



Partners for Better Health at Work Newsletter

Issue 18

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Happy New Year! and welcome to issue 18 of the Partners for Better Health at Work Newsletter.

In this edition, we bring you updates on HSE's new strategy on Health and Safety, more updates on Health Work and Well Being, as well as various health and safety events across the UK.

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

The Government's Response to Dame Carol Black's review

The government response to Dame Carol Black's review '[Improving health and work: changing lives](#)' was published on 25 November 2008.

The Response takes forward the Government's vision of creating a society where the positive links between work and health are recognised by all and everyone can aspire to a healthy and fulfilling working life, where health conditions and disabilities are not a bar to enjoying the benefits of work.

DH, DWP and HSE continue to work together with Scottish Executive and Wales Assembly Government to achieve recommended objectives.

For more details on the govt response visit -

<http://www.workingforhealth.gov.uk/News-and-updates/Default.aspx>

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION – HSE'S new strategy on Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has launched a consultation on its new strategy: 'The Health and Safety of Great Britain. Be Part of the Solution'.

HSE's decision to develop a new strategy has been prompted by a range of factors. These include: the recent slowing of improvement in Great Britain's (GB) health and safety performance; the changing industrial landscape with an increase of small businesses and the self-employed; the

different risks posed by new sectors, and the need to regain the health and safety brand from those who misuse it.

The strategy, which is resetting the direction for health and safety, sets out a number of goals to be achieved, including:

- Encouraging strong leadership and championing a common sense approach to health and safety;
- To reinforce the promotion of worker involvement and consultation in H&S issues throughout unionised and non-unionised workplaces,
- Building the competence of those charged with delivering health and safety in workplaces;
- Customising the support for small businesses to help them comply with their health and safety obligations, and
- Avoiding catastrophes in GB's high hazard industries.

You can read more on the strategy at <http://intranet/strategy/strategyconsultation.htm>

'Health and Safety and Worker Involvement'

Judith Hackitt, Chair of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has emphasised the important role of safety representatives in achieving successful management of workplace health and safety.

Judith Hackitt was delivering the keynote speech to safety representatives attending the 'Health and Safety and Worker Involvement' conference held by the TUC's Southern and Eastern Region (SERTUC) in November 2008.

She outlined HSE's views of worker involvement, and how HSE intended to build on the success of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to continue to improve workplace health and safety in the 21st century.

New guidance for involving employees in managing workplace health and safety was launched in October 2008. The guidance has been brought right up-to-date to reflect

the current diversity of working arrangements.

For more details visit:

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

The Health and Safety Offences Act 2008: HSE Chair Judith Hackitt welcomes tougher penalties

The Health and Safety Offences Act 2008 comes into force on Friday, 16 January 2009. The Act fulfils a longstanding Government and HSE commitment to provide the courts with greater sentencing powers for health and safety crimes.

The full text of the Act can be found at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2008/ukpga_20080020_en_1

Kirklees Better Health at Work project: Final report

The final report of the Kirklees Better Health at Work project has been published. The overall aim of this research was to contribute to an understanding of the delivery of support and advice to small and medium sized businesses and individuals through the Kirklees based Better Health at Work pilot project.

The report documents the outcomes of the four main components of the project:

- marketing and promotional activities;
- telephone adviceline and website providing OH&S support and guidance and signposting to other services;
- occupational health advice, delivered to individual workers and/or their employers; occupational health and safety support and advice, delivered on site to SMEs and their employees.

The report showed: (i) benefits that emerged from partnership working (ii) calls to adviceline lower than originally anticipated (iii) wide range of topics addressed on consultations not just OH (IV) workers contacted confirmed that advice had increased their knowledge and confidence. It was a challenge to keep

SMEs engaged but those that did showed definite improvement.

For more details visit

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr670.htm>

MSD – Tyre handling workshops

HSE, working with the National Tyre Distributors Association and the British Tyre Manufacturers Association, is staging a country wide series of workshops to draw attention to the dangers of handling tyres. The workshops start on 28th January with the first event in Warrington.

For more details visit

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/msd/events/tyrehandling.htm>

Health and Safety in Care Homes

HSE, LACORS and CSCI are working together to deliver 16 half day seminars at various locations across England and Scotland for owners and managers of nursing and residential care homes. The seminars will provide information and guidance to care home managers and owners on their health and safety duties, key causes and prevention of injuries and ill health including slips and trips, moving and handling, hot water, hot surfaces windows and bedrails.

The first of the seminars will be held at Lanarkshire, Scotland on February 4 2009.

For more details visit

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/campaigns/conferences/chws.htm>

Myth of the Month

January 2009 debunks the myth that if you ask HSE for advice/help you are likely to end up with an unwanted inspection. Also you can now download a Myth of the Month calendar. For more details click on:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/jan09.htm>

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