
RBLG LIFEGUARDS

REPORT 2024

**HEAD
LIFEGUARD**



INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the amazing work delivered by RBLG Beach Lifeguards in 2024. During the season, they provided 2,751 supervised beach patrol hours, responded to 124 incidents, and aided 71 people. Working alongside the IW Ambulance Service, Air Ambulance, HM Coastguard, Bembridge RNLI and Sandown & Shanklin Independent Lifeboat.

The Beach Lifeguard service, part of Waterside Community Trust (Registered Charity 1174631), delivers a beach safety service in both Ryde and Sandown beaches during the busy summer season.

The work of the Lifeguard service begins before the need for rescue. Every year, the Lifeguards deliver pre-season education programmes that inform children and adults how to keep themselves safe at the beach ahead of, and throughout the season.

This proactive approach to our beach safety management is also demonstrated by the number of preventative actions our Lifeguards carry out each year. In 2024, they initiated 399 preventative actions.

In total the Lifeguards assisted over 124 members of the public, with everything ranging from life threatening rescues or first aids, to something minor such as a weaver fish sting or sand in the eye. Some incidents occurred which, without this invaluable service and the quick response of the beach lifeguards, would have most certainly resulted in hospitalisation or additional strain on the emergency services.

124
INCIDENTS

399
PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS



INTRODUCTION

Analysis of the statistics from this year continues to show a link between weather, tides and incidents. With the majority of incidents occurring on days presenting sunny weather, at high tide; particularly noticeable in Ryde.

Beach visitor numbers were up considerably since last year, mainly due to the pleasant weather throughout the season. With 57,908 visitors to Sandown beach in July and August, and 48,759 visitors to Ryde beach in May, July and August.

In 2024, we continued our focus on the following five key areas for the RBLG Beach Lifeguard service.

These are:

1. Community Lifesaving
2. Personnel
3. Lifesaving Performance
4. Equipment
5. The next generation

The beaches on the Isle of Wight are wonderful places, and it is our honour and a privilege to provide lifesaving services to the communities that live, work and play around them.

In what continues to be a difficult financial environment, we will continue working closely with our partners to ensure beach visitors have access to lifeguarded beaches, to facilitate a free, fun and safe activity during the summer months.

2,751
BEACH PATROL HOURS

192
VOLUNTARY HOURS



HOW WE SAVE LIVES



RESCUE

First Aid	53
Rescue	9
Lives Saved	3



INFLUENCE

Risk Assessments	Completed each season
Signage	Additional signage added to Ryde Harbour and daily signage displayed by the Lifeguards
Weekly Check of Public Rescue Equipment	Rescue rings checked weekly for defects



SUPERVISE

Beach Patrol Hours	2751
Volunteer Hours	192
Preventative Actions	399
First Aid	53
Missing/ Found	9
Rescue	9
Lives Saved	3



EDUCATE

School Talks	Delivered pre season to schools in Ryde and Sandown
Sea Safe	600+ Local children participated
Rookie Lifesaving	100+ Local children participate
Lifeguard & First Aid Training	1080 People qualified

COMMUNITY LIFESAVING

We believe the future of lifesaving is just as important as our current Lifeguards maintaining competency, therefore we invest in educating local children through our Sea Safe programme, as well our Lifesaving programmes.

Sea Safe delivers the same important drowning prevention knowledge as our traditional school talks but in a more interactive, immersive and fun learning experience.

The hour-long sessions taught the children and their teachers about how to stay safe at the beach, where to get advice and what to do in an emergency.

This was followed by an immersive experience, with the children being taken into the sea and learning about cold water shock, how to get out of danger and how to summon help.

