

**CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE –  
23RD MAY 2011**

**SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE 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 and have recently received feedback on an inspection on Hand Arm Vibration Management and enforcement action following an asbestos related incident. The following report provides a brief overview of each issue.

**3. REPORT**

**3.1 Fochriw Primary – Asbestos Incident**

The HSE have issued two improvement notices in relation to the asbestos exposure incident at Fochriw Primary School in August 2010:-

The first notice relates to the improvement of information held on asbestos and provision of information to contractors.

The second notice requires training on the revised arrangements required by the first improvement notice.

The notices have to be complied with by September 2011. It is disappointing that even though considerable work has been undertaken by officers to improve asbestos management in the Council, we have received enforcement action in relation to this incident. This frustration has been voiced to the HSE who advised that if asbestos management had been of a lower standard in the Council we would have faced prosecution as a result of the incident. The HSE also acknowledged the feedback and planned improvements on Contractor Management, which, they advised, avoided the need for an improvement notice in this area.

Following receipt of the improvement notices the Deputy Chief Executive issued immediate directions to all Heads of Service addressing:-

- The provision of information to contractors on asbestos within buildings
- Requiring checks of demolition and refurbishment surveys to assess quality of surveys

Following the incident the Deputy Chief Executive instigated an independent review of the incident which will assist the Council in compiling a comprehensive response to the enforcement action. A further report will be presented to Committee for consideration.

The HSE have not yet confirmed if they will be pursuing any prosecutions against the contract companies involved in this incident.

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

The HSE have provided verbal feedback on the improvements required in Hand Arm Vibration Management within the Council. Following the verbal feedback our Chief Executive wrote to the HSE to reassure the inspector that the required improvements would be in place by September 2011 and that the Corporate H&S Group would receive and monitor progress.

### **3.3 Asbestos Exposure Ty Sign Primary**

The HSE are currently investigating an asbestos related incident at Ty Sign Primary. Where a demolition and refurbishment survey failed to identify an asbestos panel, which was subsequently disturbed by contractors refurbishing a toilet area. The HSE have been provided with the investigation report completed by Health and Safety, together with the Management Survey, Demolition and refurbishment survey and details of the contractors who were involved.

## **4. RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

Author: Donna Jones, Health, Safety and Occupational Health Manager  
Consultees: Nigel Barnet, Deputy Chief Executive  
Gareth Hardacre, Head of People Development  
Councillor Allan Pritchard, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal, Policy and Governance