

## **Partnership on Health & Safety in Scotland**

### **Minutes of Meeting of steering committee**

**5 November 2007**

#### **In attendance:**

Danny Carrigan – Chair  
Steve Bell – SCHWL  
Stewart Campbell – HSE Director, Scotland  
David Evans – SoCOEH  
Harry Frew – STUC and UCATT  
Ralph Garden – Scottish Government – corporate facilities management  
Jamie Hume - Scottish Government – Enterprise, Energy and Tourism Directorate  
Kathy Jenkins – Scottish Hazards  
Sarah Jones – Scottish Government – Enterprise, Energy and Tourism Directorate  
Ian Lavery – Glasgow City Council H&S  
Karen McDonnell – POOSH Scotland  
Ian Tasker – STUC  
Carol Young – SCVO  
Jim Gardner – Federation of Small Businesses

Jeanette Reuben – Head of Operations – HSE’s Construction Division  
Jim Skilling - HSE’s Construction Division

Trevor Johnson – HSE’s Director Office  
Anne Chesney – HSE

Alistair McNab – Head Of Operations – FOD Scotland  
Jackie Woods - Government News Network

#### **Apologises:**

Russell Griggs – CBI Scotland  
Linda Shanahan – STUC & FBU

#### **Welcome**

- 1) Danny welcomed everyone to the meeting

#### **Minutes of the meeting on 24 August 2007**

- 2) These had been agreed and published on the Partnership section of HSE’s Scottish webpages.

#### **Matters Arising**

##### **Scottish Evidence and Evaluation sub-group**

- 3) Stewart had arranged a meeting for the 15 November 2007 with HSE’s statistical branch COSAS.

## **Good neighbour pilot**

- 4) Stewart to arrange a meeting with Karen to take forward.

## **For business by business**

- 5) Sarah presented paper number PHASS/07/11/2. The main points that arose out of the presentation and discussion included:
  - a) The working group had met with SCDI which led to:
    - i) SCDI submitting costings to the Scottish Government; and
    - ii) An agreement on the aims, agenda and arrangements for the event.
  - b) An offer has been received from the Health and Safety Lawyers' Association to provide a speaker on compliance.
  - c) A businessperson would be approached for each event to describe a sensible approach to health and safety. (Karen informed the committee that three businesses from RoSPA higher performers have agreed to make this presentation.)
  - d) It was important that they were legacy events with the attendees being able to continue to call on sources of information.
  - e) The events will take place in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, and Inverness with an event in the Borders to be confirmed.
  - f) PHASS members to chair & speak.
- 6) Ian Tasker requested that the voluntary sector be involved.
- 7) Stewart suggested that the events could be run in conjunction of a wider health and safety month. Jamie Hume stated that the success of such a month would be dependant on the involvement of other stakeholders. Kathy Jenkins suggested that it could be appropriate to coincide such a month with the Workers Memorial Day.

**Action: Sarah to update the committee on progress  
HSE to consider the development of a Scotland Health & Safety Month.**

## **IoD Guidance on leading health and safety at work.**

- 8) Institute of Directors and HSC jointly launched this guidance on the 31 October 2007. Danny gave some of the background that led to the production of this guidance. The HSC chair has made it clear that the expectation is that the guidance will be widely used in industry, and there is a need to see visible action by directors taking the lead for health and safety. It is an ambitious document and the HSC will evaluate its success in 2 – 3 years time.

**Action: All to promote the guidance.**

## **Construction Sector**

- 9) Jeanette presented paper PHASS 07/11/3 which include the HSC paper HSC/07/71 entitled "*An update on the work of the construction Division*". In particular the following points were made:
  - a) The Construction programme started 6 years ago, when Revitalising Health and Safety was launched by the then Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott.
  - b) There have been a number of successes so far, including a reduction in accident rates, culture change evidenced by the greater use of safety equipment and improved welfare facilities.