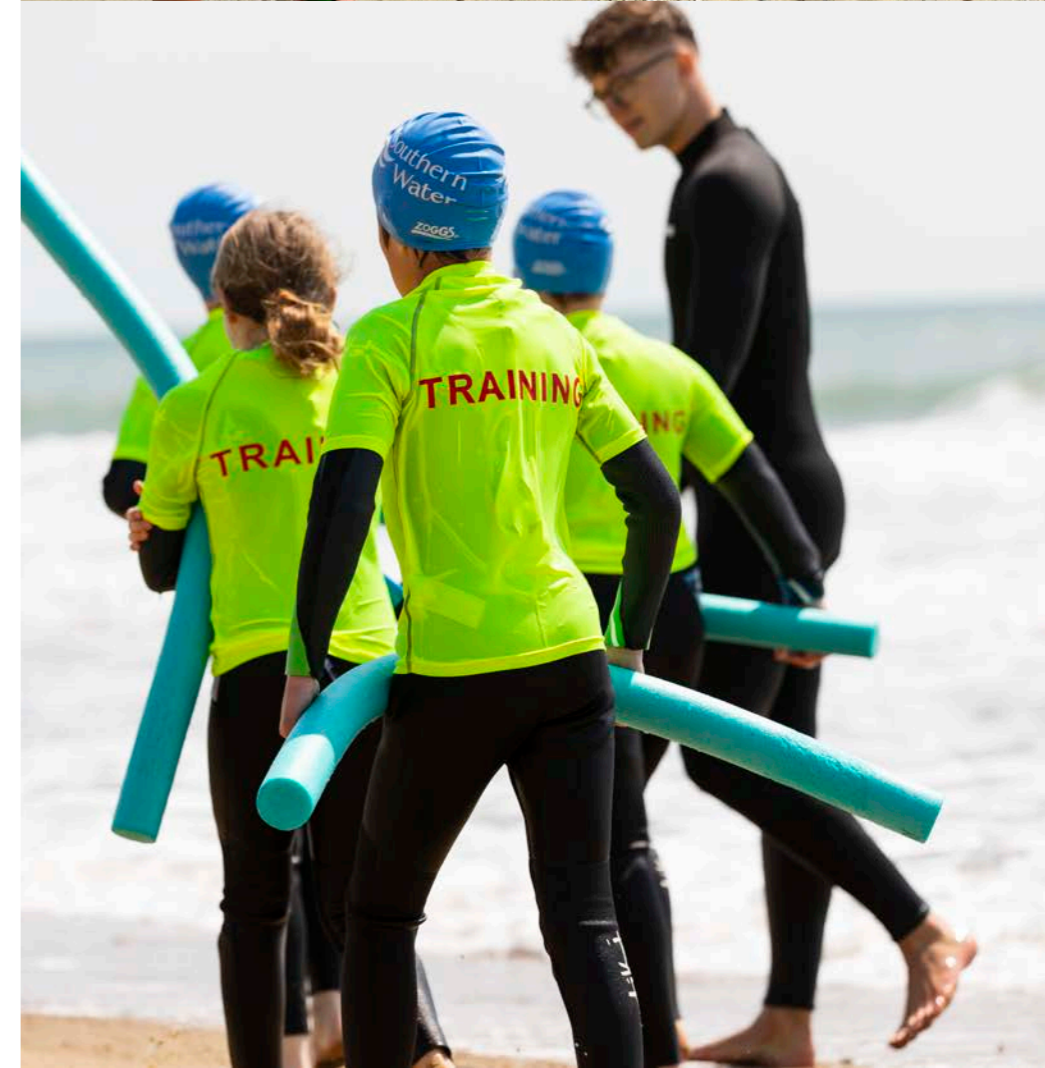
Each child was provided with a free Southern Water swim hat as well as a Sea Safe Certificate.

In total, over 600 children participated over 26 separate sessions. This included children from The Bay, St Blasisus, Dover Park, Ryde School, Oakfield, Broadlea, St Marys, Queensgate, Nettlestone, Brading, St Francis and Bembridge schools.

This would not have been possible without funding from Southern Water and support from Sandown Town Council.

600+
ATTENDED SEA SAFE

1080
QUALIFICATIONS GAINED



COMMUNITY LIFESAVING

The future of lifesaving is nurtured in the delivery of our Rookie Lifeguards and Beach Safety volunteers.

Our Rookie Lifeguards are 8 to 15 years old, and work towards Royal Life Saving Society awards. Within their lifesaving classes, they learn basic water safety knowledge, aquatic lifesaving skills, CPR, and First Aid. Our Beach Rookie Lifeguards take their knowledge even further, learning about tides, rip currents, more advanced first aid and lifesaving skills in the sea.

The Rookie Lifeguard programme then leads our lifesavers onto becoming Beach Safety volunteers, with lifesavers aged 14+ joining our Beach Lifeguards in the summer to work alongside them, assisting with patrols, educating members of the public and dealing with minor first aids.

This season we had four Beach Safety volunteers who gave up nearly 200 hours of their summer holidays to assist our Beach Lifeguards, with them often staying additional hours on busy days to help the Lifeguards deal with incidents.

