Nottinghamshire County Council

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR - CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEES

HEALTH AND SAFETY SIX MONTHLY UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Members' on health and safety performance, initiatives and progress against the 2019-20 Health and Safety Action Plan.

2. The action plan is attached as Appendix B and updated to show progress made year to date.

Information

Management of Health and Safety

3. The British Standards Institute (BSI) conducted a strategic review of the health and safety management system on 1 July examining the last three years safety performance based on continuing assessment audits.

4. The review outcome was a recommendation for continued certification to BS:18001 for a further three years, recognising the authority's intent to migrate to the new standard ISO 45001 and that all future assessment visits would focus on this change.

5. On 16 July the first ISO 45001 assessment audit was undertaken examining the Councils preparedness and setting the future audit scope and assessment plan. The audit confirmed this to be a realistic objective and no major obstacles were identified at this stage.

6. Detailed migration and communication plans are being produced which will be the focus of the next health and safety report brought to this Committee.

7. Both ARC and VIA are undertaking similar moves to ISO 45001, this has provided an opportunity for shared learning and alignment of approach to gaining the new accreditation.

8. It is expected that successful accreditation to the new standard could be achieved by late autumn 2020.

Compliance and Incident Trends

9. For the year to date, no enforcement notices have been raised by the Health and Safety Executive against the Council in respect of statutory health and safety breaches, no fees for intervention have been applied.

10. Overall work-related injuries reported have decreased year to date from 722 in 2018 to 515 for the year to date 2019, approximately a 28% fall.

11. Those incidents that are reportable to the Health and Safety Executive under the Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) have decreased in comparison to the same period last year, 4 being reported year to date 2019 against 8 in 2018. This is reflected in a lower CIPFA benchmark indicator of RIDDOR accident incidence rates of 0.5 against a CIPFA group benchmark average of 5.3.

12. We must be mindful for the underlying reasons for the low level of reported incidents and our legal duty both to report and investigate incidents. To that end reminders to managers on the need for timely incident reporting will be undertaken.

13. In order to enable more transparent monitoring of health and safety performance, work has been undertaken to develop an interactive 'dashboard' enabling managers to access real time data and draw comparisons to other service areas. A screen shot is attached as Appendix A, this is still under development but planned to be functional by the end of November 2019.

Events and Initiatives

14. On 16 July a water safety event was held at County Hall. This covered aspects of both occupational and community safety in respect of the risks posed from open water and was supported by members of the Nottinghamshire Water Safety Partnership and blue light services.

15. The event was well attended and attracted over 6000 social medial hits with much positive feedback leading to consideration of a similar event to be held in 2020. This will have a greater focus and inclusion of young people and schools.

16. As an output from the event Nottinghamshire County Council are working with Nottinghamshire Search and Rescue and other water safety partnership members to supply and promote the use of throw line rescue aids in venues adjoining rivers and canals across the County.

17. An initiative to promote safe working and tool security by contractors is being undertaken jointly with our partners ARC and VIA and Nottinghamshire Police. Both contractor briefings and awareness materials are being produced together with a formal launch planned.

18. This focuses on not allowing sharp or edged tools to become accessible to unauthorised persons whilst working on school premises or public areas and is in response to recorded incidents.

19. Whilst existing initiatives include a focus on screening for knives and similar weapons 'at the school gate', this initiative limits the opportunity for legitimate work tools to be accessed for the purpose of violence and crime.

20. In relation to motion one at Full Council on10 October 2019 - Child Criminal Exploitation, Members are being informed as another strand of the broader work by the authority and partners to tackle knife crime.

21. Lone working and personal safety remain a key area of work. A director led working group has been established and review of policy, guidance and supporting materials undertaken with the aim of providing a single point resource for staff and managers. New smart phones are starting to be issued enabled with a lone working App on a priority basis.

22. In January 2020 an event will promote this work together with briefings for staff focusing on personal safety, loneworking and a workshop held for Councillors centred on the new Local Government Association guidance 'councillors guide to handling intimidation'.

Other Options Considered

23. No other options have been considered.

Reasons for Recommendation

24. Elected members require visibility of health and safety performance, compliance and risk control measures in place to make informed decisions affecting the council's health and safety risks.

Statutory and Policy Implications

25. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Data Protection and Information Governance

26. There are no implications arising directly from this report as no individual or personal data or information is used.

Financial Implications

27. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Human Resources Implications

28. These are outlined in the body of the report. The action plan addresses key risks and embeds good Health and Safety culture, standards and practices across the whole Council.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

29. The proposals in this report meet the Council's existing commitment to meeting, and where possible exceeding, the statutory requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

1) Consider performance to date on the attached Health and Safety Action Plan 2019 – 2020 (Appendix B)

2) Receive a further Health and Safety performance update in six months.

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Chief Executive's Department

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
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Constitutional Comments (KK 05/11/19)

30. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Personnel Committee.

Financial Comments (SES 05/11/19)

31. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

HR Comments (JP 07/11/19)

32. The Council has an ongoing commitment to managing Health and Safety. Planning and performance review are key requirements of the Health and Safety Management System.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All