- c) The rise in fatal accident rates in 2006/7 albeit from last years all time low, reinforced the needed to be cautious but the overall trends were downward.
  - d) The operational priorities for 2007/8 included:
    - i) The promotion of Construction Design Maintenance Regulations 2007;
    - ii) Falls including falls from vehicles (a 3-month campaign);
    - iii) Good Order – slips and trips;
    - iv) Worker engagement; and
    - v) Management of occupational risks.
  - e) The keys to success include:
    - i) Ownership by all duty holders, and this was one of the themes of the recent summit held by Peter Hain, Secretary of State, DWP;
    - ii) Working with the Scottish Construction Forum.
    - iii) Start the discussion on health and safety at the planning stage; and
    - iv) Benefits of publicity from formal enforcement action.
  - f) Looking forward there is a need to continue to be strategic but importantly to prevent complacency. There are a number of cross cutting priorities for instance the role of government as a client (which accounts for 55% of construction activity in Scotland).
  - g) Research, so far, provides no evidence that migrant workers have disproportionate accident rates.
  - h) The only success measures that mattered were reduction in accidents rates and incidence of ill health.
- 10) Jeanette then introduced the Site Safe Scotland Committee, which was originally formed in the 1980s. The membership of the committee includes HSE, construction companies, trade associations and trade unions. There are a number of task specific sub-groups including one on Health and Safety Awareness Days known as SHADs. Jim Skilling emphasised the practical nature of Construction SHADs, the high turnout, the ripple effect, and joint funding with the industry. The next challenge was where the industry goes next to ensure such events remain vibrant.
- 11) A wide-ranging discussion then took place. Kathy Jenkins asked about worker engagement and reference the tool developed by Caledonian University. Harry Frew commented that there was a strong evidence base to show that worker engagement led to improved site conditions. Jeanette explained that Inspectors routinely encouraged worker engagement. Danny mentioned the 3 year project on worker engagement, which Peter Hain gave a commitment to review.
- 12) A number of questions were asked about SHADs, including the type of attendees, and any evaluation of their impact.

**Action: Construction Division to provide an analysis of SHADs**

- 13) Steve Bell, discussed how to promote health and safety in the construction industry and reference the Health and Safety Action Plan. Sarah asked which type of forum was best to approach in order to achieve commitment.
- 14) The Chair thanked Jeanette and Jim for their presentations.

**Action: Members were asked to consider how they could contribute to HSC's construction strategy.**

**HSC Strategy for Agriculture**

- 15) Stewart made a presentation on Agriculture in Scotland. The main points included:
- a) Agriculture makes a significant contribution to the rural social infrastructure, employing approximately 90,000, worth approximately £12.5bn net worth to the Scottish economy.
  - b) Although there is a higher fatal accident rate in Scotland, there is a consistent downward trend and major and over 3-day injuries.
  - c) There are significant occupational health issues including respiratory disease, MSD, hearing loss, HAV, skin disease and stress.
  - d) There are a number of challenges for HSE in Scotland including:
    - i) Working with devolved bodies;
    - ii) Communicating with hard to reach employers and employees;
    - iii) Targeting of resources for highest impact;
    - iv) Development of interventions suitable that target local and national issues;
    - v) Adapting to new challenges e.g. migrant workers; and
    - vi) Managing a reactive workload.
  - e) A number of examples of initiatives under development were outlined:
    - i) Monitor farms project
    - ii) On track for tractor safety;
    - iii) Improving the wear ability of lifejackets in aquaculture; and
    - iv) Promotion of rehabilitation services.
- 16) Danny then provided a summary of the HSC paper HSC/07/60 entitled "Tackling Health and Safety in the Agriculture (Land Based) Sector. He explained that it described a gloomy picture, where additional investment in resources had struggled to achieve significant benefits; however, HSC has stated that it cannot walk away from the sector. Judith Donovan (HSC Commissioner) has been appointed to join the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee. Membership of this committee also includes NFU, TUs and representatives of the supermarkets. Danny asked committee members to consider how they could contribute to support the HSC strategy and the way ahead.
- 17) A general discussion then took place. David Evans outlined the Local Authorities approaches to the agriculture industry with their involvement in planning, animal health, farm markets, etc. There was a need for the coordination of key messages to industry. Kathy Jenkins raised concerns about the reduction of the communications budget and engagement with local colleges for the delivery of key messages.
- 18) Both Ralph Gardner and Steve Bell commented on the difficulties in targeting these groups and believed there was a need for something that would have a dramatic impact e.g. DVDs etc.
- 19) Karen McDonnell raised the financial difficulties within the industry, it not being a buoyant market, therefore increasing levels of stress. Stewart Campbell made the point that the attitudes within the sector are no better when the industry is buoyant. Sarah Jones there was some evidence that young people were coming into the industry with a more a professional attitude.

