

Health Safety & Wellbeing Policy Statement 2026-2027

This statement is made in accordance with section 2 (3) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Our vision is for every employee and member of our community to experience safe, healthy and supportive environments in all interactions with Westmorland and Furness Council.

We are committed to Westmorland and Furness being a great place to live, work and thrive. We firmly believe our workforce, our partners and the communities they serve are our most valuable asset and that the health, safety and wellbeing of everyone is our top priority.

We recognise the important role that Trade Unions and appointed health and safety representatives play in supporting a positive health, safety and wellbeing culture. We are committed to working in partnership to identify risks, improve working conditions and promote health, safety and wellbeing of employees and those affected by our activities.

Effective health and safety management is integral to delivering on our plans and priorities. We are committed to embedding health and safety into strategic and operational decision-making, day to day practices and to provide and maintain healthy and safe environments for all who work with us or access our services.

- We actively promote a positive culture of accountability and responsibility, where everybody plays a part. We encourage active participation and engagement at all levels.
- Our Elected Members, Corporate Management Team and Cabinet accept their health and safety responsibilities and are committed to strong, visible and active leadership supporting effective management of health, safety and wellbeing at all levels.
- We aim to provide the necessary physical and financial resources and provide competent health and safety advice. We will further obtain any necessary expert advice required.
- We maintain and continually strengthen an effective governance structure with Health and Safety Committees in place across all areas/ levels.
- Our safety arrangements focus on key responsibilities, so these are understood throughout the organisation and with key stakeholders.
- We recognise our statutory responsibilities and aim for compliance with all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements.
- Our health and safety arrangements which underpin this policy statement are set out in corporate procedures to support a robust, systematic and sustainable health and safety management system.
- We focus on identifying our health and safety risks and implementing sensible and proportionate risk control measures.
- We will provide comprehensive information, instruction, training and supervision.
- We actively consult with trade unions, employees, enforcing authorities and other stakeholders on health and safety issues.

- We will ensure appropriate emergency arrangements, equipment and facilities are in place.
- We aim for continual improvement in all areas of health and safety management following a Plan, Do, Check Act model.
- We require all Council functions, LA maintained schools, services, managers, employees and partners to cooperate with us and carry out their duties in line with our policy and procedures by achieving legal compliance, meeting recognised standards and, where possible, industry best practice.
- We expect all employees, contractors and visitors to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their actions or omissions.

Westmorland and Furness Council's health and safety arrangements objectives will be monitored and subjected to periodic audits and annual reviews.



**Miranda Cannon Chief
Executive.**



**Johnathan Brook – Leader
of the Council.**



**Cllr. Helen Chaffey -Cabinet
Member for Customer
Services, Culture and
Communications.**

June 2026