

RNLI LIFEGUARD SERVICE MONITORING REPORT
HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL
2023



SUMMARY 2023



228
Patrol Days



4,994
Patrol Hours

<h1>41</h1>	<h1>48</h1>	<h1>16</h1>
Incidents	People Aided	Assists



This report outlines the provision of the RNLI Lifeguard services on behalf of Hastings Borough Council East Sussex.

The management team providing the service on behalf of Hastings Borough Council consisted of Ed Stevens (Regional Lifeguard Lead), Hugh Richardson (Lead Lifeguard Supervisor) and Jodie Shoemith (Lifeguard Supervisor). Press / Media support was provided by Julie Rainey and Paul Dunt.

Through a preventive and pro-active approach, consistent patrolling, engaging with the public and by working with local RNLI Lifeboat crews, we have provided an integrated and effective prevention and rescue service.



Training

The RNLI provided comprehensive training for all East Sussex Seasonal Lifeguards that was carried out by Lifeguard Supervisors over a face-to-face learning induction programme.

In addition to this throughout the season the Lifeguards were required to maximise their allocated 20 minutes per day fitness training and complete a 400m timed swim (under 7mins 30secs) and 200m run (in under 40 seconds), this was revalidated every 3 months. This ensured fitness standards are maintained. Locally based scenarios, beach familiarisation and ongoing training was also carried out across the beaches of East Sussex.

Operations

Operating from Pelham, Pier and Marina all RNLI Lifeguard units were declared to HMCG daily. The Lifeguard Seniors declared manning levels, equipment, and standard hours of operation each day. 95% of the Lifeguard teams work is preventative.



Education

Lifeguards this season carried out preventative actions to beach users across Pelham, Pier & Marina, advising beach goers to swim between the red and yellow flags and highlighting dangers on the beach.

Lifeguards also delivered beach safety education talks through Meet the lifeguards programme.

10*	1,390K*
School Visits Delivered to	Students by RNLI Lifeguards

* RNLI SE Data: 01.23 – 10.23

Education talk at Bexhill College

Service Levels 2023

Pelham



27/05/2023
24/09/2023



3 x
Lifeguards

Pier



03/06/2023
01/09/2023



2 x
Lifeguards

Marina



27/05/2023
24/09/2023



3 x
Lifeguards

Recruitment

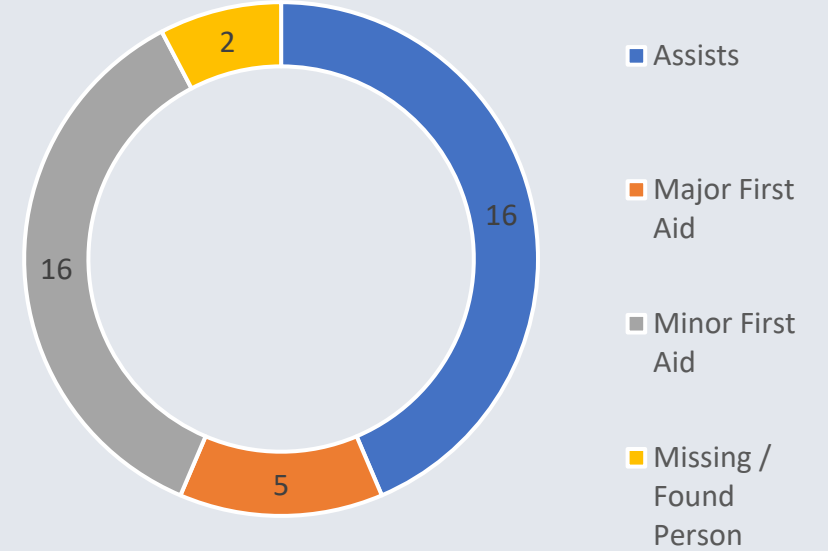
Season 2023 had significant recruitment challenges across the region. Our return rate was 64.5%, for 2023. Despite our best efforts to attract lifeguard candidates through various means, including targeted local advertising, comprehensive leafleting campaigns in local and neighbouring towns, recruitment fairs, and online engagement, we encountered considerable difficulties in meeting our staffing requirements.

With the applications received, a high number of them could not be onboarded due to various reasons, including financial constraints associated with the beach lifeguard qualification, changes of intent, failure to meet the fitness criteria, and lack of response.

The lifeguard team came to total of 25 individuals, while the area service necessitates a minimum staff count of 26 during the peak season. Due to this Pier BLU operated a week later and closed after peak season.



Incidents



The table above captures the number and type of incidents that occurred across the beaches for season 2023. As a whole lifeguards dealt with fewer incidents than in 2022 but this reflects their strong preventative work throughout the season.

This season we saw a decrease in incidents, mainly due to the weather being fairly mild over the summer months. However, our highly trained RNLI Lifeguards in East Sussex continued to carry out proactive patrolling, and beach education by working closely with SECamb, HMCG, and other agencies. We have strived to Educate, Influence and Supervise members of public to ensure the beach is both safe and enjoyable over the summer period.

The East Sussex Lifeguard team followed best practice and guidance throughout the 2023 season to protect both the welfare of themselves and others, whilst also striving to provide an integrated, seamless, and cost-effective Lifeguard service.

