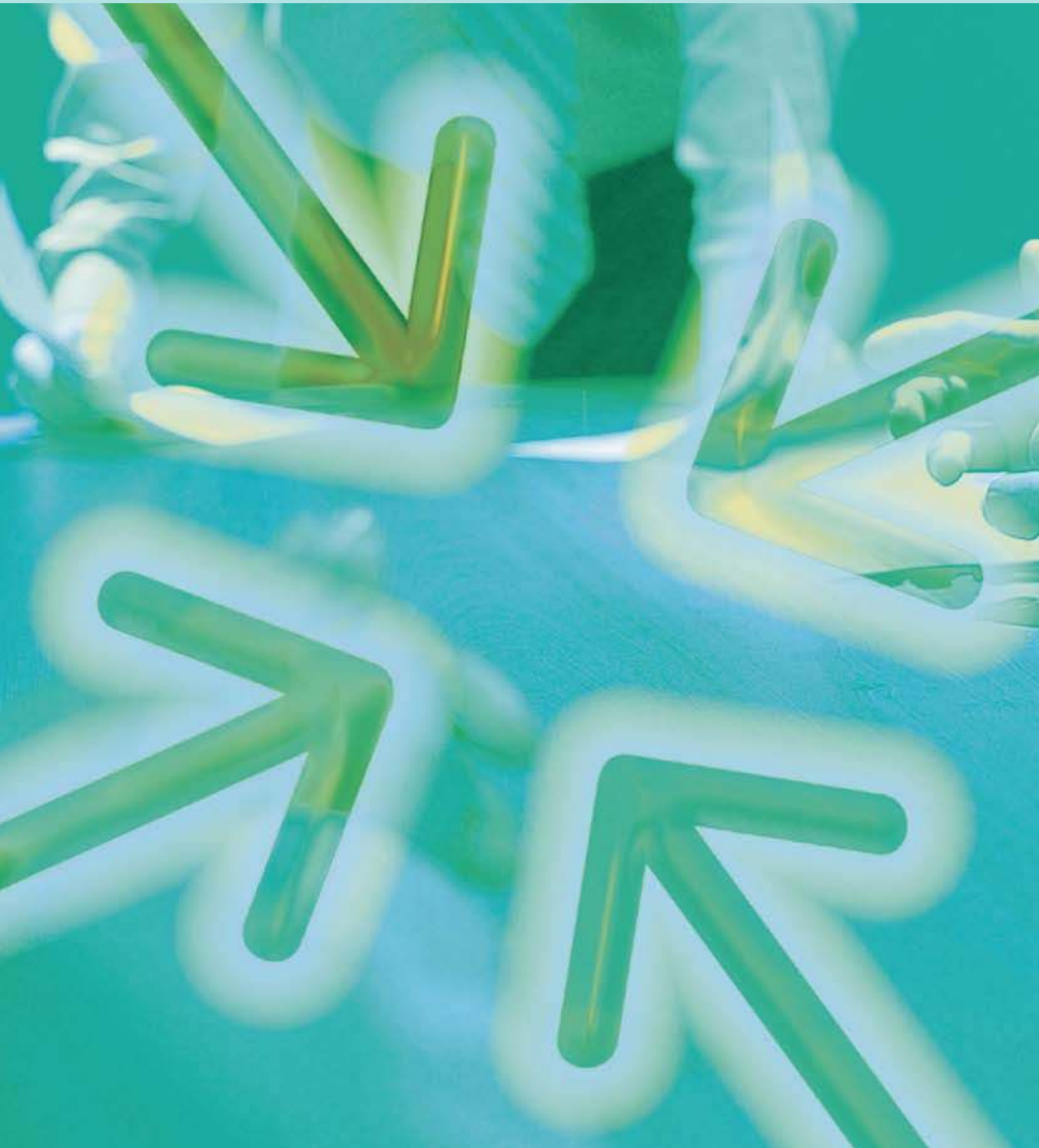




LACORS working together

Partnership Annual Report 2007



Introduction

A key element of the Health and Safety Commission's (HSC's) Strategy to 2010 and beyond is the development of a partnership between the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and local authorities (LAs) based around joint planning, joint decision-making and joint action. HSE, LAs and the Local Authority Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) have been working closely together to develop this partnership.

A review of the state of play with the partnership, carried out jointly by Phil Scott (HSE) and Mark DuVal (LACORS), was completed in August 2007. The review looked at how effectively the principles set out in the 'Statement of Intent' signed by HSC, HSE and LA representative bodies in July 2004 had been achieved. The review concluded that partnership working was becoming embedded as the way LAs and HSE do business together. Work still needed to be done, but this was being taken forward in a general atmosphere of trust and mutual support.

This report sets out the work that has been done to further the partnership during 2007. The activities undertaken at a corporate level to further partnership working and develop solid foundations for the partnership are set out first. Ensuring that all parts of HSE and the LA regulatory regime are equipped for and committed to partnership working has been a key focus of this work.

A review of work at the centre is then followed by reports from all parts of Great Britain. These area reports each have an individual flavour and embody the spirit of partnership working as it is being progressed locally. All the reports share a common agenda of examining and developing better ways of working together to achieve better health and safety outcomes, but each is subtly different reflecting the different circumstances locally.

There is work still to do to develop and maintain the partnership, but this report confirms that the partnership is in good health.

News on the programme work streams

Training and support

Providing support, information and training to LAs is key to sustaining and developing the LA/HSE partnership.

