

## **CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 21ST FEBRUARY 2011**

**SUBJECT: HSE INVOLVEMENT**

**REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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

1.1 The following report is provided as a formal update on HSE Involvement with CCBC.

### **2. SUMMARY**

2.1 We currently have one investigation which is ongoing as well as a planned inspection and a further possible investigation. The following report provides a brief overview of each issue.

### **3. REPORT**

#### **3.1 Fochriw Primary – Asbestos Incident**

The HSE are continuing with their investigation of issues relating to the kitchen refurbishment of Fochriw Primary. The investigation involves two contract companies as well as Caerphilly Council.

#### **3.2 Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) Inspection**

Following routine HAVS screening two employees from Cemeteries and Bereavement Services have confirmed symptoms; both cases were reported as an Occupational Disease under the RIDDOR Regulations in December 2010. Both employees have occupational history involving work with vibrating tools prior to employment with the Council. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> February the HSE visited to undertake an inspection of the management arrangements in place within the Council for Management of HAVS.

3.3 Parks Services which incorporates Cemeteries and Bereavement Services have undertaken significant work in this area. The Council were able to demonstrate robust management arrangements to the HSE. However there is a need to continue with the development in Parks Services including training and monitoring. Other Service areas within the Environment Directorate require assistance to ensure that suitable and sufficient arrangements for the management of exposure to vibration are in place.

3.4 In the priority action plan for the Environment Directorate for 2010/2011 improvements in the management of Hand Arm Vibration were rated high priority and a number of meetings were held with Heads of Service to progress. As a result of the meetings Health and Safety have engaged a specialist consultant who is undertaking a review of the arrangements in place in the following areas:-

- Parks Services
- Cemeteries & Bereavement Services

- Vehicle Maintenance
- Highways Operations
- Building Maintenance
- Countryside Services

The review will result in implementation of an auditable management system covering:-

**Equipment:-**

- Procurement of machinery
- Planned maintenance and replacement schedule
- Regular vibration measurement

**Employees:-**

- Health Screening (pre-employment and ongoing)
- Identification of staff who are at increased risk
- Risk Assessment for individuals with confirmed symptoms
- Management of exposure under the legal action levels
- Training and information
- Review of Agency contract to ensure Pre-Start Screening and feedback following surveillance is included

3.5 A copy of the resulting report as well as an action plan will be forwarded to the HSE on completion of the exercise.

**3.6 Asbestos Exposure Ty Sign Primary**

Following refurbishment works on a toilet block at Ty Sign Primary, damage occurred to an asbestos wall panel which had not been identified by the contractor. An investigation is currently underway, involving interviews with the contractors involved.

The HSE provided a licence waiver and the panel was removed under control conditions during a weekend.

An investigation report is being submitted to the HSE, a follow-up report will be provided to the next meeting of the Corporate Group.

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