided by two members of staff; a Home Safety Officer who visits customers and offers them advice on hazards and general home safety and a Handy Person who performs remedial works in the homes such as fitting grab rails or child safety gates. The elderly are also offered a light bulb changing service to prevent them from climbing ladders.

Dundee

Laura McDermott, Home Safety Advisor, Dundee City Council Community Safety Partnership, laura.mcdermott@dundeecity.gov.uk

Home Safety Scheme: The Homes Safety Scheme is a multi-agency project involving SFRS, Police Scotland, NHS falls, Food Train, Dundee energy advice, Children and adult protection, welfare rights

Each organisation provided three triggers (visuals) which make up a collective home assessment. The idea of the scheme is to refer the household to the relevant organisation if a visual trigger is picked up to receive specialist advice and assistance.

A CAT (Co-ordinated Advice Tracking System) system is used as a common referral system whereby organisation can log in to the CAT and send a referral to the relevant organisation. The CAT system is widely used by Dundee City Council already and therefore can be easily rolled out and accessed by other partners.

A Visual Trigger sheet has been developed for each organisation to use when they enter a home.

Home Safety Issues to raise alert:

The Visual Trigger sheet includes the following key areas:

- Falls
- Adult abuse
- Financial concerns
- Household energy
- Dietary
- Fire
- Isolation, and
- Children concerns.

Each of these issues has a direct point of contact in which organisations can refer too.

The initial set up and organisation of the project has taken approximately two years. This time has been used to identify and support relevant organisations, develop the visual triggers for each organisation and get council acceptance of this project going ahead.

Each partner provided their identifiable triggers and appointed one person to access the CAT system and process the referrals. The idea of the CAT system is to reduce work load. Once the referral has been sent from one organisation to the relevant partner no other paper work needs to be completed or chased up.

Access to the CAT system was available to all partners in the scheme; therefore no costs were needed to buy into the scheme.

There have been no costs associated to this project as the CAT system was already a working component of Dundee City Council and could be accessed easily.

There was some initial resistance and reservations from partners due to a perceived increased workload and heavy case loads.

Getting appropriate senior level buy-in to the scheme was a lengthy process for some organisations involved.

This project began in January 2016 and will be evaluated after a six month pilot.

East Lothian

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Telecare service- Telecare offers a tailored support package to meet an individual's needs following an assessment. The package provides a range of telecare sensors and alarms to increase safety for elderly clients in the home. This includes system alerts for gas, smoke and water leakages; fall detectors and bed sensors.

Training and awareness raising for staff in the community was provided to ensure knowledge around technology is consistent.

Falls Training- Physio therapists from East Lothian's Duty Response and Rehab Team has provided fall training to all staff who interact with vulnerable elderly adults in the community.

Home Fire Safety Checks- Working in partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to undertake risk assessments in the home.

Emergency Care Alarms- Alarms are now linked to the community alarm service, providing 24/7 response for people in the community who may be at risk of falls and require support at home following a triggered alarm.

Home Assessments: OT service provides support and advice on a range of assistive equipment and adaptations in the home to maintain safety and reduce levels of risk for vulnerable elderly people. Assessments are shared with medical and health professionals to ensure adequate care is provided. Elderly clients are provided with safety equipment where necessary after home assessment.

Fife

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Safer by Design- resulted in Fife being the first and only Scottish local authority to date to agree to implement all of the standards within RoSPA's '[Can the Home ever be safe](#)' guidance for all new build housing. The first phase of housing was completed in 2011. Fife council housing and Neighbourhood Service have also agreed to install safety catches to kitchen units, domestic sprinkler systems and an additional double socket in each bedroom when undertaking upgrades to properties.

Home Fire Safety training- Fife carers developed a programme to roll out to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to assist them in delivering home safety whilst undertaking fire safety checks. Fife carers developed a training programme in the hope that all fire staff will be trained to conduct a home safety risk assessment by the start of the new financial year 2016. For more information on this project please visit the **Scottish Fire and Rescue, Fife** section of this report.

Electric Blanket Testing- Fife carers in partnership with Fife Council Trading Standards and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have been running an electric blanket safety campaign across Fife. Funds of £5000 were provided by trading standards and Fife Community Safety Partnership, in previous years grant funding has been provided by the Electrical Safety Council and Scottish and Southern energy. The project was launched to reduce the number of fire related injuries and fatalities in the home, due to unsafe electric blankets. [22 events](#) were held in community halls across Fife where electric blankets were tested to match current safety standards. After testing, customers were advised if it was safe to continue using. If the blanket was deemed unsafe customers were offered a new one.