These programmes were supported by two local companies, Electrical Solutions and Harwood's Garage.

Throughout the year the service delivers a wide variety of qualifications to members of the public, including Royal Yachting Association and Royal Life Saving Society qualifications.



OUR TEAM

The lifeguards themselves are at the core of the RBLG service and each year there is a challenge of recruiting and training lifeguards who will be at the frontline of service delivery.

Recruitment starts in January with the training for the team taking place in April, May & June. This year we had 9 members of the team return from 2023, the rest of the team was made up with new recruits, having passed our tough recruitment and training process.

The lifeguards are all trained in house by an RLSS Trainer Assessor, all achieving their RLSS NVBLQ, First Aid at Work, Defibrillator specialism, RYA VHF, RYA PWC and SLSW IRB training.

Throughout the season the lifeguards undergo regular training and their performance on duty is regularly monitored through random spot checks and inspections, carried out by the Beach Manager.

During the mid season spot checks this season, the lifeguards noticed and retrieved a drowning casualty 200m offshore, in less than 1 minute in both Ryde and Sandown. This is very impressive and a testament to their high standard of training.

The service continues to work closely with emergency services, in particular HM Coastguard, often being tasked to assist with incidents ashore and offshore, alleviating pressures on other emergency services.



STATISTICS

This season, with the noticeable increase in visitors to both beaches, there was a 111% increase recorded in Ryde and a 59% increase in Sandown Beaches whilst our team were on duty. This was certainly due to the weather being pleasant throughout the season, compared to last year, as well as various events being held in both Ryde and Sandown over the summer months attracting a lot of locals and visitors to the Beaches.

There was a total of 124 incidents that required the lifeguard's assistance.

80% of all aquatic rescues were performed outside the flagged lifeguard zone, highlighting that the Lifeguarded area of the beach is far safer due to the Lifeguard supervision and countless preventative actions. Although these incidents occurred outside the Lifeguarded area of the beach, our Lifeguards always went above and beyond to expedite their rescue. On one occasion to a gentleman 3 miles offshore in a rubber dinghy.

This year the team dealt with a handful of rescues that were sadly suicide attempts, which isn't something we have had to deal with in previous years. Unfortunately, it was in addition to other similar incidents that occurred this summer outside of our hours of operation.

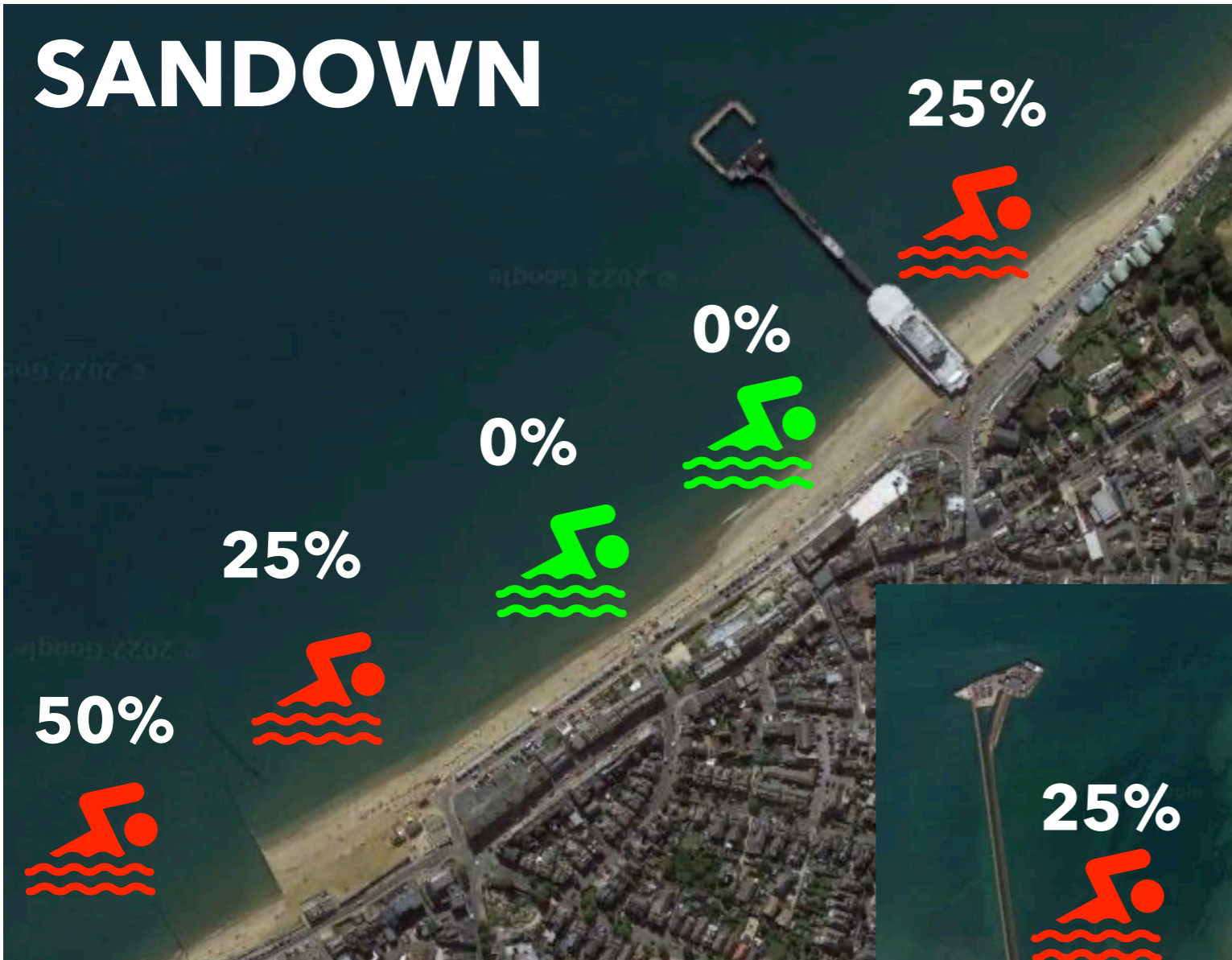
The highest reoccurring incidents in Ryde were cuts and lacerations, and conversely in Sandown it was Weaver Fish stings.

