



## HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Dated: 15 February 2024

Signed 

Julie Brownrigg - Chair of Trustees

**Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures  
2024**

Subject	Paragraph
<b>Administration</b>	1
Management & responsibility	1.1
Representatives responsibilities (including volunteers)	1.2
Visitors	1.3
<b>Information, Instruction and Training</b>	2
Information	2.1
Instructions	2.2
Training	2.3
<b>General Health &amp; Safety Precautions</b>	3
Safety hazards and risk assessments	3.1
Health and safety awareness	3.2
Clothing and equipment	3.3
Working environment (including buildings)	3.4
Access for people with disabilities	3.5
<b>Health &amp; Safety Procedures</b>	4
Introduction	4.1
Lone working	4.2
Working with children and adults with care & support needs	4.3
New & expectant mothers	4.4
Children & young people under 18	4.5
Waste disposal	4.6
Smoking	4.7
Alcohol or substance abuse	4.8
Work-related stress	4.9
Violence, harassment or bullying	4.10
Equipment	4.11
Manual handling and lifting	4.12
Working at height	4.13
Use of vehicles	4.14
Electrical safety	4.15
Electricity-related injury	4.16
COSHH	4.17
Emergency food	4.18
Rodent and pest control	4.19
Management and handling of cash money	4.20
<b>Fire Precautions and Procedures</b>	5
Fire precautions	5.1
In the event of a fire	5.2
Fire extinguishers	5.3
<b>Bomb Alert or Terrorist Threat</b>	6
<b>Emergency First Aid</b>	7
<b>Reporting of Accidents &amp; Near Misses</b>	8

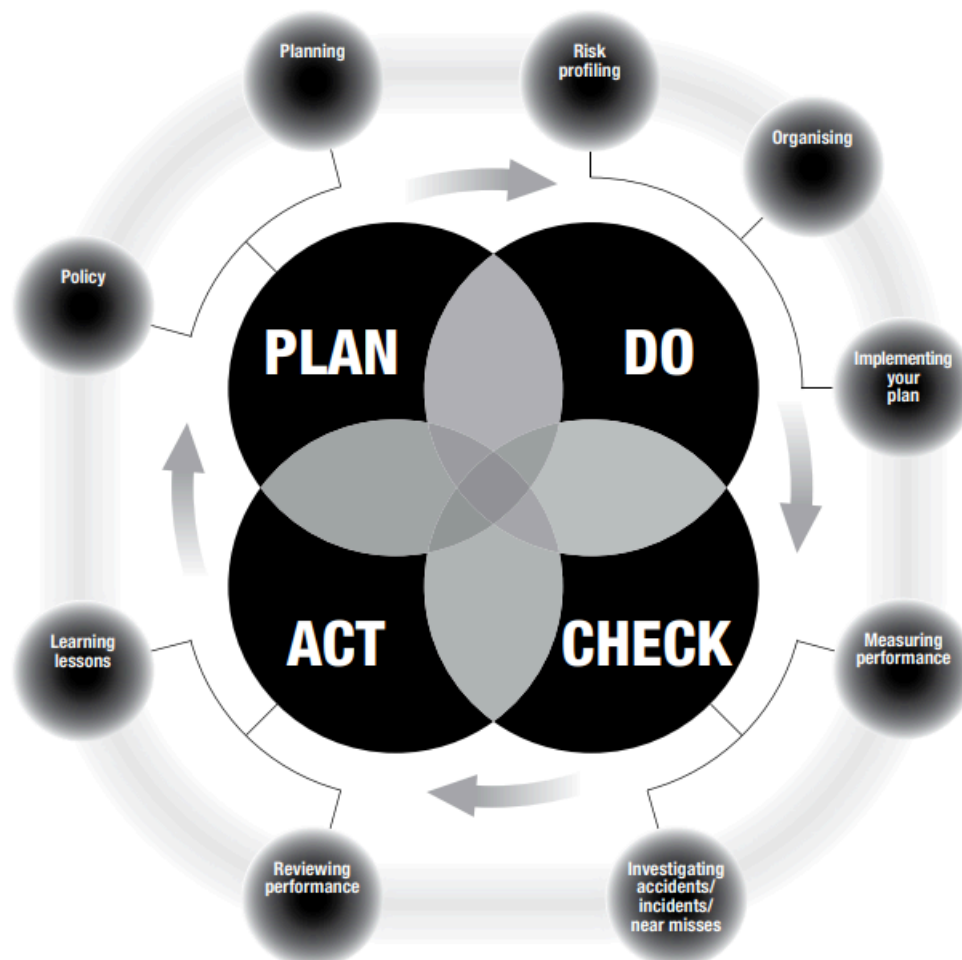
# Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024

