



Committee and Date

Cabinet
22nd November 2023

Item

Public



Annual Report on Health & Safety Performance for 2022 -2023

Responsible Officer:

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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):

Gwilym Butler

1. Synopsis

This report reviews the Health and Safety performance of the Council for 2022-2023. It details the key Health and Safety challenges for the Council, progress on last year’s Annual Report and identifies key priorities for 2023-2024

2. Executive Summary

2.1. Progress with action plan for 2022/2023:

- Commencement of roll out of Cardinus DSE training and risk assessment system as part of Hybrid working strategy.
- Audit plan for schools and other service areas underway with simplified documentation
- Support ‘Leap into Learning’ development for e-learning health and safety awareness courses across service areas.
- The reportable employee accidents to the HSE have increased from 8 to 12 but minor accidents have decreased slightly compared to last year’s figures.

- Service areas have engaged effectively with the Health and Safety team, with Officers regularly attending all DMT meetings.
- The Council continues to maintain a good relationship with enforcement bodies and partner agencies.
- The Health and Safety team were involved with the response and events in relation to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II
- The team have maintained a PPE response service as part of the winding down of the Council's Covid-19 response.
- The team has effectively fully resumed business as usual activities – post pandemic this year.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet note the Council's health and safety performance over the preceding year as set out in the Appendix to this report and to raise any issues as appropriate.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The development and delivery of the Council's Health and Safety Policy associated arrangements and risk assessments are the key process in managing the Council's Health and Safety Risks.
- 4.2. The opportunities and risks arising are assessed on an ongoing basis, whenever legislation changes, or there is reason to review considering Health and Safety incidents.
- 4.3. The Health and Safety performance information that follows and is included in the appendix gives a summary of what the Council has implemented currently and plans for the coming year.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report. There may be future financial implications in respect of the actions for 2023/2024 although these will be approved by Senior Managers before they are progressed, to ensure that legislative requirements and best current practice are followed.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1. The report has no direct effect on climate change outcome, however supporting health and safety e-learning can help reduce carbon emissions from staff travel and building use which make a significant contribution to our carbon footprint. As noted in the previous report, if extreme weather events continue to become more prevalent, this may impact on Health and Safety issues for both staff and the public. No effect is expected on renewable energy generation or carbon offsetting.

7. Background

7.1. In line with best current practice, the council is reporting on its health and safety performance, providing information on challenges facing the council, progress with work plans and key priorities for the coming year. In line with the Shropshire Plan, our key objectives are aligned to the Four Healthies as outlined in Appendix One.

8. Additional Information

Refer to **Appendix 1**.

9. Conclusions

9.1. This report shows that over the last 12 months, the Council has returned to a more business as usual approach on Health and Safety matters and less pandemic related work. Engagement with service areas over appropriate Health and Safety Management across Council services has been a priority, as well as good engagement with union colleagues and regional partners so that we are able to share best practice efficiently. The move to a Hybrid Working model has been a significant piece of work and will likely go forward into 2023-2024. Maintaining legal compliance on the management of our premises is an ongoing priority, as is development work on systems to support services dealing with violence and abusive behaviour.

9.2. It is important to maintain a focus on sensible risk management so that control measures are appropriate and proportionate, at the same time recognising and managing the current financial climate. Upon consideration of this report, we please request approval for the agreed actions for 2023-2024.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Local Member: Councillor Gwilym Butler

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Health & Safety Annual Report 2022-2023