

London Borough of Sutton

Chief Executive's Group
Paul Martin, Chief Executive



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Date: 8th October 2007

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Dear Emmie

The London Borough of Sutton is delighted to support this year's Better Backs campaign to tackle back pain in the workplace.

We are serious about managing the risks of back pain at work and determined to take positive actions to reduce the risks. We will be demonstrating our support by taking the following actions:

- **Developing and implementing an online DSE workstation training and assessment tool;**
- **Reporting quarterly to senior managers on take-up of training and any outstanding issues identified from the assessments;**
- **Aim to work with our partners e.g. Sutton Housing Partnership, our local primary care trusts, Safer Sutton Partnership and our recruitment partner, Comensura to provide DSE workstation training and assessment for their staff;**
- **Reporting six-monthly client handling training and assessment reports to service group health and safety committee;**
- **Working with Occupational Health to identify high risk groups and targeted interventions;**
- **Develop template manual handling of static load assessments for common key lifting and carrying / pushing and pulling tasks;**

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Chief Executive
Paul Martin

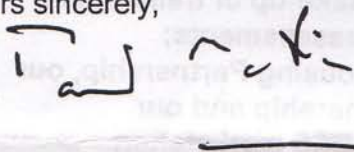
- **Create and publish online manual handling intranet page with information and links to assessments and training;**
- **Increase uptake of manual handling of static load training by targeting those services identified through the health and safety audit with this risk.**

By doing these things we plan to achieve the following:

- **Reduce postural ill-health sickness absence** – decrease the number of referrals to Occupational Health for postural ill-health linked to poor workstation layout and poor working procedures;
- **Ensure all workstations under Council control are used and managed safely;**
- **Reduce client handling incidents and related ill-health sickness absence** - ensure client handling training and refresher training programme covers all appropriate staff, client handling assessments are in place and action is taken where recommended to decrease Occupational Health referrals and reported client handling incidents;
- **Reduce manual handling incidents and related ill-health sickness absence** - improve the number and quality of manual handling of static load assessments to ensure consistency of control measures appropriate to tasks and risk and to reduce the number of reported handling incidents and referrals to Occupational Health;
- **Improve knowledge and understanding of responsibilities and risks** - ensure information on manual handling is available throughout the Council and is easily accessible to managers and staff;
- **Increase awareness and understanding of how the body is affected by poor manual handling and improve techniques.**

London Borough of Sutton is committed to working with the HSE on this issue - together we will make a real difference.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Martin
Chief Executive