

## **Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum**

### **Working Group minutes from meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009**

- 1 Present: Rob Holmes, Graham Reay, Andrew Mawson, John Blanchfield, Wendy Bland, Dave Towers, Carol Duerden, Jane Howie
- 2 Apologies: Susan Gee, Mick Gledhill, Mr. S Divan, Fiona Sherburn, Tony Smith, Chris Flint.
- 3 Matters arising from minutes from the 5<sup>th</sup> March  
The minutes were accepted and a matter arising rose around the setting up of an internet bank account with our current Yorkshire bank account, because the logistics of setting it up seem to be very baffling.
- 4 Workers Report
  - a) We have still not had any compensation payment from Alitalia, they have sent us a letter saying that they entered into Administration in Italy in accordance with local law, with all responsibility transferring to the court appointed Administrator in Rome. I have sent a letter to the Court of Rome, Bankruptcy Division regarding this matter.
  - b) Representatives of the Forum and Bradford Occupational Health Project, Sheffield Occupational Advisory Service, Leeds Occupational Advisory Service and Rotherham Occupational Advisory Service showcased the work they do with both workers and employers to help reduce occupational ill health in Yorkshire at Westminster in March. Lord McKenzie thanked the groups for our work and said that we are ahead of the rest of the county. He said much of the work of the projects is in line with the recommendations made by Dame Carol Black in her Working for a Healthier Tomorrow review. Lord McKenzie said that he would write to Dr Bill Gunyon, a close advisor to Dame Carol Black and Alan Johnson the Secretary State for Health about the Yorkshire Occupational Health Projects and the good examples they are.
  - c) The Workers' Health Advice Team have put together an outline proposal and costing for service provision FFWS (Fit For Work Service), Occupational health and Wellbeing in Bradford. This includes taking GP referrals and self referrals from individual workers who are off sick from work, or in danger of going off sick from work, because of a health condition that may be caused by their work or a health condition that has developed and may affect their ability to work. Also to work with the Primary Care Mental Health Teams to establish a fast track assessment service into the developing IAPT services. The proposal has been submitted to Amanda Fletcher and Elizabeth Brookfield.
  - d) At the joint meeting of the Health and Well-being and the Regeneration / Economic Partnerships on 11th February 2009, reference was made to the Fit for Work pilot programme. As a result, both Partnerships agreed to progress a bid to the Programme. The 'Task Group' which we recommend the PCT/LA set up to look into the Fit 4 Work pilot had an initial meeting before the submission expression of interest deadline and an application was written up by the tPCT. A further meeting of the new task group took place last Friday and Andrew attended. It was

confirmed on the 14th May that the bid has successfully passed the first stage. Details are now awaited of the second stage process. Once those are received, arrangements will be made for further collaboration. Members of both Partnerships have also been advised of progress.

- e) Jane attended the final of 11 nationwide presentations given by the HWWB road show earlier this month. Dame Carol Black spoke about the social determinants of ill health. She mentioned the good work of Drs' Waddell and Burton 2006 who have researched the links between work and good physical and mental health. The Work Foundation has been used by Dame Black and the Gov Health and Work team which highlight the need for good work to value people engage with them and provide them with some autonomy. 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. And that communication between employers, GPs and PCTs was not good. She said that many SMEs did not have basic policies such as mental health policies, and that there are no national standards for occupational health and safety.

Howard Saunders, Head of Strategy, Development and Delivery of the HWWB Delivery Unit spoke about the Government response to Dame Carol Black's report. He said we need to create new perspectives. Yes work is good for you – but it needs to be good work. PwC (Price, Waterhouse & Cooper) have developed the 'Business Healthcheck Tool' (BITC is working very closely with this tool and seems to be selling costly Health and Wellbeing programmes. This is proving to be difficult to use for SMEs. NHS Plus is to be given £10-£12 million more. A Work Health and Wellbeing telephone helpline and advice service is to be piloted. HWWB Coordinators are to be employed at regional level and will be encouraging workers engagement initiatives and be keepers of a Challenge Fund. The FFWS will ask GPs to hand over patients who have been off for approx six weeks or so for support from counsellors, physiotherapists, debt counselling, relationship counselling, problems with an employer, etc. A national strategy on mental health and employment is due out soon.

