

## HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

### **South Essex Community Hub**

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## **CONTENTS**

<b>Health and Safety Policy Statement</b>	
<b>Legal Duties of Employers</b>	
<b>Legal Duties of Employees</b>	
<b>Health and Safety Responsibility</b>	
Individual Responsibilities	
Competent Assistance	
<b>Arrangements for Health and Safety at Work</b>	
Information for Employees Regulations 1989	
Notices	
Consultation with Employees	
<b>Identifying and Managing Health and Safety Risks</b>	
Risk Assessments	
Control of Substances Hazardous to Health	
Manual Handling	
Personal Protective Equipment	
Work Equipment	
Display Screen Equipment	
Workplace, Control of Contractors	
First Aid	
RIDDOR	
Fire Safety and Procedure	
Working from Home	
Stress & Violence	
Pregnancy	
Young Persons	
Working at Height	
Transport	
Training	
<b>General Guidelines for Employees</b>	

## HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

### South Essex Community Hub

The policy of the South Essex Community Hub is to provide and maintain a safe and healthy workplace by ensuring that work equipment is safe and that a safe system of work is provided for all of our employees, volunteers and clients. We will also provide suitable and sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision as is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our Employees, volunteers and clients this shall include suitable and sufficient welfare, sanitary and working facilities as required.

All employees and volunteers have a duty to ensure that they work in a safe manner and that their acts or omissions do not cause harm to themselves or others that may be affected by our work; including visitors and service users. Employees and volunteers will be encouraged to bring to the attention of the management any concerns regarding any health and safety issues.

**South Essex Community Hub** recognises its duty of care towards others that are not in our employment. These people include; volunteers, visitors and contractors who have reason to come into contact with our activities and premises. These persons will be given suitable and sufficient information and instructions to ensure their health and safety. The actions of visitors and contractors will be controlled in such a way so as not to cause harm to our employees or themselves.

To ensure that the Policy is implemented and maintained so that South Essex Community Hub keeps within the requirements of the **Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974** the person named below will ensure that sufficient resources, both financial and physical are available so that the Policy and its arrangements can be implemented effectively.

We believe that this Health and Safety Policy complies with the requirements of the **Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974** and will be subject to a regular review annually or when there are any significant changes.

**Overall Responsibility for Health and Safety in The South Essex Community Hub rests with: The Project Coordinator Based at Southend Hub**

## **LEGAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EMPLOYERS**

It is our duty and responsibility as employers under the **Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 section 2.1 and 2.2 a-e** and this policy to:

- Ensure so far as is reasonably practicable the health, safety and welfare at work of all our employees and others who may come into our organisation.
- To provide and maintain plant and safe systems of work that are, so far as reasonably practicable, safe and without risk to a persons health or safety.
- To make arrangements for ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety and absence of risks in connection with the use, handling, storage and transportation of articles and substances.
- To provide information, instruction, training and supervision as is necessary to ensure so far as is reasonably practicable the health and safety at work of our employees and volunteers.
- And as far as is reasonably practicable, we will maintain any place of work in our control in a safe manner and maintain safe access and egress from it.
- Provide and maintain so far as is reasonably practicable a safe working environment with adequate facilities and arrangements for the welfare of our employees and others who enter our workplace.

We also recognise that a breach of health and safety legislation by our organisation constitutes a criminal offence. An Enforcing Authority may take criminal proceeding against the organisation or its management. This can result in penalties, i.e. fines and/or imprisonment.

## **LEGAL DUTIES OF EMPLOYEES**

In addition to the previously described general responsibilities, the **Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974** places legal duties on all employees.

These are:

### **Section 7 'Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974'**

- To take reasonable care for the health and safety of them and other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work.
- To cooperate with the management to enable the employer to carry out legal duties or any requirements as may be imposed.

### **Section 8 'Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974'**

- No person shall intentionally or recklessly interfere with or misuse any item provided in the interest of health, safety, and welfare.

