



lifesaving times

www.lifesavers.org.uk

Welcome to the latest edition of RLSS UK's Lifesaving Times, the second for 2008.

Once again we thank you for taking time to read these bulletins and for getting in touch with us. Many of you have kindly been requesting further information and details on our organisation and aims for this year.

Your support helps us continue our work in raising awareness to your constituents on how to keep themselves - and those around them - safe in and around water, and know what to do if an accident occurs.

With everyone's support, we can continue to reduce drownings and continue to save lives.

Corporate Manslaughter

The media attention drawn by The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act (2007) is now drawing a greater emphasis on pool safety to company directors and management – but how many are aware of this legislation and the potential consequences of negligence?

Having been seen largely as an offence charged against individuals, manslaughter can now be brought against corporate companies and other organisations. They can be found guilty of corporate manslaughter as a result of serious management failures resulting in a breach of health and safety legislation.

The law now in force across the UK to allow prosecution where the failing of an organisation in the management of its health and safety has resulted in fatal consequences.

For example an organisation could be deemed in breach of its duty of care as a result of a death being caused by not following or having relevant health and safety policies, for example having suitably assessed risks. A corporate body itself and individuals can still be prosecuted for separate health and safety offences.

As a result of a series of high profile drownings in the last few years, the inevitable media spotlight has been to cast focus on a greater care and attention needed by all those involved with pool safety. For those not complying with the recommended standards, the effects are potentially devastating.



Whilst The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act has yet to implement the possible sentence of imprisonment for more serious offences there are however new sanctions including unlimited fines and the courts having powers to make companies pay compensation to victims families. Courts can also now order companies take steps to remedy in a given period and publicise offence in year end accounts. Further sanctions are also under consideration some of which could effect a company's ability to continue to trade.

The real issue however is to not allow matters to get to this stage. All staff need to ensure that they continue to maintain a duty of care to awareness where swimming pools are concerned. More importantly company directors and senior managers should be fully conversant on the issues they could face and are strongly advised to consider definitions of management failure.

All pool operators are strongly advised to adhere to Managing Health and Safety in Swimming Pools (MHSSP), the guidelines laid down by the Health and Safety Executive and those often referred to in court or seek guidance from RLSS UK.

This issue concerns many of your constituents who deal with pool safety on a day-to-day basis. We hope that you can support us by drawing attention to those within your constituency of the need for greater awareness towards this increasingly high profile issue.



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Key Stage review receives positive yet challenging response

The review by the Government into the Key Stages of the National Curriculum has provided RLSS UK with encouraging signs whilst presenting challenges for the KS's future implementation

Lifesaving is recognised as a subject within the National Curriculum, however concerns were expressed 12 months ago by RLSS UK that the review proposals did not support swimming and lifesaving.

Following the Government review of Key Stages 3 and 4, the RLSS are pleased and encouraged that the future teaching of lifesaving skills has been improved.

Water safety currently fits into the curriculum by way of Personal, Social and Helath Education and Citizenship (PSHE) lessons. Through this, a close relationship to the Lifesavers Training Programmes exists, providing teaching of the fundamentals to safe practice and the prevention of accidents.

At KS3, pupils gain a broad knowledge and understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and study for and take Lifesaver awards both in curricular and extra-curricular activities.

This knowledge is extended further at KS4, by encouraging pupils' involvement as volunteers, as well as having the ability to perform life support and rescue skills in an emergency situation.

The first challenge for the RLSS is to support teachers in the delivery of this new curriculum. Every Child Matters (ECM) is a fundamental part of the curriculum, promoting learners' wellbeing and enabling them to develop their potential as healthy, enterprising and responsible citizens. ECM states that every child, whatever their background or circumstances, should have the support they need to: be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, achieve economic wellbeing.

The RLSS can engage with schools and conduct the preparation of materials for this delivery. However not only is this difficult to fund, we also require support with establishing school links within your constituency, a vital component in this process.

Perhaps you could consider helping us in this? Would you be willing to lobby and encourage the Department for Children, Schools and Families to re-inforce the teaching of additional water safety and drowning prevention as a vital part of the school curriculum?

