

SGF Meeting 08/02/10

### **Present**

Dot Smith	Broxburn Bottlers
Willie Miller	Strath Safety
Jane McDonald	Individual Member
Linda Bell	Business Medical
Ian Norton	North British Distillery
Colin Sparling	Carnegie College
John Johnston	FMC Technologies
George Baird	Individual member
Tom Canning	Individual member
Mick Graham	Babcock Marine
Annemarie Smith	HWL-Fife
Jonathan Neale	Highland Spring Ltd
David Jones	Velux Co Ltd
Peter Ager	Fife Council
David Cant	Carnegie College

### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mark Russell

### **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010 were approved

### **Chairman's opening remarks**

D C welcomed everyone to the February meeting of the group and introduced 3 new members Jane McDonald, George Baird and Jonathan Neale to the group. D C then introduced the speaker for the evening, Aileen Simpson, Deputy Director and Head of Delivery from the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives.

### **Presentation**

Aileen started by giving the background to the Scottish Centre of Healthy Working Lives which was born from the Scottish Governments campaign in 2004 to improve the health of workers in Scotland.

In 2008 the U.K. Government, in conjunction with HSE, focused on health issues of workers. The government introduced The Workforce Plus initiative which was aimed at getting people into work.

Another government led issue was to help employers understand health issues such as mental health problems.

The aim of the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives is to help employers, employees and all the partner agencies come together to create a much healthier and more motivated workforce. There are many advisors throughout Scotland and we have 4 dedicated in Fife. There is also an advice line and on the website an email enquiry service both of which are manned by advisors.

The service provides a free visit with a detailed report and action plan. Launched in April will be a new initiative from the GP's – a fit note – which will identify what activities a person could still do i.e. change duties, phased return, amended duties etc.

2 pilots schemes are in place for a *fit to work* service hosted by NHS Lanarkshire (the other in Dundee) which support people back into work.

Aileen pointed out to the delegates the *Business Health Check Tool* which is on the web site and any business can use to measure poor health in their organisation. The results can be compared with other similar organisations.

Aileen told how the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives are trying to recruit “Champions” (they already have 68 registered) to help spread the word and encourage small businesses to risk assess the health to their employees. It was suggested that the group could become a champion and some of the members present also indicated their willingness to be involved.

Aileen showed part of the DVD which is supplied with the pack to those who sign up as champions.

Aileen’s presentation is available to view on the web site.

### **Finances**

Colin said he had received a bank statement indicating a £20.00 charge for a bounced cheque but as this was due to a bank oversight he would ensure they refunded this to our account.

### **AOB**

Linda Bell asked that all who had forklifts operating in their premises to ensure the brakes are in good condition. She had visited an employee who because of an accident due to brake failure on a forklift had been badly injured and will never work again.

The chairman read out an email received from, Alan Gunn the secretary from SHEF(S), inviting members to their February meeting where Roger Bibbings, RoSPA’s Occupational Safety Advisor, will talk about Managing Occupational Road Risk. Dr Karen McDonnell will also discuss the benefits of being a member of the Scottish Occupational Road Safety Alliance. Several members indicated their interest of attending this seminar.

D.C. asked if anybody who had not responded to the questionnaire attached to the last minutes could please complete it and return to him as soon as possible as the response had been poor. The questionnaire is designed to gauge the feelings of the members to the activities of the group and will assist in preparing a schedule for next year. For those who did not get the last questionnaire another copy will be attached to the February minutes.