

Partnership on Health And Safety in Scotland

For business by business support – developing plans for a programme of events

Issue

1. To update members on plans for a programme of events under section 7.4 of the Scottish Action Plan on Health and Safety following discussion of PHASS/07/05 at the last meeting.

Recommendations

2. That members:
- note developments on the aims and agenda for the events;
 - propose ideas for a title for the events;
 - agree to chair an event – volunteers for each part of the country please;
 - note the suggested statement for the Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism to be included in a submission to his office shortly (Annex 1).
3. Working group members (Karen, Russel, [Robert Atkinson for SCHWL]) to update PHASS on any progress with identifying good speakers.

Developments

4. As agreed at the last meeting, a small working group met with SCDI in September to take things forward. SCDI have now submitted a costed proposal to the Scottish Government. The aims, agenda and arrangements for the events have been refined as follows. The working group will meet again in November to decide and confirm speakers.

Aims of events

To promote the message that sensible health and safety is good for business profitability and competitiveness
To communicate the essentials and boundaries of compliance with the law
To describe – via case studies - and provide practical solutions (tools) that SMEs can apply in their own businesses

Supplementary

To offer on-going support and advice to businesses through SCHWL services, RoSPA, Safety Groups UK. To use the events to establish local networks of mutual support via – business-to- business advice and mentoring; SCHWL sign-up; and contact with local Safety Groups.

Target audience

60 - 80 delegates; primarily marketed at SMEs who are members of SCDI - but all welcome; big businesses to be asked to bring people from their smaller suppliers

Small Business Consultative Group representatives to be asked to promote attendance from their memberships; use SCDI's "multipliers" to reach wider potential audience.

Locations

Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee & Inverness (plus Borders tbc)

Marketing, title, badging

Tba – depending on Ministerial endorsement; SCDI to co-host events; a PHASS member to chair each event. "Scottish Health and Safety month"?

Speakers

1. SCDI & PHASS to welcome and introduce
2. One speaker possibly from an H&S law firm to deliver presentation common to all events on the essentials of HSWA compliance.
3. Businesses from RoSPA Higher Performers, HWL Gold Award winners and STUC partners to be approached to volunteer to deliver the following brief:

30 min presentation supported by a few slides and a handout describing

- a simple approach to health and safety topic or management issue
- illustrated by a case study
- supported by a relevant checklist, top tips, and/or a free tool for use by SMEs

Experienced speakers/presenters only perhaps supported by a local practitioner - on hand to answer questions as necessary.

Timing

Tba – preferably in early 2008 before end March (Scottish Government financial year). All events to be delivered over a period of about one month: a "Scottish Health and Safety month".

Approximate schedule:

- 12.00 Registration & lunch on arrival
- 12.30 Opening and welcome from SCDI and PHASS
- 12.40 Essentials of H&S compliance
- 13.15 Business presentation
- 13.30 Q&A
- 14.00 Close

Action

5. PHASS members are invited to agree the recommendations at para 2 and to express any preference for chairing events in various parts of the country.

Annex

Extract from draft submission to the Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism – NOT YET SUBMITTED

REQUEST FOR A SUPPORTIVE STATEMENT FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY BUSINESS EVENTS: SUGGESTED DRAFT

“Improving Scotland’s workplace health and safety performance is important to the Scottish Government for the better health, safety and well-being of our people and the success of our economy; and our strategies to create a healthier Scotland and a wealthier Scotland are intertwined.

“The evidence that sensible health and safety management makes a positive contribution to business performance is generally accepted but much less so amongst smaller businesses. This perception needs to change if we are to reduce injury and ill health and realise the potential of good jobs and good workplaces to improve the health of our nation. Sometimes myths and silly stories get in the way. Health and safety law has not banned the use of stepladders, nor does it require children to wear goggles to play conkers, or produce volumes of paperwork.

“But smaller businesses need help and understanding to fulfil their health and safety responsibilities. You do not need to be a lawyer: straightforward advice and practical tools are available at a series of events being organised by the Scottish Council for Development and Industry together with the Partnership on Health and Safety in Scotland. I would urge you to register. It’s free and you will hear presentations - not from Government or regulators but - from other people like you in organisations and businesses who have developed approaches that they are keen to share.

“You may want to sign up for further free advice too. The events will put you in touch with organisations who can offer free support on getting your health and safety management right alongside other aspects of your business. Your current and future employees will thank you and so will your bank manager.”