

Health and Safety Policy Statement of Intent

YHA (England and Wales) is committed to protecting the health and safety of everyone that comes into contact with us. Our top priority is to provide a safe environment for all our employees, volunteers, guests or contractors. In providing safe places to work, stay and visit, YHA will continue to meet our charitable object to enhance the lives of all, including young people of limited means.

YHA commits to:

- Identify the principle hazards to employees, volunteers and others affected by our work and take action to reduce the potential risk of harm.
- Meet the basic requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 – namely to maintain, so far as is "reasonably practicable", healthy and safe working conditions. For example, ensuring a safe plant, safe access and egress, safe equipment, safe systems of work, etc. Wherever it is reasonable and appropriate to do so, we will aim to exceed the requirements.
- Implement methods to identify, record and report on work related injury and sickness
- Meet the additional health and safety requirements of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (MHSWR) 1999, including conducting risk assessments, developing emergency procedures and providing health surveillance if necessary.
- Consult employees on health and safety issues using forums such as the Health and Safety Committee, and provide them with the necessary information, training and supervision to carry out their role without putting themselves or others at risk.
- Our Health and Safety performance will be reviewed on a regular basis so that we can monitor and continue to improve the safety standards of our organisation.
- Have the resources to achieve the aims and objectives outlined below
- Review and revise this policy annually as a minimum; it will also be reviewed following any significant change.

YHA Aims to:

- Reduce the quantity of civil claims which cannot be defended/to which YHA has to offer settlement or admit liability
- Receive no enforcement notices
- Work towards attaining a RoSPA award.
- Maintain an average percentage score of over 90% in each audit round carried out by 3rd party auditors

There is no barrier in YHA that should stop each and every one of us from being open and honest about Health and Safety and we are able to contribute suggestions for improving the way we work and do things.

Every person involved in the operation of YHA should embrace their duty to our guests, team members, contractors and themselves so that the organisation as a whole can bring to life the commitments above. It is important that we remember to watch out for each other at every level and take responsibility for our own actions and behaviour.



James Blake – Chief Executive Officer for YHA – October 2024