



national  
**water safety**  
forum

Prevent accidental drowning fatalities in the UK by working in partnership to ensure consistent guidance for the safe enjoyment and management of activities in, on and around water.

Reduce accidental drowning fatalities in the UK by 50% by 2026 and reduce risk amongst the highest risk populations, groups and communities.



national  
**water safety**  
forum

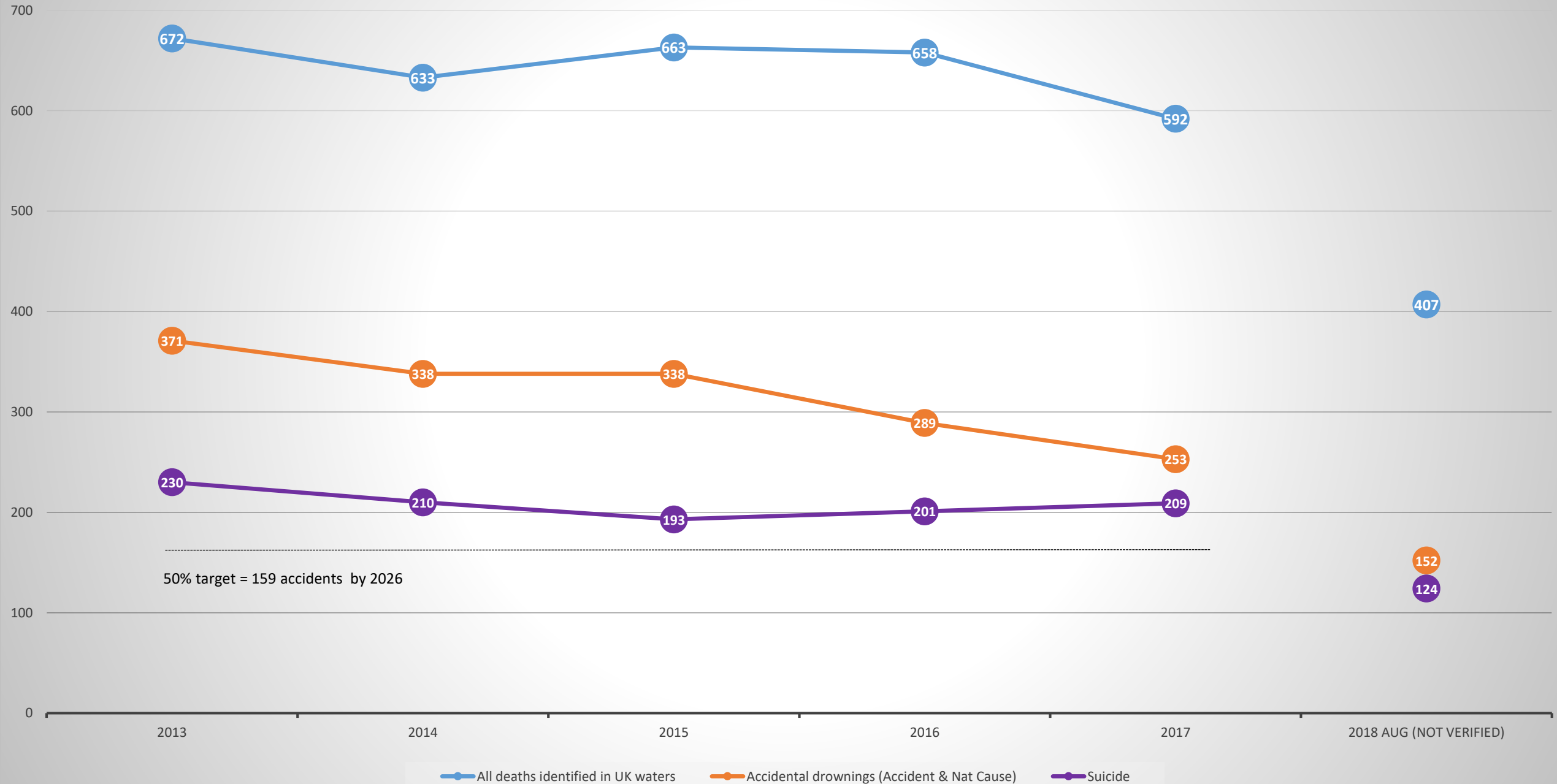
A future without drowning:

