



Beach Management Plan

Condense Version

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Purpose & Objectives:

The purpose of this fact sheet is to set out an abridge version of the Beach Management Plan that will be adhered to in the management and operations of our Seafronts, and will be reviewed and updated at least annually. Furthermore, this plan forms the basis of information provided to beach users to assist all members of the public, be they residents or visitors, allowing them to enjoy the area safely. Additionally, this information forms a part of our Normal Operating Procedures and Emergency Action Plans for Tendring District Council employees.

The objective is to offer reassurance to our residents, visitors and responsible beach users that the Council will take a robust approach in keeping our beaches clean and safe by working with partners and taking a collaborative process.

Background

Every year thousands of visitors come to our resorts at Brightlingsea Clacton, Frinton, Walton, Dovercourt and Harwich. Tendring District Council employs a Seafront Team consisting of a seasonal Beach Patrol Team and Seafront Wardens, dedicated to keeping the seafront areas a safe and enjoyable area for everyone to use. Our Seafront Team have a wealth of knowledge and can advise on safety issues, including tide times, together with local and general safety and visitor information. Definitions of both roles within the Seafront Team are as follows:

Seafront Wardens patrol seafronts scanning the coastline, reporting back any defects on Seafronts or lifesaving equipment damaged or stolen, they assist members of the public with local information, give out safety advice and advise on local byelaws (cycling, dog ban etc.). They assist with looking for missing persons, supporting Emergency Services where appropriate on the seafront (Police, Ambulance, Fire and Coastguard). Seafront Wardens also help manage emergency situations that arise on seafronts, including crowd control etc. Seafront wardens are trained to deal with first aid incidents, but are not expected to enter the water if an emergency arose.

Beach Patrol cover the same as Seafront Wardens, but enter the water if required to perform a sea based rescue. They are tasked with patrolling a smaller area and stay close to beach patrol stations in the event of requiring the use of a Ridged Inflatable boat (RIB) or Jet Ski. Beach Patrol and are trained to Royal Yachting Association standard (RYA) to use Council Jet Skis, to patrol the coastline under the jurisdiction and perform a rescue where appropriate. They also have use of Rescue Boards when it is deemed appropriate.

Both Seafront Wardens and Beach Patrol are issued with VHF radio, which also allows direct communication in the event of Emergency with Coastguards and RNLI. For the purpose of this document, Seafront Wardens and Beach Patrol will collectively be referred to as the Seafront Team.

Jurisdiction

The UK's beaches are unique places, known worldwide for their beauty and attracting millions of people every year. Tendring Coastline covers 36 miles, but Tendring District Council is only responsible for a proportion of this. As such, for the purpose of this document, the definition of the Tendring Coastline in this document is as follows:

The Council's jurisdiction starts to the right of Batemans Tower to Brightlingsea Harbour, 'The Close', Jaywick Sands to Holland Haven radio mast, Frinton: Waylings Beach Huts site to the Walton on the Naze (except Sandy point Beach hut sites). The final section covers from Dovercourt Earlhams Beach West End Lane, to Angelgate in Harwich.

*Note: Please refer to the maps provided in **Appendix 1** in the full Beach Management Plan document.*

With over 36 miles of clean, sandy beaches, the Tendring coastline is a perfect location to create lifelong cherished memories for those who visit. This is also vital to the economies of local communities; they generate millions through tourism and attract new residents who are seeking a better work-life balance, contributing directly to the economy of our towns and resorts.

Underpinning all of this is beach safety. A considerable amount of work goes on behind the scenes, involving Emergency Services, RNLI, HM Coastguard, local partnerships, attraction owners, third sector bodies and local lifesaving and rescue organisations. This work is fundamental to the wellbeing of thousands of people and often is only highlighted following a serious accident or incident; by the end of the season, our staff will have dealt with over 1000 incidents. Additionally, Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 , Management Health & Safety at work Regulations 1999 and Tendring District Council Health and Safety Policy has been utilised to design this and associated documents.

