

# LGA HEALTH & SAFETY PRACTITIONERS PANEL

## DRAFT NOTES

Wednesday 21 March 2018, LGA London

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### 1. Arrival and Welcome

Kelvin Scorer chaired the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

Simon Dobby	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Yorkshire and Humber
Paul Cobb	Gloucestershire County Council	South West
Dave Clack	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk	East of England
Clive Werrett	Worcestershire County Council	West Midlands
Alan Manchester	Bury Council	North West
Steve Palframan	South East Employers	South East
James Saunders	Bedford Council	East of England
Maria Strangward	HSE	
Andrew Kingscott	HSE	
Dr Tao Wu	HSE	
Glynn Gibson	IOSH	

Maria informed members that she was moving to a new job in HSE and introduced Andrew Kingscott the new head of the sector who will be the contact for the time being.

Kelvin thanked Maria for all the help and assistance she had given him and the Panel members and wished her well in her new job.

Steve Palframan also announced that he would be retiring and so, having been at the first meeting in 2002 this was likely his last meeting. Kelvin also thanked him for his help and contribution and wished him a happy retirement.

## 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from:

Jonathan Godfrey	Hounslow Council	London
Carol Fox	Shropshire Council	West Midlands

## 3. Notes of last meeting (14 November 2017, LGA 18 Smith Square, London).

There were no comments on the notes from the last meeting.

## 4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

## 5. HSE Hand Arm Vibration Intervention (Dr Tao Wu, HM Specialist Inspector for Noise and Vibration)

Dr Tao Wu gave a very informative and thought provoking presentation on HSE's work on Hand Arm Vibration, raising issues re, measurement, practical ways to reduce exposure and suggestions to include more consideration of this in procurement decisions.

The powerpoint slides from the presentation by Dr Wu are attached along with a Draft Amenity Horticultural HAV Guide.

Tao also provided these useful links which she had referred to:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/vibration/hav/advicetoemployers/vibration-exposure-monitoring-qa.pdf>

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/vibration/hav/source-vibration-magnitude-app3.pdf>

Tao was asked about the measurement standards that people should follow when they test their tools on site. She subsequently confirmed they are:

- BS EN ISO 5349-1:2001 (current) Mechanical vibration —Measurement and evaluation of human exposure to hand-transmitted vibration — Part 1: General requirements
- BS EN ISO 5349-1:2002 (current) Mechanical vibration —Measurement and evaluation of human exposure to hand-transmitted vibration – Part 2: Practical guidance for measurement at the workplace

## 6. Update on operation of regional groups and HSE regional engagement

The matters of interest within the regional networks remained broadly that discussed at the Practitioner Panel.

There was increased interest in establishing best methodologies for fire risk assessments.

Members continued to experience general loss in adviser numbers and some had faced difficulty in attracting candidates when recruiting experienced practitioners.

## **7. HSE Update to include Helping GB Work Well**

As Maria was moving to a new job within HSE Andrew Kingscott, as head of sector would be the contact for the time being.

HSE were holding its MSD summit also on 21 March. Amongst other things it was recognised that elements of the EU Directive on Display Screen Equipment were out of date as research into effects of changes in the world of work lagged behind the practice.

HSE had a new automated online stress tool

New gas regs were coming into force on 6 April

There was anew Memorandum of Understanding with the Care Quality Commission regarding responsibilities in care homes

Further details on the above are contained in the HSE update attached.

## **8. Volunteers (Update)**

HSE were of the view that there was good guidance on their website regarding activities performed by volunteers with low level risk but remained concerned about issues caused by austerity such as violence and aggression in situations where risk has moved from employees performing tasks in well managed places to volunteers performing tasks in sometimes less well managed environments. Key features in terms of responsibility and liability remain whose undertaking is it and who is in control.

## **9. DFE Asbestos Management Assurance process in Schools**

DFE had launched its Asbestos Management assurance Process in Schools whereby the responsible person will be required to complete an online return to confirm that they were controlling and actively managing risk. The deadline for completion is 31 May 2018. HSE will conduct inspections to validate where management assurance problems are identified.

## **10. Apprenticeships (Update)**

At the time of the meeting the new Health, Safety and Environment Apprenticeship had not yet become available although was close.

**Note:** The apprenticeship is now available although currently offered by a small number of providers. It is hoped that the number will grow to enable more employers to engage apprentices (see Institute for Apprenticeships website

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/safety-health-and-environment-technician/> )

## **11. Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group guidance**

The Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group (VSG) has a wide group of members across Britain and Ireland from RNLI and the National Trust to the Forestry Commission, local authorities and private attractions such as Chatsworth House. They have common features being the ownership, operation or other responsibilities regarding land accessible to the public and visitor attractions. VSG had contacted LGA with the intention to try to inform both duty holders in local authorities and enforcing officers of their approach to visitor safety in the countryside.

This would help co-ordinate activities and approaches where local authority land bordered land managed by other VSG members but also inform enforcing officers in relation to oversight and investigations.

At the time of the meeting VSG had not provided its information note but subsequently provided after the meeting. Please see the note (attached).

Further details of VSG work and members can be found on its website <http://vscg.org/>

## **12. Councillor Handbook/Duties to and obligations of Councillors (e.g. driving)**

Progress on the Councillor Handbook remains slow. There was some discussion about clarifying the duties and obligations of councillors in respect of health and safety. Steve Palframan recalled that this issue had been looked at before and subsequently provided the advice that had been produced by the Employers Organisation for Local Government at that time. This is attached for information.

## **13. Health surveillance**

The potential to revise/update the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities document Standards for Health Screening, Statutory Medicals and Health Surveillance remains.

It was agreed to recirculate the document seeking comments and any offers of assistance with a firm deadline. This will be done by separate email.

## **14. Forums Updates** **(i) LAWS/WISH**

A revision of WISH 24 is expected soon.  
Notes of the last LAWS meeting on 7 February 2018 are attached.

## **(ii) Asbestos in Schools**

See Item 9. DFE Asbestos Management Assurance process in Schools.

## **15. Any Other Business**

As the meeting was drawing to a close there was no substantial other business although there was brief discussion about the implications of the removal of the compulsory retirement age by the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations) 2006 (now contained within the age discrimination provisions of the Equality Act 2010) in relation to capability management. This had always been a concern that sometimes long serving employees would be potentially dismissed on capability grounds as their health/performance deteriorated

## **16. Future meetings**

Wednesday 11 July – LGA, 18 Smith Square, London

Wednesday 14 November – LGA, 18 Smith Square, London