



## **Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum Minutes from meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2009**

### **1. Present**

Jane Howie, Andrew Mawson, Mr Divan, John Blanchfield, Rob Holmes, Carol Duerden, Tony Smith, Apologies: Chris Flint, Graham Reay, Wendy Bland, Susan Gee, Susan Ingham, Mike Quiggin, Ann Hall, Dave Towers, Fiona Sherburn

### **2. Minutes of last meeting (30<sup>th</sup> June 09)**

These were accepted.

### **3. Matters arising**

Anita Simms was not asked for a suitable person to be nominated for the Working Group as Graham Moore suggested that Fiona Sherburn was best suited.

Following on from the LACoRS HSE Consulting the Consultants Event Tony asked for a list of regional HSE priorities to be obtained by the Forum for the next six months and the next year after, so that we can tie in our planning and events - Jane to ask Paul Spurrier for this information. John said the LA usually piggyback's its campaigns onto the HSE work and he is to bring along the information he has on this to the next meeting.

### **4. Development Workers Report**

1. After a cost benefit analysis produced by Amanda Fletcher the Chairs of both the Health and Wellbeing Partnership and the Employment and Skills Partnership determined that although the Fit For Work area of work was important analysis did not support pursuing the pilot to a 2<sup>nd</sup> stage submission. 'The consensus of views believes that efforts would be better placed into providing a signposting facility to existing provision'.
2. Graham Moore the Commissioner for the PCT met with Carol, Andrew and Jane to discuss how the Forum and the Bradford Occupational Health Project can move forward to more stable commissioning. A draft of our aims and objectives is to be sent to Graham by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August.
3. A bumper Well @ Work newsletter went out for the summer edition. Andrew said this was very nice and thanked Jane. Rob suggested that we incorporate the testimonials that were used in the newsletter into our website. Jane to look into getting this done.
4. The AGM was a success and we now have a full working group except for one place for a Trade Union rep and one for a Health Rep. As there was one extra application for the business representation it was decided to co-opt Baldeep Thiara onto the group. Ann Hall from the HSE was nominated as a co-opted minutes secretary. All the officers remain the same as last year.
5. It has come to light that Bradford Council has not responded to a Department of Children, Schools and Families emergency asbestos survey. There was discussion about an article in the Independent recently 'Asbestos activists to carry out stealth tests on schools' which triggered a local response from by the T&A with a quote from Bradford Victim Support Group. There was a discussion about 'good' management of asbestos in schools by competent trained people who can undertake risk assessments and give advice to Head Teachers and School Governors'. There was also a discussion about the removal of asbestos from schools which is a contentious issue now being called for by the Asbestos in Schools Campaign. Everyone did agree that asbestos in schools needs to be regularly audited. Andrew is to write a letter to Wendy regarding an issue that arose regarding dialogue over the T&A article and the Forum Development Worker.



## **5 Strategic Development**

The sub group which is going to be looking at our next Securing Health Together Strategy agreed to meet after the next Working Group meeting for an hour.

## **6 Seminars**

Jane is yet to analyse the surveys taken from the Dispelling the Myths around the employment of people with disabilities taken at the last seminar.

The Carlisle Business Centre has been booked for Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> of October for the next seminar which is to be around Sensible Risk Assessments and is part of European Health and Safety Week. Wendy Bland has tried to get Steve Thompson, the Council's Senior Asbestos Officer to speak but he is away that week so has declined. Items for the day include an opening session to all on the 5 Steps to Risk Assessment, followed by workshops on Fire Risk Assessment, Stress Risk Assessment, Lone/Home Working Risk Assessment and Duty holders responsibilities to good management of asbestos in buildings.

## **7. Safety Reps Update**

The Hazards Conference went well. Jane made good contacts with Michael Lees from the Asbestos in Schools Campaign. Carol ran two workshops on health surveillance and a stall for the Forum attracted quite a bit of interest especially from the Hazards Group in London who are interested in becoming part of a similar group to the Forum.

Next year the European Hazards Conference is to be held in Leeds. The organisers are looking for a local business to be visited by some of the delegates; Interfloor Ltd was suggested by the Working Group.

## **8. Accounts**

The accounts have been signed off by our auditors.

## **9. Any Other Business**

There was no other business

## **10. Date for the next meeting**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2009, Jacobs Well, 10-12noon.