Gold Award Criteria Handbook (workplaces with 50+ employees)



Gold Award Criteria User Handbook (50+ employees)

This document will walk you through each criteria in the Wellbeing at Work Silver Award for organisations with over 50 employees. It will cover the criteria, ideas to implement it in your workplace, resources to support you and examples of the evidence for you to provide, once the criteria has been completed. **To achieve Gold Award, you have to implement 20 criteria, being one mandatory and 19 chosen from a list of remaining 34 criteria** (ignoring the ones you have already implemented for Silver Award).

Please note that criteria PA.SG4 and AS.SG6 are double-weighed, so if you choose one of these you will only need to implement 19 criteria in total, or if you choose both of them you will only need to implement 18 criteria in total.

Guidance on using this document:

- Each of the programme criteria are listed beneath their topic areas in the table below, you can find the criteria by clicking on the expandable arrow next to the topic title. Criteria can be identified using the unique 'criteria number'.
- To inspire your workplace activities and improvements, we have listed some ideas to implement the criteria within your organisation, alongside links to external resources to provide further guidance or to signpost your employees to. This can be found in 'ideas and resources'.
- When building your evidence portfolio, you can provide us with any type of evidence, as long as it clearly displays what your organisation has done to meet the criteria. However, to provide some guidance we have listed some suggestions of what you could provide in 'evidence examples'.
- Our website only takes **one file** (Word, PDF, JPEG or PNG) against each criteria. If you'd like to submit two pieces of information as evidence, e.g. copy of the sickness absence policy and screenshot of the intranet page where it can be accessed, please save both in the same file before uploading, e.g. copying and pasting the screenshot in the policy word document.

If you have any questions or queries, you can get in touch with the team at HealthyWorkplace@eastsussex.gov.uk

1. Physical Activity and Active Travel

Criteria Number	Criteria	Ideas and Resources	Evidence Examples
	Gold Award (To Choose)		
PA.SG1	Survey staff to understand how they travel to work, from work and during work.	This can be combined with the health needs assessment. • employee-travel-survey-template.pdf (tfl.gov.uk)	Copy of the survey or the result analysis, or piece of communication to staff about the survey.
PA.SG2	Provide adequate cycle parking or storage, for staff and visitors.	Consider partnering with another local organisation to pool resources or share facilities. • Cycle parking information sheet (cycling-embassy.org.uk) • How to improve bike storage for offices and employees - Sustrans.org.uk	Photograph or map of the facilities.
PA.SG3	Partner up with local physical activity providers to enable discounted physical activity for staff, or provide physical activity opportunities for staff in house.	You may want to approach a gym or physical activity provider in close proximity to your workplace, or located near your workforce, to see if they would be willing to offer a discounts or physical activity opportunities for your staff members. • Wave Leisure Gyms, Swimming Pools & Leisure Centres in Sussex • Freedom Leisure Centre Trust Fitness Centres Gyms (freedomleisure.co.uk)	Screenshot of the intranet page with relevant information, photo of posters or leaflets, copy of emails to staff, photo of a physical activity event, etc.
PA.SG4	Produce an active travel action plan based on a workplace site audit. DOUBLE WEIGHTED CRITERIA	Consider combining the site audit with the staff travel survey for a more robust active travel action plan.	Copy of the action plan.

PA.SG5	Encourage staff to wear footwear and clothing to work that is comfortable and enables activity, where is operationally appropriate.	Change the way your staff travel to work - Sustrans.org.uk Sustrans available for active travel planning Consider how senior leaders or champions could role model this.	Copy of the piece of communication to staff, or image of where the information can be found (intranet, poster, etc).
PA.SG6	Support employees to access the outdoor environment by mapping and promoting any local assets that could be utilised for breaks and journeys to/from work.	Consider producing a list of the local green spaces and publicise it to your employees.	Image of where the information can be found (intranet, poster, leaflet, email, etc).
PA.SG7	Offer led walks to employees.	You can work alongside an external provider, or send members of staff on walk leader training. • Walking Works Living Streets	Staff training certificate or proof of walk delivery (photos, list of attendees, etc).
PA.SG8	Provide cycle workshops.	 Pedal Power - Bikes, Bike Rental (eastsussexpedalpower.com) Dr Bike Lewes Promoting cycling for all - Bike For Life - Training in Sussex - About Us (bikeforlifesouth.org.uk) Dr Bike - Cycle Seahaven BikeLab Hastings Hastings & St Leonards Community Bicycle Workshop 	Emails to organise, photos of the workshops in action or posters to promote.
PA.SG9	Introduce a mileage allowance for business journeys undertaken by foot and by cycle, as well as favourable mileage payments where there are passengers in a vehicle to encourage sharing/pooling.	 Travel - mileage and fuel rates and allowances - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Expenses and benefits: business travel mileage for employees' own 	Travel/mileage claim policy.

