

Health and Safety Commission Paper		HSC/05/93	
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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

LAs and HSE Working Together Strategic Enabling Programme: Examples of the practical experiences of LA practitioners

A Paper by Allan Davies

Advisor(s): Nick Clack (LACoRS) and Shila Patel (CIEH)

Cleared by Justin McCracken on

Issue

1. A presentation of the experiences of two LA health and safety practitioner representatives on the way partnership is developing on a practical day-to-day level.

Timing

2. Routine.

Recommendation

3. The Commission is invited to consider the practical experiences of the professionals and make any appropriate recommendations about the development of partnership working between LAs and HSE.

Background

4. To build a partnership with LAs it is necessary to gain the commitment of the national representative bodies, the Local Government Associations and to involve elected members and senior LA managers in the development of health and safety strategy and policy. These issues are addressed in the report on Partnership Governance (HSC/05/45) and the report of overall progress with the programme (HSC/05/92). However, the building of a close working relationship between HSE and LA operational staff at a regional and local level is also essential. The presenters will set out their experience of working with HSE's field professionals to develop partnership working.
5. There are two presenters

Alan Higgins: Alan is the current President of Chartered Institute of Environmental

Health (CIEH) and the previous Chair of the CIEH Policy Development Board, the remit of which included Health and Safety. The mission of CIEH is to maintain, enhance and promote improvements in public and environmental health.

Alan is an experienced senior manager of public protection services including the management of enforcement and management functions in respect of health and safety, most recently with Portsmouth City Council. Alan is now a consultant and interim manager in environmental health, housing and related issues. He is currently the Interim Head of Regulatory Services at Hart District Council, one of the authorities participating in the joint warranting pilot with HSE.

Alan is a regular contributor to national and international conferences, he has also had a national role as a professional adviser both to the Local Government Association and the Department for the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). He has had considerable experience in developing and managing multi-agency partnerships particularly with the health sector, voluntary agencies, and environmental groups and agencies.

Malcolm Mathias: Malcolm qualified as an Environmental Health Officer in 1975 and since then has held a variety of posts in a number of local authorities including Canterbury City Council, Rushmoor Borough Council, Beverley Borough Council and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. In his current role in the East Riding of Yorkshire Malcolm is responsible for the management and strategic development of Food Services, Trading Standards, Licensing and Health and Safety.

Malcolm was nominated by the Yorkshire and Humber Chief Environmental Health Officers Group to represent them on the LACoRS Health and Safety Policy Forum and has recently been appointed as its chair.

Argument

6. Alan Higgins will discuss his experiences of working with HSE to develop the flexible warrants pilot. Malcolm Matthias will set out the experiences of his authority in building partnerships with HSE's Yorkshire and North East Division.

Consultation

7. The presenters have ensured that the experiences they discuss are largely representative of that of their professional colleagues.

Presentation

8. Not applicable.

Costs and Benefits

9. Not applicable.

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

10. Not applicable.

Environmental Implications

11. Not applicable.

Other Implications

12. The experiences set out may influence the Commission's views on papers HSC/05/45 (Programme Governance) and HSC/05/92 (Progress with the development of partnership working).

Action

13. The Commission is asked to consider the experiences set out and make any necessary recommendations about the development of partnership working between LAs and HSE.