

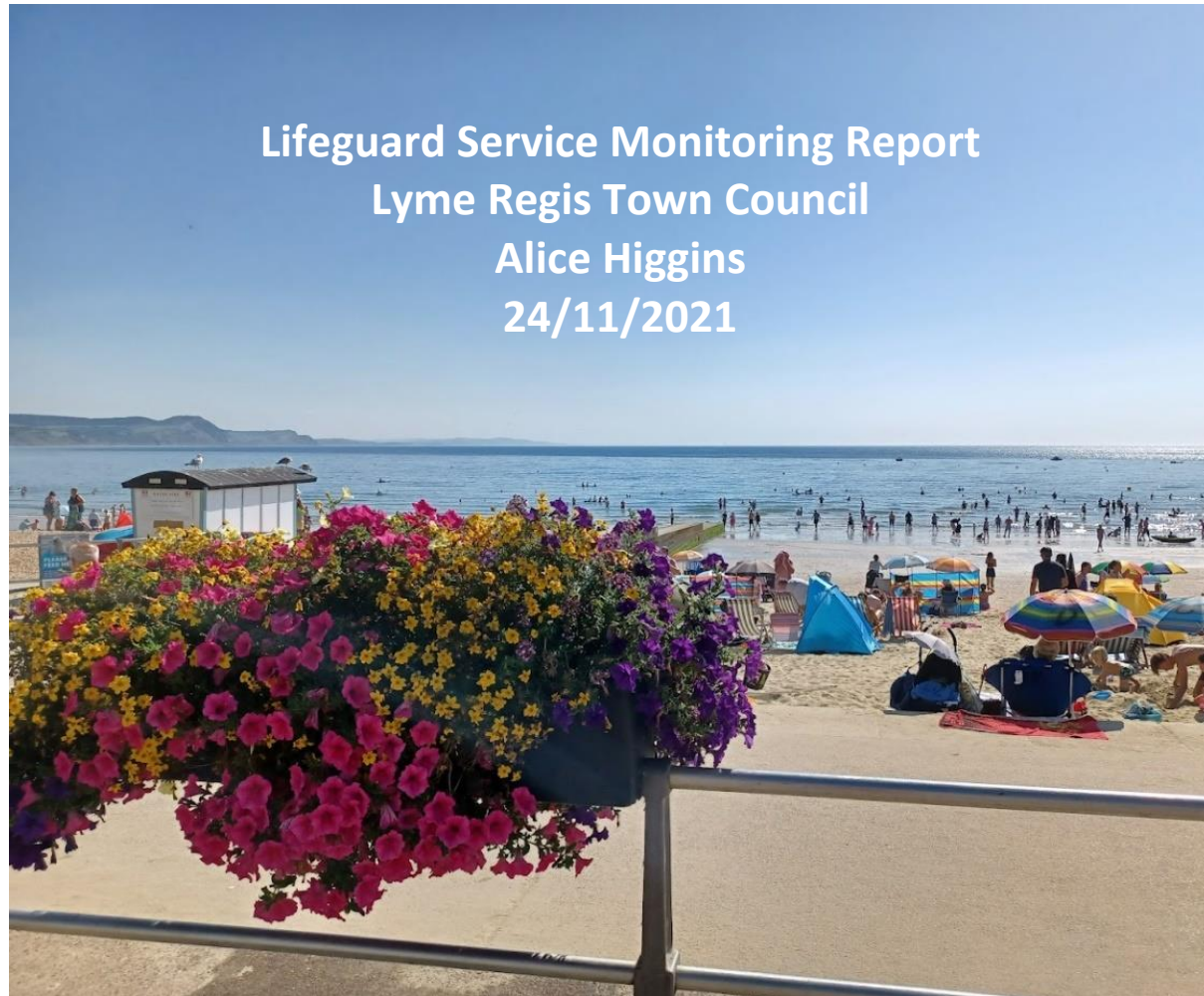


Lyme Regis

Town Council



Lifeguard Service Monitoring Report
Lyme Regis Town Council
Alice Higgins
24/11/2021



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1. Performance against contract

Service delivery Scheme of compliment

Dates of operation:

[Please refer to season dates and staffing levels as provided at beginning of season in opening season date letter].



