# **Assessment of Stress**





### **Course Aim**

This course supplements the 'Corporate Safety Management Training'.

The course aim is to ensure all managers have awareness of how to undertake the assessment of stress identified within the Safety Manual and to understand the different role of the 2 types of assessment templates that are available and where the information is located.



# **Course Objectives**

By the end of this session you will understand:

- The Definition of Stress
- The Legal Framework
- Why Manage Stress
- Stress Management Documents
- Completing a Team Stress Assessment
- Completing an Individual Stress Action Plan



# **Definition of Stress**





### What is Stress?



"the adverse reaction people have to excessive pressure or other types of demand placed on them".

What is the difference between stress and pressure?



# **Symptoms of Stress**

There are recognisable indicators that may identify that an employee is potentially experiencing stress.

# Signs may include:

- Changes in behaviour
- Physical ill health
- Persistent or recurrent moods





# **The Legal Framework**





# The Legal Framework

 The Health & Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974



- The Management of Health & Safety Regulations 1999
- The Equality Act 2010
- Civil Law duty of care





# Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999

A duty of care exists to assess significant risks to health & safety and, where these risks cannot be eliminated, implement control measures to minimise or reduce those risks.



- Identification of stress hazards
- Assessment of risks and implementation of control measures
- Ensuring that a suitable and sufficient risk assessment has been completed.



# Health & Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974

# Employer to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees at work



- Plant and systems of work
- Use, handling, etc, of materials and substances
- Information, instruction, training & supervision
- Working environment
- Safety policy and arrangements



# **Why Manage Stress?**



# Why Manage Stress?

- Approx 25% of NCC sickness absence figures
- Each case of stress related ill health leads to an average of 28 working days lost (HSE)
- An estimated total of 12.5 million working days were lost due to stress in (HSE)
- An average firm of 1000 employees could save £250,000 a year (NICE) with robust stress management systems



# **NCC Stress Management Documents**



# **Stress Management Documents**

### **Safety Manual**

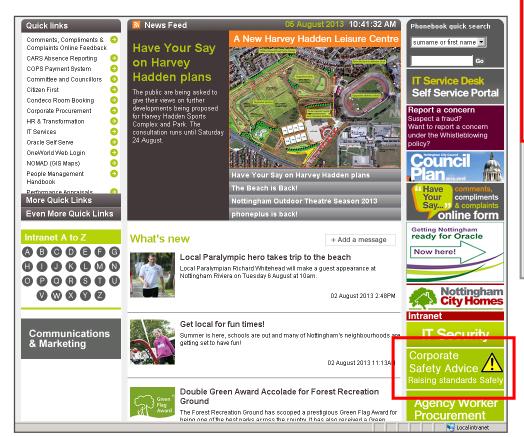
- Safety Policy & Arrangements 'Stress Assessment'
- Risk Assessments (Team and Individual)
- Flowcharts
- Accident/Violence reporting
- Training package

### **People Management Handbook**

- Stress Policy Statement
- Stress Policy Guidance



# **NCC Safety Manual**



#### Corporate Safety Advice

Corporate Safety Advice is considered to be the provider of competent health & safety information and technical support for Nottingham City Council and sits within Corporate Services, based at Loxley House.



#### Safety Manuals

This section contains both the Corporate and Departmental Safety Manuals. The Safety Manual contains Corporate safety policy documentation and associa.

Safety Policy Statements

Safety Policy & Arrangements

Health & Safety Forms Departmental Safety Manuals

#### Corporate Safety Training

or all health & safety training provided by orporate Safety Advice

People and Facility Manager Training Mandatory)

Colleague Safety Training

-Learning Safety sessions afety Training Booking System

Accident Violence Reporting

#### Incident Reporting

Information on the 'Accident' and 'Violence' reporting mechanisms for Nottingham City

Accident, Near Miss or Work Related III Health Reporting

Violence Management

Incident Investigation

On Line Incident Reporting

#### Corporate Safety Advice **On-line Safety Systems**

On-Line Safety Systems

This contains the various on-line safety systems that Corporate Safety Advice manage and run on behalf of Nottingham City Council



Corporate Safety Advice - Who Are We

Corporate health, safety & welfare is supported within Nottingham City Council by Corporate Safety Advice and other Council colleagues.



### **The Team Stress Risk Assessment**

Team S	itress Risk As	sessm	ent	家	Nottingham City Council
		Section	1 : Summary		
Team:		Manager :			
Trigger for o	completion of assessm	ent :			
Using Information on this form is the Risk:					
Low / Medium / High (circle relevant category)					
Summary / a	additional comments :				
Date of Asse	of Assessment : Target date for implementation Of remedial measures :				
Date for revi	r review of Assessment : Signature of Manager :				
Section 2 : Arrangements					
> W	ow do you get feedbar our staff? That arrangements are or your staff to inform; sair concerns?	in place			
Stressors:  1. Demands – Workload, work pattern and work environment, including exposure to physical hazzards:					
<ol><li>Control – how much say the person has in the way they do their work;</li></ol>					
<ol> <li>Relationships – includes promoting positive behaviors to avoid conflict and dealing with unacceptable behavior;</li> </ol>					
<ol> <li>Change – how organisational change is managed and communicated;</li> </ol>					
<ol> <li>Rote – how well people understand their role in the organisation and whether they have conflicting roles;</li> </ol>					
Support :					
whether people feel equipped with the necessary skills, information and support to carry out their jobs effectively;					



### **Team Assessment**

### Should be completed when either:

- The manager has concerns (increased sickness, conflict, grievances, decreased performance, symptoms of stress, staff feedback, high staff turnover etc)
- The team is about to or has recently experienced significant changes such as restructure, relocation, change in roles and demands
- More than 1 member of a team has completed an Individual Stress Action Plan



### **Team Assessment**

## **General Principles**

- Completed by manager with team
- Majority of team must agree the contents and sign and date
- Individual stress action plan to completed for anyone with any remaining significant concerns
- Identifies what further action (if any) is needed
- Implement any action necessary
- Escalate up the management chain if beyond your control



### **Team Assessment**

3 sections (Summary, Arrangements & Performance on each Stressor)

Section 2: covers communication channels (formal and informal)

Section 3: 5 categories (Demands, Control, Relationships, Change, Role)





### **The Individual Stress Action Plan**



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### **Individual Stress Action Plan**

Complete when:

The manager identifies that an individual is showing symptoms of stress

Where the manager considers the work may present an additional or high risk of stress to the Individual

Where individual concerns are identified in the 'Team Stress Risk Assessment'.

The individual reports stress and completes an 'Accident Report Form'



### **Individual Stress Action Plan**

Part 1: Completed by employee alone (with information or support as required)

Column 1: employee's own perception

Column 2: backed up by evidence

Column 3: prioritised

Column 4: wish list



### **Individual Stress Action Plan**

Part 2: Completed by manager in the presence of employee once Part 1 has been completed, returned and considered

Column 1: Prioritised list from Part 1

Column 2: Management action



Column 3: Where employee's needs cannot be accommodated

Column 4: Diary in a review date



# Support available from:

### **Corporate Safety Advice**

How to complete the forms

# Wellbeing and Health Improvement Team

Refer individuals suffering stress (cannot refer teams as a whole)

### **Human Resources**

Advice and support on specific cases



# **Topics Covered**

- 1. Definition of Stress
- 2. The Legal Framework
- 3. Why Manage Stress
- 4. Stress Management Documents
- 5. Completing Team Stress Assessment
- 6. Completing Individual Stress Action Plan

# **Any further Questions?**

