



CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE - 11TH FEBRUARY 2009

SUBJECT: ASBESTOS UPDATE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members, Management and Trade Union Safety Representatives of the current position with the ongoing HSE asbestos investigation and actions to ensure that the Authority has in place suitable and sufficient arrangements to control the asbestos risks.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Two asbestos incidents took place in June and July 2008 at St Martins Comprehensive and the Bryn Primary. As a result of the asbestos exposure at St Martins Comprehensive the HSE commenced an investigation.
- 2.2 During internal and HSE investigations into the incidents it became clear that there were queries as to the quality of the asbestos surveys carried out on CCBC premises.
- 2.3 It was decided to carry out 10 quality checks on asbestos surveys completed on CCBC premises to establish whether the survey issues that were implicated in the above incidents were one-off's or an indication of an Authority wide problem with the quality of the asbestos surveys.
- 2.4 Initial results from the quality checks indicated that a substantial amount of asbestos had been missed in the original surveys. As a result a number of cross-Directorate meetings took place and a report was submitted to CMT on the actions necessary to address the risks. The actions agreed by CMT were:
- That new type 2 asbestos surveys are to be commissioned on all CCBC premises.
 - That the surveys are to be grouped into lots and let separately.
 - That until new surveys are in place all works affecting the fabric of the building are let via a technically competent person allowing a mini type 2 survey to be carried out and permission granted prior to work commencing.
 - That front line training is reviewed and staff advised as to the issues with the asbestos surveys. This would include ensuring that all caretakers have received asbestos awareness training.
 - That a review is carried out on contractors who carry out work on the fabric of CCBC buildings to ensure they have provided asbestos awareness training for their operatives. This will be supported by free or subsidised asbestos awareness training for contractors.
 - That Management Policy briefings are used to update those with Building Managers responsibilities.

- That audits and spot checks are used to evidence that Asbestos Management Arrangements are working
- That consideration is given to putting in place arrangements to pass on information for out-of-hours works.
- That a guidance note is drafted for Managers.

2.5 Work is underway to ensure that all arrangements are implemented promptly.

2.6 Legal are collating evidence on both of the contractors engaged to carry out type 2 asbestos surveys on behalf of the Authority with a view to recouping the costs associated with surveying and reinspections to date.

2.7 The HSE are conducting an ongoing investigation of one of the Contractors used by the Authority and are prepared to consider action against the other contractor subject to further evidence. There has been no indication from the HSE to date of any intention to bring action against CCBC.

2.8 A further report will be brought when the HSE investigation is completed.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the contents of the report be noted

Author: Emma Townsend, Health and Safety Manager, Ext 3708

Consultees: Nigel Barnett, Director of Corporate Services

Gareth Hardacre, Head of People Management and Development

Councillor Allan Pritchard, Cabinet Member for Human Resources and Constitutional Affairs