

MSK Health at Work network – March 4th, 2019 – teleconference

In attendance:

- Dr Steve Boorman - Council for Work and Health
- Matthew Bezzant - NRAS
- Laura Boothman - Versus Arthritis
- Sue Brown – CEO, and Tony Woolf, Chair ARMA
- Julie Stenlake – Work and Health Unit
- Paul Scallan - ACPOHE member
- Nick Pahl, CEO SOM
- Sarah Winstone - Incisive Health
- Melanie Wilkes, Work Foundation
- Joanne Crawford – IOM
- Mike Paton, HSE

1 HSE Presentation

See attached presentation. There was a question about the need for manual handling training.

Participants suggested linking with Public Health England and NHS England Prevention Green Paper.

2 Meeting with Scottish Government – notes below

Meeting of Steve Bell and Roddy Duncan with SOM representatives

Agreed work as a health outcome was a necessary focus and discussed how interventions could increase the Scottish income tax take and:

- the need for investment in education and training for OH professionals and wider health professionals; Marisa said there was a shortage of practice teachers and the need for a clear career path from OH technicians to nurses and doctors
- the lack of academic capacity
- the Dundee and Fife pilot highlighting fit notes in GP practice IT systems
- whether fit for work was rolled out and marketed effectively
- the value of a managed clinical network approach and rapid telephone contact after absence.

Investment in public sector OH was also highlighted as a key win e.g. for NHS and education staff. Mentioned SOM's view on the work and health unit's activity covering:

- A) quality improvement in OH
 - B) fit note and possible SSP review
 - C) a possible investment in centres for evidence into practice and education and training.
- And public health England's activity in workplace accreditation and undergraduate curriculum development.

SOM to contact MSPs, the health and sport committee and start a Scottish OH workforce survey.

3 Reports to note

Federation of Small Business report with section on OH
Global Burden of Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain in the Workplace
http://www.ihpm.org/pdf/ChronicPain_2018_Pfizer_IHPM.pdf

Launch of “Talking Work: A guide for Doctors discussing work and work modifications with patients” see: <https://www.councilforworkandhealth.org.uk/work-modifications/>

Other activity:

- VA- lobbying on prevention strategy
- Work Foundation – taking a sector approach in the NW with a focus on MSK.
- Council for work and health – launching tools for reasonable adjustments
- ARMA - Construction meeting - write up in newsletter
- Paul Scallan –possible link up with Occupational Health and Wellbeing magazine re MSK at work issue
- SOM – hosted HR/FSB round table; multidisciplinary summit in May for OH professionals, Research round table

4 AOB and Date of next meeting

A doodle poll to be circulated with meeting times, potentially with the NHS Prevention lead

Note re MSK at work Network funding

An expression of interest has been sent to a variety of funders but no word as to funding yet.