

SECURING HEALTH TOGETHER IN THE BRADFORD DISTRICT

A LOCAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY STRATEGY 2003 – 2006

2nd DRAFT (7th March 2003)

Consultation document produced by:

Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum

The Forum is a partnership of public, private, voluntary and trade union organisations working together to improve the health, safety and well being of people at work.

www.bradfordsafetyforum.org.uk

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1 INTRODUCTION

The importance of occupational health and safety is apparent to anyone who has seen what happens when health and safety fails. Those who suffer most are the injured, the ill and the bereaved, but everyone loses from poor health and safety; employers and employees; consumers and the providers of public services. The Health and Safety Executive has estimated the financial cost to the nation as £18 billion every year.

Securing Health Together in Bradford District– A local occupational health and safety strategy 2003-2006 outlines proposals for the Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum to work in partnership to improve occupational health and safety in the district in line with the Government's long-term occupational health strategy for England, Scotland and Wales *Securing Health Together* (HSC, 2000).

2 BRADFORD AREA OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY FORUM

The Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum is the major partnership concerned with occupational health and safety in the District. Members are drawn from enforcement agencies, health services, employers, employees, trade unions and voluntary organisations.

The Health and Safety Commission (HSC) awarded the Forum its Yorkshire Regional Award in 2000, 2001 and 2002, and a National Award in 2000, in recognition of the Forum's support for the European Week for Safety and Health.

The Forum is a unique partnership working together to improve the health, safety and well being of people at work. The Forum has been supported with funding from Bradford Council's Department of Environmental Protection and Waste Management, and the Districts Four Primary Care Trusts (PCTs)

The Forum has a website www.bradfordsafetyforum.org.uk produces a regular newsletter, holds open meetings on issues of interest to members, and promotes occupational health and safety.

3. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Government's national occupational health strategy *Securing Health Together* (HSC, 2000) suggests organisations should work together to:

- Reduce ill health both in workers and the public, caused or made worse at work.
- Help people who have been ill, whether caused by work or not, to return to work.
- Improve work opportunities for people currently not in employment due to ill health or disability.
- Use the work environment to help people maintain or improve their health.

The Government's national strategy set the following targets:

- A 20% reduction in the incidence of work-related ill health
- A 20% reduction in ill health to members of the public caused by work activity;
- A 30% reduction in the number of work days lost due to work related ill health
- Everyone currently in employment but off work due to ill health or disability is, where necessary and appropriate, made aware of opportunities for rehabilitation back into work as early as possible;
- Everyone currently not in employment due to ill health or disability is, where necessary and appropriate, made aware of and offered opportunities to prepare for and find work

Securing Health Together states:

"These headline targets are designed to focus and inspire action. For the strategy to succeed interested parties must contribute, setting their own targets appropriate to their work and associated ill health problems. Action in all workplaces will make a difference. All interested parties, including individuals, large and small employers, trade unions, health professionals, Local Authorities and other Government bodies, have an important role to play if we are to make an impact on the burden of ill health".

The Government has suggested 5 key programmes of work relating to:

- Improving compliance with the law
- Continuous improvement
- Obtaining knowledge
- Improving competence and skills
- Ensuring support and advice mechanisms are in place

The Forum is keen to ensure that the Government's strategy is reflected and supported in local strategies, plans and actions especially the:

- Health Chapter of the Community Plan
- Primary Care Trust Business Plans and Local Delivery Plans
- Draft Healthy Bradford Strategy
- Education Bradford Strategy
- Children and Young People's Strategy
- Regional Economic Strategy and Local Economic Action Plans

The Yorkshire and Humberside Occupational Health Development Group, is looking at workplace health, safety and well being activity at the Yorkshire and Humber level. It is envisaged that the Forums activity will support and compliment this regional activity.

The Forum will work with local partnerships to try to ensure occupational health and safety issues are incorporated in local plans and strategies. The Forum will try to ensure occupational health and safety features in the overarching Partnership Strategy for the District 'Delivering the Vision 2002-2007 – The Community Strategy for the Bradford District produced in 2002 by Bradford Vision the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

The Forum has worked with a consultant over the last 6 months to produce this strategy document as a local interpretation of the national strategy. The Forum went through a planning process during which 3 key documents were produced:

- *Towards a Bradford Area Framework for 'Securing Health Together'*. Outlined the current situation with regard to occupational health and safety in the district and suggested the need for a strategy.
- *Draft Securing Health Together in the Bradford District – A local occupational health and safety strategy 2003 – 2006*. This draft document outlines local actions which can be carried out with the involvement of other organisations.
- *Action Plan for Securing Health Together in the Bradford District - A local occupational health and safety strategy 2003 – 2006*. Gives more detail about the work required to progress each local action and lists contacts within the Forum who will support the work.

