Employers in Fife came together during Fife Business Week to reaffirm the message that the workplace is a key area for improvement of health, safety and wellbeing. The Celebrating Good Work Event took place at the Bay Hotel, Kinghorn on the 9th November. The event was organised by the Workplace Team, Health Promotion, Fife Health & Social Care Partnership.

At the event delegates heard how ‘good work’ is important to reducing health inequalities. Health inequalities are the unfair and avoidable differences in people’s health across social groups and between different population groups. The overall health of the Scottish population is continuing to improve, along with a decline in the death rate. However, the gaps between those with the best and worst health and wellbeing still persist, some are widening, and too many Scots still die prematurely.

Annemarie Smith, Workplace Team Health & Wellbeing Adviser said, “Creating jobs is not sufficient to impact on health inequalities. Just as important is the creation of ‘good jobs’. The employers here today have recognized the importance of staff health, safety and wellbeing through the development of supportive policies “.

At the event nine employers were also presented with Healthy Working Lives Awards by Dr. Margaret Hannah, Director of Public Health, NHS Fife, recognising their commitment to ensuring health, safety and wellbeing in the workplace.

Award winners this year are Bandrum Nursing Home, Berner UK Ltd, Burntisland Fabrication (BiFab), Fife Employability Access Trust (FEAT) and Scottish Autism-Fife Area (all Bronze Award winners), Aberlour Fostercare, Fife and University of St Andrews (both Silver) and NHS Fife (Gold Award winner). In addition Natural Gas Liquids Plant at Mossmorran achieved both Silver and Gold Awards.

Over 60 delegates attended the event and enjoyed the opportunity to network and share good practice on ‘good work’. Excellent presentations were delivered by Mossmorran, NHS Fife and University of St Andrews. Feedback from delegates has been very positive and many workplaces have indicated that they intend to put some of the examples discussed into practice within their own organisations.

‘Thoroughly enjoyed the event and felt I left with lots of good ideas of what might work in our organisation’

‘Very interesting to see what other organisations are doing to support health and wellbeing in the workplace’

‘I thought all of the speakers were wonderful, and another good way to help us think of new ideas that we can ‘borrow’ from one another’