



Workplace Health Leadership Group  
Northern Ireland

## Workplace Health Group meet influential UK Occupational health champion

The Workplace Health Leadership Group NI (WHLGNI) recently met Clive Johnston, Chair of the UK Health in Construction Leadership Group to see how they run their successful programme for occupational health in construction.

Clive gave generously of his time to talk about not only the positive impacts that they are having but also some of the pitfalls that they faced as they launched their initiative.

In a wide ranging and invigorating presentation Clive touched on a diverse range of topics including the 'Mates in Mind' initiative - raising awareness of the stigma associated with mental health, how changing the worker's environment can make them feel happier, healthier and more engaged, ways to ensure workers are communicating with each other about mental health and tips for employees to look after their own and their colleague's mental health.



Armed with plenty of information to digest the WHLGNI committee will be finalising their strategy with increased vigour and Keith Morrison, CEO HSENI, a guest at the meeting said:-

***"Occupational health is the big challenge facing us in Northern Ireland and I'm delighted to see so many organisations coming together to not only tackle this issue but put it at the top of employers' agendas."***



Clive who is Group Head of Health, Safety & Security at Landsec also shared a video produced by Crossrail called Gary's story. It graphically demonstrates how employees may be suffering in silence.

<https://goo.gl/K3uMWN>

Crossrail have made this video to freely available to all.

Clive finished his presentation with the thought provoking sentence "Work Safe and Healthy - you have people that count on you to get home Safely and in good Health."



The WHLGNI committee consists of representatives from Northern Ireland Safety Group, IOSH (NI Branch), HSENI, BOHS, PHA, the Local Councils and PHA.

The committee are in the midst of finalising a 5 year strategy for Occupational Health in Northern Ireland.

This will be launched at a major Conference being held in the Titanic Building on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

*Picture above at the meeting with Clive Johnston are the committee plus invited guests (\*). Back row - Hazel McKee\*, North Down & Ards Borough Council, Barry Rooney\*, HSENI, Barry Neilson\* CITBNI, Bryan Monson, HSENI, Andrew Cooke\*, Graham Construction, Ian Carroll\*, EEFNI, Keith Morrison\* HSENI, Susan Spence, HSENI, Front row - Wilson Lambe, NI Safety Group & WHLGNI Chair, Clive Johnston\*HCLG, Richard McIvor, IOSH (NI).*

Further details of the Group or next year's Conference can be obtained by contacting Ernie Spence at [info@niscg.org.uk](mailto:info@niscg.org.uk)