**The UK Drowning Prevention  
Strategy**  
2016-2026

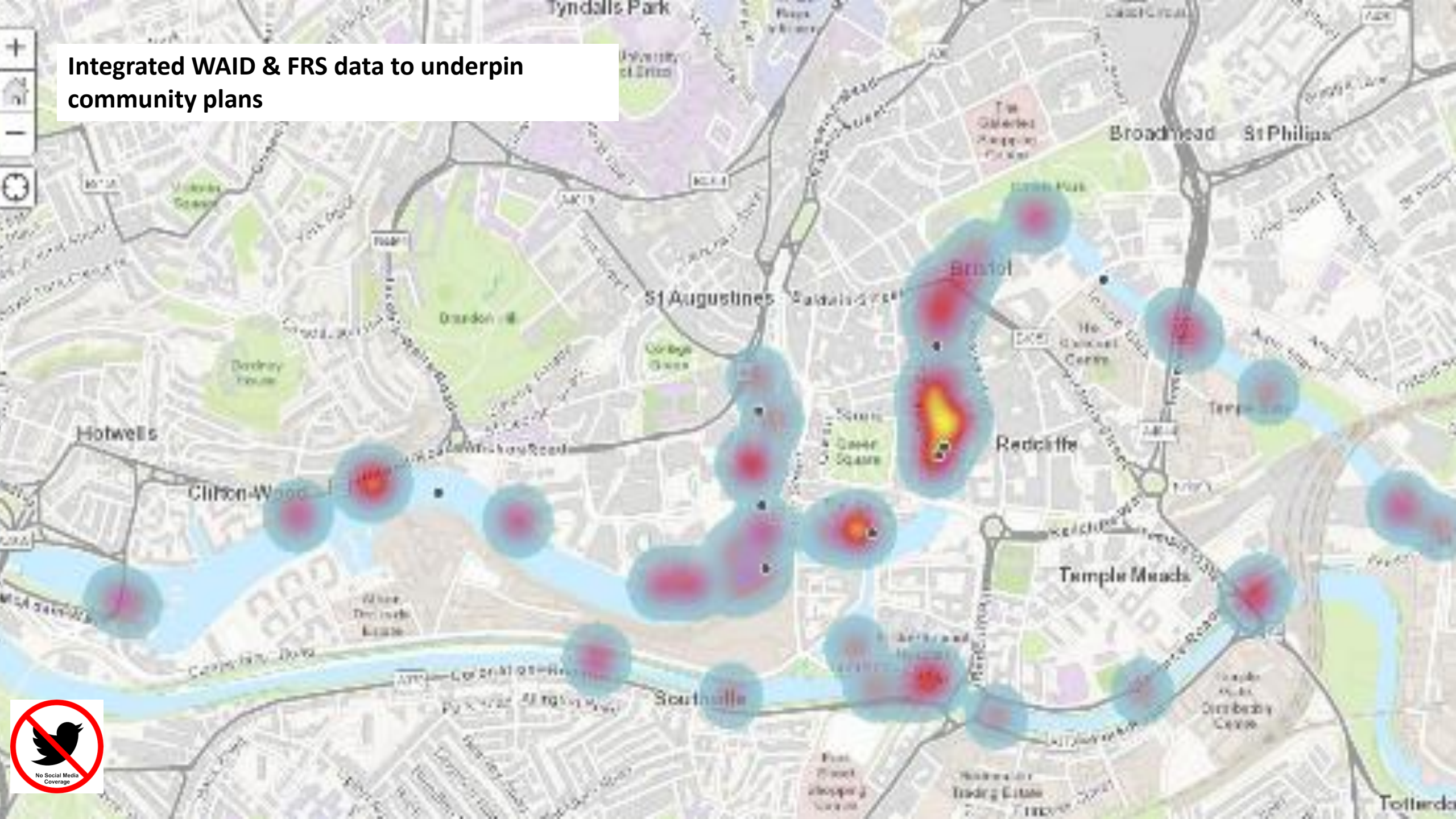
" Collaboration is essential if  
we are to succeed in reducing  
fatalities around the waters  
of the UK"

