



THE RAINY DAY TRUST SOUGHT LOCAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SUPPORT

BACKGROUND

The Iron and Metal Trades Benevolent Society was created in 1843. The fund helped people who worked in the iron trades, used in house building that had fallen on hard times, usually through illness. The Society grew and broadened their services. In 2004 they renamed as The Rainy Day Trust, to reflect the charity's changing responsibilities.

The Rainy Day Trust, based in Bromsgrove, have come a long way, and now provide huge support to the modern workforce. They help a vast number of people (and their partners), who have worked in the manufacture, wholesale, retail and distribution, builders' merchants, DIY, hardware, potteries and glass, housewares, and garden centres industries. They also help professional tradespeople such as plumbers, carpenters, and electricians for example.

Since 2012 they have given away more than £1.1million in award grants, financial, legal, and other flexible support to individuals (and families) working in these areas.

Every year the demand for their services just keeps growing. They now offer:

- Grants and financial support (for food, white goods etc)
- Apprenticeship support
- Fuel poverty help
- Legal Expenses service
- Telephone counselling
- Training and skills (e-learning)
- Housing advice

This year they celebrate their 180th anniversary and are the only charity which exists solely to help the UK's home improvement and enhancement industry.



WHAT WAS NEEDED AND THE SOLUTION

When The Rainy Day Trust purchased their office in 2019 on Harris Business Park, Bromsgrove, they realised that they needed assistance to comply with their health and safety obligations.

Bryan Clover, CEO The Rainy Day Trust, states, *“Previously we had dealt with landlords and so many of the building responsibilities lay with them. Owning an office of our own came with additional legal responsibilities. We have a policy to always use local companies, so as Sentinel Safety Solutions were literally on our doorstep, we approached them for help.”*

Sentinel Safety Solutions provided health and safety risk management support specifically to meet legal requirements, insurer expectations, industry good practice and safe systems of work. This involved the following:

- Producing a company-wide health and safety policy
- General risk assessment
- Fire risk assessment
- Manual handling assessment
- Employee health and safety handbook
- Regular reviews, updating documentation, risk assessments etc
- Training
- Ad-hoc support



THE RESULT

Bryan adds, *"We are a very busy charity working across the UK and it is great to feel completely confident that Sentinel Safety act as 'competent persons' for us, taking the stress out of compliance. We only work with quality suppliers/trades to ensure that we provide the best service to those that are in need, so why should this be any different with health & safety. The Rainy Day Trust's strapline, is 'You can't always do it yourself and this applies in this case too. We have been working with Sentinel for four years now and their routine support and advice on keeping the workplace safe is invaluable."*

Himmat Rai, Director, Sentinel Safety, comments *"We work with a lot of organisations who make a change within the workplace and do not always realise the health and safety implications that occur with owning a building for instance. We assist by taking all the stress of those challenges away. Ultimately, we help you sleep better at night, knowing that you are effectively managing the health and safety of your employees and customers, and meeting your legal obligations. The Rainy Day Trust are one of a kind, they are extremely passionate, dedicated, and great people to work with."*

The demand for help from The Rainy Day Trust has tripled in the last 12 months, as more people struggle with the economic climate. If you are reviewing your Corporate Social Responsibility strategy next year, this is a fantastic charity to consider. If you can assist at all in the form of fundraising by joining one of their fun events, becoming a partner, buying from their eBay listings see ([rainydaytrust2016 on eBay](#)) or donating items, please visit [Support Us - Rainy Day Trust](#) for more information, they will be very grateful for any help received!