[Photo: April 2021 Selection Day]

Season Dates and Staffing Overview 2021:

Area	Beach Name	Early Season	No LGs	Full Start	No LGs	Main start	No LGs	Peak start	No LGs	Peak Finish	No LGs	Main Finish	Full Finish	Late Season
WEST DORSET	Lyme Regis							10-Jul	3	05-Sep				

Hours of operation:

1000 – 1800

Staffing levels:

The RNLI met the scheme of compliment (SoC) 100% in 2021. A successful Selection Day was held on the 24th April at Weymouth Main Beach for 20 candidates applying for 5 jobs (2 for Main and 3 for Peak Season). 8 Lifeguards were inducted from the 21st June ready to be operational on the 10th July at both Lyme Regis and Greenhill beaches (Weymouth Main Beach operational from the 1st April and West Bay, East Beach the 1st May). Two further volunteer inductions were held for 12 lifeguards, 1 of which gained a paid position for Peak Season. Our volunteers were invaluable in August, helping to cover the beaches when 6 of the team had either tested positive for Covid or come in contact and were asked to isolate.



[Photo: Weymouth & West Dorset 2021 Team]

Equipment summary by beach:

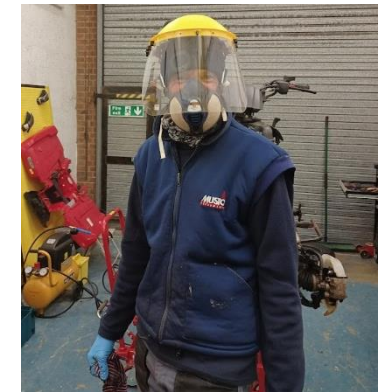
	Lyme Regis
ATV	-
Van	-
4WD	-
IRB	-
RWC	-
Boards	2
RNLI lifeguard facility	1 BLU



[Photos: Lifeguard shoreline July 2021 (Left) and the BLU set up/location 2021 (Right)]

Due to the considerably reduced beach level (see photo to the left below) the Beach Lifeguard Unit (BLU) was installed away from its usual position (near to the wall and Kayak concessionaire) this season. This more central location did, however, allow for greater interaction with members of public who were based on the sandy section of beach along with allowing for additional protection from any undercutting (as per the last two seasons) when spring tides coincide with large swells that remove a considerable amount of sand from the beach. Unfortunately, the Unit was not able to be placed on the tower frame this year, which limited the Lifeguards observational capabilities towards North Wall, along with their location not being as easily identifiable on the beach when it was busy (see middle photo below). No elevation also reduced the ease that Lifeguards could remain socially distant from members of public. To help reduce this risk both windbreaks and a small barrier was placed around the unit to help provide a 2-metre open space for the Lifeguards to base themselves (see photo top right), as well as to deal with any first aid and missing/found persons incidents.

All operational equipment for the area is maintained by Nick, according to the planned maintenance schedule. Being upheld at the declared levels, with any issues mitigated using spare operational equipment specifically allocated to Weymouth & West Dorset for that purpose.



[Photos: June 2021 Beach Level taken by Lyme Regis Lifeboat Operations Manager (Left) Busy Beach! September 2021 (Middle), RNLI Systems Technician Nick (Right)]

Contract specification compliance:

The lifeguard service agreement contains a schedule of service specification, the below is a summary of how the RNLI performed against this schedule:

	Met	Exceed	Failed	Narrative
Carry out a risk assessment in respect of the patrolled beaches.	x			Lyme Regis annual RAs carried out on 11 th November 2020, which covered the 2021 season
Provide a lifeguard service on the beaches covering a series of operational areas as agreed with the beach operator.	x			Service provided across the area as described in the updated 2021 Covid service agreement.
Provide a lifeguard patrol during the season in accordance with the RNLI SOPs and LOPs.	x			Additional Covid SOPs
Provide the lifeguard patrol in accordance with the criteria for Blue Flag or similar award.	x			Lifeguard service provided at agreed designated location
Instruct its lifeguards to observe high standards of courtesy and consideration towards members	x			Any complaints were dealt with in a timely manner with no further consequences
Notify members of the public of the relevant local byelaws, which relate to beach safety.	x			Yes
Inform the appropriate officer responsible for environmental services regarding any beach cleaning requirements or pollution incidents.	x			Yes
Complete incident reports, daily logs and staffing level records on a daily basis and included in an annual report to the beach operator.	x			Yes
Ensure that all public relations, incident data, publicity and media releases are agreed between the parties beforehand.	x			Yes

2. Service statistics

Incidents

Lifeguard Unit	Year	LG Incident	Mass Rescue	Minor First Aid	Missing Found Search	Total Incidents	Total People Aided
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2017	12	0	36	27	75	75
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2018	13	0	62	25	100	99
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2019	25	0	54	18	97	97
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2020	23	1	51	23	99	121
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2021	14	0	84	19	117	117

