PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSIBILITY DEAL

With the right environment people can lead healthier lives

The Public Health Responsibility Deal taps into the potential for business and other influential organisations to help create this environment and so contribute to improving public health.

Organisations signing up to the Responsibility Deal make a commitment to taking action voluntarily to improve public health. They do so as responsible employers, and through their commercial actions and community activities.

This note focuses in on the Health and Work Network. There are also networks covering physical activity, food and alcohol.

Why sign up as a Responsibility Deal partner?

- A fitter, healthier workforce performs more efficiently and productively, therefore having a positive impact on your bottom line.

- A commitment to the Responsibility Deal sends out a positive message about your work culture, enhancing your reputation and helping to attract good candidates, as well as helping to retain valued employees.

- It also sends positive messages to customers, clients and the wider community.

Contact us at responsibilitydealhealthatwork@dh.gsi.gov.uk
http://responsibilitydeal.dh.gov.uk
Health at Work pledges

Core Commitment

We will actively support our workforce to lead healthier lives

We now have a suite of collective pledges, which we believe will help anyone with a more structured approach to promoting health and well-being in the workplace:

Collective Pledges

H1. To embed the principles of the chronic conditions guides (developed through the Responsibility Deal’s health at work network) within HR procedures to ensure that those with chronic conditions at work are managed in the best way possible with reasonable flexibilities and workplace adjustments

H2. To use only occupational health services which meet the new occupational health standards and which aim to be accredited by 2012/13

H3. To include a section on the health and wellbeing of employees within annual reports and/or website. This should include staff sickness absence rate.

H4. To implement some basic measures for encouraging healthier staff restaurants/vending outlets/buffets for staff, including:
   • Ensuring the availability of healthier foods and beverages in all available channels to employees
   • Working with caterers to reformulate recipes to provide meals which are lower in fat, salt, and energy and which do not contain artificial trans fats
   • Provision of responsibly sized portions of foods
   • Provision and promotion of the consumption of fruit and vegetables through availability and price promotion
   • Provision of calories and/or Guideline Daily Amounts on menus per portion as a minimum (further nutrients optional)
   • Ensure that water is visible and freely available

H5. We will encourage staff to stop smoking, by facilitating onsite stop smoking support services or by encouraging them to attend local stop smoking services during working time without loss of pay. We will also take action to reduce other risks to respiratory health arising in the workplace.

H6. We will offer staff health checks, e.g. the NHS Lifecheck, with appropriate follow up and audit. We will also encourage eligible employees to participate in the NHS Health Check for vascular disease, and other NHS screening programmes (for example for breast or bowel cancer).

Companies who have signed up so far include:
Large private sector companies such as Boots, Unilever and Mars;
Public sector organisations including the Local Government Group and Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust
Small and medium sized companies such as Zest People