## 1. ADMINISTRATION

### 1.1 Management & responsibility

The responsibility for the management of health and safety within Leeds North and West food bank is as follows:

- 1.1.1 Directing the preparation and review of health and safety policy and procedures and overall responsibility for its application is: the responsibility of Leeds North and West Foodbanks Trustees and CEO
- 1.1.2 Preparation of procedures, the identification of risks, the conduct of risk assessments, the development of safe working practices, the provision of health and safety information and training, and the day to day supervision of health and matters is: the responsibility of the Operations Manager
- 1.1.3 Daily supervision of safe working, carrying out risk assessments and developing safe procedures, and the reporting of incidents is the responsibility of: The Warehouse and Logistics Manager and Operations Manager , supported by foodbank centre team leaders
- 1.1.4 This guide is based on the Health and Safety Executive's guide HSG65 Managing for health and safety and follows the Plan, Do, Check, Act model <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg65.pdf>



# Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024

## **1.2 Representatives responsibilities (including staff and volunteers)**

- 1.2.1 They have a duty to take reasonable care for their own safety and that of others who may be affected by their actions or omissions. All are to be familiar with the provisions dealing with emergencies, fire precautions, first aid, evacuation and safe working.
- 1.2.2 They have a duty to comply with the food bank health and safety policy statement and procedures, and not to misuse or recklessly interfere with anything provided. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, if an employee including dismissal where appropriate or will be asked to leave the role if a volunteer.
- 1.2.3 They are required to report anything they suspect may represent a safety hazard to their line manager / relevant team leader or the food bank Operations manager.
- 1.2.4 Those with disabilities or conditions, whether permanent or temporary, which they suspect may represent a potential risk should inform their line manager / relevant team leader or the food bank Operations Manager so that safe procedures can be put into place in a timely manner.

## **1.3 Visitors**

- 1.3.1 The responsibility for visitors' rests with the person that invited them, and they should be escorted whenever practical and reasonable.
- 1.3.2 Visitors should be given such fire, evacuation and safety information, instruction or training as may be necessary or appropriate.
- 1.3.3 Visitors also have a duty to comply with the food bank health and safety policy and procedures, and not to misuse or recklessly interfere with anything provided.
- 1.3.4 There should be a record of visitors to the food bank building or premises so they can be accounted for in case of fire, which can be derived from a booking in process or from the voucher information handed to staff and volunteers.

# Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024

## 2. Information, instruction and training

### 2.1 Information

Health and safety information is readily available from a wide range of sources, particularly the [Health & Safety Executive website](#) and from local health authorities. General health and safety materials are available from the Operations Manager, and posters or leaflets specific to issues that are considered a risk by the food bank are prominently displayed in work areas and used in health and safety instruction or training.

### 2.2 Instructions

2.2.1 All staff and volunteers are to receive instruction from their line manager or team leader or the Operations Manager before using any equipment provided by the food bank, using Manufacturer's Instructions where appropriate.

2.2.2 If, subsequently, they are in any doubt about their familiarity with the equipment or its safe use they have a duty not to use the equipment until they are satisfied they can use it safely.

### 2.3 Training

2.3.1 Initial health and safety training covering fire, evacuation, and other key safety procedures including first aid for all representatives is to be carried out during induction by the relevant department manager or team leaders and signed off.

2.3.2 Work process and related equipment training is to be carried out by line managers or team leaders and recorded where appropriate.

2.3.3 Induction and training records are to be kept centrally by the Volunteer Support Manager. This training will be marked down and recorded so refresher sessions can be offered at the appropriate time.

# Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024

## 3. General health and safety precautions

### 3.1 Safety hazards and risk assessments

3.3.1 The food bank has carried out risk assessments of the hazards identified in food bank premises and at food bank activities carried out elsewhere and has put in place procedures to reduce the risk to a reasonable level. Any new activity or change in procedure or environment which is likely to present a hazard should be reported to the Operations Manager immediately.

### 3.2 Health and safety awareness

3.2.1 All representatives should be aware of health and safety matters and contribute to the overall safety of our work environment and participate in the risk assessment process.

