



Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Health and Safety Intervention Plan 2024-2025

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

- Delivery 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 policy and incident selection criteria.

¹ 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>

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 2024-2025 interventions

In 2024-2025 the service plans to deliver the following programme of interventions.

- Planned in person focused inspections based around the identified priorities of
 - Gas safety in commercial business (continuation of 2023-2024 national priority)
 - Hygiene of tattooing premises
 - The safety of outdoor electrical installations in the hospitality industry (national priority)
- 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 in line with the incident selection criteria.

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 2023-2024 year

Proactive

The team delivered part of the gas safety identified priority resulting in

241 self assessment questionnaires being sent and 97 returned and evaluated

9 on site interventions involving inspection and assessment of conditions

Various improvements both voluntary and via improvement notices around ventilation cleaning and upgrades, engineer servicing and gas cut off valve installation.

The purpose of this project is to ensure that adequate controls are in place to prevent carbon monoxide exposure to staff and to occupants of adjoined living accommodation and that gas appliances are properly maintained.

Reactive

The service contributed to 2 Safety Advisory Groups including chairing the group responsible for making recommendations to the Epsom Fireworks organisers.

Additionally it responded to 14 other service requests ranging from the investigation of the source of a case of malaria to concern about work in confined spaces.

Formal action

There were 3 Improvement Notices served in 2023-2024 relating to required courses of action as part of the gas safety project.