



## **CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 10TH OCTOBER 2007**

**SUBJECT: WLGA OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DOCUMENT**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members, Management and Trade Union Safety Representatives of the recent work of the WLGA Occupational Health nurse group.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The WLGA Occupational Health forum has been integrated into the corporate health and safety forum which consists of occupational health nurses, advisors and health and safety representatives.
- 2.2 The nurses were tasked with developing a reference document on the provision of occupational health within the local government setting.
- 2.3 The document was completed in November 2006 after extensive consultation and presented to the health and safety group earlier this year for final approval. The safety officers were unhappy with the final draft and wanted numerous alterations, the groups failed to agree the final content of the report and it has not been adopted as yet by the WLGA and is held in abeyance.
- 2.4 The Occupational Health nurses still feel that this document give a fair and balanced perspective of Occupational Health and the structure and benefits applicable to local government in Wales.
- 2.5 Occupational Health remains on the HSE and Government agenda with Government initiatives, recognising that most work related injuries are indeed health issues, for example stress and mental illness, muscular-skeletal problems, vibration etc. Accordingly these health problems must be robustly addressed by employers.
- 2.6 The document gives guidance to senior managers on the provision of occupational health services, defines occupational health, identifies aims, key principles and functions of an occupational health service and highlights some of the constraints facing occupational health providers.
- 2.7 The document highlights links to legal obligations and national strategies and identifies some of the benefits of occupational health provision. A comprehensive Occupational Health Service plays a pivotal role in improving the health and well-being and the reduction of risks to the employees.
- 2.8 The document is intended to be an aid for by senior managers in planning for best practice delivery of occupational health services within local government in Wales.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That the Members, management and trade unions read and note the content of the document in order to plan for the future health and wellbeing of Caerphilly County Borough Council employees.

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Appendix 1:  
Reference Document