

**Health and Safety Forum
GoToMeeting**

Attending:

Jill Howes (South East) (JH)
Gill Hodges (President) (GH)
Ross McGhee (UK Council – Scotland) (RM) (By video conferencing)
Lydia Johnson (Yorkshire & North Trent) (LJ) (Chair)
Helena Kinkaid (Northern Ireland) (HK)
Ian Cloke (Health & Safety Officer) (IC)
Nicola Holmes (Admin Support) (NH)

Welcome and Introductions:

Apologies:

Amy Ensell-Harper (Midlands) (A E-H) – picked up by email after the meeting.

Minutes from Previous meeting

Minutes were agreed

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising

APs/Apprenticeships

LJ reported that Leeds had three apprentices that had attended their first campus week at the University of Exeter. The Practice Educator deals with apprentices at Leeds, while the Clinical Tutor deals with university students. Hull University are also looking into the possibility of apprenticeship opportunities.

Personal Injuries:

Seventeen cases currently with the solicitors. Three new cases sent to the solicitors for assessment. A further six forms have been sent out to members but not yet returned. There have been no new settlements.

Items for Discussion:

PPE is still a potential problem going forward. At the last SPF meeting employers were looking at issuing guidance for PPE. From 15th June patients visiting hospitals must wear PPE. Employers should carry out additional risk assessments. The question of wearing masks during break and when going to the toilet was raised, they should be worn rather than removed.

In Northern Ireland staff are having their temperature checked when arriving for work and antibody tests are being carried out.

Breast screening units require detailed risk assessments. JH reported that all mobile units are currently hospital based in her Trust.

NHS Employers Forum report for BAME staff did not offer guidance. Risk assessments for BAME staff should be based on medical assessment on individual need. SPF have raised the need for guidance to be produced for managers and how to have difficult conversations with staff. There is no real

understanding as to the root causes of COVID-19 in BAME community. SoR are discussing this issue through the Equalise Network.

Specialist Group Updates

- **Conflict resolution: DT**
No report received
- **General Moving and Handling (including bariatric): GH**
Nothing new to report
- **Infection Control: A E-H**
Nothing new to report
- **MRI: RM**
Nothing new to report
- **Occupational Health: All to cover**
Nothing to report
- **Radiation Protection: RM**
Nothing new to report
- **Risk Assessment: HK**
Nothing new to report
- **RSI : IC**
Possible back personal injury received could be RSI
- **Stress: LJ**
There is concern around post-COVID-19 stress. The Wellness team have sent out Mental Health Awareness videos to staff. There is also concern for staff burnout.

General X-Ray staff given CPD day off. Those shielding are returning to work. Trust is funding more psychologists through donation from a law firm.

IC reported NHS Employers working on how to help Trust's put support in place for staff.

- **VDU: HK**
Nothing new to report
- **Care in practice: JH**
Nothing new to report
- **Working Time Directive: JH**
IC - Employers should adhere to regulations during COVID-19 around breaks etc.

Health & Safety Officer update

RIDDOR HSE position - Incidents should be reported. SoR advice is to report to HSE for assessment.

Due to COVID-19 meetings of the SPF are being held every two weeks and meetings of the HSWPG are going to be held monthly. This has resulted in the planned workstream being on hold. The main discussions have been around ~~going~~ moving forward from the current COVID-19 situation has the NHS returns to normal working, and guidance that will need to be changed has part of this process.

TUC Health & Safety Specialist Committee has been meeting more regularly with meeting held monthly. No developments due to COVID-19 from taskforce set up for Asbestos in public buildings, which met on 5 December. TUC have arranged for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Occupational Safety and Health to start meeting. The first meeting is this afternoon on removal of asbestos from public building –both white and blue.

Regional H&S meetings have been held by GoToMeetings, so far with Northern Ireland and LESE regions. GoToMeetings with Midlands, Yorkshire/Northern and Scotland to be arranged.

All SoR residential training has been postponed. H&S reps encouraged to sign up to the stage one TUC online training. It is hoped that this will be supplemented with follow up training at Hillscourt when possible. It is unlikely that there will be any face to face training until at least the end of 2020. Stage 3 online training is still ongoing. May be a need to extend training if more time is required, which is being reviewed with the college.

Update on Health & Safety from Regions/Countries

Wales

- No delegate

South East (JH)

- Nothing to report

Scotland (No delegate)

Northern Ireland (HK)

- Nothing to report.

GH asked is the SoR monitoring if members are receiving appropriate PPE. It was also stated that there may be a lack of CT and MRI scanners.

Midlands (A E-H) (SM)

- No report received

London

- No delegate

South West

- No delegate

Yorkshire & N Trent (LJ)

- Nothing to report

Northern

- No delegate

North West

- No delegate

Any other Business

None

2020 Meeting dates

21 September – by GoToMeeting

14 December