Plan

Risk assessments are reviewed annually unless there are changes to an area or if there has been a severe injury sustained by a user of the facility or a member of staff. All Risk Assessment actions will be completed in a timely manner, and a risk reduction plan used to manage outstanding actions that are required to be taken. Once the Risk Assessments have been completed, these are incorporated into work instructions for staff, known as a NOP (Normal Operating Procedure) or EAP (Emergency Action Plan). These documents are reviewed annually along with the Risk Assessment itself.

Key locations, such as Beach entry points, beach car parks, visitor centres and websites, shall define and provide standard-RNLI compliant safety information for visitors that reflects the risks, aiming to inform both local users and visitors alike. Providing vital information in such locations, supports the education of all users before attending the seafront. A balanced approach has been applied to ensure an appropriate number of signs in key locations across the Tendring Coastline.

Existing Safety Measures:

The Tendring District Council Seafront Team cover the following locations:

- Brightlingsea Paddling Pool area.
- Clacton Martello Bay and West Beach.
- Frinton-on-Sea – on the lower promenade at the bottom of the Zig Zag Steps.
- Walton-on-the -Naze – located on the East side of Walton Pier.
- Dovercourt Bay – on the lower promenade at the seaside of the Boating Lake.

The Council promotes these beaches as supervised areas, in busy visitor areas. All other beaches are not supervised.

Operating Hours:

The Seafront Team are available from 11 am to 6 pm on Saturday, Sunday and all bank holidays from around the Easter school holidays until around the end of the Summer school holidays. The dates for beach supervision will be dictated by those set out by the Local Education Authority. In addition beach supervision is also available Monday to Friday, 11 am to 5 pm during the school holidays. Please note, Brightlingsea and Dovercourt supervision typically start later in the year and this will be publicised annually.

Wristband Safety System:

The Council operates a wristband system at Clacton, Frinton and Walton beaches to assist in reuniting parents/guardians quickly with their children or those they are responsible for. Each coloured band issued corresponds with a specific stretch of beach with a matching colour. Parents can also include mobile phone numbers on these bands, which are free to collect from Beach Patrol Stations. The team also proactively hand out wristbands to families during seafront patrols.

Regular patrols are carried out during the day by the Seafront Team and check for any damage or misuse of lifesaving equipment.

Seafront Team Responsibilities:

The essential functions and duties of the Seafront Team can be described as follows:

- Supervising the Coastline under their jurisdiction.
- Communicating effectively with users and other staff.

- Anticipating problems and preventing accidents.
- Intervening to prevent behaviour that is unsafe.
- Identifying emergencies quickly and taking appropriate action.
- Effectively raising the alarm and performing a rescue from the water where safe to do so or via rescue craft where that is appropriate.
- Give immediate first aid to any casualty.
- Managing incidents of missing persons.
- Providing safety and visitor advice.
- Enforcing byelaws such as restrictions of dogs on beaches.
- Check Beach Patrol Stations defibrillator and equipment.
- Check on infrastructure on the seafronts e.g. lifesaving equipment.

The Seafront Team have sound local knowledge, and provide information to visitors. Staff also deal with and, where appropriate, report antisocial behaviour issues to the Police or other relevant agencies.

The Seafront Team also undertake walking patrols, monitoring seafront activity and advising users of local byelaws where appropriate. They log all issues within their pocket notebook, which they have dealt with, reporting them back to the relevant department with required details.

All staff carry a VHF radio at all times to maintain contact with colleagues and the senior member of staff on duty, and they also have direct contact with Dover Coastguard, Local Coastguard teams and Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) Lifeboats. During the season, the Seafront Team, when required, will work alongside any of the Emergency or Volunteer Services to assist in bringing an incident to a safe conclusion.

