

The UK Good Practice Guide to Working in Safety Advisory Groups

Part 3: Examples of Safety Advisory Group Practices

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Examples of Safety Advisory Groups Practices

SAG members should be cautious about the use of the expression 'best practice' but could certainly suggest some examples of 'good practice' relative to SAGs and the way they function. Readers of this guidance may wish to consider some of the examples below when establishing or seeking to maintain good practice for SAGs.

Some local authorities have developed a risk-based scoring system for events to make decisions regarding application of the SAG processes. This approach is useful to avoid suggestions of impropriety within the SAG, as once a score is reached then the process would be applied regardless of the event or the applicant. It could be applied to both internal and external applications, so that the local authority scrutinises its own events to the same standard as external ones.

While this guidance is supportive of such arrangements in principle, it also suggests that this style of 'scoring' should be treated with some caution and applied only by those with some reasonable depth of event experience. Should an authority 'cut and paste' such a scoring system, without having had its own discussions as to the appropriate scores applied to each area, it would be potentially vulnerable to criticism by organisers and those reviewing event processes at a later stage. The only means of properly considering events is to take a risk-based methodology and apply it to each individual aspect of the event, venue and organiser.

County Durham Safety Advisory Group

Provides detailed guidance for event organisers as well as good examples of the questionnaires that organisers are required to complete in order that an assessment for referral to SAG can be undertaken. This is available at:

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/3720/Events-safety-information-for-organisers>

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Offers guidance for event organisers, along with an initial event notification e-form, which is available at:

<https://www.stockton.gov.uk/arts-culture-and-leisure/events/>

Kent Police

Has a simple, one-page guidance sheet to Safety Advisory Groups in Kent which is available at:

<http://www.kent.police.uk/advice/events>

Lincolnshire Event Safety Partnership

Provides a strategic framework of consistent advice to local events Safety Advisory Groups across Lincolnshire to enable them to provide proportionate, timely and accurate guidance to event organisers. Comprehensive guidance and documentation is available at:

<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/lincolnshire-prepared/Lincolnshire-Event-Safety-Partnership>

In addition to the above examples of practice around Safety Advisory Groups, the event industry and police have set up a National Event Intelligence Unit (NEIU). This has previously been known as Operation Gothic, and acts as a central point to collate intelligence from the industry and police which is then disseminated as a weekly email bulletin. NEIU can be contacted at:

neiu@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk