

Partnership on Health And Safety in Scotland

Minutes of Meeting of steering committee

10 March 2008

In attendance:

Danny Carrigan – Chair
Stewart Campbell – HSE Director, Scotland
Harry Frew – STUC and UCATT
Ralph Garden – Scottish Government – Corporate Facilities Management
Kathy Jenkins – Scottish Hazards
Sarah Jones – Scottish Government – Scottish Action Plan on Health and Safety
Ian Lavery – Glasgow City Council H&S
Karen McDonnell – POOSH Scotland
Carol Young – SCVO
Ian Bowie – HSE Principal Inspector, Glasgow
Anne Chesney – HSE Glasgow
Paul Burgess - Government News Network

Apologies:

Russell Griggs – CBI Scotland
Linda Shanahan – STUC & FBU
Steve Bell – SCHWL
David Evans – SoCOEH
Jamie Hume - Scottish Government – Enterprise & Industry Division
Ian Tasker – STUC
Rory Mackail – Federation of Small Businesses
Roddy Duncan – Scottish Government - Public Health and Well-being Division
Trevor Johnson - HSE

Welcome

1) Danny welcomed everyone to the meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 5 November 2007

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

Matters Arising

Update Agriculture Sector Paper – Strategy for Agriculture in Scotland 2008/09

- 3a) Stewart presented paper PHASS/08/03/01 which was a follow up to PHASS07/11/4 discussed at the last meeting. The main points were:
- i) Promotion of health and safety management by continuing to work closely with Scottish Executive for Environmental Affairs Department(SEERAD) on Monitor farms and the "Whole Farm Review".
 - ii) Aquaculture - continuation of the fish farm walkways initiative. Stewart spoke of a recent fatality by drowning from an access boat and mentioned the engagement of

all relevant parties involved with cockle pickers. Stewart informed members of a case submitted to the PF in Dumfries which resulted in a £2k fine for a gangmaster. PHASS members expressed disappointment at the low level of fine. Harry Frew commented that fines in Scotland much lower than in England and Wales. Stewart advised that a simple comparison could not be made; for example, costs could not be awarded in Scotland. Danny confirmed that HSC's policy was lobby for increased fines and that this would be pursued with Parliamentarians. Danny further advised that the Gangmasters Licensing Authority could soon become part of HSE.

iii) Forestry – Operational policy was to focus on high risk chainsaw operations, manual handling and employment of temporary and migrant workers. Under the Scottish Action Plan a project was in hand to increase uptake of occupational health services in this industry, which, at present was estimated to cover less than 1% of workers.

iv) Communication and publicity - Stewart confirmed that HSE have again committed to taking a stand at the Royal Highland show at Ingliston in June; no other partners will share stand this year.

Action: The agriculture update was welcomed and noted.

Evaluation of Safety and Health Awareness Days (SHADs) in construction

3b) Stewart provided a snapshot of the analysis from several construction events which had taken place and explained that feedback was generally positive. The evaluation gave a feel for how the SHADs were operated and highlighted the value of influencing SMEs. Construction SHADs would therefore continue. A wide ranging discussion then took place about the value of SHADs alongside appropriate enforcement activity and the need to carefully target the audience and topic.

Scottish Action Plan on Health and Safety

4) Sarah updated PHASS on progress under the three main themes:

- i) improving business access to advice and support on health and safety, occupational health services and good practice on worker involvement;
- ii) the role of the Scottish Government and public sector in improving health and safety of its own workforce;
- iii) improving the impact of the Scottish Justice system.

5) Sarah described:

i) a pilot rehabilitation service which had recently been launched in Dundee. Employees could self-refer with work-related conditions to obtain fast track services such as occupational therapy, physiotherapy, counselling etc. The aim was to return people to work faster and – with the employees' agreement - advise their employers on future preventive measures. The pilot would be funded for 2 years.

ii) Safety Development Advisors secondments to SCHWL from STUC. A slow start from voluntary sector, still barriers and looking for a foot in the door although some organisations had signed up. SMEs had proved even more difficult to sign up and more help was needed here from eg FSB. Sarah suggested inviting John Keenan and Martin Gaughan to give a presentation to PHASS members at a future meeting.

iii) Ralph updated PHASS on the Scottish Government's position. They had been reviewing H & S policy and have re-written some procedures, they were proceeding towards HWL gold and continue to look at stress areas. Sarah said that it was interesting that the Government's intention was to shift emphasis from managing sick absence to supporting health and well being.

iv) Karen updated PHASS about an initiative on the Management of Occupational Road Risk and reported back from an initial meeting to establish a Scottish Alliance on Occupational Road Safety. The meeting was attended by various organisations (LA, SCHWL Strathclyde Fire and Rescue & HSE). It is intended to raise the profile at the forthcoming STUC event and have a series of events in June in Aberdeen, Inverness, Stirling and Dumfries. The seminars aim to bring Management of Occupational Road Safety into mainstream health and safety management. Karen asked PHASS members to support the events. Kathy enquired whether occupational road accidents should be reported as workplace accidents. Stewart advised much debated topic, however, official line is there will be no change after RIDDOR review.

v) For Business by Business events - Sarah was in the process of finalising speakers and confirmed the dates and locations for each of the seminars:- 28 April Inverness, 29 April Aberdeen, 6 May Dundee, 8 May Edinburgh, 16 May Glasgow.