Seafront Team Training:

The aspiration of the Seafront Team is to hold a current nationally recognised qualification. Staff responsible for beaches practice their skill sets before the start of the season, demonstrating competency before undertaking Beach Patrol duties. The aspiration is for all members of the Seafront Team to hold a Beach Lifeguard qualification, with a vision of completing this by 2022/23. The Seafront Team complete an induction led by the Seafronts Service Manager before the season begins issuing the work instructions documents - NOP (Normal Operating Procedure) & EAP (Emergency Action Plan). Staff are required to sign to confirm they have received these before commencing there in their role.

Beach patrol staff are trained by the RYA (Royal Yachting Association) in Power Boat level 2 and PWC (Personal Watercraft) to ensure they are competent in using the powered craft at their disposal.

Seafront Team:

Whilst supervising the Seafronts, our Seafronts Team will:

- ✓ Be alert and be seen to be alert.
- ✓ Enforce the safety rules to support beach users.
- ✓ Be punctual and adhere to rotation times.
- ✓ Carry out regular checks and patrols.
- ✓ Wear the uniform distributed.
- ✓ Maintain concentration at all times.
- ✓ Never allow their attention to be drawn from the seafronts when partaking in a patrol.
- ✓ Maintain correct levels of supervision.

Seafront Team Uniform:

The Seafronts Team uniform can be clearly identified by the following:

Beach Patrol – Sky blue t-shirts with orange “Beach Patrol” writing and navy blue shorts.
 Seafront Wardens – White top with black “Warden” writing and navy shorts.



Major Incident:

If a major incident was to occur, the Seafronts Team will follow a serious incident management process. A serious incident, for example, includes:

- A severe injury where emergency services have been called.
- Fatality.
- Pollution incident.
- Uncontrolled escape of a hazardous gas, liquid or solid.
- Bomb threat / Suspect package.
- Fire.
- Sexual or physical assault on a member of the public or member of staff.
- Immediate risk of safeguarding issues to a child/adult.
- Activation of the Council's 'Civil Emergency Plan' requiring the takeover of any part of the area.

If support is required, the senior Seafront Team Member on duty will contact a Senior Council Officer.

Examples of beach safety standards use across our seafronts:

Title	Image	Information
Warning Banners.		<p>In collaboration with the RNLI, these family-friendly banners have been installed at Martello Bay beach and adjacent to Clacton Pier. They are unique to Clacton, and the image portrays the local landmarks.</p>
Beach Access Points Signs.		<p>These supplementary signs have been installed adjacent to all the beach access points on the east side of the Pier. They contain the key safety information points, which are listed in more detail on the Beach Safety signs. These signs include 'what 3 words.'</p>

Supplementary Safety Signs.



These signs are now displayed on Beach access points.

Large supplementary sign on main access ramp and all main beach access points on the east side of Pier. This is 1500mm x 1200mm in size.



Supplementary signs such as this have been installed adjacent to all the main beach access points on the east side of Clacton Pier. The sign includes 'what 3 words.'

Beach Patrol Swing Signs.



These double-sided signs which display daily safety information, such as tide times, weather and warning flags are on display outside of each Beach Patrol station.

Windbreak signs, installed on the tide line.



Four of these temporary windbreaks are installed during the season by the Seafront Team, with one on either side of Clacton Pier and two on either side of the Palace Breakwater.

New Beach Patrol station at Palace Breakwater.



A beach patrol station was installed on the promenade at the Palace Breakwater in Clacton. This is staffed and resourced during operating hours. *The sign includes 'what 3 words.'*

<p>Warning signs on Groynes.</p>		<p>Supplementary warning signs have been installed alongside the groynes, in addition to the ones previously mentioned.</p>
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National RNLI Framework Signage:

Signs have been designed in accordance with the national RNLI framework as stated below:

Red background: The beach name, logo and emergency text should be displayed as shown. The RNLI logo can be replaced with a local authority or landowner logo.

White background: There is room for up to eight safety symbols to be displayed; these can be a combination of hazard and prohibition symbols. The symbols are in order according to risk, with hazards displayed first as shown. The appropriate symbols for the beach have been selected.