**Action: Members to forward ideas on the way ahead to Stewart, Trevor or Danny.**

## Scottish Action Plan update

20) Sarah Jones outlined progress in the following three areas:

- a) To look at scoping a research project to link data sources on health and safety in Scotland. A meeting had been arranged with the analytical services in the Health Improvement directorate to consider if data shows common identifiers. Sarah requested that Stewart ask COSAS to become involved.
- b) Raising risk awareness with young persons – The “wise up to work” interactive website for use in Scotland, which includes complimentary training for teachers. Sarah to discuss with the Schools Directorate.
- c) POOSH Scotland mapping work – Started the debate on resources needed for occupational health and safety in Scotland. A scope will be developed to work with POOSH to develop the required competencies.

**Action: Stewart to discuss with COSAS. Sarah to meet with Schools Directorate. Sarah to write invitation for joint working with ROSPA. Sarah to provide update at next meeting.**

## HSE Update

21) Trevor Johnson provided an update on the following:

- a) Following the completion of criminal legal proceedings the Lord Advocate and Peter Hain, DWP Secretary of State, announced a public inquiry into the events that led up to the tragedy at the ICL premises in Maryhill Glasgow. This is the first such public inquiry to be jointly set up under the Inquiries Act 2005. The terms of reference will be announced in the near future.
- b) HMRC had been subject to a crown censure following their failure to comply with a Crown Notice to improve the working environment at the premises in Bathgate, West Lothian,
- c) In response to Buncefield and other incidents, the COMAH Competent Authority has developed a ‘Containment Policy’ to set out the key principles relating to the bulk storage of hazardous liquids.
- d) Field Operations Division (FOD) Scotland has been notified of eight fatal accidents during September and October. Three of those accidents were in the construction industry. The cause of the accidents were fall (2), drowning (2), crushing (2), fire/explosion and transport. Five of the deceased were employees, one self-employed and two were members of the public.
- e) UKAEA pled guilty and were fined £15,000 for a breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act following a plutonium intake at their Dounreay facility.

**Action: Prepare a letter for Danny to send to STUC to restart biannual meetings.**

## HSC Update

22) Danny outlined following changes and key business of the Commission:

- a) Judith Hackett had replaced Bill Callaghan as the new chair. Judith joins the Commission from the Chemical Industry Association but had been previously been Commissioner for HSC. Judith wanted to see a greater media profile for HSE.
- b) The consultation exercise for the merger of HSC/E had been generally supportive. Legislation is likely in March / April 2008.
- c) The spending review for HSE is likely to be tight for 2008/11. DWP, HSE’s sponsoring Department settlement is for a 5% year on year reduction.

d) HSC were supportive of HSE's proposal to move to one HQ with the move from Rose Court, London to Redgrave Court Bootle. The other 27 offices are under review.

23) A discussion then took place. Ian Tasker stated that the STUC felt it inappropriate that there should be cuts in HSE funding. Other members supported this. Danny explained that the Minister was aware of the importance of maintaining front line resources.

**Action: STUC to invite Judith Hackett to meet.**

#### **Any Other Business**

24) Dame Carol Black's review of the working health age was mentioned. Subsequent to the meeting, an invitation has been sent to a call for evidence in Edinburgh on 16 November 2007.

25) A meeting was held by NHS Scotland to discuss the possible training framework required to enhance the skills of those professionals already involved in workplace activities. SCHWL, HSE and Kathy Jenkins were involved. There is a possibility that a stakeholder event will be organised.

**Action: Trevor to keep committee members informed.**

**Date and Venue of next meeting:**

**Anne Chesney will contact members to determine availability, etc.**