

MSK at Work Network Call Minutes 15th July 2019

Introductions were made by members of the call:

Steve Boorman – Council for Work and Health
Mel Wilkes – Work Foundation
Clare Hunter – Occupational Medicine doctor
Sarah Winstone and Henry Poust – Incisive Health
Mike Paton – HSE
Professor Carol Black
Allan Coles
Natalie Beswetherick – CSP
Glykeria Skamagki – Coventry University
Laura Boothman – VA
Nick Pahl – SOM
Nita Parma – ARMA

1. **The PHE MSK prevention strategic framework**

This strategic framework for MSK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/musculoskeletal-health-5-year-prevention-strategic-framework> was highlighted and also that the proposed prevention strategy is to be launched soon for consultation. No pre-briefings have occurred but it is assumed MSK will be within the consultation.

Action – group proposed to do a joint submission to the consultation

2. **VA access to work scheme follow up**

See <https://www.versusarthritis.org/news/news/demanding-more-from-the-access-to-work-scheme/>. Laura Boothman from VA said a meeting is to occur with Ian Milton at the DWP regarding access to work marketing and plans. A group hosted by the Thomas Pocklington Trust is supporting engagement in this area. Successful advocacy with MPs and VA champions had already occurred with significant sign up.

3. **Questionnaire related to chronic musculoskeletal conditions**

The aim is to understand the problems highlighted already and help people work better-and management at the workplace and strategies that being offered and used at the workplace. Link at <https://coventry.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/survey-on-chronic-musculoskeletal-disorders>. Agreed an OH module to a masters in MSK would be helpful in line, with the declaration about work and health by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges.

4. **[Government's consultation on improving health at work alongside proposed changes to improve statutory sick pay.](#)**

- a. Focus on investment in the OH workforce and access to OH for SMEs
- b. Also Statutory Sick Pay proposals e.g. staggered. Noted that the self-employed were not focused on in the submission.

Action – group proposed to do a joint submission to the consultation

Noted that NHS Interim People Plan did not include occupational health – Dido Harding at NHS Improvement has been contacted regarding this.