

Partnership on Health And Safety in Scotland

Background for discussion of business/ local college good neighbour scheme (agenda item 3.6)

Issue:

1 To note this background information to support discussion on the terms and practicalities for taking forward a good neighbour scheme.

Background:

2 Please refer to the minutes of the meeting held on 29th August. The ROSPA

Recommendation:

3 That the steering committee considers draft aims of such a scheme and the next steps in taking it forward. The aims have been drafted to reflect a number of specific commitments set out in the Higher Performers' Challenge initiative by ROSPA Scotland (Annex 1) that could support this kind of arrangement.

4 Aims could be to:

- share business knowledge and resources for improving health and safety performance in tertiary education establishments [should the focus be in Further/Vocational or Higher Education, or both?]
- provide health and safety-conscious employers for student work experience placements and employment opportunities
- provide practical support to the teaching profession and education administrators facing health and safety management decisions
- identify and raise awareness of business demand for knowledge and skills in health and safety risk management
- begin a dialogue about embedding health and safety risk management into relevant courses and curriculums.

5 Work to take this forward would need to take into account the CHASTE project – Co-ordinating Health and Safety in Tertiary Education. This project - started in 2004 and over 3 years – is run by the University of Edinburgh with funding from the Scottish Funding Councils to provide a service to enhance, coordinate and support health and safety practices in Further and Higher Education, in accord with the Health and Safety Executive's Revitalising Health and Safety programme, as it applies within the HE and FE sectors. Other partners are the Scottish Further Education Unit and the University Safety and Health Association.

6 It would also be useful to consult trades unions in the education sector to help develop a practical menu of action which local businesses and colleges could take up.

7 Previous or existing good neighbour schemes - even where they are not with the education sector - may provide useful lessons for example to develop some basic questions for evaluating the benefits of partnerships/good neighbour schemes. Committee members are invited to suggest organisations which may have participated in such arrangements and other sources of relevant information.

8 Local chambers of commerce could also be useful in promoting the benefits and take up; but once the basic terms and activities are agreed, the committee can turn its attention to communication and publicity.

Action:

9 The committee is invited to discuss these ideas and the next steps.

ANNEX 1

Delivering higher standards of workplace health and safety in Scotland Scottish Higher Performers 'Challenge'

At present some 40 people die and 14,000 are seriously injured annually in work accidents in Scotland, over 200,000 suffer ill-health conditions caused or made worse by work and 2.6 million work days are lost. The human cost cannot be quantified. The annual cost to the Scottish economy is in the range £80-140 million.

The organisations, which have signed up to this 'challenge' believe that there are massive human social and business benefits to be gained by raising standards of health and safety management throughout Scotland. They believe that organisations which themselves have achieved higher standards of performance in health and safety have a duty to motivate and assist other organisations to do likewise.

To this end they are fully committed to:

- providing a positive example to others by continuing to raise their own standards of health and safety as a key business objective, recognising the key importance of senior management leadership, full and effective workforce involvement and use of professional health and safety advice;
- seeking recognition of their health and safety performance through means such as certification, entry to awards or use of appropriate auditing services and putting information on their targets and performance achievement in public domain, including via the Internet;
- ensuring that all their suppliers and contractors are competent to manage the health and safety of their own employees and those affected by their operations and that they understand other stakeholders' health and safety expectations;
- encouraging all their contractors, suppliers and other business partners to participate in health and safety training and safety passport schemes, make use of auditing, enter for health and safety awards and become members of their local health groups;
- acting as 'good neighbours' on health and safety issues, providing access for local small firms to their in-house training schemes and information services wherever appropriate;
- acting as exemplars and providing direct access for small firms to examples of 'good health and safety practice', for example, through benchmarking and site visits;

- promoting safety on a 24/7 basis
- supporting safety and health education in schools, for trainees and for young people , including school students involved in work experience schemes;
- sponsoring research and pioneering pilot projects, sharing findings and supporting wider community based health and safety initiatives; and
- providing high-level champions to exploit national, local, specialist media and other communication opportunities to highlight the social and business cases for action on health and safety issues.

All signatories to this challenge also commit to communicate with each other and other Scottish health and safety system players on steps they are taking to reach out to influence others, to agree common approaches to common themes and to report periodically to each other and the Partnership on Health and Safety in Scotland on progress.

Signed by: XXX Corporation	Senior director	Senior trades union/workforce representative	Senior H&S adviser