Yellow background: Flag illustrations appropriate to the beach, together with beach patrol (or beach lifeguard) service dates and times. During out-of-season periods, an optional panel, shown opposite, should be applied.

Red background: If the beach does not have a beach patrol (or beach lifeguard) service, caution advice is given as shown. To note: Brightlingsea and Dovercourt signage displays a **blue flag** to show Seafront Warden is on duty.

Additionally, there are two categories of beach safety flags: those indicating dangerous conditions and those indicating zones on the beach suitable for particular activities. Red and yellow flags, and black and white flags, are zone flags and should be used in pairs to indicate the extent of the zone.

A qualified lifeguard/ beach patrol should designate the positions of red and yellow flags. Red flags and orange truncated cones indicate dangerous conditions and should be used singly. It is essential to ensure that only one red flag is displayed on a beach or area of beach, as two red flags could be mistaken as indicating a safe zone to swim.

Red and yellow flag



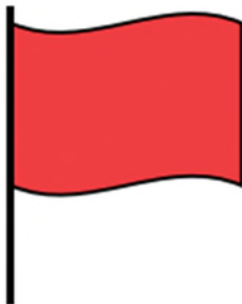
Meaning Lifeguard-patrolled swimming and body boarding zone or lifeguard on duty
Function To signify a swimming and body boarding zone that has a lifeguard patrol or to signify that a lifeguard is on duty
Colour and shape Red and yellow rectangle divided horizontally into two halves: red half at the top Pantone 186 C and yellow half Pantone 109 C
Minimum size 750mm x 900mm
Maximum size 1500mm x 1800mm

Black and white flag



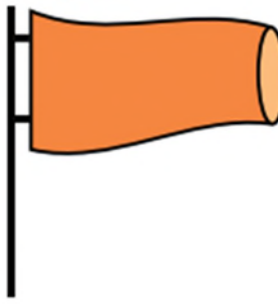
Meaning Surfboard and other water craft zone or zone boundary
Function To signify a zone, or boundary of a zone, designated for use of surfboards and other water craft
Colour and shape Black and white rectangle divided into four equal rectangles: two black and two white, upper black rectangle at the pole side
Minimum size 750mm x 900mm
Maximum size 1500mm x 1800mm

Red flag



Meaning Dangerous conditions: do not enter the water
Function To signify a severe hazard, that water conditions are unsafe for swimming and other water activities, and people should not enter the water
Colour and shape Red rectangle, Pantone 186 C
Minimum size 750mm x 900mm
Maximum size 1500mm x 1800mm

Orange cone



Meaning Danger: no inflatables to be used on the water
Function To signify the danger of using inflatables in windy or unsafe water conditions
Colour and shape Orange truncated cone, Pantone 166 C
Minimum length 1500mm
Minimum diameter 250mm at the small end and 500mm at the larger end

Policy Led, Support Teams and Publicising:

This policy is led by the Assistant Director, Economic Growth and Leisure and Head of Sport & Leisure. It is implemented by the Seafronts Services Manager in conjunction with the Seafronts Business Manager. The Council's Corporate Health & Safety supported the creation of the Seafront Management Plan.

Partnership working with key stakeholders has been undertaken to form this policy. Partnerships that have been formed are described later in this Policy. Additionally, this Policy has been presented and agreed upon by the Tendring District Councils Senior Management Team ahead of its rollout.

Tendring District Council is committed to developing a collective and consistent approach by regularly reviewing this Policy, updating this document with new initiatives and safety measures required following incidents or change to guidance.

DO

Risk Profile:

Along our Coastline, we have many risks we have identified and put in place measures to offset the risks

Piers:

- Dangerous currents under and around the piers.
- Hidden structures and objects under and around the Pier.
- Variant depths under and around the Pier.
- Tombstoning (Jumping off Pier).

