

Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum Working Group Minutes 4th March 2010

1 Present: Andrew Mawson, Tony Smith, Ann Hall, Mr S Divan, John Blanchfield, John Binns, Susan Ingham, Chris Flint
Apologies: Carol Duerden, Wendy Bland

2 The minutes from the meeting were accepted

3 There were no matters arising.



4 Development Workers Report

- a) Andrew, Tony, Carol and Jane went to the House of Lords to pick up our Safety Groups UK Alan Butler Award for Excellence. It was a great honour to receive this award for having the best membership recruitment and retention approach out of all the safety groups in the United Kingdom. Wendy Hall has been sent a news release to add to the Bradford District Partnership website, there were two articles about our award in the T&A, Briefing Bradford are to run an article on it in their next edition as well as the next Well @ Work newsletter. Rob suggested that we have a link to the T&A article on our website. Jane to ask Charlotte who the woman from the HSE was who originally presented Tony and Andrew with the award.
- b) Bradford District Assembly (BDA) has been set up it aims to provide a link between the Bradford District partnerships and the voluntary and community sector. The Assembly has forums that link directly to each major partnership; the Assembly connects these forums to the wider district partnerships and to each other. It provides a channel to engage directly on key issues facing the sector such as commissioning and the new Compact; similarly it provides a route for the partnerships to engage with the District's voluntary and community sector. Jane has a place on two of the Forum's of the Assembly; the Health and Wellbeing Forum and the Regeneration and Prosperity Forum. Jane is keeping the representatives of these Forums who attend their matching counterpart Partnership informed of the developments on the Health Work and Wellbeing agenda and about our award.
- c) On behalf of the Forum Jane has put forward to the older people's partnership's EEL (Employment, Economy and Learning) group that under the new EEL Plan Priority 3 - the Forum can actively promote older people's occupational health as set out in our Securing Health Together strategy. And that we would also like to be involved in priority 4 to engage employers of public, private and voluntary organisations to tackle the stigma of employing older people. BOPA are currently doing some research into the employability barriers for the over 50.
- d) Just as we were starting to gear up for a big lobby to call for further funding for the Forum as a service that is outlined in the Work, Worklessness and Health in Bradford District report, we have been informed that our commissioners are extending our funding for a further year. So we now have funding until the end of March 2011. This is a similar situation for Bradford Occupation Health Project/Workers Health Advice Team. Our contact with the NHS Bradford and Airedale is Rachel Maher the Partnership Commissioning Manger. Carol and Jane are to attend a Health Partnership Project event on the 16th of March where Rachel will be speaking.
- e) The winter edition of the Well@Work newsletter went out on time, albeit a little rushed and with one or two spelling mistakes. One of the articles was written by Andrew Harrison from the Health of Men Project. Team Manger of the Health of Men project said that in the medium or long term he sees collaboration and working with the Forum's employers as a fantastic opportunity for HOM to meet its needs and targets whilst enabling our employers and their workforce to gain the benefits of better health and more positive and productive working.

- f) We have not heard yet if our Health Work and Well-being Challenge Fund bid has been successful with the proposed for a Bradford Mental Health First Aid Project. The project has been applied for by the Workers Health Advice Team with the Forum as its partner. Mental Health First Aid training would be offered to Forum members.
- g) A quarterly monitoring report has been compiled and sent to our funders – NHS Bradford and Airedale for the period 1st Oct – 31st December 2009. Copies available on request.
- h) Our new contact at Job Centre Plus is Sue Webster, who is the Local Partnerships Manager.

5 Strategic Development

- a) Amanda's report 'Work, Worklessness and Health' has been taken to the Health and Wellbeing and the Economic and Regeneration Partnerships. Jane circulated a copy of the recommendations from this report. We are uncertain as to how these are going to be used in future.
- b) Programme 3 – the below is to go into the 2010-2013 Securing Health Together Strategy that we are currently drafting. Jane thanked John Blanchfield especially for his assistance.

6 Seminar feedback and planning

It was felt that the new venue used for the last seminar was not really big enough and that the constant interruptions at the back of the room of staff going to and from the kitchen were very distracting. The venue was hard to find, despite maps being sent out to delegates. Jane circulated the analysis from the evaluations.

It was agreed that the next seminar would take place at the Impressions Studio in Centenary Square and the subject would be Fit Notes.

Anne thinks Sera Selmes may have some funding to help pay for this seminar. Future seminars were discussed. The Occ Health and Safety Week is to be on 'Safe Maintenance' and Jenny Lawson from Enterprise European would like to work with us. HSE may be able to put some funding towards this and provide a Lifting equipment machinery maintenance speaker. Tony suggested we cover machine safety of environmental jobs.

7 Accounts and budget

Jane handed out copies of the budget up to end of December. Tony suggested that extra columns be added to see spend per quarter as well as accumulative spend. We now have funding for another year and we are set to have an under spend at the end of this financial year. Jane is to purchase some more pens and a shredder for the office. At the end of the financial year Jane may have some of her hours restored, if the Chair and Treasurer agree this.

9 Any other business

Chris recommended a good solicitor that has offered to speak about Accident Investigation at a future seminar should we want. Stuart Armstrong, specialist health and safety lawyer, is willing to give legal advice to the Forum.

10 Date of the next meeting

Thursday 6th May 10am – 12noon Room 3, 6th Floor, Jacobs Well. (with a meeting of the strategy development sub group afterwards for an hour).