

Working For a Healthier Tomorrow in Bradford

Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum organised a major seminar at Manningham Mills on Wednesday 24th September based around Dame Carol Black’s review of the health of the working age population ‘Working For a Healthier Tomorrow’.

Dame Carol Black addressed the Seminar and she called for a National Occupational Health Service, which is a welcome plea. Other speakers at the seminar were local key players who are involved with occupational health and safety in Bradford. Dame Carol also invited Bradford to apply to run a pilot Fit4Work service.

Andrew Mawson, Chair of Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum introduced the speakers and chaired the seminar. Speaking was John Hamilton from Bradford and Bingley Building Society, who talked about how reducing stress levels is good for business; Susan Gee Bradford Council’s Occupational Health Manager spoke about how the council is collaborating with GPs to look after its staff; and Hilda Palmer a senior campaigner from Manchester Hazards spoke about the black holes in the provision of work related ill health.

Eleanor Green an independent consultant facilitated a plenary discussion at the end of the seminar and is to help draw up a plan for the next steps that can be taken.

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HSE and Bradford Council put City’s businesses on alert

For a two-week period, beginning 20th October, 13 inspectors hit the streets of Bradford in an attempt to improve standards of health and safety.

All companies in the selected areas were visited by either a HSE inspector, or an Environmental Health Officer from the Local Authority. The types of premises visited included retail outlets, garages, engineers, and many others. The size of businesses ranged from the self-employed to larger companies with 25+ employees.

During the two-week period x companies were visited and both managers and employees were provided with advice and guidance on various health and safety topics. There was a need for enforcement action to be carried out in some instances with 54 Improvement Notices and 10 Prohibition Notices being issued.

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TENO
Hands
To
HEALING
Hands



New publication about repetitive strain injury

In 1995 Jenny was diagnosed with a chronic form of repetitive strain injury which left her life in pieces. This is an inspirational tale of how Jenny and her family coped with everyday life after her diagnosis, and how Jenny battled through adversity and has managed to heal herself of her condition.

Jenny’s story will inspire anyone who lives with a long term chronic health condition and will also give employers a better understanding of the consequences of work induced injuries. Jenny is a woman to be admired, not only has she fought her own disability and won, she has also spread awareness of repetitive strain injuries in the work place throughout the United Kingdom.

‘TENO Hands To HEALING Hands’ (ISBN 0-9547113-1-9) is available from 24th September 2008 priced £6.99. Please contact the Workers’ Health Advice Team (WHAT), Unison Offices, 2nd Floor Auburn House, Upper Piccadilly, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD1 3NU Tel: 01274 393949

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Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum is acting as a 'ginger group' to encourage the Primary Care Trust and the Council to lead on occupational health and safety and look after the health of the working people of Bradford.

The Forum is an expert reference group made up of a Working Group of representatives of public, private, voluntary and trade union organisations in Bradford. The Forum also raises awareness about occupational health and safety legislation and good practice amongst its several hundred members who are local employers.

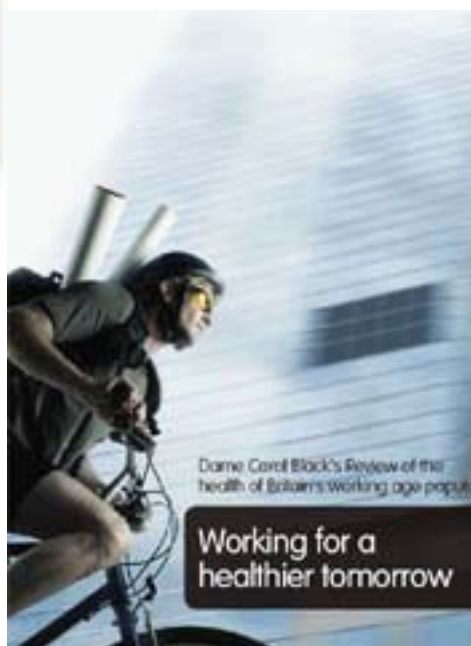


We have a two tier system at present with occupational health in Bradford, with Statutory organisations and large companies having services for workers but smaller businesses (82% of businesses in Bradford employ 1-10 people) have no occupational health care provision.