PA.SG10	Provide adequate changing facilities and storage that are accessible to all staff.	vehicles: Passenger payments - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Best practice would also include showering facilities. Where not possible, consider partnering with another local organisation	Photograph of the facilities.
PA.SG11	Share instructions of how to travel to events and meetings via public transport and/or active travel with attendees.	to share facilities. When sending out meeting invitations, make it standard practice to send out instructions of how to travel to the venue	Copy of meeting invitation with public transport/active travel information.
	attendees.	via active or public transport, not just providing car parking information. If you have a choice of meeting venues, consider choosing a venue which is easily accessible by active or public transport by your attendees.	
PA.SG12	Encourage staff to take part in team activity sessions, or physically active team challenges, that are inclusive to the whole workforce.	Annual physical activity challenges, charity challenge events, walking meetings, etc.	Photograph of employees doing the challenge, copy of communication sent to staff or the results achieved.

2. Healthy Eating

Criteria	Criteria	Ideas and Resources	Evidence Examples
Number			
	Gold Award (To Choose)		
HE.SG1	Make changes to vending machines in the workplace	Consider locating vending machine away	Photograph of the vending machine
	to encourage and facilitate healthier choices.	from immediate workspaces and increasing	or product list from supplier.
		distance needed to access them. Reduce	
		the number of items available that are high	
		in fat and sugar, or display those items out	
		of eye level. Display the nutritional value of	
		products available in vending machines.	

		Healthy-Vending-Report_FINAL- OCTOBER-2018.pdf (bdaworkready.co.uk)	
HE.SG2	Ensure healthy options are included in on site cafes or canteens, as well as in catering for events and meetings.	Consider making changes to ensure your café or canteen on site provides healthy options, for workers on all shift patterns • Healthier and more sustainable catering: a toolkit for serving food to adults (publishing.service.gov.uk)	Copy of the café/canteen menu, list of items from catering supplier, or copy of catering contract.
HE.SG3	Ensure kitchens and beverage areas are kept clean and are situated away from work areas.	Consider if your kitchens and/or beverage areas can be situated from work stations to ensure that workers get a break away from their work station	Photograph of those areas.
HE.SG4	Encourage employees adopt healthy eating practices.	Consider encouraging eating away from workstations and enable workers to take a flexible meal breaks to source, prepare and/or consume food.	Image of where the information can be found (intranet, poster, leaflet, email, etc).

3. Mental Health

Criteria Number	Criteria	Ideas and Resources	Evidence Examples
	Gold Award (To Choose)		
MH.SG1	Train members of staff as dementia champions.	Consider training key members of staff as dementia champions e.g. those in client facing roles https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/WEB Article?page=become-dementia-friend	Emails, certificates or testamonial from Dementia Friends proving staff have attended training.