### 3.3 Clothing and equipment

3.3.1 The food bank will provide all equipment (including safety equipment) and safety/work clothing necessary to carry out the role, whether it be staff or volunteers. Equipment training will be provided. Individuals are to use equipment or clothing provided appropriately and report any failures or deficiencies promptly to the Operations Manager. No personal equipment can be brought into the food bank without the approval of the Operations Manager and mandatory safety checks being carried out.

### 3.4 Working environment (including buildings)

3.4.1 The food bank has carried out a full check of the buildings leased and ensured that they are compliant with current fire safety requirements (Fire Precautions Workplace Regulations). Fire safety and evacuation procedures must be rigorously implemented with particular attention to the prevention of fire and the provision of safe evacuation routes which must be kept clear at all times.

3.4.2 If the food bank has 5 or more employees a written fire risk assessment will be completed and stored safely. It is recommended that a fire risk assessment is still carried out and written even if you have 4 employees or fewer, as good practice.

3.4.3 Evacuation plans will take into account those that are handicapped or have limited mobility and may take longer to get out of the building.

3.4.4 Working areas have been designed to ensure adequate space, light, temperature and ventilation for reasonable comfort and safety.

If the food bank doesn't own the building, they should work with the owner / landlord to ensure that appropriate statutory checks have and continue to be undertaken regarding such items listed below

- Asbestos register and management system
- Electrical wiring inspections (carried out every 5 years)
- Lightning protection where applicable
- Lifts and lifting equipment if provided.
- Powered door entry systems

## Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024

- Boilers

3.4.5 Corridors and working spaces must be kept clear of rubbish, equipment, cables or any other item that might constrain evacuation routes or present a tripping or other hazard.

3.4.6 Where construction work of any type is to be undertaken on the property then the food bank should refer to the Construction (Design and Management). Regulations as to what their duties are regarding the construction, cleaning and maintaining the building or work with owner/landlord to ensure duties are followed:  
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/cdm/2015/summary.htm>

### 3.5 Access for people with disabilities

3.5.1 The food bank, in conjunction with the building owners should provide access to (and evacuation from) the building for those with disabilities. Disabled toilets for wheelchair users and others with restricted capabilities should be provided where appropriate, reasonable and if possible within the building premises. Representatives with specific disabilities requiring special support will be individually assessed and appropriate reasonable provision made.

# Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024

## 4. Health & Safety Procedures

### 4.1 Introduction

4.4.1 These safety procedures have been compiled following risk assessments of likely hazards arising from the building, environment and activities carried out by the food bank. When new processes, activities or changes occur, additional assessments should be made and these procedures amended in a timely manner.

### 4.2 Personal safety

4.2.1 Volunteers must never be left to work alone in the building and, where practical, permanent staff should not be left working alone. Where this is unavoidable the following procedures should be employed:

- Have a personal safety policy in place
- Another member of staff must be available on the phone and informed who is working alone, and how long they will be working alone.
- The person working alone must have a phone to hand, remain behind locked doors and not allow anyone unknown to them personally to enter the building.
- When they leave, or at the planned leaving time, contact the other member of staff and have an escalation plan in place if they cannot be contacted.
- If there is any risk of danger, phone the police and then advise your colleague.
- Where there are 2 people working in widely separated parts of the building, keep in regular contact.

### 4.3 Working with children and adults with care and support needs people

4.3.1 Every effort should be made that vulnerable people are not placed at risk or pose a risk to others. Supported representatives must never be left to work alone, but properly supervised at all times. Wherever possible, vulnerable staff are not to be left alone with one other person for protracted periods of time.

### 4.4 New and expectant mothers

4.4.1 The food bank is to comply with current regulations in respect of new or expectant mothers, providing maternity leave, conditions of work, and work procedures that are both reasonable and practical for the health and safety of mother and child. In particular:

- An individual risk assessment is to be carried out and procedures or work patterns or hours reasonably adjusted to provide for safe working.
- Lifting food boxes or other heavy items by new or expectant mothers is prohibited.
- The risk assessments already in place should take into consideration those that are new or expectant mothers and they should be reviewed if a staff member or volunteer informs the food bank that they are pregnant.



# Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024

## 4.5 Children and young persons under 18

4.5.1 Representatives are only permitted to bring their children to work in exceptional circumstances. In this case they are required to supervise them personally at all times and ensure that their behaviour does not put themselves or others at risk.

4.5.2 Children and young people may only volunteer for specific activities in support of the food bank appropriate to their age and experience whilst supervised by parents or food bank staff (with the agreement of parents or guardians).

