

Litter pick notes:

The Council insurance company have confirmed:

“To ensure (*insurance*) coverage for a litter pick, the Council must conduct a risk assessment, provide appropriate personal protective equipment, conduct a briefing on the day, and establish procedures for handling sharp objects, needles, and syringes.”

With regard to any age limits for volunteers, the insurance company have confirmed:

“There is not an age limit on volunteers under the Public Liability. However, if any of the volunteers are under the age of 18, the Council will need to be compliant with the following:

- Your organisation has not had any third-party inspections with a grading of Inadequate, Requires Urgent Improvement, Weak or Unsatisfactory.
- You have in place a written safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures that clearly set out the actions to take in response to child and vulnerable adult abuse.
- You carry out safer recruitment and selection processes that include the seeking of appropriate criminal records checks, alongside a renewal and update process.
- All employees and volunteers engaged in regulated activity and/or activity that brings them into contact with children or vulnerable adults receive safeguarding awareness training including refresher training.
- You have one or more designated practitioners for safeguarding to support other practitioners in the organisation to recognise and respond to concerns about abuse.
- You retain employment records, safeguarding checks, safeguarding policies and procedures and safeguarding records for at least the prevailing regulatory best practice period.”

Example of a Risk Assessment for Litter Picking Event

Site Risk Assessment

Location (s)				
Date				
Meeting place				
Event Organiser				
Author of risk assessment				
Potential /hazards (harm)	Recommended Control Measures	Action Required	Action by who	Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)
Impact from vehicles (cuts / bruises / breaks / possible death)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter picking should not be undertaken on highways or within close, unguarded proximity to roads or areas where there are moving vehicles or where the speed limit exceeds 40mph. On roads with a speed limit of up to 40 mph, a sideways safety zone of 0.5 metres from the highway applies and this should not be entered into. Litter picking should only be undertaken where there are footpaths or verges more than 0.5 metres from the highway. All volunteers are to wear hi-viz jackets at all times. Care to be taken where there is a need to cross a road. 	<p>Choose route that does not involve roads or roads without suitable footpaths.</p> <p>Advise volunteers not to litterpick on roads at briefing.</p>	Event organiser	High
Trips / Slips due to uneven ground / kerbs (cuts / bruises / breaks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Recommend volunteers wear strong sensible footwear with ankle support for activity and not open-toed footwear or flip flops. •Do not pick on or close to the edge of steep slopes, watercourses or ditches. 	<p>Identify hazards in risk assessment and advise volunteers at briefing.</p> <p>Posters also recommend suitable footwear</p>	Event organiser	Medium
Overgrown hedges or low hanging branches (cuts/bruises/injury to eyes and face)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers are to be aware of their surroundings on the route. Avoid reaching into hedges and undergrowth that may expose face, eyes and skin to scratches. Take care with equipment. 	<p>Identify hazards in risk assessment and advise volunteers at briefing.</p>	Event organiser	Medium
Injury from aggressive dogs or livestock (cuts/bites/bruises)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid sites where there is known to be dangerous animals such as dogs or livestock with their young. 	<p>Identify hazards in risk assessment and advise volunteers at briefing.</p>	Event organiser	Medium

Potential /hazards (harm)	Recommended Control Measures	Action Required	Action by who	Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)
Injuries from Sharps/broken glass/hazardous substances/marine life/unidentified items washed up on shoreline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers are to be aware of possible hazards and told to avoid direct hand contact with litter. Anything hazardous such as syringes, asbestos, animal waste, noxious materials, hazardous materials such as palm oil, marine life such as jelly fish, should not be handled by volunteers and should be reported to the event organisers who will advise TDC of any issues for collection. Broken glass should be placed in a solid container not a sack. 	Identify hazards in risk assessment and advise volunteers at briefing. Provide a solid container for broken glass i.e. a plastic bucket. Volunteers are given maps to indicate where hazards are located so that TDC operatives can remove them	Event organiser	Medium
Injury from lifting heavy objects (strain/exhaustion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers should be told not to lift or move heavy items. Volunteers should be advised not to overfill sacks. Items should only be picked using the litter picking stick. Items too heavy or big to lift should be reported to the event organiser who will advise TDC of any issues for collection. 	Identify hazards in risk assessment and advise volunteers at briefing. Advise how to use litter picking stick correctly	Event organiser	Medium
Risk from inclement weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check weather forecast and advise volunteers to wear appropriate clothing Keep away from coastal areas and woodlands in strong winds and rough waves In very hot sunny weather advise volunteers to apply sunscreen and to wear a hat and take plenty of water to stay hydrated 	Identify hazards in risk assessment and advise volunteers at briefing.	Event organiser	Medium
Drowning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check tide times before deciding on time of litter pick in coastal or tidal areas Stay away from fast flowing rivers and rough seas Stay on paths and keep away from mud flats 	Identify hazards in risk assessment and advise volunteers at briefing.	Event organiser	High
Injury or death from rock falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay away from cliff edges and bottom of cliffs 	Identify hazards in risk assessment and advise volunteers at briefing.	Event organiser	Medium

