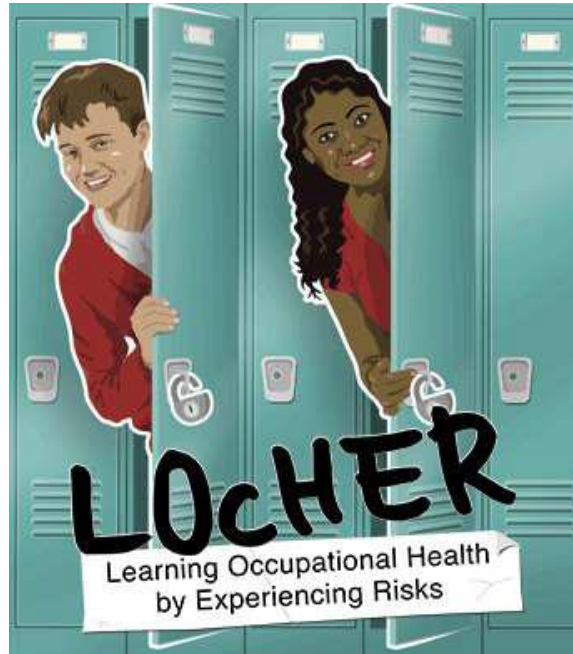


# Learning Occupational Health by Experiencing Risks (LOcHER)

An innovation for tackling work related ill health and managing risk well



“The college’s engagement with the LOcHER project has yielded greater rewards for both staff and students than we ever imagined when we first embarked on the project.”

Robbie Ryan. CEO, Blackpool and the Fylde College

“The LOcHER project is a shining example of how all curriculum within D&A College should be modelled.”

Simon Hewitt. Vice Principal (Curriculum and Attainment), Dundee & Angus College

“This was an innovative approach to teaching health and safety which engaged and excited the students making it very relevant to them and their future practice.”

Angela O’Donoghue CBE. CEO and Principal, South Essex College

## THE LOcHER Steering Group The LOcHER Supporters



	<p>The <b>Learning Occupational Health by Experiencing Risks</b> approach, also known as the <b>LOcHER project</b>, is an innovation that <b>resulted from a team work</b> across the GB</p>
	<p>The LOcHER idea originated in HSE</p>
<p><b>How did LOcHER come about?</b></p> 	<p><b>By Acting together.</b> Few of us <b>asked a question.</b> How can we involve young people (students and apprentices) in colleges to help them protect their health when they enter the world of work? It started from there</p> <p>There are two streams: (i) for colleges; (ii) Schools</p>
	<p>The <b>LOcHER Steering Group, SGUK, RoSPA and IBIS Solutions Ltd</b> are the <b>lead facilitators</b> of the project. It is supported by educational, industrial, public and professional organisations</p>
	<p>The LOcHER team wants to see the project as <b>one of the key anchors for “Helping GB work well” strategy.</b> Young peoples’ awareness about the health effects of exposure to hazardous substances and their control at early stages of their career development can help to reduce long term harm</p>
	<p><b>The gearing-up for bringing together a new mind set,</b> for tackling work related ill health, was successfully <b>piloted at three colleges.</b> Most importantly, H&amp;S professionals, curriculum managers, lecturers and students play key roles to opening the doors to LOcHER innovation at other colleges. It is being applied at other colleges, now</p>
<p><b>LOcHER and Learning = Learners’ Function and Employability Skills</b></p> 	<p>As part of funding requirements, colleges/schools are required to develop <b>“Learners’ Function Skills”</b> Students’ contribution to LOcHER project will help them to develop a number of transferable function skills. These include skills such as problem solving, innovation, taking initiative, team working, effective presentation, time management, motivation, assertiveness, self-directed learning and leadership. In addition, their participation in the project would help to facilitate the <b>“employability”</b> training required by the funding requirement</p>

**The LOCHER project innovations**



The LOCHER innovations include:

- ✓ **Learning by doing**
- ✓ **Developing practically based risk control solutions**
- ✓ **Stimulating and sustainable risk messaging**
- ✓ **Integrating practical H&S within curriculum**
- ✓ **Using new methodologies for a wider communication of risk control measures**
- ✓ **Helping to implant the risk messages in the long term memory of the learners**

**Students**



Preston's College

**Students are central** to developing simple solutions for exposure control messaging. We expect that these will be used by their peers during their working lives



South Essex College Awards 2015

**The LOCHER project for colleges in a nutshell**



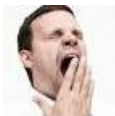
The purpose of the project is for college students to **learn about occupational health risks in an engaging and emotionally attractive ways**. This is needed to help embed an understanding of the key health risks and ways of controlling them into their long-term memory for a sustainable changes in culture, attitudes and behaviours

**How did we do it?**



By **handing over the idea to students and giving them free reign** over how they learned and recorded their discoveries. For example, they designed art work and posters, included wit into risk messaging and created short films to demonstrate what they learned for use by other students at colleges in GB and around the world

**H&S is boring**



A group of students thought that health and safety is boring. They said the **messaging should be crafted, taught and given in innovative ways**.  
View Locher Project website

## LOcHER Project success



The Return On Investment (ROI) looks like:

- ❖ LOcHER project team proofed the philosophy by producing LOcHER products for **three pilots**. These are spray painting in MVR, wood dust and welding fume
- ❖ **Evaluation** of the LOcHER products **by fellow students** and lecturers in colleges and achieving an enthusiastic welcome for the project and its products.
- ❖ **LOcHER** products being **used by colleges in GB year-on-year** to inform new students and engaging them in innovative ways to inform risk control
- ❖ Every **H&S professionals** and their colleges associated with AOC becoming a team member of the LOcHER project and **adopting the LOcHER philosophy**, as appropriate
- ❖ There would **be LOcHER risk messaging modules** for **high priority substances**, including DEEE, isocyanates, welding fume, silica, flour and wood dust
- ❖ **Colleges** involved in motor vehicle repair, construction, welding/fabrication, catering, hair/beauty related training courses **using LOcHER** products in their courses
- ❖ A medium term survey, for example in five years, showing a **good take up, learning and recall** as well as the application of lessons learnt
- ❖ **Students contributing to the LOcHER project saying they have learnt soft skills** by being involved in the project

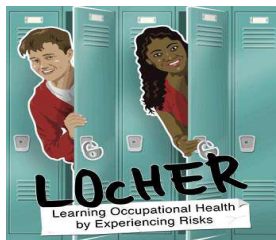
## We need your support



We invite you to:

- ✓ **Champion the LOcHER project in classes**
- ✓ **Embed the LOcHER project in your workplace**
- ✓ **Volunteer to create more LOcHER modules**
- ✓ **Promote the LOcHER project** every time an opportunity becomes available
- ✓ **Give us your ideas** on how we could take forward the LOcHER project in a big way

## The LOcHER Resources



- Support for the project, including **case studies and projects ideas** can be found at: <http://www.safetygroupsuk.org.uk/campaigns/locher/>
- An exciting LOcHER **project showcase** can be found at: <https://locherproject.com/training/locher-project>
- **Interested in LOcHER?** contact **Steering Group Secretariat:** [locher@hse.gov.uk](mailto:locher@hse.gov.uk)