MH.SG3 MH.SG4	Offer mental health awareness training to all members of staff. Signpost employees with mental health challenges or conditions to support services.	Guidance for dementia-friendly organisations Alzheimer's Society (alzheimers.org.uk) Provide a type of mental health awareness training which is available to all workers in your organisation to access or sign up to Acas Learning OnLine Promote services to employees somewhere that is clear and readily accessible by all workers, and ensure this is part of a support pathway for workers who	Emails, certificates or testamonial from Alzheimers Society proving the organisation has completed to become a dementia friendly setting. Emails, certificates, testamonial from trainer or screenshot of completed e-learning proving staff have attended or completed the training. Image of where the information can be found (intranet, poster, leaflet, email, etc). Support services include EAPs, occupational health
		have identified or been diagnosed with mental health challenge • Support for mental health at work Able Futures Mental Health Support Service (ablefutures.co.uk) • Preventing Suicide in Sussex Services East Sussex County Council	professionals, support groups, GPs, etc.
MH.SG5	Ensure that health and wellbeing are embedded into policies or statements that have the potential to impact staff wellbeing. Health and wellbeing are considered as a priority when developing new policies or statements.	Consider what policies your organisation has, or is developing, that have the potential to impact on employee wellbeing. Ensure that wellbeing has been considered and is addressed within the policy	List of existing policies or statements, and copy of the relevant policies or statements.
MH.SG6	Have a flexible working statement or policy that allows employees a degree of autonomy and control over how work is completed and work schedules, where operationally viable.	See our website for a template: Resources Archive - East Sussex Healthy Workplace	Copy of the flexible working statement or policy.
MH.SG7	Allow and support employees to contribute a minimum of one day per year to volunteering activities, within working hours.	Volunteering East Sussex County Council	Image of where the information can be found (intranet, poster, leaflet, email, policy or statement, etc).

MH.SG8	Provide suicide prevention training to key members of	Provide a type of suicide prevention	Emails, certificates, testamonial from
	staff.	training for key workers in your	trainer or screenshot of completed
		organisations, such as line managers and	e-learning proving staff have
		wellbeing champions	attended or completed the training.
		 Find the ZSA Zero Suicide Alliance 	
		training	
MH.SG9	Encourage and support social activities and/or	Consider groups or workers in your	Image of where the information can
	volunteering.	organisation that may be socially isolated	be found (intranet, poster, leaflet,
		e.g. shift workers, lone workers, remote	email, etc).
		workers, employees going through key life	
		transitions such as parenthood, retirement	
		or bereavement etc. Consider how you can	
		support these employees to look after their	
		social wellbeing e.g. by facilitating staff	
		social events, staff volunteering groups,	
		formation of staff groups such as book	
		clubs.	
		 Volunteering East Sussex County 	
		Council	
MH.SG10	Encourage honest and open conversations about	Consider creating a network of wellbeing	Image of where the information can
	mental health and wellbeing, including disabilities and	champions to start the conversation about	be found (intranet, poster, leaflet,
	health conditions. Foster a culture where employees	mental health at work, training a few	email, policy or statement, etc).
	feel comfortable to raise concerns about workplace	Mental Health First Aiders, or having a	
	issues.	confidential support line for staff managed	
		by the champions or HR. Provide regular	
		opportunities for employees to discuss	
		their own health and wellbeing e.g. in team	
		meetings, in 1-2-1s, in staff groups or	
		wellbeing coffee talks. You can use the	
		Wellness Action Plan to start and guide the	
		conversations.	

	•	Wellness Action Plan download	
		Mind, the mental health charity -	
		help for mental health problems	

4. Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Misuse

Criteria Number	Criteria	Ideas and Resources	Evidence Examples
	Gold Award (To Choose)		
AS.SG1	Signpost employees to confidential services for support with alcohol or substance misuse.	Support services could include a local provider, Employee Assistance Programme, Occupational Health etc. • Drug and alcohol services East Sussex County Council	Image of where the information can be found (intranet, poster, leaflet, email, etc). Or copy of policy or agreement regarding attendance at appointments, e.g. email trail.
AS.SG2	Produce an alcohol and substance misuse policy or statement, regarding the use of alcohol and other substances at work that is clear, consistent for all roles and well publicised.	A policy could include a code of conduct. Check this toolkit for a template: bitc- wellbeing-toolkit-drugsalcoholtobacco- may2018.pdf • East Sussex Services - Oasis Project • Overview - Cgl - East Sussex Drug And Alcohol Recovery Service - NHS (www.nhs.uk) • Managing drug and alcohol misuse at work - Overview - HSE	Copy of the policy or statement and where it can be accessed.
AS.SG3	Include a toolkit or resources on recognising and managing alcohol and drugs problems in the line managers inductions.	Ensure that a standard part of a line managers training or induction is recognising and managing alcohol or drug problems in the workplace	Example of where this is covered in managers induction or training.

