



Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Health and Safety Intervention Plan 2016-2017

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 review¹, the Department for Work and Pensions Ministerial Statement on Good Health and Safety² the Young Report³ and the Health and Safety Executive/Local Government Association guidance on reduced proactive inspections⁴ 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 customer charter

¹ Reclaiming health and safety for all: An independent review of health and safety legislation
Professor Ragnar E Löfstedt November 2011 www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lofstedt-tor.pdf

² 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

³ Common Sense Common Safety www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/commonsense/index.htm

⁴ Joint guidance for reduced proactive inspections www.hse.gov.uk/lau/pdfs/reduced-proactive-inspections.pdf

Proposed 2016-2017 interventions

In 2016-2017 the service plans to deliver the following programme of interventions.

- 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 reported to us. Instead we aim to investigate 100% of those accidents which meet the accident 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 2015-2016 Service Plan

Proactive

During the year, the team was subject to high staff turnover which confined the delivery of this particular service largely to reacting to events.

Reactive

The service responded to 17 complaints ranging from concerns over asbestos, sufficiency of risk assessments and dangerous lifting gear. Seven issues were identified during visits for other reasons and the responsible party was required to remedy the issue. The service also responded to 43 formally notified accidents.

Formal action

One improvement notice was served to improve the risk assessment process in a leisure venue.