

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Safety Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in Chamber Suites 1 and 2, on Monday, 8 February 2016 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillors R J Bowler, H J Gilmour, A Joesbury, C Moesby and B R Murray-Carr.

UNISON:-

K Shillitto (in the Chair) and C McKinney (substituting for J Clayton)

Officers:-

S Gordon (HR & Payroll Operations Manager), P Wilmot (HR Manager), M Spotswood (Health & Safety Advisor), P Campbell (Assistant Director – Community Safety and Head of Housing [BDC]), M Cooper (Property and Estates Manager) and M Kane (Governance Manager)

K Shillitto in the Chair

0775. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from J Clayton.

0776. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

0777. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

0778. MINUTES – 9 NOVEMBER 2015

Moved by Councillor H Gilmour and seconded by Councillor A Joesbury.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Safety Committee held on 9 November 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

(Governance Manager)

0779. SICKNESS ABSENCE/OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH STATISTICS OCTOBER 2015 TO DECEMBER 2015

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director – Human Resources which provided sickness absence and occupational health statistics for October to December 2015.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

The sickness absence outturn for October to December 2015 stood at 1.65 days per full time equivalent, which was an improvement on last year's equivalent figure of 2.75 days. It meant the Council was on track to meet its 2015/16 target of 8.5 days.

The top three causes of sickness absence during the period were muscular/skeletal (215.5 days lost), stress (92.5 days lost) and back/neck injuries (70.5 days lost). Levels of stress were significantly down from the same period in 2014 where 235 days had been lost.

There were a total of 11 employees who were suffering long term sickness absence, which was similar to last year's figure. Furthermore, two employees were undergoing counselling during this period.

Members debated the findings which showed that the number of days lost to stress was at its lowest for five years. Nevertheless, it was important to ensure that regular stress awareness training was in place and that staff knew where to find support when they needed it.

Moved by Councillor B R Murray-Carr and seconded by Councillor C Moesby.
RESOLVED that the report be noted.

0780. ACCIDENT STATISTICS OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2015

The Committee considered a report of the Health and Safety Advisor which provided an update on the Council's accident performance during the period October to December 2015.

There had been a total of 10 accidents during the period, which was the same as last year, although the type of accidents were different, with four resulting from manual handling and three from strikes against a fixed object.

Numbers of accidents for the year were roughly consistent with last year, with 33 in the first three quarters of 2015/16 as against 30 at the same point last year. However, the number of total days lost in 2015/16 was considerably less with five in the third quarter of 2015/16 as against 17 in the same quarter last year, leading to a total number of days lost for 2015/16 being 66.5 as against 131 at the end of the third quarter in 2014/15.

The rest of the report highlighted numbers of accidents amongst members of the public at Council leisure centres, which was also down on the previous year, and root causes of accidents.

Moved by Councillor B R Murray-Carr and seconded by Councillor R Bowler.
RESOLVED that the Committee notes the report and information provided.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

0781. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Health and Safety Advisor which provided an update on the Council's health and safety performance over the last quarter. There was an update on the health and safety action plans and the progress made against realising targets. The report also detailed any significant health and safety accidents, incidents, enforcement activity or legislative changes which could adversely affect the Council's risk exposure.

Members were advised that during the reporting period one person had been added to the Employee Protection Register and another two names had been removed. The total number of addresses now held on the Register was 23.

A number of work place inspections had been carried out or were planned. In addition, a range of health and safety training courses were being undertaken by employees and members across the Council.

Concern was expressed around the high numbers of staff that there were left to train between the date of the Committee and the end of the financial year. However, officers advised that work was on track.

Members also expressed a desire to be trained in areas around risk awareness, fire safety and health and safety generally.

Moved by Councillor H Gilmour and seconded by Councillor B R Murray-Carr.
RESOLVED that the Committee notes the report and the information provided.

0782. HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE (HSE) INVESTIGATION REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Health and Safety Advisor which provided details of two incidents in the Housing Repairs Services which had been investigated by the Health and Safety Executive. One was a reportable accident and the other a reportable disease.

Details of the cases, the issues identified by the HSE, recommendations made and actions taken were outlined. There was a brief discussion around the report followed by questions and answers.

Moved by Councillor C Moesby and seconded by Councillor B R Murray-Carr.
RESOLVED that the Committee notes the report and the information provided.

The meeting concluded at 1100