

**Health and Safety Forum
GoToMeeting**

Attending:

Lydia Johnson (Yorkshire & North Trent) (LJ) (Chair)
Jill Howes (South East) (JH)
Amy Ensell-Harper (Midlands) (A E-H)
Ian Cloke (Health & Safety Officer) (IC)
Nicola Holmes (Admin Support) (NH)

Welcome and Introductions:

Apologies:

Gill Hodges (President) (GH)

Minutes from Previous meeting

Minutes were agreed

Matters Arising:

Training for Reps

IC informed the Forum that he is hoping to make the regional H&S reps training more interactive and virtual meetings are likely to continue until the New Year.

It is hoped that the Stage 3 TUC Diploma course will be completed by December. The scheduled presentations at Hillscourt in November have been pushed back to January, when it is hoped the course will be concluded. If it is not possible to attend Hillscourt in January the course and presentations will be completed virtually.

Advertising of the next Stage 3 course has been delayed due to Covid.

All training is being kept under review. Topics for future training are likely to be Working Time Directive, Shift Working – to include the NHS Employers infographic which is now available via the SoR website.

Approximately 8 new H&S reps have informed us that they have signed up to complete the TUC Stage 1 course.

It is hoped that the SoR will return to offering the residential induction courses at some point, when restrictions allow.

APs/Apprenticeships

LJ reported more universities are to offer academic places going forward. Students are treated as staff and risk assessed in the same way due to Covid.

Personal Injuries:

IC reported a case which had won a large settlement of £115,000. 9 new cases had been received, 8 of which as a result of this article which was reported on the website, with 10 claim forms still to be returned. Although some claims were either out of time or it was felt that the employer had not breached their duty of care. One case was turned down.

Items for Discussion:

Feedback on Covid-19

SPF meeting – IC - no changes to report. PPE remained on Agenda. The next meeting is in a weeks' time. A presentation was given at the last meeting on the NHS Track and Trace APP, which is due to be launched at the end of the month.

Very few Covid-19 related cases had been reported to IC.

LJ reported that she has been working with a rep concerning a pregnant member of staff who has told she cannot work. There is no continuity with how pregnant staff are dealt with across the Trust.

All students have to be risk assessed via virtual meetings before they can start placement.

JH reported that pregnant staff are carrying out non-contact duties.

IC reported that some cases had been received when shielding guidelines were relaxed.

LJ reported that no issues had been raised with staff returning after shielding, which was dependant on their role before Covid.

JH reported that some staff had not returned, with one member waiting for an office to be made available for his use only. Others continue to work from home.

Specialist Group Updates

- **Conflict resolution: DT**
No report received
- **General Moving and Handling (including bariatric): GH**
No report received
- **Infection Control: A E-H**
Nothing new to report
- **MRI: RM**
No report received
- **Occupational Health: All to cover**
Nothing to report
- **Radiation Protection: RM**
No report received
- **Risk Assessment: HK**
LJ reported that all students must be risk assessed by the Trust as well as the university. IC stressed that specific risk assessments for BAME staff should be carried out for each individual.

- **RSI : IC**
No update. A PI RSI case had been received.
- **Stress: LJ**
Links offering support had been sent out to staff.
- **VDU: HK**
No report received
- **Care in practice: JH**
Nothing new to report
- **Working Time Directive: JH**
Some staff had experienced problems securing time off for the weekend before annual leave.
LJ reported staff had been rostered to longer days to limit amount of time on site.

Health & Safety Officer update

There had been no SPF meeting since the last H&S Forum meeting, the next was due on 30th September. People Plan had been published. HSWPG group are looking at workstream. Three areas under review:

- Work related stress
- Exposure to chemicals
- Welfare facilities

IC to give an update at next Forum meeting.

All party parliamentary group on H&S to meet today at 4pm. Some issues relevant to SoR – Asbestos – requirement to be removed from all buildings – second meeting will be on 5th October to discuss the matter of asbestos. The TUC had been pushing to get this group reinstated to discuss general H&S matters.

IC was not at the last TUC meeting, next meeting due next month.

Update on Health & Safety from Regions/Countries

Wales

- No delegate

South East (JH)

- Nothing to report

Scotland (No delegate)

Northern Ireland (HK)

- No report received

Midlands (A E-H) (SM)

- Staff concerned over school closures and impact on work attendance.

London

- No delegate

South West

- No delegate

Yorkshire & N Trent (LJ)

- LJ reported that school closures affecting staff were based on individuals and their flexibility to make up hours. Team leaders having to be very flexible.

Northern

- No delegate

North West

- No delegate

Any other Business

IC to check strategy position in place to ensure increase in testing at next SPF meeting.

IC asked if Nightingale hospitals were being used. LJ reported that Harrogate was being used for CT scans for non-Covid patients, with the possibility of it being prepared again if needed to reopen for Covid cases.

Birmingham site was not being used.

2020 Meeting dates

14 December - GoToMeeting