Employees should bear in mind that a breach of health and safety legislation by an individual constitutes a criminal offence and action may be taken by an Enforcing Authority against an individual. Such action can result in penalties, i.e. fines and/or imprisonment.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY**

The overall responsibility for health and safety within **South Essex Community Hub** rests with:

**Project Coordinator South Essex Community Hub**

The above named person will ensure that sufficient resources, both financial and physical are available so that the Policy and its arrangements can be implemented effectively.

To ensure that the Policy is implemented and maintained so that **South Essex Community Hub** keeps within the requirements of the **Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974** the above named person may delegate duties to employees who will provide support to meet the responsibilities.

These individuals may also delegate duties to other employees so as to enable the requirements of the Policy to be carried out with due diligence.

Delegation of the individual duties and responsibilities to employees does not in any way detract or remove the ultimate responsibility and duty of care placed on the above person by the **Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974**.

## **INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The duties of those employees with responsibility for health and safety are set out within our Policy. Details of their individual responsibilities are set out within the Arrangements for Health and Safety section.

The person responsible for ensuring this Policy is put into practice is:

**Project Coordinator South Essex Community Hub**

Other duties will include:

- Identifying hazards present within any business activities.
- Ensuring risk assessments are undertaken and any actions are followed through to completion
- Ensuring that hazardous substances are assessed and any actions are followed through to completion.
- Liaising with the Enforcing Authorities as and when required.
- Identifying any training needs.
- The development and implementation of safe systems of work.
- The maintenance of the workplace and buildings.

- Fire and emergency management.
- Ensuring waste is managed.
- Ensuring accidents are reported and investigated.
- Ensuring that any ill-health situations that are caused by work activities are reported and investigated.

## COMPETENT ASSISTANCE

The **Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, regulation 7**, requires that every employer must appoint one or more competent persons to implement the provision of health and safety measures.

In order to keep South Essex Community Hub leads updated on Health and Safety changes the organisation subscribes to quarterly health and safety bulletins that enable South Essex Community Hub is provided with the necessary information, advice and assistance to comply with current Health and Safety Legislation.

South Essex Community Hub also receive up to date employment Law from South Essex Homes that ensures we remain abreast of changes in employment law.

## **ARRANGEMENTS FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK**

### **Health and Safety Information for Employees Regulations 1989**

The regulations require information relating to health, safety and welfare to be provided for our employees and volunteers by means of posters or leaflets in the 'approved form' and published for the purposes of the regulations by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

The regulations require the name and the address of the Enforcing Authority and the Employment Medical Advisory Service to be written in the appropriate spaces on the poster, and when the leaflet is provided, you should specify the information in a written notice.

The poster 'Health and Safety Law' – 'What You Should Know' will be displayed in a prominent position in the workplace where it can be read by all our employees and volunteers.

Information on the poster states who has overall responsibility for health and safety within **South Essex Community Hub** and the name of any safety representatives that have been identified.

## **NOTICES**

All notices whether on **South Essex community Hub** premises or elsewhere issued in accordance with the **Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974** and its associated legislation must be complied with.

All employees, volunteers, visitors, and contractors alike must take the necessary action to ensure that they are familiar, as far as is reasonably practical, with any warning signs and the meanings and interpretations of signs, both advisory and warning, and comply with them.

Any suggestions on how we may improve health and safety within **South Essex Community Hub** should be communicated to your manager/supervisor for assessment and feasibility.

All employees and others who may be affected by the contents of this Policy are advised and a master copy of the 'Health and Safety Policy' statement for **South Essex Community Hub** is retained in the main office at the Victoria Centre. The policy contains detailed information relating to the business activities and a copy is available for you to read.

**South Essex Community Hub** consider themselves responsible employers, we will ensure that all employees and volunteers read the policy and any areas that are not understood are explained to them in detail.

## **THE HEALTH AND SAFETY (CONSULTATION WITH EMPLOYEES) REGULATIONS 1996**

Where there are employees, who are not represented by safety representatives under **The Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1977 amended 1997** the employer must consult those employees in good time on matters concerning their health and safety at work. This will be carried out by meetings, use of the notice board and an open-door policy.

