

**Partners for Better Health at Work  
Newsletter 5  
December 2005**



**Welcome To the fifth issue of the Partners for Better Health at Work Newsletter**

In this quarters edition I'm pleased to bring you news of the joint DH and DWP 'Health Work and Well-being Strategy' and further detail on Workplace Health Connect from the government announcements in October. We also have news on the recently published Health and Safety statistics and the guidance produced as a result of a partnership between the Faculty of Public Health and the Faculty of Occupational Medicine.

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 received this through a contact and would like to sign up, my contact details are below.

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**Health, Work and Well-Being**

The new ambitious Strategy, which focuses on the health and well-being of people of working age, was launched in October. It has been developed from close collaboration between HSE, DWP and Department of Health and seeks collectively to advance HSC's Workplace Strategy, DWP's Welfare Reform agenda and the occupational health components of DH's "Choosing Health". As such it gives real effect to the commitment in the HSC Strategy to do more on health and to work in partnership. It pulls together a number of existing work areas across our three organisations.

One of the aims of the strategy is to ensure that healthcare services are designed and delivered in a way that will assist people of working age to either remain fit for work, or return to fitness for work. This will focus on healthcare professionals; work-focused treatment; common mental health problems; return to work support; and vocational rehabilitation.

To download a copy of the strategy visit;

[http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2005/health\\_and\\_wellbeing.pdf](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2005/health_and_wellbeing.pdf)

**HSE/TUC Conference on Occupational Health**

HSE supported by TUC hosted a conference on occupational health issues at Congress Hall on Monday 5 December. The day looked at the new Government Strategy '[Health, work and well-being - Caring for our future](#)' (see above), exploring what difference this will make in practice, as well as serving to bring delegates up to date with developments and plans for getting better management of back pain, stress, new provision to support smaller firms (Workplace Health Connect) and return to work issues.

Speakers on the day included Lord Hunt of Kings Heath (Parliamentary Under Secretary (Lords) for DWP), Bill Gunnyeon (Chief Medical Advisor, DWP), Fiona Adshead (Deputy Chief Medical Officer DH) and Frances O'Grady (TUC Deputy General Secretary) amongst others.

Presentations made on the day will shortly be posted on the HSE website and a transcript of these sessions plus their accompanying question and answer panels will be posted on the HSE website early in the new year.

### **Workplace Health Connect**

On 19th October 2005 the government announced further details of HSE's new occupational health, safety and return to work service for SME's, Workplace Health Connect.

The overriding aim of the service is to transfer knowledge to small businesses and provide them with the skills to ultimately identify, tackle and solve any future workplace health problems.

The service, due to go live in late February 2006, will comprise an Adviceline covering England and Wales and regional Pathfinders providing workplace problem-solving visits. The Pathfinders will be located in the North East, North West, West Midlands, South Wales and Greater London regions.

If the pathfinders are successful, we will work to roll out a service with national coverage, this would mean that some work may be needed to better mesh Workplace Health Connect with Healthy Working Lives, formally Safe and Healthy Working, in Scotland.

For more information on the service, delivery areas and the pathfinder providers including contact details, please visit [www.hse.gov.uk/workplacehealth](http://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacehealth).

### **Creating a Healthy Workplace**

The Faculty of Public Health and the Faculty of Occupational Medicine have been working together to produce a guide for health professionals and employers. It covers why it makes sense to tackle work-related ill-health and promote well-being in your workforce with suggestions of what can be done.

A leaflet covering the key points will also be available from 10 January 2006.

Please visit [www.fph.org.uk](http://www.fph.org.uk) for further details.

### **2004/05 Health and Safety Statistics**

On the 8th November, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) published the latest statistics on workplace injury and work-related ill-health in Great Britain. 'Health and Safety Statistics 2004/05' presents the top-level statistics, including reports on progress against the targets set in the 'Revitalising Health and Safety' (RHS) strategy.

2004/05 is the mid point of the RHS strategy and the statistics show us making good progress on two of the three targets set, with both the ill-health and days off sick mid point targets likely to have been met.

More detailed data and commentary on the statistics and is available on the HSE website at [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics). The following link will take you to the 'Health and Safety Statistics 2004/05' document its self: [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/overall/hssh0405.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/overall/hssh0405.pdf).

### **'Revitalising' Health & Safety - Case Studies**

Eight case studies have been developed to mark the mid point of the 'Revitalising' Health and Safety strategy. They cover a range of industries, and highlight the good practice and initiatives developed by many sectors since the launch of the Revitalising Health and Safety strategy in June 2000. They can be downloaded from the HSE website at:

[www.hse.gov.uk/revitalising/progress.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/revitalising/progress.htm).

**Next issue due March 2006 - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**