

**Scottish Building & Housing advisory group
Minutes 21 April 2017
Chatelherault Country Park, Hamilton**

1. Welcome & Introduction

Cllr Les Sharp of Clackmannanshire Council stood in for Cllr Tina Murphy as Chair and welcomed all to the meeting, thanking everyone for attending today's meeting in Hamilton.

2. Attendance & Apologies

Please see attached.

3. Minutes from Previous meeting held on 28 October 2016

The group agreed the previous minutes were a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising from Previous meeting held on 28 October 2016

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

5. The importance of Health & Safety: Life before an accident and after its impact on the individual, their family and friends

Dylan Skelhorn, Founder of Safety Up gave a heart wrenching yet inspirational talk to attendees, taking all his journey before, at the time and after his accident. Dylan began his presentation by playing a short video of his friend Jason, who had spent the last 24 years in a wheelchair due to an accident at work. Dylan highlighted that the injuries sustained by individuals is not about height but luck, Jason fell just 10 feet while Dylan fell 33 feet and although is in constant pain from his injuries has been able to walk using crutches.

Dylan was a chimney engineer, covering a bit of everything which included a number of risky jobs. His previous job as a fireman meant that he had the knowledge and experience in H&S to speak up about any risks which presented themselves during the course of his engineering job. However, after highlighting his concerns to his management regarding the risks with sweeping a particular chimney, Dylan asked for a harness which his boss refused to give him and confirmed to Dylan that the company had special dispensation from the HSE therefore did not need one.

Unfortunately, the ladders slipped and Dylan, without a harness, fell 33 feet straight onto a concrete wall. His work colleague called an ambulance and Dylan was rushed to hospital. Dylan then went on to talk to the group about the next 2 ½ years which included being followed by prosecution investigators trying to catch him out doing something he shouldn't. He also turned to drink and drugs to try to block out the pain which had a knock on effect on his relationships with family and friends.

Dylan has to take a cocktail of pills daily to help with the pain plus his benefit money was cancelled after being assessed as fit to work, which he then had to fight for 6 months before this was reinstated and back dated.

Dylan highlighted to all how serious it is to ensure all H&S protocols.

Following the talk the group requested that Dylan be invited to next year's Scottish Building, Housing & Renewables seminar to speak to the apprentices attending the conference. It was felt that Dylan's story is so important for the apprentices to hear and hopefully will encourage all to ensure they follow all H&S regulations in all areas of their job.

6. Building maintenance clinic: resolving your service issues through debate and discussion with colleagues

There was a number of discussions relating to service issues which included:-

- An update on the Fife Council SMART meter training including their experience on overcoming the challenge from the utility company.
- VOIDS including the average cost of a void around the room and whether more decoration work now being carried out as part of the void. It was also highlighted that there had been some issues with boilers in terms of parts from some buy backs etc.

The group also discussed the quarterly PN benchmarking template and it was highlighted that due to staffing pressures some local authorities have been unable to submit information. It was also noted that the group still feel there are a number of questions which are not directly related to Scotland and therefore would ask if this could be reviewed again.

7. Dunblane Seminar 2017 debrief and feedback

Louise provided to the group the evaluation feedback received in relation to the 2017 conference in Dunblane. There was then a discussion as to how they would like the format for the 2018 conference, some of the main points included:-

- Another strategic panel session to kick off the conference on the Thursday morning covering a relevant topic
- Including the new Margo Blair award within the conference with the winner announced on the night
- Dylan Skelhorn confirmed speaker for Friday morning to speak specifically to the apprentice
- Clinic discussion session on Friday morning at the same time as the apprentice session. Would look to use mics as felt some of the discussions were a little hard to hear due to the room set up

8. APSE Update

Louise Melville provided the group with an update on the work of the association included the newest piece of research which was a neighbourhood services poll undertaken by Survation on behalf of APSE. Louise also provided the group with information on APSE's new Promoting Excellence You Tube programme which will be a follow up to the 2016 programme and will be concentrating on the key role local authorities have in building sustainable communities. Finally, Louise provided information on the other services provided by APSE including Energy, Solutions, Training, Performance Networks and events before finishing the presentation by highlighting the "Service awards 2017" which this year are taking place in Oxford.

9. AOCB

There was no other competent business raised.

10. Date & venue of next meeting

The next meeting will be confirmed following the Scottish AGM taking place in June but it is likely to be scheduled for 24 August.

11. Lunch

12. Process benchmarking including quarterly template review

This was covered during agenda item 6.

Attendance

| Name | Authority |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Louise Melville | APSE |
| Colin McInnes | APSE Associate |
| Lawrence Hunter | Clackmannanshire Council |
| Cllr Les Sharp | Clackmannanshire Council |
| Ronnie Dempster | Dumfries & Galloway Council |
| Steven Trotter | Dumfries & Galloway Council |
| Bruce Patrick | Dundee City Council |
| Richard Stewart | East Ayrshire Council |
| Kenny Gillespie | Falkirk Council |
| Robert Fotheringham | Falkirk Council |
| Allan Barclay | Fife Council |
| Steve Anderson | Fife Council |
| Kenny Shand | Fife Council |
| Ross Grieve | Fife Council |
| Stephen Kean | North Ayrshire Council |
| Leigh-Ann Mitchell | North Ayrshire Council |
| Dylan Skelhorn | Safety Up |
| Dougie McMillan | South Lanarkshire Council |
| Ricky Mungall | South Lanarkshire Council |
| Duncan McPherson | West Lothian Council |
| Marc Garland | West Lothian Council |
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Apologies

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| William Andrew | South Ayrshire Council |
| David Hainey | South Ayrshire Council |
| Angela Gribbin | South Ayrshire council |
| Derek Spence | East Ayrshire Council |
| Elaine Scott | Renfrewshire Council |
| Karen Sillars | Renfrewshire Council |
| Cllr Tina Murphy | Clackmannanshire Council |