



## **Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Health and Safety Intervention Plan 2023-2024**

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council has a duty to enforce the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and associated regulations within its district. The Council has enforcement responsibilities in many areas including retail units, offices, warehousing, catering premises, leisure and entertainment premises, consumer services such as beauty parlours and tattooists and tyre and exhaust fitters - the vast majority of areas the public has access to.

The primary objective of the health and safety service placed within the Environmental Health Service at Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is to protect employees and the public from hazards arising from work activities and to seek improvement in working conditions in terms of health, safety and welfare.

This intervention plan sets out the overall aim of the service and identifies specific areas where we will prioritise our efforts in line with the better regulation concepts of modern regulatory enforcement.

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## Service aim and objectives

The primary objective of the health and safety service placed within the Environmental Health Team at Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is to promote health and protect employees and the public from hazards arising from work activities and to seek improvement in working conditions in terms of health, safety and welfare through advisory and enforcement activities.

We will do this by both proactive and reactive means.

## Key Delivery Priorities

In 2013 changes in government guidance and direction caused the service to review its method of operation. For example, The Löfstedt review<sup>1</sup>, the Department for Work and Pensions Ministerial Statement on Good Health and Safety<sup>2</sup> the Young Report<sup>3</sup> and the Health and Safety Executive/Local Government Association guidance on reduced proactive inspections<sup>4</sup> is directing enforcement authorities to carry out fewer overall inspections and utilise greater targeting of proactive interventions. The result of these changes meant that very few routine inspections are carried out in Epsom & Ewell, and instead the Council concentrates on a project based approach taking into account national priorities and local initiatives where there is evidence that intervention is warranted.

The key delivery priorities are as follows

- Execution of proactive inspections of businesses and undertakings representing particularly high risk or poor standards.
- Investigating accidents and incidents in line with the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) incident selection criteria which has been adopted for use locally.
- Responding to service requests in line with the Council's expectations and incident selection criteria.

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<sup>1</sup> Reclaiming health and safety for all: An independent review of health and safety legislation  
Professor Ragnar E Löfstedt November 2011 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reclaiming-health-and-safety-for-all-lofstedt-report>

<sup>2</sup> Good Health and Safety, Good for Everyone The next steps in the Government's plans for reform of the health and safety system in Britain 21 March 2011 [www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/good-health-and-safety.pdf](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/good-health-and-safety.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Common Sense Common Safety [www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/commonsense/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/commonsense/index.htm)

<sup>4</sup> Joint guidance for reduced proactive inspections [www.hse.gov.uk/lau/pdfs/reduced-proactive-inspections.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/lau/pdfs/reduced-proactive-inspections.pdf)

## **Proposed 2023-2024 interventions**

In 2023-2024 the service plans to deliver the following programme of interventions.

- Planned in person focused inspections based around the identified national priorities of electrical safety in outdoor environments and the completion of the gas safety in commercial kitchens project.
- Identification and resolution of matters of evident concern identified during interventions for other regulatory reasons.
- Reactive responses to complaints, accidents and requests for assistance from business.

## **Measurable Targets**

- We will deliver the identified priorities as planned during the year.
- We will not investigate all accidents or incidents reported to us. Instead we aim to investigate 100% of those accidents which meet the incident investigation criteria.
- We will respond to matters of evident concern highlighted during our work with business and in the community at the time they are identified or as soon as possible afterwards.

## **Review of the years 2020-2023**

### **Proactive**

Much of the work in the 2020-2023 period related to enforcement of various COVID-19 related provisions including business closure, restrictions and acting as a point of advice for business and consumers. The service took part in three Safety Advisory Groups (SAG) around the running of events during the pandemic and made visits to check compliance as well as two separate SAGS associated with christmas, spring and fireworks events. Additionally the service produced a social media video specifically for close contact businesses which attracted national attention: <https://youtu.be/TB3nP8tRCFc>.

From February 2023 as the COVID-19 work diminished and the service was able to fill a long term vacancy, 17 proactive visits were made in support of the gas safety in catering premises covering the risks of explosion and carbon monoxide exposure to staff and residential occupiers in attached dwellings.

### **Reactive**

The service undertook 127 COVID-19 in person contact tracing visits and dealt with 230 individual enquiries and complaints associated with the COVID-19 restrictions. Additionally 91 accidents were reported under the RIDDOR system including a fatality which was found not to be as a result of a work activity and a further serious injury to a member of staff which is still under investigation.

### **Formal action**

The service successfully concluded a prosecution of a duty holder for failures associated with a serious accident to a member of the public. No improvement or prohibitions were issued in this timeframe.