

Strategies and Policies in the Five Nations – Rhetoric or Reality?

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Strategies and Policies

- Wide range of different strategies and policies relating to safety in children and young people – transport, occupational safety, home and leisure safety, fire safety, early years, alcohol .
- Different policies in the different countries
- Changing policy map over time – difficult to keep up with new policies
- Need for partnership working – wide range of different partners

Sources of Information



- Injury Observatory for Britain and Ireland
- www.injuryobservatory.net/
- Strategies and targets supporting injury prevention
- England/ Wales/ Scotland/ Ireland
- Europe/ the World

England: Accidental Injury Task Force

- National strategy – Task Force Report published in 2002
- Two priority groups for attention – children (0-15) and young adults (16-24) and older people (60 and over) Emphasis on inequalities
- Falls in older people, Road Accidents, Dwelling Fires
- Resulted in Department of Health research programme

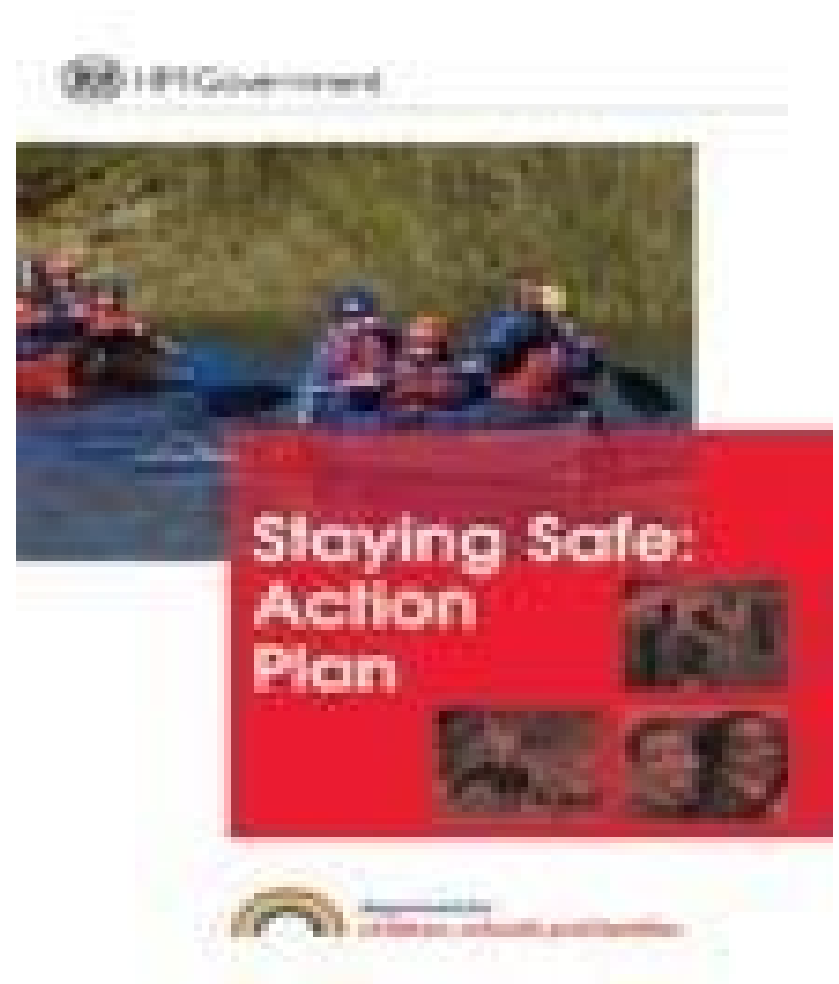
England: Staying Safe Action Plan

Co-ordinated by
Department for Children
Schools and Families

Includes intentional and
unintentional injuries

- Road Accidents
- Home accidents
- Abuse or neglect by
parents

*“children cannot enjoy their
childhoods or enjoy their full
potential unless they are
safe”*



Great Britain: Road safety strategies

- Great strides have been made in reducing the incidence and severity of road accidents over the last 20 years
- Greater emphasis on increasing cycling and walking

England: Home Safety Strategies

- The prevention of home injuries has not received similar attention, until recently
- ***National Home safety equipment scheme***, organised by RoSPA with DCSF funding
- The national scheme works with local partners such as Sure Start Children's Centres and local authorities
- It compliments and supports the expansion of existing schemes and encourages the establishment of new schemes in deprived areas.
- Scheme focuses on pre-school children in the most disadvantaged families
- It does not replace or takeover existing schemes.