In 2006/07, regional partnership team managers addressed local needs by organising a number of training days for LAs.

Work continued to produce a competency framework relevant to both HSE and LA health and safety regulators. The framework is designed to help practitioners, both alone and in discussion with their managers, to analyse their existing skills, knowledge and experience and then identify any areas that need to be developed to better equip them to meet the particular challenges of their job. The framework will help both HSE and LAs ensure that regulators achieve and maintain the skills they need to meet the challenges of their work and demonstrate that each enforcing authority maintains an adequately resourced and competent workforce.

The work has been overseen by a project management board drawn from HSE, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH), the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS), LACORS and LA representatives. A workshop was held for interested parties, including several government departments, at CIEH headquarters in July 2007. A draft set of core competencies has been trialled. The framework will be further tested during the first half of 2008. The aim is to produce a web-based tool that will be available to all health and safety enforcement officers.

Science and technology

The Local Authority Science and Technology Initiative runs from May 2005 until March 2009. It enables LAs to use the Health and Safety Laboratory's (HSL's) resources to help investigate a range of issues across the activities for which they are the enforcing authority.

LAs have made a significant use of this resource, both for planned projects and for incident and other investigations. Some of the projects include:

- work-related violence: a toolkit targeted at dutyholders at retail and licensed premises;
- an assessment of 'barrier safety' at stockcar events;
- communication issues between LAs and their dutyholders;

- micro-pigmentation, body piercing and semi-permanent tattooing;
- nail bars in the beauty industry;
- dermatitis and hairdressing – focusing on the use of gloves by hairdressers. An educational film is available for LA inspectors, along with information for LA inspectors, industry and training providers;
- asbestos – development of a training DVD for LA inspectors on assessing notifications for and inspecting work activities involving asbestos-containing materials.

Over 60% of the 165 reactive support jobs commissioned since the start of the scheme have supported formal enforcement or other legal action and a further 30% have provided data to enable inspectors to give effective advice and make sure remedial action is taken where necessary.

Information on all completed projects is available to all LA officers via a secure website (HELex). Access to this site can be obtained through Local Authority Unit (contact HELAextranetenquiries@hse.gsi.gov.uk).

The Local Authority Science and Technology Initiative finishes in March 2009, after which LA science and technology needs will be incorporated into HSE's overall Science Plan. The Science Plan for 2009–11 is currently under development.

Exchanging and sharing information

To work together effectively, LA and HSE staff need to be able to share information quickly and easily. To ensure consistency it is important that they have shared access to information about technical, legal and professional standards and policies. To facilitate this HSE has, over the years, developed a number of websites. The facilities available via the main site, HElEx, have been reviewed and updated in consultation with LA users. HElEx now provides an exclusive secure website for the exchange of health and safety information. HElEx replaces the Local Authority Unit closed site and the 'Training Co-Ord' website, which are both being phased out.

HELex has been improved and expanded during 2007. It now hosts a number of data gathering surveys and contributes to collecting data on successful prosecutions by LAs. This data was used to produce the *Health and safety offences and penalties in local authority enforced sectors 2006/07* report.

HELex is now the core contact point for LAs exchanging information with HSE. It is a sophisticated site with potential to support additional activities and services. To raise awareness and increase knowledge

about its potential uses, the HElEx team is planning to promote it in the LA community in 2008 by attending a number of regional health and safety liaison group meetings. This will encourage LAs to contribute to HElEx, exploit its full potential and play a part in shaping its development.

LACORS continues to develop guidance for LAs, promote good practice, and share information through the LACORS website and by email alerts to health and safety specialists. Work to improve links between the LACORS website, HSE website and HElEx continues.

Flexible warrants

Flexible warrants allow LA and HSE inspectors to work within premises not allocated to them by regulation. Flexible warrants were used in a number of instances during the year to facilitate joint working between HSE and LA staff. Initiatives included projects on the duty to manage asbestos, the activities of peripatetic tattooists, and work at height. A number of county groups are already developing schemes for 2008 and we are actively looking for more groups to develop specific initiatives where flexible warrants will make better use of joint resources.

Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, Section 18 guidance

The new Section 18 Standard, which sets out 'adequate arrangements' for enforcement by enforcing authorities, was tested during 2007 by a number of LAs and HSE's Field Operations Directorate (FOD). The revised standard builds upon, develops and clarifies the existing guidance. It has been considered and agreed by the LACORS Policy Forum, the HSE Board, HSC and the Local Government Panel. Testing of the standard has demonstrated that well-performing LAs should be easily able to achieve compliance. The standard will be published in April 2008 setting out the standards that both HSE's Field Operations Division and LAs are expected to meet. Enforcing authorities are expected to work to meet the standard as soon as possible, and in any case, to be compliant before April 2011.

Local authority planning – Local Area Agreements

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 introduces significant changes to the way that LAs in England plan and deliver their functions with their partners. These changes influence how HSE engages with LAs to improve the health and safety in local communities. The Act places a duty on

HSE as a 'named partner' to co-operate and consult with LAs and Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) in setting and delivering the local improvement priorities set out in Sustainable Community Strategies and Local Area Agreements (LAAs). This provides an opportunity for the HSE/LA Partnership to shape the priorities set by councils and their strategic partners, as well as contribute to the well-being of local areas.