Incident Actions

Lifeguard Unit	Year	Life Saved	Rescue	Assistance	Casualty Care	Minor First Aid	Search	Missing/ Found	Non-Aquatic Assist	Near Miss	False Alarm	Anti Social Behaviour	Other	Animals	Mass Rescue
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2017	0	0	9	27	108	9	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2018	0	0	6	21	189	6	69	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2019	0	9	12	45	165	0	54	6	3	0	0	0	0	0
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2020	1	1	17	23	51	1	22	0	15	0	0	0	0	0
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2021	0	0	2	11	84	3	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Preventative Actions

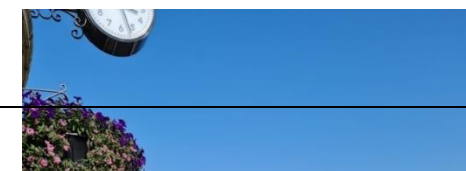
Lifeguard Unit	Year	Face 2 Face	Loudspeaker	Signs & Flags	Move Signs & Flags	Other PA	Total PAs
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2017	3,906	16	2,509	1,233	2,013	9,677
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2018	5,400	36	2,608	873	1,484	10,401
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2019	3,185	75	2,358	656	8,676	14,950
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2020	2,836	150	2,259	433	555	6,233
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2021	2,990	48	2,548	490	910	6,986

Visitor Numbers

Lifeguard Unit	Year	Beach Users	In-water	Surf or Craft	Total Visitors
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2017	137,670	23,194	2,584	163,448
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2018	162,050	21,056	2,027	185,133
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2019	209,149	16,213	1,518	226,880
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2020	191,360	20,470	2,864	214,694
Lyme Regis (Cobb)	2021	192,622	16,677	3,969	213,268

Incident overview:

As per 2020, remarkably even with the potential of the Covid “staycation” affect and predicted increased visitor numbers to the Southwest, 2021 proved to be a relatively incident free season.





[Photos: 3rd September 2021. Joint working between RNLI Lifeguard, Lyme CRT and Ambulance]



[Photo: "Lost Children and First Aid" sign directing to the MLU]



[Photo: Busy beach and location of the MLU, 2021]



[Photo: Busy beach! Taken by a Senior RNLI Lifeguard, 2021]

The RNLI Lifeguard team were able to assist in reuniting numerous found children and help in the search for missing children throughout the season. The majority of these were reunited within 5 minutes of being found or reported missing, however there was one occasion when the Lifeguards escalated the situation to Solent Coastguard and both Police and Lyme Regis CRT were tasked to help with the search. The child was thankfully found by Police safe and well near Langmoor gardens.

3. Community engagement

Public engagement statistics:

UNFORTUENTLY NO SCHOOL TALKS WERE HELD DURING 2021 DUE TO COVID

Major public events covered:

Lyme Regis Lifeboat Week

Lifeguards were able to give a level of support on a couple of the 2021 Lifeboat Week Events.

The first on the 24th of July where a Lifeguard helped provide safety cover alongside Lyme Regis Lifeboat crews for both the Adult and Children's swimming challenge starting at the Cobb Gate and finishing to the inside steps of the North Wall. One of our Senior Lifeguards, Ben Greenslade, kept his title and once again and came first in the men's race.

On the 30th of July, Lifeguards helped to clear the beach (Cobb Sands) and an area in the water alongside Lifeboat crew ready for the Red Devils Parachute display. Shortly after the Lifeguards dealt with a couple of missing children incidents. These were resolved quickly and without the need for any additional resources.



[Photos: British Army's Red Devils parachute team demonstration 30th July (Top Left and Right), Cobb Gate to North Wall Swimming Challenge taken by Lifeboat Crewmember 24th July (Bottom Left) and Beach Treasure Hunt 26th July, 2021 (Bottom Right)]

RNLI Face to Face 2021

Location	RTW Messages	Youth Messages	Sign-ups 2021
Lyme Regis Lifeboat Station	317	163	33

The table to the left the shows the number (provided by areas RNLI Face to Face Manager Rebecca Fox) of safety messages and sign-ups by the RNLI Face to Face team that were based outside of Lyme Regis Lifeboat Station throughout the summer.

The Respect the Water safety messages given out were relevant to Lyme Regis beach, primarily around the dangers of using inflatables along with the importance of always swimming at a Lifeguard beach and in between the Red and Yellow flags.