4 A Local Occupational Health and Safety Strategy 2003-2006

There are 5 programmes in the national strategy *Securing Health Together*. For each programme, the Forum has identified local actions these are listed with lead organisations, who will be invited to work with the Forum to progress these actions.

Programme 1- Improving Compliance with the Law

The Forum will:

1 Allocate one of the regular Forum meetings to health and safety representatives, publicise it widely, invite relevant speakers and explore the possibility of more regular meetings for health and safety representatives to increase their involvement in promoting 'compliance with the law'.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

2 Produce a leaflet with local statistical information on the economic benefits of addressing occupational health for local businesses, and to help local strategic planning.

Lead: Bradford Occupational Health and Safety Forum to commission.

3 Identify 'priority groups' for enforcement and develop a rolling programme of events in conjunction with the Forum to raise awareness of the law and how to comply with it among those groups (e.g. small businesses, users of dangerous agents).

Lead: HSE, Environmental Protection, Education Bradford, Workers Health Advice Team, Keighley Worksafe and Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

4 Facilitate the development of expert groups around particular industries and issues to encourage the sharing and spread of good occupational health and safety practice.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

5 Take appropriate action when concerns about occupational health and safety are raised through voluntary sector groups.

Lead: Bradford Occupational Health Project, Workers Health Advice Team, Keighley Worksafe, and Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

6 Establish steps being taken to enforce employment regulations relating to young people of school age.

Lead: Education Bradford, Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum

7 Liase with Business Link West Yorkshire, Job Centre Plus, the West Yorkshire Learning and Skills Council, and the West Yorkshire Economic Action Plan to explore the possibility of developing a scheme to encourage and support employers make reasonable adjustments to working arrangements for people with disabilities.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum to commission.

Programme 2 – Continuous Improvement

The Forum will:

8 Ensure the Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum is recognised as the major partnership for occupational health and safety in the District, by relevant agencies and other relevant partnerships. Encourage the HSE, Environmental Protection, Bradford Council, Yorkshire Forward, Chamber of Commerce, Bradford Vision, Education Bradford, Primary Care Trusts, West Yorkshire Health Authority, and other relevant organisations, to support the ongoing funding of the Forum, and consult with the Forum on major strategic documents especially those relating to or potentially relating to occupational health and safety. Ensure key bodies are represented on the Forum.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum to commission.

9 Take part in relevant award schemes with an occupational health component and encourage other organisations to do so.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

10 Liase with Business Link West Yorkshire, Job Centre Plus, West Yorkshire Learning and Skills Council, and Yorkshire Forward (the producers of the West Yorkshire Sub-Regional Action Plan of the Regional Economic Strategy), to explore the possibility of developing a scheme, to encourage and support employers to make reasonable adjustments to working arrangements so that, as far as practicable, people are not excluded from work due to ill health or disability.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum to commission.

11 Provide specialist advice and support to workers whose health has been affected by their work but who do not have access to occupational health services.

Lead: Keighley Worksafe, Bradford Occupational Health Project, Workers Health Advice Team and Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

12 Liase with Job Centre Plus Disability Office, Primary Care Trusts and Yorkshire Forward (the producers of the West Yorkshire Sub-Regional Action Plan of the Regional Economic Strategy) to explore the possibility of developing an initiative, to publicise and help create opportunities for people who are being made ill by work to help them return to work.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

13 Consider how more work based health promotion activity can take place in work place settings.

Lead: Bradford District Health Development Service, and Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum to commission

Programme 3 - Obtaining Knowledge

The Forum will:

14 Review available local occupational health and safety data, identify any gaps and areas of concern requiring further research

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum to commission

15 Invite expert groups around priority industries and issues to review available local occupational health and safety data, and identify any gaps and areas of concern requiring further research.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum to commission.

16 Work with the newly established Yorkshire and the Humberside Occupational Health Group to ensure that local interests are represented and help the Group develop work around the Health Development Agency proposals for workplace health standards.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

Programme 4 - Improving Competence and Skills

The Forum will:

17 Review Occupational Health and Safety skills required locally and identify any gaps in training provision.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum to commission.