HSE and LACORS have produced a comprehensive guide to highlight the contribution that health and safety makes to improving the health, work and well-being of local communities. The guide was sent to all LA chief executives and Government Office regional directors in February 2008. HSE's partnership managers have been meeting with Government Offices, LSP co-ordinators and LAs to discuss how workplace health and safety can be part of LAA targets and to reinforce the message that health and safety regulation makes an important contribution to delivery of local government national indicators. We are working with LAs that have adopted indicators (including National Indicator 173) within their Local Area Agreement targets where achievement of the target is supported by health and safety regulation.

Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill

The Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill, sponsored by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, was presented to Parliament in November 2007. Its aim is to promote a local authority regulatory framework that is more consistent, proportionate and targeted.

HSE is actively engaged with the Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO), taking forward the better regulation agenda as part of its work to implement the Hampton Review. A Memorandum of Understanding with LBRO to define our respective roles and responsibilities and enhance the excellent working relationship established to date is proposed. HSE continues to support a number of better regulation initiatives such as the Better Regulation Executive's (BRE's) Retail Enforcement Pilot, and indications are that BRE recognises the HSE/LA partnership as an effective, co-ordinated and targeted regulatory regime.

LA contribution to Fit3

As with previous years, LAs have made a significant contribution to the delivery and success of HSC's main programme for tackling key health and safety priorities, the Fit for Work, Fit for Life, Fit for Tomorrow (Fit3)

Strategic Programme, and have collectively devoted more resource to its delivery than HSE.

LAs are now involved at every stage of planning and shaping the overall portfolio of work that constitutes Fit3. This ensures that Fit3 takes account of the views of LAs and their priorities in their areas of enforcement. For example, the projects on the work-related violence toolkit and the flour dust benchmark for supermarkets are high on the list of concerns, and work to address them has been developed in partnership.

Lessons from the Fine Tuning review of HSC's strategy have been applied and the planning process has been improved. Fit3 programmes now provide the high-level strategic direction for projects, setting out 'how and why' initiatives should be taken forward. LAs and HSE's Field Operations Division are then able to use their own local knowledge and expertise to select and design interventions appropriate to the local area.

Examples of successful Fit3 projects delivered this year include the work to support 'Ladders Exchange 2007' (4000 unsuitable ladders were exchanged and taken out of service) and a range of local initiatives using 'flexible warranting', including a successful 'Asbestos: Duty to Manage' project in Suffolk.

LAs were involved with developments with Fit3 and kept up to date with progress in a variety of ways – through local meetings with partnership managers, at the CIEH two-day conference and at the successful regional Partnership events in autumn 2007. Fit3 Street (www.hse.gov.uk/fit3street), our online tool to communicate Fit3 materials to LAs, was launched in April 2007 and has proved to be popular. The new version will have even more helpful features, such as the facility for LAs to feed back on how projects have been delivered.

A number of focus groups took place last year. These gave HSE's field staff and their equivalent LA colleagues the opportunity to express their thoughts on what was working well within the Fit3 programme and where and how improvements could be made. This has been useful and it will continue where possible in 2008/09.

Fit3 will continue to both involve LA and LACORS staff and members of LACORS Policy Forum in all stages of the decision-making process. These contacts will also be used to gather feedback about developments in the LA-enforced areas. In this way, the experience and priorities of LA staff will be integral to designing and developing the programme.

What's happening in the field?

A key element of the success of the partnership teams has been the inclusion of LA environmental health officer (EHO) secondees. They provide an invaluable contribution to partnership work and communication between HSE and LAs by bringing LA experience and understanding to bear and by making sure LAs are engaged with matters affecting them at a local level and HSE is engaged with changes in the LA regulatory landscape. HSE recognises that LA secondment and HSE/LA staff swapping is important to sustain the partnership and will continue to support it where possible.

Scottish, Welsh and English Regional Partnership Events replaced the annual conference in 2007. This gave LAs an opportunity to debate the emerging sustainable community planning processes (in England, via the new Local Area Agreement processes) and how health and safety regulatory activities could be integrated into the delivery of the broad objectives of local plans. The events were a major success and well attended, with over 600 delegates in total and 264 LAs represented. They will be followed up with a National Conference in Manchester on 5 November 2008. Regional partnership teams have also been working with HSE's LAU and policy colleagues to deliver on HSE's 'named partner' obligations to LSPs in England under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act.

The regional partnership teams have been injecting enthusiasm and ideas into their teams and have kept up the momentum. Background and early history of the partnership is available on the HSE website: www.hse.gov.uk.

London

2007 was a year for consolidation of partnership working in London. 'Smoke free' was a big diversion for LAs and personnel changes took their toll. The governance meeting infrastructure has been reviewed and a yearly timetable set. Fewer, better-timed meetings should promote information flow, in particular, to the LACORS Health and Safety Policy Forum and from the HSE/LA Enforcement Liaison Committee (HELA).

To promote cross-London communication on 2008/09 planning, an event was held with HSE's FOD London Head of Operations. LAs found this a helpful way to familiarise themselves with the Fit3 project portfolio and to share thoughts on local priorities. Feedback on the health of the Partnership was positive and a number of issues are now being considered by the Strategic Regional Group.

London LAs have continued to deliver Fit3 work and have recorded this on the HELA Training Co-Ord website; 1851 visits were recorded between 1 April and mid-November 2007. Several boroughs worked on ladder exchanges. There were two Safety and Health Awareness Days (SHADs), one for the north-east London boroughs at West Ham United FC and one for south-west London boroughs in Battersea Park.

