

Open Government status: Open	Paper Number: H20/01
	Meeting Date: 20 April 2016
Exempt material - None	Type of Paper: Above the Line

HELA

LAU Update Events 2016

A Paper by Sarah Bates (LAU)

Advisors: Alexander Tsavalos & Kate Haire

Cleared by: Philip White

Issue

1. This paper provides HELA with headline feedback from the recent round of Local Authority (LA) update events delivered by HSE's Local Authority Unit (LAU) across England, Scotland and Wales.

Timing

2. For discussion at the meeting on 20 April 2016.

Recommendation

3. That HELA
 - a) notes the early headline feedback from the events
 - b) considers how future events could be delivered effectively;
 - c) considers how it would like LAU to engage with HELA with regard to LA futures work; and
 - d) considers how we might engage more strategically with LA heads of service/ decision makers.

Background

4. In recent years, LAU has held events with chairs and secretaries of local health and safety liaison groups. This year, following discussions with HELA, LAU opened up the invitation to EHO's undertaking health and safety work as well as existing chairs and secretaries. This was in order to improve HSE engagement with those undertaking health and safety work on a day to day basis.
5. LA's were very supportive in helping to keep the costs of the holding events to a minimum and offered a number of free venues across the country. This allowed events to be held in the locations listed at Table A.

6. Some of the events were oversubscribed and we were forced to limit the numbers of representatives from individual LA's in order to offer places to a wider geographical range of attendees. It was noted that a number of people would have liked an event to have been held in the Midlands. However, resources could not stretch to additional events beyond the 4 planned across England. LAU also provided presentations to the Welsh Technical Panel, the CIEH National Environmental Health Forum and the LGA Environmental Health Policy Forum.
7. To cater for those unable to travel to other areas, LAU hosted a webinar on 23 March which contained a condensed version of the presentations. Over 70 people participated in the webinar.

Table A – Details of Events Held		
Date	Location	Number of Attendees
24 February 2016	Preston Town Hall	47
26 February 2016	LGA Offices – London	93
2 March 2016	Middlesbrough Custom House	32
9 March 2016	Welsh Technical Panel - Powys	25
15 March 2016	HSE Offices Aberdeen	33
16 March 2016	Stirling Town Hall	64
23 March 2016	Bristol University Campus	63
23 March 2016	Webinar	70+

Themes from the Day

8. The events were delivered using the same agenda and series of presentations to ensure the messaging was consistent. The themes for the presentations were:
 - a) Strategic update from HSE including the new strategy for health and safety in GB;
 - b) Strategic update from local HELA / PF representative;
 - c) Update from LAU's sector team;
 - d) Update from LAU's small business team;
 - e) Updated LAC 67/2, List of activities/sectors for proactive inspection by LAs and LAE1 returns, and
 - f) Interactive workshop session to consider future delivery of LA health and safety regulation.

Feedback on the future delivery of LA Regulation workshop

9. The final part of the day was devoted to an interactive session where delegates were invited to share their views regarding possible methods of delivering LA health and safety regulation, given the continuing constraints on resource. Common feedback themes from this session are summarised at Annex A.

Evaluation

10. Attendees were invited to complete a post event online survey. The attendees from the Welsh Technical Panel were not polled as we do not yet have their contact details. The overall response rate for the English and Scottish events was 53%.

11. Headline feedback indicates that 87.5% of attendees felt the events met their expectations. Overall they felt that the sessions delivered covered the right issues. Areas for improvement included requests for: the events to happen earlier in the work year; more information on the strategy, and more time/workshop like sessions to discuss changes to LAC67/2 and the list.
12. Attendees reported that as a result of the event they will:
 - Seek wider sources of intelligence to improve their targeting
 - Be more focussed and evidence based regarding their interventions and local projects
 - Realign their service plans to the updated LAC and list.
13. All of those who responded to the feedback question at the webinar provided positive comments. They liked the format and asked for webinars to be delivered on a more regular basis.