A record is to be kept of their attendance and activity, who is supervising them, and whether appropriate training was carried out. A child should never be left alone with an adult without the specific agreement of the parent. The food bank should check their insurance policies to ensure that activities involving children and young persons are covered. A safeguarding policy must be in place and all individuals working directly and unsupervised with children must be DBS checked.

The types of acceptable volunteering are:

- Simple administrative tasks including sending letters and filing etc.
- Helping parents at supermarket collection days, sorting food into boxes and handing out leaflets.
- Food sorting, packing emergency food boxes or other tasks appropriate for young people volunteering for social work with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Scout or Guide Movements or other recognised school/social group.

## 4.6 Waste disposal

4.6.1 All waste is to be disposed of in appropriate containers (cardboard, paper, food and rubbish). Cardboard, paper, and general rubbish is to be bagged and disposed of weekly through the contracted services.

4.6.2 Clothes if accepted should be bagged, separately stored where they cannot become a rodent or other safety hazard and disposed of weekly or monthly.

4.6.3 Food waste must be disposed of into containers that can be sealed shut, are made of appropriately robust material, are kept in good condition, and are easy to clean and disinfect. Final disposal of food waste must be in accordance with local authority rules.

## 4.7 Smoking (including vaping)

4.7.1 The food bank operates a No Smoking policy throughout all of their premises. Proper receptacles for the disposal of cigarettes are to be placed outside the outside doors and regularly emptied.

## 4.8 Alcohol or substance abuse

4.8.1 Alcohol, drugs and certain other substances (including medication) may have a detrimental effect on an individual's health and safety at work and may place other employees at risk. Employees must NOT consume such

## Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024

substances whilst at work or beforehand if the effects may have a detrimental effect on them at work.

- 4.8.2 If you have been prescribed medication which has a detrimental effect on you, you must discuss this with your line manager or team leader so a decision can be made whether you may attend work, and what work you can safely carry out.
- 4.8.3 Employees who know they have an alcohol, drug or related problem should voluntarily seek help, diagnosis and treatment. They may discuss their problem in confidence with the Operations Manager who can advise you where to get help.
- 4.8.4 National organisations which can help are:
- Alcoholics Anonymous - 0845 769 7555
  - Narcotics Anonymous - 0300 999 1212
  - We are with you -  
<https://www.wearewithyou.org.uk/help-and-advice/find-service/>
  - Local GP practices

### 4.9 Work-related stress

- 4.9.1 Although some stress at work may be unavoidable, the food bank will take all reasonable measures to prevent all work or task psychiatric illness or stress.
- 4.9.2 Representatives are encouraged to be open about issues relating to stress so that the food bank can take steps to reduce the risk of stress related illness, by, for example, adjusting certain conditions or workload or task load, and ensuring that all staff and volunteers receive support in the where necessary.
- 4.9.3 The Health and Safety Executive's Stress Management Standards webpage should be consulted for further details  
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/stress/standards/index.htm>

### 4.10 Violence, harassment and bullying

- 4.10.1 All reasonable security precautions have been and will continue to be taken to prevent the risk of violence against food bank staff and volunteers. The food bank welcomes suggestions to improve security and protection and will implement these where reasonable and practicable.
- 4.10.2 The food bank does not accept violence, bullying or harassment of its representatives under any circumstance. Disciplinary action, for employees, will be taken against any representatives responsible for such acts. Volunteers will be asked to leave the food bank. Anyone subject to this is encouraged to report this at once to the Operations Manager/CEO or any other member of staff they feel comfortable to address, at the earliest opportunity.
- 4.10.3 All complaints will be taken seriously and the food bank will investigate these matters fully, promptly and objectively. Disciplinary action for employees, including immediate dismissal, shall be taken against offending representatives if merited and volunteers will be removed from their role.

## Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024

As far as is reasonably practical, the nature of complaint and identities of those involved will be kept confidential.

### 4.11 Equipment

- 4.11.1 The food bank will provide all equipment necessary for staff and volunteers to carry out the tasks given to them. No private equipment may be brought in and used without the express permission of the Operations Manager, who will then ensure the equipment is safe to use and people are trained properly in its use.
- 4.11.2 All equipment held by the food bank will be registered or logged, maintained in a safe condition and in good repair. Where applicable, equipment is to be regularly checked for safety in accordance with current regulations, and records kept.
- 4.11.3 Staff and volunteers are not to use equipment they have not been trained to use. Equipment is to be used only for its due purpose and used correctly. Careless or incorrect use can result in personal injury and/or damage to the equipment.
- 4.11.4 Representatives are required to report any defects in the equipment, safety device or protective equipment they are issued with to their line manager/team leader or Operations Manager and not to use any defective equipment. Once the defects have been reported, the Operations manager, or team leader will enact the changes to repair or replace faulty equipment.

