

**FURTHER EDUCATION SAFETY AND HEALTH FORUM (FESH)
SIXTEENTH MEETING
24 May 2012
CARDIFF & VALE COLLEGE**

Present:

Kathy Bow (Scotland's Colleges H&S Communities of Practice)
Steve Cooper (UNISON)
Stephen Green (AoC)
Phil Mackie (ColegauCymru/CollegesWales)
Dave McGinty (EIS)
Ian Rowe (ColegauCymru/CollegesWales)
Ruth Sleigh (HSE)

Apologies:

David Green (AMIE)
Penny Neish (Scotland's Colleges)

1. Welcome and introductions

PM, as acting chair, welcomed members. All thanked PM and Cardiff & Vale College for hosting the meeting.

2. Fifteenth Meeting 09 February 2012 – matters arising

The notes of the fifteenth meeting were considered and agreed as accurate. There was one matter arising:

RS informed the group that one of her HSE colleagues has made preliminary contact with IOSH regarding promotion of the FESH Assessment Tool.

3. FESH Assessment Tool

Much discussion centred around publicity for the Assessment Tool.

SC reported that UNISON recently held their national seminar in Bolton, at which he presented a workshop about the Tool. This was a productive session, with vigorous q&a.

SG informed the group that AoC's National H&S Conference in June would include a workshop on the tool (co-presented by RS and IR)

KB is currently trying to promote the Tool along with Scotland's Colleges H&S Communities of Practice's own plans.

DM said that EIS ran a seminar in March for 40 safety representatives, at which the delegates were taken through the details of the Tool, on which EIS has no official position. College mergers mean that other matters have taken priority for EIS but there is awareness at local level.

KB reported that PN, of Scotland's Colleges, has been asked to raise awareness of the Tool with Principals, stressing that HSE has an interest in it. KB stressed, and there was general agreement, that the Tool could link well with KPIs

Although DG was not present, it was pointed out that AMIE fully endorsed the tool at its last meeting.

IR said that his College's principal will raise the issue of the Tool at the next principals' network group. He went on to explain the findings of the (Welsh Colleges) pilot. Colleges would like to have standards set regarding scoring. SG agreed, but pointed out the need not to insist on standards but to have advisory ones (for example: All senior managers have done IOSH Managing Safely = Gold standard)

RS agreed that FESH should have a role of promotion rather than setting precise, prescriptive standards.

IR added that good H&S practice is helped by competition between Colleges. SC pointed out that a significant resistance to use of the Tool is that it is "just one more thing to do" – not helped by the perception that the Government is reducing H&S requirements.

PM suggested that the next step could be a promotion/award scheme. All agreed that perhaps it should involve self-declaration plus a charter.

IR sounded a note of caution – that credibility could be a problem if the scheme was completely self-assessed. However, it was pointed out that the Healthy College initiative involves self-assessment and seems to work well. DM asked how and when feedback will be collected.

IR suggested that a certificate could be offered to each College that has completed the Tool and formulated an action plan.

SG replied that AoC issued a Briefing, publicising the tool, mentioning that feedback would be requested in autumn 2012, and that an award may encourage participation.

RS added that, once initial feedback comes in, FESH can look at formulating tools to help with areas of difficulty.

KB said that FESH has made a good start with the Tool but we need to push harder.

SC offered UNISON help – a message could be sent to TU Representatives, who could liaise with College H&S managers, encouraging returns.

RS mentioned the European H&S week, suggesting that FESH could request completion of the Tool by the end of Euro week in October 2012.

SC raised the question of who should complete the Tool. All agreed that it should be a task for the H&S committee, not just the H&S manager.

SG asked if HSE could liaise with OFSTED so that, at least, Inspectors are aware of the Tool. (It is understood that use of the Tool could not be an inspection criterion for HMIs)

RS agreed to refer the matter to her colleagues to explore whether it is possible to share details with OFSTED to make it aware of the general principles of the Tool.

RS questioned how FESH will keep up momentum between now and November.

SG suggested that FESH should produce a statement/briefing for Colleges (encouraging participation, mentioning certificate of involvement and linking with the Euro week)

All agreed that SC's communication will be the starting point for general communication from all FESH members, encouraging take-up

**Actions: UNISON and EIS will issue prompt/reminder about the Tool
HSE to consider if it is possible to raise awareness with
OFSTED**

4. AOB

4.1 HSE Intervention Plan (RS)

RS summarised HSE's overarching Public Services Plan:

It's Executive Summary details the main goals based on GB Strategy goals.

It contains Industry Sector Plans, including one for Education.

It recognises the importance of working with sector groups.

It stresses the importance of recognising "real risk"; it will not be stopping activities that are properly risk-assessed and managed.

HSE are looking for a balanced risk management approach.

RS will circulate, to members, a copy of the Executive Summary and the Education Sector Plan (which includes continued HSE support for FESH)

RS added that some specific projects will continue (respiratory risks etc)

SG thanked HSE, on behalf of AoC member Colleges, for their excellent "Introduction to Asbestos" learning package, which was very useful.

In response to SG's question, RS replied that investigation into possible re-classification of College-related accidents, under RIDDOR, is ongoing.

A lengthy discussion, on "real risk", followed.

Action: RS will distribute two documents to members, for comment by 11 June

4.2 Previous Surveys

RS requested information on previous surveys – can they provide any ideas on new initiatives that could be developed?

Action: SG will circulate original AoC College survey results to members

RS noted that the HSE's "Fee for Intervention" arrangements will not come into force before October 2012

KB mentioned Kimberley Clark's Healthy workplace programme. Information is available at <http://www.healthyworkplaceproject.com/>

5. Date of next meeting

Friday 16 November, at EIS, Edinburgh