*The number of beach visitors is assessed by recording the number of beach users within the lifeguard patrol areas, those in the water between the red and yellow flags.

Type	RYDE	SANDOWN
Beach Visitors on the Beach	39,726	44,467
Beach Visitors in the water	9,033	13,441
Lives saved	1	2
Rescue	5	4
Assistance	22	14
Rescue due to inflatables	4	1
First Aid	16	37
Search	2	1
Missing/ Found	5	4
Enforce Bylaws	3	2
Antisocial Behaviour	0	0
Lives Lost	0	0
Prevention	212	187
Other	1	0

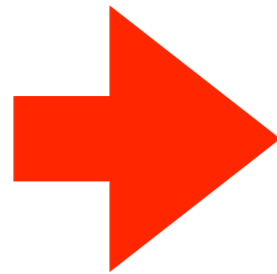
STATISTICS

SANDOWN



50%
DUE TO INFLATABLES

25%
DUE TO KAYAKS



25%



0%



0%



25%



50%



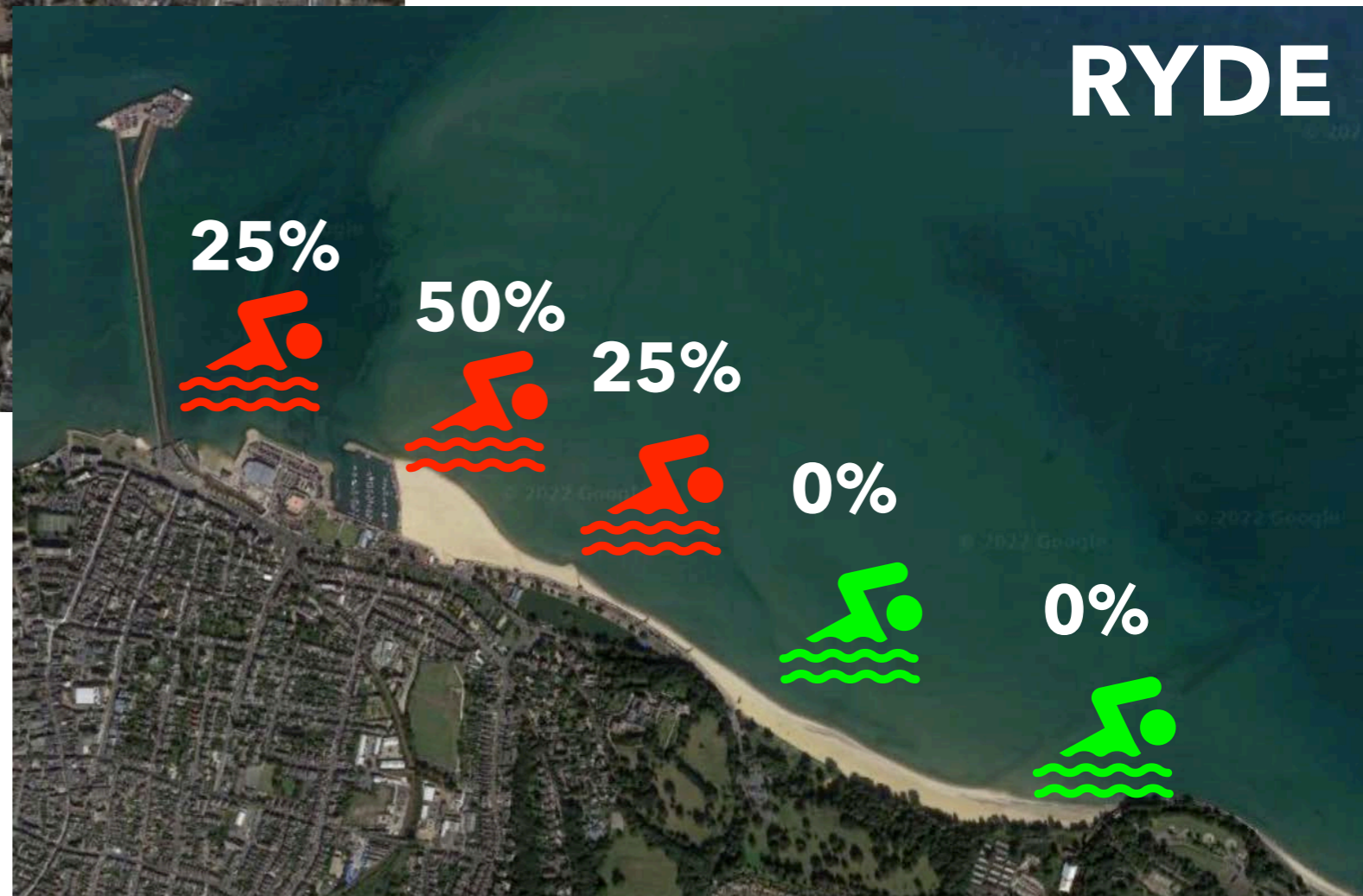
RYDE 100%

RESCUES OCCURED TO THE WEST