		 Guidance for managing drug and alcohol misuse at work CIPD Managing drug and alcohol misuse at work: Guidance for line managers on providing support and dealing with disclosures (cipd.co.uk) 	
AS.SG4	Provide Alcohol Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) training to key members of staff.	Key members of staff could be line managers, wellbeing champions, mental health first aiders, HR staff, team leaders. • Alcohol Identification and Brief Advice - e-Learning for Healthcare (e-Ifh.org.uk)	Copy of the workplace training log or the mandatory training offer or list.
AS.SG5	Prohibit staff from smoking in uniform, work badges, lanyards, branded materials or any item that may identify individuals as an employee of the organisation.	Ensure that this is communicated to all employees, consider signage to remind employees of this.	Copy of policy or statement, picture of signage, or email to all staff.
AS.SG6	Create a smoke free site, including all open and outdoor spaces/grounds, that are clearly signposted as smoke free and steps are taken to ensure smoking does not happen on the organisation's premises. DOUBLE WEIGHTED CRITERIA	 Employers and Businesses (smokefreeengland.co.uk) Example of a smoke free site policy smoke-free-policy.pdf (slam.nhs.uk) 	Pictures of signage or copy of policy or statement.

5. Sickness Absence, Return to Work and Prevention

Criteria Number	Criteria	Ideas and Resources	Evidence Examples
	Gold Award (To Choose)		

SA.SG1	Review regularly the sickness absence data to identify trends and patterns, to identify areas in which intervention may be needed to support employees' health and wellbeing.	Considering reviewing your policies based on your sickness absence data trends. • Absence Measurement & Management Factsheets CIPD • Information on Absence Management CIPD	Copy of sickness absence data analysis and report.
SA.SG2	Make reasonable adjustments for employees that have a disability, long term conditions or MSK problem, or are experiencing difficulties with alcohol or substance misuse, to enable them to stay in work.	It is best practice to monitor adjustments put in place to see if they are meeting the needs of both the employee and the workplace. E.g. Agree with employee a written return to work plan with a timeframe, and review this regularly. Consider workstation set up, flexible work routine, the tasks undertaken and breaks. • Get support in work if you have a disability or health condition (Access to Work) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) • Reasonable adjustments in practice Equality and Human Rights Commission (equalityhumanrights.com) • What reasonable adjustments are: Reasonable adjustments - Acas	Copy of the reasonable adjustment process or policy.
SA.SG3	Encourage employees whose sickness absence is expected to continue beyond 4 weeks to discuss with their GP or secondary care specialist any options for referral to support services such as physiotherapy, counselling or occupational therapy. If you have an Employee Assistance Programme and/or Occupational Health Service, you may encourage employees to access these instead.	 Getting the most out of the fit note: guidance for employers and line managers (publishing.service.gov.uk) Support for mental health at work Able Futures Mental Health Support Service (able-futures.co.uk) 	Copy of the policy, HR or management guidelines where this recommendation can be found. Information about the Employee Assisted Programme or the Occupational Health provider and where this can be found.

SA.SG4	Offer referral to health rehabilitation and support services, (e.g. physiotherapy, counselling or occupational therapy) to employees that are likely to be absent from work for more than 4 weeks. Signpost them to other possible sources of expert advice and support relevant to their condition.	Support for mental health at work Able Futures Mental Health Support Service (able-futures.co.uk)	Information the provision and where this can be found.
SA.SG5	Provide support for employees going through cancer treatment, or treatment for other long-term health conditions such as diabetes or depression.	Check out our website for some resources on this: Resources Archive - East Sussex Healthy Workplace	Copy of the relevant policy or statement covering e.g. reasonable adjustments, attending appointments during the workday, etc. Or copy of signposting information about support services (this could be on the intranet, in an email to staff, a poster on a board or leaflet).
SA.SG6	Offer NHS Health Checks on site to staff, or make an interactive health kiosk available for use.	One You East Sussex can do NHS Health Checks in the workplace, and offers health kiosks to hire. • NHS Health Checks One You East Sussex	Pictures of the health checks being done or the health kiosk on site; or list of employees who have done the checks; or copy of the contract or agreement with One You East Sussex.
SA.SG7	Allow all staff the flexibility to attend screening and other healthcare appointments during the working day.	Consider including smoking, substance misuse or alcohol support services appointments too. This could be achieved via paid time to attend within the workday, enabling shift-swaps, allowing employees to make up time lost, via flexible working practices, etc. • Screening – East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (esht.nhs.uk)	Copy of the relevant policy or statement, or copy of an email to staff, or where the relevant information can be found on the intranet.
SA.SG8	Offer or encourage vaccinations to staff, relevant to job role.	Consider what vaccinations are needed for role, especially frontline staff, and general	Copy of the relevant policy or statement, or copy of an email to staff, or where the relevant

