ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Staff Governance Committee
DATE	29 September 2020
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Corporate Health and Safety January - June 2020
REPORT NUMBER	COM/20/092
CHIEF OFFICER	Fraser Bell
REPORT AUTHOR	Colin Leaver
TERMS OF REFERENCE	3.3

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The report summarises statistical health and safety performance information for the six-month reporting period January to June 2020 to provide the Committee with the opportunity to monitor compliance with health and safety legislation.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee: -

2.1 Note the report and provide comment on the health, safety and wellbeing policy, performance, trends and improvements.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 This report contains statistical information on the six-month reporting period 1 January to 30 June 2020 and a review of health and safety activities for the same period. The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences 2013 (RIDDOR) puts duties on employers, the self-employed and people in control of work premises (the Responsible Person) to report certain serious workplace accidents, occupational diseases and specified dangerous occurrences (near misses) to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). This reporting duty includes incidents which result in an employee being absent from work for 7 days or longer.

This report addresses the following matters:

- 1. Process for making Aberdeen City Council Covid-secure
- 2. All incidents involving employees and members of the public (serious and minor)
- 3. HSE Reportable Incidents
- 4. Reportable Diseases
- 5. Near Miss Information
- 6. Enforcement Interventions
- 7. Fire Risk Assessment
- 8. Health and Safety Audits

- 9. Compliance Monitoring
- 10. Health and Safety Policies and Guidance

Covid-Secure

- 3.2 From the start of the current Coronavirus epidemic Aberdeen City Council has developed a process to manage the associated risks. This was developed firstly to allow those critical Services, which required to be available throughout the pandemic, to continue and later enabled Services to restart as the Scottish Government routemap has allowed. This process has evolved as new and reviewed guidance has emerged with daily checks of the Scottish Government and other public body websites to ensure that ACC guidance was always current. Where guidance has changed then Service managers have been contacted to ensure that their processes and risk assessments were also updated to ensure that ACC remained compliant with all current requirements.
- 3.3 All of the relevant guidance from Scottish government has been interpreted, documented and made available on the intranet on the Staying Safe Whilst Working pages within People Anytime, which allows managers to have an up to date source of information readily available.
- 3.4 Template risk assessments were developed initially and have been available for Service managers to use to develop their own specific assessments with both guidance and advice available from the corporate health and safety team (CHST). These Service risk assessments have all been reviewed by the CHST throughout the entire process to ensure that they were all suitable and sufficient. This review has also included the identification of requirements for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ensure that all employees who require this have had it made available to them and that no PPE was included as a requirement where there was no need, which follows a recommendation from the Health and Safety Executive.
- 3.5 Groups were established across several levels of the organisation to ensure that there was oversight in key areas all under the umbrella of the Incident Management Team. These included groups for PPE, Homeworking and one for Service Reinstatement. The terms of reference of all included the need for scrutiny and approval of anything which fed into the group and to allow early identification of any potential issues.
- 3.6 A workplace planning and protection workstream has recently been established to bring all of the work completed by other groups together in one place. This group will consider and discuss how to effectively implement any changes to Scottish Government guidance. Its membership will include service representation together with representation from multiple corporate disciplines to ensure that all affected areas of Aberdeen City Council's undertakings are identified and steps taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all staff and service users.
- 3.7 During the pandemic the default position has been for staff to work from home remotely where possible. This has resulted in a large number of staff now home working with varying work station set ups. ACC has instigated a process where

staff have been able to identify any issues they are having which has resited in managers being able to identify what equipment is required to improve the health and safety of those employees. This approach meets with the guidance available from the Health and safety Executive.

- 3.8 Individual risk assessments have been required for staff who were identified as being vulnerable to the virus where they have not been working remotely. This process has evolved following recent Scottish government guidance to require all staff to complete a Covid-19 age risk assessment which looks to identify those who sit within the high and very high risk groups. This identification will still require line managers to prepare individual risk assessments in consultation with these employees and requires both parties to sign off and agree the controls put in place to ensure their safety.
- 3.9 The corporate health and safety team are carrying out a series of pre-arranged site visits to operational buildings. These visits are aimed to review the controls within the risk assessments and guidance are in place and being followed. Where any non-compliance is observed then the CHST is working in support of the line managers to agree and implement any required actions.
- 3.10 Trade Union colleagues have been involved in consultation during the processes especially during the reinstatement of services. This has allowed a collaborative approach to be established which both ensures the health and safety of employees but to give reassurance that what is being implemented is being carried out with that as its main goal.
- 3.11 The Health and Safety Executive recently carried out telephone interventions with schools. 12 Aberdeen City Council schools were contacted as part of this process with no issues being raised or further action being required.