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS MONTH

5a) The business events would form part of a communications month on health and safety to be launched at the STUC Congress in Inverness where HSC Chair Judith Hackitt would be speaking. Press and PR was being led by the Big Partnership on behalf of HWL. Stewart mentioned a possible closing event – a Scottish Parliamentary reception but this was not yet confirmed. In this context Danny reported that at his meeting with Public Health Minister Shona Robinson, the Minister had agreed to attend and speak at such an event. She was also interested in the work of PHASS and proposed that an official from Health should join to strengthen the links with her role as lead Minister for health and safety in Scotland.

b) Stewart reported that HSE was embarking on a long term profile-raising exercise in conjunction with Webber and Shandwick and GNN.

c) Kathy raised Workers Memorial Day which would also fall within the month; Harry said that due to so many more events this year around Scotland (which was welcome), requests for speakers were being co-ordinated via the STUC.

d) Harry went on to mention that the STUC congress would be introducing a new award for health and safety to a representative who had made an outstanding contribution to health and safety in the workplace. This would be presented by Judith Hackitt.

Action: PHASS members to note and promote key messages during health and safety communications month. Feedback from the business seminars would be presented at a future meeting.

RISK MANAGEMENT – BS 31100 CoP

6a BS 31100 will provide a basis for understanding, developing, implementing and maintaining risk management within any organization, in order to enhance an organization's likelihood of successfully achieving its objectives. This British Standard establishes the principles and terminology for risk management, and gives recommendations for the model, framework, process and implementation of risk management. KMcD mentioned the opportunity for PHASS to respond to the consultation exercise, it was suggested that this standard perhaps related to non-h&s business risk, however it was agreed that profile of h&s as business risk required to be raised. (Note the consultation is now closed)*Action: Stewart to make enquiries on Wednesday*

b) Proposed Revision of HSG 65 on Health and Safety Management. Stewart alerted members to this review and asked for views. Ian said that this was the key guide used by Glasgow City Council and others and major change would surely not be welcome by business. Others agreed. No consultative document had been issued yet.

Action: HSE to advise on developments

HSE Director Scotland Update.

7) Stewart presented paper PHASS 08/03/02. The main points arising from the presentation and discussion included:

a) Dr Paul Stollard has been appointed HSE's new Director, Scotland

b) ICL Public Inquiry developments

c) HSE campaigns. Paul Burgess updated members including the "shattered Lives" campaign and Construction Division's contribution in which over 100 spot checks had been carried out of building refurbishment sites.

d) Highlighted HSE prosecutions.

e) changes to LA funding

Action: Ian Lavery and David Evans to provide a brief explanation of a Single Outcome Agreement which particular reference to health and safety-related outcomes.

f) Corporate Manslaughter and Homicide Act would come into force on the 6th April. The existing Work related Deaths Protocol between COPFS and investigation bodies would still apply.

g) Danny mentioned an article about the offshore industry in the Sunday Herald highlighting the safety risks of ageing plant, exploitation of difficult to reach oil and gas reserves, and maintenance concerns. Improvement Notices had been served by HSE and HSC were reassured that competent inspectors are being proactive. PHASS's remit did not currently extend to the permissioning regimes but it would be useful to hear more about the offshore safety Step Change initiative, for example.

Action: Consideration to be given to inviting a presentation on offshore health and safety at a future meeting.

Merger of HSC and HSE.

8) Danny spoke about a forthcoming HSC residential away day looking at strategy. The merger had been given go ahead and the senior management team would be defining roles and responsibilities within the new merged Board of Executive and non-Executive Board members chaired by Judith Hackitt.

Scottish Healthy Working Lives update

9) SCHWL was not represented at the meeting. A discussion ensued about the publication of Dame Carol Black's review of the health of the working age population "Working for a Healthier Tomorrow. Please see link below to view report.

<http://www.workingforhealth.gov.uk/News-and-updates/News-Summary.aspx?NewsID=29>

Scotland would be responding to the review which was related to HSE's work and SCHWL's.

Any Other Business

Divisional Intelligence Officers

10) Anne Chesney advised PHASS members that Divisional Intelligence Officers (DIO) have been appointed in each of the FOD divisions in HSE. DIOs duties include making better use of intelligence we already have such as RIDDOR reports, adverse insurance reports and notifications of construction work. DIOs have been asked to draw on intelligence from other regulators to develop agreements for information exchange with partner organisations to better populate HSEs databases with businesses which are not known to HSE. The aim of improved intelligence is to raise proportion of visits to organisations not already known to HSE and to establish new target audiences for SHADS. HSE has been in consultation with Legal Advisors Office regarding opportunities to acquire data held by other regulators and government bodies. Further consultation was ongoing with the Better Regulation Executive and Information Commissioner. It had been agreed that there was need to consider legal issues for each potential opportunity that arises and deal with each on a case by case basis.

Action: Members were asked to consider how they could contribute.

Health and Safety Profile Scotland

11) Anne distributed HSE's Corporate Science and Analytic Services Division (COSAS) handout which contained details of statistical information obtained from Labour Force Surveys, RIDDOR reports, Annual Business Inquiry, IDBR and a summary of statistics of occupational ill health, injuries, working days lost and enforcement action in Scotland.

Stewart Campbell's Retirement

12) Danny announced that Stewart would shortly retire following a long and distinguished career in HSE. He thanked Stewart for all his work which had spanned health and safety in many UK industries as well as reviewing inspection regimes across Europe. Danny spoke of Stewart as a constant driving force for health and safety in Scotland and of his instrumental role in setting up PHASS. Very best wishes were extended to Stewart and his family. PHASS members added their thanks and best

wishes for Stewart's retirement. Stewart thanked members and said that he would be very pleased to see members at his retirement events.

Date and Venue of next meeting:

13) Anne Chesney would contact members to determine availability, etc.