Third party relationships:

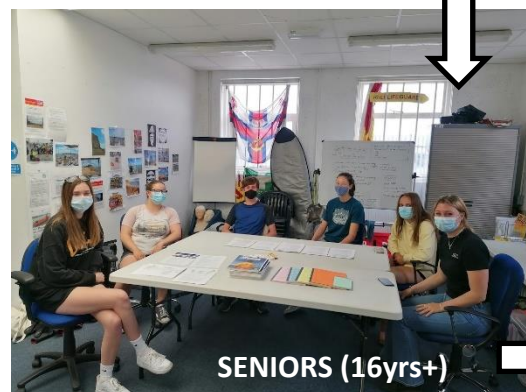
Weymouth Surf Life Saving Club, Est 2018



NIPPERS (7-12yrs)



YOUTH (13-15yrs)



SENIORS (16yrs+)



RNLI LIFEGUARD VOLUNTEERS, JULY 2021

Weymouth SLSC currently has 26 Nippers (30 on a waitlist), 18 Youth (17 on a waitlist), 31 Seniors (including local RNLI Lifeguards) and 21 Masters (the majority of which make up the volunteer coaches and helpers for the Nipper and Youth sessions) members.

Due to Covid limitations, Nipper and Youth sessions numbers were capped, meaning no new members between 7-15yrs were invited to join this year unfortunately.

With the implementation of a Covid Safety Officer (a master's club member and local Paramedic) club activities on the beach were thankfully able to resume once again. Nippers and Youth met on a Saturday morning 1000 till 1130 and Seniors/Masters on a Thursday evening between 1700 and 1830. In 2021 six 2018/2019 Youth members progressed onto gaining their Surf Lifeguard qualification where two were selected for a paid role within our RNLI Lifeguard team and four (along with 8 others) volunteered as RNLI Lifeguards with us. A brilliant achievement and great to see the club structure providing highly skilled and professional Lifeguards coming through. In total 17 *new* Lifeguards were qualified this year through the club. Including 2 Masters who plan to help with Nipper sessions in 2022.



MAY



OCTOBER

[Photos: Progression from Nippers to Youth to Seniors, who (once qualified as Surf Lifeguards at 16yrs old) can do a RNLI induction and volunteer alongside the team.]

[Photos: Three Beach Lifeguard Courses were successful run in April, May and October 2021. Qualifying 17 *new* Lifeguards!]

South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWASFT)

As part of the 2020 Lifeguard Inductions (amidst the earlier part of the pandemic) a local Lead Paramedic, with links through Weymouth SLSC, offered their assistance to go through what was then a new concept of wearing additional PPE to help protect from Covid. No RNLI Casualty Care trainers were allowed to travel during this time either, which meant the only update the Lifeguard team were provided with was from the Supervisor Team. This extra input from a Paramedic level was extremely beneficial and allowed for any clinical questions to be answered on the spot. This year (thankfully!) restrictions eased, and all Lifeguards received either a 3-day full Casualty Care course or 1 day revalidation by an RNLI Casualty Care trainer, upskilling to a high level in the use of all the equipment available to use for a first aid incident. Due to the success of 2020s SWAST input they were kind enough to return during both Main and Peak 2021 season inductions to explain some of the equipment that Lifeguards could potentially help with if needed (stretchers, vacuum splints, medivac chairs etc), discussing their continued Covid procedures as well as showing around an operational Ambulance.



On a couple of occasions throughout the summer local ambulance crews, who were on standby on the seafront, were able to head over and say hello to the Lifeguards on duty. This allowed for a great opportunity to explain what equipment and casualty care training that the RNLI provides, which was otherwise unknown by some.



[Photo: Senior Lifeguard explaining the Casualty Care training RNLI Lifeguards receive to a local ambulance crew.]

[Photos: Local Ambulance/Paramedic visiting Weymouth RNLI Lifeguard Support Centre during Main and Peak Season Inductions 2021]

Dorset Police

Having retained contact details of a local PC that delivered a talk during the 2019 season Inductions to the Lifeguard Team we were able to re-establish links for 2021. Both Supervisors and two of the early season Senior Lifeguards met up with PC Sandra Rigby, who was heading up the Weymouth Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT), to talk about their response capabilities and best means of communication etc. Sandra then kindly also offered to run through a presentation during Main Season inductions that covered topics such as Antisocial behaviour, Safeguarding, Missing Persons, Deceased Persons and chat about any known issues and hot spots along the seafront etc. A local PCSO who sat in on this presentation was then able to deliver the same information to those on their Peak Season induction during the following month. This increased knowledge from both sides of the different processes when responding to certain incidents (especially Missing Persons) proved beneficial during the Lifeguard season, allowing for a much greater level of interaction between the teams.