Incidents (Jan-June 2020)

3.12 All incident and near miss information in this report has been provided to Service Area level.

3.13 Incident information:

The following table gives a breakdown of all incidents across all Functions and Clusters in Aberdeen City Council. In this reporting period there was a total of 189 incidents reported, this shows a decrease from the 391 incidents reported in the corresponding period in 2019. The figures in brackets show the figures reported for the period 1 Jan – 20 June 2019 as a comparison.

Function	1. RIDDOR	2. Non- RIDDOR	3. Non- RIDDOR	4. RIDDOR Reportable	5. Non- RIDDOR	Total
Cluster	Reportable	reportable	reportable	Non-	reportable	
Service	employee (including absences over 7 days)	employee (absences of 4 to 7 days)	employee (absences of 0 to 3 days)	employee	Non- employee	
AHSCP	0(1)	0(1)	5(3)	0(0)	10(6)	15(11)
Older Adult Services	0(1)	0(1)	4(3)	0(0)	4(5)	8(10)
Young Adult Services	0(0)	0(0)	1(0)	0(0)	6(1)	7(1)
Commissioning	0(0)	0(1)	0(4)	0(0)	1(1)	1(6)
Commercial & Procurement	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)
Governance	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)
Strategic Place Planning	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	1(1)	1(1)
City Growth	0(0)	0(1)	0(2)	0(0)	0(0)	0(3)
Customer	0(0)	0(0)	2(7)	0(0)	0(3)	2(10)
Customer Experience	0(0)	0(0)	1(1)	0(0)	0(3)	1(4)
Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	0(0)	0(0)	1(6)	0(0)	0(0)	1(6)
Operations	8(18)	0(6)	13(230)	0(0)	150(109)	171(363)
Operations and Protective	5(12)	0(6)	11(40)	0(0)	1(0)	17(58)
Services Operations (Building Services)	1(4)	0(0)	5(18)	0(0)	1(0)	7(22)
Environmental	0(3)	0(3)	2(0)	0(0)	0(0)	2(6)
Facilities	0(0)	0(2)	0(8)	0(0)	0(0)	0(10)
Fleet	0(0)	0(0)	0(2)	0(0)	0(0)	0(2)
Protective Services	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Roads	2(5)	0(0)	2(2)	0(0)	0(0)	4(7)
Waste	2(0)	0(1)	2(10)	0(0)	0(0)	4(11)
Integrated Children and Family Services	3(6)	0(0)	2(190)	0(0)	149(109)	154(305)
ASN – Target Provision	0(0)	0(0)	1(1)	0(0)	0(0)	1(1)
Residential and Youth Services	0(1)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(2)
Schools	3(5)	0(0)	0(186)	0(0)	149(107)	152(298)
Quality Improvement	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(2)	0(2)
Early Years	0(0)	0(0)	1(2)	0(0)	0(0)	1(2)
Resources	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(1)
Corporate Landlord	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(1)

Function	1. RIDDOR	2. Non- RIDDOR	3. Non- RIDDOR	4. RIDDOR Reportable	5. Non- RIDDOR	Total
Cluster	Reportable employee	reportable employee	reportable employee	Non- employee	reportable Non-	
Service	(including absences over 7	(absences of 4 to 7 days)	(absences of 0 to 3 days)		employee	
	days)					
Total Jan- Jun	8(19)	0(8)	20(244)	0(1)	161(119)	189(391)

- 3.14 The figures in columns are compared to the () figures in corresponding period in 2019.
- 3.15 The figures have decreased across all Functions, which is possibly as a result of working restrictions imposed by Covid19.
- 3.16 During the period there was a restructure that seen Governance, City Growth and Strategic Place Planning move to the Commissioning Function.
- 3.17 Incident causation is detailed in the table below.

