

Partnership on Health And Safety in Scotland

**Minutes of Meeting of the Steering Committee held on
24 June 2008 at HSE Glasgow**

In attendance:

Danny Carrigan	Chair
Paul Stollard	HSE Director, Scotland
Harry Frew	STUC and UCATT
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
Jamie Hume	Scottish Government – Enterprise & Industry Division
Ian Tasker	STUC
Rory Mackail	Federation of Small Businesses
Roddy Duncan	Scottish Government – Public Health and Wellbeing Division
Robert Atkinson	SCHWL
Dave Evans	SoCOEH
Jackie Woods	COI
Anne Chesney	HSE

Apologies:

Russel Griggs	CBI Scotland
Fiona Smith	UNISON
James Hynd	Scottish Government – Corporate Facilities Management
Steve Bell	SCHWL

Welcome and Introductions

1. Danny Carrigan welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Paul Stollard as HSE Scotland's new Director, advised members of Carol Young's resignation (SCVO); Ralph Gardens' retirement from the Scottish Government Facilities and Corporate Estates; and Linda Shanahan's departure from the STUC General Council and therefore this committee. Roddy Duncan was introduced as a new member representing the Scottish Government Health Improvement Strategy Division and Robert Atkinson was welcomed and introduced as representing Steve Bell.

Minutes of the meeting on 10 march 2008

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

Matters Arising

Revision of HSG65 on Health and Safety Management

3. Anne Chesney updated members about HSE's initiative reviewing the management model for health and safety to create successful outcomes. HSE expect this may lead to some improvements to the influential and widely used guide to health and safety management - HSG65 – as well as inspector training. The University of Birmingham is issuing questionnaires to a sample of health and safety experts, business leaders, academics and regulators to obtain information about current good practice and explore interrelationships between managing businesses successfully and managing successful health and safety performance. A review event will be held and reports submitted to an HSE project team whose aim is to develop an up to date, authoritative approach to improving duty-holder health and safety management.

Local Authority Single Outcome Agreements – Changes to LA Funding

4. David Evans advised members that all 32 councils have to produce and sign Single Outcome Agreements by the end of June. SOAs were necessarily a work in progress and would evolve over the coming year. Danny advised that this was an element of a new concordat between central and local government which included a new framework for funding LAs. Ian Lavery mentioned that Glasgow City Council's SOA ran to some 70 pages to meet the Scottish Government's 18 national priorities and 45 outcomes which covered devolved priorities. Paul Stollard thought that SOAs might not therefore be explicit about delivery of reserved regulatory services.

5. Discussion concluded that it would be useful to have a presentation on Local Authority health and safety regulation and any implications of the new concordat between the Scottish Government and LAs in Scotland. Harry Frew raised the issue of changing accountabilities for health and safety of workers and members of the public with services being delivered by new Limited Liability Partnerships rather than directly-employed staff. LAs management of health and safety as employers would also be an interesting topic for further discussion.

Action: Sarah and Anne to arrange LA presentation and discussion for the next meeting

HSE Scotland Director's report

6. PHASS/10/02 refers. Paul Stollard introduced himself as new Director for Scotland and explained his background.

7. The report provided a flavour of operational activity in Scotland including examples of some campaigns such as the agricultural blitz together with successful prosecutions and on-going investigations.

8. Paul explained his keenness to work with the media to promote sensible health and safety taking into account the upcoming ICL inquiry. He also highlighted developments with legal issues such as the HSE's enforcement manual and the Work Related Deaths Protocol – both of which were different in Scotland. HSE's input to the Calman Commission on devolution and the approach to the Scottish Government's National Conversation would be discussed with the HSE Board.

9. Members welcomed the report. The figures provided for fatal injuries since the last PHASS meeting were not validated and would not therefore be published. Ian Tasker asked whether future reports could cover the open cast mining industry in view of recent incidents. Paul agreed and said that he would be accompanying an inspector on visits to such sites in the near future.

Action: Sarah and Anne to include activity on open cast mining in the next Director's report.

Scottish Action Plan on Health and Safety

(i) Development of Occupational Health support services through the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives – Update on Developments

10. Robert Atkinson presented paper PHASS/10/03 and explained the background to the development with the emphasis on improving support for SMEs.

11. Discussion focused on the need to explore capacity, the role of GPs in referral and the evidence that SMEs in particular do not fully understand their legal obligations with respect to occupational health. An 'intelligent customer' brokering service would help fill a very large gap in the system. More generally there was a need for greater investment on OH services.

Action: Robert invited members to note and comment on the proposals.

(ii) Business-to-business health and safety seminars – feedback and evaluation

12. Sarah presented paper PHASS/10/04 and highlighted key achievements and recommendations for further work.

13. Members noted that SMEs were still hard to engage and supported the proposal to invite them to future events via the supply chain. The involvement of a broad range of partners in delivering these seminars was a welcome development.

Action: Partners to develop the next phase in line with the paper's recommendations.

Management of Occupational Road Risk (MORR) – feedback from events

14. Karen McDonnell presented a preliminary report on the events held in June. Results were very positive. A Scottish Occupational Road Safety Alliance for MORR had been launched at the STUC Congress in April with the support of Stewart Stevenson MSP, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change. The events were promoted by ROSPA, SCHWL and associated partner organisations.