vacc	inations of importance e.g. flu, Covid,	information can be found on the
HEP	В	intranet.
	 <u>Vaccinations - NHS (www.nhs.uk)</u> 	

6. Leadership, Management and Workplace Culture

Criteria Number	Criteria	Ideas and Resources	Evidence Examples
	Gold Award (To Choose)		
LM.SG1	Ensure health and wellbeing statements or policies are included in any induction, training and development programmes for new employees.	Ensure this is part of procedure for inductions, for all employees	Copy of any induction or training materials regarding health and wellbeing. Those materials should contain the policies or statements or where they can be found.
LM.SG2	Offer all employees the same opportunities with support, training, CPD, progression, secondment or personal development.	In line with the organisations equal opportunities or HR statement or policy (if the organisation has one). These should be offered to all employees regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or any other protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. Check our website for more resources on equality, diversity and discrimination: Resources Archive - East Sussex Healthy Workplace	Copy of relevant HR policy or statement; or copy of email to staff about personal development opportunities; or screenshot of intranet page with relevant information.
LM.SG3	Become a disability committed employer.	 How to sign up to the Disability Confident employer scheme - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Level 1: Disability Confident Committed - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) 	Emails, certificates or equivalent from the Department for Work and Pension proving the organisation has completed to become a disability committed employer.

LM.SG4	Become a disability confident employer. PREVIOUS CRITERIA (DISABILITY COMMITTED, LM.SG3) IS REQUIRED TO UNDERTAKE THIS CRITERIA	 Disability Confident - committed level 1 pack (publishing.service.gov.uk) Disability Confident - Are you disability confident? (campaign.gov.uk) Level 2: Disability Confident Employer - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Disability confident employer level 2 pack (publishing.service.gov.uk) 	Emails, certificates or equivalent from the Department for Work and Pension proving the organisation has completed to become a disability confident employer.
LM.SG5	Promote engagement with trade unions, professional bodies and employee organisations amongst staff.	 Joining a trade union - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) 	Copy of relevant policy or statement; or copy of email to staff; or screenshot of intranet page with relevant information.
LM.SG6	Ensure key members of staff are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to support employees in their roles, and understand that facilitating employee health and wellbeing is also a central part of their role.	This could be done via training, key performance indicators, job description or specification, appraisal processes, etc. Consider management and leadership training to support staff with training, or upskill sessions. Key members of staff could be HR professionals, team leaders, lime managers, wellbeing champions, senior leaders, etc.	List of training offer, or copy of HR policy or statement, or copy of a management job description.
LM.SG7	Undertake activity to influence community health in a positive way and commit to social value initiatives.	Consider donating to, sponsoring or funding a local community project or charity, contributing specific skills to other local organisations, working in partnership with local groups, charities or organisations, including families of employees in appropriate workplace health activities or offer.	Image of where the information can be found (intranet, poster, leaflet, local newspaper, email to employees and to the project or charity coordinator, etc). Photos of the project funded or sponsored, or photos of the workplace health activity including family and

