



**Health and Safety
Commission**

DWPP

**Department for
Work and Pensions**

LAs and HSE Working Together

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath
Minister for Work and Pensions

HSC's 2004 'Workplace Strategy'

- Achieving the targets remains challenging
 - still 'a job to do'
- Target on injuries not met:
 - Injuries in the service sector up 17%
 - Slips and trips up 14%
 - Manual handling injuries up 60% and rising
 - Local authority challenge of adequate resources
 - Partnership working is the way forward – LAs/HSE must succeed:

HSE and LAs working together

- Tough challenges for the enforcing authorities and especially local authorities
- Growth in the service industries requires LAs to commit resources
- Regulation balancing act – food v h&s v env protection etc
- The two h&s enforcing authorities need to set the standard
- 50% of premises and half the workforce in LA enforced areas
- The profession and LA Associations, through LACoRS must work together

HSE and LAs working together

- Joint commitment to main delivery programme - FIT3
- 50% of LA enforcement resource pledged to FIT3
- Commission and I expect results from LAs and HSE working together
- Effective recording and monitoring of activity is essential to evaluate the approach and give the Commission and Government confidence.

Sensible health and safety risk management

- Response tailored to severity of risk
- New ways of working – challenge for regulators!
- Enforcement is still important and relevant
- Consistent approach to enforcement
- Strategy for the whole health and safety system, all have a role to play : business, public, voluntary sector organisations and H&S professionals.
- Creators of risk are best placed to manage it

Health, Work and Well-being (HWWB)

- New health centred strategy launched last October
- Focused on country's working age population
 - The economically active are healthier; and
 - The healthier more likely to be economically active
- Central part of vision to recognise work as important and beneficial, because it can:
 - Help to improve your health
 - Reduce health inequalities
 - Offer improved opportunities
- Institutional barriers to starting, returning to, or remaining in work need to be removed

HSC's Strategy – Occupational Health

- Strategy places special emphasis on the importance of occupational health:
 - “... huge job to do on health”
 - “... occupational health demands a more strategic and partnership-based approach.”
 - “... develop innovative partnerships in the public and private sectors ...”
 - “... core of this support will be the principle of proactive management of health risks.”

Unions and Workers

- Trade Unions
 - Support HSC's Strategy as multi-tiered approach to modern working environment
 - Develop Safety Representatives as trusted H&S champions in today's workplaces
- Individual workers
 - Play full part in improving your own H&S
 - Engage with employers where they offer active schemes for worker involvement

Conclusion

- Achieving the targets remains challenging
- HSC's Workplace Strategy crucial in providing direction
- It rightly identifies health as the key unmet challenge
- Recent launch of HWWB Strategy moves picture on
- This provides integrated cross-Government approach to working age population - preventing ill-health, staying healthy in work, and assisting into or returning to work
- Partnership working critical for success
- Give us your commitment to jointly deliver strategy