

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

Policy Statement on Health and Safety at Work

July 2015

Statement of Policy on Health and Safety at Work Northumberland County Council

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Our statement of general policy is to:

- ensure the health, safety and welfare of all persons at work
- protect visitors, contractors and the general public who attend our premises/sites or who are affected by our undertakings, from risks to their health and safety which may arise from such activities.
- provide the necessary resources to comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act and all associated legislation concerning health, safety and welfare
- identify hazards and provide adequate control of the risks arising from our work activities
- provide and maintain safe plant and equipment
- ensure the safe use, handling, storage, transport and disposal of materials and substances
- provide information, instruction and supervision for employees
- ensure that all employees are competent to do their tasks, and to give them adequate training
- maintain safe and healthy working conditions and ensure that the means of access to and egress from workplaces are safe
- consult with our employees on matters affecting their health and safety
- prevent accidents and cases of work-related ill health
- monitor health and safety performance on a regular basis
- provide appropriate personal protective equipment, where necessary
- bring the approved Corporate Health and Safety Policy Manual to the attention of all employees and, where necessary, other persons affected by County Council activities. Health and Safety Policies will be reviewed and revised as necessary.

Organisation

The Chief Executive has overall responsibility for all matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of every person employed by the County Council and for ensuring that members of the public who may be affected by any of its activities are not thereby exposed to risks to their health or safety.

In turn, the Executive Directors indicated below are responsible for all matters relating to health, safety and welfare within their respective services:

Steven Mason – Chief Executive: Corporate Resources

Barry Rowland – Executive Director: Place and Corporate Health & Safety Champion

Daljit Lally – Executive Director: Wellbeing and Community Health Services

All other Senior Officers and persons having supervisory duties are responsible for ensuring that the general intent of the health and safety policy is followed in practical terms, within their sphere of activity.

The Council has appointed an Executive Director with special responsibilities for promoting health and safety. The role of Health and Safety Champion does not remove any primary responsibilities from the Chief Executive and other Executive Director. This role has been established to ensure that a high health and safety profile is maintained within the Strategic Management Team (SMT) and that SMT considers the health and safety implications arising from the decision making process. An Elected Member has also been nominated as a Health and Safety Champion.

All employees have a duty to exercise personal care and responsibility towards themselves and others, and to co-operate with the County Council in the execution of this policy.

Arrangements

The Council will take all reasonable steps to meet its responsibilities through appropriate and effective arrangements.

Safety policies, risk assessments and safe working procedures will specify health and safety arrangements in sufficient detail to enable individual employees to promote safe and healthy working practices.

The Council is committed to the maintenance of high standards of workplace health and safety. The Chief Executive and Executive Directors will monitor the health and safety performance of the organisation to ensure that targets are met.

Further detailed information on the Council's health and safety arrangements is given in the Council's Corporate Health and Safety Policy Manual.



Steven Mason
Chief Executive



Barry Rowland
Health & Safety Champion



Councillor Dave Ledger
Member Health & Safety Champion

Date: 20 July 2015