

COMMUNITY LIFESAVING PLAN

OUR AIM

Whilst this may sound clichéd, our overall aim is to end the loss of life and to reduce the number incidents in the Cowes area. We will do this by working with the community to help people make safer decisions, provide a safer environment and to ensure that there is safety and rescue cover. The final pages of this plan show our Planned interventions together with the local businesses and organisations.

COWES LIFEBOAT STATION

Cowes Lifeboat Station has been operational since 2008 and was officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen on 25 July 2012.

The station operates the B Class Atlantic 85 lifeboat. This boat carries 4 crew which normally operates along the River Medina and out into the Solent from Newtown and Wootton and up Southampton Water but if required can be tasked further afield.

As well as the lifeboat, Cowes Lifeboat Station has a fundraising Guild, Education and visits team and Coastal Safety team.

Station Staffing:

Boat Crew	19	Shore Crew	8
Education and Visits	19	Coastal Safety	1
Station Officials	13	Guild Fundraisers (west)	15
		RNLI Branch (east)	8

The figures above show the distribution of our volunteers within the structure of the station but do not include where some individuals wear more than one hat, as this could be confusing when looking at the total number of volunteers.

Our Atlantic 85 launches on exercise on Thursday evenings at approximately 1900 hrs, subject to operational requirements.

OUR COMMUNITY

Cowes is an all-weather, 24hr commercial port and safe haven. It is the estuary of the River Medina which is navigable up to the Island’s county town of Newport and opens onto the Solent at the North, a very busy waterway for commercial shipping in and out of Southampton as well as the very busy leisure boating activities. The port is formed of the two towns of Cowes (12172) and East Cowes (10100) (figures from 2011 census). Cowes Lifeboat draws its operational volunteers from Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood and several of its non-operational volunteers are from East Cowes and further afield on the Island. The population can be broken down as follows;

Under 18’s (youth)	17%
Starting Out	9%
Settling/settled	37%
Actively Retired	37%

This population is very heavily increased with seasonal residents, summer visitors, road and ferry travel and by no means the least, Cowes week, Round the Island Race and other major sailing events.

KEY STATISTICS

Summary 2008 – 2016

Launches	431
People rescued	519
Lives saved	4

Those most at risk in our area are;

- Sailing Yachts
- Rowing
- Motorboating

Whilst these are the 3 highest risk areas of concern we cannot lose sight of all the other coastal activities that impact on our services. These include and are not limited to;

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Walking | Angling from Boat | Swimming |
| Dinghy Sailing | Kite surfing | Kayaking and canoeing |

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY ASSETS

In addition to the regular emergency assets (Fire service, Police and Ambulance), we are well served by the following emergency assets;

RNLI Lifeboat, B Class Atlantic 85 based at Cowes RNLI Lifeboat Station

Independent Lifeboats at Solent Rescue, Hamble rescue, Ryde and GAFIRS.

HM Coastguard Coastal Rescue Teams (CRTs) based at Bembridge and Needles.

HMCG Search and Rescue (SAR) Helicopter, based at Lee on Solent.

WHAT ARE WE CURRENTLY DOING

Respect the Water. The current high impact safety awareness campaign has been effectively rolled out on the island and is highlighted during all visits and open days.

Joint rescue service exercises. These are ongoing and are arranged directly between the crew and other agencies.

Lifejacket clinics. Sessions readily available to show the basic safety checks to be done on your own lifejacket(s).

Presentations. Coastal safety presentations to local groups and clubs.

RNLI Advice on board and ashore. Trained experts offering safety advice for private vessels.

Community awareness open days. Station open days with the Education and Visits Team as well as the Coastal Safety Team on hand to give advice.

RNLI Youth Education projects. Our Education team is working with schools in the locality around water safety.

RNLI Visitor projects. Promoting safety around the water through public engagement.



GET INVOLVED

Have you ever thought about joining the RNLI community? The RNLI relies on volunteers to give their expertise, enthusiasm and time in whatever way they can to help save lives at sea. Cowes Lifeboat Station is looking for volunteers in all areas:

Boat Crew

There is a constant need for more boat crew. As a member of the boat crew you will work as part of the front-line lifesaving team afloat. You will be trained as shore crew first and then taken through the training as boat crew. The training and exercising is ongoing. There is an age limit for joining as boat crew, that is 17 (with parental consent) and up to the age of 50.

