



Press release January 2008

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS – AN A & E PERSPECTIVE



The LAPC provides a forum for road safety professionals and elected members across London to come together to discuss road safety issues, and determine strategies for common goals. Council quarterly and AGM meetings provide unique opportunities to host guest speakers and themed conferences.

During January's quarterly meeting held in the Guildhall London, the Council were proud to welcome guest speaker *Jacqueline Richards*, Emergency Nurse Practitioner from Queens Hospital, Romford.

Jacqueline is based in Queens Accident & Emergency department, which is a regional Trauma centre in London. Her presentation provided an in-depth analysis of Road Traffic Collision (RTC) victims and included the results of a Casualty Audit from November – December 2007. During this 8 week period, tragically, 330 Road Traffic Casualties were admitted to the Queens Hospital.

Jacqueline presented details of the types of casualties she sees i.e. car drivers, motorcyclists, pedestrians, the age of casualties, and the types of injury incurred. ***The following summarises significant factors of (RTC):***

- 70% of accident drivers unlicensed
- 50% of car driver casualties were of Eastern European origin
- 19-28 age group most at risk
- Front passengers are in most danger
- Size of vehicle effects level of injury
- Drivers under the influence of Drugs & Alcohol
- Mobile phones
- Overloaded cars
- Non seatbelt compliance, unrestrained children, babies on laps
- Impatience

Jacqueline's factual account of the grim realities she is faced with on a daily basis raised much concern amongst Council representatives, "Driver Education for all age groups is essential in reducing these casualties" said Jacqueline.

To picture the scale of this National problem, stakeholders need to evaluate the significant factors leading to (RTC), ie *70% of accident drivers are unlicensed*. Driving without a valid license, insurance or vehicle registration is illegal and thus a serious issue for road safety. Not only does it challenge the system of licensing and registration that ensures minimum driver and vehicle standards, unlicensed and uninsured drivers are also significantly more likely to be involved in road crashes and to disregard other road laws.

There are a number of measures that could be taken by Government to counter this problem including Greater resources for Police enforcement, Extending Police powers to seize vehicles without a valid license or insurance, and more use of ANPR- Automatic Number Plate Recognition.

The LAPC aim to review the specific issues raised by Jacqueline in relation to (RTC) over the coming weeks.

For LAPC press enquiries contact: Dilek Sabri on 0208 489 1417 or email dilek.sabri@haringey.gov.uk