

Following the last ECF Meeting on 3rd July 2007, it was agreed that further questions from UNISON on the Health and Safety Report could be submitted to the Chairman in writing.

I have read the minutes of the meeting on 3rd July 2007 and am waiting response for the following:-

1. Evidence for the statement in the report that the Group Plan process was embedding well – an officer reported that a survey had been conducted, and UNISON members requested a copy of the evidence.
2. The availability of statistics on stress-related illness linked to the introduction of Access Harrow – officers reported that these statistics went to the Health and Safety Partnership Board and in this way were available to the unions. Please provide copy.
3. Availability of statistics on stress-related illness linked to the introduction of access harrow – please provide copy.
4. Information gained as a result of employing a consultant on stress, and the fact that the Council was still owed several days' work by the consultant – the officer agreed to supply this information. Please provide report on the outcome of the stress project.
5. The need to publicise events such as the health fair to employees outside the Civic Centre, in view of the fact that many staff worked in schools and some staff did not have access to the internet – a Member reported that the issue of communications would be addressed in a report to the next Cabinet meeting. Please can we have the paper which was presented to the cabinet and the outcome?
6. The issue of low levels of attendance by employees at the Education Health and Safety Forum – the officer reported that this problem had been noted and he agreed to supply a copy of a letter to schools about allowing employees time off to attend such meetings. Please can we have a copy of this letter and information how this has been circulated e.g. gold bulleting, headteachers newsletter.
7. The fact that an annual report on the work of the Occupational Health Service had not been provided for 2006/2007 – officers agreed to investigate obtaining this for the Forum, but pointed out that this information would be reported to the Health at Work Group. UNISON has received a report for period July to September 07. UNISON would like further reports for the rest of the year.
8. The imminent review of the Post-Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Action Plan, which was due to come to the next meeting of the Forum. Please provide the latest updated action plan with action dates and what has been completed.
9. The delay in recruiting a Fire Safety Adviser – the officer reported that a third attempt was being made to recruit to this post. If this proved unsuccessful, current members of staff could be invited to be trained to carry out this role. UNISON would like an update since the serious fire at Bentley Wood High School.
10. The number of prosecutions as a result of violent attacks on Council staff – officers agreed to obtain the information from Legal Services. Has the information been obtained from Legal Services and UNIOSN would like the information?
11. A suggestion that the Council liaise with other local authorities on the issue of violent or potentially violent individuals moving between boroughs – the officer agreed to ensure that this was done. UNISON would like an update on the progress.

12. The recording of 'near-misses' in accident statistics – officers agreed that these should be recorded separately. UNISON would like further information on how 'near-misses' accident are recorded.
13. The number of days lost as a result of accidents – officers reported that data from the SAP system would be analysed and reported on a six-monthly basis, but was available earlier. The unions would request updates on a regular basis. Why has days lost not been report in the annual report this year as like in previous years.
14. Members discussed related issues to be covered in a report to the corporate management team on well-being, nothing that the report included an action plan, but not costing. UNISON would like a revised report with costing.
15. The annual report 2006/2007 does not have individual departmental health and safety reports. UNISON would like to know why these reports are not included as in previous years.
16. What was the budget for the European Health and Safety Week Event in 2006?
17. The corporate scorecard has identified two key issues being risk assessments and lack of attendance on training courses. UNISON has serious concerns and what are management doing to address these two key issues?
18. The Health and Safety At Work Group – what action is Harrow taking to deal with Stress?
19. We understand that HSE visited Harrow in October 2007. Why were the UNIONS not invited at this meeting?
20. UNISON has concerns on how contractors are managed in Harrow. Who undertakes monitoring of contracts and provide copies of monitoring reports.
21. UNIOSN would like a progress report on the work being undertake to implement the 'potentially violent persons register.
22. As like in the previous years, why is there no 'proposed objectives and targets for 2007/2008 in the annual report? Please see ECF Forum Agenda pack dated 6th July 2004 showing an example.

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