

Partnership on Health And Safety in Scotland

REVIEW OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARTNERSHIP AND THE ROLE OF MEMBERS

Issue

1 To review the membership of the Partnership on Health and Safety in Scotland (the Partnership) in the light of proposals for new members; and to review the role of each member and the support they might need.

Recommendations

2 That the committee agrees to invite three new representatives to join the steering committee from the:

- Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) - proposed by the STUC
- Scottish Hazards Campaign Group - requested by Campaign Secretary, Kathy Jenkins
- Scottish Executive corporate management - an action arising from the Scottish Action Plan on Health and Safety

3 That individual members of the Partnership review their role with the aims of:

- strengthening contacts within their own organisations
- strengthening links within their wider constituencies
- making links with other Partnership members on relevant issues

to achieve greater engagement with, and support, for the Partnership's work.

Background

4 Any new members of the Partnership should be considered in the context of our remit agreed with the Health and Safety Commission, Scottish and UK Ministers. This was to establish:

“A forum which, without infringing the reserved status of health and safety legislation, will give a clear focus for health and safety in Scotland, enhance delivery through better integrated intelligence, and offer a mechanism to co-ordinate partnership action and improve communication in line with HSC/E's strategy [for the whole health and safety system].”

whose purpose is ***delivering higher standards of workplace health and safety in Scotland.***

5 Organisations represented on the steering committee were therefore selected for their interest as stakeholders in these aims and purpose, and for their capabilities in delivering action. There was an underlying assumption that such organisations and their representatives would work together to achieve the necessary co-operation and co-ordination. The experience to date has been that the Partnership has

proceeded by consensus albeit sometimes following lively debate about the balance between ideal and reality. The Partnership needs to retain this balance and increase its contribution to outcome-based action to deliver higher standards.

SCVO

6 The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations is the national body representing the voluntary sector. SCVO seeks to advance the values and shared interests of the voluntary sector. There are 50,000 voluntary organisations in Scotland, involving 120,000 paid staff and more than a million volunteers. The sector has an economic value of £2.6billion.

7. SCVO membership of the Partnership has been proposed by the STUC following their delivery of a Workers' Safety Adviser project which focused on the voluntary sector. The SCVO has agreed in principle.

8. The signs are that the sector needs support and encouragement in establishing effective health and safety management arrangements and in knowing where to go for advice. For this reason, their growing proportion of the Scottish economy, and their potential contribution to improving Scotland's health and safety performance, it is recommended that we invite them to nominate a representative to become a member of the steering committee.

Scottish Hazards Campaign

9. The Scottish Hazards Campaign Group campaigns for improved worker health and safety throughout Scotland and joins with others internationally to campaign for improved working conditions throughout the world. It is part of the UK Hazards Campaign and the European Hazards Network. Scottish Hazards also provides information and training.

10. The Partnership has received a request to join the steering committee from Campaign Secretary, Kathy Jenkins. HSE and the STUC have already worked jointly with Scottish Hazards for example at events on young workers health and safety. Margaret Burns, former HSC member and Stewart Campbell have addressed their meetings and conferences.

11. One of benefits of Scottish Hazards' membership would be in offering access to activists across the health and safety system who might not be covered by the constituencies currently represented. Such a network would be a powerful mechanism for discussing priorities in the Scottish context and seeking support for action. It is proposed that we invite Kathy Jenkins to become a member of the steering committee.

Scottish Executive

12. Discussion on the role of the public sector as exemplar and influencer of health and safety standards took place in the context of the Scottish Action Plan on Health and Safety. The Scottish Executive is already represented in a policy capacity and they have agreed to nominate an additional representative from their corporate management function. This would strengthen the voice of public sector employers as health and safety duty-holders alongside current LA representatives, and support innovative approaches to health and safety management within the sector. The intention is also to support the Executive's role in encouraging other public sector bodies to adopt good practice in improving the health and safety record of the whole sector.

13. All three new appointments would need to be made by Bill Callaghan on behalf of HSC.

The role of Partnership members

14 In 2005 it was agreed that individual steering committee members' role would be to:

- engage the broadest range of people and organisations with their constituency in the work of the Partnership
- consult and communicate with their constituency interest via existing networks and structures, creating new ones where necessary
- act as a spokesperson and champion for Partnership
- propose and develop ideas and issues for action supported by evidence

15. With the adoption of a new Chair in Danny Carrigan it seems appropriate to review whether these ambitions have been realised in practice. Is there more we can do administratively and collectively to involve organisations and their constituencies in the work of the Partnership, thereby creating access to broader policy, research and operational resources to take forward action? In addition, what support do Partnership members need from each other? A list of up to date contacts for Partnership members is attached at Annex 1 for future reference.

16. This will be of particular importance in deciding what Partnership members and their constituencies can deliver in support of HSC's priorities for 2007-08 and the Scottish Action Plan on Health and Safety. PHASS/06/04 expands on this.

Action

17 To discuss and agree, as above.

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