Future update events and strategic LA engagement

14. The advantages of face to face interaction are evident from the feedback. However, with resources likely to become increasingly constrained it may prove difficult to hold similar events of this nature in future years, and LAs may struggle to attend them. If face to face events are preferred these would need to be delivered at no/low cost e.g. free venues would have to be sourced and we would have to think carefully as to when and where these took place.
15. Webinars do not allow for the same degree of discussion, but they do provide a much more cost effective facility to cascade information to a larger audience and to allow for question and answer sessions. Holding frequent webinars e.g. bi-monthly, monthly, could help to support the development of competence and consistency, and negate the need for annual face to face update events.
16. Feedback from the update events also points to the need for us to consider how HELA might engage more strategically across LAs. When looking at targeting and competence or larger delivery models, should we be having conversations at Director or Heads of Service level e.g. Directors of Public Health, to encourage them to see the synergies between delivery of health and safety and public health regulatory services? The new Help GB Work Well strategy provides an opportunity to do so.

Next Steps

17. LAU will be taking on board the event feedback to improve the design of any future events however they are delivered. We are also having conversations with CIEH and LGA about the links between their Boards and HELA. We will take forward the work on the future delivery of LA regulation of health and safety which will require more formal engagement with LA's and other stakeholders. We will keep HELA informed as this work progresses.

Action

18. HELA are asked to consider:

- the headline feedback from the content and delivery of the workshops and provide comment
- how they would like LAU to proceed with future updates to LA's
- how HELA might engage more strategically with LA heads of service/ Director level contacts
- if they are content with LAUs proposals to engage them on the futures work.

Contact

19. Sarah Bates sarah.bates@hse.gov.uk

Annex A - Common Themes from Workshop Sessions	
Topic Area	Themes
Targeting and Competence	It was felt that greater sustainability, consistency and effectiveness could be achieved if HSE provided more targeting advice, and shared access to training materials (buddying, webinars, CPD systems etc) as well as engagement with other regulators / holders of intelligence (police, health services etc.)
Larger Delivery Units	Benefits identified were efficiency, sustainability, consistency and flexibility. Concerns were expressed relating to loss of local knowledge and the long term stability without formal legal underpinning.
Review of Enforcing Authority Regulations	There were a very broad range of views. Some felt the regulations only needed minor changes and in general currently work well. With specific areas highlighted for possible clarification or change e.g. work in domestic premises. Others felt the regulations required a complete redesign suggesting included replacement with LA by LA MoU's, duty holder self-selection or moves to a single enforcing authority.
More HSE involvement in Primary Authority	This could expand the range of industry sectors, giving Primary Authority access to HSE's greater technical competency, but this could deskill LA's. Also, a number of LA's felt that this wasn't necessary.
Generic themes arising in responses	LA resources under increasing pressure, occupational health and safety is being given a lower priority than other areas of regulation. HSE is not engaging with LAs at a sufficiently senior level. The return of LA/HSE flexible warrants would solve many problems.

Annex A - Common Themes from Workshop Sessions	
Topic Area	Themes
Targeting and Competence	It was felt that greater sustainability, consistency and effectiveness could be achieved if HSE provided more targeting advice, and shared access to training materials (buddying, webinars, CPD systems etc) as well as engagement with other regulators / holders of intelligence (police, health services etc.)
Larger Delivery Units	Benefits identified were efficiency, sustainability, consistency and flexibility. Concerns were expressed relating to loss of local knowledge and the long term stability without formal legal underpinning.
Review of Enforcing Authority Regulations	There were a very broad range of views. Some felt the regulations only needed minor changes and in general currently work well. With specific areas highlighted for possible clarification or change e.g. work in domestic premises. Others felt the regulations required a complete redesign suggesting included replacement with LA by LA MoU's, duty holder self-selection or moves to a single enforcing authority.
More HSE involvement in Primary Authority	This could expand the range of industry sectors, giving Primary Authority access to HSE's greater technical competency, but this could deskill LA's. Also, a number of LA's felt that this wasn't necessary.
Generic themes arising in responses	LA resources under increasing pressure, occupational health and safety is being given a lower priority than other areas of regulation. HSE is not engaging with LAs at a sufficiently senior level. The return of LA/HSE flexible warrants would solve many problems.