



STATEMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Shropshire Council recognises and accepts its responsibility as an employer for providing a safe and healthy working environment for all its employees and others who may be affected by its work activities and undertakings. Overall responsibility for carrying out this policy rests with the Chief Executive.

The Council will, so far as is reasonably practicable, meet this responsibility paying particular attention to the provision and maintenance of:

1. a healthy working environment
2. a safe place of work including access and egress.
3. adequate welfare facilities
4. sufficient information, instruction, training, and supervision to enable all employees to control risks and contribute positively to their own safety and health at work.
5. safe plant, equipment, and systems of work.
6. safe arrangements for the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances.

The Council will support all its employees in promoting a positive health and culture and achieve continuous improvement in health and safety performance. Supporting all Council staff in carrying out their health and safety roles and responsibilities as set out in the written Organisation Specific Responsibilities. Within Service Areas responsibility for implementation will be undertaken by the appropriate Service Director and/or Head of Service, who in turn will delegate responsibilities for local management of Health and Safety to managers.

The Senior Health & Safety Officer is appointed to co-ordinate this policy, and provide a Health, Safety Advisory Service. Duties include visits to any working area to make inspections, carry out audits, assist with accident/near miss investigations and give advice. It will be necessary for all Service Areas to work closely with the Health and Safety Officers.

The Occupational Health Service provides professional occupational health services and occupational policy advice to the Council and its employees and has direct access to management at all levels. In addition a Wellbeing Advisory Service is in place to support all employees.

No safety policy can be successful without the full involvement and co-operation of all employees in ensuring the safety of themselves, their colleagues and others who may be affected by their work activities. The Council will therefore co-operate fully in the appointment of safety representatives with sufficient facilities to carry out their duties. The Council will maintain a corporate Health, Safety and Welfare Group and ensure that health and safety is discussed at Directorate Managers', Service Managers' and Team meetings, so that health and safety information is circulated throughout the organisation.

The Council reminds its employees of their own duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. All employees have a duty to take reasonable care for their own safety and that of others who may be affected by what they do or fail to do. Further, they must co-operate with the Council so far as is necessary to enable the Council to carry out its duties under the Act.

Signed:

Tanya Miles
Interim Chief Executive
October 2025