



SGUK - Outline Prospectus

Safety Groups UK (SGUK) is an established part of the UK health and safety system, and a natural choice as a member of the OSH Stakeholders Alliance. Having been established as a voluntary organisation in 1947, SGUK pre-dates many of the organisations that have emerged as stakeholders and joined the Alliance. Over this period SGUK has become embedded in the health and safety landscape, and recognised by the HSE as a participating partner in the HSE's work. SGUK is a member of the Construction Dust Partnership and involved in the HSE's AGM and Board meetings. SGUK and its local groups provide support to the HSE's various initiatives on managing risk, for example safety risks such as transport, and health risks like construction dust and musculoskeletal conditions. SGUK has introduced initiatives of its own, including those focused on skin diseases like dermatitis.

Learn, Network, Grow

Learn, Network, Grow summaries some important features of SGUK's and our local groups' philosophy. Some of our important goals are to help members of local groups, and the wider workplace community, to **learn** about risks and risk solutions in an encouraging environment, providing opportunities to **network** with supportive people with similar interests in a way that enables them to **grow** their abilities and experience.

SGUK promotes awareness, knowledge and understanding about work-related health and safety risks and how to manage them. We do this by bringing a wide range of people together to hear important messages and to share experiences, concerns and solutions. This is done by SGUK at a co-ordinating level, and through our network of around 73 local voluntary Occupational Health and Safety Groups located throughout the UK, involving a wide range of industries, including a specialist group focusing on the charity sector.

SGUK and its network of groups enables strategic ideas to be carried through to the 'ground floor'. We go beyond providing awareness by developing understanding of issues and solutions, which provides an improved likelihood of effective action in the members' organisations.

Although the core membership of local groups includes health and safety professionals and specialists, their distinctive role is to educate and support non-specialists who have health and safety responsibilities as part of their wider remit, such as directors and partners of small firms, general managers, HR managers, engineers, contractors and suppliers. In this way, local groups and SGUK contribute to the cause of reducing the toll of deaths, life-changing injuries and illnesses due to work activities.

Local safety groups are a 'seed bed' where people with limited experience of health and safety can engage with topics, learn and gain experience in a supportive environment that builds confidence. This frequently inspires them to play a bigger role in health and safety, often involving a career. In this way, SGUK supports the interests of organisations like NEBOSH, IIRSM and IOSH, providing a steady stream of individuals who want to achieve more in the world of health and safety. In turn, members of the local groups share their experience with other members seeking help and solutions to day-to-day health and safety problems.



Share and Encourage

From SGUK's efforts, health and safety projects have emerged that have sustained and grown, for example the Learning Occupational Health by Experiencing Risks (LOCHER) project. Whilst the concept originated in the HSE, SGUK gave it support, encouragement and space to grow. Similarly, SGUK launched a UK campaign called 'Health Risks at Work', which has been running for some years as an overarching health campaign and as initiatives focusing on specific risks. Working with partners, in particular 3M, SGUK strategically influenced the development of a pack of rapid reference cards to help organisations deliver talks to workers on a range of health issues. In keeping with SGUK's philosophy, these packs have been distributed widely, free of charge, including through our network of local groups.

The current health risk being focused on in the Health Risks at Work campaign is mental health. A SGUK group in Scotland produced a valuable short video to help portray the signs of mental ill health, and the need for people in the workplace to support those affected. This video is a key feature of the SGUK current initiative to promote awareness and encourage action.

Recognise, Celebrate and Promote Success

The SGUK's free-to-enter awards have for many years provided a means to recognise achievements, celebrate them in an awards ceremony and share this success with the SGUK network and the wider health and safety community. This provides encouragement to the groups and individuals, helping SGUK groups to thrive. The SGUK Awards also encourage and recognise good practice in health and safety in the form of innovation and education. This good practice is promoted and shared widely for the benefit of all in the field of health and safety.

The SGUK awards have illustrated the ways local groups have adapted to the changing circumstances arising from COVID 19. The availability of remote meetings has enabled them to retain connectivity with members and extend their geographical reach. Local groups are engaged in a spectrum of communication activities that provide a means to promote and explain important issues; for example, using specialist speakers at meetings, and seminars for members and the wider community.

Stakeholder involvement

SGUK has benefited from wide stakeholder involvement in its Management Advisory Committee (MAC), which puts SGUK at the focus of the health and safety community, providing opportunities to share perspectives and support stakeholders' initiatives through SGUK's local groups. Stakeholders include the HSE, BSIF, RoSPA, BOHS, IOSH, IIRSM, CITB and NEBOSH.

The cumulative role SGUK plays makes us a significant stakeholder on the health and safety landscape.

Stephen Laws

Stephen Laws CMIOSH

Chair SGUK

PROMOTING HEALTH & SAFETY NATIONWIDE

Registered Charity No: 1048425

Established 1947