

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Events Safety Advisory Group Policy

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) Safety Advisory Group (SAG) was established in 2014; it is an advisory group with no legal status but is considered to be good practice.

Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs) have been in existence for many years, to some extent as a consequence of the recommendations of Lord Justice Taylor following his inquiry into the Hillsborough Tragedy of 1989. Whilst this encouraged the establishment of SAGs in relation to football it was also recognised that there are also potential advantages in terms of SAGs for a broad range of other events. LCCC SAG considers the many types of outdoor events hosted in the council area.

This document has been developed to underpin best practice guidance from The Purple Guide and represent a system of governance for the Safety advisory Group.

2.0 PURPOSE OF THE SAG

The SAG provides a quality assurance process in terms of the safety arrangements for events by bringing together officers of the Council, Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI), Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) and Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) as core members of the group. The SAG has:

- agreed Terms of Reference; a screening method for deciding which events should present before the SAG;
- formal meetings with recorded minutes.

It is the policy of LCCC Safety Advisory Group to, so far as reasonably practicable, *offer advice in order to ensure the highest possible standards of public safety at events and to encourage the wellbeing of those that could be affected by such events*. In this context this could include those attending the event, but also those in the surrounding areas that may be affected by the impact of it.

LCCC SAG is not responsible for review of safe systems of work of event organisations/crews. However, it will be relevant to consider the consequences of work related incidents during periods of public access to the event.

The SAG does not make any decisions on behalf of LCCC as its role is advisory and as such it has no authority to either approve or ban events. The decision-making authority is delegated to the officers of LCCC. Where other agencies may exercise their own statutory decision making authority, it is stressed that this is the determination of that authority and not the Safety Advisory Group.

The overall responsibility for the safety of persons at an event lies with the event organiser, venue owner/operator and management team.

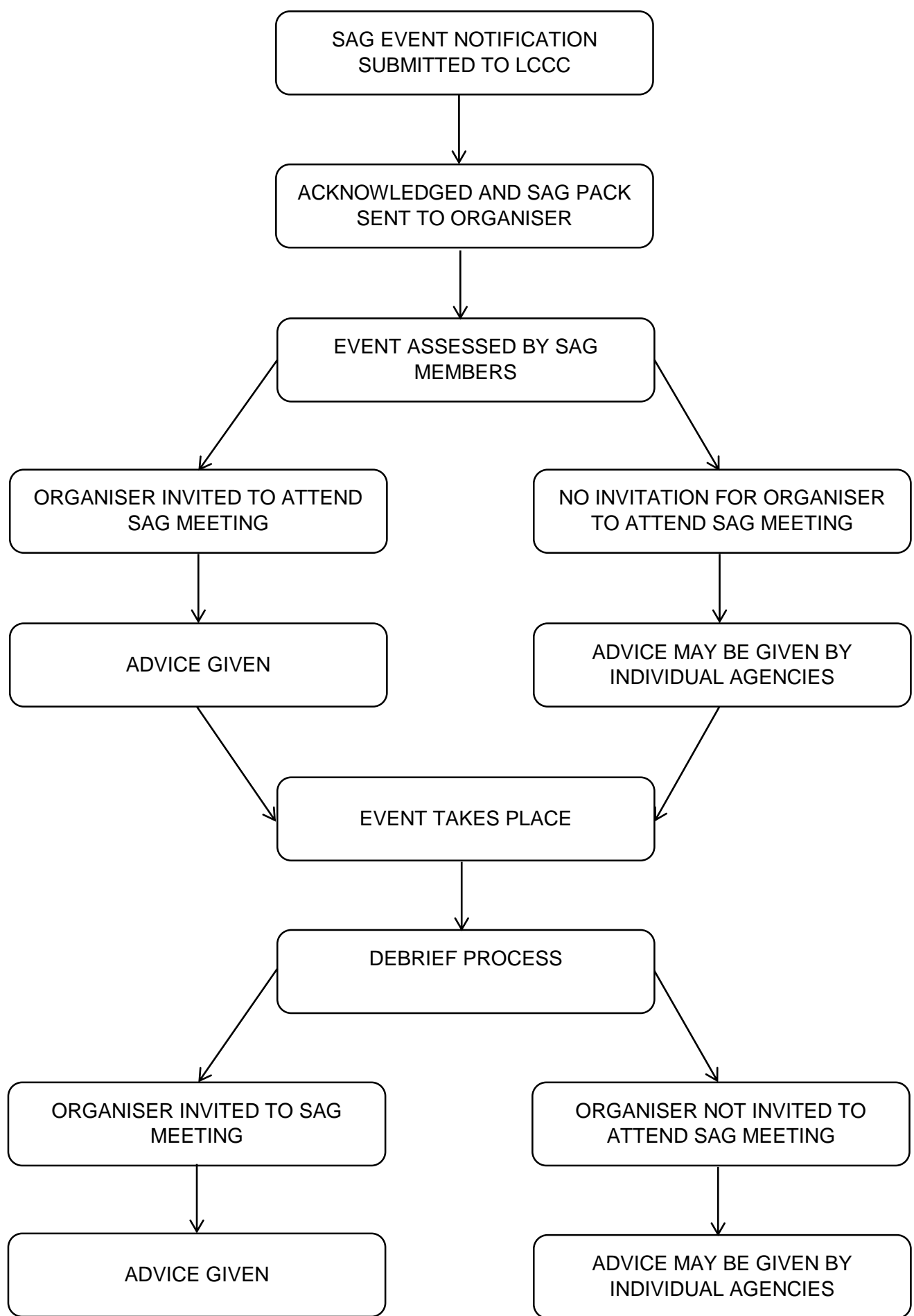
Members of the Safety Advisory Group must declare any material conflict of interest in relation to any matters put before the Group, prior to any discussion on that matter. Should this interest be considered prejudicial, then that person should consider withdrawing, to be replaced by an appropriate party agreed with the Group.

The lessons learned via the SAG's processes and procedures will be applied for the benefit of all events within its area of responsibility.

3.0 COMMUNICATION

The SAG is bound by its Terms of Reference and will follow the process detailed in Figure 1.0. Information for event organisers is available on LCCC website and is reviewed as necessary.

Figure 1.0



4.0 REVIEW

This Policy and Terms of Reference are reviewed annually in August.