

# CSG NEWSLETTER



July 2017/Issue 2

## WHO WE ARE

The Charities Safety Group (CSG) was founded in 1997 to provide a forum for people with health and safety responsibilities, working in charity and voluntary organisations, to network and share information. We also represent the charity and voluntary sector in health and safety matters with HSE and other health and safety bodies.

Find out more by visiting our website:

<http://www.csg.org.uk/>

## MEMBER'S MEETING

Thank you to all those that attended our last member's meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup>. We had a presentation from Kevin Hard, Development Director at RyderMarsh OCID, on the Power of People Engagement. Kevin provided some useful food for thought about how we can effectively engage our workforce in our health and safety strategy. One phrase I'll be taking home is 'make the safe way the easy way'.

If you missed the presentation or you would like to refresh your memory you can access a copy of Kevin's slides on the [CSG website](#) (you will need to sign in to access the content).

**Details of our next meeting:** Our next meeting will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October at NCVO, Society Building, 8 All Saints Street, London, N1 9RL. The meeting will start at 2pm with a presentation on Health and Wellbeing. The speaker, Dr Christopher Schenk, is Chief Medical Officer for the insurance company UNUM, which is well established as a proactive advocate for workplace wellbeing, as well as being one of the UK's leading employee benefits providers. Health at work is getting increasing focus from public policy-makers so this presentation will be well worth attending to gain a specialist insight into how to support the health and wellbeing of your workforce.

Our next meeting will also double up as our annual AGM which will take place after the presentation. A copy of the CSG Management Committee Posts with a summary of duties and a list of existing Executive Committee Members willing to stand again will be circulated prior to the meeting. If you would like to become a member of the executive committee please let the committee by emailing [csginfo@ncvo.org.uk](mailto:csginfo@ncvo.org.uk) or mention it at the AGM.

## CSG CONFERENCE 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018 – SAVE THE DATE

We turn 21 next year and to celebrate this important birthday we're holding a conference! The date is Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and the theme will be 'Health and Safety Competency and Training', with a particular emphasis on volunteers. We will be providing you with regular updates but in the interim please save the date in your diaries.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY HEADLINES – TERROR ATTACKS: PROJECT GRIFFIN

We will all be aware of the recent terror attacks in London and Manchester and as staff with responsibility for health and safety how we can best support our staff and volunteers is a question many of us will be asking ourselves. If you're not already aware of it, Project Griffin is the national counter terrorism awareness initiative for business. Project Griffin holds briefing events to increase public and staff awareness of how best to reduce and respond to the most likely types of terrorist activities. Events are free and can last between one and six hours depending on what you would like covered. If you would like further information about this visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/project-griffin/project-griffin>. You may also be interested in publicising the CitizenAID app to your staff and volunteers. This is a free app which has been developed by military and civilian medics to teach the public about how to provide potentially life-saving treatment before the arrival of emergency services. To find out more visit this website: <http://citizenaid.org/>.

## GRENFELL TOWER TRAGEDY

The recent tragic events at Grenfell Tower have a wide ranging impact. We would recommend that you review your fire safety arrangements in line with the relevant legislation and ensure all findings are understood and actions are completed. Take time to review your fire safety and evacuation plans and ensure they are still relevant and check that your firefighting equipment is maintained.

## Q & A

**Your question** *'As part of their role at my charity our volunteers will complete some lone working. One of our control measures is that they attend training on how to de-escalate potentially challenging situations but I'm really struggling to get volunteers to attend the training. Have you got any advice about how I can increase engagement?'*

**Answer:** It can be a challenge to get volunteers to go on training sessions. They've given up a lot of their spare time to volunteer and many will want to focus their energies on getting out and helping people rather than completing paperwork and attending training.

The key thing to ask yourself is 'what's in it for them?' You need a selling point to convince volunteers that attending the training is a valuable use of their time. A colleague of mine was having a similar problem and on discussing the issue with the trainer they came up with the idea of re-branding the training. They sold the training to volunteers by explaining how applicable the training would be to their everyday life: 'Hormonal teenagers? Challenging colleagues? After this training you'll be better at managing difficult situations and reduce your stress as a result'. By selling the training in this manner engagement significantly increased.

It is also important to consider accessibility of the training, volunteers often have other commitments so consider providing the training in the evening and/or on weekends so you can capture those who are not available in office hours.

Linking it into other things such as a talk from a senior manager on the charity's strategy / progress and / or talks from other Departments on the work they do, gives the training a different, less formal feel and gives the volunteers chance to learn more about their charity and to network with each other. The provision of decent refreshments is also a positive draw, especially if the volunteers are coming straight from work, etc to do the training.

Do you have a question or issue that you would welcome a wider pool of thoughts on? Email: [csqinfo@ncvo.org.uk](mailto:csqinfo@ncvo.org.uk)

We look forward to seeing you all again at our next meeting on the **16<sup>th</sup> October**.

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Charities Safety Group



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