Service Reporting Data

Pelham

Year	Total LG Incidents	Total Aided	Lives Saved	Rescue	Assistance	Cas care	Minor FA	Search	Missing/ Found	Non Aquatic Assist	Near Miss	False Alarm	Anti Social Behaviour	Animals	Other	Total Preventative Actions
2023	16	19	0	0	1	3	6	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	10,431

Bognor Regis

Pier

Year	Total LG Incidents	Total Aided	Lives Saved	Rescue	Assistance	Cas care	Minor FA	Search	Missing/ Found	Non Aquatic Assist	Near Miss	False Alarm	Anti Social Behaviour	Animals	Other	Total Preventative Actions
2023	4	4	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,309

Marina

Year	Total LG Incidents	Total Aided	Lives Saved	Rescue	Assistance	Cas care	Minor FA	Search	Missing/ Found	Non Aquatic Assist	Near Miss	False Alarm	Anti Social Behaviour	Animals	Other	Total Preventative Actions
2023	21	25	0	0	14	1	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	9,940

Accumulative

Year	Total LG Incidents	Total Aided	Lives Saved	Rescue	Assistance	Cas care	Minor FA	Search	Missing/ Found	Non Aquatic Assist	Near Miss	False Alarm	Anti Social Behaviour	Animals	Other	Total Preventative Actions
2023	41	48	0	0	16	5	16	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	26,680

Scheme of Complement Changes 2024

- The RNLI will be adjusting the scheme of complement (staffing levels) for Pelham Base and Marina Base throughout main season. Having lower staffing levels during the early season months is common practice due to lower beach and water user numbers.
- The RNLI still retain the flexibility to increase staffing levels where appropriate on forecasted busier days. This decision also presents a cost saving to HBC which will be communicated accordingly.
- The staffing breakdown is detailed below, if HBC have any queries around this decision then please reach out to discuss further.

Scheme of Complement 2023 (Main Season)

Beaches	Number of Lifeguards
Marina	3
Pelham	3

Scheme of Complement 2024 (Main Season)

Beaches	Number of Lifeguards
Marina	2
Pelham	2

- RNLI has no recommendations ahead of the 2024 service.



Lifeguard end of year photo 2023

Report Appendix

Definitions of search and rescue criteria

Rescue – where a lifeguard responds to a person at risk, and physically returns them to shore or transfers them to another craft.

Major First Aid – where a lifeguard treats a patient who is at risk due to sickness or injury, and has called in external assistance.

Assistance – where a lifeguard aids a person in the sea who is at little risk, but if left, would be at risk later.

Search – an organised search with other SAR units for a missing person either at sea or on land – includes body recovery

Near Miss – any occurrence where a person might have been injured by watercraft i.e. powered or otherwise

Life Saved – if the lifeguard had not intervened, life would have been lost.

Preventative Action (PA) – an action conducted by the lifeguard team to prevent persons coming into contact with harm including; PA / Tannoy announcement, moving flags, displaying safety signage, educating beach users.

If you're struggling
in the water ...

Tilt your head back with
ears submerged

Relax and move
your hands to help
you stay afloat

Remember it. Share it.
FLOAT TO LIVE


#RESPECTTHEWATER

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea
The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (209603), Scotland (SC037736), the Republic of Ireland (CHI 2678 and
20003326), the Bailiwick of Jersey (14), the Isle of Man (1308 and 006329F), the Bailiwick of Guernsey and Alderney, of West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ

Water Safety in the South East

The Water Safety team sits within Lifesaving Operations and contributes to the RNLI's vision of saving every one, by developing Community Lifesaving Plans (CLPs) and working with Partners to help influence improved safety, to reduce the number of preventable deaths and incidents that occur within local coastal and inland waterway environments.

Working with others

The work of the RNLI and our partners aims to save lives in, on and around water through influencing, educating, supervising and rescuing people. With the support of RNLI lifeguards, we approached local businesses near open water within the South East to become RNLI local ambassadors and to share lifesaving water safety messages within the community on our behalf. We have recruited 36 Local Ambassadors over the summer who now help to amplify water safety messages to the public at the coast. Bringing the total number of Local RNLI Ambassadors across our region to 169.

Working with schools and young people

RNLI lifeguards and Water Safety Advisor Volunteers deliver vital lifesaving education to children on the beach, in lifeboat stations, in schools, in colleges and youth groups within Hampshire, West Sussex and across the South East. We also support teachers and youth leaders with freely available downloadable resources and lesson plans on our RNLI website.

Water Safety in the community

Water safety is driven by an evidence led approach to reach our lifesaving goals through education, strategic partnerships, raising awareness and safety advice. Some of our key pieces of work we have undertaken this year consist of delivering campaigns such as Float to Live, working with external organisations to deliver training such as the waterside responder scheme which trains staff working near water to use throwlines, delivering water safety education to thousands of young people every year, offering lifejacket clinics and attending events from small community fetes all the way to the Southampton International Boat show.



169*

RNLI Local
Ambassadors



981*

Lifejackets checked by
trained RNLI Water Safety
Volunteers

234*

School and Youth Organisation Visits
Delivered to

30K*

Young People
by Water Safety Volunteers

* RNLI SEData: 01.23 – 10.23