ROOKIE LIFEGUARD RLSS UK

Re-launch of Rookie Lifeguard

The recent re-launch of the Rookie Lifeguard programme is the ideal opportunity for your younger constituents to get their first experiences of learning water safety and experiencing safe aquatic play.

Rookie Lifeguard is the RLSS UK's junior award scheme, aimed at children from ages 8 to 12 years old. Launched as an integral part of the National Plan for Teaching Swimming, the programme features swimming and lifesaving skills supported by water safety education. This approach first and foremost encourages children to enjoy swimming as an activity, whilst also protecting their lives should an accident occur in or out of the water.

The skills Rookies are taught provide them with the key information they need in order to take better care of not only themselves, but also their family and friends. The awards contain rescue, personal survival and sport skills, as well as focussing on the elements of life support and water safety. Whilst these skills can in essence be taught to people of all ages, Rookie is designed to ensure that every child in the country has essential water skills to keep themselves safe and knowledge of what to do in any emergency.

Research has found that as many as one in five children leave school without being able to swim 25 metres, or indeed even have the basic skills and knowledge to protect themselves should they get into difficulty in water. That equates to some hundreds of thousands of children. When you consider those facts, it is a reassuring thought to know that Rookie Lifeguard fulfils all of the Key Stage 1 and 2 water safety elements of the National Curriculum.

Rookie Lifeguards are awarded with badges and

certificates as they progress through the award scheme, which starts at Stage 1 of the Bronze award through to Stage 3 of Gold. Also, there are special bolt-on awards that offered additional varied skills, with an opportunity to also achieve the Rookie Master Lifeguard award.

As part of the scheme and its re-launch, there is a dedicated website for the Rookie Lifeguards initiative – www.lifesavers.org.uk/rookie. It has two dedicated sections – one for Rookies, one for teachers and adults. The Rookies section is packed with games, downloads, and activities, as well as information on how to become a lifeguard and use those all-important lifesaving skills. The teacher/adult section is a more detailed resource and information area, designed to give an in-depth overview of the scheme.

Now you are aware of this exciting scheme, can you play a part in the development of Rookie Lifeguard?

Can you promote the scheme within your constituency and encourage your younger constituents to get involved?

Would you be willing to attend a course session perhaps and see Rookie first-hand?

Both would be a great opportunity to not only promote Rookie Lifeguard and RLSS UK, but would be an ideal media opportunity for within your constituency.

If you would be willing to help in any way, we would be delighted to hear from you.



Safety Tips For Summer

With the holiday season shortly upon us, there is also the sad inevitability that we shall hear of tragedy by our coastline and inland waters.

You can help us to help your constituents by offering advice on safety tips for the summer. By adhering to common sense and following a series of simple rules, your constituents can cut the chances of an accident or fatality.

- **DO** swim where others can see you
- Only swim or paddle where there is a qualified lifeguard
- **DO** swim parallel to the beach
- Obey notices and flags and **NEVER** swim when a red flag is flying
- **DO** stay out of water for at least an hour after eating
- **DO NOT** swim or dive by rocks
- **DO NOT** swim out too far
- **DO NOT** drink alcohol before going swimming
- Ask advice from local people about where and when it is safe to be on a beach and in the water
- Beware of strong tides and rip currents

As well as following these rules, encourage your constituents to attain basic life saving skills, essential information on how to avoid accidents and how to cope in the event that something does happen.

Your help in delivering this message and advice within your constituency could save lives!

For further details on water safety advice, please telephone 01789 773994 or visit the RLSS UK website at www.lifesavers.org.uk.



Get Safe4Summer Campaign

This year we will again be actively supporting the Get Safe 4 Summer campaign, working in partnership with the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA).

We also hope that you can play a part in an event which is heading either to or close by your constituency.

The Get Safe 4 Summer campaign promotes the importance of swimming, and also aims to address practical water safety. The campaign raises awareness of the differences between swimming in open water such as rivers, lakes and sea to that of a local swimming pool. Whilst we want everyone to enjoy the water, the importance of water safety is highlighted. Together we will be promoting this awareness.

Throughout June and July, an extensive programme of Get Safe 4 Summer Roadshows will be staged at venues across the country, starting with the National Launch of the campaign on 4th June at The Marina Centre in Great Yarmouth.