Contact details; Mark Southwell. E-mail cowes@rnli.org.uk or apply at the station

Shore Crew

We are currently looking for volunteer shore crew. The role saves lives by assisting with the safe launch and recovery of the lifeboat on service and exercise. As part of the shore crew team you will contribute to the overall standard of the station, lifeboat and equipment including making the lifeboat ready for service following completion of a service or exercise. Training will be provided.

Contact details; Mark Southwell. E-mail cowes@rnli.org.uk or apply at the station

Community Safety Advisers

We are also looking for Volunteer Community Safety Advisers to assist our Community Safety Officer provide face-to-face advice to help save lives at sea and along our coastline. This is a great role for those who have good communication and people skills. It is desirable to have knowledge of one or more coastal or on-the-water activities (such as sailing, motor boating, kayaking, angling or waterside activities). Volunteers need to live within commuting distance of the lifeboat station. Training on our safety messages will be provided.

Contact details; Tony Reeve. E-mail cowes@rnli.org.uk or apply at the station



Lifeboats

RNLI Cowes Community Lifesaving Plan – November 2017

Education and Visits Team

Is your skill in education or being part of a visits team showing people of all ages around the station, briefing them on the history and progress of the RNLI and in particular our station here in Cowes. Why not look at being part of our very strong and effective education and visits team. You need to have a passion for the role and training will be given.

Contact details; Penny MacLean. E-mail cowes@rnli.org.uk or apply at the station

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736). Registered charity number 20003326 in the Republic of Ireland



PLANNED INTERVENTIONS

General Boating – Mechanical Failures			
Planned Interventions	Lead	Partnership Involvement	Resources
Promote boating safety through clubs	CSO	Sailing and rowing clubs & sailing schools	Safety leaflets, CD's, presentation materials and volunteers
Promote and carry out advice on board (AOB) in marinas and clubs	CSO	East Cowes Marina, Shepards Wharf, Island Harbour, Cowes Yacht Haven and all clubs	Flyers and checklists
Promote and carry out advice ashore	CSO	All clubs	Flyers and checklists, presentations
Life jacket clinics	CSO	Chandlers, all clubs and marinas	RNLI life jacket display material, leaflets, booklets and volunteers
Promote engine checking	CSO	All clubs, marinas, chandlers and Harbour Master	Engine checklist flyers, leaflets, booklets and volunteers
Coastal safety awareness and "Calling for Help" presentations	CSO	All clubs and marinas	Roadshow, Gazebo, "calling for Help", "Float" and other safety display information
Broad circulation of RNLI leaflets providing safety advice to all activities afloat	CSO	Harbourmasters office, All clubs and marinas	Distribution of booklets and leaflets relevant to location. Better boating booklet

Hills and Coastal Path Incidents			
Planned Interventions	Lead	Partnership Involvement	Resources
Check on warning signs on coastal paths	CSO	Isle of Wight Council and Local Councils	Volunteers
RNLI Dog Walking	CSO & Visits and Educ team	Vets, Pet stores, Red Funnel Ferries, Campsites and local cafes	RNLI Dog walking flyers distributed to all locations
HM Coastguard patrols providing advice and warnings of risks	HMCG	HMCG CRT's	
Promote awareness and water safety to the young	Visits and Educ team, CSO	Local schools and youth establishments	Cowes RNLI Visits and Education Team already have this well in hand. CSO and team to assist where they can.



Missing Persons			
Planned Intervention	Lead	Partnership Involvement	Resources
Liaise with Police and HMCG if called upon to assist	CSO	Police and HMCG	All station volunteers
Promote good and effective communications	CSO and Visits & Educ team	Schools, holiday venues, training establishments, clubs	

Diving			
Planned Intervention	Lead	Partnership Involvement	Resources
Engage divers by presentations and face to face contact at dive schools/clubs	CSO	Diving schools/clubs PADI or BCSA	HQ dive club packs
Promote health checks and medicals	CSO	Dive schools	

Leisure Angling			
Planned intervention	Lead	Partnership Involvement	Resources
Introduce safety message to tackle and bait shops	CSO	Tackle and bait shops	RNLI angling resources
Promote safety message to angling clubs	CSO	Angling clubs	RNLI angling resources

Dog Walking			
Planned Intervention	Lead	Partnership Involvement	Resources
Vet practices and pet shops asked to display posters and have flyers available for customers	CSO	Vet practices and pet shops	Posters and flyers