- The introduction of any measures in the workplace, which may substantially affect the health and safety of the employees.
- The employer's arrangement for appointing or nominating an employee representative and their responsibilities and any resources that may be required to allow them to carry out the duty.
- Any information that the employer is required to provide under relevant statutory provisions
- The planning and organisation of any training requirements with regard to health and safety
- Any new technologies that are brought into the workplace and the training and consequences with regard to health and safety that may arise from the new technology.

To allow the organisation to carry out this duty consultation with employees will be the responsibility of:

**Project Coordinator – South Essex Community Hub**

The elected or nominated person/s to act as the employees' representative is:

**ICT Technical Support Officer**

Health and Safety meetings will take place:

## **TEAM MEETINGS**

Regular health and safety information will be posted on a specific notice board. The notice board is located in:

**In the Main Office at the Victoria Centre and in Main Office Shoebury Hub**

## **IDENTIFYING AND MANAGING HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS**

### **Risk Assessments**

The **Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Regulation 3**, requires that we must carry out a suitable and sufficient assessment of the health and safety risks to our employees and volunteers whilst they are at work. We will also consider those that are not in our employment who may come into contact with our business activities or premises. Before embarking on this task we need to have an understanding of the following:

- A **Hazard** is something with potential to cause harm.
- The **Risk** is a measure of the likelihood that harm will be caused.

**South Essex Community Hub** will ensure that we carry out suitable and sufficient risk assessments of all the tasks and equipment connected with our business activities that are likely to present a significant risk of injury or ill health to our employees or others within our activities.

The person responsible for carrying out the risk assessments is:

**The Project Coordinator/ ICT Technical Support Officer**

The risk assessments will be made available to all our employees and volunteers who will read them. After reading and understanding the content of the risk assessment, the employee or volunteer in reading the risk assessment confirms they understood the assessment and its findings.

The responsibility for the implementation of risk assessments and any controls that are required rests with the nominated person identified above and shall be supported by any other employees as is required.

The managers or supervisors will also monitor the effectiveness of any actions resulting from the findings of the risk assessments. Any deficiencies that are identified will be reported to the person responsible for carrying out the risk assessments.

All risk assessments will be reviewed annually as a minimum or if there is any significant change that affects the validity of the risk assessment, whichever comes sooner? It is all South Essex Community Hub's responsibility to assess risk update risk assessment and have risk management as a process within everyone's day to day activities within South Essex Community Hub.

## **CONTROL OF SUBSTANCES HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH**

The **Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 as Amended** require us to carry out an assessment and record the risks involved with using, storing and handling hazardous substances.

Hazardous substances will not be used handled or stored until a suitable and sufficient risk assessment has been carried out. The findings and content of the risk assessment will be communicated to all employees likely to come into contact with the substance.

Material safety data sheets (MSDS) will be obtained for all hazardous substances purchased and this information will be retained. We understand these data sheets are freely available from suppliers and manufacturers who have a legal obligation to provide them.

The person responsible for carrying out the CoSHH assessments is:

**The Project Coordinator**

After reading and understanding the content of the CoSHH assessments the employee will sign the confirmation sheet to confirm that they have read and understood the assessment and its findings.

Responsibility for implementation of CoSHH assessments and any controls that are required rests with the nominated person identified above and supported by any other employees as is required.

The manager / supervisor will monitor the effectiveness of the CoSHH assessment and any deficiencies will be reported to the person responsible for carrying out the CoSHH assessments.

All CoSHH assessments will be reviewed annually or if there are any significant changes that affect the validity of the risk assessment, whichever comes sooner?

## **MANUAL HANDLING**

The **Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 (as amended)** require that all manual handling tasks must be avoided where reasonably practicable, where this is not reasonably Practicable then an assessment of the risks to employees must be carried out. The manual handling assessments will be made available to all employees.

After reading and understanding the manual handling assessment, the employee will sign the confirmation sheet to confirm that they have read and understood the content of the assessment.

The person responsible for carrying out the manual handling assessments is:

**Project Coordinator**

Responsibility for implementation of manual handling assessments and any controls that are required rests with the nominated person above, supported by any other employees as required.

The manager/supervisor will monitor the effectiveness of the manual handling assessments. Any deficiencies will be reported to the person responsible for carrying out the manual handling assessments.