Be Safe, Be Secure- Multi agency approach with a focus on community safety. Parents came together from; Fire, Police, Housing, Trading Standards and Victim support. The scheme targeted vulnerable people in the community and offered advice on how to be safe at home. The Big Lottery Fund has awarded £690,000 over 5 years to Be Safe, Secure and

Supported at home. The partnership worked to ensure that more women who have experienced domestic abuse are in a home of their choice and are more emotionally and practically supported. Fife carers provide a home security assessment for women suffering from domestic abuse; they provided home safety and security equipment to families in need.

Glasgow

Community Safety Glasgow (CSG) works in partnership with a broad range of other agencies and services including Glasgow City Council and all other organisations within the Council family, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, as well as a wide range of third sector organisations across the City.

Go Safe Scotland: Glasgow City Council, in partnership with a number of key organisations has developed a new and ground breaking [resource](#) to teach young children about the hazards and consequences they may face in everyday life and how to make the right choices to stay safe. It was agreed to develop a web based interactive education suite, linking all aspects of child safety within health and well being.

Written by experienced teachers from Glasgow and Fife and overseen by Education Quality Improvement Officers, this new resource will be of significant benefit to teachers in delivering early intervention education and information relating to the learning and teaching of health and wellbeing as part of the curriculum for excellence.

Each of the partners involved, Fife Community Safety Partnership, Police Scotland, SFRS, Scotland Gas Networks, Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, Scottish Water, Network Rail and the NHS have provided their key messages which have been transformed into engaging interactive lessons, including short films and e books.

Moray

Roddy Burns, Chief Executive, Moray Council, Roddy.burns@moray.gov.uk

In Moray, the Community Safety Partnership has the responsibility to ensure that Moray is a safe place to live, work and visit. The partnership consists of Police Scotland, SFRS, Moray Council and NHS Grampian. As a Community Safety Partnership they undertake Home Safety Checks which involve Health Visitors, Community Wardens and Home Carers. These staff members have been trained in fire and general home safety, as well as home security. They carry out inspections of homes they are visiting to identify potential hazards and provide appropriate advice. In serious cases they can refer the address to the appropriate service who will carry out a more in depth inspection and provide solutions.

NHS Grampian also train Health Visitors and Community Wardens to identify hazards associated with trips and falls; particularly in relation to the elderly and disabled, and offer advice and practical help to remove hazards.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue service deliver Fire Safety Briefings for the under fives to parenting groups, nurseries and play groups. They also carry out home Fire Safety visits

where advice and practical assistance is provided when fire hazards are identified. Referrals come from all members of the Community Safety Partnership and vulnerable persons/addresses are also often identified via weekly community safety hub meetings.

NHS Grampian delivers home safety workshops to voluntary organisations and to statutory bodies such as Public Health leads. To accompany these presentations a Home Safety pack has been developed and they are provided to vulnerable families by Health visitors, District Nurses and Carers. Packs are also available at Police Stations, GP surgeries and Council Access Points.

Perth & Kinross

A number of years ago Perth and Kinross council appointed a Home Safety Officer. Their remit was to undertake a generic home safety visit looking at; fire safety, electrical safety, security, medication/dangerous liquid storage and of course falls environmental screening. Where the falls indicated there was a need advice, minor repairs and referrals were incorporated as part of the service.

In early 2015 the service was further developed and now have the Community Fire Safety Officers also trained to do all of the above. They undertake their visits in conjunction with the Community Wardens and where appropriate, tenants applying for a smoke detector will also get a home safety visit. They likewise have referral procedures on to the falls service.

Scottish Borders

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Prevention of home accidents is generally carried out by a range of partners from the Scottish Borders;

- Scottish Borders Council
- NHS Border
- SFRS
- Care and Repair
- Child Care Partnership, and;
- Third sector voluntary organisations.

Key Injury Prevention Activities for the over 75s;

- Promotion of the Care and Repair service
- Falls prevention annual road show in five Border towns during Falls Prevention Week in June. This is a multi agency event supported by the NHS Borders, Safer Communities team, Care and Repair, borders Care alarms, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Age Scotland and Border Elder Voice

- 'Falls and Fire' safety displays in Elder Voice Road Show events across the Borders each year
- Regular falls prevention talks to older people groups throughout the year
- 2014 falls prevention was key strand in a active ageing seminar held in Galasheils
- 2014 launched Stay Steady- Community falls prevention boxes. Funded through the Change fund, these resource boxes are designed for local communities to be able to deliver basic falls awareness sessions and include: a presentation, fitness DVD and a broad range of information regarding preventing falls, keeping active, making changes to the home environment, healthy diet. It cost a total of £2,000 to create 36 of these boxes, compared with a serious injury resulting in hip replacement which costs £50,000

