

Driving fleet safety and efficiency at SNG

The need to de-risk a hardworking fleet

SNG (Sovereign Network Group) was formed in October 2023 through the merger of Sovereign and Network Homes. With a portfolio of 84,000 homes across the south, west and east of England, it is one of the largest housing associations in the country. To help with the maintenance and repair of these homes it has a team of more than 800 tradespeople who travel from job to job in a fleet of 780 3.5 tonne panel and flat bed vans.



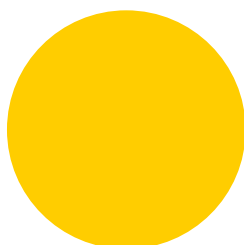
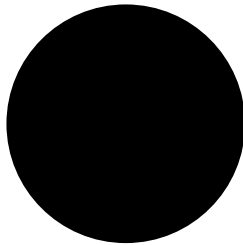
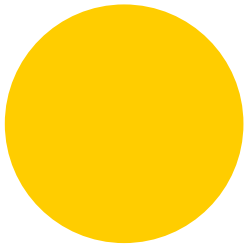
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**Improved
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**71% agreed
training was
worthwhile**

A proactive approach to safety, training, and premium reduction

In an initiative designed to reduce premiums and drive efficiency, SNG worked with its insurer to look at options for optimising fleet performance and reducing vehicle off road time. The insurance provider recommended Drivetech, the driver training arm of The AA, to deliver a planned programme of driver training across its mobile workforce.



Fleet Manager, George Carter explains:

“Our facilities engineers are a valuable, multiskilled asset to the business. We’re mindful of the costs of rising insurance premiums, and with safety a priority, it was also vitally important to us to go above and beyond to ensure that our fleet was as safe as possible - not just for our own staff but for all road users.

As a starting point, we installed telematics in the vans to provide insight into driver behaviours. This insight was then used to assign on-road training from Drivetech according to driver needs.”



A targeted programme to improve driver safety

Since August 2024, Drivetech has delivered 93 courses in total for SNG resulting in improved driving for 84% of the cohort, with additional dedicated one-to-one coaching being provided for the remainder.

After the first five months of training, SNG surveyed those who had participated in the course and 71% agreed that training had been worthwhile and they had taken positive learnings from the experience. SNG has now made the training an integral part of its onboarding process for all new tradespeople.

Carter continues: “Not only is the training effective, it’s extremely easy to book and very flexible which is vitally important when you have a multi-site operation. I did the training myself when I started, so I can clearly explain it to both existing and new staff so they understand the value of it and why it will help them no matter how much driving experience they have.

Driving is one of those skills that we don’t get refreshers on and yet we do refresher training for other parts of the job. It’s more than just a refresh of what you know - it provides additional tips that help with the day-to-day driving experience and our teams are classed as professional drivers as they have to cover a lot of miles.”

Training embedded

“Driver training is now fully embedded in the business,” Carter goes on. “We expect it to make a big difference when our insurance comes up for renewal.

We are also rolling out technology such as reversing aid camera, dashcams and alerting tools to support drivers. Together with the training, it will help us to run the fleet as safely as possible.

Safer driving is better for the public, it helps us to ensure our drivers get home safely, and also that they get to their jobs without any disruptions. It’s overall good for the drivers, good for the business and good for customers and our reputation as a responsible business.”



“At Drivetech, our mission is to reduce fleet risk through innovative, data-driven training solutions to create a culture of safer driving wherever and whenever needed.

We’re proud to partner with organisations like SNG which recognise the value of embedding safety at every level.

Together, we’re not only improving driver safety but also helping fleets operate more efficiently and responsibly in an ever-evolving mobility landscape,” adds Leo Taylor, Director, Drivetech.

Visit <https://www.sng.org.uk> and www.drivetech.co.uk for more info.