However, management cannot carry out an assessment for all minor tasks therefore it is the responsibility of employees to mentally assess the risk of harm to themselves and others before carrying out manual handling.

Before carrying out any manual-handling task employees must consider

**The Task** - What you are going to do

**The Individual** – The persons own capabilities

**The Load** - The weight, size and shape of the load

**The Environment** – The environment to which the task is being undertaken

### **If in doubt get help**

All manual handling assessments will be reviewed annually or if there is any significant changes that affect the validity of the risk assessment, whichever comes sooner.

## **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be provided for employees where a risk assessment indicates there is a requirement. The equipment provided will be suitable for the task affording the necessary protection.

An assessment of personal protective equipment will be carried out and where a need is identified, the equipment will be provided at no cost to the user.

Where PPE is supplied then employees must use the equipment provided; this is a legal requirement under the **Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 section 7.**

The person responsible for the assessment and provision of PPE is:

**Project Coordinator**

Any questions or complaints (e.g. discomfort) about the PPE provided should be directed to:

**Project Coordinator**

The requirement for PPE will be reviewed regularly. PPE will always be used as a last resort when controlling risks.

## **WORK EQUIPMENT**

The **Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998** requires that all equipment and machinery used for work must be suitable for the task. When choosing work equipment a number of factors must be considered:

- The task that the equipment or machinery is to be used for.
- The environment where it is going to be used.
- Who is going to use it?
- All equipment purchased or hired by **South Essex Community Hub** must comply with the minimum safety standards as are required by **The Supply of Machinery (Safety) (Amendment) Regulations 2005**, We will also ensure our equipment is in compliance with British and ISO standards and it is CE marked when purchased within the European Union.

The person responsible for the supply, procurement, and repair of work equipment and machinery is:

**Project Coordinator**

Items of work equipment that require statutory inspection by competent persons will be inspected at the required intervals as stated below,

All lifting equipment will be inspected at six or twelve month intervals as required by the **Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 as Amended**, records will be retained.

All portable electrical equipment will be inspected at regular intervals dependant on its type and usage.

The competent person responsible for inspection of electrical equipment is:

**ICT Technical Support Officer**

Records of these inspections are kept in:

**FILE LOG IN THE PROJECT COORDINATOR'S OFFICE**

## **WORK EQUIPMENT** Cont

All defects of any work equipment must be reported to:

**The Project Coordinator**

Records of repair and maintenance are retained and inspections of other work equipment that may deteriorate with use (e.g. ladders and stepladders) require such inspections.

Records of repair and maintenance are kept in:

**FILE LOG IN THE PROJECT COORDINATOR'S OFFICE**

### **Machinery Guarding**

Under the **Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998, Dangerous Parts of Machinery or Equipment (Regulation 11)**, require that all dangerous parts of machinery or equipment must be guarded or covered. The Management will ensure that where practicable and technically possible, appropriate guards or covers will be fitted to dangerous parts of machinery or equipment.

Where this isn't a practicable, alternative safety devices and jigs will be provided for the safety of its employees.

Employees are also reminded that they have a duty under the **Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974** and **The Management of Health and safety at Work Regulations 1999** to work in a safe manner and to use all equipment provided for their safety. Failure to do this may lead to disciplinary action.

Any electrical work equipment that is used outside will be connected to the electrical circuit via a Residual Current Device that will break the circuit in the event of an accident.

### **DISPLAY SCREEN EQUIPMENT (DSE)**

The **Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992** require that an assessment of all display screen equipment (DSE) and the workstation be carried out to identify any risks present.

Prior to carrying out the assessment a checklist will be completed so as to identify the presence of any significant risk.

We recognise that DSE users require training and will provide it as necessary.

The person responsible for the assessment of display screen equipment is:

**ICT TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER**

The assessments will be reviewed annually or when any significant change occurs.

### **Eyesight Tests and Corrective Glasses**

**South Essex Community Hub** accepts their responsibility under these regulations. Should an employee have difficulty with their eyesight whilst using the display screen for their work, then we will pay for an eyesight test. This will determine if the employee requires corrective glasses to reduce the health risks involved in the use of computer screens.

