

Health and Safety Executive Board					
Paper Number:	MISC/08/17	FoI Status:	Open	Internet Embargo:	None
LA and HSE Partnership - Findings of an evaluation					

Purpose of this paper

1. This paper alerts HSE Board and SMT members to the headline findings and recommendations of an evaluation of the Partnership between HSE and Local Authorities (LAs). The draft management summary is attached. The summary will be subject to minor drafting and editorial revision and will be finalised in the next seven to ten days.
2. The summary confirms the findings of the 2007 “stocktake” conducted by Phil Scott (HSE) and Derek Allen (LACORS) in concluding that the partnership is in good health and forms a good basis for further development. This conclusion may inform thinking regarding development of the Board’s strategy.

Background

3. The strategy for workplace safety to 2010 and beyond took, as part of one of its key themes, the development of a partnership with LAs as co-regulators of health and safety. In July 2004 a joint statement (The Statement of Intent) was agreed between HSC, HSE and LA representative bodies. The Statement of Intent set out the high level commitments which provided the framework of objectives for achievement of the strategic goal.
4. This evaluation has been undertaken by a consultant with considerable expertise in this area (PA Consulting). Although the evaluation was planned for completion during the 08-09 work year it was accelerated to ensure that the findings can inform thinking regarding the development of the Board’s new strategy.
5. LACORS were involved in the specification of the evaluation and the finalisation of the report. They agree the report is fair and balanced.

Argument

6. The report concludes that the partnership is in good health, having produced a “step change” in the relationship between HSE and LAs. The researchers found that the majority of the elements in the Statement of Intent have been delivered either wholly or partially and set out where further work is required in some areas. Central to this success has been the work of the Regional Partnership Managers, Partnership Liaison Officers (LA staff seconded to HSE) and all those supporting the regional partnership teams.
7. The report details twenty specific recommendations for further work. These are listed within the management summary. In many cases work is already in hand to take forward these issues. Some of the issues to be addressed will require action from LA partners. References are made to the relative enforcement responsibilities of HSE and LAs (Recommendations 19 and 20) and the need for further work to

explore these areas. Similar work to respond to these recommendations will be required to address the issues raised by Recommendation 6 of the August 08 report from the Better Regulation Executive “Improving outcomes from health and safety”.

Next Steps

8. It is assumed that, in the light of this evaluation, the Board will wish to continue to develop the partnership between HSE and LA. It is therefore intended to develop detailed responses to the report’s recommendations in discussion with LACORS and other LA representative bodies. It is proposed to bring these developed proposals to the October Board meeting.
9. LA representatives (the Local Government Panel) are due to meet HSE Board members on 7th October 08. This will give Board members an opportunity to take direct soundings from LA representatives prior to considering detailed responses to the report.
10. The Management Summary and the full report will be made available on HSE’s website following the Board’s review of proposed action.

Paper clearance

11. This paper was cleared by Sandra Caldwell.