

Event in Dundee to focus on hidden risk of asbestos in homes and workplaces

Asbestos Action, a national charity helping and supporting those suffering from asbestos related diseases, is holding an event this week which will highlight the hidden risk posed by asbestos in our homes and workplaces.

The event, which will also be the charity's 15th Annual General Meeting, takes place at Discovery Point in Dundee on Friday (21st July) and will include discussion of the challenges in obtaining justice for those who suffer the consequences of inadvertent asbestos exposure.

The charity has seen a 30% increase in demand for its services in the past year, as Scotland's past industrial legacy of asbestos exposure coupled with the ongoing risk associated with the presence of asbestos in schools, public buildings and houses continues to result in increasing numbers of people being diagnosed with asbestos related disease.

A keynote speaker at the event will be Beth Robinson of Gowrie Contracts Ltd, a Dundee based firm who specialise in asbestos abatement.

There will also be representatives from the Princes Youth Trust who have undertaken an asbestos project and prepared a video designed to help raise awareness of the risk posed by asbestos to current and future generations.

John Fearn, General Manager of Asbestos Action, said

"The demand for our services is increasing. Asbestos disease is not just a legacy of our industrial past. It is an increasing problem for current and future generations.

"It is important for us to actively campaign to help raise awareness of the dangers of asbestos exposure and its widespread presence in our houses, schools and workplaces.

“We need to see the safe, phased removal of asbestos from buildings where it is present, increased standards of health and safety, and better remedies for those affected by asbestos disease through no fault of their own.

“The professionals who will speak at the AGM will offer valuable insight into the hidden dangers of asbestos in our buildings and environment, and help us guard against inadvertent exposure.

“This event will also see our 15th AGM and a chance to thank everyone who supports our work. The majority of that work involves providing direct, 1 to 1 support for those diagnosed with serious asbestos related illnesses. That means meeting with people face to face where possible and offering holistic advice and help. “

The event will also hear from Euan Love, a Partner within the specialist Industrial Disease team at Digby Brown Solicitors who works with victims of asbestos related disease in Dundee, Tayside and across Scotland. Euan Love said:

“Serious asbestos related diseases, such as mesothelioma, are vicious and cruel and are devastating not only for those diagnosed, but also for their families.

“We now see an increasing number of cases where the likely asbestos exposure, which may have occurred decades ago, was not the result of working in heavy industry. Instead, it may be the result of being involved in the construction industry, or as a consequence of occupying buildings where asbestos is disrupted.

“Often this exposure may be inadvertent, but could have been avoided if there had been greater awareness of the presence of asbestos within our buildings and the danger caused by its disturbance.

“Where we can establish that those who had responsibility failed to take reasonable care to reduce the risk posed by asbestos under their control, we will aim to hold them to account, to secure some justice for asbestos victims and their families”.

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Notes to News desks

1. Last month, Asbestos Action and Digby Brown highlighted the dangers created by the presence of asbestos in schools, after figures revealed the numbers of schools where asbestos is present across Scotland, see <https://www.digbybrown.co.uk/solicitors/news-main/extent-of-asbestos-danger-in-schools-in-scotland-revealed>

2. Asbestos Action is a Scottish charity that has been set up to assist sufferers of asbestos related diseases. It is a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation set up to provide practical support and advice to those who have an asbestos related disease.

The charity was formed by a group of people who either have an asbestos related illness or have cared for someone with an asbestos linked condition.

<http://www.asbestosaction.org.uk/>

3. Digby Brown are Scotland's largest specialist personal injury law firm, with seven offices across the country, including in Dundee. The firm's Industrial Disease Department has won a number of landmark legal victories for victims of asbestos related disease. More information at <https://www.digbybrown.co.uk/industrial-disease-claims>

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