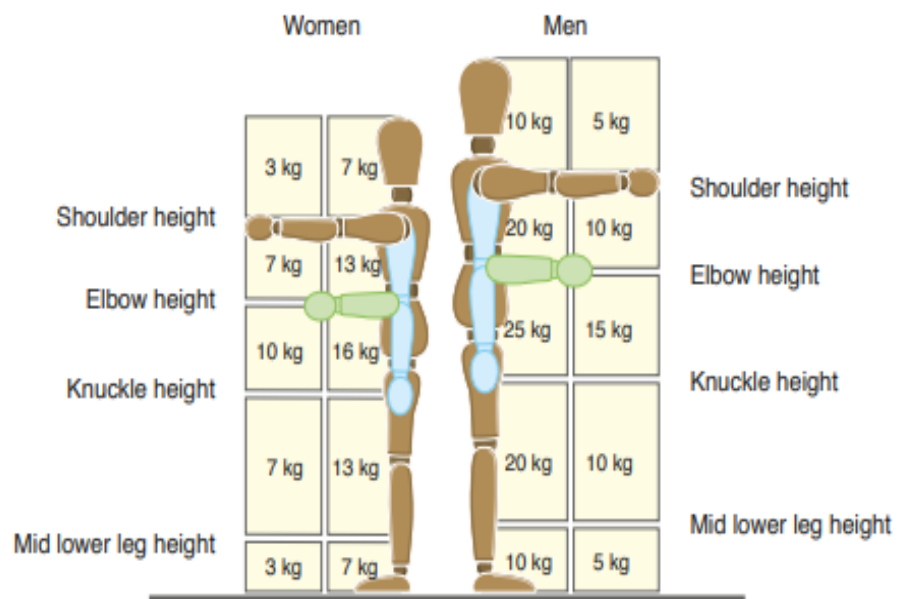
### 4.12 Manual handling and lifting

- 4.12.1 Much of the work at the food bank involves lifting and manual handling. Simple rules have been put in place to prevent back injuries through lifting and manual handling as follows:

All representatives must:

- Be given lifting instruction during the induction process in accordance with the health and safety guide “Manual handling at work”.  
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg143.htm>
- Tell line management or team leader if they have a history of back problems or other injuries which may affect their ability to carry out lifting tasks.
- Not lift heavy items (in accordance with the lifting guide displayed or above 20kg) without using provided lifting equipment or sharing the load. Guidance weights are given below from the ‘Manual handling at work’ guide.

## Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024



- Not lift food boxes or other heavy items on to high shelves above waist height.
- Use any lifting equipment provided (trolleys, pallet lift, etc) in a safe manner.
- Not over-reach or twist even when lifting light items.
- Be shown the manual handling posters which are to be prominently displayed and used during the briefing/induction process and in the food bank premises
- Take particular care when loading or unloading the van to ensure additional strain is not caused when lifting items on or off the van floor

### 4.13 Working at height

4.13.1 Loading or removing food from store shelving is the only activity routinely involving working at height. The following procedures apply to all staff and volunteers in the food bank:

- The mobile step ladder only must be used to load or remove food boxes from shelves. The steps must be checked before use.
- All warehouse staff and volunteers must be trained in these procedures.
- Only representatives under supervision may use the purpose-built mobile step ladder with safety rail to stack and remove food boxes. This is a 2-person job, one on the steps, the other passes boxes up/down.
- Boxes are to be limited to one layer of tins or a maximum estimated weight of 10kg for all individuals.
- Industrial shelving used for the storage of food must be securely fixed and marked and loaded with the safe working load.

4.13.2 Other occasions where a ladder is needed, the following procedures apply:

## Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024

- Only ladders registered and checked by food bank staff and volunteers are to be used. A record of safety checks must be kept.
- Before use the ladder is to be checked for safety in accordance with the leaflet secured by the ladder storage location. The ladder must be undamaged and have serviceable rubber footings.
- Ladders and step ladders are to be placed on a Ladder Register and inspected on a 6-monthly basis by a competent person.
- The ladder is to be returned to the storage area after use.
- To prevent the ladder slipping it must be placed securely at a 75-degree angle (bottom to be 25cms away for every 1m in height).
- No ladder longer than 3 metres may be used unless fixed securely or held firmly by a second person.
- Overreaching and the carrying of loads should be avoided.
- If a fluorescent light in the food bank needs changing, then a working at height risk assessment is to be carried out and the appropriate equipment hired with representatives trained in its use to undertake the task. Or alternatively an outside contractor shall be employed to undertake the task.