## **THE WORKPLACE**

The **Workplace Health Safety and Welfare Regulations 1992** are designed to provide all employees with a safe place to work and adequate welfare facilities.

We will also ensure that the premises as well as any fixtures, fittings and plant within it do not present a health and safety risk to any visitors and contractors that may come into contact with our business activities and premises.

Workplace inspections that identify defects and omissions early will be carried out at regular intervals, when defects and omissions are identified then a time scale and person responsible for repair or implementation will be set.

Inspections of the buildings and outside environment will be carried out every:

**WEEKLY**

All defects and omissions must be reported promptly so that they can be dealt with. The person responsible for dealing with workplace defects is:

**Project Coordinator**

The Institution of Electrical Engineers Regulations and the HSE recommend that a competent electrician should inspect fixed electrical installations at least every five years and a certificate of inspection obtained and retained.

The person responsible for ensuring electrical installations are inspected is:

**Project Coordinator**

Any electrical defects must be reported to:

**The Project Coordinator**

In order to maintain a safe and health workplace, good housekeeping is extremely important. All employees have a part to play in the delivery of this requirement. They will ensure that their workplace and work equipment is kept in a clean and tidy condition, items and equipment must not be left on the floor to present a trip, slip or fall hazard and any cables are tucked away or routed away from traffic routes.

## **SMOKING**

"Smoking" is not allowed in any of our workplaces, except for the designated area and is certainly not allowed near entrances where smoke can enter the building.. It is also our policy to ensure that this legislation is fully applied and also includes our vehicles and therefore "Smoking" is not allowed. In the event of a person smoking in the workplace areas, disciplinary action will be taken.

**Good Housekeeping is Everybody's Responsibility**

## **THE WORKPLACE** Cont

### **CONTROL OF CONTRACTORS**

All workplaces use contractors from time to time for example electricians, window cleaners, painters, and decorators, plumbers and other trades persons. These will be controlled so that they work in a safe manner and do not cause any employee and other visitors to be at risk.

We also understand that the controls must also protect the contractor from any risk them from any hazards that may arise as a result of our business activities.

Prior to any contractor carrying out any work at our business premises or elsewhere on our behalf, the contractor must produce or complete the following:

- A copy of their current Employer and Public liability insurance.
- Copies of any accreditations applicable to the job they may have.
- A method statement for the task they are to carry out.
- Copies of any risk assessments relevant to the job.
- Any other information that may affect the health and safety of anybody involved.

The person responsible for the control of contractors is:

**Project Coordinator**

## **FIRST AID**

The **Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981** requires us to provide adequate first aid equipment and a sufficient number trained people to administer first aid when required.

We will carry out a first aid risk assessment; this will enable us to establish the number of trained first aid person/s we require as well as the amount of first aid equipment needed.

Factors considered will be:

- The number of people involved.
- The level of risk that our business activity presents (low, medium or high risk).
- The proximity of our business (location e.g. rural or town centre that may affect the speed at which the paramedics will arrive).
- Any other issues that may affect the assessment.

The qualified first aid people or appointed persons are:

**FIRST AIDERS: Mr David Preston Project Coordinator & Mr Malcolm Clark – Shoebury Hub**

The first aid boxes are located at:

**Main Office The Hub Victoria and Main Office the Hub Shoebury**

All accidents are to be reported and entered in the accident book, which is located in:

**The Main Office the Hub Victoria And the Main Office the Hub Shoebury**

All accidents will be investigated and remedial actions identified this will prevent reoccurrence of the same or similar incidents. The level of investigation will depend up on the seriousness of the accident.

The person responsible for investigation of accidents is:

**The Project Coordinator & The ICT Technical Support Officer**

## **REPORTING OF INJURIES DISEASES AND DANGEROUS OCCURENCES (RIDDOR) REGULATIONS 1995**

Under these regulations specific work related accidents, diseases, and dangerous occurrences must be reported to the Enforcing Authorities.

