

Regional Health & Safety Lead Report 2020

I would like to start my report with putting on record my thanks to the all the members of the NW safety forum and our army of safety reps across the region who by their work and commitment throughout the COVID 19 pandemic have undoubtedly saved lives.

With the pandemic our key priorities obviously changed a little to focus on the issues facing our members at this time. However, we have done some fantastic work throughout the region over the last twelve months and have held all our meetings online and campaigned collectively across the region.

In April we commemorated International Workers Memorial Day, all the events took place online as a region the CWU was well represented. With the help of Carl, we produced a number of videos which were shared across the region on social media platforms and in conjunction with Janet Newsham from GM Hazards. We also organised minute silences across several CWU sites and held our own Minutes silence across the region via Zoom.

I have worked closely with Carl throughout the pandemic supporting our reps in Capita regarding pushing the employer to keep our members safe, and it is great to see safety reps from Preston Brook and Bury Branch playing an active role in the region's forum.

On Suicide Prevention Day and World Mental Health Day we Worked with Janet Newsham and Hilda Palmer from GM Hazards in raising awareness throughout the region this work was driven by the NW mental health network. Activity took place throughout the two weeks and we shared signposting information, videos and comms via Twitter, Facebook and What's app. Hilda Palmer (Hazards) wrote to Dave Joyce congratulating the CWU North West Mental Health Network on their support for the 'Hazards' postcard campaign, acknowledging the CWU are long-time supporters of the Hazards Campaign.

On behalf of the National Mental Health group myself and Jamie McGovern have presented Stress workshops to the Eastern Region, Midlands Region with plans to present in the North West and South West. Tony Dunbar CWU member from Speke D.O is our guest speaker at these events, and it is fantastic we have a NW member who is so inspirational and willing to tell his personal story to support others.

At our October forum meeting Janet Newsham was our guest speaker, she spoke about Air pollution and us reaffirming our commitments to TUCAN. Janet gave thanks to the CWU NW forum for keeping members safe at work. Hazards conference took place via Zoom and was attended

by several members of the NW forum. We committed to working together and holding the Gov and HSE to account and all aspects of safety.

Most recently Derek Maylor on behalf of the forum submitted responses to the NHS consultation concerning the future of the NHS and the government's plans to break it up into a USA style integrated health system by 2022.

Throughout the past year we have shared best practise and it has been fantastic to see our CWU health and safety representatives across the region being at the forefront of protecting our members and ensuring our workplaces are as safe as possible.

Regards

Mark Holt
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