### 4.14 Use of Vehicles

- 4.14.1 The food bank vehicles are only to be driven by qualified permanent employees or temporarily authorised volunteers on details agreed by the Food bank Warehouse and Logistics Manager or Food bank Operations Manager only.
- 4.14.2 Drivers must be over the age of 25, hold a full driving licence with no more than 6 penalty points, and have at least 3 years driving experience. A copy of the driving licence is to be given to the appropriate manager as a record prior to using the vehicle. Temporary authorisation is to be recorded in the van driver's log and signed by one of those listed at paragraph 4.14.6 below only.
- 4.14.3 Driving licences should be rechecked on a 6-monthly basis or yearly at a minimum. And this check recorded by the Volunteer Support Manager
- 4.14.4 The vehicle is to be maintained by the food bank in accordance with the Manufacturer's Instructions, and full records kept. The Warehouse Logistics Manager is to carry out the daily/weekly driver's checks stipulated in the handbook, ensure the vehicle is kept clean and in a roadworthy condition, and arrange for its servicing and MOT testing. Insurance is the legal responsibility of the vehicle owner.
- 4.14.5 Drivers are not to drive under the influence of drugs (including prescribed medications if they have an effect on the driver's capabilities) or alcohol, or if they have consumed alcohol within 8 hours of commencing driving. Drivers are to exercise due caution and common sense when driving, and fully comply with legal and Road Safety obligations.
- 4.14.6 A daily vehicle check should be completed before the start of your journeys, but at a minimum it should be checked once a week.

## Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024

4.14.7 The Drivers Logbook must be completed fully prior to and on completion of each journey. Details may only be authorised by:

- Warehouse Logistics Manager
- Operations Manager
- The CEO

4.14.8 Drivers unfamiliar with the van must first be given a period of familiarisation by the appropriate team member.

4.14.9 Van drivers are to ensure that loads are properly secured so as to prevent damage or an accident when opening the doors.

### **4.15 Electrical safety**

4.15.1 Anyone using electricity or electrical equipment must be aware of the danger of electrocution, shock, burns, fire and explosion. All precautions must be taken to reduce such risks. The food bank has devised, as is reasonable, safe systems for working with electrical equipment.

4.15.2 Fixed wiring electrical systems are to be checked every 5 years by a local electrician. This should be organised by the food bank if the premises are owned or by the landlord. No food bank representatives are permitted to interfere with or attempt to maintain or repair fixed electrical systems.

4.15.3 Representatives are to report any fault or defect in fixed or portable electrical equipment to the Warehouse Logistics Manager/ Operations Manager or Team Leader, who should then isolate the equipment until it is repaired. Representatives must not replace fuses as the cause of failure may not have been identified.

4.15.4 All portable or moveable electrical equipment is to be registered and checked for electrical safety annually. Records are to be kept showing serial numbers, location and date of last check, and equipment should be labelled accordingly. Out of date equipment should not be used.

4.15.5 Electrical overload should be avoided: in principle only one item should be connected to one plug or extension cable. Multiple extensions should not be used if the possible combined power requirement exceeds 3kw. In addition, care must be taken in using extension cables to avoid a tripping hazard, and ensure they are properly routed away from heat sources or sharp edges.

4.15.6 Representatives can contribute to safe working by:

- Using equipment only as described in the manufacturer's instructions and with due regard to the safety of themselves and others. Seek training when appropriate.
- Never use electrical equipment with wet hands and keep liquids (especially hot beverages) clear of electrical equipment.
- Reporting faults promptly to the Warehouse Logistics Manager/ Operations Manager or Team Leader.

## Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024

- Looking out for faults or potential risks as follows:
  - Damage to insulation on cables
  - Damage to plug
  - Exposed wires or loose connections
  - Overheating
  - Overloaded plugs on extension cables

### 4.16 Electricity-related injury

In the event of a person suffering an electric shock it is important to:

- Turn off the power and (if possible) isolate the supply. Do not touch the person until this is done. Where this is not feasible use a non-conducting object such as a wooden broom handle to remove the live cable/item from the person.
- Call either a fully trained first aider, or the person responsible for getting medical assistance. Allow that person to take charge in the case of injury.
- Seek medical help immediately if the victim is unconscious.
- Cool minor burns with water and cover with a clean dry cloth or dressing.
- Report the incident to the Warehouse Logistics Manager/ Operations Manager or Team Leader.

