

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT 2009/2010

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Audit Committee to review performance on health and safety. The report details both progress and future actions associated with implementation of the Council's plans for health and safety management.

Summary

2. The proactive approach to occupational health and safety adopted across the Council has over the years proven to be effective with year on year reduction in accidents, lost time as a result of accidents and insurance claims across the authority. Whilst the Council has experienced an increase in reportable accidents and resulting lost time figures over the last twelve months with the exception of one service the general accident trend overall is downward.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that the progress to date and key planned actions for 2010/11, be noted.

Reasons

4. The recommendation is supported to provide the Audit Committee with evidence to reflect on the Council's approach to Health & Safety.

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Director of Corporate Services

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Background Papers

No background papers used in the compilation of this report.

S17 Crime and Disorder	Some actions and information highlighted in the report support reduction of crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	The report addresses improved health and safety across the authority.
Sustainability	No specific sustainability issues arising from this report.
Diversity	Diversity issues are incorporated into Health and Safety managers.
Wards Affected	All wards equally.
Groups Affected	Employees and pupils in schools.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not affect the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	Audit report.
Urgent Decision	Audit report.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Action detailed in report supports the Healthy Darlington aspect of the SCS.
Efficiency	Good health and safety performance has a positive impact on efficiency

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis – Reviewing Initiatives set for 2009-2010

5. A number of issues have been addressed during the period under review. The major focus has remained predominantly in Schools and Community Services.
6. It is worth noting that whilst reportable accidents and resulting lost time has increased over the last twelve months since 2003/04 the authority has seen a reduction of 65% in accidents reported to the health and safety executive. A breakdown is provided in **Appendix 1**.
7. Manual Handling and Slips Trips Fall's continue to be the main type of reportable accidents. The root cause of the increase is predominantly as a result of working practices heavily reliant on manual handling and an ageing workforce. A break down is provided in **Appendix 2**.
8. The health and safety team are continuing to work very closely with individual School and departmental management teams on initiatives to progress a continuous improvement approach to health and safety management.
9. Effective lines of communication are well established between the Schools and the Safety Unit. It is this effective dialogue which is steadily helping to improve the overall health and safety culture of the Schools. This communication is being delivered at all levels from Governors down to individual departments and teachers, via training sessions, school visits and audits.
10. Community Services implemented OHSAS 18001 across Building Services. Both Building Services and Environmental Services comply with OHSAS 18001, 2007 standard. In addition to this both services were awarded the RoSPA Gold Safety Award.
11. The OHSAS 18001 certification is based upon the implementation of the Corporate and Departmental health and safety policy. The policy is based around everybody's commitment to health and safety. The language in the policy is user friendly, without weakening the requirement to identify duties and responsibilities of senior staff and directors.
12. Darlington Borough Council continues to operate satisfactory health and safety standards, with some sections operating at a very high standard.
13. The authority has again remained free from action by the health and safety executive.
14. Lost time as a result of accidents has increased over the last financial year. A significant proportion of lost time accidents are manual handling related owing to physical work, an aging workforce and working practices heavily reliant on manual handling techniques. All reportable lost time accidents have been investigated and recommendations put forward to management A break down is provided in **Appendix 3**.

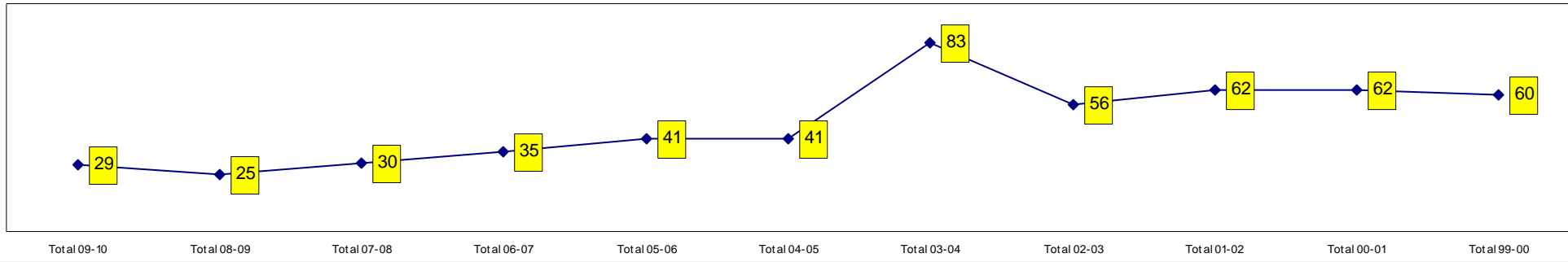
Brief outline of key objectives for 20010-11

15. In order for the continual improvement ethos outlined in the OH&S policy statement to be realised the following strategic priorities have been identified as applicable for the whole of the authority. Each aspect compliments and supports the other in achieving the main strategic objective of Safe and Healthy Workforce.
16. Continue to Plan for hazard identification, risk assessment and risk control to include routine and non routine activities as well as addressing behavioural issues.
17. Introduce effective health and safety documentation and data control of OH&S management system
18. Continue to ensure emergency preparedness and response, First Aid, Fire etc.
19. Continue to measure and monitor performance (key performance indicators) utilising both proactive and reactive measures.
20. Carry out a programme of audits ensuring non-conformances and corrective and preventive actions are followed up and closed out.

