

## **Safety Advisory Group (SAG)**

### What is SAG?

The Safety Advisory Group is a collective of agencies with a function or interest in public safety that come together to assess plans for events where there might be issues for public safety.

The SAG offers advice to ensure high standards of public safety at events and to encourage the wellbeing of those affected by such events – both those attending or participating, and those in the surrounding area.

It is not a legal requirement for organisers to participate, but it is good practice, and event organisers are recommended to use the expert advice of the SAG wherever possible. It is important to reiterate that the SAG is advisory and does not have any legal status of itself, although individual members of the group can take their own action if deemed necessary.

### What Events does SAG apply to?

The SAG process is not designed to consider all events; in the New Forest it is reserved for larger events in terms of expected attendees, events with the potential hazards such as firework displays, and events which may impact local people – such as cycling events. Consideration is also given to the profile of the audience. In addition to events notified to the SAG using an online form, other events will come to the attention of a SAG via other means. Should events come to the attention of individual agencies, the SAG process acts as a focal point to ensure details of events are collated.

### Membership

Membership of a SAG varies according to the type of event being considered. However, core members of the SAG in the New Forest include the police, fire and rescue, ambulance service, licensing, traffic/Highways Agency, New Forest National Park Authority and New Forest District Council Environmental Health. Local Councils are notified of cycling events, via the New Forest Association of Local Councils (NFALC).

The SAG group is operated by New Forest District Council which is responsible for circulating event information between the agencies, sharing agency responses and if necessary, chairing a meeting between the event organiser and agencies.

### SAG and Cycling Events

It is important to remember that the group does not have authority to either approve or to ban cycling events, and ultimately the overall responsibility for the safety of persons at events lies with the event organiser, venue operator and management team. In addition to encouraging high standards of health and safety at events, the SAG encourages arrangements to be made to minimise disruption to local communities – this may be in the scheduling of events to avoid conflict with other events, routing to avoid roadworks and trunk roads where possible, and the management of the event to reduce the impact on other road users.

### Contacts

In the New Forest, the SAG is coordinated and chaired by New Forest District Council:  
[events@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:events@nfdc.gov.uk) or telephone 023 8028 5411.

A public register of events in the New Forest can be found at the following web link:  
<https://newforest.gov.uk/article/1378/Public-events-Safety-Advisory-Group#h26>