### 4.17 COSHH

4.17.1 Some substances in use at the food bank may cause injury or damage to health if spilt or used inappropriately. In a food bank circumstance, this will primarily relate to items like bleach or cleaning products that can irritate the skin and eyes or cause harm if ingested. In principle:

- All substances must have a safety datasheet provided by the manufacturer/supplier from which a COSHH assessment can be carried out. This is normally provided by the manufacture of the product when requested from their website.
- All substances hazardous to health must be stored securely and made only available for use by those who use them for the task for which they were obtained.
- A risk assessment should be undertaken to identify any hazards, even in items like general cleaning products and household goods. A template risk assessment can be [found here](#).
- Personnel using these substances must be made aware of the correct use of the substances, risk they present, and the immediate treatment if inadvertently put at risk due to spillage or inappropriate use.
- Incidents involving COSHH substance must be reported to the Warehouse Logistics Manager/ Operations Manager or Team Leader.

### 4.18 Emergency food

4.18.1 Food collected by the food bank is for the provision of emergency food for people in crisis. It is vital that the food collected, stored and distributed is in a condition fit for consumption by the public. To this end:

## **Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024**

- Each item of food collected is to be checked to ensure it is undamaged and within its consume by date prior to storage, and procedures put in place to ensure that damaged or out-of-date food is not given out.
- Food must be stored in a temperate, dry and rodent or pest free environment, approved by the District Council Environmental Health Advisor.
- The warehouse is to be kept clean and tidy.
- Staff and volunteers must be given clear instruction as to the level of hygiene required for handling the range of food products donated and undertake the appropriate training where necessary.

### **4.19 Rodent and Pest Control**

4.19.1 The following procedures are put in place to prevent rodents and other pests becoming a health hazard:

- The food bank warehouse must be rodent and pest secure as far as is practicable and reasonable. Doors, windows, and walls to the outside must be free from holes or gaps which would allow access to rodents and other pests like birds or flies.
- Food must be stored off the floor.
- Food packaging must be unbroken and where spillage occurs it must be cleared up quickly and not left to attract rodent or pests.

### **4.20 Management and handling of cash**

4.20.1 The visibility and accessibility of cash poses a risk of possibly violent theft, so the following steps are to be taken to minimise this risk:

- Staff should not resist theft if there is a risk of violence.
- Cash should be kept in a lockable box or till and in a lockable cabinet or safe prior to banking.
- Only small floats of up to £250 should be kept in till or cash boxes.
- Cash to bank runs should be done by 2 people if the amount exceeds £1000.00 in cash. Different routes, time of day and representatives involved should be considered to prevent potential theft.
- Individuals should refer to the Personal Safety Policy if they are to handle cash on their own.



# Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024

## 5. Fire precautions and procedures

### 5.1 Fire precautions

- 5.1.1 All representatives and visitors to the building are required to familiarise themselves with the position of fire alarms, telephones, escape routes and firefighting equipment nearest to them.
- 5.1.2 All visitors are to be escorted whilst in the building and be booked in and out within a reception or meeting area so that a record is available should evacuation be necessary.
- 5.1.3 Fire alarms, detectors and extinguishers are to be checked regularly to ensure they are in good working order and records retained.
- 5.1.4 Emergency routes and exits are to be well signed, illuminated where necessary, and exit routes kept clear at all times.
- 5.1.5 Representatives are to be given familiarisation training in the use of fire extinguishers annually.
- 5.1.6 The fire evacuation plan will be exercised at least once every calendar year, reviewed by the Warehouse Logistics Manager/ Operations Manager or Fire warden and report written. All staff and volunteers must comply with fire evacuation procedures on hearing the fire alarm. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action for staff or removal from the role for volunteers.
- 5.1.7 Where the food bank has more than five staff members then a fire risk assessment should be produced covering how a fire is discovered, fighting the fire and evacuation. This should be produced in conjunction with the owner/landlord of the building where applicable.

