



Andrew Mawson reports on his experiences from his first year as Forum Chair.

Page 2 & 3 Praise for the Forum
Page 4 Development Workers report - awards and all
Page 5 Bradford Occupational Health Project/WHAT
Page 6 The Working Group
Page 8 Lord McKenzie comments on the Forum

2006-2009” strategy achieving many of our goals and will over the next months be developing a new strategy to take us in to 2010 and beyond.

It has been my pleasure to Chair the Forum’s seminars and I think you will agree that we can all look back on a successful year with many interesting and challenging speakers.

We have promoted Dame Carol Black’s Review “Working For A Healthier Tomorrow” and were honoured that Dame Carol accepted our invitation to speak at the September 2008 Seminar where Bradford & District were invited to apply to take part in the Fit For Work Service Pilots. The Forum participated in the district’s bid and is continuing to work within the Bradford District Partnership participating in a review of occupational health services.

Finally I would like to thank our part time Forum worker Jane Howie who is the glue within our organisation, editing our newsletter, making arrangements for the seminars and liaising between Working Group members outside of our formal meetings to ensure the smooth running of our organisation.



"I can't stress enough that to substantially improve the health and well-being of working-age Britons, we must work in partnership. The public, private and voluntary sectors, trade unions and providers of public health services can work together successfully and the Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum is a prime example of how to synergise these different groups. The benefits of fostering healthy workplaces and helping people to stay in good work are great for us all. I look forward to seeing the Forum continue to thrive as a champion of the health and work agenda."

The Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum Working Group is recognised nationally as a model of cooperation in our field.

I have been proud to Chair this diverse Working Group over the last year and would like to thank, the Working Group members from Enforcement Agencies, Public & Private Sector Employers, Trades Unions, Health Services and Voluntary Sector organisations who all give their time and resources free of charge, making our Seminars, Newsletters and Web Site something Bradford & District can rightly be proud of.

Over the last year the Forum has progressed further our “Securing Health Together in Bradford District

Praise for the Forum

Report from Graham Reay - Working Group member



Sitting in the magnificent Banqueting suite in Bradford's City Hall, I had just listened to the feedback from the HSE inspector who had just run the workshop.

I reflected

I had just been one of about 30 delegated who had taken part in an excellent risk assessment workshop. You would have thought that it was rather a "bread and butter" topic which we had all done before. True but this was imaginative. It had been based on an actual fatal accident and we had use of a model of the machinery and all worked enthusiastically in groups representing the various parties unions management etc

It had been great, everyone felt they had learnt something and we had enjoyed it, a rare combination. This had been free to the delegates and about 100 different organisations had come together for a few hours, networking, sharing views, re-energising.

I thought what a great organisation the forum is.

What if we had this reciprocated up and down the land, just think how safer the place would be?

It would be a great tragedy if anything happened to reduce our effectiveness.

Chris Flint Principle HSE Inspector



'I have been involved with the BAOHSF over the last 3 years as a member of the Working Group representing the Health and Safety Executive. I am impressed with the dedication shown by all the volunteers on the committee and the part time Development Worker of the BAOHSF who all continuously strive to improve the working conditions of the population of Bradford and surrounding area.

In recent times the Forum has continued to provide high quality information on health and safety issues to organisations and their workforces at seminars and through newsletters and the website. It has

also ensured that Bradford is at forefront of responding locally to the Government's Health and Well Being Agenda.

The Forum is all the more effective by being a partnership of trade union organisations and public, private and voluntary sector representatives. This puts it in a special position which is able to take account of all opinions on occupational health and safety in the area.

I hope the Forum continues to receive the support it deserves in the future so it can go from strength to strength in supporting local business and employees.'

Helen Tomlin from Thompsons Solicitors



The work of the BAOHSF is of vital importance in raising awareness of Health and Safety issues in our region. Their free seminars are interesting and informative, and an excellent way to keep up to date with local and national health and safety issues and initiatives.



Ann Cryer MP

“Health and safety is a subject that always deserves priority. The need for it never goes away. As work places change there are still health implications and that is why Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum is so important. People should be able to go to work without coming to any harm and the forum helps achieve that for many.”



