

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY		
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REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update for Members around community safety initiatives / programmes undertaken within Nottinghamshire and the City of Nottingham.

2. BACKGROUND

The Fire and Rescue Services Act places a statutory duty on Fire Services to adopt a preventative approach to community risk and actively engage in community safety. Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service has an excellent record over a number of years in being actively engaged in enhancing the community safety of the public of Nottinghamshire.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service's national reputation is based around innovative initiatives and the very highest level of commitment throughout the Service. Each activity is designed to address one or more identified safety needs within the County, such as reducing accidental fires, injuries, arson or protecting the environment. (See Appendix A, Community Safety Activity Matrix). The work the Service has undertaken has seen dramatic reductions in the level of suffering in the community with deaths and injuries from accidental dwelling fires. A brief explanation of each activity type is attached as Appendix B.
- 3.2 In addition to these activities, Service Level Agreements are now in place with key players within the County. These include agreements with Building Controls, Environmental Health, Education (City and County), NHS Trusts, Care Standards and incorporate exchange of information, meetings and utilise the new risk based approach to their premises. The majority of these have now been reviewed and are seen to fully satisfy the organisational partnership approach to working with our key stakeholders.
- 3.3 In a modern Fire and Rescue Service it has become increasingly evident that the outcome of the creation of a safer society can only be achieved by a wide range of stakeholders using their combined resources and skills in a collective way.
- 3.4 The Service aims to build on these successes through partnerships and joint initiatives and through active engagement with Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), key partners and the local community. The Service is a statutory partner in CDRPs and already plays an active role across all of Nottinghamshire's CDRPs. The Service is currently a statutory consultee with LSPs, but despite this barrier the Service is building strong working partnerships with local

Primary Care Trusts and local authorities. This can be seen in the work of the Mansfield Accident Prevention Group which focuses on a range of issues from safety in the home through to road safety.

- 3.5 Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service's Community Safety Strategy "Creating safer Communities" has been designed to link into the wide range of statutory plans and strategies of other partners. The strategy is underpinned by the Local Risk Management Plan, Community Safety Business Plan and Local District Plans.
- 3.6 The overall achievement of the Service's responsibilities in relation to community safety is interdependent upon the provision of a robust framework of personnel and policies to ensure communication, support, delivery and sustainability.
- 3.7 The structure of the framework for sustainable development and activity is as follows :

Community Safety

- Nine district based Community Safety Advocates ;
- A Virtual Community Safety Task Force of six community safety officers ;
- Central HQ Community Safety Team, including the identified specialist posts (Risk Watch Co-ordinator, Educationalist, Home Safety Check Co-ordinator, Police Officer ATF, Data Analyst, BME Development Worker, Young Person / ASB Worker).

Technical Fire Safety

- Three groups of inspecting officers based within the geographical areas (Mansfield, City, South) ;
- A countywide Licensing section ;
- Supported by officers based at Fire Service Headquarters.

This framework will provide the Service, local partnerships and communities with the information and support they need to take effective action.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All activities described within this report are contained within existing budgets.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

The nine district Community Safety Advocate posts have been advertised and the selection process is in progress. The six Community Safety Officers – Virtual Community Safety Task Force (recruitment from ridership temporarily suspended). Recruitment to the vacancies will be in line with the Authority's recruitment procedures, ensuring equality of access and opportunity to all potential applicants.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Through the delivery of the Community Safety activities / programmes, the Service will be able to address both sustainability within communities and wider issues of social inclusion.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The ODPM has set targets for reducing the number of accidental fire related deaths in the home by 20% by 2010, and reducing deliberate fires by 10% by 2010. This is recognised by the ODPM as a challenging target and only by working in true

partnership across the whole of Nottinghamshire with the targeted responses in those communities at most risk, will the Service successfully achieve a reduction.

