

Learning Occupational Health by Experiencing Risk (LOcHER)

In 2015, while IOSH were putting together their 'No Time To Lose' campaign, Safety Groups UK (SGUK) were sharing their Health Risks at Work package and the HSE were preparing to launch their 'Help GB Work Well' campaign, Dr Bob Rajan, Principal Inspector for the HSE and Vice Chair of SGUK asked himself the question:

'How can we help young people/vocational students/apprentices protect their future health and safety in college and on entering the world of work?'

Bob discussed this question with John Cairns, the Chair of SGUK at the time and Karen Hoskins of IBIS Solutions Ltd and from these discussions, LOcHER was born.

Initially, 3 colleges were engaged to deliver pilot sessions. These were:

- South Essex College – Paint Spraying/Isocyanate exposures
- Coleg Gwent Newport – Welding fume exposures
- Preston's College – Wood dust exposures

The pilots ran from late 2015 to the summer of 2016 with a whole range of resources being produced by the student groups in each college.

RESEARCH – PRODUCE – SHARE

LOcHER isn't about producing professional films, clips or posters, it is about allowing these young people to **RESEARCH** the occupational health issues in their work areas, let them **PRODUCE** resources in a way that they and their peer groups can understand and then finally **SHARE** the resources with others to pass on the lessons learnt.

LOcHER allows young people to 'develop new approaches' to how Health & Safety knowledge is shared.

Using the ethos of 'Tell me...and I forget, Teach me...and I will remember, Involve me...and I learn' makes LOcHER successful.

Since 2016, the project has continued to grow with more colleges and organisations getting involved across the UK.

Students at Blackpool & The Fylde College took part in a cross college competition with the winning entry being a rap video called 'Dust n Boots' which can be viewed on YouTube here:

<https://youtu.be/9OQcTf7sgls>

Students at Dundee & Angus College in Scotland produced an amazing Asbestos Awareness film for their project. The group spoke with a Mesothelioma sufferer, analysts in a testing lab, removal contractors and support groups to discover information which they shared in their video which can be viewed on YouTube here:

<https://youtu.be/2qVs9hDwKuU>

If you search on YouTube for 'LOcHER project' you will see lots of examples of how students at colleges have produced their own versions of important health and safety related messages.

INTO INDUSTRY

Summer 2018, saw the first real transfer of the LOcHER concept from colleges into industry.

John Johnston who works for a large engineering company called TechnipFMC in Dunfermline, loved the LOcHER concept so much that he took it back to his company and organised for the work experience students from local high schools, the group of university interns and the company apprentices to get together to work on a project. In just a couple of weeks, this team of young people, who had never met or worked together before, developed a range of ideas relating to mechanical lifting and drop zones which was delivered to the senior management of TechnipFMC. The outcomes of the project were a great success with plenty for the senior management to think about for the future.

SO, HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Do you spend valuable budget on training clips, safety posters, toolbox sessions? Why, when you can allow your teams to develop in-house resources

LOcHER is a great way to engage with your workforce (regardless of the age and experience of your teams) to look at different ways that Health and Safety messages can be shared.

We've all heard the expression "we've always done it like this!!" and we all know that this can lead to complacency and hazards being missed.

Using the same structure as we deliver in schools and colleges, engage your workforce to look at existing processes and procedures to look for different methods of delivery.

Health and Safety works so much better when the work force are involved, LOcHER gives you that platform to start the process.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND MORE INFORMATION?

- Take a look at the LOcHER pages on the Safety Groups UK website here: <https://www.safetygroupsuk.org.uk/campaigns/locher/>
- Checkout the free online showcase which was put together to showcase the work that has been undertaken so far: <https://ibis.training/training/locher-project-showcase/>
- Search on social media channels for **#locherproject**
- Get in touch by email: locher@hse.gov.uk
- There is a steering group with members from a wide range of locations and backgrounds who will be happy to come along to your meetings to share the LOcHER concept and provide help and support for you and your colleagues.

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