The joint LA/HSE work on Moving Goods Safely 2 (MGS2) has been very effective with the five supply chains selected. Persistence with a retail chain left over from MGS1 is starting to pay off with better engagement from the company. A small HSE team has continued to work with interested LAs on approaches to Royal Mail. Recently, the Large Organisation Partnership Pilot (LOPP) aspect has taken over with London boroughs involved in three Royal Mail Local Action Plans.

A number of London LAs are participating in the national projects on Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 Section 18 (S18) shadowing, with a couple more about to pilot the 'Competency Framework'. London LAs have continued to contribute resource to 'buddying' Fit3 Programmes to ensure an LA input.

The Partnership Team has approached the London Food Co-ordinating Group and boroughs with food teams that also inspect health and safety in food premises. The Team has tried to re-enthuse food teams in the subject, and persuade them to take on the Fit3 topics of dermatitis and slips and trips. 'Health and safety rustiness' of food practitioners was identified as one obstacle; several training sessions are being held for boroughs taking on this work.

The Team is linked with the 'Consistency of Enforcement' work in East and South-East Division. FOD London has a 'mentor' in post who has already helped deal with a batch of tricky investigations. A 'Managing Investigations' workshop for LA team leaders and managers has also been held.

The science and technology project commissioned by Westminster City Council resulted in the *Violence at work* toolkit, which is a key component of the violence work in the 2008/09 Fit3 portfolio.

The London boroughs set up a working group to write pan-London legionella inspection and outbreak protocols to share the greater experience of some boroughs. Training will follow.

The London Partnership Team's work with CIEH and the London Trading Standards Association (LoTSA) culminated in a joint briefing event on Local Area Agreements.

East and South East

Arrangements for effective partnership working, planning and formal communication exist across the region. A regional work plan captures the work of the 67 LAs and HSE, setting out the key priorities and major projects. The South East Regional Health and Safety Strategy Group has agreed the plan to encourage strategic application of resources in the South East.

Key work undertaken in 2007 includes:

- Early in 2007/08 many LAs worked alongside HSE's health and safety awareness officers to promote the regional priorities with businesses during short site visits, gathering useful intelligence to target interventions. Evaluation shows that the majority of those visited took action in the priority areas following the visits.
- Southampton City Council and Eastleigh Borough Council have run events to improve the provision of health and safety information in Polish to improve worker awareness.
- Significant effort has been put into local Moving Goods Safely projects – tackling high street deliveries, white goods deliveries and builders' merchants.

Flexible warranting continues to provide a route for setting up new ways of working: work in Hampshire has continued; across north Kent, pooled resources delivered proactive work on carpet delivery; in Medway, an accident investigation pilot enabled better targeting of resources at serious accidents. An HSE inspector appointed to work directly for all the Sussex authorities identified examples of good practice that could be shared, and is helping build even closer working across the county.

Work on the 2008/09 regional plan has begun, with several county groups developing three-year rolling plans. The next step for the Strategy Group (regional HELA) is to agree a regional strategy to further raise the profile of working in partnership to tackle shared priorities.

Disease Reduction Programme project working

A campaign concerning the 'Asbestos: Duty to Manage' requirements took place in Suffolk over a two-week period in September 2007. All seven LAs participated, together with HSE inspectors, targeting premises across a range of sectors. The project was organised by representatives from LAs and delivered by 35 officers and inspectors. Over 1000 dutyholders were contacted by mail. Press notices resulted in three radio interviews and two press articles, which helped to increase awareness and impact.

This project enabled LA and HSE inspectors to work together on a proactive campaign across sectors and geographical boundaries, testing the use of their flexible warrants. Over 450 visits took place in seven days, 24 notices were served and action resulted in significant improvements in over 200 premises.

Joint working

HSE, Luton Borough Council and Luton Airport held a SHAD aimed at musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) issues. Over 80 staff from companies based at the airport attended.

HSE staff delivered a series of workshops across the east of England for LA and HSE inspectors. Topics included gas and electrical safety, slips and trips, and enforcement consistency, all delivered within the context of greater partnership working.

In October an event was held for nursing and residential homes in north Essex at which the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), HSE, LAs, the Health Protection Agency and the Ambulance Service were represented. Key messages were delivered to help reduce the risks of musculoskeletal injuries to 120 care home providers.

South West

The South West Forum for Regional Excellence in Safety and Health (FRESH) continues to discuss planning and enforcement issues. A new body, the South West Regulators Forum (SWERF) has taken this a step forward. FRESH brings together HSE inspectors and one EHO enforcing health and safety from each 'county'. SWERF involves regulators from other fields such as food safety, trading standards, the environment and animal health. Recognising the increasing importance of Local Area Agreements, SWERF has produced guidance to help regulators demonstrate to local partnerships their potential contribution to strategic outcomes. This guidance was launched at the South West Regional Partnership Event and has been well received locally and nationally.

HSE welcomed three secondees from environmental health departments in Mendip, Poole and South Gloucestershire. They have carried out valuable work co-ordinating and reporting on the significant contribution that LAs have made to the Fit3 work programme locally. They have also worked on their own projects, eg on how different authorities arrange inspection of health and safety in food premises. A number of student EHOs have spent time with HSE as part of their training. An HSE inspector was seconded to Poole for three months.

