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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)

“CONSTRUCTING BETTER HEALTH”: An Occupational Health Support Scheme for the Construction Industry

Summary

This paper provides an update on progress towards the development of the Occupational Health support scheme for the Construction Industry - Constructing Better Health. Members are asked to note the paper

Issue

1. Inform CONIAC of progress towards the development of the Occupational Health support scheme for the construction industry ‘Constructing Better Health’.

Background

2. Constructing Better Health is an initiative to pilot an occupational health support service for the construction industry. An Action Forum was established to take forward the pilot scheme. The Forum is made up of key industry players and is tasked with securing funding, identifying suitable OH providers and establishing governance arrangements for the project.

Current position

3. At its meeting on 15 January, the Action Forum agreed on Sypol, one of the UK’s leading health, safety and environmental specialists, as the preferred provider of occupational health support for the pilot scheme. The Forum also agreed on a fundholder for the project, B&CE Benefit Schemes who will act as the

administrative body to hold and pay out funds for the scheme for the duration of the project through its charitable trust. The total cost of the project is estimated to be around £1 million.

4. The Action Forum has been considering the governance arrangements and has decided to set up a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) to raise funds and to oversee the project. Once the company is set up, it is envisaged that a Project Steering Board and an Evaluation sub-group would also be set up, facilitated by HSE, to steer the practicalities of the pilot and report to the Board of 'Constructing Better Health'.
5. The next meeting of the Forum will agree the inauguration of the CLG 'Constructing Better Health'. From that point onwards, the Action Forum will be Directors of the company.

Next steps

6. The next major stage of the project will be fundraising. Initial scoping and a fundraising audit have already been carried out by experienced consultants. This research was funded by HSE and has been used to construct the business case to persuade parties to contribute to the pilot scheme.
7. B&CE Charitable Trust, HSE and DWP have each made an 'in principle' offer of £200K to the Action Forum for the pilot, subject to formal clearance of the business case. Formal funding arrangements have yet to be agreed. Further funding will have to be found from Industry sources, Charitable Trusts etc for the pilot to proceed.

Presentation

8. The construction press has shown an interest in the pilot and it is hoped to build upon this with some 'good news' stories to maintain interest levels and momentum for the project amongst the industry.

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

9. HSE has paid for a fundraising audit and remains committed to funding the evaluation of the pilot scheme.

Action

10. CONIAC is asked to note the information provided.