We have erected permanent signage explaining the danger of swimming under and around the Pier with currents. There are three buoys at the section where Clacton pier collapsed to stop people and vessels from going into the area where Pier collapsed in case of any hidden dangers that may cause damage. The Seafront Team when on duty actively keep people away from going under and around piers either on land with megaphone and whistles or on Rescue Boards, Boats and Jet Skis. The Pier has signs warning about Tombstoning (Pier jumping) and has Life Rings along the Pier itself.

Groynes and rock breakwaters:

- Dangerous currents around groynes and rock breakwaters.
- Slip, trip hazards and possible entrapment walking on groynes and rock breakwaters.

Groynes and rocks become very slippery once wet and covered in algae and seaweed. Also, with rock breakwaters, users can be cut off by the tide. Rock breakwaters have gaps which if a user was to fall into one, they might not be seen if hurt or unconscious. They may be unable to get out, as the tide covers rocks, and if not found, could lead to a possible fatality.

Signage in place at rock breakwaters telling people not to climb on rocky breakwaters also signage warning not to swim around rocky breakwaters. Additionally, signage in place to advise users not to climb on rock groynes. The Seafront Team when on duty add an additional A-board to warn visitors to keep off groynes. Finally, signage is in place saying do not swim around groynes.

Palace groynes in Clacton has seen many incidents over the years in that location, so an additional beach patrol station was put in place in the 2020 season to help reduce such incidents, with two members of staff staffing this station.

Vehicle on promenade:

- Members of the public coming into contact with vehicles.

We have strict timings regarding vehicles on the promenade between 8am and 10am and 6pm till 8pm authorised access only. So between 10am and 6pm no vehicle access to promenades.

In Clacton, the Seafront Team put drop posts on either side of the promenade where it meets the Pier gap to stop vehicles. Across the District, gate locks with combination padlocks are installed. Signage showing access times are located on the gates, along with the message for the gates to remain closed at all times.

Powered Watercraft:

- Swimmers being struck by powered watercraft in sea.
- Bathers coming into contact with powered watercraft while launching.
- Swimmers and bathers coming into contact with RNLI Watercraft during launching and recovering at Clacton Martello and Walton-on-the-Naze.

We have no public launching watercraft on our seafronts, you must belong to a club to launch watercraft, and the clubs have rules, policies and risk assessments on launching and recovering. We have clubs at Clacton Martello, Holland on sea, Frinton and Dovercourt.

Buoy channels are in place so powered watercraft can launch safely and swimmers are advised through signage and beach patrol with chequered flags and verbal commands with megaphone and whistle stopping swimmers swimming in buoyed channels so watercraft can safely launch and recover without coming into contact with swimmers. Buoy channels are located at Clacton Martello, Holland Haven, Frinton and Dovercourt, these are in place from 1 May to 31 September.

Watercraft can come into any beach but must come in at a slow speed (8 Knott's) from 200 metres from the low tide mark. If watercraft come ashore at greater speed, Marine Police and Beach Patrol will talk to persons and remind them of byelaws. Slow speed reduces the risk of swimmers being hit as it gives swimmers time to get out of the way also watercraft to take action to avoid swimmers.

RNLI Lifeboat launches Clacton Martello and Walton-on-the-Naze. RNLI have stringent policies on launching and recovering and this is completed in a very safe manner, with 'banksman's' and tractors with flashing lights. At Clacton, in particular, RNLI have a loud siren that goes off at the Lifeboat station to warn people of launching. The Seafront Team assist with launch too with staff not letting members of public set up where the RNLI lifeboat launches from during the day and keeping buoyed channel clear at Clacton Martello, but also wear hi-vis tops and help make sure clear beaches with RNLI shore crew, so Lifeboats can launch in a safe manner but also not to hold up lifeboats so they can get to their rescues as soon as possible.

Infrastructure, i.e. Steps, promenades:

- Slip, trips and falls

Infrastructures on seafronts are checked annual by Tendring District Council engineering service department, but also the Seafront Team when out on their patrols and report back anything they find which is passed-to our engineering department to get repaired.