Would you be willing to attend and take part in one of our Roadshows – which will be either staged directly in your constituency or close to it?

Perhaps you would be willing to take part in a water safety lesson at your local pool, or a safety lesson at your local beach?



If not, maybe you could devote time to tour your local swimming pool where advisors can offer first hand information about the campaign?

Each event presents an ideal opportunity to support the campaign, and we hope you will consider getting involved.

Last years Roadshows created substantial media and public attention wherever they went. They offer an excellent media opportunity for you to get actively involved amongst your constituency and constituents at a high profile event, whilst supporting the Get Safe 4 Summer campaign and its aims.

In the run up to the school holidays, we would again like to arrange as many MP visits and lessons as possible. If you are interested in getting involved, finding out dates and venues of the Roadshows, and the campaign in general, please contact Steph Clarke on 01789 773994 or e-mail her at: StephanieClarke@rlss.org.uk.

By helping us to encourage your constituents to learn to swim and be safe, you could be helping us to save a life.

Getting behind 'Subs for Club's

RLSS UK are backing the CCPR's 'Subs for Club's campaign. You can also be backing sports clubs in your constituency. CCPR is the umbrella organisation for some 270 national governing and representative bodies of sport and recreation in the UK. It exists to speak and actively promote, protect and provide for the interests of sport at all levels. The campaign is driven and committed to getting youngsters active and healthy, as well as recognising the ongoing and at times extraordinary work and dedication of amateur sports clubs up and down the country.

CCPR is calling on the Government to enhance the benefits of the Community Amateur Sports Club Scheme (CASC). Currently clubs have signed up with various organisations benefiting from an estimated £39 million in savings since 2002, in the main through mandatory rate relief and the ability to claim Gift Aid on voluntary donations.

However, March's Budget ignored the pleas of sports clubs, governing bodies, CCPR and parliamentarians to deliver Subs for Clubs. The concession, like that utilised by the National Trust on its subscriptions would have cost the Treasury as little as £1m in its first year. With this in mind and sports participation a popular topic in the lead up to the 2012 Games, the CCPR scheme is an ideal opportunity for MPs to show support for local sporting clubs and organisations.

You can help by supporting and backing the aims and activities of sporting clubs in your constituency, and lobbying fellow Members of the House to create awareness and deliver action to this issue.

For further details on how you can help and for further information on CCPR and CASC, please call us on 01789 773994.



MP Focus

In this edition, we speak to Janet Dean, MP for Burton and Uttoxeter for her views on water safety.

"With spring here and summer around the corner, inevitably our constituents are drawn to beaches and inland water areas. Both here in the UK and abroad, wherever there is water, there lies potential hazards and threats to our and the public's safety.

"I would always suggest to my constituents to follow the water safety code. Just because a person can swim does not necessarily mean they are safe in and near water. Being vigilant, close supervision of children, being aware of currents are just a few valuable tips of advice we can offer.

"Together we need to continue to raise the awareness to our constituents of being safe in and around water. Together we should also actively encourage the teaching of lifesaving skills to constituents both young and old.

"I continue to support RLSS UK, its aims and ongoing initiatives by spreading the safety message to my constituents, and encouraging involvement in learning and teaching of lifesaving skills.

"We can all play a part. I hope you can to and appreciate how important this cause and issue is, to everyone around us.

Contact us

Thank you for taking the time to read this latest bulletin.

RLSS UK is dedicated to the prevention of unnecessary loss of life. However we cannot do it alone. Again, we would like you to help us to spread the safety message to all your constituents.

If you would be willing to help in any way, please contact:

Di Standley, Chief Executive of The Royal Life Saving Society UK at dstandley@rlss.org.uk or call on 01789 773994. We would welcome your support, and look forward to hearing from you.

If you have any subjects you would like featured in future bulletins, or have local news about any of the topics covered, please contact Steph Clarke on 01789 774226



The Royal Lifesaving Society UK
River House, High Street, Broom, Warwickshire B50 4HN

Tel: 01789 773 994 Email: lifesavers@rlss.org.uk
www.lifesavers.org.uk

