BUSINESS LEADERS

YOU SHOULD BE PRIORTISING WELLBEING



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Business Leaders - You Should Be Prioritising Wellbeing

Through COVID-19 business leaders are seeing first-hand how health impacts work and how work impacts health.

Until recently the major workplace-related health risks were asbestos, mental health, manual handling, silica dust and hazardous substances. Biological risks such as COVID -19 have never been so prominent.

The impact of COVID-19 has been huge and businesses are suddenly beginning to consider the effect of this pandemic on business indicators such as absence, redundancy, productivity and corporate social responsibility.

Business leaders and Human Resources professionals are having to learn quickly and manage issues such as Furlough and Lockdown. HSE estimates 1.4 million workers suffering from work-related ill health, with over half a million new cases each year. Work-related ill-health is responsible for a staggering 26.8 million working days lost. The cost in 2020 is predicted to be a lot higher.

There has never been as much emphasis on workplace wellbeing - we need to grab this opportunity with both hands.

Workplace health and wellbeing has risen sharply up the public policy agenda over the past decade. This has been accompanied by a growing recognition of the positive link between employee wellbeing and long term organisational health. There also appears to be a much broader understanding and application of holistic health and well-being approaches on the part of many organisations. COVID -19 has accelerated this and workplace wellbeing is becoming a top priority.

We welcome this progress but believe that there is still considerable scope for wider and more integrated implementation of employee well-being initiatives in the workplace and a shift in the way services are delivered and invested in.

- It is time to modernise services, deliver interventions that are deemed vital to business success and create more business-focused and impactful programmes.
- Workplace wellbeing needs to be on the top 5 agenda items of any business and employee meeting.
- Businesses will need to have a clear strategy on how they look after their people
- .Priority will initially focus on COVID-19 risk management but will quickly switch to risks such as mental health.
- Spend on wellbeing services will need to be targeted on making a visible impact.



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