

Minutes of Meeting
 Lead H&S Officers Network Meeting
 On-line Meeting (via Teams)
 Tuesday 8 November 2022

Present:

Gateshead Council	Stephen Foggin	fed back
Middlesbrough Council	Gary Welch	
North Tyneside Council	Anthony Laing	
Redcar & Cleveland Council	John Summers	
South Tyneside Council	Stephen Bell	Chair
Stockton Council	Derek Macdonald	Minutes
Hartlepool	Daniel Blake	
Northumberland	Barry Gladstone	
Durham CC	Lynn Swinney	

Item	Discussion	Action										
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Darlington Council</td> <td>Joanne Skelton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newcastle City Council</td> <td>Katherine Chapman</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunderland City Council</td> <td>Geoff Scrafton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northumberland</td> <td>Andrew Brooks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Durham CC</td> <td>Kevin Lough</td> </tr> </table>	Darlington Council	Joanne Skelton	Newcastle City Council	Katherine Chapman	Sunderland City Council	Geoff Scrafton	Northumberland	Andrew Brooks	Durham CC	Kevin Lough	
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2.	<p>Minutes from 13 Sept 2022 and Matters Arising</p> <p>Stephen welcomed Barry Gladstone to the group from Northumberland and Gary Walsh from Middlesbrough.</p> <p>Minutes reviewed, item 4, change Hartlepool Council to Hartlepool College, otherwise agreed as an accurate record with no further matters arising.</p>											
3.	<p>Fee For Intervention.</p> <p>Anthony Laing – North Tyneside - No FFI, but informed the group of an unannounced visit by two HSE Inspectors at a school, asking if in during the course of building works, whether the school had considered the risks associated with Radon Gas? Also asked if the school had a Radon Policy in place.</p> <p>Lynn Swinney, Durham, confirmed that some schools in Stanhope and also Killhope Museum have radon detection monitors within the mine. A radon procedure is in place within Co Durham and decision on the radon protection officer and where this post lies is with heads of Service.</p> <p>John Summer, Redcar & Cleveland, confirmed that some old mine works have Radon detection in place, but no Policy position.</p>											

	<p>Daniel Blake, Hartlepool, confirmed that a broad Radon Policy is in place.</p> <p>Derek Macdonald, Stockton on Tees, stated that they only have one school located on the margins of a Radon affected area. The property is not at risk with estimates providing a probability of being above the action level for Radon as 0-1%. Stockton BC does not have a Radon Policy.</p> <p>Stephen Foggin, Gateshead, informed the group of recent FFI's served to a tenant joinery practice and Gateshead Council. Insufficiently communicated asbestos information provided to Tennant.</p> <p>Stephen Bell, South Tyneside, informed the group of interest being taken by the HSE in a geothermal heat pump installation. No intervention taken.</p>	
4.	<p>Recruitment</p> <p>John Summers, Redcar & Cleveland, informed the group that after 4 rounds, still unable to appoint a H&S Compliance Officer. Further recruiting on hold.</p> <p>Anthony Laing, North Tyneside, completed two rounds to appoint a Senior Health and safety Lead – Construction. Three rounds to appoint a Health and Safety Adviser – Schools.</p> <p>Daniel Blake, Hartlepool, recent round to appoint unsuccessful. Post currently on hold.</p> <p>Steven Foggin, Gateshead, currently out to recruit an Occupational Health Adviser. Health and Safety Support due to leave team.</p> <p>Gary Welch, Middlesbrough, post currently vacant, only 2.5 in team but a freeze placed on recruitment.</p> <p>Barry Gladstone, Northumberland, 1st round to fill a Construction post unsuccessful. 2nd round underway and looks more promising to appoint.</p> <p>Anthony Laing, North Tyneside, Occupational Health Service out to tender.</p>	
5.	<p>Exchange of Information.</p> <p>Derek Macdonald, Stockton, mentioned an accident involving a primary school reception sliding window hatch, in which one of the sliding units fell out and broke. Glazing not to BS EN 12150. Location of the hatch was beyond Approved Doc K / Workplace Regs critical locations for glazing. The unit was likely to be 20+ years old.</p> <p>Anthony Laing, North Tyneside, currently looking to develop in-house reporting system, with potential to include audit function and an Employee Protection Register.</p> <p>This scheme may open up additional funding for a joint and collaborative approach – please contact Anthony Laing if interested.</p>	

	<p>Daniel Blake, Hartlepool, currently utilise a Firm Steps reporting platform.</p> <p>Lynn Swinney, Durham CC, have an in house developed platform on their CRM system, including a PVPR (Potentially violent persons register). Also use iAuditor but experiencing some bugs.</p> <p>Stephen Foggin, Gateshead, currently developing an inhouse system.</p> <p>Gary Welch, Middlesbrough, currently have a system developed but not without issues.</p> <p>Barry Gladstone, Northumberland, currently use a system but not very good. Looking at a Placecube digital product with Power Bi.</p> <p>Stephen Foggin, Gateshead, informed the group of a 3rd Party – Engage Services, conducting a warranted removal of service meters, asserting their organisation’s exemption from the requirements of HASAW etc Act and the Asbestos Regs.</p>	
6.	<p>General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)</p> <p>The group agreed to remove this standing item from future meetings.</p>	
7.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None.</p>	
8.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 14 February 2023, 10am, MS Teams</p> <p>Chair John Summers Minutes Anthony Laing</p>	
12.	<p>Future Meetings</p> <p>Tuesday 9 May 2023 Tuesday 12 September 2023 Tuesday 14 November 2023</p> <p>All 10am starts, via MS Teams.</p>	