



CASE STUDY BRACKNELL FOREST COUNCIL

Summary

Needs

- To demonstrate to customers and employees that a credible framework for improvement in health and safety performance is in place
- To minimise risk and prevent future accidents
- To provide a reliable service without excessive downtime caused by work-related accidents and incidents
- To aid legislative compliance

Benefits

- Reduced insurance premiums
- Greater awareness and understanding of health and safety issues throughout staff teams
- A standardised approach to key duties
- Better sharing of best practice across the sites and a general pride in the achievement and maintenance of certification
- Improved reputation with staff and the public
- Improved general performance of the organisation with a noticeable reduction in risk levels within the sites

Background

Bracknell Forest Council is responsible for a number of sporting and leisure facilities in the borough which include Bracknell Leisure Centre (one of the largest community orientated leisure facilities in the south of England), Edgbarrow and Sandhurst Sports Centres, Coral Reef Waterworld, The Look Out Discovery Centre and Downshire Golf Complex. These facilities are used by a wide selection of age groups across the community.

Bracknell Forest Council originally registered on 5th June 2001. The Bracknell team decided to adopt the BS OHSAS 18001 management system following an accident in 1999.



With a keen desire to minimise risk and prevent future incidents, the Borough decided upon BS OHSAS 18001 as the perfect third party verification to control its health and safety risks, reduce the potential for accidents, aid legislative compliance and improve overall performance.

"In 1999 one of our sites was hired out for an event. An outside contractor was brought in and they borrowed our scaffolding to do some wiring. It toppled over and a contractor broke his ankle. As a result we were taken to court and prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive. The result was a £5,000 fine. However that wasn't the issue for us. The incident highlighted an imperative need to establish a structure for managing safety responsibilities and to ensure these responsibilities are efficiently integrated into overall operations," explains Peter Wright, Head of Leisure Facilities.

Customer Needs

"In a competitive marketplace customers are looking for more than just keen pricing from their suppliers. A company needs to demonstrate that its business is managed efficiently and responsibly and that it can provide a reliable service without excessive downtime caused by work-related accidents and incidents," explains Peter Wright.

Effective Health and Safety Management Systems are now in place in six of the Borough's leisure sites including Bracknell Leisure Centre, Coral Reef Waterworld, Edgbarrow and Sandhurst Sports Centres,

The Look Out Discovery Centre and Downshire Golf Complex. The organisation is now working hard to add Easthampstead Park Conference Centre to the BS OHSAS 18001 certification. This is expected to be in place during 2009.

Benefits

Businesses can reap a multitude of benefits by creating a health and safety programme. Providing a safe and healthy workplace maximises productivity and helps reduce cost in the following areas: less sick days and absences, less replacement training, and lower insurance premiums. In addition, an effective Health and Safety management system reduces fines for safety and health violations. Investing in sound safety and health practices saves the precious commodities of time and money.

Following certification from BSI, the business has incorporated these standards into its normal operating plans. Success is not only apparent in the organisation's continued compliance and rigorous assessments, but it has experienced a huge cultural shift.

"It's about adopting and maintaining best practice whilst changing the culture and ethos of the organisation," continues Wright. "Since we achieved this standard, our staff are aware that our operation can be inspected at any time. That way we can ensure continuous improvement."

Since starting the certification process they have raised the awareness and understanding by their staff of health

and safety issues. In addition they have implemented a standard way of carrying out key duties, and share best practice across their sites.

BSI's Role

BSI Management Systems was chosen over its competitors as a result of, "the company's good reputation and high public profile linked to quality and standards." Peter Wright added, "After all everyone knows BSI and what the organisation stands for and we are proud to now be associated with such a prestigious brand."

BSI Management Systems continues to undertake rigorous assessments and checks on the processes in place with Bracknell Forest Council to ensure all risks are minimised and activities are made as safe as possible.

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