

To: Regional Strategy Team
DHSSPS

From: Donna Giboney
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A HEALTHIER FUTURE: A NEW TWENTY YEAR REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Workplace Health Strategy Implementation Group, which oversees the implementation of the *Working for Health* Strategy welcomes “A Healthier Future: A New Twenty Year Regional Strategy for Health and Wellbeing” offers the following comments in respect of the above consultation.

Twenty Year Regional Strategy

The *Working for Health* strategy embodies a vision that aims to achieve “a work culture that protects, promotes and supports health and wellbeing”. It fully complements *Investing for Health*, which identifies the workplace as a priority setting for tackling health issues and health inequalities.

The Workplace Health Strategy Implementation Group will work with key stakeholders to ensure that workplace health issues are prioritised and addressed.

Involving People – Caring Communities

- Para 4.5 *Working for Health* represents a commitment by Government Departments, District Councils, employer organisations, health professionals, Trade Unions and others to work in partnership to improve the standard of health in the workplace. *Working for Health* could be used as a vehicle for promoting health and wellbeing and preventing illness and harm through their Programme Action Teams.
- Para 5.19 The establishing of multi-skilled teams and networks will be of benefit to all strategies seeking to improve the health and wellbeing of Northern Ireland. However, consideration should be given to providing necessary and readily accessible occupational health support.

Making it Happen

Para 8.10 *Working for Health* welcomes the development of seven major service wide Chronic Condition Management (CCM) programmes. These programmes will provide health support for two of the greatest health problems attributed to work activity generally. These are musculoskeletal disorders, such as back pain, and work-related stress, which can lead to anxiety and other mental health illnesses.

To ensure fully functional CCM's, consideration should be given to the provision of vocational rehabilitation, which will facilitate in many cases a swift return to the workplace.

Should you require any further information, please feel free to me on Ext. 46875 or by email: donna.giboney@detini.gov.uk.

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