HSE and LAs have arranged a variety of events for dutyholders during the year, covering areas such as cleaning, transport and warehousing, hospitality and shopfitting. These seminars have dealt with the priority risk areas for the particular industry as well as covering other issues such as employing migrant workers. In addition there have been two Partnership Awareness Days in different parts the region. These have been opportunities for staff from LAs and HSE to network, share information and to discuss emerging priorities. There have been joint training events such as one on radon, which will be a local priority in 2008/09.

Midlands

Despite outside pressures on HSE and LAs, partnership working prospered throughout 2007. The pressures included funding restrictions, staff shortages, demands from severe flooding, smoke free legislation and organisational uncertainties.

LAs welcome opportunities to celebrate current work and contribute to Fit3 planning. Joint planning events occurred in most counties. Partnership was strengthened by Midlands LA representation on project teams (Workplace Transport, MGS3, Section 18 guidance). A Northamptonshire radon project was important non-Fit3 work.

An LA/HSE/HSL/National Association of Steel Stockholders SHAD and skin disease events in the beauty industry, food handling, catering, florists and craft bakeries are examples of successful Midlands activities, as are EHO training days on, for example, Enforcement Management Model (EMM) consistency in enforcement, bottled gas, electricity and investigation skills.

The Midlands builders' merchant project shifted focus to produce guidance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and EHOs and engage the Builders' Merchant Federation.

HSE supported the British Frozen Food Federation/ Boston Borough Council Lead Authority Partnership and a structured accident/ill-health reduction programme.

The well-supported Midlands Strategic Planning Event, 'Shaping Local Priorities', identified several areas for promotion which had links to Local Area Agreement national indicators.

Yorkshire and North East

Partnership work has continued in a positive way, with much of it relying on enforcement liaison officers (ELOs) and operational groups. All of the liaison groups have committed to plan on the basis of Fit3 priorities and have been positive about the structure that Fit3 brings to their work. Several LAs have commented that as the work they cover becomes more complex, the Fit3 framework helps them address key health and safety topics. This may become even more significant with the Retail Enforcement Pilot work.

There has been excellent LA support for the MGS2 and MGS3 work, with close liaison between operational staff and environmental health practitioners (EHPs) involved. This joint working has benefited both LA and HSE staff, a view supported by the joint working that has taken place as part of the LOPP initiative.

Safer Working Community work received positive support from LA colleagues with events taking place in Blyth, Sunderland, Washington and Driffield and further events taking place this year in York, Tyndale, Alnwick and Wansbeck. These events seem to be particularly popular with LAs because of the local flavour – using larger local businesses to draw in delegates and spread the health and safety message. This work continues with a 'Healthier Working Community' event in Wakefield in March 2008. Part of the development of this work will look at 'refining' the process and make it more efficient.

Some of the larger LAs (including Bradford, Leeds, Rotherham, Wakefield, York etc) signed up to deal with stress in the financial services sector work.

Flexible warrant work has progressed steadily, with positive feedback from Hull, North Lincolnshire, Calderdale, York and Northumberland. Examples have included EHOs stopping construction work (at a rate of approximately one job a month) with Hull being particularly enthusiastic.

There has been further pragmatic use of the flexible warrant where EHOs have willingly responded to complaints on HSE's behalf when it would have taken too long to get an HSE inspector to site. Several of the county liaison groups have signalled a desire to become involved in the wider programme of flexible warrant work.

The team is currently carrying out a training needs analysis among LA colleagues with the aim of providing training to help them meet their changing role and widening spread of work. This is likely to include training on Local Area Agreements and how best to influence them.

Finally, we held a successful 'regional strategic planning' event in November, which was well attended by local councillors, portfolio holders, heads of service and practitioners, with many good ideas emerging about how we can make health and safety a higher priority in local plans and deliver actions in a better way.

North West

This year the North West Partnership Team has concentrated on raising awareness of Local Area Agreements, which recognise the contribution of health and safety objectives to achieving community targets. This was a main theme of the November regional partnership event, attended by 77% of north-west LAs with 40% accompanied by their local councillor. In December we presented a free seminar for EHOs at HSE's Headquarters, with contributions from the Government Office for the North West, the Public Health Observatory and HSE's statistics section and a practical session looking at examples of north-west work that could contribute to national indicators. County groups have been encouraged to work as a team when looking at their contributions.

North-west LAs are active contributors to the development of LA and HSE joint policy. Across Merseyside and Cheshire, LAs are trialling the competency framework for regulators. Lancashire LAs and the Association of Greater Manchester LAs are developing local agreements with CSCI and HSE for clearer enforcing arrangements in each area and collaborative working for the benefit of workers and clients in the care sector. We strongly support LA competency and develop seminars and training to meet regional needs in conjunction with HSE inspectors and other partners. A regional gas safety seminar and the work-related deaths event was held for Greater Manchester LAs, with the coroner, police and HSE staff.

LAs, HSE and the Trades Union Congress continue to work together following the successful joint conference in February 2007. Around 185 delegates attended to hear about the priority topics of MSDs, stress and chemical exposure, and how we may all influence the health of employees by targeting our efforts. The conference introduced new working relationships and established the regional LA/HSE/trade union working group, which meets quarterly.

Working with LAs brings new opportunities for HSE to influence large audiences. One event in September brought 800 people to Oldham Health Fair.

Wales

Over 70 EHOs attended a Working at Height training day focused on LA activities, mainly entertainment (circuses) and the use of rope access and harnesses. The core presenters were from HSL, which had been involved with investigating accidents in LA-enforced premises. Funding for presenters came from the LA Science and Technology Initiative budget. The presentations will be published on HEx.