Key Injury Prevention Activities for the Under 5s

- Child Safety Week- every year a home injury prevention catalogue of resources is circulated to nurseries and primary schools to encourage raising awareness of home safety with parents and children. Scottish Borders Community Safety Partnership collects leaflets and resources from partner organisations to distribute.
- Safety 1st scheme- Run by the Social Work department the scheme provides vulnerable families with basic child safety equipment. Families are supported with Home Fire Safety Visits provided by SFRS. This scheme reaches around 100 households per year.
- Regular home safety talks delivered by Scottish Borders Community Safety partnership with parents and preschool children.
- Home safety included in Bump to Baby events across Scottish Borders
- 2009-2010- Good Egg Home safety Guide circulated to nurseries across the Borders for parents and children under 5. The resource was circulated by the Community Safety Partnership in the Scottish Borders. The Good Egg guide is provided by Road Safety Scotland.
- 2011-2012 Blind Cord Safety in the home campaign- Posters, leaflets and home safety checklists distributed to pre schools. Scottish Borders Community Safety Partnership worked in partnership with RoSPA to raise awareness of looped blind cords.

South Lanarkshire

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Crucial Crew- Over 3,250 primary 7 pupils from South Lanarkshire attended the crucial crew event to take part in interactive safety training. Crucial Crew helps young people aged 10-12 avoid becoming victims of crime, learn social responsibility and understand the role of the emergency services.

Make it Safe, Blind Cord Campaign- Aim to raise awareness of dangers of blind cords to children within the South Lanarkshire area. 5,250 packs have been distributed through information days and partner organisations. Please visit the RoSPA section of this report for further information.

LifeLine- Emergency data project aimed at providing details of emergency contacts in case of accidental injury. 2000+ packs have been distributed throughout South Lanarkshire

Education inputs- South Lanarkshire College are raising awareness of potential hazards which could result in unintentional injury within the home environment to students working in the child care profession. A module in home safety has been developed to provide future child care professionals with background information on home hazards and preventative advice.

5. Accounts from Organisations and Safety Charities

Care and Repair

Care and Repair services operate throughout Scotland to offer independent advice and assistance to help homeowners repair, improve or adapt their homes so that they can live in comfort and safety in their own community.

Angus

Judith Leslie, company manager, Judith@anguscareandrepair.org

Home Safety Visits: Care and Repair carry out home safety visits for the elderly, fitting small adaptations and safety equipment to help their mobility around the home.

Recipe Book: A recipe book has been developed to assist the elderly in cooking nutritious low cost meals. Funding was secured from Awards for All Scotland (£4,500) and Angus Council Community Grant Scheme (£1,000) has been provided to Care and Repair to produce a small recipe book filled with local recipes.

West Dunbartonshire

Elizabeth Eadie, Care and Repair Manager, Elizabeth@care-repair.co.uk

Home Safety visits: Care and Repair carry out Home Safety Inspections in the homes of elderly and disabled people living in West Dunbartonshire. These safety audits are carried out by our RoSPA qualified team of small repair workers. Home safety checks are carried out to identify hidden danger points such as worn carpets and damaged electrical sockets/household appliances.

The Audit includes an Inspection of each room in the home; falls prevention advice; home security advice; and general home safety advice.

This would include:

- Checking smoke alarms are present
- Checking for potential trip hazards
- Checking for trailing cables and flexes
- Checking for overloaded sockets
- Check doors locks are adequate
- Signposting to other agencies if required, e.g. Welfare Rights for benefit check, Fire Service for fire safety visit, etc.

A minimum of one follow up visit is made to carry out any minor repairs that were found during the audit. Any repairs that are the responsibility of the West Dunbartonshire Council/Housing Association are referred to the relevant department. Referrals are also made to the Social Work, Scottish Fire and Rescue and Sensory Impairment if required.

Electrical Safety First

Electrical Safety First is a campaigning consumer charity dedicated to preventing deaths, injuries and damage caused by electricity.

Wayne McKay, public affairs and policy advisor, wayne.mackay@electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk

“A shock to the system: Electrical safety in an ageing society”: This report looked to assist the elderly in keeping safe at home. Older people, whether it is due to housing conditions they live in, the health conditions they may have, or the lack of advice or practical help available to them, are often disproportionately at risk from electrical hazards. A reduction in electrical hazards in the home can contribute to people with dementia living independently in their own homes for longer, leading to savings in social care. Findings from the report include:

- Older households are less likely to contain features that can protect from electrical hazards
- The numbers of over 65s in private rented sector is predicted to rise from 350,00 in 2009 to over 700,000 by 2035
- Older people who are in the private rented sector, which generally has a poorer safety record than other housing tenures, are often vulnerable and open to landlord exploitation.
- Our ageing population will result in a significant increase in the numbers of people living with dementia. Certain symptoms of dementia can increase the risk of injuries or fatalities from electricity.
- Electrical safety is one of the most common concerns when leaving a person with dementia alone in the house; reducing these fears may impact decisions made over when to admit a person with dementia to residential care.

