

LEAD AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP SCHEME
SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL AND ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH CLIMBING WALLS

INTRODUCTION

1. As of 5th February 2009 Sheffield City Council and the Association of British Climbing Walls (ABC) entered into a Lead Authority Partnership with respect to health and safety enforcement matters. The Memorandum of Understanding agreed between the two parties is given below.

Sheffield City Council acknowledges that the ABC as an association have in depth knowledge with respect issues surrounding the operation and management of Climbing Wall facilities within the UK.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. This Memorandum of Understanding between Sheffield City Council and the ABC is based upon the general aims and principles of the Lead Authority Partnership Scheme. It is not intended to impose any new legal obligations on either Sheffield City Council or the ABC.
3. Both the ABC and Sheffield City Council have agreed that Sheffield City Council should act as a partner to the ABC in respect of compliance with health and safety legislation.

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH CLIMBING WALLS

4. The Association of British Climbing Walls was formed in 1994; it has 45 members operating across the United Kingdom. The current ABC chairman is

Andrew Reid
Mile End Climbing Wall
Haverfield Road
Bow
London
E3 5BE

THE PARTNERSHIP

5. The introduction of a Lead Authority Partnership Scheme between Sheffield City Council and the ABC will make provision for a single point of contact, encourage a good working relationship and avoid significant duplication of management effort for both parties.
6. Sheffield City Council will provide guidance to the ABC to ensure that suitable systems are put into place to protect the health, safety and welfare of members of the ABC and members of the public, with the overall aim of making the ABC compliant with health and safety legislation.

7. In signing this document Sheffield City Council and members of the ABC give support to the Lead Authority Partnership Scheme and endorse the main aims and objectives of the scheme.

OPERATING PRACTICE

8. The Association of British Climbing Walls will;

() Undertake to meet Sheffield City Council Environment and Regulatory Services department a minimum of twice per year, and at every other time that either party reasonably deem necessary. An agenda will be produced by the ABC and issued one week prior to the meeting date to ensure a business approach to task and time management.

() Produce an organisational profile for Sheffield City Council outlining the description of the organisation and covering the following;

- Management structure
- Members Codes of Practice
- Responsible person and single point of contact
- Compliance with legislation
- Organisation structure
- Decision making process and lines of communication

() provide the following:

- Response to advice from Sheffield City Council
- Allocation of resources to enable the partnership to advance the objectives of the Lead authority Partnership Scheme's concept
- Continuity with the partnership if personnel changes
- Information to Sheffield City Council of other authorities or parties who raise issues directly related to the principles of the Lead Authority Partnership scheme.

9. Sheffield City Council Health Protection Service will;

- Provide an Environmental Health Officer as a single point of contact
- Ensure continuity with the partnership when personnel change
- Ensure adequate records are maintained with other local authorities, relevant parties and the ABC
- Work with other authorities to achieve uniformity of compliance standards and enforcement action
- Provide advice and guidance on health and safety matters
- Advise on the drafting of the organisations safety documentation as required for health and safety matters
- Provide information and advice on standards and support on policy and procedural issues that may have national consequences
- Provide time for half yearly meetings with ABC representative
- Provide advice on proposed changes to legislation in sufficient time for the ABC to consider commercial impacts and develop implementation strategies
- Maintain strict confidentiality at all times regarding any information received by it from the ABC under this Memorandum of Understanding

10. Sheffield City Council will not;

- Appear in court on behalf of the ABC or it's members in any prosecution brought by another enforcing authority under health and safety legislation, except where Sheffield City Council may appear as an "expert" and neutral witness to give general mitigating evidence about the Lead Authority principle and the involvement of the ABC
- Draft health and safety policies, risk assessments and procedures on behalf of the ABC. Sheffield City Council will however be expected to assist the ABC to fulfil these obligations by liaison and advice.
- Devote a disproportionate level of resources to the partnership or act as the ABC's health and safety consultant

11 Review Date

- A review of the Partnership to take place in November 2010.

CONTACTS

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 Health Protection Service
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 Sheffield
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ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH CLIMBING WALLS –

Neil Bentley
 The Foundry Climbing Centre
 45 Mowbray Street
 Sheffield
 S3 8EN
 Tel 0114 2796331

Signed

Date

Signed.....

Date.....