What3words:

What3words is an app. The whole world is divided into 3-metre squares, and each square is named by 3 words; if you call Police, Fire service, Coastguard and Ambulance service give the operator the 3 words, they will be able to direct the service required to the 3-metre square, so speed up help. It's also suitable for directions, so if you know the what3words for where you like to go or if lost, tell the person picking you up the 3 words and they can get to that exact location.

All the beach patrol stations have the what3words on them, and all new signage also incorporates the what3words across our District on the seafronts.

Animals on Beaches:

There are byelaws that include animals on our beaches, dogs and horses in particular.

Dogs:

We have seasonal bans on specific beaches from 1 May till 30 September. The Dog Warden service and the Seafront Team police this and ask people to remove dogs on these beaches. We are fortunate to have beaches that dogs are allowed across the whole District all year long. Signage indicates which beaches dogs not allowed and timings and where they are allowed.

Horses:

Our beaches are open to horse riders, but the following local byelaw is in place, which you should be aware of:

'No person shall on the Seashore break in any horse or other animal or ride or drive any horse or other animal in a race or so as to cause danger or annoyance to any person using the Seashore.'

In order not to cause danger or annoyance to other beach users:

- Do not ride your horse when beaches are busy.
- Restrict riding to quiet times and at low water.
- Do not race horses.
- Access the beach via the footpath and gate opposite Second Avenue.

Seals:

We have a significant population of seals in Tendring and they are often found on our beaches either resting or in some incidents unwell and sadly died. We ask people to leave them alone, keep their distance and ask dogs to be kept away from seals for the seal's safety but also that of the public and their dogs as seals can give a nasty bite.

If a seal has been found with injuries visitors are asked to phone the British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR), who have trained staff who can assist with removal and care of the injured seal. The phone number for BDMLR 01825 765546.

If a dead seal is found, this should be reported to the seafronts team 01255 686702 or phone the out of hours Careline service on 01255 222022, and arrangement of removal of the dead seal will be organised.

Whales and Porpoises:

We do have whales and porpoises on our seafronts in Tendring, but unfortunately, people only come across them generally if they have died. If a user was to come across a dead whale or porpoise, please phone 999 ask for the Coastguard.

Jellyfish:






We do get a lot of jellyfish in our seas, especially in the hot weather. We do experience

people being stung by them, and the Seafront Team will administer first aid. They would first get the person who is stung to wash off the sting area with saltwater, and then the Seafront Team would give them an icepack to ease the sting.

Weaver fish:

Weaver fish is a small fish we get in our seas that have a small spine on its back. If trod on will give a user extreme pain and sometimes swelling. If a bather stands on one, the Seafront Team member on duty will request they put their foot in as hot water as they could possibly stand, and after a time, the pain and swelling will die down. In extreme cases, the user or we should phone 999 ask for Ambulance service.

The way Tendring District Council communicate the above to users is via the following signs:

Title	Image	Information
Dog Ban Areas		Information can be found on the sea defence walls for all beaches.
Horse Access Points	<p style="text-align: center;">Horse Access to Beach</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please note the below in order not to cause danger or annoyance to other beach users:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Do not ride your horse when beaches are busy Restrict riding to quiet times & at low water Do not race horses Access the beach via the footpath & gate opposite Second Avenue</p> <div style="text-align: center;">   </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Our beaches are open to horse riders, but the following local byelaw is in place which you should be aware of:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>*No person shall on the Seashore break in any horse or other animal or ride or drive any horse or other animal in a race or so as to cause danger or annoyance to any person using the Seashore.*</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">In order not to cause danger or annoyance to other beach users:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Do not ride your horse when beaches are busy Restrict riding to quiet times and at low water Do not race horses Access the beach via the footpath and gate opposite Second Avenue</p>	Information can be found on relevant access gates in Frinton.

Organisation Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of all relevant Tendring District Council staff to ensure that this procedure is implemented and upheld. Tendring District Council is dedicated to providing safe beaches for all by ensuring the control measures are in place to avoid/decrease serious accidents and injuries from occurring.

