



## Bradford Occupational Health and Safety Forum awarded by Lords

The new year brought a welcome invitation for the Forum. Chair of Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum, Carol Duerden and Development Worker, Jane Howie, on behalf of the Forum, were presented with two Alan Butler Awards for Excellence 2007 at the House of Lords on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January.

Judith Hackett (Chair of HSC) presented the awards whilst Lord Braugham and Vaux (Deputy Chairman of the House of Lords) announced the winners. Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum received the awards for its 'Highly Commended' work for both producing the best seminar on occupational health and safety in the UK and also for having the best communications strategy of all Safety Groups in the UK.

The seminar award was for the European Health and Safety week event organised

by the Forum which was entitled 'Lightening the Load in Bradford' and was about Musculoskeletal Disorders.

The best communications award has been given for the relevant topics, information, presentation, impact and target population of the Forum website.

Carol Duerden said "it is nice to receive recognition for all the hard work the Forum does".

Jane Howie said "It is fantastic for us to win this award and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Working Group members for all their support in helping to prevent the causes of occupational ill health and their commitment to tackling health inequalities and promoting reasonable adjustments in the workplace."



Page 2 Employ Disability.

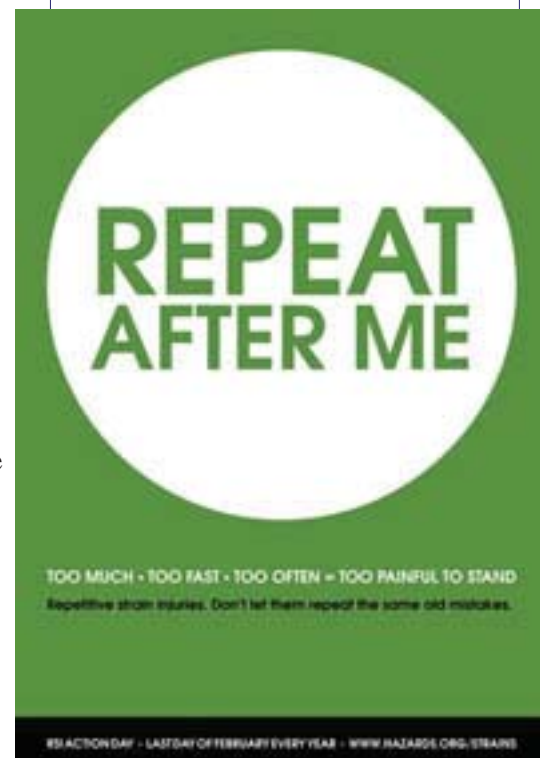
Pathways to work .

Page 3 The Corporate Manslaughter Act.

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Contacts, membership.



**Too much -  
too fast -  
too often**

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**Too painful to stand**

RSI Action Day February 29th 2008 -  
Repetative Strain Injuries - Don't let  
them repeat the same old mistakes.

# employ disability2 Workers' Forum meeting

Earlier this month Forum members attended an employ disability 2 meeting where an introduction to the Northern Way and the current employment projects was given and a talk about the new 'Pathways to Work' initiative which has just been introduced in Bradford.

The Northern Way is a 20 year strategy which is trying to address some of the North/South divide economic issues and influences the Regional Economic Strategy and the Regional Spatial Strategy. The three northern regions involved in the Northern Way are: Yorkshire Forward; North West Regional Development Agency; and One North East. The Northern Way has identified several 'City Regions' the nearest one to us and the one which we in Bradford come under is the 'Leeds City Region'.

Leeds City Region has allocated Bradford some funding to support disabled people into work. Projects funded to date include: DISC a project to recruit people on Incapacity Benefit; Bradford Care Trust; Mind in Bradford; Mind the Gap; and BACC (Bradford Alliance on Community Care).

