



APSE Update

Building & Housing Services Group Meeting
22 August 2008

Bonnyrigg, Midlothian

Pat Taggart, Principal Advisor, APSE

National update



- **National update**
- APSE has recently published its latest research paper on '*Governance, neighbourhoods and service delivery*'.
- This ground breaking piece of research examines the best operational arrangements for local authorities, delivering services at a neighbourhood level, and how to best secure due governance arrangements with the critical involvement of elected members.
- APSE has also provided detailed responses to many of the new National Indicators as part of the new CAA requirements and lobbying responses on the draft guidance to the Best Value and Duty to Consult. APSE is also now a member of the DCLG HRA review group.
- One day event at Hamilton Racecourse 21 August 2008

National update



- **England**
- APSE has lobbied MPs to support an amendment to the Housing and Regeneration Bill to provide greater flexibility and financial freedoms for councils to invest in housing stock. '*Governance neighbourhoods and service delivery*' was launched across the local government political party spring conference with communities minister John Healey and leader of the CCA, Cllr Margaret Eaton. DCFS have responded positively to APSE lobbying on school and dining kitchen design to improve outcomes under BSF. APSE is also closely watching the outcomes of the anticipated report from OFT due in late April concluding their investigations into alleged price fixing on public sector construction contracts.
- **Scotland**
- APSE has secured a major victory with the Scottish Executive changing the commencement of the Nutrition Act guidance coming into effect within secondary schools. It will now be delayed by one year to ensure that schools have sufficient time to implement the H4S message of healthy eating.

National update



- **Wales**

- The Welsh Data Unit has adopted APSE's performance networks definitions for part of its leisure performance indicators. APSE met with the Minister, Brian Gibbons on 11 March in relation to how APSE can contribute to the improvement agenda.
- Wales Audit Office are trying to get some baseline data for school meals as part of Appetite for Life (Wales equivalent of Hungry for Success) and have approached some local authorities who have suggested that they contact us. They are going to suggest that they use the apse performance networks to gather information.

- **Northern Ireland**

- APSE members in Northern Ireland are working towards the new administrative structures, following the declaration of 11 new councils. APSE is sitting on the Northern Ireland Review of Public Administration Working Group through NILGA. APSE has helped develop the new Northern Ireland Local Government awards with a range of partners which commence in autumn 2008.

Trainee and Apprentice Awards 2008



- **6/7 November 2008 in Sheffield**
- **Female – Building Skills category (Bricklayers, Joiners, Plasterers)**
- **Female – Mechanical and Electrical Skills category (Plumbers, Electricians, Gas Fitters)**
- **Male – Building Skills category (Bricklayers, Joiners, Plasterers)**
- **Male – Mechanical and Electrical Skills category (Plumbers, Electricians, Gas Fitters)**
- **Date for submissions closed 11 July 2008**

For your diaries . . .



- **Forthcoming meetings 2008/09**
 - **Friday 28 November 2008 (Falkirk Council)**
 - **Building & Housing Seminar, Peebles 18/19 February 2009**
 - **Thursday 23 April 2009**



Pat Taggart, Principal Advisor

APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence)

Floor 11, Council Offices
Almada Street
Hamilton
ML3 0AL

Tel 01698 454015

Fax 01698 454183

Email: ptaggart@apse.org.uk

Web: www.apse.org.uk

Association for Public Service Excellence
www.apse.org.uk
Email: enquiries@apse.org.uk



HEALTH & SAFETY



- Meeting 20 June 2008
- Edinburgh Building Services
- 8 authorities involved in the scoping meeting

Authorities involved



- **Aberdeen City**
- **City of Edinburgh**
- **Dundee**
- **East Lothian**
- **Falkirk**
- **Highland**
- **Inverclyde**
- **Midlothian**

ISSUES RAISED



- **Who has responsibility for HSE issues**
- **Reporting near misses**
- **Safe behaviours (operational services)**
- **Noise and vibration problems**
- **Van checks**
- **Use of handhelds to help H&S**
- **Lack of ownership by supervisors**
- **Lack of ownership by staff**
- **Manual handling is the top accident reason**
- **Literacy issues, staff fail to fill in forms etc**
- **Wearing corporate uniforms**

ISSUES RAISED



- **Asbestos (Void properties carry out type 3 surveys)**
- **Gas compliance and forced entry**
- **Communication (No one listens)**
- **Devolved budgets in schools create issues re jobs done in schools, how do you keep track of HS issues**
- **Legionella and lack of responsibility for it**
- **Near misses**

SUCCESS STORIES



- **ABERDEEN CITY** – Performance management, appliance monitoring tool in IT and training programmes, accountability
- **EAST LOTHIAN** – Reduction in accident rates, possibly due to fixed salaries, manual handling in house courses to raise awareness, noise vibration, staff wear ear defenders, equipment tests done to monitor noise but this took 8 months
- **INVERCLYDE** – Asbestos and other HSE safety training, asbestos surveys done on sites etc
- **FALKIRK** – Working at heights, supervisors responsibilities very good, hilti gun incidents reduced, hand/arm vibrations

SUCCESS STORIES



- **MIDLOTHIAN** – HS corporate plan in place using project management
- It is all about each staff member taking responsibility for HSE issues especially with corporate manslaughter coming into play.
- Be aware, know what is expected because someone will be at fault

NEXT MEETING



- 1 SEPTEMBER 2008
- EDINBURGH BUILDING SERVICES
- AGENDA SENT OUT WITH ADVISORY GROUP INFORMATION
- FUTURE DEPENDS ON ATTENDANCE BUT INITIAL SIGNS ARE GOOD
- APSE NATIONAL HS SEMINAR 2 SEPTEMBER MANCHESTER



- *Pat Taggart, Principal Advisor*
- **APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence)**
- Floor 11, Council Offices
- Almada Street
- Hamilton
- ML3 0AL
- **Tel 01698 454015**
- **Fax 01698 454183**
- **Email: ptaggart@apse.org.uk**
- **Web: www.apse.org.uk**