Following an accident in North Wales, FOD Wrexham and Sky In-home Services joined forces to develop a safe system of work for satellite dish installation. This was further developed with the Confederation of Aerial Industries Ltd, and an industry standard agreed and published. FOD Wrexham then worked with the Department of Trade and Industry (now the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) and trade associations to develop training for the industry, establishing a Registered Digital Installers Licensing Body and an NVQ in the subject.

Television services in the United Kingdom will go digital over the next five years; around a million households may need a new aerial. In preparation, FOD inspectors and EHOs from North Wales were trained in the industry standard. A joint inspection initiative followed to check that installers had the right access equipment and training in work at height – and were using this. This meant establishing a flexible warrant scheme to allow EHOs to find out from retail suppliers and installers where dishes and aerials were being installed, and then inspect the work as it was carried out on sites normally enforced by HSE (ie private houses and flats). Evaluation is ongoing, but this initiative resulted in a number of Improvement Notices to deal with inadequate training, and at least one Prohibition Notice for defective equipment.

The North Wales EHO Task Group decided to use the HSE system for dealing with complaints (using administrative staff to investigate the majority of those received) to evaluate the possible benefits. Those participating reported time saved and fewer disruptions to their work, but there were concerns about lack of local knowledge about premises, what was quite a complicated system, and delays and inconvenience for service users. Nonetheless, the LAs concerned worked well together, operating a common and transparent complaints procedure, and demonstrating that it is possible for LAs to get better performance from their health and safety teams, working more efficiently and releasing time for proactive work, by adopting a different approach to complaints, which has also been HSE's experience over the years.

Scotland

Under the new planning arrangements introduced this year, work by LAs in Scotland has gone well. The majority of authorities have committed resource to Fit3 programme work in those work activities enforced by LAs. The Disease Reduction Programme's project on dermatitis in hairdressing is an example of where Scotland is one of four parts of the UK being targeted (simply to concentrate effort) and is leading the way in terms of LA commitment. A minority of LAs have never formally committed resource and the team intends to convince them of the benefits.

The other main element of programme working is joint working in areas of work where HSE and LAs share enforcement responsibility, such as retail delivery or facilities management work involving, for example, risk of fall from height. LAs were involved early last year in planning this work but only a handful were prepared to commit until they saw more clearly what was involved.

In reality, much good work is being done in the right areas and this is what matters. A number of others have joined in less formally, as many LA staff see the sense of working on areas that have been identified as important in terms of both the risks and numbers of people affected – the foundation of all HSE programmes. Many have still not, but do focus on these risk areas during their programmes of inspections.

The weakest area at present seems to be in organising and gathering information on the areas of joint work covered by the Fit3 programme. Some work on MGS2 involving councils and HSE inspectors has taken place but co-ordination on the ground led to delays and some reduction from the work originally planned. It may be that the effort of co-ordinating and planning such joint efforts outweighs the perceived benefit, with most authorities happier to work using the now vastly more accessible HSE-provided guidance and information to work in these areas at their own pace and timing. To gain more LA support for the Fit3 programme will be part of the planning process and consideration of mechanisms needed.

Are we making a difference?

Fatal injuries

Workers

The overall provisional figure for the number of workers fatally injured in 2006/07 is 241, and corresponds to a rate of fatal injury of 0.80 per 100 000 workers. In 2005/06, the finalised figures were 217 and 0.72 respectively; these were the lowest annual rates on record.

Provisional figures in the LA-enforced sectors indicate a slight fall in the number of fatal injuries to employees from 20 in 2005/06 to 19 in 2006/07, although still fluctuating each year, with no overall trend.

Members of the public

Overall, there were 90 members of the public fatally injured in 2006/07 (excluding railway-related incidents). The number of 'member of the public' incidents reported has not shown any significant change over time.

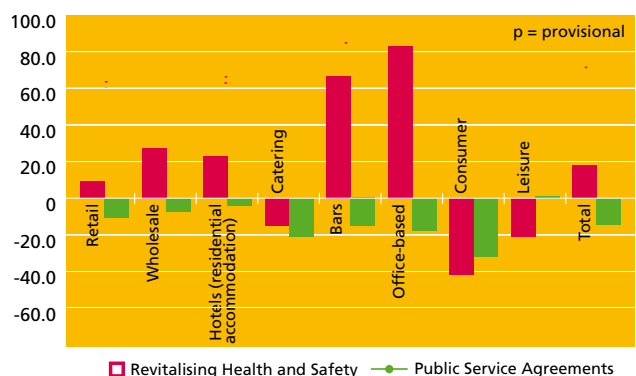
Provisional figures in the LA-enforced sectors indicate a rise in the number of fatal injuries to members of the public in 2006/07 to 28, compared with 19 in 2005/06, and reversing the falling trend from the previous two years.

