



CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 17TH FEBRUARY 2014

SUBJECT: GENERAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH UPDATE

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The following report is provided to Elected Members, Union Representatives and Officers as a formal update on Health, Safety and Occupational Health issues/investigations since the last meeting of the Committee.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 It has been a busy start to the New Year for the Health, Safety and Occupational Health teams. There are a number of health and safety investigations currently ongoing which will be reported to the Committee once completed, however the following report provides an update on progress to date.

3. REPORT

3.1 Asbestos – Corporate Asbestos Management Plan

At the start of the year briefing sessions were provided to Building Managers on the Corporate Asbestos Management Plan (CAMP). Managers were informed of the arrangements for asbestos surveys, undertaking work on Council premises and what to do in the event of an emergency.

The sessions were well attended and feedback was positive, further sessions are planned specifically for schools after half term. In addition a specific Domestic Asbestos Management Plan (DAMP) has been developed and briefing sessions will be offered in due course to relevant housing staff to advise of the arrangements to reduce the risk from asbestos in Domestic Dwellings owned by the Authority.

3.2 Asbestos Contract Services

Due to the problems the Authority has faced when using the services of external asbestos consultants, it was decided by Senior Management that the Authority would tender a specific CCBC framework for asbestos services. The framework will cover services such as refurbishment and demolition surveys, asbestos removals and analyst services.

3.3 Specsavers - Update

This update follows on from the report discussed in the last meeting of the Committee in November 2013 which advised Committee members of the Specsavers scheme which, was launched in November 2012.

The report advised members that 395 VDU and 12 prescription safety glasses vouchers had been issued (as of the 11th November) and 221 VDU and 7 safety glasses vouchers had been redeemed, thus leaving 174 VDU and 5 safety glasses that had not been redeemed. Committee members were concerned by the high number of unclaimed vouchers and the cost to the Authority.

Since the Committee meeting in November Specsavers have fully implemented the electronic system (e-voucher) for issuing the voucher to the employee this also allows health and safety to re-issue any unused vouchers. Therefore if an employee does not use their voucher within 3 months of issuing, the voucher will be cancelled and re-issued to another member of staff. This will ensure the Authority does not pay for any unused vouchers.

3.4 Park Services Health and Safety Handbook

Since July 2013 health and safety division has been working with Park Services to review all their risk assessments and safe systems of work to ensure their effectiveness in addition to producing an employee health and safety handbook. The handbook highlights key risks and controls for employees in Park services, including, manual handling, litter picking, hand arm vibration and violence and aggression. The handbook has been issued to all Parks staff with the risk assessments and safe systems of work available at the Park depots.

This follows on from the development and issuing of health and safety handbooks provided to Caretakers and Refuse and Cleansing operatives.

3.5 Refuse and Cleansing RTA – 6th December 2013

On 6th December 2013 at approx. 7:15am a refuse and cleansing employee, was involved in a Road Traffic Accident, RTA, which resulted in serious injuries.

The employee was working with a litter picking crew, the crew stopped at a bus stop on Nantgarw road to pick-up litter and empty a litter bin. As the van came to a stop three employees exited the van on the pavement side of the vehicle, however, the employee in question exited the van on the road side of the vehicle. As a result an oncoming vehicle struck the employee which resulted in serious injuries, an ambulance attended the scene and took him to the Health hospital.

The employee sustained a broken shoulder which required an operation involving the pinning of his shoulder. He also sustained a cut to the temple which required stitching and general cuts and bruising. The employee remains off work, although he is expected to make a full recovery and return to work.

A full investigation was undertaken to determine the cause of the accident. When officers interviewed the employee he could not explain the reason for exiting on the road side of the van and has little recollection of the accident. The employee started with the Authority in May 2013 and has received all the relevant training. The conclusion of the accident investigation was human error.

3.6 Health and Safety Executive Re-visit (Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome)

The Health and Safety Executive will re-visit the Authority on 10 February to review the improvements the Council has made in the protection of employees from the effects of working with vibratory tools. Significant works has been undertaken by H&S and Occupational Health in Highway Services, Park Services, Housing Maintenance and Caretaking staff to address the risk from this health issue. An update on the outcome of the visit will be provided at the next meeting of the Committee in June.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no Equalities implications for the Council arising from this report.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

7. CONSULTATIONS

7.1 All consultations have been reflected in the report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That Committee Members note the contents of the update report.

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