

Appendix 1: NHS Fife Health and Safety Policy Statement

NHS Fife exists to provide high quality health care services to the people of Fife and recognises that services cannot be provided unless we ensure, as far as possible, freedom from risk to the health, safety and welfare of staff and others affected by our work activities. This is a primary objective and is given equal priority alongside other business and operating objectives. The minimum acceptable standards for health and safety are those prescribed by legislation. It is NHS Fife's objective to improve on these standards.

NHS Fife recognizes that responsibility for health and safety rests with its managers. This principle extends from the Chief Executive to first line supervisors. Managers and supervisors are directly accountable for the prevention of accidents, injuries and occupational illness, as well as damage to property within their area of responsibility.

This policy statement is supplemented by additional policies and procedures detailing arrangements for health, safety and welfare. Managers are responsible for bringing relevant policies to the attention of their staff and for encouraging staff to become familiar with their contents.

All staff are responsible for making health & safety at work a priority, to protect themselves, their colleagues, patients, visitors and the organisation. Staff are encouraged to be actively involved with improving the health, safety and welfare of their area. Managers are encouraged to foster this attitude amongst staff by demonstrating a visible commitment to health, safety and welfare through consultation with staff and Trade Union representatives. This promotes development of health and safety arrangements, better communication of information and provision of relevant instruction and training.

The NHS Fife Health & Safety Team is responsible for advising managers and staff on their legal obligations and for advice and support in tackling problems relating to health, safety or welfare.

NHS Fife has appointed health and safety, manual handling and aggression management advisors to support the organisation in exceeding its health and safety obligations. NHS Fife encourages staff and managers to utilise these resources fully.

As Chief Executive, I have overall responsibility for health and safety in NHS Fife. I have appointed the Director of Property and Asset Management as the Director with responsibility to oversee the implementation of this policy. I will review the implementation of this policy with the Director of Property and Asset Management and other directors from time to time and welcome suggestions for improvement.

Carol Potter
Chief Executive, NHS Fife
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