Although there is a comprehensive list of reportable situations within the regulations the main incidents that must be reported are:

- Fatalities –These must be report as soon as possible by the quickest method possible, usually by telephone.
- Major injuries such as broken bones and back injuries etc.
- Injuries that causes the employee to be away from his/her normal work activity for more than three days.
- Incidents that lead to a member of the public being taken to hospital, by any means.

**NB: A report must be received within 10 days of the incident.**

For accidents resulting in the over-seven-day incapacitation of a worker, you must notify the enforcing authority within 15 days of the incident, using the appropriate online form.

The person responsible for reporting incidents is:

**The Project Coordinator**

Records are to be securely kept of any reportable incidents.

The record must include information such as:

- The name and occupation of the injured person or those involved in the incident.
- The status of the injured person (employee or visitor/contractor).
- The location of the incident.
- A brief description of the incident or disease.
- The date, time and method of reporting.

Incidents and diseases can be reported by the following methods:

- Online at [www.riddor.gov.uk](http://www.riddor.gov.uk)
- By telephone **0845 300 9923**
- By fax 0845 300 9924

There is no longer a paper form for RIDDOR reporting, since the online system is the preferred reporting mechanism. Should it be essential for you to submit a report by post, it should be sent to:

RIDDOR Reports  
Health and Safety Executive  
Redgrave Court  
Merton Road  
Bootle  
Merseyside  
L20 7HS

## **FIRE SAFETY**

Under the **Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005** and the **Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999** and through the employers are required to undertake a specific risk assessment of the risks posed by fire within their businesses undertaking.

A specific fire risk assessment will be undertaken and the findings implemented.

The fire risk assessment will be review at least annually, or if there is any significant change in the circumstances.

The fire evacuation will be practiced at least twice annually but not in the same six months.

The alarm system will be tested weekly

The person responsible for carrying out the evacuation practice and tests then recording the results is

**The Project Coordinator**

The fire marshals are:

**The Project Coordinator & The ICT Technical Support Officer**

The assembly point is situated at:

**The Hub Southend – outside the main entrance of the Victoria Centre**

All fire extinguishers are inspected by a competent person annually and must be replaced when discharged. The competent person for fire extinguisher inspection is:

**The ICT Technical Support Officer**

The emergency lighting will be tested quarterly and any defects found reported and repaired the person responsible for this is:

**The Hub Southend- The Victoria Centre Management & At Shoebury The ICT Technical Support Officer**

## **FIRE SAFETY** Cont

Emergency exits and evacuation routes will be kept clear at all times and checked at regular intervals the person responsible is:

### **The Project Coordinator**

The evacuation plan will also include a procedure for the removal of visitors and contractors.

A roll call will be carried out to ensure that all people are present. The roll call coordinators are:

### **The Project Coordinator**

The Fire Procedure is as follows:

#### **If you discover a fire:**

- Raise the alarm by the recognised method.
- Only tackle the fire if trained to do so, with the equipment provided, ensuring your exit is clear at all times and without taking personal risks.
- Call the Fire Brigade Immediately by telephone.
- Give the operator the contact telephone number.

#### **When speaking to the Fire Brigade provide the following information:**

- We have a fire at **South Essex Community Hub** and give the operator the full address.
- Do not replace the receiver until the Fire Brigade has repeated the address.
- Call the Fire Brigade immediately to every fire or on suspicion of a fire.

#### **Upon hearing the recognised alarm:**

- Evacuate the building by the nearest available emergency exit.
- Move towards the fire assembly point and report for roll call.
- The fire roll call coordinator will inform the fire service of any missing persons.
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings.
- Do not re-enter the building until the Senior Fire Officer informs you it is safe to do so.

must strike a balance between ensuring a safe place of work and avoiding intruding in the household; safety is therefore a shared responsibility.

## **STRESS**

**The South Essex Community Hub** recognises that work related stress can cause ill health and will put controls in place to help prevent stress. However, **South Essex Community Hub** cannot be held responsible for stress caused by outside sources such as financial or domestic problems.