Function/Cluster				D		Ħ	÷		اھ			D	
	Slip, trip, fall	Exposure to substances	Contact with Machinery	Manual handling	Struck against	Falls from Height	Struck by Object	Another type of accident	Injured by Animal	Unacceptable behaviour	Contact with Electricity	Struck by Moving Vehicle	Total
AHSCP	6(7)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	4(2)	0(0)	5(1)	0(1)	0(0)	15(11)
Older Adult Services	4(6)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(2)	0(0)	4(1)	0(1)	0(0)	8(10)
Young Adult Services	2(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	4(0)	0(0)	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)	7(1)
Customer	1(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(1)	0(0)	1(2)	0(2)	0(0)	0(2)	0(0)	0(1)	2(10)
Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	1(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(2)	0(1)	0(0)	0(2)	0(0)	0(1)	1(8)
Customer Experience	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	1(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	1(2)
Operations	25(54)	1(0)	2(5)	4(14)	4(10)	5(10)	28(31)	18(36)	1(0)	83(200)	0(1)	0(2)	171(363)
Integrated Children's and Family Services	24(44)	1(0)	0(0)	3(2)	3(8)	4(9)	23(19)	15(27)	0(0)	82(200)	0(0)	0(0)	155(311)
Operations and Protective Services	1(10)	0(0)	2(5)	1(12)	1(2)	1(1)	5(12)	3(9)	1(0)	1(0)	0(1)	0(2)	16(54)
Commissioning	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(2)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	1(6)
Commercial and Procurement	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)
Governance	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)
City Growth	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(2)
Strategic Place Planning	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	1(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	1(2)
Total Numbers	33(63)	1(0)	2(5)	4(18)	4(11)	5(10)	28(33)	22(40)	1(1)	88(205)	0(2)	0(4)	189(391)

- 3.18 The largest percentage of incidents reported is related to unacceptable behaviour followed by, slips, trips and falls.
- 3.19 When an incident is reported the corporate system generates an investigation report which the reporting officer is required to complete. This report highlights categories of criteria which require to be considered including root cause, actions identified and completion dates. These investigation reports are reviewed and

where non-compliant the reporting manager is contacted to advise on the need to complete and to be offered assistance with their investigation. For incidents where there is a requirement to RIDDOR report to HSE then the reporting manager is assisted in completing their investigation.

3.20 A report was presented to the Educational Operational Delivery Committee (EODC) on 12th March 2020 by the Programme Manager (Supporting Learners), which comprehensively outlined the various workstreams that are ongoing to develop an action plan that addresses the issues highlighted with the quarterly reports in relation to unacceptable behaviour. EODC is due to receive a follow-up report on these workstreams at its meeting on 26 November 2020. A working group, with Trade Union representation, meets to identify shared learning from previous Incident/Near Miss H&S data submitted by schools. This will form a standing agenda item for the Working Group.

HSE Reportable incidents (Jan – June 2020)

- 3.21 During this combined reporting period 8 employees were injured in incidents, which required to be reported to the Health and Safety Executive, all incidents occurred between January and March 2020.
- 3.22 All RIDDOR incidents are followed up by the Corporate Health and Safety Team to get assurance that the correct causation and remedial actions been identified; also, that any remedial actions have been implemented.

Incident (reportable employee) frequency rates

Period – Quarterly	Reportable Incidence rate	Reporting period
January – June 2020	1	2020/21

3.23 The above figures are calculated using the formula:

3.24 The figure for the corresponding period last year (Jan-Jun 2019) was 19 RIDDOR reportable incidents.

Reportable Diseases

3.25 There were no reportable diseases reported under RIDDOR; which was also the case in the corresponding reporting period last year.

Near Miss Information

3.26 Many safety activities are reactive, that is, they occur after an injury incident. By reporting near-miss incidents this promotes proactive safety, thereby raising awareness of potential hazards and mitigation strategies before an injury occurs. Recognising and reporting near-miss incidents can significantly improve employee safety and enhance the safety culture.

3.27 The table below shows relevant near miss information for January– June 2020. Due to continued development of Power BI we are able to provide more detailed information within this report.