Various organisations in Bradford are offering support to disabled people to help them find employment, and also work with employers who are willing to make use of available extra resources to make reasonable adjustments in their companies to employ a disabled worker. Or to help keep

employees who becomes disabled in work. A new website with a directory of all the details of the various organisations involved is to be produced. For the moment if you would like to know more details please contact Nisa on 01274 481590 or email [ed2@bacc.uk.com](mailto:ed2@bacc.uk.com)

If you are disabled and are interested in attending some training or you know someone else who is there is some training on Employment rights and the Disability Discrimination Act and How to overcome disabling barriers to employment, also contact Nisa on the above number.

## The new 'Pathways to Work' service

The new service is being delivered by A4e from its offices in Mercury House Tel 01274 341761. Tony Perkins from A4e spoke about the massive growth in the numbers of people on incapacity benefit in Bradford. The service opened up for business in Bradford on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2007.

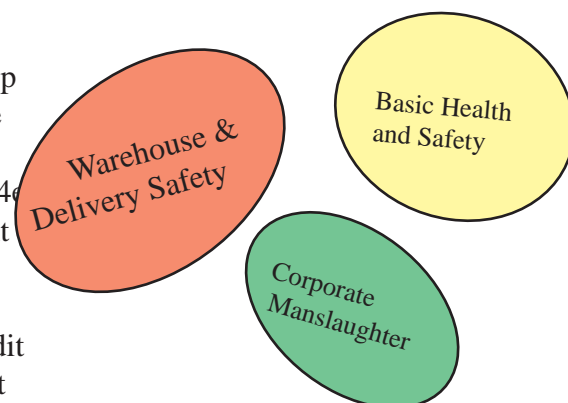
All people on incapacity benefit will have to attend five mandatory interviews with A4e where they will be assessed for individual barriers to employment and given advice, training and support to help them gain suitable and sustainable employment. An occupational therapist has been employed by A4e and also an Employer Engagement Consultant who will work with businesses to find suitable workplaces, undertaking a full audit of the workplace to make sure that people are not being sent to unsafe or unhealthy workplaces. Work that is in a place and at a pace that is comfortable to individuals is to be sought. Tel Tony on 07515 188393 for more details.

At the next meeting (12th March) of the employ disability 2 workers' forum there are to be some case studies with disabled people who have received recent training on reducing barriers to employment. There will also be a small to medium business speaking about the adjustments it has made to employ a disabled person.



## Free Safety and Health Awareness Day

To be held on the morning of the 6th March 2008 at the Carlisle Business Centre Bradford. This event has been organised by the Forum is everyone is welcome to attend.



To book your free place contact Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum - see back page for contact details.

## Implementation of the Corporate Manslaughter Act

A new offence of corporate manslaughter (corporate homicide) will come into force on 6 April next year, the Ministry of Justice confirmed today.

The 2007 Act changes the basis on which companies are liable for prosecution for manslaughter. Gross failures in the management of health and safety causing death will be liable to prosecution as corporate manslaughter from April 2008.

Guidance to help companies and organisations prepare for the Act has been published. Justice Minister Maria Eagle said;

“It is extremely important that companies and other organisations take health and safety seriously. Failure to do so can have devastating consequences - not only for the families of those affected but also for the businesses involved.

“This law will ensure that there is proper accountability - when very serious management failings lead to people being killed. This is not about over-regulation. Businesses should see this as an opportunity to make sure they have proper arrangements in place for managing health and safety. It is crucial for the people they employ and their customers that they are responsible and successful corporate citizens.”



Left to right - Ann Cryer MP, Jean and Glenn Elkington and Carol Duerden in Parliament

## Fighting for the right to Pleural Plaques Compensation

Local asbestos campaigners and asbestos victims headed down to the House of Parliament in Jan to protest about the disgraceful decision by the Law Lords to stop compensation for pleural plaques.

Pleural plaques are caused by exposure to asbestos; they are abnormal areas of thickening on the lungs rather like calluses on other parts of the body, which can lead to cancer and mesothelioma.