Because stress does not affect all people in the same way and that one person may find a job stressful when another does not, it is difficult to assess the risk to all employees. Therefore, employees must ensure that they report any undue stress that they may feel from different work activities

Stressful situations can be reported in confidence to:

**The Project Coordinator**

## **VIOLENCE**

Violence and aggression in the workplace is unacceptable but is a recognised hazard, therefore to reduce the risk to any of our employees a specific risk assessment will be carried out and reviewed as and when required but at least annually.

The assessment will:

- Recognise the risk from violence.
- Give commitment to reducing the risks.
- State who is responsible for doing what.
- Provide an explanation of what is expected from individual employees.
- Provide support for people who may have been assaulted or suffered verbal abuse.

Training in the prevention and management of violence and aggression will be provided where it is considered necessary.

The policy, risk assessments and procedures will be reviewed annually or if there is any significant change.

## **PREGNANCY**

It is important to the South Essex Community Hub that the health, safety and welfare of all our employees is safeguarded. We recognise our responsibilities under the **Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999 Regulation 16** and realise that if any of our employees become pregnant they must inform their manager/supervisor immediately. This can be verbally but must be followed up by a written confirmation from their doctor.

The management will carry out an individual specific risk assessment of the work that the employee does for the company to determine any risks to her and her unborn baby that may arise from the work activities.

The risk assessment will be carried out by;

**Project Coordinator**

Where the risks are significant then assistance or alternative employment will be provided.

Pregnant employees must not:

- Carry out manual handling tasks (Lifting and Carrying).
- Use or come into contact with any chemicals.
- Work at height (stand on stepladders, step ups etc).

Pregnant employees must.

- Work to the controls put in place by the risk assessment.
- Inform their line manager/supervisor of any problems or changes that may occur during their pregnancy so that the risk assessment can be reviewed.

To maintain a safe working environment for any pregnant employees a suitable rest area will be provided for them to rest if required.

Seating will be provided for the employee to carry out their work.

## **YOUNG PERSONS**

**The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 Regulation 19** defines a young person as someone who is over the legal school leaving age of 16 years but has not reached the age of 18 years.

Due to their lack of experience, maturity and lack of awareness it is essential that they are supervised at all times until they gain the required experience, maturity and awareness of the risks.

A risk assessment will be carried out to determine any risks that the young person may be exposed to; the risk assessment will be carried out by:

**Project Coordinator**

Any young person will be provided with all the information; instruction, training and supervision they require. They will also be provided with a mentor (responsible employee), who has accepted the responsibility of overseeing the young person.

Young persons will not be allowed:

- To carry out work that is beyond their mental and physical capability.
- To be exposed to substances that are toxic or carcinogenic.
- To carry out tasks that can involve risks be assumed is beyond their recognition.
- To be exposed to extremes of heat, cold, noise and vibration.

The young person must

- Carry out all reasonable instructions given to them by their mentor.
- Refrain from horseplay or practical jokes.
- Report any thing that they feel unsure or unsafe about

## **WORKING AT HEIGHT**

The **Working at Height Regulations 2005** require us to consider a number of key elements prior to carrying out any work that involves climbing from floor level.

We are required to suitably and sufficiently assess the risks involved in working at height. This will involve consideration of the following key factors:

- Is there a specific need to work at height or can the operation or task be carried out without working at height?
- Is the equipment we provide suitable for the task involved and does it allow ease of access to the working area?
- Is the equipment used to access the work area maintained?
- Are the employees we intend to use suitably trained to carry out the task and is their level of fitness acceptable?
- If employees are required to access surfaces at height, then we must take into account the surface of sufficient strength to support the persons involved.
- The height involved must also be taken into account, as well as should a fall occur what is the employee likely to fall on or into. A secondary means of supporting the employee should he/she fall must be provided for the higher access tasks.
- If the task requires employees to work outside, then the weather conditions must be taken into account. If the weather conditions are adverse and likely to threaten the safety of our employees, then the task will be postponed until such time when it is safe to precede.

We will carry out a risk assessment, taking into account the factors indicated above. If the work is beyond what we consider acceptable then we will call on the services of a specialist contractor to make the work zone easily accessible to our employees.

