



## Partners for Better Health at Work Newsletter

October 2007



Welcome to issue 12 of the Partners for Better Health at Work Newsletter.

In this edition, we bring you information on the New Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act, the Better Backs Campaign 2007 and Dame Carol Black's Review among other things.

Please feel free to extract information for articles or distribute the newsletter to anyone you feel may have an interest in its contents.

### Corporate Manslaughter & Corporate Homicide Act 2007

Following exhaustive debate and considerable parliamentary discussions, the Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Bill has become law. The Act, which will come into force on 6 April 2008, clarifies the criminal liabilities of companies including large organisations where serious failures in the management of health and safety result in a fatality. HSE welcomes and supports the Act.

Although the new offence is not part of health and safety law, it will introduce an important new element in the corporate management of health and safety. For guidance on the Act: [www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/manslaughterguidance.htm](http://www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/manslaughterguidance.htm)

### Ban on Bullying at Work 7<sup>th</sup> November 2007

Ban Bullying at Work Day this year, is centered on providing opportunities for both organisations and individuals to speak out on the issue of bullying at work.

Both the HSC and HSE strongly condemn any form of harassment or bullying at work. As such, HSE encourages organisations to address bullying as part of its wider Stress Programme.

For more information visit the banbullying website:  
[www.banbullyingatwork.com/](http://www.banbullyingatwork.com/)

### Health and Safety Statistics 2007

HSE will be publishing its health and safety statistics 2006/07 on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

The statistics will be downloadable from the HSE website at:

[www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/overpic.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/overpic.htm)

### Health, Work & Well-being - Dame Carol Black 'Calls for Evidence'

Earlier this year, the National Director for Health and Work, Dame Carol Black, was commissioned to undertake a review of the health of Britain's working age population. As part of that work, Dame Carol is seeking evidence to inform her review – and in particular is keen for responses to questions such as:

- How we can keep working age people healthy and how can the workplace be used to promote health?
- How can people best be helped to remain in or quickly return to work when they develop health conditions including chronic disease or disabilities?

The deadline for submissions is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007. For details about the review: [www.workingforhealth.gov.uk/Carol-Blacks-Review/Default.aspx](http://www.workingforhealth.gov.uk/Carol-Blacks-Review/Default.aspx)

### Better Backs Campaign 2007/08

HSE has teamed up with local authorities for the latest Better Backs Campaign: to tackle back pain and upper Limb disorders (ULDs) at work. This year the focus of the campaign will be on prevention of manual handling and ULD related injuries in the workplace.

HSE is encouraging employers and workers to work together to help people suffering from MH and ULDs return to normal activities, including work.

For more information on the campaign: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/msd/campaigns/index.htm>

## **World COPD Day 14<sup>TH</sup> November 2007**

World COPD Day is an annual event to improve awareness and care of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) around the world. It is organized by the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD):

<http://www.goldcopd.com/>

## **Consultation on EU regulation on Classification, labeling and packaging of chemicals**

The European Commission formally launched the proposed Regulation on classification, labeling and packaging of chemicals on 27 June 2007.

The Regulation is a major step forward in achieving a global system for identifying the hazards in chemicals and advising users of those hazards through labels.

The Health and Safety Commission (HSC) launched a 12 week consultation on the proposed European Regulation, based on the United Nation's Globally Harmonised System (GHS). The [Consultation](#) ends on 2 November.

## **Workplace Health Connect**

Workplace Health Connect is the confidential service designed by HSE to give free, practical advice on workplace health, safety and return to work issues, to smaller businesses (with 5 to 250 workers) in England and Wales.

The pilot was launched in February 2006 and is due to run till February 2008, with a final evaluation report of the pilot due in autumn 2008. Following the completion of the pilot, work will continue to refine the WHC occupational health advice delivery model with consideration given to broader scope to encompass the Health, Work and Wellbeing Agenda.

HSE will also continue to explore with other parts of Whitehall (e.g. DWP, DH) options for delivering a broad support service in partnership with NHS Plus, Regional Development Agencies and the Welsh Assembly.

Negotiations are continuing with the Welsh Assembly on the formation of a partnership to deliver a pilot of a new Service in 2008/09 building on the Workplace Health Connect infrastructure already in place in Wales.

HSE will also from January 2008, trail an alternate service in Milton Keynes in partnership with the Milton Keynes local authority.

Recent reports can be accessed via the HSE website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacehealth/latest.htm>

## **Collaboration ... the way forward for Occupational Health.**

The RCN Society of Occupational Health Nursing and Society of Occupational Medicine are holding a joint conference on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

The focus of the conference is '**partnership and collaboration**' between health care professionals working in the field of occupational health and/or others who have successfully worked OH services e.g. GPs, Practice and Community Nurses, Physiotherapists and Counselors.

The Government's Health, Work and Wellbeing strategy will be high on the agenda and the occupational health professional's role in supporting this will be addressed.

For details on how to book for this conference: [http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/event\\_details/rcn\\_events/event3396](http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/event_details/rcn_events/event3396)

## **Myth of the Month**

HSE continues its ongoing campaign to remove focus from trivia and bureaucracy and on to the risks that cause real harm and suffering. October's myth of the month 'Children were banned from riding at a donkey derby'.

For information on current and previous 'Myths of the Month':

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/index.htm>

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