# UK water related fatalities 2013 to Aug 2018 (WAID)

Nb. Caution: 2018 not verified



# Integrated WAID & FRS data to underpin community plans







**national  
water safety  
forum**

A future without drowning:  
**The UK Drowning Prevention  
Strategy**  
2016-2026

**BIENNIAL REVIEW  
2016/17**

**CASE STUDY**

**Thames Tidal Safety Forum**

The forum was established in response to a review of risk along the tidal stretch of the Thames. The primary aim of the forum is to seek a reduction in the number of accidental and suicide fatalities.

It consists of landowners and organisations with a search and rescue function, including the Port of London Authority, HM Coastguard, London Fire Brigade, Metropolitan Police Marine Unit, London Ambulance Service and Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

The group is seeking to reduce the (on average) 850 annual incidents involving people within the tidal stretch of the Thames. It is driving this through the creation of a collective plan over three years with tangible and practical steps to manage risk, including:

- Projects to improve and/or increase safety information at key points including bridges, river walls and piers
- Exploring the role of planning conditions, and how these can be used to create safer environments
- Exploring options to reduce risk among smaller watercraft users
- Maintaining a shared river incident analysis

The core members have committed to a multi-year approach to prevention, with a mix of targets focused upon reducing harm and improving environment and behaviours. They work with other partners on a project by project basis, and alongside other safety groups in the capital. These include the broader focused Thames Safety group and the London Home & Water Safety Council (LHWSC).





Photo: MUSE UK

#### CASE STUDY

### School Swimming Review

The Swim Group, chaired by Olympic medalist Steve Parry, was formed following the publication of the Government's sport strategy 'Sporting Futures'. The Group was asked to consider the challenges around swimming and water safety in schools and to submit recommendations on how swimming in primary schools can be addressed<sup>1</sup>.

The review made 16 recommendations to ensure that all children leave primary school able to swim and have the right water safety knowledge and skills. Of note are:

- The Government to support a new national 'top-up' swimming programme to ensure all primary school children reach the statutory standards for swimming and water safety. Initial resources should be targeted at Group 1 schools
- The Department for Education to add a condition as part of the Primary Progress monitoring that primary schools must publish curriculum swimming and water safety attainment levels
- The Department for Education to support the national roll-out of a new Curriculum Swimming and Water Safety Resource Pack to all primary schools and curriculum swimming providers, including provision of a new achievement award for pupils
- The Government to include the swimming programme of study within the next review of the National Curriculum

- The Department for Culture, Media and Sport to work with the Swim Group and Sport England to develop a question for the Active Lives Children's Survey (2015) that requests information regarding swimming proficiency

- The Government to encourage all local authority areas to develop a school swimming and water safety delivery plan to support primary schools to meet their PE national curriculum requirements

- Secondary schools to work with national water safety groups to ensure intervention messages are strongly reinforced at Key Stage 3 and 4 to reduce the high number of incidents in these age groups.

Steve Parry commented:

**"We know that over a thousand schools don't teach swimming even though it is a statutory requirement. At the moment, we are failing our children by not helping them learn an essential skill. Hundreds of people drown every year and that is something we can remedy."**

**"Water safety is the only part of the national curriculum that will save children's lives, it can't be treated as an optional extra."**