**Manchester Water Safety Partnership**

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2018

Venue: Manchester Borough Conference Room, Borough HQ

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Present: | Dave Wilson (Chair – GMFRS) DW  Adrian Brocklehurst (MCC) AB  David Baldacchino (Canal & River Trust) DB  Natalie Pace (Bridgewater Canal) NP  Laurence Hickin (Royal Life Saving Society) LH  Adrian Hopkins (MCC) AH  Alex King (CityCo) AK  Lesley Allen (GMFRS) LA  Danny O’Neil (GMP)DO  Mike Wardle (Royal Life Saving Society) MW  Daniel Greenhalgh (Canal & River Trust) DG  Beth McIlroy (Police Coroners Office)BM  Helen Hall (Canal & River Trust) HH  Louise Crowther (GMFRS) LC  **Apologies**: Rik Oates (GMFRS)  Chris Hill (GMP) |

1. Review of Action Log

The meeting began with the review and actions from the last meeting.

2. Review of Incidents

DW completed a review of all the GMFRS water related incidents in Manchester from the beginning of the year and there were 6 incidents, 5 of which are in the city centre that GMFRS attended. DW briefly discussed the details surrounding the incidents with the group, this included an alcohol related incident which occurred on Bridge St where a young man climbed over a fence, subsequently falling into the River Irwell. A discussion took place on the limitations of barriers where alcohol is concerned, the conclusion being that it is acknowledged that prevention of further water incidents requires a multifaceted approach.

3. Update On RoSPA Review

David Baldacchino gave update on RoSPA to say that they have been doing site work over the past two weeks to assess areas and they are on programme and should be complete by mid-September. The contribution of Peel Holdings towards the cost of the review was confirmed by Natalie Pace.

4. Update on Inquests

BM informed the group that there was no update on inquests are none had been scheduled/listed.

5. BBC Documentary

HH explained to the group that the BBC Inside Out programme had been in touch with their National Press Office to ask for help obtain facts and figures surrounding the Water Related incidents in Manchester City Centre as they are producing a documentary for the BBC to possible air in Oct/November time. They are comparing the fatalities in Manchester to other cities around the country as the figures are quite high for Manchester. Inside Out are interviewing the families of Charlie Pope and Orlando Nyero and have been in touch with DW in terms of obtaining the actual figures since 2008 to present day. The BBC want to rule out that there is a ‘Pusher’ and they want to find out what measures have been put in place to reduce these types of incidents.

DW thinks there is an opportunity to use this documentary to promote the key Water Safety messages and will make it clear to the BBC that they are not able to discuss any ongoing cases. The BBC have asked if they could film RoSPA doing any of their current work and DB suggested that the Roadshows they are holding in August would be a good opportunity for the BBC to film.

6. Reach Pole Offer

DW explained that he had received a phone call from Reach and Rescue a company that provide Reach Poles and was offered 2x free reach poles. DW showed the group a picture of the reach poles and asked the group for the 2 best possible locations for these to be installed. The first suggestion was in the area of Dukes 92. Land ownership and planning permission was discussed as possible factors in where they could be installed.

LA had also spoken to Reach and Rescue regarding Reach poles and mentioned that they might be a better option for the city centre compared to throw lines. Wigan are currently using reach poles in some areas and it was discussed that maybe they should contact Wigan for feedback on the poles and to see if there was any vandal risk with them.

AH suggested that they could ask local businesses and colleges to help sponsor and as such ‘look after’ a reach pole if one was located near to them.

It was decided that Peel Holdings and MCC would liaise with Reach Pole to identify and fit a reach pole each to test how robust they were and that they are not going to be vandalised.

7. Training Support Request

A bespoke training session was discussed for local security companies who work in the bars, clubs etc. near the locks. DW has a list of the security companies who are already on board and looking to get some more throw lines to the door staff on Deansgate Locks.

MW was liaising with the Village Angels and Manchester Angels to see if any of the new volunteers needed training for the throw lines.

AK mentioned possibly running ‘Train the Trainer’ courses for CPR/Defib training.

DO discussed possibly delivering throw line training to the Pub & Club Meetings or delivering quick ‘Awareness Sessions’.

When delivering training, it would be good to have some throw lines there that people could purchase there and then as they could be invoiced for them or they could purchase direct from the website/online shop. LH said that he should be able to facilitate this.

8. Night Time Economy

DW will look into trying to get a representative from the NTE group to attend some of the Water Safety Forum meetings.

HH and AK will try to meet with Andy Burnham’s office and Sacha Lord to discuss social media around the Water Safety Campaign and Charlie Pope.

9. Sharing of minutes with Nick Pope and update from him

DW informed the group that the Partnership have all had the opportunity to review the minutes from the previous meeting and will now be sent to Nick Pope following his request.

10. AOB

HH informed the group of the new Water Safety Partnership website that was now up and running and showed the group what the website looked like. The website can only be accessed if you type in the URL. HH would like to link the website to the other partnership team’s website and use this as a way to promote the Water Safety message and have as a platform for members of the public to contact the group. It was discussed how the best way to monitor any correspondence that comes in via the website would be and a possibility would be to have a rota between the group.

Banners – are there any other key areas that banners could be displayed around the city centre. DW mentioned possible asking some students to design banners that could be used in October in time for the Winter Safety campaign.

Pride Weekend – DG mentioned that they had used Instagram to target certain age groups (i.e. young males between the ages of 18-30’) for when they are entering certain locations in the city to display the various safety campaigns which had received good feedback. DW said this would be good to continue using going forward. This could maybe link up with any safety campaigns the Night Time Economy are running.

11. Review of Actions.

The list of actions were reviewed and have been added to the Live Actions log.

**Next Meeting 17th October 2018**