

Section 18 Standard Toolkits

Work together...

Work in Partnership Toolkit

The Section 18 Standard requires every Enforcement Authority (EA) to:

- work within their own organisation, in partnership with other EAs and with other regulators and stakeholders, to make best use of joint resources and to maximise their impact on local, regional and national priorities.

Basic requirements

To meet the Standard every EA should:

- **seek opportunities to work within your own organisations and with other regulators and stakeholders to develop:**
 - priorities, targets, interventions and service delivery methods, eg:
 - work in partnership with others to focus on agreed health and safety (H&S) priorities, targets intervention and ways to deliver these;
 - joint planning, joint work programmes and joint training, eg:
 - work in partnership with others to plan joint work programmes and training;
 - use Partnership team to support this and identify opportunities to extend joint working;
 - the most effective use of resources and funding, eg:
 - develop specialist inspectors, eg Legionella, asbestos;
 - develop common liaison group policies and procedures, eg common liaison group enforcement policy;
 - cross-administrative boundary working, eg:
 - work effectively with other regulators across Health and Safety System – commit to cross-administrative boundary working to deliver co-ordinated, consistent and effective services to dutyholders;
 - develop use of 'flexible warrants';
 - share use of specialist inspectors;
 - advice and guidance, eg:
 - use links to other regulator and stakeholder websites;
 - work with others to develop joint advice and guidance;
 - use others' examples of best practice;
 - publicity, campaigns and communications:

- use national publicity, campaign and communications material;
- develop joint publicity, campaigns and communications;
- best practice, eg:
 - identify, adopt and share examples of local, regional and national best practice;
 - use HELex to search for and share examples of best practice;
- co-ordinated enforcement activity, eg:
 - work in partnership with others to target activities against similar dutyholders across a geographic region;
- sharing intelligence, data and information, eg:
 - work in partnership with others to maximise the use of intelligence, data and information;
- consistency and effectiveness, eg:
 - work with others on regulatory decision-making audits;
 - work with others to ensure consistent application of enforcement policies;
- new services, eg:
 - work in partnership with others to develop new ways of delivering improved H&S outcomes;
 - work in partnership with others to consider developing shared services;
- the response to reactive demands, eg:
 - work in partnership with others to share resources in response to reactive demands;
- the best outcomes, eg:
 - develop and use systems to enable achievement of identified outcomes;
- the delivery of justice, eg:
 - working with other regulators through the Work Related Death Protocol;
- safer, stronger and healthier communities, eg:
 - work with others to achieve maximum impact on delivering safer, stronger and healthier communities.

Key points

- Working in partnership with others is a way of achieving more with limited resources.
- Working in partnership with others has more impact on outcomes than working alone.
- Working in partnership with others helps develop innovation, drive improvements and ensure consistency.
- LA/HSE Partnership is key to the strategy and supporting what we do.

- Partnership is about more than the odd meeting or joint event, it implies that we share a mutual agenda and invest time in developing a close working relationship. LAs have a wider responsibility for the safety of local communities. Where appropriate, HSE and LAs will work with partner bodies to ensure that activities are co-ordinated, duplication of effort avoided and that public safety is effectively delivered.
- To recognise the achievements of partnership working so far a joint Statement of Commitment was launched at LGA Conference 2009.

Benefits of partnership working

- Improved outcomes from the active commitment to partnership governance arrangements, working with HSE and LA colleagues to develop a strategic approach to the planning and delivery of H&S targets and outcomes.
- Better, more responsive service delivery to dutyholders and the public, using flexibility and cross-boundary working to achieve improved outcomes.
- Improved HSE/LA operational working and improved enforcement confidence as a result of joint visits/inspections, strategic development, improved training, advice, guidance and support.
- Commitment of LA resource toward delivery of national priorities, eg priority planning, HSE Strategy, Fit3 has resulted in better targeting to nationally identified risks and priorities.
- Partnership teams and managers playing a vital role in helping to facilitate effective delivery of strategic objectives through the production of joint work plans.
- Various flexible warranting initiatives which redirected LA resource to the highest risks or made more efficient or effective use of partners' resources.
- The development of clearer joint strategic aims and delivery at national and regional levels resulting in improved outcomes across the H&S system.

Further sources of information

Statement of commitment between HSE and LA representative bodies
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/lau/statement.htm>

Partnership Working

Are you compliant with S18's Partnership Working requirements?

To answer "yes" you should be able to demonstrate that your EA:

- **works within its own organisation:**
 - Can you demonstrate that you have worked within your own organisation over the last 12 months to develop any S18 Standard 'Work in Partnership' initiatives?

- **works in partnership with other EAs:**
 - Can you demonstrate that you have worked with other EAs over the last 12 months to develop any S18 Standard 'Work in Partnership' initiatives?

- **works with other regulators and stakeholders:**
 - Can you demonstrate that you have worked with other regulators and stakeholders over the last 12 months to develop any S18 Standard 'Work in Partnership' initiatives?