



CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 19TH NOVEMBER 2012

SUBJECT: ASBESTOS TEAM UPDATE

REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members, Management and Trade Union Safety Representatives on the Corporate Asbestos Management Team.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Corporate Asbestos Management Team was established in September 2011 with three Asbestos Officers and a System Support Officer. The initial purpose of the team was to carry out new asbestos management surveys across CCBC workplaces.
- 2.2 The extent and scope of asbestos related works quickly expanded. The number of mini-management requests increased in number and complexity; there were requests to support projects e.g. Wi-Fi, 17th Edition Electrical Remedial Works, Fire Alarm Remedial Works and Legionella Remedial Works. New knowledge around CLASP/System build premises highlighted issues requiring immediate follow-up and ongoing management creating a new workload for the team. In addition the Authority commenced delivered of Cat B Non-Licensed Asbestos Training both for internal staff and contractors, the Asbestos Team are required to deliver the practical element of this course. In addition a number of recent asbestos management surveys have highlighted debris remaining following the completion of remedial works. Pursuing these cases, involving Legal Services and attempting to recoup costs is clearly a priority.
- 2.3 It also became clear that there was a need for increasing asbestos support in Housing Services particularly with the extent of improvement work planned to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard.
- 2.4 In June 2012 it was agreed to recruit an additional two Asbestos Officers. One Officer will carry out new asbestos management surveys on CCBC workplaces and the other will support Housing Services in advising on surveying strategy, monitoring contractors and providing general advice and support. The Corporate Asbestos Officer (Housing) will be part of the Corporate Asbestos Management Team but will primarily be based within the Housing Section. This will allow the development of housing specific procedures and allow a prompt response to housing related asbestos queries. Two highly qualified Officers have now been appointed, one Officer has now taken up post and the Officer tasked with supporting Housing will be taking up post at the beginning of December.
- 2.5 Considerable work has taken place with Callcom to develop the Asbestos Module on RAMIS and to fully develop the surveying tool. This functionality will allow RAMIS to be used as an interactive asbestos management solution. New management surveys will be carried out

using the PDA, new refurbishment and demolition surveys will be ordered and uploaded onto RAMIS, asbestos abatement works will be specified and closed off on RAMIS, site specific information e.g. restrictions and prohibitions and CLASP information will be held against the site on RAMIS. All site specific asbestos information will update the premises specific Local Asbestos Management Plan which will hold a register of all known ACM's against each premise.

- 2.6 The Corporate Asbestos Management Plan which sets out the responsibilities and procedures for managing asbestos containing materials (ACM's) has been drafted, agreed with the HSE and has progressed through the consultation process. It is intended to run briefing sessions for Managers in December.
- 2.7 The increased resource, newly developed Asbestos Interface and Corporate Asbestos Management Plan (CAMP) will allow the Authority to improve control and better manage asbestos risk. The focus over the next 12 months will be on surveying with two Officers concentrating on carrying out new surveys. New surveys will be risk prioritised with schools and other higher risk premises e.g. Leisure Centres and Day Centres surveyed first. New and accurate asbestos surveys will allow ACM's left in-situ to be better managed, will allow planned works to take into account known asbestos and will reduce the demand for mini-management surveys.
- 2.8 Several neighbouring Local Authorities have expressed an interest in collaborative working around asbestos management. Whilst the priority clearly lies with managing our own asbestos risk, over the next 6-12 months collaboration is likely to be further explored with CCBC providing surveying services and/or procedural assistance.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Committee are asked to note the content of this report.

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