

Joint Consultative & Safety Panel Health and Safety Report

Date of Panel Meeting:	24 July 2008
Name of Report:	Health & Safety Report 2007/8
Author:	Brian Lennon – Acting Health & Safety Adviser/Len Gleed – H.R. Manager
Purpose:	To provide the Panel with the Health & Safety Review for 2007/8.
Recommendation:	The report is noted.

1.0 OVERVIEW

- 1.1 Work continues to improve Health and Safety within the Council, and it remains important that Heads of Service ensure that Managers at every level within the Council uphold their Health and Safety responsibilities and that a positive Health and Safety culture is encouraged throughout the Council.
- 1.2 Effective risk management is a central requirement of well-managed health and safety at work. Copeland's Chief Executive, along with his colleagues from Cumbria County Council and other Districts, signed up in April 2008 to the Health & Safety Executive's Sensible Risk Management Campaign.
- 1.3 To underpin the importance of this issue, the Health & Safety Action Plan for 2008/9 includes a full review of the Council's risk management arrangements, and related improvement programme.

2.0 HSE IMPROVEMENT NOTICES

- 2.1 As previously reported, three Improvement Notices were served during the year by the HSE Inspector in relation to Waste Management activities, and the dangers arising from unsafe working practices in the use of refuse vehicles. A great deal of remedial work has been done in this area, and the Notices have been lifted. Supervisors involved were commended for their efforts and hard work in bringing the Risk Assessment, and related Operational Procedures up to satisfactory levels. Sadly, it has also been necessary to resort to disciplinary action against offending drivers in some cases, including summary dismissal for a repeat offender.

2.2 The HSE Inspectorate continues to take a close interest in the Council's performance, and for all the obvious reasons it remains very important to maintain the highest possible standards.

3.0 CONSULTATION WITH EMPLOYEES

3.1 The Health and Safety Representatives Group is well established and continues to meet, sharing best practice and raising any current health and safety concerns. There have been continuing problems with attendance at the group, and the arrangements are to be reviewed as part of the current year's proposed Action Plan.

4.0 HEALTH & SAFETY CAMPAIGN

4.1 Progress with the planned Health & Safety Campaign has been slow. With the Communications team now fully up to strength, it is intended to have an in-house campaign linked to the European Campaign for Safety and Health at Work which will run from 20 to 24 October 2008.

5.0 ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS

5.1 The final statistics for 2007/8 are as previously reported:

1 st Quarter	Apr/May/June	8
2nd Quarter	Jul/Aug/Sept	5
3rd Quarter	Oct/Nov/Dec	12
4 th Quarter	Jan/Feb/Mar	12
TOTAL		36

5.2 The most significant cause of accidents has been manual mis-handling, despite the extensive training programme which has been completed. The importance of following the guidance on correct manual handling procedures will feature prominently in the forthcoming campaign in October. Managers and supervisors will be reminded of the need for on-going monitoring of safe working practices.

5.3 There was only one reported accident in the first quarter of 2008/9:

Accident / Incident Number	Department	Accident / Incident Date	Nature of Incident/Injury	Riddor reportable Yes/No
1	Waste Services	20 05 08	Injury to shoulder (manual handling)	Yes

6.0 ACTION PLAN 2008/9

- 6.1 The draft Health & Safety Action Plan for 2008/9 is on the agenda of this meeting for the Panel's consideration.

7.0 HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER VACANCY

- 7.1 Recruitment attempts during the last eight months have failed to produce a suitable candidate for the post of Health & Safety Officer, and interim arrangements are continuing. The proposed Action Plan for 2008/9 includes an action to review, make, and implement new proposals by end August 2008 to fill the vacancy, linked to a review of the administrative support arrangements for the health and safety function.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Panel is asked to note and discuss the report.