

Holding a public event?

Thousands of residents and visitors enjoy the wide range of public events on offer in the area every year. Public safety should be a top priority at any event being held. Organisers who have any doubt about the safety of their event, should be cautious about holding it.

The Safety Advisory Group aims to ensure people remain safe at events.

Organisers should consult with their local Safety Advisory Group when planning an event other than small community or regular events. They may also be invited to the advisory group meetings to discuss their proposals.



The Safety Advisory Group (SAG)

SAGs are usually, but not exclusively, co-ordinated by a local authority (LA) and made up of representatives from the LA, emergency services and other relevant bodies.

Local Authority SAGs exist to:

- ensure public safety is built into the planning stages of events;
- promote high levels of safety and welfare at events by giving advice and guidance;
- promote good practice in safety and welfare planning for events;
- ensure events have a minimal adverse impact on the community.

They meet at regular intervals, or when necessary, to review event applications and advise on public safety. They tend to be based on LA boundaries but may be event or location specific.

SAGs do not have legal powers or responsibilities and are not empowered to approve or prohibit events from taking place. They provide independent advice to event organisers, who retain the legal responsibility for ensuring a safe event. Individual representatives of organisations forming the SAG may have powers to require event organisers to comply with their legal obligations.

All Suffolk Local Authorities host a Safety Advisory Group (SAG), these are centred on

- Suffolk Coastal District Council
- Waveney District Council,
- Ipswich Borough Council.

Where councils are working in partnership, joint district SAGs are held in:

- West (Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury),
- South and Central ([Babergh](#) and [Mid Suffolk](#)).

If an event will affect more than one district or borough then a Suffolk wide SAG (SESAG) is convened.



For further information please see the Suffolk Resilience Forum – Running an event safely on <http://www.suffolkresilience.com/running-an-event-safely/>