

Wiltshire CIEH AGM 19.1.11

Work Well Wessex

Introduction – I will try to discuss;

- Background
- About Work Well Dorset
- Where we've got to so far
- Whats next
- Purely personal comments

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Background

- There was lots [relatively] of HSE cash
- There were full time officers [!]
- Several inconsistent small districts
- Small non specialist teams
- HSE beliefs re accident rates relative to them, HSE failing to do their visits
- Me ,cynical ??

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About Work Well Dorset

- Mainly it worked
- Though ,there were two “ slow “ councils !
- The cash and the available time meant a bureaucracy developed-necessary ?
- But it DID get some projects off the ground, such as- Care Homes
 - ‘Maritime’ work places

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About Work Well Dorset [2]

- It did get cross-warranting done-hooray !
- It did get some common procedures sorted, such as;
 - Complaints and accidents
- Therefore ,the project DID take H+S forward
- Therefore allowed movement of skills across the county

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About Work Well Dorset [3]

BUT

- there were/are 3 levels of management
- Loads of acronyms and titles
- Lots of wiz and lots of publicity, careers enhanced [?] Cynical ,again ?
- Other areas ,such as Gloucester , now adopting rapidly

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- The same LAs as CUBA [Counties that Used to Be Avon plus SBC and WC]
- Based closely on Dorset and have adopted most of their systems .
- BUT the LAs are obviously very different
 - Both Bristol and WC are individually bigger population / bigger departments than all the Dorset Districts combined-!
- They are all Unitaries- as you know !

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Work Well Wessex [2]

- Only 2 levels of management-and really only one ; so that's better .
- The Directors chair the meetings and that's worked out well
- Meetings have been a bit dominated by the process.... So the technical H+S stuff is a bit sidelined [new guidelines, responses to recent court cases or accidents and similar. eg FLT windscreens.

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Work Well Wessex [3]

some bits about the process

- Each LA has a committee type role ;
- WC has the job of keeping a register of officers who are working across WWW and a summary of their skills
- Each officers is meant to have done the RDNA [*every one understand that ??*] process and by now getting on with any shortcomings
- Each Officer will also need to have specific appropriate skills for specific projects
- The other WC task is keeping the database of hours spent in each others districts- not a busy job at the moment ,though.

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- LAs that are involved in WWW wont need to comply with Section 18 [*everyone clear about S.18 ?*]
- But , rumour has it HSE unable to 'enforce' S.18 anyway !
- Dual warranting with HSE is on the way, just held up by two LAs whose legal departments are unsure ! Mad !
- The dual warranting with HSE is most important at moment as planned exercises are LA / HSE ,such as MVR [motor vehicle repair] NOT across LA borders yet !
- The LA /LA working probably only in case of dire emergency !

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Work Well Wessex [5]

- Each of LAs has apparently adopted the reactive protocol designed by WWD
- Still trying to get LAs to design their own paperwork within the general reactive template- that's inevitable , of course ,due to differing IT
- And then ,don't we all tend to do our own thing anyway, and how do we monitor that within current management resources. Probably don't !

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Work Well Wessex [5]

- Being positive, the MVR project should get going soon, once the warrants are sorted out. [10 % of time maybe ?]
- The LAs will still be getting on with own current priorities / work plans

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The Future

- Is it mainly cosmetic at moment ?
- Have we taken some helpful steps forward ?
- Are there elements of “ doing it my way “? Such as Bristols huge list of unclassified premises [9000 !!]
- Still the variety of specialised / generalist teams, with the variation in skills and resultant competencies .
- Do LAS take different approaches to RDNA
- LAs take different approaches to interventions such as SHADS
- AND THATS WITHOUT THE IMPACT OF THE CUTS !

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Purely Personal

- How far away are we from one team working under one management
- Is it about LAs working together or about LAs working with the HSE ??
- How do we get true consistency across the six LAs. Would you need and audit process ?
- True cross warranting with HSE might be difficult due lack of relevant experience and skills .
- What resources will be available ? What politics ?
- HSE still quote differing accident /inspection rates to them.
- What of health ? Remember Ford at Eastleigh and their back problems !!

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My Conclusion

- Overall ,we have to do it
- The result will be better a Health and Safety service.
- Will need discipline and honesty to ensure true consistency .
- Will directors and politicians support the adoption of the complete project ?