15. The aims of the Scottish Alliance and MORR would be to: raise profile of MORR as an occupational health and safety issue; identify the business benefits of MORR; encourage organisations who attend events to commit to evolving ORR policies and communicate their experience and success to the wider community in Scotland through the Alliance.

16. The series of four seminars had advised organisations about: developing a risk management approach; company policies on safety critical issues; the environmental impact; the consequences of the Corporate Homicide Act; and formal and informal information exchange.

17. Organisations who attended were asked what they would do differently such as adopt an ORR policy, undertake an initial status review, tackle ORR from the environmental angle, integrate ORR into core health and safety management, review existing material in relation to guidance highlighting driving for work in own vehicle and to establish a working group to take matters forward.

18. Members agreed that the events had shown that engagement with organisations on this 'hot topic' had proved a success. Sarah suggested a need for trade union guidance on negotiating MORR policies as some unions were reluctant. Kathy mentioned a forthcoming Hazards seminar for safety reps on MORR. Jackie Woods informed members that COI were consulting on changing the way people learn to drive on behalf of the Driving Standards Agency.

***Post meeting note:** Jackie forwarded a copy of the press release to all members which includes information about two public events to be held in Glasgow and Inverness on the 12th and 19th August.*

Action: RoSPA and SCHWL to explore potential for further collaborative work to better support employers in addressing MORR and raise its profile as a major occupational health and safety issue.

19. Danny thanked Karen and commented that ORR was a major issue. Many employers would have had experience of employee driving fatalities despite these deaths being excluded from health and safety statistics.

Oral reports on the Action Plan and taking things forward

20. Sarah said that she would welcome members views before reporting progress to Scottish Ministers.

21. Ian Tasker requested closer working relationships: there had been a very slow and disappointing uptake of requests for support programme offered by the

STUC/HWL Safety Development Advisors from SMEs and the voluntary sector – the latter being due to the financial squeeze and short term funding. The STUC were now considering working with the Scottish Council for Mental Health securing funding from the Scottish Government for a training tool for trade unionists to mentor individuals with mental health problems.

22. David Evans mentioned that he would like to have seen more of a delivery role for LAs and HSE and in any future developments under the Action Plan or whatever followed.

23. Roddy clarified that the period for further funding – through SCHWL - to develop or continue work initiated under the Action Plan would be the spending round for 2009 – 2012.

24. Sarah felt that the Action Plan had served well as a mechanism for strengthening partnership working to deliver practical benefits, bringing in new partners and linking up the reserved workplace health and safety and the devolved public health agendas. This would be useful in recommending how issues could now be mainstreamed into government and other stakeholder work. Members concluded that there was a policy continuum between workplace risk assessment at one end and health promotion and well being at work at the other. Governments and stakeholders needed to work together to ensure coherence and effectiveness.

25. It was agreed that Sarah would send a report to PHASS members for comment before her final submission to Scottish Ministers. Danny would consider writing separately to Shona Robison MSP, Minister for Public Health about the the Action Plan initiative on behalf of PHASS.

Action: Sarah to write to PHASS members. Danny to consider a letter to Ms Robison.

Report of the Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequalities and developing the Scottish Government's response to Dame Carol Black's report on the Health of Working Age Population

26. Roddy Duncan advised that the Scottish Government was preparing a response to Dame Carol Black's report by late summer. A note of an initial meeting to discuss the implications of the Black report in Scotland was distributed to all PHASS members. The aim was to review and refresh the Healthy Working Lives – a plan for action as part of this work. Roddy welcomed comments to be sent to him and also asked to be copied into any PHASS organisations' responses to the report.

27. Roddy distributed Equally Well – the report of the ministerial task force on health inequalities. Its recommendations would also feed into the response to Dame Carol's report.

28. Ian Tasker said that it would be interesting to see whether either initiative resulted in expanding the provision of occupational health services.

Action: PHASS members to contact Roddy with views and submissions

PHASS participation in health and safety events, campaigns and consultations

29. Sarah advised that the European Campaign on Risk Assessment 2008 – 2009 would be the theme for Health and Safety week in October. She suggested PHASS involvement and support in appropriate communications on sensible risk assessment reminding Scottish businesses of the help and support available from a variety of sources and building on the feedback from the business-to-business seminars.

Action: Jackie and Sarah to propose appropriate messages and activity.

Any other business

30. Danny informed members that the new HSE Board had commissioned a review and refresh of the former Commission's Workplace Health and Safety Strategy to 2010 and Beyond. He proposed that Chair of the HSE Board, Judith Hackitt be invited to a future meeting.

31. Karen drew attention to p60 of 'Equally Well', and the significance of accidents as a cause of death in 0-15 year old males this emphasises the importance of risk awareness for young people before they start work. Attention was drawn to Scotland's Child Safety Strategy 'preventing unintentional injuries to children and young people in Scotland'. Unintentional injuries are second only to cancers as a cause of death for children aged between 1 and 14 years.

32. Robert announced the launch of a new HWL website on 26th June.

33. Kathy reported the recent Stirling conference on occupational cancer. This might be another useful topic for a presentation at a future PHASS meeting in view of the HSE work to update the estimates for workplace contribution to the incidence of cancer across GB, and relevant developments within the Disease Reduction Programme.

Dates and venues for next meetings

34. These were:

- 18 September 2008 - St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh from 12:30-4pm.
- 12 December 2008 – HSE office, 1st floor, Mercantile Chambers, 53 Bothwell Street Glasgow G2 6TS. Time to be arranged.