“Reducing deaths and injuries in Scottish homes”: This report has been written as a call to action by the Electrical Safety First Council. Renting has become the default tenure type for hundreds of thousands of Scots, with the private rented sector having doubled in size over the last decade. Fires caused by electricity supply (wiring, cabling and plugs) are the third most damaging type of fire in the home. Over 10% affect other dwellings in the same building. Electrical Safety First call for wider awareness of the dangers of undertaking electrical work in the home and the need to always consult a registered electrician and for Government to promote benefits of the certification and verification processes in helping raise building standards in Scotland.

Home Electrical Safety Check App: Carrying out various checks around the home can seem like a daunting task. Electrical Safety First have created a Home Electrical Safety Check app that tells you what to look out for in each room of the house. The app is free to download on your smartphone via Apple and Android stores.

[The National Falls Programme](#)

Ann Murray, Falls Programme Coordinator, NHS, ann.murray3@nhs.net

Home hazards are one of many risk factors for falls, however, assessment of the home environment in combination with actions to mitigate identified risk are key components of primary and secondary falls prevention.

Over the past few years national resources have been produced which guidance to health and social care and partner organisations to help reduce falls. Resources include:

[Up and About. Pathways for the prevention and management of falls and fragility fractures](#), published by NHS Quality Improvement Scotland in 2010. This document outlines the following falls prevention priorities relating to home safety:

- Supporting people to make their home environment safe by sign posting to Scottish Fire and Rescue, Care and Repair, Telecare and Community Alarm Services and services providing assistive devices.
- Assessment of the home environment for trip and fall hazards following a fall, and assessment of a person's ability to carry out daily activities safely.
- Working with the person to adapt or modify their home to make it safer in terms of preventing falls.
- Rehabilitation to regain function and confidence following a fall.

[The Prevention and Management of Falls in the Community. A Framework for Action for Scotland 2014/16](#) reinforces this approach and states that an environmental screen should be a core component of every multifactorial falls risk screen carried out by health and social services.

NHS Inform's [Falls Information Zone](#) has a section dedicated to "Home Safety" and includes pages on 'How to identify hazards' and 'How to safety check your home'. It includes a link to the [FallCheck App](#) and links to Care and Repair Services and Scottish Fire and Rescue. It also links to information on lighting your home. It also provides information on what to do in the event of a fall.

SCTT's SmartCare [FallsAssistant](#) enables people to self assess their risk of falls – it includes a section on 'a safe home'.

[Preventing Falls](#), an e-learning resources and pocket guide for care at home providers, includes 'Supporting a person to keep their home environment safe' as a key component.

Local work: Health and Social Care Partnerships are working toward implementing the Falls Framework for Action outlined above. Many areas are testing and adopting new ways of working with a range of partners to improve home safety.

Work is underway in a number of NHS Board areas to improve joint working between health and social care services and SFRS, these include:

- Grampian

- Tayside
- Forth Valley
- Dumfries and Galloway
- Lothian
- Highland
- Fife

The Joint Improvement Team

The JIT provide a range of practical improvement support and challenge including knowledge exchange, developmental innovation and improvement capacity and direct practical support to local health, housing and social care partnerships across Scotland. The JIT champion the identification, development, evaluation, spread and adoption of good practice to accelerate the pace of improvement towards the Scottish Government's vision for 2020; a vision that includes the aims that each of us is able to lead a longer, healthier life at home or in our own choice of setting in an integrated health and social care environment – which includes an increasing focus on prevention, anticipation and supported self-management.

Doreen Watson, Action Group Member, dkawatson@hotmail.co.uk

Technology Enabled Care Programme 2014-2016: The Technology Enabled Care Programme looks at funding organisations to improve the lives of dementia sufferers through the use of advanced technology. The programme is split into four work streams; expansion of home health monitoring, expanding the use of video conferencing, digital platforms and expanding the uptake of telecare. There are 41 specific pieces of funded activity, spread across different health boards, local authorities and third sector organisations. The telehealth and telecare delivery plan highlighted four main ambitions:

- Telehealth and telecare will enable choice and control in health, care and wellbeing services for an additional 300,000 people
- People who use out health and care services, and the staff working with them, will proactively demand the use of telehealth and telecare as positive options
- There is a flourishing innovation centre where an interacting community of academics, care professionals, service providers and industry innovate to meet future challenges and provide benefits for Scotland's health, wellbeing and wealth.
- Scotland has an international reputation as a centre for the research development, prototyping and delivering of innovative telehealth and telecare services and products at scale.

