

Sedlescombe Parish Council Lone Worker Policy.

1. Purpose of this policy.

The following policy and procedure details risks for people working alone whether working from home or working away from their place of work. Under the Health & Safety Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, it is the duty of Sedlescombe Parish Council to assess risks to lone workers, including volunteers, (referred to as employees in this policy) and take steps to avoid or control risk where necessary. Employees of the Council have responsibilities to take reasonable care of themselves and other people affected by their work and to co-operate with their employers in meeting their legal obligations

2. Lone Working / Lone Workers - These are people who work by themselves without close or direct supervision:

At a fixed base (office, home or other):

- Only one Council Member/Officer working on the premises
- Working separately from others
- Working outside of normal office hours

Away from their fixed base:

- Council Member/Officer who is required to travel alone to and from a fixed base to another base or to attend meetings, etc

3. Potential Risks to Lone Workers

- Open access and unlocked doors – accessible to the public, contractors etc.
- Being taken ill whilst at work
- Lack of training regarding Health & Safety procedures
- Hazards in the workplace
- Remote areas
- Parking arrangements: poorly lit and isolated areas

4. Assessing the Risk - Before drawing up and recording the assessment of risk, it must be established:

- Whether the work can be done by a lone worker
- What arrangements will be in place to ensure an individual is not exposed to unnecessary and unacceptable risk

When recording an assessment of risk, the following should be taking into consideration:

- Environment – location, security, access / egress
- Context – nature of the task
- History – have there been any accidents / incidents in the past
- All available information should be considered and updated as and when necessary.
- If there is reason for doubt about the safety of a lone worker in each situation then consideration should be given for making other arrangements to complete the task.

5. Safety Guidelines

a) For employees working in a fixed base:

- Familiarise the layout of the building including fire exits and escape routes.
- Keep doors locked that allow direct access to the building/office you are working in.

- Do not open the door to unexpected visitors. In the case of contractors ask for identification. If still unsure check with the contractor's employer/head office.
- Have contact numbers at hand to be able to contact relevant person(s) immediately (should they feel ill, they suspect an intruder in the building etc).
- Park as near as they can to the building.
- A risk assessment to be put in place to assess potential risks.

b) For employees working away from their fixed base:

- Employees should inform another person of their movements including the time they estimate they will be away from their base and when they will return, along with relevant information regarding where and at what time, visits will be made and to whom;
- Leave details of venues including contact numbers.
- Take mobile phone (or other communication device) with them.
- Avoid meetings in isolated places. If this cannot be avoided, ask someone accompany them or make sure they always notify someone when they arrive and leave.

6 Responsibility

a) Employees Responsibility & Personal Safety:

- To take reasonable care for the health and safety of him/herself and of other persons who may be affected by his/her acts of omissions at work.
- Always maintain a line of communication on a regular basis with Members of the Council to identify and minimise risk(s).
- Always inform someone as to when they leave the fixed base to perform Council tasks and inform a colleague when returning to a fixed base after relevant task completed. Always report an accident/incident that may occur to the Clerk or relevant person to allow for a full investigation to take place and assess further potential risks and identify additional safety procedures.

b) Employers Responsibility:

- To take reasonable care for the health & safety of employees by identifying and assessing potential risks to ensure that employees are always safe.
- Always maintain a line of communication on a regular basis with employees to identify and minimise risk(s).
- Ensure employees receive all relevant training and information available.
- Ensure employees have a mobile phone (or other communication instrument) to ensure a system of maintaining contact.

7 **Prohibition of Lone Working** - Certain situations require that employees cannot work alone, these include:

- Young persons under instruction and training on machines
- Certain fumigation activities and other work with substances hazardous to health
- Scaffolding and using unsupported access equipment
- Grave digging
- Working at heights