Non-fatal injuries

Major

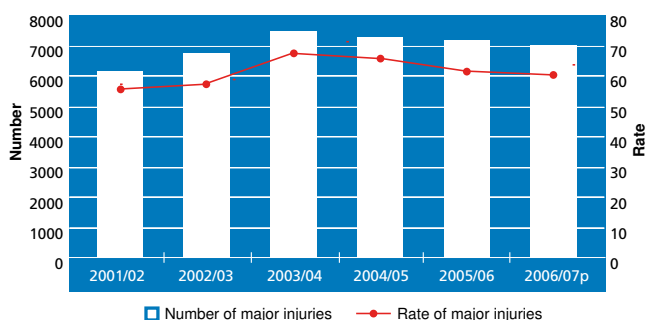
Within the overall figures the rate of major injury in 2006/07 is 107.0 per 100 000 employees. This rate has fallen over the last three years and we are now on track to meet the target that was set under the Revitalising Health and Safety initiative for the period 2000 to 2010. In the last three years

Percentage change in respective target base year in LA-enforced major injuries to employees, 1990/00 to 2006/07p (RHS target) and 2004/05 to 2006/07p (PSA target)

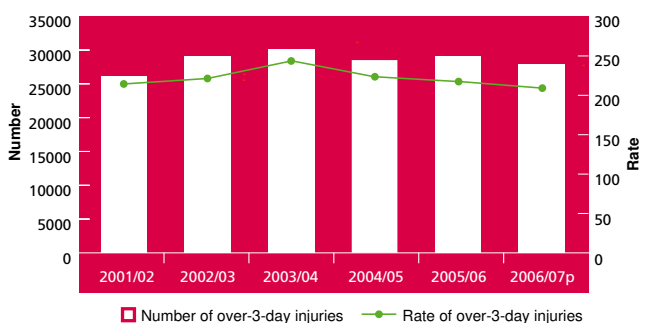


there has been a corresponding fall in major injuries in the mainly LA-enforced sectors, a rate of 60.1 per 100 000 employees in 2006/07 compared to 68.0 per 100 000 in 2004/05. However, in the early part of the Revitalising Health and Safety period there was a considerable rise, so the rate of major injury is yet to return to the level in 1999/2000 of 51.6 per 100 000 employees.

Number and rate of major injury to employees in mainly LA-enforced sectors 2001/02 to 2006/07p



Number and rate of over-3-day injury to employees in mainly LA-enforced sectors 2001/02 to 2006/07



Over-3-day

The overall over-3-day rate in 2006/07 is down by almost 5.8% to 428.1 per 100 000 employees compared to the previous year, continuing a downward trend since 1997/98. The rate of over-3-day injury to employees in mainly LA-enforced sectors is down by 5.0% in 2006/07, following a 3.6% fall in 2005/06 (204.7 and 215.4 respectively). Since 1999/2000 there has been an 8.0% fall, which follows the same pattern as the overall trend.

Non-fatal to members of the public

Overall the number of non-fatal injuries to members of the public rose 10% on the previous year to 17 483 in 2006/07. The bulk of the injuries are in the services industries.

The number of non-fatal injuries in LA-enforced sectors (which are largely within the services industries) rose by 6% in 2006/07 to 4581 from 4332 in 2005/06. Over two-fifths of such injuries occur in the retail sector.

Ill health

Overall in 2006/07, an estimated 2.2 million people were suffering from ill health which they believe was caused or made worse by current or past work, significantly more than in 2005/06 (2.0 million) but of a similar order to 2001/02 (2.3 million). MSDs and stress, depression or anxiety account for around three-quarters of work-related ill health each year, both overall and in mainly LA-enforced sectors. For people working in the last 12 months, the overall rate of new cases (incidence) of self-reported work-related ill health is 2100 cases per 100 000 people, which is of a similar order to that in 2001/02, despite earlier indications of a downward trend from 2001/02 to 2005/06.

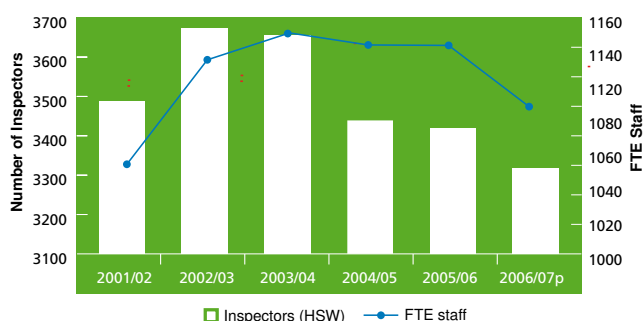
Working days lost

Overall there were 36 million working days lost (1.5 per worker) in 2006/07, 30 million due to work-related ill health and 6 million due to workplace injury. This is a significant increase in the rate from 2005/06 (1.3 days lost per worker), but equivalent to 2004/05 (1.5 per worker).

Local authority activity

The full-time equivalent number of health and safety inspectors, which had stabilised to 1140 in 2005/06, fell by 4% to 1100 in 2006/07, the lowest since 2001/02.

Number of inspectors with health and safety powers and staff time spent on health and safety (on a full-time equivalent basis) 2001/02 to 2006/07



LAs issued a total of 6760 enforcement notices in the last 12 months, a 17% increase since 2000/01. The majority of this increase is the number of immediate Prohibition Notices issued by LAs, 1640 in 2006/07 compared with 1090 in 2001/02. This follows the overall rising trend since 2001/02.

Slips, trips and falls on the level

Slips and trips are the most common kind of major injury to employees in all enforcing authorities, accounting for around 40% of cases each year. There has been a 38% increase in the LA-enforced sectors, from 2227 in 1999/2000 to 3066 in 2006/07.

It is the second most common kind of over-3-day injury (after injuries from handling, lifting or carrying), accounting for around a quarter each year. Overall, there has been a small reduction since 1999/2000, down 3% to 26 732. However, numbers increased by approximately one-fifth in the LA-enforced sectors, from 5691 in 1999/2000 to 6747 in 2006/07.

