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HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)

Update for CONIAC on the Working Well Together (WWT) Campaign

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Cleared by Gavin Bye, Head of Construction Sector, on 29 October 2009

Summary

For information only

This paper informs Members of the current position of the Working Well Together (WWT) Campaign, its achievements to date in its 10th Anniversary Year and its future strategy.

Issue

1. Update on the achievements of the WWT Campaign for the first six months of the 2009/2010 operational year.

Timing

2. Routine

Recommendation

3. That:
 - a. CONIAC Members note the continued activity of WWT and its achievements this year; and
 - b. note the need to continue to encourage the industry to support the campaign and recognise the efforts of all those involved in the regional groups.

Background

4. WWT was launched in May 1999 and has continued to grow and develop throughout the last 10 years. Currently, WWT has 14 active regional groups and two new groups that will hopefully start up in the New Year, in the North East and West & North Yorkshire. WWT continues to foster new and innovative ideas to reach our target audience, the traditionally hard to reach, those employing less than five employees. One of the successes of what has become possibly the longest running and most successful health and safety initiative within Construction Industry is that it has always been, and continues to be, a genuine partnership between the industry and HSE.

Current position

5. WWT Regional groups took up the challenge to mark the 10th Anniversary year by pulling all the stops out and making this year as the best so far. Members of the groups have worked hard to organise events and try new approaches. Some highlights this year to date are:

- 5344 delegates at an event (5384 for 2008/09)
- 26% from companies with 0-5 employees
- 39% from 0-15
- 59% from 0-50
- 37 events
- 19 further planned events to March 2010
- Positive comment in the Donaghy 'One Death is too Many' report
- Regular articles in 'Master Builder' magazine in co-operation with FMB

6. These figures far exceeded our expectations at the beginning of the year. The industry is in recession currently and we expected a downturn in events and delegates attending. All members of Regional groups should be commended for the time and effort they have put in this year, in what has been a particularly hard year for the industry.

7. The WWT National Steering Group has met twice this year in April and October. These meetings continue to play an important part in WWT, as they are an excellent forum for exchanging best practice and ideas; for attracting delegates, and networking. HSE use these meetings to outline our key strategies and work-plan and gain commitment from the groups to promote HSE's key messages and priorities at their events.

8. WWT is seen both internally and externally as a important tool in reaching our hard-to-reach target audience and as such will make a major contribution in delivering the Small Sites Strategy (endorsed by CONIAC at an earlier meeting) and in turn the wider HSE strategy.

9. The new WWT website went fully live on 7th October. The new site offers regional groups their own pages where they can advertise their events and promote the work of their groups on a local basis. Already the number of

enquiries from the site has increased and we will actively promote of the website over the coming months.

Future

10. WWT is proving to be a sustainable and effective tool for reaching our hard-to-reach audience and providing a platform for delivering key health and safety advice in an informal and non-threatening way. Major construction companies, trade associations and other stakeholders are keen to play their part in the Campaign. New approaches are still needed of course, as even after 10 years we are only reaching a small proportion of the 190,000 SME companies that are a significant part of the industry. Some of the new approaches will include closer working with building control officers across the country. HSE's continued support for the Campaign is seen as vital by the industry as we provide the stability and credibility that contributes to the success of WWT.

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