The Forum is stimulating joined up thinking between Bradford Council and Bradford and Airedale tPCT and is to produce a report from the Working for a Healthier Tomorrow seminar to present to representatives of the Economic Partnership and the Health and Well being Partnership of the new Bradford District Partnership (formerly Bradford Vision).

Not only do we need to provide occupational health services for all workers we need to insist on the provision of good jobs that keep people well.

All the presentations from the seminar can be found on our website along with videocasts of Dame Black and Eleanor Green at the seminar see the events tab on www.baohsf.org.uk



HSE statistics can be found on <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/overall/hssh0708.pdf?ebul=stats/oct-08&>

Hazards Campaign

Hazards Campaign Challenge
HSE figures on health and safety statistics

The Hazards Campaign estimates that each year:

12% of all cancer deaths are work-related which suggests 18,000 deaths, compared to the HSE's 6,000;

15-20% of obstructive lung disease deaths are work related, which is about 6,000 deaths;

20% of heart disease deaths are work-related, which is about 20,000;

plus 6,000 for deaths from all other work-related causes including restrictive respiratory diseases. Which gives a possible estimate of up to 50,000 dying from occupational disease each year.

For more information contact Hilda Palmer 0161 636 7557



The European Campaign for Safety and Health at Work for 2008-09 focuses on risk assessment.

A two-year campaign is aimed at a wide range of stakeholders, including employers, workers and safety representatives, and is intended to promote the benefits of completing and implementing a risk assessment. The campaign seeks to demystify the risk assessment process to show that risk assessment is not necessarily complicated, bureaucratic or a task only for experts.

The campaign also aims to raise awareness on this issue, provide information and practical advice, encourage activities that have a positive impact in the workplace, and identify and recognise good practice.

Small and medium businesses feature prominently here, as they alone represent 82% of the total number of occupational accidents and 90% of the total number of fatal accidents. The construction, farming, transportation and health industries are among the sectors most affected.

Apart from the sometimes tragic individual consequences, the loss of earnings to employees and employers is considerable. The loss of income linked to work absences in fact costs European workers around a billion euros a year. As for employers, they have to bear the costs associated with sickness benefit, the replacement of absent staff and a loss of productivity, a good part of which is not covered by insurance.

Work-related illnesses and accidents are thus a heavy burden for the entire European economy.

Improving workers' health and safety is therefore a key element of the objectives in the area of growth and employment for the European Union. Improving health and safety at work is in effect supporting the growth and competitiveness of each business, and therefore of the whole European Union.

This is just what the campaign by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) is about, concerning risk assessment

within every business. Indeed, assessment means raising awareness and bringing about accountability in employers in dealing with the possible dangers present in their businesses. While assessment is a simple approach that requires no special skills, what is at stake is considerable: it represents the first step in an occupational illness and accident prevention policy within each business. This campaign is an integral part of a much wider approach by the European Commission: a five-year strategy which is aiming for a 25% reduction in occupational accidents by 2012.

Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum has organised a free Seminar on Sensible Risk Management to be held at Manningham Mills 9.30 - 12 on the 4th Dec.

[Bradford District Chamber of Trade - Stakeholder pension schemes in the workplace](#)

Bradford Chamber of Trade recognises that should the Government decide that every workplace has to provide a Stakeholder Pension scheme it may be very time consuming for many small businesses to set up and they may not know how to go about it.

Ring Val Summerscales from the Chamber for details on a scheme they are promoting. Tel 01274 635637

The common issues that resulted in enforcement action included:

- no thorough examination and testing of extraction systems;
- no thorough examination and testing of lifting equipment
- poor management of hand arm vibration exposure
- poor management of working at height practices
- poor welfare facilities

These could lead to either, serious problems with ill health, or an injury to employees. Several companies will be receiving follow-up visits in the forthcoming months to ensure they have made the necessary improvements.

HSE and Bradford Council will now work alongside the Bradford Occupational Health and Safety Forum to organise a free seminar that will look to address some of these issues. The seminar will be open to all companies in the Bradford area and will take place in the new year. For updated information please visit the Forum's website early in 2009.

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

www.bradford.gov.uk



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[see the Forum website at www.baohsf.org.uk](http://www.baohsf.org.uk)

 To receive newsletters, seminar lists and keep in touch please complete this forum membership slip

Name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

Business Type _____

Post Code _____ E-mail _____

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