

MSK Health at Work network – 31st January 2019 – WHU meet and follow up

In attendance:

- Dr Steve Boorman - Council for Work and Health
- Matthew Bezzant - NRAS
- Laura Boothman - Versus Arthritis
- Dr Suzanne Verstappen - Manchester University
- Natalie Beswetherick - Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
- Sue Brown – CEO, ARMA
- James Chandler - The Work Foundation
- Julie Stenlake – Work and Health Unit
- Paul Scallan - ACPOHE
- Nick Pahl, CEO SOM
- Aalia Kazi - Incisive Health

1 Work and Health Unit presentation

Julie said her background was in the civil service, particularly working with job centres and ministers. She reports into Tabitha Jay who heads the work and health unit and Richard Cienciala.

She ran through the presentation that was attached and said she will be feeding into the:

- HSE Prevention agenda
- Building MSK into the “first contact practitioner” programme and identifying employment outcomes. An evaluation is occurring with the support of the CSP and Keele University
- Survey CCG views as to MSK issues as part of a national mapping process

She said a number of innovation projects was MSK focused – also highlighted by Sue Brown. Learning from these pilots is to inform next steps. It was advised that MSK funded projects should have the opportunity to network with each other.

Noted that a consultation on a future Occupational Health strategy is to occur in April (tbc)

Agreed the aim was to be achieve parity between MSK and Mental Health at work issues, and that currently there are disparate voices that need to be co-ordinated to ensure this parity of esteem.

Julie was keen to skill up work coaches in MSK issues and occupational health but funding is tbc.

Sue Brown stated she had met with Sarah Newton recently to highlight that work coaches focus should not only be mental health but also MSK.

Natalie said that the DWP website should state the value of the allied health professional fitness to work report.

Participants suggested Julie link with Public Health England and NHS England re the Long term plan and the Prevention strategy. This included activity on the workforce led by Caroline Corrigan from NHSI.

Agreed a further face to face with Julie (and Alex Fleming?) suggested to occur in March following results of the CCG survey.

2 Minutes of last meeting

These were agreed

3 Web based text

Agreed. Noted that Dr Rob Hampton from PHE was interested to join.

4 MSK at work Network funding

An expression of interest had been submitted to the Oliver Bird fund and a meeting with AXA/PPP is to occur. A possible bid to Novartis may also occur.

5 Next steps

Draft a parliamentary question (s) highlighting MSK at work as an issue. Suggestions to be circulated. Agreed to circulate parliamentary champions' links.

SOM meeting with the Scottish Government the following week to discuss work and health – to link with VA.

Other activity:

- Work foundation – taking a sector approach in the NW with a focus on MSK. Evaluating the PHE MSK toolkits for BITC
- Council for work and health – launching tools for reasonable adjustments and feeding into NHS staff issues led by Caroline Corrigan at NHSI
- CSP – focus on first contact practitioner and use of allied health professional report
- ARMA - met with Sarah Newton and planning an event on MSK in the construction industry
- VA – General recognition campaign, linking with DWP and advocacy in Scotland
- NRAS – interviews with CBI and others re RA
- Paul Scallan – providing manual handling training, linking with HSE and upskilling OHAs/Physios etc

6 AOB and Date of next meeting

A doodle poll to be circulated with meeting times