



CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 29TH JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: EDUCATION HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTION UPDATE

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Corporate Health and Safety Group on developments arranged by H&S Officers within maintained Caerphilly Schools, in relation to automatic powered access gates as previously reported in September 2014 and February 2015.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 In Bridgend on July 3rd 2010 a five year old girl was killed when she became trapped and crushed to death by an electric gate. The Health and Safety Executive have recently provided findings to the case. The child was trapped because :
- Their presence in the vicinity of the closing edge was not detected; and
 - The closing force of the gate when they obstructed it was not limited to the values specified in standard BS EN 12453:2001.
 - The higher level of risk is considered to be those installed at Primary schools due to the number of children accessing and egressing the schools sites compared to the Depot sites which are generally populated by adults.
 - Health & Safety originally reported the level of non - compliance relating to the Local Authority installations in September 2014. The Health and Safety Section and Risk Management in consultation with Building Consultancy decided to commission independent reports for each site. These were completed on 20th & 21st January. The report cost the Health and Safety & Risk Management areas £2.5 k to commission.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The report links to the Authority's statutory duties in relation to Local Authority maintained education premises/activities.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Originally a total of 10 Inspections were completed, of which 7 were Primary schools between June and August 2014. Subsequently two further sites have been identified, one is an Authority Depot site and one at Llancaeath Manor House.

- 4.2 The authority officer audit initially in 2014 indicated a high level of non- compliance with the BS EN 12453 standard. Schools have subsequently received individual reports and feedback on remedial actions required.
- 4.3 The Authority has also arranged an independent assessor to provide schools with relevant written advice to achieve compliance on 27.03.2015.
- 4.4 This was financed and arranged by Health and Safety and Risk Management as a one off, to establish a base line from which the schools must upgrade their gates to the required standard.
- 4.5 It will be for the schools to keep the gates maintained to the relevant BS EN 12453 standard. The Authority will monitor the pressure testing maintenance of the gates via the RAMIS system and every two years via the school management audits.
- 4.6 The current situation for primary schools is:

School	Current Status Manual or Powered	Independent Report Issued	Completed or In progress	Pressure Test Completed
Bryn Primary	Manual	27.03.2015	Outstanding	Outstanding
YG Gilfach Fargoed	Manual	27.03.2015	Completed	Not required Set to Manual
Ty – Sign	Powered	27.03.2015	In Progress	19.06.2015
Pantside	Powered	27.03.2015	Completed	19.06.2015
YG Penalltau	Powered	27.03.2015	In Progress	19.06.2015
Ystrad Mynach	Powered	27.03.2015	In Progress	19.06.2015
Ysgol Cwm Derwen	Powered	27.03.2015	Completed	19.06.2015

- 4.7 Serious concerns have been raised by the monitoring exercise with regard to the installation of powered gates and must ensure it has robust arrangements in place to avoid this situation reoccurring. Those considering such installations should seriously balance if they truly need such equipment (and the foreseeable risks they present) against the installation, running and maintenance costs, which should be clearly established before they proceed. All sites should only progress with such installation if they have engaged the service of an Authority technical department, due to the technical and engineering specialism of this particular equipment.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All consultations have been reflected in the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the contents of this report are noted by Committee members.

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