The Law Lords ruling came after insurers took a case to them. The insurers had previously won a case to cut compensation for pleural plaques quite substantially but they were not content with that. The insurers, of which there are only a few large companies with Zurich being a major player, must have had the Champaign corks flying when the Lords ruling came in, as it means a saving for them of between £1-£2 billion!

But pleural plaques sufferers and asbestos campaigners from Bradford and Keighley who are angry about losing the right to compensation meet up with other groups from around the country in the Houses of Parliament on Tuesday 29th of January and protested. They

believe this is a class issue and that the lords have no understanding of this working man's disease.

The Bradford party met up with MP Terry Rooney and MP Ann Cryer in the House, and talked with each other about what can be done to overrule the decision. Both MPs have signed up to an Early Day Motion stating their grave concern by the decision of the Law Lords on their pleural plaques decision and both intend to give the campaign their full support.

Carol Duerden from Bradford Asbestos Support Group said “The insurers and the law lords keep saying that pleural plaques is symptomless, yet in our experience this is very rarely the case and many people find out that they have pleural plaques when they are sent for a chest x-ray after complaining of breathlessness.” “If the scarring to the lungs was on the outside of the body compensation would be given.”.

Carol went on to say “This ruling should be overturned because if these people were not negligently exposed to asbestos they would not have pleural plaques, and would not have to live with the worry of developing more serious asbestos disease”.





The aim of Bradford District Chamber of Trade is to provide individual support to every member business - it says 'we are **large enough to cope and small enough to care**' - and to “ **Keep business in the Bradford District** “ which in turn will “**Keep the Bradford District in Business** “ to the obvious benefit of the **local** community.

Bradford Chamber of Trade provide business information, advice and training and *through specially negotiated “Added Value” schemes members can access discounts on credit/debit card transaction charges, annual travel insurance - AA breakdown cover, individually quoted reduced energy costs - plus business, motor and medical insurance schemes - which all provide savings that can more than negate membership fees.*

It also responds and liaises on issues effecting Transport, (inc car parking) Planning, Environment, Employment Laws (Working Time Directive, Disability Discrimination Act etc) and the many and other varied issues that effect the day to day running and viability of businesses.

Bradford Chamber of Trade is affiliated to West Yorkshire Chambers of Trade and Commerce and Croner Consulting,

providing regular distribution of written information to enable it to keep pace and advise members of ever changing EU and Government legislation. This is all as part of a membership fee.

An issue we commented on was the application from the White Rose Centre for Town Centre status which we felt would effect the trading potential of local member businesses. They would also have been able to access funding to achieve this status at the expense of existing town centres. Bradford COT is a core participant of the lobby Group, responding and liaising with Government Ministers - passing on the views of our members and those members in neighbouring chambers thereby tabling all our comments and concerns.

Val Summerscales, Secretary of the Chamber of Trade for 27 years says ' In short we are an easily accessible, affordably priced group, (membership fees start at £89.90 per year and we offer a discounted rate for start up businesses, and fees are linked to staff numbers) If you need any other information please call us on 01274 635637 or please take time out to visit our web page'.

[www.bradford-chamber-of-trade.co.uk](http://www.bradford-chamber-of-trade.co.uk) or email : [thesecretary@bradford-chamber-of-trade.co.uk](mailto:thesecretary@bradford-chamber-of-trade.co.uk)

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| <p><b>BAOHSF</b><br/>         Tel: 01535 691049<br/>         E.mail <a href="mailto:jane@baohsf.org.uk">jane@baohsf.org.uk</a><br/>         web: <a href="http://www.baohsf.org.uk">www.baohsf.org.uk</a><br/>         13 Scott Street<br/>         Keighley BD21 2JH<br/>         Tel: 01535 691049</p> | <p><b>WHAT</b><br/>         Workers' Health Advice Team<br/>         Unison Offices, 2nd Floor<br/>         Auburn House, Upper Piccadilly<br/>         Bradford, BD1 3NU<br/>         Tel: 01274 393949</p> |
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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 \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum, 13 Scott Street, Keighley, BD21 2JH