



**Partners for Better Health at Work
Newsletter
Supplementary Issue April 2008**



Welcome to this supplementary issue of the **Partners for Better Health at Work Newsletter**.

In this edition we bring you news of **Dame Carol Black's Review** (published 17 March), and of the **HSC/E merger**.

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

Dame Carol Black's Review

The National Director for Health and Work, Dame Carol Black has published the first ever review into the health of the working age population. Titled '**Working for a Healthier Tomorrow**' the proposals in the report focus on keeping people healthy at work, and also on helping them return to work after illness.

The report recommends the launch of a new "fit for work" service to target people in the early stages of sickness.

Some of the recommendations in the report include:

- New Fit for Work service to be piloted for patients in early stages of sickness - if rolled out the aim would be to make work-related health support available to all
- If successful, Fit for Work should be extended to those on incapacity and other out of work benefits. The government should also expand provision of Pathways to Work to cover all on incapacity benefit
- Outdated paper-based sick note should be replaced with an electronic 'fit note', stating what people can do, not what they can't
- Occupational health should be brought into the mainstream of healthcare provision.

The Health and Safety Executive was involved in the evidence gathering stages of the process and see this report as another key step in continuing to raise the importance of the subjects of health and work.

For details of the report visit:

www.workingforhealth.gov.uk/Carol-Blacks-Review/

HSE/HSC Merger – Update

April 1 2008 - the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) announced the merger of the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to form a single national regulatory body, responsible for promoting the cause of better health and safety at work.

The merged body will be called the Health and Safety Executive and will provide greater clarity and transparency whilst maintaining its public accountability.

The 'new' HSE will retain its independent status, reflect the interests of employers, employees and local authorities and maintain commitment to service delivery.

It will be one organisation with a board of non executive directors. There is no change in health and safety requirements, how they are enforced or how stakeholders relate to us as the health and safety regulator – no health and safety protections will be removed. Individual enforcement decisions will continue to be taken by operational and local authority staff.

www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2008/apr/emp070-010408.asp

Scott now moves on to pastures new with effect from 7 April 2008. We all thank him for an excellent job on the Partners Newsletter. In future all enquiries should be forwarded to:

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