DUE TO WATER DEPTH &
CURRENTS

SANDOWN 75%

RESCUES OCCURED OUTSIDE
THE LIFEGUARDED ZONE

RYDE



25%



50%



25%



0%

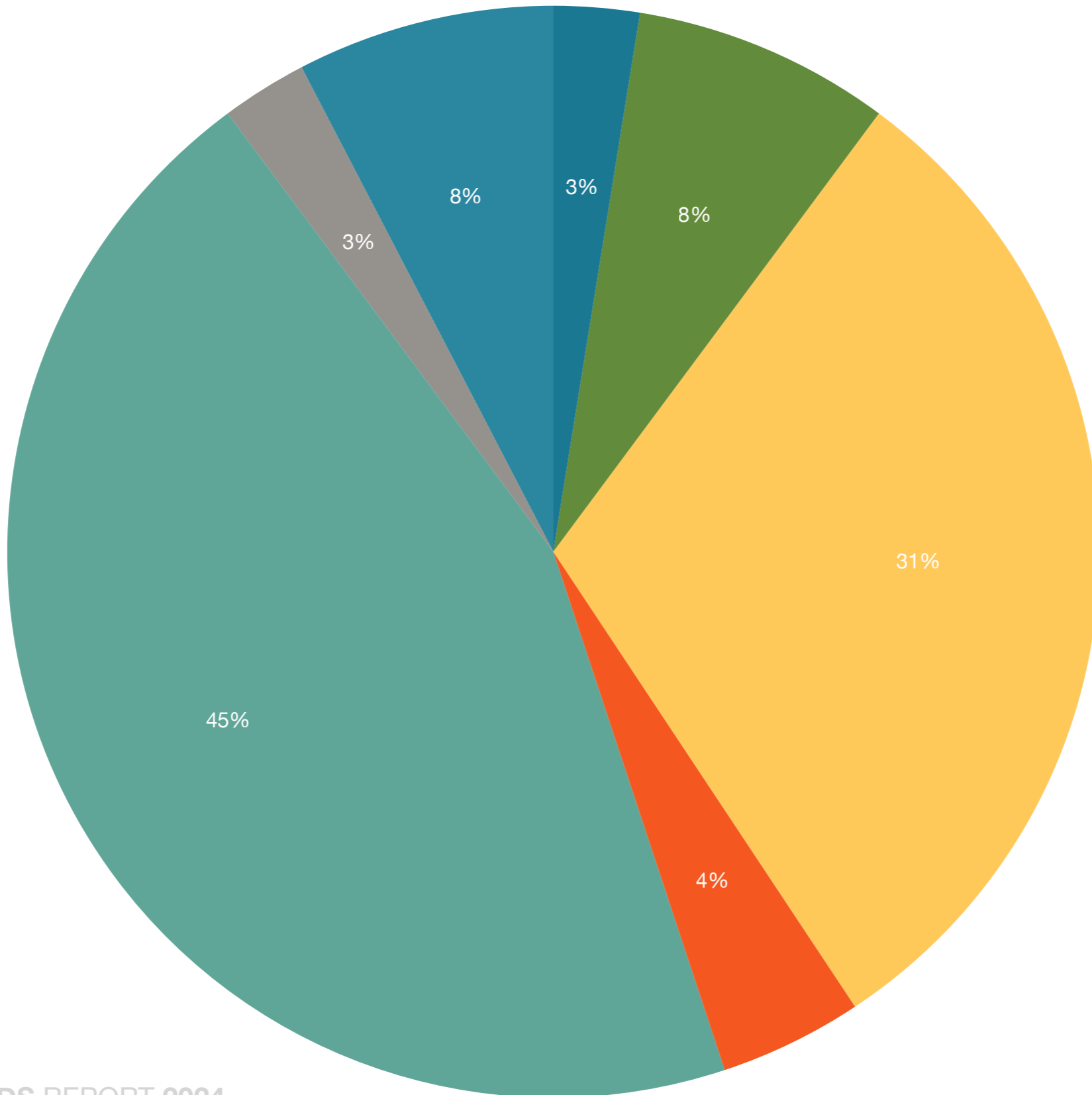


0%



STATISTICS

● Lives Saved ● Rescue ● Assistance ● Inflatables ● First Aid ● Search ● Missing



MEDIA



Ryde Beach Lifeguards team up with local schools for Sea Safe programme

Man blown two miles out to sea on inflatable



Ryde Beach Lifeguards

Always a relief to see our friends at HM Coastguard arrive on scene - A great team effort and we hope the lady makes a full recovery



Royal Life Saving Society UK - RLSS UK · Follow

We are proud to see these young lifesavers gain the skills and confidence that could one day save a life. Keep up the fantastic work! 🙌