Cllr Ian Greenwood

I would wish to commend the Forum for all of its hard work over the past year. I believe it makes a major contribution to the well being of workers throughout the district and I hope and trust that it will continue to do so for many years to come.



Professor Rory O'Neill

The Forum plays a high profile role and nationally recognised role promoting best practice on work and health. At a time when health and safety is portrayed repeatedly as a “burden”, BAOHSF’s award-winning team instead demonstrate to its broad-based and growing audience how straightforward measures can and do make work safer, healthier and better.

Val Summerscales - Bradford Chamber of Trade

“ Bradford District Chamber of Trade are delighted to have a working partnership with BAOHSF. Our membership benefits from the up to date information provided by the Forum and are able to attend the many and varied Seminars advising of relevant and important changes to legislation. We wish the Forum continued success and thank them for their ongoing support “



Cllr Dale Smith



“I am delighted that Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum have stimulated the setting up of a Health Work and Wellbeing Task Group in Bradford and that they have secured funding for a further six months.

I hope that the work the Forum does around engaging employers receives more sustainable funding because the Forum plays a crucial role in helping to raise the competence of local employers with regard to their understanding and the implementation of their health and safety duties.”

Cllr Jeanette Sunderland



Investment in occupational health and safety is money well spent. At a time when many companies are under financial pressure the Council and its partner must do all it can to promote the economic case for investing in the health and well being of employees and ensure easy access to help and information for employees and employers.



Development Workers report

The aim of the Forum is to develop the network, raise awareness of and promote occupational health and safety across the Bradford District.

Over the last year we have run four seminars, produced four Well @ Work newsletters, maintained a high attendance at our seminars and increased our member database which has now reached over 700 employers in the Bradford District.

Apart from this, the Forum has been working on implementing its Securing Health Together in the Bradford District 2006-2009 strategy for local Occupational Health and Safety. The strategy is becoming more and more reflected and supported in other local strategies, plans and actions.

Some of the main local actions in our strategy we have been progressing in the last year include:

LA 1.4 Facilitating the development of expert groups around particular issues

LA 2.7 Ensuring the Forum is recognised as the major partnership for occupational health and safety in the district

LA 2.9 Exploring the return to work agenda with other organisations

LA 3.15 Inviting expert groups to identify gaps in the provision of occupational health and safety data

LA 4.24 Lobbying Government to get better occupational health support services

LA 4.25 Identifying gaps in the provision of advice on Occupational Health and Wellbeing and supporting the development of programmes to tackle this.

The National Director of Occupational Health Dame Carol Black led a review of the health of Britain's working age population "Working For A Healthier Tomorrow" This report set out challenges which must be met if a significant and sustainable improvement in the health of Britain's working age population is to be realised. Carol Black believes that today industrial diseases are not the problem; the big problem is now mild mental health and mild muscular skeletal disorders. Overall the cost of working age ill health is £100 billion a year. Dame Black said that prevention of ill health is the answer along with early intervention.

Dame Black believes there is a lack of understanding by employers especially in SMEs (Small to Medium Enterprises), who do not have resources to buy in health and wellbeing initiatives. Dame Black believes in FREE occupational health and wellbeing services for SMEs and believes that many SMEs who do not have basic policies such as mental health policies should be provided with FREE advice on how to produce them.

Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum paid for Eleanor Green, an independent consultant in Health improvement policy, practice and partnerships to put together a 'Working for a Healthier Tomorrow in Bradford' proposal for the Health and Wellbeing Partnership. That would help integrate Occupational Health Safety and Wellbeing into the new joint planning arrangements and the development of an action plan. Following on from this a report was presented to Bradford's Health and Wellbeing Partnership and to the Employment and Skills Board.

A Health Work and Wellbeing Task Group has now been established. So we have managed to help get occupational health and safety onto the agenda of a major joint partnership in Bradford, of which we are very proud.

The photograph in the top left hand side of the page is of Judith Hackett, Chair of the HSE giving an award to the Forum last year for the seminars and good communications strategy.

