



CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 19TH NOVEMBER 2012

SUBJECT: HSE INVOLVEMENT / INVESTIGATIONS

REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The following report is provided as a formal update on Health and Safety Executive involvement with the Authority.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 There has been a change to inspectors and Stuart Charles has been assigned the appointed HSE Inspector for the Authority, with Sian Clayton still the appointed Principle Inspector. There have been a number of issues which have involved the HSE since the last update provided to the Committee and the following report provides an overview of the issues concerned.

3. REPORT

3.1 Pantside Sheltered Housing – Asbestos Issue

The HSE undertook an investigation into the discovery of asbestos debris in the attic voids of eight sheltered housing properties in St Peters Court, Pantside. The debris was discovered during routine insulation works on one property, after discovery all properties were inspected and sealed. A programme of asbestos removal works was initiated in partnership with Housing and Health and Safety, removing debris from each property by accessing through the roof to minimise disruption to residents. The removal project was very successful and tenants were kept fully informed during the process. The HSE visited site on several occasions and reviewed the management arrangements in place for heating installation work on domestic properties. The HSE have advised that they do not plan on taking any enforcement action against the Authority in relation to this issue.

3.2 Legionella Investigations

3.2.1 Bedwas Leisure Centre

The leisure centre was identified as a possible source of a case of Legionnaires disease in September 2011. Remedial works and ongoing monitoring have been supervised by Health and Safety. An automated water monitoring system has been installed in the centre which will automate temperature recording and purge the system at set times during the day to reduce the risk from stagnation. Water quality at the centre continues to be monitored by a specialist contractor.

3.2.2 Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni

On 1 March 2012, Legionella infection was identified in the water supply to the science labs at the school, through routine water quality testing. The risk of transfer of the infection to pupils and staff was regarded as low as there are no showers on the system. However, the presence of the infection was a concern and the system was immediately isolated until remedial works were completed.

The issue was reported in the press and the HSE and Public Health have been kept updated on the developments.

Health and Safety continue to monitor the situation via Mitie, the Management Company in control of the premises.

3.3 **Asbestos – High Risk Schools**

At the last meeting of the Health and Safety Committee members were informed that a refurbishment project at St Martins School highlighted the presence of asbestos dust in ceiling voids in a school block. Remedial work was completed at the school in line with the Councils Asbestos Management Plan. Following this discovery investigations were undertaken in other similarly constructed schools. An investigation of St Cenydd Comprehensive raised similar concerns and remedial work was undertaken to reduce the risk of exposure in line with the Management of Asbestos Regulations 2012.

Further investigations have been undertaken and a detailed position of asbestos in schools has been drafted and will be provided to CMT.

3.4 **Wall Collapse**

An accident occurred on 17th October where a domestic rear garden party wall collapsed onto a private homeowner who was entering his property. The wall separates the gardens of a private home and a council domestic property and as such there are joint responsibilities for maintenance of the wall. The Police and HSE attended the scene and the injured man was air lifted to hospital. The man suffered minor injuries and was released from hospital a few hours later. The HSE are investigating the incident. Health and Safety and Legal Services are currently reviewing the arrangements in place to assess and rectify dangerous structures, in particular where there are joint responsibilities.

Author: Donna Jones, Health and Safety Manager
Consultees: Nigel Barnet, Deputy Chief Executive