The person responsible for carrying out the working at height assessments is:

**ICT Technical Support Officer**

## **TRANSPORT**

The road transport safety of our employees is important to

There are two distinct aspects to our use of vehicles;

- As a provider of minibus transport for some of the community service providers, and
- In respect of employees who will use their own vehicles for work purposes.

We will undertake risk assessments in respect of our vehicle usage. These will consider the distances involved, as we are concerned to ensure that drivers are neither encouraged to speed nor to drive while tired.

### Hired Minibuses

Minibuses will be hired from reputable suppliers who will arrange suitable insurance.

Drivers must

- be MIDAS (minibus driver awareness scheme) trained.
- inform Chief Executive of any changes to the status of their driving licence
- have their driving licences checked annually.

The person responsible for carrying out these checks will be:

**The Project Coordinator**

### Privately owned vehicles

Privately owned vehicles may only be used for business purpose if covered by fully comprehensive insurance with extra business use or passenger cover dependant on the type of vehicle.

Further, privately owned vehicles used for company business must have all the relevant documentation e.g. MoT certificate.

Drivers must

- inform the Project Coordinator of any changes to the status of their driving licence,
- have their driving licences checked annually, and
- ensure that their vehicles are effectively maintained.

### **Mobile phones**

It is an offence under the **Road Traffic Act** to use a hand held mobile phone whilst driving this includes waiting at traffic lights and in traffic queues.

**The South Essex Community Hub** will not place pressure on any employee to use the phone whilst driving. Therefore, the company cannot be held responsible for any employee who is prosecuted for this offence. Before answering the phone the driver must pull over and park in a safe place. The use of call divert to voice mail is encouraged or the use of the answering machine. The text message service is not to be used whilst driving. Failure to comply with this rule may lead to disciplinary action.

## **TRAINING**

**South Essex Community Hub** recognises the duty to provide its employees with whatever training is required so that they can carry out their job in a safe manner. This will ensure they are protected from hazards and that they do not cause anyone to be harmed by their activities.

To ensure this is carried out the person below has been appointed to identify any training needs:

### **The Project Coordinator**

The type of training that will be provided is:

- Induction training for all new employees
- Job specific training for all new employees or employee who transfers to other roles.
- Health and safety training for all employees that have been given specific tasks in the policy and to allow all employees to carry out their jobs safely.
- Extra training and supervision will be provided for young people because of their immaturity and lack of experience.
- Training will either be provided in house where appropriate or by an accredited training provider.

All training will be recorded and retained with the employee's or volunteer's personal file, the employee or volunteer will sign to confirm that they have received the training and understood it.

The person responsible for maintaining the training records is:

### **The Project Coordinator**

Health and Safety Training should include:

- Risk and CoSHH assessment training when applicable.
- Manual handling training as and when required.
- Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when issued.
- Use of Display Screen Equipment where necessary.
- Health and Safety awareness.
- Fire prevention and safe use of fire equipment.

- Any other training that may be relevant to their tasks or health and safety.

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR EMPLOYEES**

- You must not commit or allow to be committed any act which may result in potential danger in any way.
- You must attend as requested any training course, meeting etc, designed to further the interests of health and safety.
- You must observe all laid down procedures concerning work activities, equipment, materials and substances.
- You must ensure you understand the Health and Safety Policy and familiarise yourself with safety information and instructions.
- You must observe all safety rules on and off the Company's property.
- You must comply with all written or verbal instructions given to you to ensure your personal safety and the safety of others.
- You must conduct yourself in an orderly manner at all times and not stray from responsible behaviour.
- You must dress with health and safety of yourself and others in mind.
- You must use the safety equipment and/or protective clothing provided.
- You must avoid improvisation in any form, which may create a risk to your safety or the safety of others.
- All employees are to obey the rules of **the South Essex Community Hub** contained in the Contract of Employment or for volunteers their induction pack.
- If at any time you are unsure about duties you may be asked to perform, then you must inform your Manager/Supervisor.
- Co-operation is vital to ensure successful health and safety standards.
- Health and safety notices will be posted on notice boards from time to time you must ensure you view this information.
- No alcohol or non-medical drugs are to be consumed during working hours. Employees found to be under the effects of either will subject to disciplinary action.

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