England: development of guidance materials

- NICE currently has identified 2 age groups for work on unintentional injuries
- Children aged 0-14 years
- Young Adults aged 15-24 years
- For children, Programme development group and intervention guidance related to road, home and wider leisure environments – to be published in the Autumn of 2010

Scotland: strategies and policies

- Scotland lacks an over-arching national injury prevention strategy or policy
- Scottish Government (SG) includes the promotion of “a safer Scotland” as one of its five key strategic objectives (greener, wealthier and fairer, smarter, healthier, safer and stronger).
- ***The concept of safety is, however, strongly skewed towards crime prevention.***

Scotland: a narrow view of safety?

- As further evidence of a narrow view of “safety,” ***Scotland has eschewed strategic policy making that embraces both unintentional and intentional injury*** as the DCSF have adopted in their Staying Safe Action Plan.

Scotland: Child Safety Action Plan

- Scotland was the first of the British Isles countries to establish a Child Safety Action Plan steering group under the leadership of RoSPA.
- ***A draft Child Safety Action Plan now exists but without formal endorsement of the SG.***

Scotland: CEHAPE

- Scotland has adopted a CEHAPE (Children's Environmental Health Action Plan for Europe) inspired strategic framework for environment and health (Good Places Better Health)
- This includes “unintentional childhood injury” as one of the priority areas
- It includes a related SG funded policy research project (EDPHiS).
- The injury prevention community in Scotland regards GPBH as the most promising policy vehicle for child safety to date
- But ***progress has been slow and no specific new preventive initiatives have emerged to date.***

Scotland: Home Injuries

- The prevention of home injuries are not yet receiving the financial support from the SG that is now occurring in England (via RoSPA)
- One exception is TMV legislation.

Wales: Intentional injuries

- **A National Action Plan to Reduce Suicide and Self Harm in Wales. 2008-2013.**
Published: September 2008
- *Suicide one of the highest causes of death in young people in Wales*
- **Working Together to Reduce Harm. The Substance Misuse Strategy for Wales 2008- 2018.**
Published: February 2008
- *Joint approach to drugs, alcohol and other misused substances.*

Wales: Children in Wales and CAPIC

- Children in Wales leading development of Child Safety Strategy for Wales
- Working in partnership with the Collaboration for Accident Prevent and Injury Control (CAPIC) and CAPT
- Focus on reducing health inequalities creating safer environments and increasing safer access to open spaces
- ***But not adopted yet by the Welsh Assembly***

Wales: Child Safety Report Card

- Child Safety Report Card developed by the European Child Safety Action Plan Project
- Overall child safety grade of 'Fair'
- Good practice policies, leadership commitment and capacity as indicators

Ireland: 3rd Road Safety Strategy

- Builds on the progress and understanding provided by the first two strategies (1998-2002 and 2004-2006)
- Objective of radically - and sustainably - improving safety on Irish roads.
- Draws on the insight and experience of countries implementing best practice in road safety (eg. The Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom, Norway and France, New Zealand, the states of Victoria and Queensland in Australia, states in the USA)

Convergence or divergence of injury prevention strategies?

- International levers on policies
- Countries can learn from each other's successes and failures
- Opportunity to make greater gains in public health terms – 'leapfrogging by embarrassment'
- Common threads -emphasis on partnership working, need for a lead agency, evidence based approaches, need for good data

Further information

- Injury Observatory for Britain and Ireland
- www.injuryobservatory.net/
- WHO World Report on Child Injury Prevention (2008)
- WHO European Report on Child Injury Prevention (2008)