

# Scottish Social Care Partners Form

Notes from meeting 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Taken by Martin McMahon, Health and Social Care Services Team, HSE.

First though, I'm delighted to advise that **Richard Park** (Crossreach) and **Deborah Clarke** (Unison) have both agreed to undertake the role of SSCPF Co-Chairs. Both Richard and Deborah as Chairs will allow the group to consider ways to address the pertinent health and safety matters affecting employers, employees and service users - from both a sector-wide level, and from the perspective of Fair Work (especially relevant with the forthcoming emergence of the Social care sector level body, as proposed in the Fair Work in Social Care report).

## Summary:

- Group recognised Sector-wide need to improve health and safety outcomes for both employees and service-users.
- Evidence presented from recent HSE interventions that show areas of historic concern remain prevalent (legionella, water temp controls, window restrictors, bed rails, LOLER).
- Other issues raised included choking, falls, medication errors, V&A, lone working, manual handling.
- Presentations from Fair Work and Care Inspectorate demonstrated that health and safety matters, both from employee and service user perspective, are not mutually exclusive from the objectives (and concerns) of other government bodies / regulators.
- Recognition of wide variety of different types of service providers within complex industry, necessitating range of approaches. Specific mention made of issues with Care at Home sector.
- Agreed focus on adult services (not children's services or educational settings)
- Culture of non-reporting hiding true extent of issues. Particularly as regards V&A, where anecdotal evidence provided of notifiers facing disciplinary actions for raising concern.

## Observations and Suggestions for next steps:

- Evidence of continued poor sector compliance to well-known, historic and established H&S standards. Can SSCPF be used as a vehicle to change behaviours?
- Consensus that work-related stress a priority issue across whole sector. Often root cause of incidents. SSCPF to consider how to increase sector-wide take up of Management Standards/Work Positive to help tackle this. Use of specific social care data and analysis from IOM to support.
- Possible development of pilot(s) – within a defined practical geography / Local Authority area – to trial SSCPF-driven approaches to deliver improvements on H&S practices, and effectively reach /communicate with wider sector
- Develop scope for SSCPF to feed into Sector-level body as recommended in Fair Work report (and in process of being established)
- Recognition of role of Integration Joint boards (IJB's); consideration of best way to align work of SSCPF, with that of IJBs, to help deliver on above – perhaps using Fair Work First model
- Commitment of regulators within SSCPF (HSE, LA, CI) to facilitate and continue to share findings and use (limited) interventions to communicate each other's messages. Scope to build areas of collaboration for effective joint working.

**The next meeting of the SSCPF is proposed for FEB 13<sup>th</sup> 2020, at Crossreach Offices.**