Function	Cluster	Service Area	Near Misses Jan - Jun 2020	Near Misses Jan – Jun 2019
AHSCP			26	24
	Older Adult Services		26	24
		Care Management	0	0
		Senior Management Learning Disabilities	0	23
		Service Management Criminal Justice	0	0
		Service Manager Mental health	0	1
		Unspecified Service	0	0
Commissioning			5	3
	Business Intelligence & Performance Management		0	0
	Commercial & Procurement		0	0
	Governance		0	0
	Strategic Place Planning		0	0
	City Growth		5	3
Customer			52	50
	Customer Experience		15	15
		Customer Services Operations	15	13
		Revenues & Benefits	0	0
		Transformation & Business Support	0	2
	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment		37	35
		Community Safety and ASBIT	13	13
		Housing Access and Support	0	2
		Housing Management	13	9
		Libraries	10	10
		Local Plan	1	1

	Data and Technology		0	0
		Core Data Technology	0	0
Operations			292	306
	Integrated Children's and Family Services		278	279
		Children's social work -residential and youth services	0	0
		ASN- Target Provision	0	0
		Education-Schools	278	60
		Education-Quality Improvement	0	0
	Operations and Protective Services		14	27
		Building Services	9	0
		Environmental Services	0	1
		Facilities Management	2	0
		Fleet Services	0	0
		Protective Services	0	0
		R & I – Road Operations	1	0
		Waste Services	2	0
Resources			0	0
		Corporate Landlord	0	0
Total			375	383

3.28 The table below shows the causation for the numbers of near misses in the table. The figures in brackets (where recorded) are for the corresponding period in 2019.

Function/Cluster/service area	Vandalism	Security	Other	Unacceptable behaviour	Total
AHSCP	1(1)	0(0)	14(13)	11(10)	26(24)
Older Adult Services	1(0)	0(0)	14(1)	11(1)	26(1)
Care Management	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Senior Manager Learning Disabilities	0(1)	0(0)	0(13)	0(9)	0(21)
Senior Manager Criminal Justice	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Senior Manager Mental Health	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(1)
Unspecified Service	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(1)
Commissioning	0(0)	0(0)	5(2)	0(1)	5(3)
City Growth	0(0)	0(0)	5(2)	0(1)	5(3)
Strategic Place Planning	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Customer	2(2)	5(5)	5(7)	40(36)	52(50)
Customer Experience	0(0)	3(3)	1(3)	11(8)	15(14)
Customer Services	0(0)	3(3)	1(3)	11(8)	15(14)
Revenues and Benefits	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	2(2)	2(2)	4(4)	29(28)	37(36)
Community Safety and ASBIT	0(0)	0(0)	1(1)	12(12)	13(13)
Housing Access and Support	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)
Housing Management	0(0)	2(0)	1(1)	10(10)	13(11)
Libraries	2(2)	0(0)	2(2)	6(6)	10(10)
Local Plan	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	1(0)	1(1)
Data and Technology Core Data Network	0(0) 0(0)	0(0) 0(0)	0(0) 0(0)	0(0) 0(0)	0(0) 0(0)

Operations	5(5)	40(41)	35(38)	212(222)	292(306)
Integrated Children's and Family Services	5(5)	40(40)	24(24)	209(210)	278(279)
Education-Schools	5(1)	40(10)	24(8)	209(86)	278(93)
ASN Target Provision	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Children's Social Work- Residential and Youth	0(4)	0(30)	0(16)	0(0)	0(0)
Education-Quality Improvement	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Operations and Protective Services	0(0)	0(1)	11(14)	3(5)	14(13)
Building Services	0(0)	0(0)	8(6)	1(0)	9(6)
Environmental Services	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(1)
Facilities Management	0(0)	0(1)	1(1)	1(0)	2(6)
Protective Services	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
R & I Roads Operations	0(0)	0(0)	1(3)	0(0)	1(0)
Waste Services	0(0)	0(0)	1(3)	1(0)	2(0)
Resources	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Corporate Landlord	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Total Numbers	8(7)	45(47)	59(65)	263(248)	375(383)

3.29 The overall number of near misses has decreased from 383 during the corresponding reporting period in 2019/20, to 375. This is a reduction of 9.8%. The highest number of incidents were recorded in the category 'Unacceptable behaviour' within the ICFS Function. This increase was not reflected across other Functions, where a reduction can be seen in most categories.

Regulator interventions (HSE / SFRS)

- 3.30 There are occasions where HSE and Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS) contact Aberdeen City Council to request further information or ask for action to be taken with regard to the way Aberdeen City Council undertake their legal duties.
- 3.31 There were no interventions with HSE or SFRS in this reporting period.