When previous events have occurred, we have reviewed practices and ensured they are operating in a measured approach putting in any new procedures required.

There is risk involved in everything we do. The risks associated with using the beaches vary. Educating the public can increase their knowledge to act accordingly to ensure they and others aren't put at risk.

The Seafront Team and others employed by Tendring District Council will provide support under this document. The Seafront Team are trained to assess a risk presented and take the necessary action to avoid harm to the public.

Additionally, Tendring District Council may be responsible for byelaws covering the water/land, but there are areas on the Coastline that do not come under Tendring District Council. Some areas are private beaches or maintained by the Environment Agency.

Working in Partnership:

Tendring Water Safety Forum

In September 2018, Tendring District Council, together with the RNLI, set up the 'Tendring Water Safety Forum' which brought together all the local experts on water safety, including:

- *Tendring District Council*
- *RNLI*
- *HM Coastguard*
- *Essex Police & Marine Police*
- *Essex Fire and Rescue Service*
- *Harwich Haven Authority*
- *Brightlingsea Harbour*
- *Swim England*
- *and other partners on an ad hoc basis*

Before April 2019, that group had delivered the following:

- Worked with Swim England to provide free 'Swim Safe' sessions to around 2,000 local children aged between 7 and 14 years. These 60-minute practical sessions with qualified instructors and lifeguards teach participants about safety in the sea;
- Provided 8 'Train the Trainer Sessions' in water safety which were offered to every school in the District together with other appropriate organisations, so teaching staff would be able to deliver safety messages in school assemblies. Thirty-three people attended these sessions.
- Limited sessions were delivered in 2021 due to COVID restrictions.

This group has continued to meet virtually throughout the pandemic to share best practice and discuss further safety measures across the District's Coastline. This includes working with the RNLI to initiate a Business Ambassador Scheme for safety around our beaches.

Child Education:

We offer schools a free guided tour which will encourage children to be safe on the seafront and make them aware of the day to day duties that beach patrol carry out. This will include a tour of our beach patrol office, safety of equipment used, weather safety warnings and how to stay safe in the sun. Schools or other organisation who require further information or to book a tour can contact Seafronts on 01255 686702 or e-mail seafronts@tendringdc.gov.uk.

Delivery Plan:

The Seafronts Service Manager is responsible for executing the delivery by different measures as demonstrated below:

Risk Reduction Plan:

Where existing control measures are not adequate, and additional control measure needs to be introduced, a Risk Reduction Plan (RRP) would be completed. The hazards would be put in order of importance and the most serious addressed first. Once the control measure has been implemented, the Seafronts Service Manager will review and add the control measure to the relevant risk assessment.

Safe System of Work/Work Instructions:

A safe system of work/work instruction is a document that provides an instruction for staff members to follow to carry out work activities or operate a piece of plant machinery or equipment safely. It defines safe methods to ensure that hazards are eliminated or risks minimised.

Check

Adequately controlled the significant risks:

It is essential to develop various methods to check against the risk profile findings and details of action taken. Tendring District Council achieves this by the following measures:

- Audits completed by Corporate Health & Safety.
- Action plans developed following the Audit.
- Review of actions completed by Corporate Health & Safety will also capture any unintended effects via the control measure imposed.
- Random spot checks to support the Seafront Team.
- Water safety forum meetings to discuss learnings from any accidents & incidents.
- Risk Assessments reviewed and amended if required following any accidents & incidents.
- Working with partners such as RNLI to identify key actions to improve the safety measure.
- Actions following Coroner's Prevention of Future Deaths reports.
- Monitoring of accidents and incidents that occur, reviewing trends and hot spot locations, addressing any incidents that have reoccurred.
- Additionally, service records and check sheets are completed on all equipment used by the Seafronts, with all remedial work records kept on file.
- Records relating to ongoing training and assessment should be reviewed as part of the annual pool safety monitoring/audit process.
- Best practice is used where possible from other local authorities and landowners.

