

**FURTHER EDUCATION SAFETY AND HEALTH FORUM (FESH)
TWENTIETH MEETING
25 OCTOBER 2013
WEST COLLEGE, SCOTLAND**

Present:

Kathy Bow (H&S Development Network, Colleges Scotland)
Steve Cooper (UNISON)
David Green (AMIE)
Stephen Green (AoC)
Phil Mackie (ColegauCymru/CollegesWales)
Dave McGinty (EIS)
Ian Rowe (ColegauCymru/CollegesWales)

Apologies:

Ruth Sleigh (HSE)

1. Welcome and representation

DG, as chair, welcomed members. All thanked West College, Scotland for hosting the meeting.

The group regretted the lack of UCU involvement. SG, as secretary, informed the group that, after the June FESH meeting, he wrote to UCU, requesting that they consider participating and informing them of this meeting.

2. Nineteenth Meeting 7 June 2013 – matters arising

The notes of the nineteenth meeting were considered and agreed as accurate.

Matters arising:

- DG has circulated the FESH introductory letter to a large number of external bodies. All agreed that the Welsh and Scottish Governments, DfE and BIS should be added to the list.
- Regarding item 5, the removal of publication HSG257 *Occupational health services in higher and further education* from the HSE website,
 - o KB suggested that it could improve FESH's standing if it took on ownership of this guidance.
 - o All agreed that FESH could improve the document, for example by adding relevant case studies.
 - o PM suggested that someone with Occupational Health expertise be co-opted to a working group.
 - o All: FESH should develop a FE specific version of the guidance, which would include OH of students (there are many areas where OH is relevant, such as motor vehicle and hair & beauty)

Actions: **SG to provide details of contacts in DfE and BIS.**
All to read HSG257 and note areas that need change.
Several FESH members (KB, IR, SC, PM) agreed to

approach their contacts, offer involvement and ask for comments

3. Work on implementing FESH Assessment Tool

SG reported that Assessment Tool was mentioned at AoC's 2013 H&S Conference on June 27 (both in SG's presentation and by HSE speaker). The Tool is mentioned, regularly, at AoC's regional H&S group meetings; reports indicate that about 50% of English Colleges are using it.

KB mentioned over 50% of Scottish Colleges are using the Tool

IR added that around 90% of Welsh Colleges use the Tool and it is a standard agenda item on College H&S group meetings.

PM remarked the Tool can be re-publicised after current College mergers.

SC pointed out that, from a Union perspective, other sectors are considering following on and using the Tool.

DM added that the move to Regional Colleges in Scotland is an opportunity to re-emphasise the usefulness of the Tool.

DG commented that AMIE Council has welcomed the Tool and mentioned it in circulars.

PM stressed that a key role for Safety Representatives is to keep up pressure to ensure that the Tool is used.

Action: IR will put together a case study for circulation.

4. HSE Report

In the absence of RS, it was decided that FESH would look at HSE's recently published work experience guidance.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/youngpeople/workexperience/>

IR and PM pointed out that Wales has its own Code of Practice, with higher standards.

SC said that there is pressure, now, in Colleges to reduce health & safety standards because of the Governments push for a reduction in bureaucracy – this could lead to a reduction in H&S staffing.

KB referred to the fact that some Scottish funding bodies have more stringent h&s requirements that go against any move towards a "lighter touch"

SG informed the group of the recent DfE work experience publication:

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/p/dfe%20dept%20advice%20post-16%20wex%20-%20final%20rs.pdf>

All agreed that FESH could express a standpoint

Action: SC to draft a "sensible standpoint" statement for FESH

5. AOB

a) A College lecturer has contacted FESH regarding working at height issues for electrical installation students. The issue was discussed and it was agreed that qualified lecturers should have sufficient general training competence to

include basic stepladder work. If there are local issues then these should be resolved locally. For example, some Colleges do offer supplementary work-at-height training for staff.

b) DG commented that FESH needs a definite “identity”, including a logo and email account. The group considered funding options for web presence, artwork etc.

c) KB referred to “Going out there”, the Scottish framework for safe practice in off-site visits

<http://www.goingoutthere.co.uk/>

d) The group thanked SC for his valuable contribution and hope that he can continue as a FESH member, in his new role.

Action: IR will investigate production of FESH logo

DG will investigate acquisition of a web domain for FESH

6. Date of next meeting

Friday 21 February 2014, at AMIE, Market Harborough
