



Partners for Better Health at Work  
WORKPLACE HEALTH DIRECT: SPECIAL EDITION  
February 2005



**Welcome To A 'Workplace Health Direct' Special Edition Of The Partners For Better Health At Work Newsletter**

On 2 February Alan Johnson, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions announced 'Workplace Health Direct'. This is an exciting project and will involve HSE working with a broad range of partners and stakeholders. This special edition contains information on the project and where to find more information or get involved.

As always you are more than welcome to extract information from the articles or distribute this newsletter to anyone you feel may have an interest in its contents. If you have any comments, suggestions or you have received this through a contact and would like to sign up, contact: Joanne Morgan at [oh.strategy@hse.gsi.gov.com](mailto:oh.strategy@hse.gsi.gov.com).

Simon Thornhill

**The Announcement**

The Secretary of State for Work, Alan Johnson, announced 'Workplace Health Direct' on 2 February 2005. It is a £20M ground breaking pilot scheme to give free health, safety and return-to-work (OHSR) advice and support to small and medium sized businesses, their managers and their workers.

He elaborated on how this fits with DWP's 5-year plan: 'This is good news for British business and for people who need help getting back into work after ill health. Workplace Health Direct will play a vital role in helping people return to work quickly, reducing the burden on the NHS and lowering the chance of people ending up on incapacity benefit'.

**Workplace Health Direct**

Workplace Health Direct is a customer focussed, tailor made problem-solving service, with access provided both centrally and regionally. Advisors will offer support and advice to employers and workers within SMEs to help them prevent ill health and help workers return to work if they are suffering from ill health.

The Workplace Health Direct pilot programme will comprise:

- A national telephone OHSR Adviceline and website (Level 1);
- Up to six separate pilots in regions across England and Wales providing a problem solving OHSR service to employers and employees in SMEs (Level 2). This will comprise a number of suitably qualified H&S advisors, who would also offer signposting to specialist help (Level 3);
- A centrally contracted marketing service for the Adviceline and the problem solving service;
- A project management contractor to manage the pilots on behalf of HSE;
- Full evaluation through a centrally managed research contract.

### **Who are we looking for?**

- We are looking for suitable organisations to deliver the national Adviceline and website
- We are looking for innovative organisations, capable of building partnerships, to deliver a regional problem-solving service in their area.

### **How to find out more**

The Tender process has now begun, with a call for 'expressions of interest' from providers who would like to bid for the regional pilots within England and Wales. We believe that Local Authorities and PCT's amongst others have a key role to play in setting up or participating in partnerships to deliver these pilots.

There will be information events to explain the process and the requirements. Provisional dates for these are: 3 March Newcastle, 4 March Birmingham, 7 March Cardiff, 9 March London, 10 March Manchester.

For more information or if you wish to attend one of our regional information events, go to our website [www.hse.gov.uk/workplacehealth/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacehealth/) or email [workplacehealthdirect@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:workplacehealthdirect@hse.gsi.gov.uk)  
For further information on our pilots, contact Matthew McCabe on 020 7717 6357 or Lola Oyedele on 020 7717 6268.