Finally, as part of the monthly monitoring, the Seafront Service Manager shall check that Accident and Incident Report Forms are fully completed to ensure they contain sufficient detail. Where necessary, that investigation documentation has also been provided, with follow up action taken.

Act

Improvements within the last year:

Since 2020, Tendring District Council has initiated many new measures to improve safety on the District's beaches further.

Despite the apparent challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic, all the measures set out in the Council's initial response to the Coroner were in place when the Beach Patrol service resumed operation for the 2020 season and have continued since.

The additional signs listed in the table above (examples of beach safety standards use across our seafronts) were installed following a seafront signage audit by the RNLI, which took place on 10 March 2020.

The Beach Management Plan document has since been created in June 2021 to add a level of consistency and adaption, allowing us to revisit practices used to develop them further. This document will become a live tool that will continue to grow through learning and best practice.

Beach Awards:

In 2021, Tendring has three Blue Flag Beaches at Brightlingsea, Dovercourt Bay and Walton-on-the-Naze. Further to this, the Council secured 7 Seaside Awards for Brightlingsea, Dovercourt Bay, Harwich, Frinton, Walton-on-the-Naze and the town's Albion beach, and Martello Bay in Clacton.

The Blue Flag Award



Finally, we have continued to develop our awards, retaining the collection of Blue Flags— including Walton, which was a 2020 new addition. The Blue Flag beach award is widely considered the gold standard for beaches. Awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education, the Blue Flag is internationally recognised. For further information on the award and criteria, please visit <https://www.blueflag.global/>

Additionally, a number of our seafronts have been rewarded with Seaside awards. The scheme is the nationwide standard for the best beaches across the UK. While Seaside Award beaches can be vastly different, the flag is a symbol of quality which ensures visitors are guaranteed to find a clean, safe, attractive and well-managed coastal stretch. For further information on the award and criteria, please visit <https://www.theseasideawards.org/home/1778>

Seaside Award



The Team at Tendring District Council will continue to strive in achieving other awards to support the work and dedication of the team.

Further Improvements Methods:

Trend Analysis and Accident Mapping:

Accident analysis and trends are reviewed at regular team meetings and the health and safety committee meetings. Appropriate actions are discussed and then acted upon accordingly.

Risk Assessment Review and Revise Process:

Communicating with stakeholders where needed to review and support risk assessment development for the seafronts. Significantly when the risks change, such as the introduction of new equipment and activities, changes to procedures and activities, changes to the building's physical structure, or as a result of an accident or incident.

Working with external stakeholders:

As mentioned through this document, Tendring District Council have continued to work with stakeholders such as the RNLI to review the seafront signage. This approach will continue using other key stakeholders, which allows the Council to receive regular feedback that can be acted upon.

Additional Beach Information:

For further information about all of our beaches, including facilities, amenities, safety and car parking, please see the individual pages (hyperlinks) below:

- **Brightlingsea Beach (Blue Flag) CO7 0HH**
- **West Beach, Clacton on Sea CO15 1QX**
- **Martello Bay Beach, Clacton on Sea (Seaside Award) CO15 1BN**
- **Frinton Beach, Frinton on Sea (Seaside Award) CO13 9DN**
- **Albion beach, Walton on the Naze (Blue Flag) CO14 8QQ**
- **The Naze, Walton on the Naze (Seaside Award) CO14 8LJ**
- **Dovercourt Bay, Dovercourt, Harwich (Blue Flag) CO12 3TA**
- **Harwich Beach (Seaside Award) CO12 3DL**

Externally reviewed and scrutinised:

This final published version has been viewed and scrutinised by the Water Safety Forum. The Water Safety Forum consists of – HM Coastguard, RNLI, Police, Fire Service, Ambulance service, Harwich Haven Authority, Clacton Pier, Clacton Volunteer Lifeguards, Brightlingsea Harbour Master and Tendring District Council.