



What is CHASTE?

The background to the project.

What does CHASTE stand for?

The project's full title is "Coordinating Health and Safety in Tertiary Education" (CHASTE).

About the Project

CHASTE is a not-for-profit project, under the direction of the University of Edinburgh, which provides health and safety support services to the colleges and universities in Scotland. We offer services, to both sectors, in terms of:

- Support to strategic planning processes in individual institutions, to the enhancement of corporate governance, statutory compliance and reputation management
- Identification and development of best practice
- Recommendation of methodologies to develop best practice
- Facilitate the sharing of best practice

Background

In 2008, the Scottish Funding Council identified a continuing business need for the service provided by CHASTE in light of the Scottish Action Plan on Health and Safety published by the then Scottish Executive in March 2007, which includes a commitment to expanding advisory services on health and safety for employers and employees.

The Scottish Funding Council also identified demand for the continuation of the CHASTE project through representations made by The Association of Scotland's Colleges and the Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC). In light of this, they then sought the views of the university sector which broadly supports the potential for collaboration between the sectors.

All parties agreed that the Project should be supported by a Steering Group with stakeholder representation similar to the previous group. On behalf of the sectors, therefore, the University of Edinburgh was allocated a grant to enable it to continue providing the service for a limited period.

Mission Statement

Our mission statement.

Created on 08/03/2016

Page 1 of 4

CHASTE is dedicated to providing all Scottish colleges and universities with the highest quality occupational health and safety support services to facilitate the development and growth of risk management systems fit for purpose in line with the UK Government strategy - '2010 and Beyond' and the Scottish Action Plan for Health and Safety.

The goal is to create a positive ethos that fosters improved confidence in embedded processes to identify, manage and control risks to the individual institution's population and reputation.

The intention is for CHASTE to leave a sustainable legacy in terms of the development of substantive health and safety management provision in both sectors.

[2010 and Beyond](#)

[Scottish Action Plan for Health and Safety](#)

Strategic objectives

Our aims and objectives.

The continuance of the CHASTE Project into a second phase is intended to:

- build upon the foundations laid during the initial three years.
- put processes in place to support the identification and dissemination of best practice.

For colleges and universities, we will primarily provide a resource for guidance, advice, development and training.

We will

- respond reactively according to sector demands.
- act proactively by development and introduction of strategic alliances with key stakeholders across both sectors.

Such a cross sector service takes account of the variances in positioning and demand in terms of the primary issues apparent in each sector.

The objectives for the Project have been approved by the reconstituted Steering Group.

- [Strategic Objectives in Operational Plan](#)

Cross Sector Objectives

- To support the Scottish Funding Council with advice and management information regarding the application of the Scottish Government 'Scottish Action Plan for Health and Safety' and supporting both colleges and universities in that regard.

- Facilitation and provision of guidance, support and development on effectiveness, by helping to raise standards of health and safety in universities and colleges.
- Provision of training, information and support to Senior Management across both sectors (including Courts and Boards of Management where appropriate).
- Facilitate a series of seminars on relevant subjects for both sectors.
- Support interface between Health and Safety and Human Resources services across both sectors, with related key topics such as absence management, occupational health, health promotion, bio-security etc.

Colleges

- To initiate and develop a health and safety community of practice for colleges in Scotland.
- Introduce, develop and manage a system of benchmarking incidents and occupational health statistics, incorporating a web-based approach.
- Provide a service of support in terms of advice.
- Identify issues of best practice and direct development and implementation.
- Provide support to the professional development of health and safety staff in the Sector.
- Advise on the development of appropriate occupational health and safety management standards.
- Support Human Resource services in colleges on the application and effective delivery of appropriate occupational health services.
- Support Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) in terms of training and advice to Inspectors regarding occupational health and safety elements of Inspections.

Universities

- Form strategic alliances with particular universities on individual topics, such as stress, occupational health, contingency planning etc. with the aim of disseminating best practice.
- Pioneer innovative training inputs, such as behavioural training to address aspects of health and safety culture, influencing senior managers towards change and development etc.
- Encourage and support universities to form alliances and interface with colleges in their own geographical areas.

- Promote an ethos of more effective interaction between health and safety professionals and other key stakeholders in universities, such as Estates Departments, Human Resources Services, Finance Directorates etc.

Keys to success

The key elements which contribute to the Project.

- Sufficient direct funding to enable the Project to provide appropriate levels of support to all colleges and universities in Scotland.
- Reputation, credibility, experience and expertise of the Project Team as a key factor in delivery of the Operational Plan.
- Availability of additional support in terms of professional services via the Health and Safety Department of the University of Edinburgh.
- Project Team's capacity to identify additional services to support future sustainable growth and offer greater flexibility in service delivery.

Project structure

Who we are and what we do.

The CHASTE Project is monitored and moderated by a Steering Group, with representation from appropriate key stakeholders such as Universities Scotland, Scotland's Colleges, Scottish Trades Union Congress, a senior member of staff from a University and a College, and the Scottish Funding Council.

Project Team

The Project Team operates from offices within the Health and Safety Department of the University of Edinburgh:

A range of additional professional services is also provided by the Health and Safety Department of the University of Edinburgh, in support of the Project Team.

Project Leader

Alastair Reid continues as Project Leader, providing operational direction and support to the Project.

Project Coordinators

Donnie Blue and Les Allan deliver the core services as Project Coordinators.

Project Administrator

Administrative support is provided by Susan Woodman.