Alzheimer's Scotland- Dementia Friendly Charter: The Charter aims to help every person with dementia have the opportunity to benefit from technology appropriate to their needs and to outline and encourage the implementation of high-level principles and best practice for organisations that provide services to people with dementia.

Technology can be invaluable in helping people with dementia remain self-sufficient and carry on living their lives as independently as possible.

This report asks members of Alzheimer's Society Service Users what difficulties they think could be made easier by technology:

- Alarms and Sensors for independence: Peace of mind and reassurance
- Safer Walking Technologies: It might be nice, as it would be like someone's walking alongside you, able to lend a hand if you get lost
- Medication dispensers: This would be really useful- I always find it difficult to remember if i have taken my tablets.

6. NHS Health Boards

NHS Tayside

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Partnership working between SFRS and NHS: delivering a cost-saving service to improve the safety of high-risk people: The SFRS and NHS Tayside piloted partnership working. A community Safety fire link worker provided risk assessments to adults, identified by community health teams, at high risk of fires, with the aim of reducing fires. An existing evaluation shows the service developed a culture of 'high trust' between partners and had high client satisfaction.

The project estimated to save 4.4 fires, equivalent to £286 per client. The estimated cost of delivering the Service was £55 per client, giving net savings of £231 per client. The project was cost-saving under all scenarios, with results sensitive to the probability of fire.

Partnership working, delivering joint Risk Assessments in the homes of people at high risk of fire is modelled to be cost saving.

Both organisations have been working closely to produce a new e-learning module for health care professionals, which is hoped will improve home fire safety for the most vulnerable members of the community.

Health practitioners will use information contained in the new LearnPro module (being launched today) to identify indicators of people who are at risk from fire, establish fire risks within the home, raise awareness of the prevention services the SFRS can provide and have a better understanding of how to refer individuals to SFRS for a Home Fire Safety Visit.

7. Police Scotland

West Dunbartonshire

Safety Plays: The play, called *Home Sweet Home*, addresses issues such as slips trips and falls, fire safety, and cold calling in a light-hearted and entertaining way. It is performed by the Kickstart Theatre Company and lasts around 20 minutes. Police Scotland have worked in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Community Safety Team, Care and Repair and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Funding is provided from West Dunbartonshire Council.

8. The Royal College for Paediatrics and Child Health

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) was founded in 1996. The College comprises over 16,000 members who live in the UK, Ireland and internationally, and plays a major role in postgraduate medical education and professional standards. The RCPCH mission is to transform child health through knowledge, innovation and expertise.

Claire Burnett, External Affairs Manager, Claire.Burnett@rcpch.ac.uk

The Royal College for Paediatrics and Child Health have written a call to action; [Why Children Die](#). This report looks at areas of prevention and highlights case studies and best practice which should be utilised by government to prevent accidental loss of life in children.

[Why Children die: death in infants, children and young people in the UK Part D](#): Each year approximately 350-450 infants, children and young people die in Scotland. Similar to figures across the UK, the majority of deaths occur in children under one year of age, with the second largest number of deaths occurring in the 15-18 year group. The why children die report highlights how the way we deliver healthcare, funding systems, and emphasis on primary care can all affect the lives and health of infants, children and young people.

The report highlights how a large proportion of preventable deaths during childhood and adolescence occur in the context of children and young people's interactions with their external environment. For younger children, injuries and poisonings are among the leading causes of highly preventable death; therefore safety in the home and in the community is of paramount importance. Parents and carers need to be supported to make safety a priority, ensuring they are equipped with knowledge and skills as well as resources for creating safe physical environments.

Local authorities and health boards should prioritise children's safety, and through utilising resources such as health visitors and home safety equipment schemes, educate and equip parents and carers to keep their children safe, with a focus on water safety, blind cord safety and sleeping safety.

9. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

For almost 100 years, RoSPA has been quietly working behind the scenes to change both legislation and attitudes surrounding accidents. RoSPA's mission is to save lives and reduce injuries.

Elizabeth Lumsden, Community Safety Manager, elumsden@rospa.com

Not for play, keep them away: Liquid Laundry Capsules

The "[Not for Play](#)" campaign was an initiative aimed at tackling the growing concern of liquid ingestion injuries to children in the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board area. The campaign aimed to utilise a multifaceted approach to raise awareness of the product, in order to try and prevent ingestions of liquid tabs. The campaign proposed to provide every parent/carer with a baby at 12 – 16 weeks of age with an information pack, including a leaflet and cupboard lock. The evaluation found that during the campaign period, admissions in Yorkhill fell from 9 (pre-campaign year) to 1. In addition the estimated cost saving to the Ear Nose and Throat department at Yorkhill hospital was around £144,000.