2w Like Reply Hide



ISLANDECHO.CO.UK

ISLE OF WIGHT PARALYMPIAN ROWER ANNIE CADDICK TAKES SILVER IN PARIS



ISLANDECHO.CO.UK

80 CHILDREN COMPLETE LATEST ROOKIE LIFEGUARD PROGRAMME

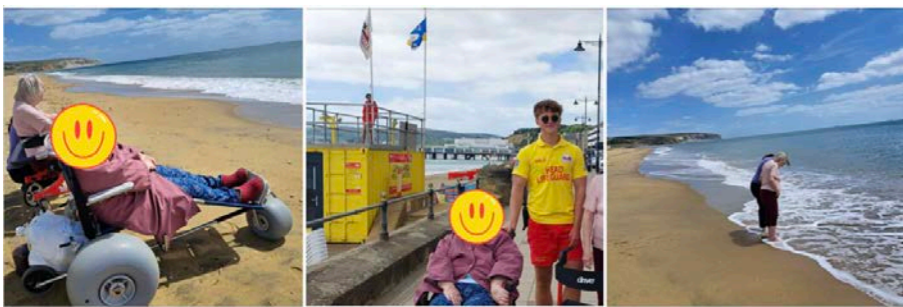


COUNTYPRESS.CO.UK

Public helped in arrest of flasher on popular Isle of Wight beach
A man from the Isle of Wight was arrested for flashing



Search for new Island lifeguards underway for 'extremely rewarding' role (Image: RBLG)



Blackwater Mill Residential Home

4 July · 🌐

FUNDING

The core of the Beach Lifeguard services in Ryde and Sandown is funded by Ryde and Sandown Town Councils each season.