### 5.2 In the event of a fire

- 5.2.1 Any person discovering a fire is to raise the alarm by shouting “fire, fire, fire”, activate the nearest alarm, and call for the Fire Brigade by dialling 999 or 112.
- 5.2.2 Fires should only be tackled if it is safe to do so: there is a clear escape route, fire extinguishers of the appropriate type are available, and you are confident in the use of the extinguisher.
- 5.2.3 All personnel should ensure all others in their area are alert to the fire and should evacuate the building by the shortest possible route, only closing doors or windows if time permits, and assemble at the designated assembly point in the main meeting area outside, like a car park. Personnel should not delay to collect personal belongings.
- 5.2.4 On evacuation a staff member or key volunteer should take the record of personnel in the building to the assembly point and call the roll to establish whether everyone is safely out of the building. If not, they should inform the fire brigade that there are people left in the building, and their identity.

## Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024

- 5.2.5 All personnel evacuated are to remain at the assembly point until released by the Warehouse Logistics Manager/ Operations Manager/ relevant Team Leader or fire brigade.
- 5.2.6 Every event of fire should be reported to the Operations Manager who is to report this in writing to HSE as required by law. The Operations Manager will also investigate the circumstances of the fire and determine whether further training or procedures can be put in place to reduce the risk of a similar incident occurring again.

### 5.3 Fire extinguishers

- 5.3.1 All modern fire extinguishers are red but they are labelled to show what type they are and what type of fire to use them on. The correct type of fire extinguisher only should be used to deal with a fire as follows:

Type	Type of fire
Water	Carbonaceous materials (wood, paper, fabrics etc)
Foam	Carbonaceous material or flammable liquids (as above plus petrol, oil, solvents)
Carbon Dioxide	Electrical fires, flammable liquids, & gasses
Dry Powder	All types of fire

- 5.3.2 Fire blankets should be provided in a working kitchen environment, commonly used to extinguish fires started by fat, oil or grease. They must be hung on display but closest to a point of retreat from a fire. Representatives should be trained in its use.

## Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024

### 6. Bomb alert or other terrorist alert

6.1 The risk of a terrorist attack is rare. The following guidance is given to reduce the risk of panic or injury:

- In the event of a terrorist attack in a crowded place, you should follow the process of RUN, HIDE, TELL. You can find further information on this process [here](#) and on the [UK Government's website](#).
- If anyone should receive a terrorist threat over the phone they should try to establish the nature of the threat, where, and when. Try and establish the gender, age, any identifying markers like an accent, background noise (e.g. pub/traffic) of the caller and report these details to the police either via 999 or 112.
- DO NOT PANIC but raise the alarm through a member of staff or key volunteer.
- Only evacuate the building if the threat is specific to the building. If so evacuate calmly to a place of safety like a car park and await further instructions.
- Make sure you have a clear escape route and your exits are clearly marked and not blocked.
- Have a plan in place to provide additional assistance to help those with disabilities or limited mobility.

# Leeds North and West Foodbank - Health & Safety Policy and procedures 2024

## 7. Emergency First Aid

- 7.1 It is the responsibility of the first aider/appointed person to maintain adequately stocked first aid boxes. These are located in: every foodbank centre and the warehouse near the exit. All personnel are to familiarise themselves as to their location and the list of First Aid qualified personnel, if applicable or person appointed to take charge of first aid arrangement.
- 7.2 The Operations Manager/ CEO will arrange for a first aid risk assessment to be carried out and based on this assessment training for a number of personnel to provide adequate cover for the building. A published list of qualified personnel and their location will be placed at reception.
- 7.3 In the event of an incident requiring first aid the person first on the scene should:
  - Call for help
  - Assist the first aid qualified person/person in charge of first aid arrangement as required.
  - Call for an ambulance as necessary
  - Report to the relevant member of the team
- 7.4 The first person providing first aid should:
  - Carry out first aid until help arrives
  - Advise ambulance staff what happened and what treatment was given
- 7.5 The First aider/appointed person should record the incident in the accident book. Report the accident to the Operations Manager who will report the accident in accordance with RIDDOR and make a report to the trustees, if appropriate.

## 8. Reporting of accidents, near misses or serious incidents

- 8.1 All accidents or near misses are to be reported to the First Aider/Appointed Person/ Operations Manager for investigation as some accidents are required by law to report accident or ill health at work. (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013)  
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/>
- 8.2 In general every incident which results in, or could have resulted in the death, serious injury or injury over 7 days (including that caused by violence) must be reported to the HSE within 10 days or 15 days if a 7 day reportable injury.
- 8.3 Injury to members of the public have to be reported if they travel from the scene of the incident to hospital and receive treatment.
- 8.4 All accidents resulting in injury should be entered in the accident book.