Scotland's Home Safety Equipment Scheme

Scotland's Home Safety Equipment Scheme, hosted by RoSPA and funded by the Scottish Government, aimed to reduce home accidents to children under the age of five. RoSPA partnered with 12 local authorities and key delivery partners such as the NHS, Scottish Fire and Rescue and the Family Nurse Partnership to deliver key outcomes. 165 members of

staff were trained in child safety and a total of 900 families were reached during the length of the project with 1752 children benefitting from appropriate safety equipment and the appropriate guidance on its use.

The cost of delivering the scheme was £276 for each family or £142 per child. The most recent available data on the cost of a non fatal, hospital treated home accident for children up to 4 years is £10,600.

Ninety-nine percent of families engaged considered that their home was safer. The majority of professional stakeholders (including family support practitioners, health visitors and fire officers) considered that the scheme helped to:

- Make children safer and healthier (85%)
- Prevent accidents and unintentional injuries in the home (76%)
- Prevent accidents and unintentional injuries to children under the age of five (75%)

The scheme was [evaluated](#) by SMC Associates.

The Birthday Party: Go Safe Scotland

The Birthday Party was written by well known children's author, Linda Strachan, to be used by [Go Safe Scotland](#) as an education resource for young children to learn about home safety in an engaging way. The Birthday Party is part of a series of books following the Safe-T-Crew as they go around the home highlighting hazards and ways to prevent them. Funding for the creation of the birthday party was raised by Elizabeth Lumsden walking the Great Highland Way, funds were also provided through RoSPAs awards. Extra funding was provided by Glasgow City Council in order to assist in the distribution of the book. Scotland's Gas Network delivered the book to 2050 Scottish primary one school pupils. Further books have distributed into the Royal Hospital for Sick Children Edinburgh and the Glasgow Hospital for Sick children and local children's charities.

Straight Off, Straight In, Straight Away: Hair straightener campaign

"Straight Off, Straight In, Straight Away" is a campaign that RoSPA has been involved in, developed by the health improvement team from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, to raise awareness of hair straightener burns to children. Other agencies involved are: colleagues from the burns unit and A&E consultants from the Royal Hospital for Sick Children (Yorkhill) Glasgow; SFRS; and the James Watt College - Glasgow.

An audit identified an increase in the number of young children being burnt due to contact with hair straighteners. Most of the children who suffered the burns were 0-3 years old and male, with the burns being sustained when the child either stood on the straighteners or picked them up. Most occurred after the straighteners had been turned off.

Hair straighteners can take up to 40 minutes to cool down, so the campaign encourages people to switch off the straighteners at the wall and unplug them, put them in the free promotional thermal bag and store them in a safe place out of reach of children - and to do this straight away. The campaign also incorporates a fire safety message, as many people forget to unplug the straighteners and scorch or set fire to bedding or carpets.

Children and young people's survey:

RoSPA joined forces with the Children's Parliament to carry out the research, entitled [Home Free](#), to raise awareness of children's rights in relation to staying safe in the home.

A total of 96 per cent of the 153 children asked said parents should teach them about staying safe, while 92 per cent also thought it was up to their teachers. Firefighters and policemen received 84 per cent, while 81 per cent selected doctors and nurses as one of their choices.

And out of the 93 per cent of children who reported having an accident, 43 per cent said it had happened in their home, with the most common accidents involving trampolines, hair straighteners, fingers being trapped in doors and trips and falls.

Many of the children, who were aged 9 -11, felt that their injury could have been avoided if they had the right safety equipment, such as wearing a helmet while cycling.

The children also discussed their right to stay safe and whose responsibility they thought it was to keep them safe.

In addition to the child-friendly survey, 79 children - also aged 9 - 11 - from five primary schools took part in creative workshops to explore home safety issues.

They talked about their personal experiences and how best to keep themselves safe and used their creative skills to design their own public service advertising campaigns.

Train the Trainer

RoSPA's Train the Trainer scheme looks at the continuation of Scotland's home Scheme education package by training professionals in home safety with the ability to then cascade the information down to colleagues and members of the public. The aim of Train the Trainer is to have a home safety aware nation without substantial costs to individuals. This initiative will be launched in March 2016.

