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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NEEDS IN CONSTRUCTION WORKING PARTY

Summary

This paper reports on the 11 June 2003 meeting of TEWP

1. Implications for TEWP of reconstitution of CONIAC

A revised “Raison d’etre” paper outlining the justification for the continued existence of TEWP was presented to the meeting. Members retained their view that training and education issues required a permanent project board to oversee discrete initiatives, such as:

- a workshop for the 5 main accrediting institutions to discuss the need to integrate health and safety into courses and how to address that need, and
- an initiative to engage academics in this issue.

2. Industry “Champions”

Now referred to as ‘Industry Ambassadors’, this initiative received support from IOSH Construction Section which was invited to take on the administration. However, funding was a significant issue, and this was discussed with CITB at the Accelerating Change in Built Environment Education (ACBEE) workshop on 4 June. CITB are the major funders of ACBEE, which is a joint initiative with Rethinking Construction, CIC and the Centre for Education in the Built Environment (CEBE – part of the Learning and Teaching Support Network (LTSN)). This scheme aims to improve links between the industry and academia, particularly at higher education (HE) level, and therefore has considerable synergy with the Industry Ambassador initiative. Whilst the workshop was primarily about producing best practice case studies as a mechanism for establishing links, nevertheless members considered that the scheme should be supported and their interests linked to it wherever possible.

3. E-learning website

This website (produced as a result of the HSE-funded Symonds research into the Identification and Management of Risk in Undergraduate Construction Courses) is being migrated into the HSE website. Whilst members showed some concern over the drop in the number of “hits” on the website, it was felt that this could be attributed to the academic year and that the hit rate should improve in the Autumn. However, the migration of the website should provide a useful opportunity for a relaunch to raise its profile.

4. Occupational Standards

The CIC’s Director of Life-Long Learning is currently advertising the existence of around 350 occupational standards (OSs) for construction. Each of these has a health and safety element and it was considered worthwhile to pursue TEWP’s health and safety agenda through OSs, which are also being introduced into the HE arena. This issue is to be followed up.

5. Action

CONIAC members are asked to note the above report.

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