18 Develop an occupational health and safety training plan or training directory for Bradford District to include all sectors.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum to commission.

19 Encourage health and safety considerations to be included as part of the school curriculum.

Lead: Education Bradford.

20 Encourage and support the development of innovative work with young people in the voluntary sector e.g. the Keighley Worksafe Stay Safe Experience which involves young people and also addresses railway safety.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

21 Encourage steps to prevent musculo-skeletal problems arising in young people through carrying heavy loads and keyboard use.

Lead: Education Bradford, and Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

22 Encourage local higher education establishments to include health and safety as a component of relevant management and professional training courses.

Lead: Health and Safety Executive to approach establishments.

23 Identify how many GP's have an occupational health qualification and how many provide occupational health services to others

Lead: Primary Care Trusts, and Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

24 Use the regular meetings and seminars from the Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum to provide opportunities for people to gain skills around occupational health and safety.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

25 Consult widely with large organisations, particularly those with a specific interest in occupational health and safety, to establish if there are any further ways the Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum can help to provide opportunities for people to gain skills around occupational health and safety.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

Programme 5 - Ensuring Support and Advice Mechanisms are in Place

The Forum will:

26 Lobby the Government to ensure new legislation on the accessibility and availability of occupational health support is appropriate for the Bradford District.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

27 Identify gaps in the provision of information, advice and other support and develop a programme of actions to tackle them.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum to commission.

28 Widely publicise through the newsletter, leaflets, press releases and website the information advice and support on occupational health and safety available to communities.

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

29 Review information, advice and other support services to ensure they are provided in a format appropriate for the different target audiences

Lead: Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum to commission

30 Provide information, advice and other support services to people who cannot access other occupational health services.

Lead: Keighley Worksafe, Bradford Occupational Health Project, Workers Health Advice Team, Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

Appendix 1

REFERENCES

National Documents

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2. NHS Plan, Department of Health, 2000.
3. The Occupational Health Advisory Committee Report and Recommendations on improving access to occupational health support. Health and Safety Commission.
4. Revitalising Health and Safety: Strategy Statement, Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, June 2000.
5. Securing Health Together, Health and Safety Commission, July 2000.
6. Strategic Plan 2001-2004, Health and Safety Commission, March 2001.
7. HELA Strategy 2001-2004, an Action Plan for Revitalising Health and Safety in the Local Authority Enforced Sector, March 2001.
8. Employability and Health, John Griffiths and Ava Fine, Health Development Agency, 2001.

Regional District and Local References

9. Local Modernisation Review (LMR) Stage 1 and 2, 2001.
10. Health Improvement and Modernisation Plan (HIMP) 2002-2005, 2002
11. Primary Care Trust (PCT) Business Plans, 2002.
12. Bradford Council Environmental Protection and Waste Management Strategic Statement, 2002.
13. Delivering the Vision 2002-2007 – The Community Strategy for the Bradford District, 2002.
14. Volume 7 Bradford and District, Economic Profile, Bradford and District Training and Enterprise Council and City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, 2001.
15. Bradford Council Department of Environmental Protection and Waste Management, Health and Safety Service Plan, 2002.

16. Towards a Bradford Area Framework for 'Securing Health Together'
January 2003
17. Action Plan for Securing Health Together in Bradford District – A Local
Occupational Health and Safety Strategy 2003 – 2006 March 2003

Appendix 2

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Appendix 3

BRADFORD AREA OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY FORUM – ORGANISATIONAL LINKS

National

Health and Safety Executive
National Hazards Campaign
NHS

Regional

Business Link West Yorkshire
Government Office Yorkshire and Humberside
Health and Safety Executive
Job Centre Plus
West Yorkshire Learning and Skills Council
West Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority
Yorkshire and Humberside Occupational Health Development Group
Yorkshire Forward

District

Bradford Fire Prevention Group
Bradford Vision
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Education Bradford
Healthy Bradford Group
Healthy Community Funding Team
Health Improvement Forum
Health Improvement Partnership
Local Public Health Network

Local

Airedale Primary Care Trust
Airedale NHS Trust
Bradford City Primary Care Trust
Bradford District Primary Care Trust
Bradford Hospitals NHS Trust
Bradford Occupational Health Project / Workers Health Advice Team
Bradford South West Primary Care Trust
Bradford TUC
Health of Men (Healthy Living Centre)
Keighley SRB
Keighley TUC
Keighley Worksafe
North Bradford Primary Care Trust

If you would like additional copies of this document or further details about the work of the Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum, please contact:

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