

## Lead H&S Officers Networking Meeting

Tuesday 21 November 2017

Civic Centre, Sunderland

### NOTES

#### Present:

Gateshead M.B. Council (GMBC) Susan Smith (SS),  
Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) Julie Bowe (JB),  
Newcastle City Council (NCC) Katherine Chapman (KC),  
Stockton Borough Council (SBC) Derek McDonald (DM),  
Sunderland City Council (SCC) Geoff Scrafton (GS),

#### 1. Apologies:

Kevin Lough, Durham  
CC,

Barbara McAuley,  
Middlesbrough  
Council,

Joanne Skelton  
Darlington BC,

Karl Lowthian, North  
Tyneside Council

#### Notes:

##### 2. Minutes of last meeting agreed as a true record:

Matters arising:

JB to circulate HBC details of commissioning approach to  
monitoring home care providers

JB

SS extended deadline for returns of benchmarking to end of Nov  
2017.

SS

#### Employee Protection Register (EPR)

Discussion on individual councils current and evolving  
arrangements to establish functional EPR facility compatible with  
agile working principles

To forward policy & business case

KL

If possible, JS to share Darlington BC's specification / notes on  
EPR

JS

Fee For Intervention / Recruitment / Exchange of Information on  
agenda.

##### 3. LGA Councillors Workbook – draft revision

Discussed the draft revision to the LGA Councillors Handbook  
Mixed views received on the pitch of the handbook

Unclear of intended direction, too generic and lacking Leadership  
/ Portfolio Holder's emphasis  
Fines quoted did not reflect recent court trends

KC offered to provide constructive feedback to Kevin Scorer

KC

#### **4. Fees for Intervention.**

No recent FFI activity amongst the group present

Recent incidents discussed

GS. A recent accident involving a Marshall 4 ton tractor trailer, involving entrapment and amputation of finger whilst attempting to open tailgate. Lack of adequate maintenance of equipment may have contributed to harm incurred  
HSE investigation ongoing

JB. Refuse operative struck by glancing blow from speeding vehicle

Service reviewing route risk assessments around single / double sided collections

JB Fire in a school

Procedural weaknesses, control of contractors, hot work permits, evacuation arrangements and alarm re-setting contributed to a unsatisfactory evacuation

School playground drain cover rotated as 6 year old child stood on top

Child very nearly fell into base of deep drain

No evident regime of inspection and maintenance of gully infrastructure, resulted in crumbling mortar weakening cover frame

Schools generic risk assessments revised to incorporate external fixtures and fittings including manhole covers

Questions arose around Gully Squad's repairs and maintenance features of SLA's

GS. Nationally, Occupational Health provider fined for inadequate resources

#### **5. Recruitment**

JB HBC no appointment made following recent recruitment process

SS Discussed Apprenticeship Levy

#### **6. Exchange of Information**

GS Discussed noise in refuse and recycling.

Recent survey indicates levels of exposure higher than previously recorded over 8 hour period

KC Experienced high levels of exposure uncharacteristically from Green Waste collections, due to vegetation 'screeching' whilst being compacted in vehicles, balancing protection afforded against ambient noise

GS Pupil injured due to other pupils fighting in a school

GS Highlighted a recent case where a [Head Teacher](#) banned from teaching for life, for falsifying a Fire Log Book. Ban due to dishonesty

## **7. Any Other Business**

None

## **8. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 13 February 2018** DM

Stockton on Tees Borough Council  
Municipal Buildings  
Church Road  
Stockton on Tees  
TS18 1LD.

**10.00am (room booked till 1.00pm)  
Conference Room 2,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Municipal Buildings**

Sign in to Municipal Buildings Reception – enter from the Church Road elevation, opposite Splash Swimming Pool.

Car parking map [here](#)  
Car parking web page [here](#)

Future meetings.

Tuesday 15 May 2018  
Tuesday 4 September  
Tuesday 20 November