

Update for the Economic and Community Development PDS Panel on 17th July 2014

The table below summarises the current actions being progressed by the River Safety Group:

Item	Comments	Actions	Action Owner	June update
Life-belt housings- <i>management</i>	There is evidence that some life-belt stations on the south side of the River Avon are not being actively managed and are empty.	B&NES agreed to identify landowners and send a joint letter to landowners providing advice on how to manage life-belt stations. Letter will incorporate partner logos to demonstrate multi-agency support for this approach.	B&NES	Letter drafted and agreed. To be sent in July 2014.
Life-belt housings- <i>information</i>	Provide contact details on life-belt stations so that public know who is responsible for managing it and who to call if equipment is missing.	B&NES will arrange this on housings that it is responsible for managing. Landowners will be requested to do this in letter (see above).	B&NES	Proof of new life-belt station sticker has been finalised and will be added to B&NES managed stations in July 2014.
Educational initiatives	Ensure that educational initiatives about safety near rivers continue to engage the student community.	Avon Fire and Rescue Service intend to refresh their water safety campaign 'Don't let river water be your last drink' in partnership with Bath Spa University and University of Bath.	Avon Fire and Rescue Service Student Community Partnership	Agreement reached that current campaign would continue for the present. A focus group with students will be convened in September 2014 to devise a new campaign. This will be facilitated by the Student Community Partnership.
Educational initiatives	Ensure that promotional material linked to 'Don't let river water be your last drink' campaign is displayed in licensed premises.	Licensing Officers will distribute material during enforcement visits.	B&NES	Completed.
Signage	Provision of new permanent warning signage at entrance points to northern River Avon path.	New design to be commissioned and consulted upon.	B&NES	New design has been finalised after consultation. Will be erected at 8 locations along northern River Avon path following fencing repairs in July 2014.
Grab lines	Existing grab lines have been replaced by the Canal and River Trust in 2012 but need to consider how these are maintained in the future.	Arrange for grab lines to be checked along stretch between Churchill Bridge and Windsor Bridge in 2014.	Canal and River Trust	A survey has been completed of the existing grab lines in 2014 and little was found to be wrong with the condition of the existing lines. Options report to be submitted to Strategic River Group meeting of 18/07/2014 for consideration of who should maintain grab lines in the future.
Inspection ladders on certain sections of the riverbank	The ladders are not designed to allow public access and egress from river. Are any improvements possible?	The Environment Agency has committed to: -carry out an internal Public Safety Risk Assessment (PSRA) and share the results of this investigation with the key stakeholders	Environment Agency	This is on track to be completed in December 2014.

		<p>-carry out a visual inspection by boat of the ladders along the whole of the Bath flood defence scheme</p> <p>-produce a plan showing where these ladders are located and share this with the emergency services and Bath and North East Somerset Council</p> <p>-investigate installing a system to highlight these ladders from the bank for the emergency service purposes only. We wish to make it clear that these ladders have not been designed for public safety purposes. However we agree with the general consensus that the current ladders should not be removed</p>	Environment Agency	<p>This has been completed and a report has been produced which is currently being discussed between the partner agencies and will be discussed further at the Strategic River Group.</p> <p>Completed.</p> <p>This is being explored and an update will be provided at the next River Safety Group meeting.</p>
Collation of data about river-related incidents	Recognition that there is no central point for collation of data about water related incidents.	B&NES to investigate how this could be better co-ordinated.	B&NES	Initial investigations have shown that this is going to be difficult to achieve locally. The River Safety Group is exploring the use of the national Water Incident Database (WAID) system as a means to achieve this.
Sponsorship of vandal-proof life-belt stations	Avon Fire and Rescue Service has completed a scoping project to locate B-lines and buoys within vandal-proof cabinets along the River Avon.	<p>The River Safety Group was very supportive of this idea and requested that it be escalated to Strategic River Group for further discussion.</p> <p>Next step will be the creation of a prototype cabinet to evaluate the viability of this idea.</p>	Avon Fire and Rescue	Report to be submitted to SRG meeting of 18/07/2014 for consideration