

# **HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL APRIL 2009-MARCH 2010 AND PLANS FOR APRIL 2010-MARCH 2011**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Health and Safety Executive encourage all large organisations to summarise their health and safety plan and performance and make it publicly available. Buckinghamshire County Council supports this best practice; this report summarises the County Council's health and safety performance during the past year; highlights some of the main achievements of 2009 – 2010 and outlines our main aims for 2010-2011. Our overall aim is to manage health and safety effectively to reduce accidents and work related ill health within the spirit of 'sensible risk management'.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY HIGHLIGHTS**

Some of the main achievements of the past year include

- The introduction of a Legionella Management Strategy for all BCC premises including a programme of training for all premises managers/responsible persons.
- The County Council has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue (BMKFA) Authority formalising arrangements for BMKFA to actively assist BCC to comply with Fire Safety Regulations in its premises. This should lead to a consistent approach to the interpretation of legal requirements and a long term improvement in fire safety in all BCC premises particularly schools.
- An improvement in health and safety audit scores for most BCC premises/services/schools audited for the second time compared to their original audit score.
- The delivery of approximately 323 health and safety training courses, training approximately 3270 employees from all areas of the Council including schools. The introduction of new courses, on working at height and Legionella management.

## **SIGNIFICANT RISKS**

The main occupational safety and health risks to County Council employees are violence (including threats and verbal abuse); slips, trips and falls; work related stress and musculo-skeletal problems related to manual handling and workstation use.

## **CONTACT WITH ENFORCING AUTHORITIES**

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are the Council's main enforcing authority. Again due to the recognised good performance and responsiveness of the Council on health and safety matters the HSE have continued with their light touch approach.

### HSE Contact 2008-9

Type of Enforcement	Number	Reason for Enforcement
Prosecutions	0	
Prohibition notices	0	
Improvement notices	0	
Dangerous Occurrences	0	
Formal letters	0	

**Other Enforcement Action** - None.

### ANNUAL STATISTICS

The table below summarises the number of accidents to employees and non-employees during 2009-10 and previous years.

#### Accidents to Employees

	April 99 – March 00 (benchmark year)	April 07- March 08	April 08 – April 09	April 09 – April 10
TOTAL ACCIDENTS	1505	1347	1232	910
Reportable lost time/serious accidents	45	32	50	29
Total number of days lost	No figures available	732.5	848.5	447.5
Incident rate (per 100 employees)	17.71	12.61	11.27	6.5
Incident rate for reportable lost time/serious accidents (per 100 employees)	0.53	0.30	0.46	0.21
Fatalities	0	0	0	0
Nominal cost of accidents (£)	–	50,894.10	58,953.78	31,092.30

#### Accidents to Non Employees (HSE Reportable Only)

	<b>April 00 – March 01</b>	<b>April 07- March 08</b>	<b>April 08 – April 09</b>	<b>April 09 – April 10</b>
Total Accidents	45	28	41	13

## **CONSULTATION WITH EMPLOYEES**

The Corporate Health and Safety Committee, chaired by the Strategic Director, Resources and Business Transformation and attended by a nominated elected member, met 3 times in 2009/10. The four local health and safety committees have also met throughout the year.

## **TARGETS 2009 – 2010**

The health and safety targets set for last year are shown below along with progress made to date on meeting them. Those targets not met in full are carried over to 2010-11.

<b>We said we would do</b>	<b>We achieved</b>
Complete the implementation of the new accident/incident reporting system which has been further developed to allow telephone as well as online reporting.	The new reporting system is now fully in operation.
Monitor and support the implementation of CHAS (Contractor's Health and Safety Scheme) and revised Construction and Design Management Regulations.	New guidance on contractors and CHAS have been issued. Most contractors are now registered or in the process of registration.
Check the Council's procedures for Statutory Inspections of plant and equipment are working effectively.	A survey of equipment requiring Statutory Inspection is underway. Preliminary results indicate that an adequate statutory inspection / testing regime is in place in all premises.
The work on managing stress has now been widened to encompass other health related issues in a 'Wellbeing Strategy'. The Stress Steering Group has been renamed and reconstituted as the Health and Wellbeing Working Group to lead on this.	The Health and Wellbeing Group met regularly and lead on the initiatives set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
Finalise and implement a policy on Work Related Road Risk.	The Policy has now been finalised and will be implemented in 2009/10. Lead responsibility is with Casualty Reduction Team.

<p>The Transformation programme will have significant effects on the way Council services are run. Ensuring health and safety continues to be effectively managed during this time will be a major challenge in the forthcoming year.</p>	<p>The Health and Safety Team continue to work with services to ensure health and safety is well managed and risks to employees and non employees controlled as far as is reasonably practicable during service restructuring.</p>
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## **FORTHCOMING ISSUES FOR 2010 – 2011**

In addition to the carry forward items the following issues have been identified as a priority for the year

- Ensure health and safety standards are met for school swimming and school managed swimming pools by the introduction of a robust monitoring system.
- Ensure the auditing programme keeps to schedule and work with establishments/services to ensure audit actions are implemented.
- Revise the Contractor Policy and Guidelines to reflect OGC Guidance on contractor health and safety assessment.
- Complete the programme of Legionella training and monitor the implementation of the Legionella management regime.
- Complete the review of the Council's arrangements for statutory inspection of equipment such as lifts and boilers and issue advice/guidance if required.

To complement the County Council's general aims for health and safety, each Service produces its own annual Health and Safety Action Plan setting out its specific priorities for managing its risks in the forthcoming year.

Further information:

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