Fire risk assessments

3.32 Fire risk assessments are completed on a rolling 5-year programme. A total of 34 fire risk assessments were completed during this reporting period. The average compliance score was 89%.

- 3.33 Multi-storey tenanted properties are assessed on a 3-year rolling programme. Two fire risk assessments were completed during this reporting with an average compliance score of 72%. Each multi-storey block has an action plan in place, these plans have a risk rating against them detailing the agreed timescales for the actions to be completed. There are 4 categories are for works to be completed within 4 hours, 24 days, 90 days and finally where there is a recommendation for work to be competed, where legal compliance is already achieved but to encourage best practice.
- 3.34 In the 2 multi-storey action plans 37 actions were identified across the risk ratings. There were no actions identified in the 4-hour action period. The 33 identified actions are included within a programmed plan of work, which ensures they are completed within the required timescales. This essential work has continued during the current pandemic and is due to be completed by mid-October as planned. An identified Officer within Corporate Landlord manages a database of required actions. It is their role to monitor progress of action and report compliance issues. The Corporate Health and Safety Team also audit this process to ensure actions are closed out in future in time.

Health and Safety Audits

3.35 There were no audits within the programme completed this quarter. The priority was assisting and advising Services on the completion of risk assessments and reinstatement questionnaire and risk assessments in response to COVID19.

Health and safety policies and guidance

3.36 No policies or procedures were reviewed during this quarter.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Health and safety legislation requires that an organisation has a suitably robust safety management system to ensure the health safety and welfare of their employees. Where any incident is of sufficient seriousness there is the potential that the Enforcing Authorities will become involved and carry out their own investigation into the circumstances of the incident. Any investigation could result in prosecution of the organisation and in some cases prosecution of managers and/or employees.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M)	Mitigation
		High (H)	
Strategic Risk	N/A	N/A	N/A
Compliance	There is the risk that any injury or serious health and safety incident could result in focus from the Health and Safety Executive which could result in enforcement action in the form of notices or prosecution.	Μ	All tasks are risk assessed and the controls implemented and supervised by line managers. All employees are trained to a level where they are competent to carry out the work. Analysis of the causes of the incidents, near misses and work-related absences and resultant improvements to prevent, where possible, reoccurrences, can reduce the financial exposure to the Council. An effective health and safety management system in which risks are identified and either eliminated or reduced will result in a reduction of costs to the organisation. If the Enforcing Authorities take a case to court against Aberdeen City Council for breaches of legislation then it could leave the Council liable to pay any fine or damages imposed and also for the expenses of any subsequent civil claim, which follows where an individual has suffered personal injury.
Operational	The risk is that any health and safety incident can lead to an injury to an employee which could have the potential to	Μ	If the task has been risk assessed; employees are trained, competent and supervised then there should be less likelihood of incidents.

	temporarily or permanently affect either or both their employment or their life. The risk to our citizens is that we are unable to provide the same level of service delivery due to staff absences from illness and injury sustained during their work. Also, there is the possibility of a reduced budget due to the associated	М	Reducing the number of incidents will reduce the number of absences and the subsequent costs to the Council.
Financial	financial costs. The risk is that any incident has the potential to bring a reduction in the overall budget in place to provide service delivery.	М	As per Compliance above
Reputational	Local and National press coverage of any incident can present reputational damage to the organisation.	Μ	Should be provided by each Function having a robust safety management system in place. There are many facets to this which are important starting from ensuring employees are trained and competent, every hazard is risk assessed and up to carrying out investigation of near misses to ensure controls are reviewed to consider whether remedial actions are required.
Environment / Climate	N/A	N/A	N/A

7. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN			
	Impact of Report		
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	N/A		

Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan		
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	A healthy and safe workplace assists the overarching principles of the stretch outcomes within the LOIP by ensuring that resource is directed at the services required by the city. Removing the level of lost resource to the financial penalties incurred through the Civil and Law Courts and from the Regulators will allow the available resource to be best used to ensure funding of the growth sectors of the local economy.	
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The areas reported on within this report allow Clusters a further opportunity to recognise areas which when acted upon can assist with engagement of staff and service users to support the meaningful educational progress of children and young people.	
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	N/A	
Regional and City Strategies	N/A	
UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes	The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974	

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

10. APPENDICES

N/A

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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