

## **Paper LGP7/01**

### **HSE BOARD AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PANEL**

**MEETING 15 APRIL 2009**

#### **A STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO THE PARTNERSHIP AND PUBLICISING GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

##### **Issue**

1. Agreement of a proposed leaflet (Annex 1) comprising a new statement of commitment between HSE/LAs and an explanation of partnership communications structures.

##### **Background**

2. The recent evaluation of the HSE/LA partnership recommended that we clarify partnership governance arrangements. It is also timely to replace and build upon the 2004 "Statement of Intent" with a "Statement of Commitment" as we move into a more mature stage of the partnership. The proposed statement aims to combine these objectives,

3. The draft statement combines HSE's new strategic goals (subject to final wording in the new strategy) together with the aims of partnership working needed to deliver the goals contained in the "Section 18 standard on enforcement".

4. HELA has seen and supported the leaflet. It is proposed that the statement of commitment in particular be publicised widely to councillors, LA Chief Executives and LA health and safety inspectors and that it be given an appropriate launch. Two forms for the leaflet are suggested; the short form consisting of pages 1 and 4 of the draft would be targeted to Councillors and Chief Executives and be focussed on the commitment to partnership working. The full attachment would be directed to LA inspectors to assist in explaining how they can understand and become involved with the partnership.

5. The wording of the statements from Judith Hackitt and Geoffrey Theobald will be reviewed should it be agreed that separately targeted versions of the leaflet are appropriate.

6. If agreed, the long form of the leaflet will also be used as part of the S18 toolkit to support the Work Together part of the standard to encourage active contributions to liaison, policy and governance arrangements at a local, regional and national level. This will be done as an e-version of the leaflet and will include links to Terms of Reference, Roles and Responsibilities and membership for each of the groups referred to in order to assist LA inspectors to engage with the partnership and its governance.

## **Timing**

7. Subject to approval, the statement will be launched following the launch of the new HSE strategy, possibly at the LGA conference on 30 June-2 July. Publicity will also be sought via LG First and Focus, the on-line magazine of the Society of LA Chief Executives (SOLACE). Copies of the leaflets will be sent to each LA via Partnership Managers and distributed at conferences and events etc, including at a series of regional (plus Welsh and Scottish) events to be held in November 09 to brief LA inspectors on developing issues.

## **Wider communications issues**

8. In addition to the publicity generated by the launch, the leaflet will also be used by LA inspectors to raise the profile of health and safety regulation within their authority. It supports compliance with the S18 standard and demonstrates the national significance of this element of the authority's service. Linkages can also be made to the newly issued IOSH booklet "Think about health and safety - what elected members of local authorities need to know" and the popular LACORS/HSE Councillor's Handbook.

9. It is also proposed to produce a Welsh language version of the leaflets.

10. We need to engage and more closely involve Chief Executives and Councillors to maintain the profile of health and safety regulation, ensuring resources are targeted to priorities, and that LAs recognise their duty to meet the S18 standard. This audience needs to recognise the benefit of good health and safety regulation and issues relevant to the use of the leaflet also bear on wider communications issues that are also to be considered at this meeting.

## **Questions for LGP/HSE Board members**

11. LGP and HSE Board members are invited to discuss the following:

- a. Do you agree that we should proceed to launch the statement of commitment?
- b. Do you agree that two versions of the leaflet be produced to assist in targeting the Councillor/Chief Executive and LA inspector audiences (subject to final changes in light of the new HSE strategy and finalisation of the statements for Judith Hackitt and Geoffrey Theobald)?
- c. Are the plans to publicise the statement and leaflet eg at the LGA conference & via LG First appropriate? Have you any other suggestions?

LACORS/HSE Local Authority Unit  
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