10. [The Scottish Ambulance Service](#)

As the front line of NHS services in Scotland our key role is to respond to 999 calls as quickly as possible with the most appropriate skills and equipment. The Scottish Ambulance Service's mission is to deliver the best ambulance services for every person, every time.

Colin Crookston, patient safety manager, c.crookston@nhs.net

ASSET: The Scottish Ambulance Service has been working with NHS Lanarkshire to support the development of their Age Specific Service Emergency Team (ASSET) model for frail and elderly patients. The ASSET team aims to manage patient care at home to avoid unnecessary admissions to hospital. A team of practitioners trained in elderly care are able to assess, treat and monitor patients in the home where it is safe and clinically appropriate.

Making the right call for a fall: The Scottish Ambulance Service respond to around 45,000 calls a year where people aged 65 years or older have fallen. The ambulance service have been working in conjunction with Health and Social Care Services to develop integrated pre-hospital pathway to make sure frail and elderly patients are provided with the right care at the right time following a fall.

11. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service works to protect every community, not only by responding to incidents but by preventing them from happening in the first place.

Aberdeen

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Working in partnership Care and Repair, Home Check and the SFRS, have merged home safety and fire safety visits into a single service. When entering a home, the three organisations focus on slips, trips and falls, burns and scalds, hypothermia, poisoning and strangulation along with fire safety walk through. Every person in Aberdeen City making requests for Home Fire Safety Visits or Home Safety visits will all receive the same standard of home check regardless of which partner delivers the service.

East Lothian, Midlothian and the Scottish Borders

Michael Jaffray, Station Manager, East Service Delivery Area,
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This partnership initiative have involved SFRS providing fire safety training to the British Red Cross and Health and Social Care Teams allowing them to make referrals for Home Fire Safety Visits. In addition, Third Sector agencies; Penumbra, Women's Aid, Dementia groups, Elderly groups, Alzheimer's Scotland has also received fire safety training. SFRS has also developed strong links with Social Work in relation to safe guarding children and adults at risk of harm. Whilst carrying out Home Fire Safety Visits established referral pathways have been established made should concern for a child or adult appear.

East Renfrewshire

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Reaching Older People in Renfrewshire (ROAR): SFRS are working with ROAR to help prevent falls and accidents in the homes of elderly people. The SFRS have received training on the following:

- How to conduct slips, trips and falls assessment
- How to provide slips, trips and falls advice

- How to make referrals following an assessment to other services which will deal with the issues, e.g.- referral to care and repair who will attend and fix trip hazard caused by fraying carpets or defective flooring.

'Better by Design'- a project targeted at supporting elderly people home from hospital. The project is in its infancy and will firstly scope out challenges and opportunities to people going into and coming out of hospital, and working with partners to improve outcomes. A test of change will then be made and agreed on with a range of local partners.

Fife

Steven Michie, Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Fife, steven.michie@firescotland.gov.uk

A Home Safety Visit concept was agreed and developed by the SFRS in partnership with the Fife Community Safety Partnership, who have seconded a firefighter to their team to ensure effective implementation. A training package was designed and delivered to watch based personnel. This was initially piloted in one station until March 2015 after which the project was rolled out.

The Home Fire Safety Visit (6,500 carried out in Fife) includes elements targeted at the under 5s and the over 65s, providing specialised advice and small scale safety equipment. Referrals can be made to partner agencies to fit larger pieces of equipment such as stair gates, window restrictors and fireguards.

Home Safety Check- Scottish Fire and Rescue have worked in partnership with Fife carers to produce a joint approach to home safety across the local authority of Fife.

Local issue: Fife community safety analyst gathered data from NHS hospital admissions. In Fife alone, between 2013 and 2014, there were 5,851 Accident and Emergency hospital attendees for home accidents over a range of age groups. The partnership highlighted trends and noticed the target age groups of over 65s and under 5s.

They worked in partnership to develop home safety visits for under 5s and under 65s.

The project provides a home safety assessment and free safety equipment where appropriate.

The incorporated visits began in April and aimed to be a 'One Stop Shop'- reducing the number of people entering homes.

Along with a home safety assessment the partnership offered equipment where necessary:

Blind Cord Cleats	Door Stickers
Hair Straighter Bag	Magnifier
Socket Covers	Key cord
Restraining Straps	Walking Stick Supports

Cupboard Locks	Plug Pullers
Door Jammers	Car Safety- Good Egg guide
Corner Protectors	Home Safety- Good Egg Guide
Bath Thermometer	Top ten Tips booklet

Safety Gates, Fire Guards and Window Restrictors can be ordered separately through Building Standards who will fit the equipment free of charge.

400 fire officers in Fife were trained in Home Safety by Fife Carers, in return the fire service trained fife carers in Fire Safety checks in the home.

