

# Kent Science Park Bradley Group

**Alex Menzies**, Director of the Bradley Group, talks about the importance of health and safety in the workplace, and explains how, with the right advice and training, companies can proactively – rather than reactively – engage in accident prevention.

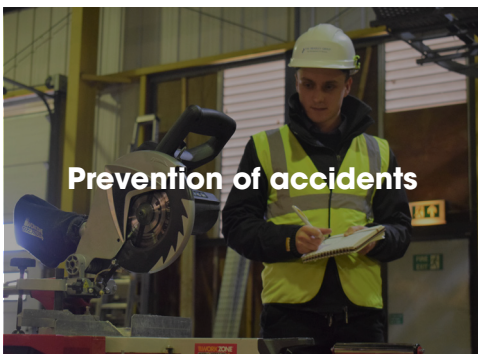
**“Compliance with health and safety legislation is mandatory, and we try to make the journey as painless as possible, building relationships with our clients and tailoring our services to their needs.”**

## Please tell us a little about the Bradley Group.

The Bradley Group has been based at the Kent Science Park for about 15 years. It began life as an occupational health and safety consultancy and has grown to include not only training services, but also bespoke risk management systems, helping clients to protect their businesses and reduce long-term costs. Compliance with health and safety legislation is mandatory, and we try to make the journey as painless as possible, building relationships with our clients and tailoring our services to their needs. Our staff of 10 work with businesses across a wide range of sectors, from construction and manufacturing to office environments – pretty much every type of business out there – advising them on how best to comply with occupational health and safety requirements. We also have a number of associates who we can bring in if we need to cover a specialist subject, such as manual handling or chemicals, or simply require additional staff for a short period of time.

## It sounds as though you cover a broad subject area then?

Occupational health today is very, very broad. There is a push to encourage companies to be proactive about health and safety rather than reactive, with more focus on wellbeing and preventing stress in the workplace, helping people to work better, safer and for longer. A large part of our work is the prevention of accidents, which can have a massive impact on a business. The costs associated with an accident can be huge, and can even result in the closure of the business. Alongside that, there's a recognition that productivity is linked to staff morale and that we need to be looking at things like diet and smoking cessation, as well as exercise and controlling stressors in the workplace. Companies that focus on workplace welfare generally find that their staff have less sick leave and can work well into later life with fewer issues. We also get involved in environmental management, and we can help companies to implement systems to manage compliance with quality standards.



## Where do your training services fit in?

The consultancy and training sides of the business are intrinsically linked, and offering a 'one-stop shop' makes life easier for our clients. They generally start off wanting consultancy or training and then, when they need another service, we can do that too, which means that they don't have to look for another provider. Our consultants are also tutors, so they prepare and deliver training sessions, at the same time strengthening their own competence in assisting clients. We start with basic level courses – for example, half-day or one-day courses on fire management or training for fire wardens – and go all the way up to nationally and internationally recognised qualifications such as the National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH). We're the only organisation in the South East offering training up to degree level – the NEBOSH Level 6 Diploma.

## Where do you hold your training courses?

We're flexible and can fit in with whatever suits the customer. We can run them in house – we have dedicated classroom facilities, breakout areas and catering services here at the science park – or at the customer's premises. Sometimes – and construction is a good example of this – businesses coming to the UK need specific qualifications to fulfil their contract, and it can be cheaper for us to deliver training in advance at the customer's site; we've been as far afield as Asia.

## What are the benefits of basing the company at Kent Science Park?

It's ideal for what we need, with ample parking and pleasant areas where students can relax. We're not too far from London, the M25 and other major routes, and close to the main rail infrastructure, which opens up a wide business area for us without putting too much of a travel burden on our staff.



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To learn more about the Bradley Group, visit [www.thebradleygroup.co.uk](http://www.thebradleygroup.co.uk)

To find out more about the facilities and opportunities at Kent Science Park, visit

[www.kentsciencepark.com](http://www.kentsciencepark.com).