Slips and trips account for over 50% non-fatal injuries to members of the public each year in LA-enforced sectors.

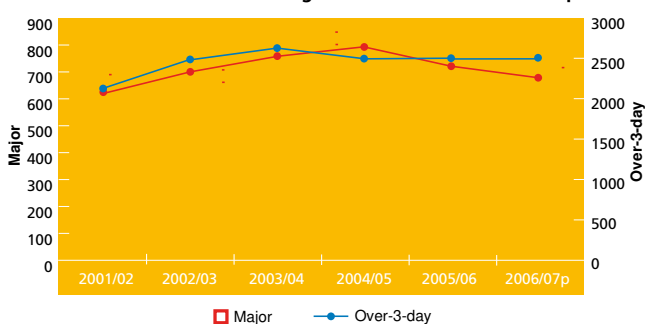
Falls from a height

Both enforcing authorities report that falls from height are the most common kind of fatal injury to workers. The number of deaths from falls from height decreased in 2006/07 from 48 to 45. This is the lowest figure on record, and continues the general downward trend over the past ten years. There was an increase in the number of major injuries due to falls from height in 2006/07, from 3385 in 2005/06 to 3409. Of these, 68% (2324) were as a result of falling from a height of less than two metres.

In the LA-enforced sectors, fatal injuries fell from 6 in 1999/00 to 1 in 2006/07, major injuries dropped from 878 in 1999/2000 to 677 in 2005/06 (23%) and over-3-day injuries from 1522 to 898 (41%). The trend for non-fatal injuries has fallen each year since 1999/2000.

Hotel and catering

Number of major and over-3-day injuries to employees in LA-enforced hotel and catering sectors 2001/02 to 2006/07p



The rate of major injury to employees in hotels and catering decreased from 65.7 per 100 000 employees in 2005/06 (1176 reported injuries), to 60.2 in 2006/07

(1069 reported injuries), and also reverses the upward trend of the previous four years.

The rate of reported over-3-day injury to employees in hotels and catering rose slightly in 2006/07 to 229.6 (4074 reported injuries) from 226.4 in 2005/06 (4053 injuries).

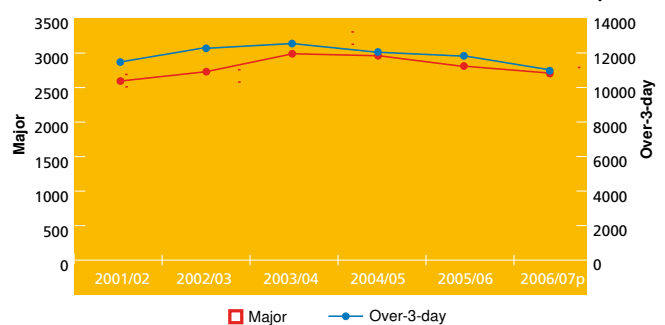
In the LA-enforced sectors, the number of major injuries for hotels and catering in 2006/07 has risen by approximately 26% since 1999/2000 (969 and 771 respectively), however, there has been a reduction of 12% over the last two years.

The hotel and catering sector had a lower-than-average prevalence rate of work-related illness in 2006/07.

Retail and wholesale

The overall rate of major injuries has fallen slightly this year from 82.6 in 2005/06 to 79.7 per 100 000 employees in 2006/07. This continues the downward trend seen in the two previous years. However, this recent improvement needs to be seen against the major rise that took place in the early part of this decade, so the overall rate of major injury is 7% higher now than it was in 1999/2000.

Number of major and over-3-day injuries to employees in LA-enforced retail and wholesale sectors, 2001/02 to 2006/07p



The overall rate of over-3-day injuries to employees fell by approximately 15% since 1999/2000, from 363.2 to 310.8 in 2006/07. This equates to a reduction of approximately 1500 fewer injuries. Also, this is one of the lowest rates in a four-year period.

In the LA-enforced sectors, the number of major injuries for retail and wholesale in 2006/07 has risen by approximately 12% since 1999/2000 (2757 and 2459 respectively), however, there has been a 7% reduction over the last two years.

The wholesale and retail trade sector had a lower-than-average prevalence rate of work-related illness in 2006/07.

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Partnership managers

Scotland

Percy Smith
0141 275 3017
percy.smith@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Yorkshire and North East

Paul Spurrier
0114 291 2403
paul.spurrier@hse.gsi.gov.uk

North West

Bernadette Cadman
0161 952 8245
bernadette.cadman@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Wales

Steve Coppell
0292 026 3029
steve.coppell@hse.gsi.gov.uk

South West

Max Walker
0117 988 6095
max.walker@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Midlands

Roger Monaghan
0178 260 2386
roger.monaghan@hse.gsi.gov.uk

East and South East

East – Paul Carter
0160 382 8034
paul.carter@hse.gsi.gov.uk
South East – David Bryant
0123 365 3920
david.bryant@hse.gsi.gov.uk

London

Janet Francis
0207 556 2161
janet.francis@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Further information

HSE

www.hse.gov.uk

HSE, Local Authority Unit

www.hse.gov.uk/lau

LACORS

www.lacors.gov.uk

Statistics

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics

Fit3

www.hse.gov.uk/fit3street

HELA Extranet (HELex)

www.hse.gov.uk/lau/hela/extranet.htm