

Committee:	Safety Committee	Agenda Item No.:	6.
Date:	27 th October 2010	Category	
Subject:	General Health and Safety Report	Status	Open
Report by:	Health and Safety Officer		
Other Officers involved:			
Director	Chief Executive Officer		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor J.E. Bennett, Portfolio Holder for Performance and Heritage Member Champion		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Continually improving our organisation, by ensuring we comply with legislation and best practice.

TARGETS

The subject matter does not relate to any targets specified in the Corporate Plan.

VALUE FOR MONEY

Helping ensure that the Council discharges its legal responsibilities and does not incur legal costs, fines or civil penalties.

THE REPORT

Asbestos Management

The survey programme for the housing stock will concentrate on void properties and any large refurbishment programmes.

The guidance on asbestos surveying and sampling has been replaced, the new guidance document is HSG 264, available as a (free) 74 page download from the HSE website. www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hse264.pdf

Management surveys (formerly type 1 and type 2 surveys)

A management survey is the standard survey. Its purpose is to locate the presence and extent of any suspect asbestos containing materials (ACMs) in the building which could be damaged or disturbed during normal use including maintenance etc. and to assess their condition. This will often involve minor intrusive work and some disturbance.

Refurbishment and demolition surveys (formerly type 3 surveys)

A refurbishment and demolition survey aims to ensure that:

1. Nobody will be harmed by work on ACM in the premises or equipment
2. Such work will be done by the right contractor in the right way.

A refurbishment and demolition survey is needed before any refurbishment or demolition work is carried out and should be used to locate and describe, all ACMs in the area where the refurbishment work will take place or in the whole building if demolition is planned. The survey will be fully intrusive and involve destructive inspection, as necessary, to gain access to **all** areas, including those that may be difficult to reach.

A more detailed briefing note has been circulated to relevant personnel.

Competency for asbestos surveyors

There is a new regime for assessing competency for asbestos surveyors, ABICS. We are currently investigating to determine if in-house sampling provision is feasible and cost effective for some or all of the minor works undertaken.

Stress Risk Assessments

In accordance with the policy adopted last year stress risk assessments will be completed for each post (or very similar group of posts) by the end of the year. Note that these are not assessments of individual post holders but looks at how the factors which can affect stress are managed.

Training – since the previous meeting:

Induction training was undertaken for 12 employees (mainly apprentices) on 12th September.

Legionella refresher training was delivered to 48 employees on 30th July and 18th August. Further legionella training will be organised for the end of the year.

Risk Assessment training was delivered to 24 employees on 11th August

IOSH Directing Safely, for Senior Managers, was delivered to 11 senior managers on 11th October.

Additionally Street Services has delivered training on general safety awareness and driver vehicle checks.

Improvement Notice Action Plan

Work activity continues to be surveyed – all operatives (garage, GM, housing trades) are continuing to record their daily exposure to vibration as before.

Vibration measuring equipment has now arrived and a sample of tools will be tested to check the manufacturer's information. No further incidents of exposure over the legal maximum (5ms²) have been recorded.

Some 'seasonal' pieces of equipment are yet to be surveyed.

As part of programmed replacement, eight hedge trimmers and four leaf blowers have been destroyed and scrapped. They have been replaced with lower noise/vibration models.

Procurement guidance is still in preparation.

First Aid

10 staff have been trained on the two day refresher course and 3 on the one day 'emergency' course in August and September. Initial feedback from the new first aid trainer (Mines Rescue in Mansfield) has been positive.

Occupational Health

The procurement process for a new Occupational Health contract has commenced. As before, the contract will be let by a consortium of authorities.

Currently the consortium consists of:

Bolsover District Council
North east Derbyshire District Council
Rykneld homes

Chesterfield Borough Council cannot yet confirm their participation in the contract. .

Amber Valley and Erewash have expressed an interest in joining with the consortium and have been sent the relevant information.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial: No direct financial implications or additional commitments

Legal: None

Human Resources: No direct implications

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be accepted.

ATTACHMENT: No

FILE REFERENCE:

SOURCE DOCUMENT: