



CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 20TH MARCH 2023

SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT VISITS

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the outcome of recent asbestos management inspection visits by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The report is provided as information for members of the Committee, to ensure that they are kept informed of any matters that could impact on the management of health and safety within the Council.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the Committee note the contents of the report.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To keep the Committee up to date on any health and issues that may be relevant or may require further consideration.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 HSE Released a Bulletin in July 2022 to inform Schools that HSE inspectors were going to assess the management of asbestos in schools by undertaking a programme of inspections to primary and secondary schools in England, Scotland and Wales from September 2022 onwards.

5.2 The purpose of the inspections were to assess how schools are managing the risks from asbestos within the school estate and if they are meeting the 'duty to manage' (DTM) requirements under Regulation 4 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (CAR).

- 5.3 HSE Inspectors Liam Osbourne & Ben Voyce visited two CCBC Schools on pre-arranged visits. St Cenydd Community Comprehensive & Maesycwmmmer Primary Schools were chosen by the HSE for the visits. Both schools were visited on 14th November 2022
- 5.4 The Inspectors met with the Head Teachers, Building Manager (St Cenydd) and representatives of the schools caretaking staff were present at the site meetings. Each school visit was supported by a member of the Health & Safety SLA Team and a member of the Asbestos Management Team.
- 5.5 Each visit began with a meeting with the school's senior management team to gain an understanding of the asbestos management arrangements. The format of the meetings was to discuss any incidents, asbestos removals, levels and types of staff training, future plans and any concerns. The Inspectors asked various questions relating to known Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM's) on site, their condition, management and specifically how ACMs are maintained in sound condition and are not damaged by foreseeable activities within the premises. The visit included a visual inspection of both premises where they inspected areas of known asbestos and areas where asbestos had previously been removed/ overclad.
- 5.6 The HSE Officers were satisfied that asbestos was being well managed at both premises and that the schools were supported by the Authority on their management of asbestos including provision of surveys, training, record keeping (changes in condition/abatement works) and asbestos management advice.
- 5.7 No formal areas for improvement were recorded although ensuring that deteriorating ACM's are addressed was discussed.

5.8 Conclusion

- 5.8.1 Asbestos management remains a key priority for Local Authority consideration. Although much proactive work has been done over the past 10 years ACM's require ongoing management to ensure effective control of the risk. As an authority we continue to review and improve processes and are currently providing all Premises Managers with refresher training on their duty to manage ACM's. Monitoring ACM's is also an area where work is ongoing with asbestos tasks now forming part of escalation processes to ensure that any recommended works are completed within a timely manner. Ensuring that ACM's are considered, and risks assessed and controlled both as part of day to day management and when work is undertaken is a key priority and assists the Authority in meeting its legal obligations, in protecting the health and safety of employees and others.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 No assumptions have been made regarding the information contained in this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 This report is for information only and so an Integrated Impact Assessment is not required

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 All comments from consultees have been included in the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

Author: Andrew Wigley, Principal Health and Safety Officer, wiglea@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Christina HARRY, Chief Executive, harrhc@caerphilly.gov.uk Chief Executive,
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services,
edmunre@caerphilly.gov.uk
David Street, Corporate Director Social Services and Housing,
street@caerphilly.gov.uk
Mark S Williams, Corporate Director for Economy and Environment,
willims@caerphilly.gov.uk
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services, donovl@caerphilly.gov.uk
Cllr Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services,
GeorgN@caerphilly.gov.uk
Emma Townsend, Health and Safety Manager, townsej@caerphilly.gov.uk