LM.SG8 LM.SG9	MANDATORY CRITERIA FOR SILVER Conduct an annual staff health and wellbeing assessment, and promote two health campaign or activity per year based on the assessment results; plus one extra health campaign or event of choice. Share the results with employees, with actions to be taken to improve any highlighted issues. MANDATORY CRITERIA FOR GOLD	East Sussex Social Value Marketplace (supplytoeastsussex.co.uk) This criteria must be addressed first when undertaking Gold Award. The campaigns or activities should be fully promoted in the workplace (emails, posters, intranet, newsletter, etc) and can be led by workplace champions, HR or the awards lead. Check our website for an assessment template and calendar of wellbeing dates: Resources Archive - East Sussex Healthy Workplace	community members. Or copy of work agreement with local groups or organisation, or proof of donation. Copy of the wellbeing survey results and images of posters and location (e.g. intranet, wellbeing boards, etc) of wellbeing activities. Copy of any messages sent to employees about the events/activities.
LM.SG10	Provide cancer awareness training to key members of staff.	Key members of staff could include managers, supervisors, MHFAers, wellbeing leads etc. You may choose to promote and make this available to the rest of your workforce too. • Cancer Awareness (learnzone.org.uk) • Cancer in the workplace for Managers (learnzone.org.uk)	Image or screenshot of the list of trainings or e-learnings on the organisations training page, intranet or board; emails to promote training to staff, or screenshots showing inclusion in induction/line manager mandatory training.
LM.SG11	Provide support for employees who have caring responsibilities for family members.	Consider allowing the employee to accompany the family member in health appointments, e.g. those who have substance misuse issues, relatives with a long-term health condition, employees with dependents, etc. You may want to develop a childcare policy or provide carers leave to your employees.	Copy of relevant policy or statement; email sent to staff; image of where this information could be found (screenshot of intranet, newsletter, poster, etc).

		 Support for carers East Sussex County Council Time off for family and dependants - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Time off to help someone else: Absence from work - Acas 	
LM.SG12	Recognise, promote and support employees with aspects of healthy ageing.	Consider signing up to the Age-friendly Employer Pledge Centre for Ageing Better Consider reasonable adjustments for those going through the menopause, supporting employees transitioning into retirement, etc. • The midlife MOT: take control of your future now - Your Pension • bitc-age-toolkit- midlifemotseniorhrmanagers- apr2019.pdf Check our website for more resources: Resources Archive - East Sussex Healthy Workplace	Image of where the information can be found (intranet, poster, leaflet, newsletter, email to staff, copy of relevant policy or statement, etc).
LM.SG13	Raise awareness in the workplace of the environmental agenda.	Encourage use of video or phone calls, or other types of technology to facilitate meetings remotely, that would have otherwise been in person. Invest in energy efficiency or reduce energy consumption, e.g. solar panels. Ban or reduce consumption of single use plastics and water consumptions, enable recycling. Encourage efficient use of resources, e.g. paper free policy, sustainable deliveries such as e-cargo bikes or electric vehicles.	Image of where the information can be found (intranet, poster, leaflet, newsletter, email to staff, copy of relevant policy or statement, etc).

		Green business – East Sussex County Council	
LM.SG1	Produce statements or policies on bullying, harassment, whistleblowing and equality and diversity. Include procedures to ensure unfair treatment of employees is addressed impartially and as a matter of priority.	Check our website for resources and template: Resources Archive - East Sussex Healthy Workplace	Copy of the statement or policy, and image of where it can be accessed.

7. Musculoskeletal Health (MSK) and Health & Safety

Criteria	Criteria	Ideas and Resources	Evidence Examples
Number			
	Gold Award (To Choose)		
MSK.SG1	Provide staff with access to referral for early assessment and treatment for MSK conditions.	You could provide an occupational health service, either in-house or externally.	Image of where the information can be found (intranet, poster, leaflet, newsletter, email to employees, etc). Copy of contract with a service provider.
MSK.SG2	Offer training, workshops or prevention programmes on the topic of MSK or aches and pains to employees.	Consider addressing the link between MSK and mental health in the training/workshop offer, communication of issues, feedback to ensure training meets needs. Check our website for a free e-learning: Training - East Sussex Healthy Workplace	Image or screenshot of the list of trainings or e-learnings on the organisations training page, intranet or board; emails to promote training to staff; or copy of the attendees list, or testimonial of a training provider.