

Informal Note of LGP meeting

7th October 2008

Present:

HSE Board: Judith Hackitt; Sandy Blair; Danny Carrigan

HSE: Sandra Caldwell, Marcia Davies

Councillors: Geoffrey Theobald; Graham Brown; Keith Evans; Alan Witherick; Sandy Scott

LACORS: Mark Du Val; Sarah Bull

Apologies: Roland Domleo, Robin Dahlberg, Sayeed Khan

1. Evaluation of the HSE/LA partnership

The LGP agreed with the overall evaluation of the partnership in that a step change in working arrangements between HSE and LAs had taken place. They were pleased that this exercise provided external validation to the partnership and built on the stocktake exercise undertaken by Phil Scott and Mark Du Val in 2007.

They recognised that there was a need now for continuous improvement and commitment from both sides to maintain and develop the partnership.

It was felt that the model for developing a national framework but encouraging local delivery tailored to local circumstances and needs was right and should be continued.

A detailed discussion took place on Recommendation 18 in terms of engaging with wider partners. The wider links to, and opportunities for health and safety provided by, Local Area Agreements in England, Single Outcome Agreements in Scotland and Local Delivery Agreements in Wales, was recognised and links to Fire and Police Services and PCTs and the police were cited as possible links for the partnership. The focus primarily though should still be on improving and developing the LA/HSE partnership.

Views were put forward in relation to Recommendation 8 and what more could be done to encourage LA officers to be released for secondments. The panel suggested a number of ways to encourage joint working.

- Co location
- Ability to work on defined projects
- Shadowing
- Opportunities for jobsharing between LA colleagues
- Exchanges

In relation to Recommendation 3 – Improving Communications

- Develop a top 10 in relation to health and safety – who to contact for councillors – along the lines of IDEA example.
- Place an article in First (LGA magazine)
- Develop a way to share good practice with councillors

ACTION: MDV and MD to work up response in relation to the recommendations.

Alan Witherick volunteered to help write an article for First.

2. The new Health and Safety Strategy

Judith Hackitt provided an update on the background to the development of the new health and safety strategy and where currently development of the strategy was up to. Derek Allan has been involved in the development from the outset. The main areas of the strategy are:

- Leadership
- Competence
- Worker involvement
- Healthier and Safer workplaces
- Prevention of low frequency high impact incidences
- Small businesses
- Health and safety in the wider context
- Business Enablers

The strategy is currently with copywriters and the document will be launched for a 3 month consultation in December 2008. The HSE will be running workshops around GB to get groups together to discuss the strategy and other specific contributions to its delivery.

The inclusion of LACORS in the development of the strategy was welcomed, but it was important to know who the workshops would be aimed at – councillors, officers etc.

It was suggested that there may be scope to link into the areas that are currently going through local government reorganisation to ensure that health and safety remains on their agendas.

ACTION: HSE to discuss with LBRO their work on engagement with those areas being reorganised.

3. BRE report – Improving outcomes in health and safety

In relation to recommendations 2 and 3 it was suggested that LA press networks could be used further to do positive work and the myth of the month was especially popular. Although it was suggested that new messages should be focussed on “we are not about this but we are about...”

It was also suggested that another communication channel to businesses could be through the business rates information that councils send out or possibly through insurance renewal requests by the insurance industry.

Recommendation 6 will be taken forward through the new strategy and as part of the recommendations coming out of the HSE/LA partnership evaluation.

Action: HSE to alert Communications directorate to possible avenues for dissemination of information.