Every year we seek additional funding through grants, as well as commercial partnerships which is essential in enabling the service to continue to grow and broaden its offering to the community, as well as spreading vital drowning prevention messaging.

Grant Funding

The service successfully obtained grants from Wightlink to purchase a new ATV, as well as Wight Aid and Southern Water to enable to purchase of two additional Beach Wheelchairs to support accessibility in Ryde and Sandown, with the service investing over £15,000 in accessibility projects to date.

Commercial Partnerships

Southern Water financially support all aspects of the delivery of our Sea Safe programme that is delivered to local schools. This enables us to purchase wetsuits, rash vests, noodles, swimming hats, certificates as well as staffing costs.

Electrical Solutions contributed to the running costs associated with the delivery of our Beach Rookie Lifeguard Programme delivered in August to over 80 local children, learning valuable lifesaving skills.

Harwoods Garage contribute to the fuel costs associated with running our fleet of rescue vehicles.



FUNDING

Additionally the Beach Lifeguards champion their own fundraising throughout the year to raise additional funds for the service.

Cross Solent Swim

The Beach Lifeguards participated in a cross Solent swim from Gosport to Ryde, organised by the service. All the Lifeguards completed the swim, and raised over £1,000 for the service.

Boxing Day Swim

The service provides safety cover to facilitate a Boxing Day swim each year in Ryde, which raises funds for the service as well as ensuring swimmers enjoy a Boxing Day dip safely.

Calendar

A calendar is produced each year by the Beach Lifeguards, and is available to purchase from Waterside Pool, raising funds for the service.

**BEACH
LIFEGUARDS**

2025



EQUIPMENT

RBLG constantly reviews and adapts its rescue service to the evolving demands of lifesaving to ensure the lifeguards have the facilities and equipment they need and deserve.

The team are provided with high quality uniform suitable for all weather conditions, including individual wetsuits and rash vests, as well as suncream and sun block.

Additionally the team have an Inshore Rescue Boat, Rescue Watercraft, All Terrain Vehicle, Rescue Boards, Kayaks, first aid equipment, AED's and various other rescue equipment at both locations. The Rescue Watercraft proved their worth again this season, with over 60 hours of use. Proving to be very versatile with quick response times and a greater presence in the water.

This year we purchased additional uniform, wetsuits, flags and rescue boards as well as maintaining our fleet of vehicles as up to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Looking ahead to 2025 we are hoping to improve the accessibility to the Rescue Watercraft and All Terrain Vehicle in Sandown, as well as obtaining a suitable venue to expand our Rookie Lifesaving programme to be delivered on Sandown beach.

We also hope to work with both councils to continue the improvements on beach accessibility as best we can, as well as maintaining our own accessibility wheelchairs at both sites.



OUR PARTNERS

At RBLG, we believe even one life lost due to drowning is one too many. But we can't save everyone alone.



We are proud to work in partnership with Ryde & Sandown Town Councils, beach concessionaires, training providers and specialist organisations that all help the service to continue to operate and keep visitors safe during the busy summer months. We would like to thank our partners for their ongoing commitment to beach safety and our mission to save every casualty.



SANDOWN
TOWN COUNCIL



ROYAL
LIFE SAVING
SOCIETY UK

Isle of Wight



INSPIRATION
F A B R I C A T I O N



2025

The core of the Beach Lifeguard services in Ryde and Sandown is funded by Ryde and Sandown Town Councils each season.


Each year we aim to improve the service we provide to both Ryde & Sandown Town Councils, so over the winter we will assess all the incident data collected from the lifeguards on paper incident report forms and review our procedures if necessary.

All the Lifeguard team are given the opportunity to provide their own feedback during their end of season appraisals with the Head Lifeguards, which is taken into consideration for our 2025 delivery.

Some of the seafront concessionaires in Sandown were extremely helpful and supportive, so we hope to continue this close relationship into 2025.

From all of the Beach Lifeguard Team, we would like to take this opportunity to thank both Ryde & Sandown Town Council for their continued support of the service and for of course choosing us to deliver the beach safety service.

RBLG look forward to delivering the service again for both councils, the local community and the visiting general public in 2025.



Todd Miller
Beach Lifeguard Manager