[Photo: A local PC and PCSO delivering a presentation during Main Season Inductions]

Coastguard: Lyme Regis Coastguard Response Team (CRT)

Traditionally the Lifeguard Team would go to Lyme Regis Coastguard Station during their inductions to talk through any changes from the previous season. These meet ups with the Station Officer and/or Deputy Station Officer and other volunteers acted as a great opportunity to link names to faces in preparation for any joint working throughout the summer months.

Unfortunately, due to Covid and not wishing to mix unnecessarily for the safety of both teams it was decided it was best to not organise again for this summer. However, the CRT members did visit the Lifeguards on duty on occasions whilst out on patrol, along with a couple of joint responses, two of which are described below taken from the CRT's Facebook page.



[Photo: Lyme Regis CRT vehicle, taken by the CRT]

18/08/21 @13.40

Missing child

Lyme Regis Coastguard team was tasked to assist the police and the RNLI lifeguards search for a missing child on Lyme Regis beach. There were some concerns that the unaccompanied youngster may have entered the water. Two Coastguard teams were deployed to check the busy beach and the water line. During the search, information was received to say that the child had been found by the police near Langmoor garden. He was reunited with his parents.

03/09/21 @12.14hrs

Assist Ambulance

Lyme Regis Coastguard team was tasked to assist RNLI lifeguards with a female casualty who had sustained an ankle and hip injury after falling at the water's edge on the main beach at Lyme Regis. On arrival, the lifeguards were providing casualty care but needed help moving the casualty to avoid the rapidly incoming tide. The lifeguards and coastguards carefully packaged the casualty and relocated her from the beach and the direct sunlight whilst waiting for the ambulance. The casualty was handed over to paramedics and the lady was taken to RDE hospital for further treatment.

Lyme Regis Lifeboat

As with Lyme Regis CRT, no joint training with the volunteer RNLI Lifeboat crew could sadly be carried out this year due to the Covid. However, communication and support were still very much available as per previous seasons, which was much appreciated.

The team are looking forward to 2022 and hopefully the return to joint exercises.



[Photos: Peak Season Inductions Station visit, 2021 (Left) Peak Inductions photo challenge, 2021 (Middle), Lyme Regis Atlantic-85 Lifeboat taken by a station member (Right)]

Lyme Regis Town Council Seafront Attendant & Enforcement Officers

Thanks again to the Seafront Attendants along with Enforcement Officers Alan Jefferies & Jennie West for their support throughout the season.

Due to a 3rd Lifeguard this year (compared with only 2 in 2020) it was evidently a lot easier for the team to respond to incidents, carry out searches, provide first aid, take welfare breaks without lessening observational capabilities on the water users. This meant that the need to ask for assistance from both the seafront attendants and enforcement officers reduced greatly. There were however times when Lifeguards did contact them when needing access for ambulance, looking for missing persons as well as if they could borrow the beach accessible wheelchairs, all of which was much appreciated.



[Photo: Jubilee Pavilion on Marine Parade, taken from LymeOnline website]

4. Assistance required from the council

- Help with the positioning of the Beach Lifeguard Unit (on the tower frame) ready for the 2022 season.

5. Risk assessment

Risk assessment headlines:

Lyme Regis is a, medium risk beach during peak season, a lower, risk beach during early / late season and a lower risk beach during winter.

During the assessment there were a number of hazards identified where the level of risk was felt to be high. Control measures should be considered. Priority hazards are:

- Pier jumping / diving
- UV radiation (Sun) short term

Full risk assessment review:

Last conducted: 11.11.19

Annual review:

Last conducted: 11.11.21

Signage review:

Last conducted: 02.07.10

Public rescue equipment review:

Last conducted: NONE

Recommendations for next year:

Regional level recommendations:

Review of both public rescue equipment & signage is highly recommended

Beach level recommendations:

Review of both public rescue equipment & signage is highly recommended

6. RNLI news and updates

RNLI management changes:

No changes in 2021. Matt Cridland remained as Area Lifesaving Manager, Alice Higgins as Lead Lifeguard Supervisor and Dominik Fajkiel as Lifeguard Supervisor.

7. Report annexes