



Support Staff Conference 22 June 2006

The Support Staff Conference was held on 22 June 2006 and was open to all support staff including Estates and Technicians to reflect the Corporate and HR Strategies.

Membership

The Committee members were sought and a good mix of representations from around the University joined the organising team:

Martin Plant – Chair
Vivien Aizlewood
David Colley
Linda Craddock
Glenn Duckworth
Sue Ford
Helen Harris
Robin Kiteley
Paul Newton
Kevin Riley
Kathy Sherlock
Elaine Eastwood - Secretary

Publicity

Various publicity channels were used to encourage delegate attendance, including:

- Regular Staff Notices
- Direct email notifications to:
 - Managers
 - Potential Delegates
- Posters around campus and buildings
- Individual A5 leaflets for each School/Service to distribute
- Webpage Staff Portal Banner directing to further information

Attendance

- 118 delegates
- 21 presenters

Plus the Keynote Speaker, Ken Davy, the Plenary Panelists and Exhibitors.

Keynote Speaker

Ken Davy was the Keynote Speaker for the conference. He is Chairman of SimplyBiz PLC, Huddersfield Giants Rugby League Club and Huddersfield Town Football Club.

The comments that were received from the delegates were extremely complimentary to his speech and a good start to the day, including 'inspirational', 'amusing' 'motivational' and 'thought provoking'.

Workshops

The workshops were mainly held within Canalside West, Canalside East and Lockside.

The organising committee decided to offer a wide variety of sessions which were predominantly work related but also included a small number of 'well-being' sessions.

Comments from majority of the delegates were that the sessions were relevant to their work-life balance and would prove useful in their every day life in the workplace.

Employee Information Fair

During the lunchtime period in Quayside, there were a large number of stalls available to browse about life at the university; including what other Schools/Services provide (contacts and courses on offer) and West Yorkshire Pension Fund.

The overall opinion was that it was 'professional' and 'informative' with helpful staff.

Plenary Panel

The Plenary Panel comprised:

- Colin Blair
- Sue Frost
- Jenny Grainger
- Yvonne Harding

The panel responded fully to all questions.

The overall thoughts to this 'end of day' section was 'informative' and gave delegates a chance to air their concerns with management on a face-to-face basis.

Highlights of the Day

Delegates comments included:

- A good chance to meet new people - networking
- Enthusiasm of the presenters
- Ken Davy
- Activities to help wellbeing at work

Plus a lot more.

Improvements

The main improvement that was suggested was to have more workshops during the day with less time over lunch.

Conclusion

From the statistics which are reported in the appended document, it is apparent that it was an excellent day for delegates and proved worthwhile and a positive morale boosting event.

Many workshops were highly praised and would like to be available at any future events for those unable to attend as their first choice.

Planning for 2007

A support staff conference meeting has been arranged in September to evaluate the outcomes of 2006.

The consensus of the report shows that the best time to host the event is similar to this year's and continued or new membership will be sought to start arrangements for the 2007 event.

Success

A lot of commitment and dedication from the organising team has enabled this successful event to take place.

Each member of the team equally shared the additional workload to enable staff to feel valued by the institution.

Elaine Eastwood
Secretary to the Support Staff Conference Committee