It cost £16,300 for the equipment pack for 1 year which was funded by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Fife Community Safety Partnership.

It took 6 months to train 400 staff in joint working approach.

Highlands

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Home Fire Safety Visits with partnership working to target high risk groups: NHS 'in home' care staff were trained by SFRS on the fire risk identification and the referral process for home fire safety visits. SFRS also trained third sector organisations to deliver the fire safety message to their retrospective audiences which consist of elderly people. Risk Identification, risk reduction and home fire safety visit referral training was provided.

Scottish Fire and Rescue staff worked in partnership with the NHS to refer clients onto the falls team should they suspect they are susceptible to a fall in their home. In turn NHS falls staff will refer on clients who may be in need of a fire safety check.

Project ongoing with NHS Highland in the delivery of Alcohol Brief Interventions, fire staff can undertake alcohol assessments and refer clients onto NHS should they need extra support.

Formal referral process with Police Scotland where officers can refer households onto SFRS with immediate action being taken where necessary

Partnership with Highland MARAC where cases with a known or perceived risk of fire being used as a weapon or threat are referred to the SFRS for Fire safety talks and referrals onto other relevant safety organisations who need to know of high risk clients.

Perth and Kinross

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Partnership Home Safety Visits: A partnership approach had been developed between Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and PKC's Safer Communities Wardens to deliver joint Home Safety Visits to cover a wider range of risks in the home. These include a basic falls assessment, fire, electrical and gas safety, financial harm awareness and home security information, all of which is intended to support healthy independent living and keep people safe within their homes.

Over 375 visits have taken place as part of the scheme in the first year.

The scheme used volunteers from Perth and Kinross' Safer Communities Team to work in partnership with SFRS. The partners worked together in the home to pick up on home safety issues. A check list was used to highlight issues and solutions were put in place where applicable. If solutions could not be made by the partnership, referrals were made to other agencies.

SFRS trained volunteers on home fire safety checks, and volunteers trained SFRS in other aspects of home safety

£3,500 was used to provide equipment: Cooker guards, mail guards.

After year 1 the scheme has targeted 375 households and has referred a further 92 cases onto relevant organisations.

The scheme is now looking to continue into year two.

12. Scotland's Gas Network

SGN manage the network that distributes natural and green gas to 5.8 million homes and businesses across Scotland and the south of England.

Caroline Lawrie, stakeholder strategy manager, SGN, caroline.lawrie@sgn.co.uk

Gas Safety in the Home: SGN working in partnership with Dying to Keep Warm launched a Gas Safety in the home initiative which looks at training professionals on gas safety. The aims of the training are to:

- Educate frontline workers and raise their levels of risk awareness so that vulnerable people are identified, and risks to their health can be reduced and managed properly.
- Provide emergency safety interventions to prevent serious harm and death for vulnerable people from the cold, fires, gas leaks, and CO poisoning
- Give frontline workers real life experience points and examples to work with in order to broaden their knowledge through shared experience.

- Offer solid and tangible support by providing checklists and procedure to follow in most case scenarios.

Lockable Gas Safety Device: Statistics show that elderly and vulnerable people, and particularly those suffering from conditions such as dementia, are at a much greater risk in their homes from gas leaks and fires.

The lockable safety valve can be fitted to cooker pipe work, allowing it to be locked by a carer and prevent a potential explosion from the appliance being turned on but the gas not lit. It will also put a stop to fires caused by burnt-out saucepans and kettles and, most importantly, give reassurance to carers and relatives that the cooker cannot be used when they leave the house or even the room.

SGN is leading a pilot project, initially taking place in Fife, Dundee and the Borders, to test the process for referrals and installation of the valves. The initiative is being carried out in partnership with community safeguarding groups including social services, occupational health, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and social housing providers.

If, after visiting the home of a vulnerable person, social workers, occupational therapists or community safety representatives from SFRS feel they would benefit from having one of the valves installed, they will refer them to SGN's Customer Service team, who will arrange for one of its engineers to visit the home and fit the valve.

A carer or relative must be present during the visit to the vulnerable person's home and they would agree the position of the valve with the engineer. They will then be given the key for the valve or it will be placed in a key safe.

SGN's own engineers will also be able to refer people to their local safeguarding group for assessment and approval. To help them recognise the signs of dementia, the company has invested in Care Inspectorate-accredited training which is being trialled over the next year by 500 staff, including frontline engineers, customer service staff, the stakeholder team and Executive team.

At the end of the trial period, the results will be analysed by all partners involved. If successful, the process will be rolled out across both SGN's Scottish and southern networks, and the trial findings shared with the UK's other gas distribution network operators.