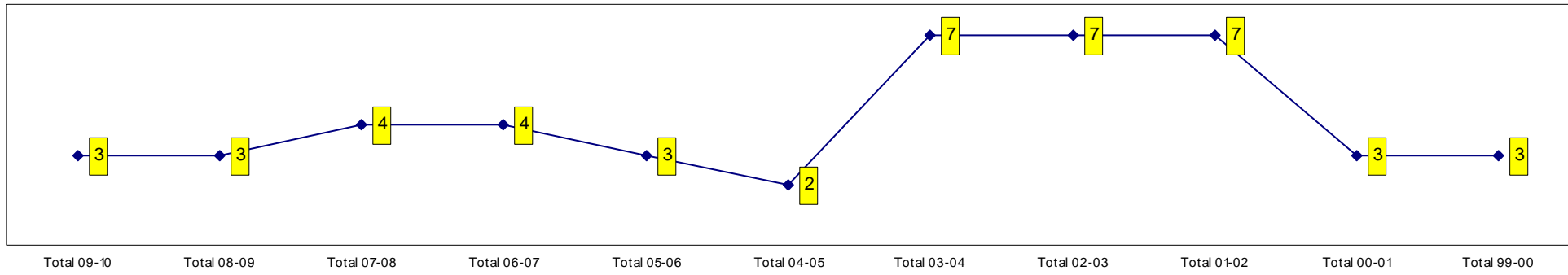
Outcome of Consultation

21. There was no formal consultation undertaken in production of this report.

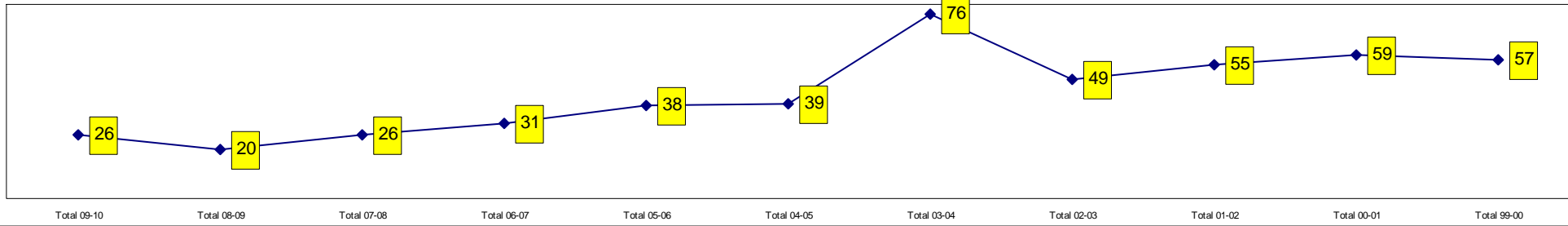
Year on Year Overview of Reportable Accidents



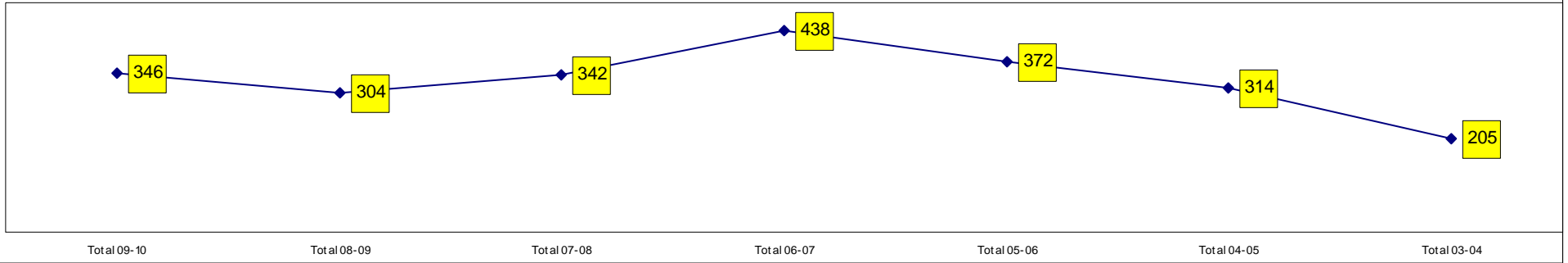
Year on Year Overview of Major Accidents



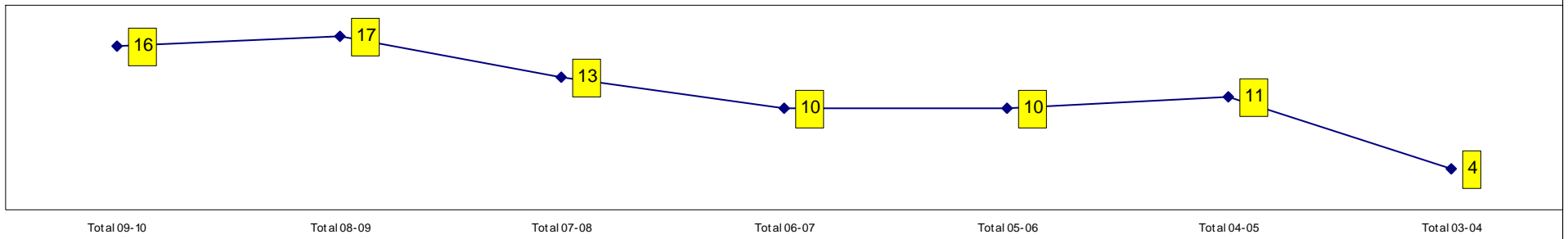
Year on Year Overview of Over Thee Day Accidents



Year on Year Overview of Minor Accidents



Year on Year Overview of Near Miss Incidents



Year on Year Overview of Disease