- f) BAOHSF tried to find a lead partner to apply for some Employer Engagement WNF funding and drew out what it could offer in a draft proposal. Three organisations were approached, these were: Careers Bradford, Bradford Chamber of Commerce and the Job Centre Plus. After some dialogue and a meeting Bradford Chamber of Trade and BAOHSF asked Careers Bradford and the Job Centre Plus to be the lead partner but neither of them wanted to take this on. It was muted that Jobs@ were going to apply for this, and indeed that the Employer Engagement part of the WNF had been written for them. Jobs @ did not respond to BAOHSF correspondence and I could not find out much about Jobs @ on the internet.
- g) The Employment Action Group is to meet again on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. There has not been a meeting for a while due to ill health. Alec Porter is now standing in for Wil. BAOHSF has asked for the 'Dispelling the Myths of Employing Disabled People' seminar to be added to the next agenda. The Forum has applied for £1000 for this seminar and a decision is expected to be made on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June.
- h) Seventy people attended the After the Inspector called seminar. There will be more discussion about the event under item 6. Workers' Memorial Day went well, with over 75 people attending

the tribute. 25 Doves were released over the city hall, each dove represented 2000 workers killed either at or because of their job during the last year in the UK. The city hall lowered its flags again and even opened its front doors. The memorial managed to get good coverage in the T&A. A video clip has been placed on YouTube and is also embedded on the Forum website on the BASRA page see [www.baohsf.org.uk](http://www.baohsf.org.uk)

- i) At a joint meeting of the officers of the Forum and BOHP it was decided that we need to obtain more funding for the services we provide from the Healthy Communities Funding Team, which both organisations have had in the past, this presumably would now come from the NHS/Health and Well-Being Partnership. Jane is to set up a meeting with Amanda Fletcher to discuss this matter. A lobbying exercise similar to the one that we undertook last year may have to be repeated – which enabled us to get a further 18 months funding at that time. It was also decided that the work of the Forum, especially around the Fit For Work Service and health work and well being agenda, be highlighted in a bumper Well @ Work newsletter AGM special edition. With quotes on the work the organisations do from Jeannette Sunderland, Professor Rory O’Neill, Ian Greenwood, Terry Rooney, Ann Cryer, Philip Davies, Dale Smith. Copies to go to Simon Morrit, John Chutter etc.

Carol informed the Forum that the Government is to undertake a consultation to see how it can officially mark Workers’ Memorial Day.

- 5 (a) The Government Health Work and Wellbeing Team is progressing significantly more IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies). This will tie in nicely with the FFWS and the general Health Work and Wellbeing agenda. Besides the FFWS pilots. Other measures that are coming out of the Government following Dame Carol Black’s review are: An occupational helpline for smaller businesses, a national education programme for GPs and a mental health and employment strategy is to be published this July.

(b) At a joint meeting of the officers of BOHP (Bradford Occupational Health Project) and BAOHSF (Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum) earlier this month it was decided that we need to get some more service provider funding, this would mean a renewal of funding from the Healthy Communities Fund or whatever the name is now under the NHS/Health and Well-Being Partnership. Jane to contact the relevant person to set up a meeting, this is fairly important because we only have funds up to September. The next issue of the Well @ Work newsletter is to be a bumper AGM special outlining all the work we have done to date on Health Work and Wellbeing. Wendy asked about the possibility of asking our members to pay for our service, but the last research we undertook around this showed that this was not very popular – Jane to bring feedback from report to next Working Group meeting.

(c) Copies of a diagram of the Bradford District Partnership and the new Regeneration Partnership were distributed. The next meeting of the Employment and Skills Partnership, which sits within the Regeneration Partnership is to look at the Health and Work agenda.

- 6 The last seminar went really well and the workshops were ‘spot on’, thanks to the workshop leaders. Andrew thanked John and Chris for their input. Graham is to write up a report on the seminar for the next Well @ Work newsletter.

The next seminar is to take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July and is to be entitled 'Dispelling the Myths of employing disabled workers'. Susan Gee was put forward as a possible speaker, Jane to ask her, David Blunkett and a person from Abbey who has done some good work employing deaf people were also suggested. We are working closely with the Strategic Disability Partnership's Employment Action Group and have applied for some additional monies to fund this event.

The Forum AGM is to take place on the same date and information will need to be sent out 30 days beforehand.

It was decided that we would have a big European Health and Safety Week event again this year with several workshops.

- 7 It was agreed that the Forum would be able to send Andrew to the Hazards Conference. Andrew is to find out the best price accommodation for this weekend conference in July.
- 8 Forum accounts have gone off to our auditors the West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service. Carol and Jane have put together a forecast budget up to the end of September 09. The Working Group is going to meet its obligation to backpay the outstanding underpayment to Jane, which Community Payroll has informed us of the error.
- 9 There was no any other business.
- 10 The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June at the WHAT/Unison office again, but at a later time than usual 12.30 -2.30