

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 15th March 2016
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Community & Resources
PORTFOLIO: Community Safety
SUBJECT: Match Day Safety
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide a presentation and update the board on preparations for match day operations and compliance with the 'The Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds' ("The Green Guide").

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND

3.1 Following the Ibrox Stadium disaster in 1971 when 66 people were killed, the government commissioned a report by Lord Wheatley the following year. In his report Lord Wheatley said: "While not seeking to set out a code of practice in the sense of statutory regulations which have to be observed in all cases, I have, with the assistance of the Technical Support Group, provided what should be regarded as guidelines towards a proper standard. I trust that these will be of benefit both to clubs in deciding what they should do in making improvements, and to licensing authorities in deciding what should be looked for." As a result of Lord Wheatley's report the first guide was published in 1973.

3.2 The "Guide" applies to the safety of spectators at all sports grounds which meet the definition below, whether or not a safety certificate is in force.

The Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 defines a sports ground as:

'A place where sports or other competitive activities take place in the open air, and where accommodation has been provided for spectators, consisting of artificial structures or of natural structures artificially modified for the purpose.'

The management of these grounds has a primary responsibility for the safety of spectators, and should therefore apply the

recommendations in the “Guide” in order to achieve safe conditions.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The objective of the “Guide” is to provide guidance to ground management, technical specialists such as architects and engineers, and representatives of all relevant authorities, in order to assist them in the assessment of how many spectators can be safely accommodated within a sports ground.

4.2 As many sports become ever more commercially driven, it is timely to remind ground management and its advisors of the danger of complacency and of the need for continual vigilance.

4.3 The Guide has no statutory force but many of its recommendations will be made statutory at individual grounds by their inclusion in safety certificates issued under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 or the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987.

4.4 The advice given in the “Guide” is without prejudice to the application of the appropriate Building Regulations, the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and any other relevant legislation.

4.5 The information in the “Guide” is intended to provide useful guidance, but it is not a definitive statement applicable in all circumstances. Independent professional advice should be obtained before taking any action or refraining from taking any action on the basis of this information.

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Responsibility for the safety of spectator’s lies at all times with the ground management. The management will normally be either the owner or lessee of the ground, who may not necessarily be the promoter of the event.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**
None

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**
There is currently a recruitment drive to increase the amount of Council safety stewards at the Stadium.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**
None

6.4 **A Safer Halton**
Safety at sports grounds is achieved by establishing a balance

between good management and good design.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 There are no equality and diversity issues.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
The Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds' ("The Green Guide").	Select Security Stadium, Lowerhouse Lane, Widnes	Chris Patino