Jane Howie, Development Worker

Bradford Occupational Health Project /WHAT and the Forum working together

Over the past year the Forum has been working very closely with the Bradford Occupational Health Project and its Workers' Health Advice Team. The Forum and WHAT compliment each other, with WHAT mainly working with employees and BAOHSF mainly working with employers. The Forum was originally set up because of recommendations made by Bradford Occupational Health Project.

The Workers' Health Advice Team (WHAT) is an independent health and safety FREE service for people in the Bradford District. WHAT helps individual workers with health and safety problems, such as stress, bullying, repetitive work, noisy or dusty work and heavy lifting.

WHAT also offers advice on health and safety law and claiming compensation or benefits for work injuries and sickness. It offers advice to those with management responsibility for health and safety in voluntary organisations and small businesses, in particular through health and safety training.

Doves fly over city hall for Bradford Workers' Memorial Day 2009

White doves were released over Bradford City Hall on the annual workers memorial to remember the dead and fighting for living on 28th April during International Workers Memorial Day. Each dove represented 2000 workers who have been killed at or because of their work in the UK in the last year.



WHAT short courses are activity based and aim to give participants the knowledge to undertake their workplace health and safety responsibilities in a practical and efficient way. Follow up support is available to participants through an advice line.

Over seventy five people joined in the memorial where Carol Duerden from Bradford Safety Reps Association led the memorial which included a minutes silence and a short speech before the dove release. The doves were released by the family and friends of people who have lost their loved ones due to work. The doves flew over city hall where the flags had been lowered to half mast to honor Bradford Workers' who have lost their lives.

According to Hazards Campaigners' approximately 50,000 workers died in the UK due to work-related accidents and illnesses, much of these are because of exposure to carcinogenic chemicals in the workplace. Jane Howie speaking on behalf of Bradford Safety Reps Association said "The human cost is immeasurably great, when someone dies because of their work they are not the only victim, on average eight loved ones are severely affected".

"The memorial helps to give us strength to step up the campaign to stop the exposure of workers to carcinogens and other life threatening hazards in the workplace".



The Working Group 08/09

The Steering Group is made up of 16 representatives from the following. Health Services, Bradford Council, Enforcement Agencies (Environmental Protection and Health and Safety Executive), other public sector, Trade Unions, Voluntary Sector and the Private Sector.

The Forum is enjoying strong links with the HSE, a Principle Officer sits on our Working Group.

The Forum has a very good relationship with its membership which includes Small Businesses and is in a great position to help raise awareness about current issues that impact on occupational well-being.

The Forum is now part of a new Work and Health Task Group.

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Our Seminars

Over the last few years we have run seminar on the following:

2004: Accident Prevention; Drugs Testing; New Regulations; SHOT – Securing Healthy Occupations Together H&S week event.

2005: Health Safety and Welfare of Women at work; Is your workplace fit – Risk assessments for special workers; Violence in the Workplace; Noise – H&S Week event.

2006: Smoke free Workplaces; Health Work and Well Being; Young Workers – Health and Safety Week event; Fire Safety Order

2007: Smokefree Implementation; Cancer and Chemicals; CDM regulations; Lighten the Load MSDs;

2008: Textile Industry/Safety and Health Awareness; Looking after Mental Health and Well-Being at work; Working for a Healthier Tomorrow with Dame Carol Black; Sensible Risk Assessment

2009: Sensible Risk Assessment II; After the Inspector Called; Dispelling the Myths around the Employment of Disabled People





Quote from Lord McKenzie

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for
DWP and DCLG

“Helping to improve worker health, reduce sickness absence and improve business productivity has never been more important.

If we are to reduce the impact of ill-health on individuals, society and the economy we need to join up health and employment services and offer improved support and advice to workers and employers.

I was very impressed with the team from Bradford Occupational Health Project, who have been focused on these issues for many years. I give them every encouragement with their work and hope to be able to see the project first hand at some point soon.”

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see the Forum website at www.baohsf.org.uk



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

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Organisation _____

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