- 7.2 The Service's Community Safety Strategy 2005 – 2007 sets out our commitment to ensure that the community has the opportunity to engage and access intervention programmes, giving them the opportunity to prepare for their role as safer citizens and develop a wide range of skills.
- 7.3 These programmes provide the Service with a focused approach to specific groups and agendas community safety, road safety initiatives, work with offenders and useful life skills, through partners gaining access to places the Service might not normally be invited.
- 7.4 By investing and developing in these communities the Service can maximise their potential and celebrate their achievements, through increasing opportunities, breaking the cycle of deprivation and increasing their quality of life.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of this report and its associated implications with regard to the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

None.

Paul Woods
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

APPENDIX A

COMMUNITY SAFETY MATRIX
WHAT WE DO & HOW WE DO IT

AIMS	REDUCING FIRES	REDUCING FIRE DEATHS AND INJURIES	REDUCING DOMESTIC FIRES	REDUCING ARSON	REDUCING UNWANTED CALLS	REDUCING ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS	DELIVERING SAFETY EDUCATION	PROTECTING THE ELDERLY	REDUCING THE RISK OF SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES	PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION	PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT	SAFEGUARDING HOMES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY	PROTECTING BUSINESS CONTINUITY	RAISING THE PROFILE OF THE SERVICE	REDUCING AVOIDABLE INJURY	REDUCING FEAR OF CRIME
ACTIVITY																
HOME SAFETY CHECK	3	3	3	1			2	3	3	1		3		2	1	1
CARE FOR CARERS	3	3	3	1			2	3	1	1				2	1	
COMMUNITY WATCH	1			2	1		1						3	2		1
PRINCES TRUST	1			1	1	1	2			2				3	1	
NATIONAL CFS CAMPAIGNS	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	1
EDUCATIONAL STRATEGY	3	2	3	1	3	2	3	2	2					2	1	1
RISK WATCH	3	3	3	1	1	2	3	2	1	1				3	2	1
SAFETY ZONE	2	2	2	1	1	1	3		1	2				2	2	1
IMPACT ROADSHOW				2	1	3	3			1	1			2	1	1
BACKFIRE PROGRAMME	2		2	3	3		3				1			2	1	1
JUNIOR FIRESETTERS	3	1	2	3	1		2		1	1				2	1	1
STOP PROGRAMME	3	1	2	3	1		2			1				1		1
FIRESAFE	3	1	2	3	1		2							1		1
OTHER YOUTH SCHEMES- DOE, SCOUTS ETC	1		1		1		2			1				1	1	
ABANDONED VEHICLES RUBBISH REMOVAL	3	1	1	3	3					1	3			1		2
ARSON / FIRE AWARENESS TRAINING	3	1	1	3	1						3	1	1	1		1
AFTER INCIDENT RESPONSE	1	2	2				1	1	1				1	1	1	1
FIRE INVESTIGATION	1	1	1	2				1			1	1	1	1		1
RISK BASED INSPECTION PROGRAMME	2			2	1		3	3			3		3	1	1	
FIRE SAFETY ADVICE ENFORCING LEGISLATION	3	3			2		2	3			2	3	3	1	1	

COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITY

Brief Explanation of Each Activity Type

Home Safety Check Scheme

Visits are made by Service personnel to vulnerable people in the community and the Service offers a free home safety check and the fitting of smoke alarms where applicable. As can be seen from the "Safety Matrix," Home Safety Checks are vital to the Service's efforts to reduce fires, fire injuries and fatalities and protect the elderly and other vulnerable groups. The Service also works closely with its partners, Age Concern, Safe as Houses, Safe and Secure Homes, Surestart to train their staff to undertake the assessments on the Service's behalf. Information and data gained from the process will help to build a community risk profile to assist with the Integrated Risk Management Planning process (IRMP).

Caring for the Carers

This training programme alerts carers to the risks of fire within the home and is available to any person caring for a family member or individual. All Local Authority care staff attend training sessions along with Health Professionals. Recent developmental work has secured a working relationship with EMAS and the development of an additional training programme "Eyes and Ears" for use with all of their non emergency transport staff, to assist in the identification of our most vulnerable community.

Community Watch

This Scheme is in development and will extend the number of visits made to commercial premises, both to offer advice and raise business awareness of the dangers from fire. It will link in closely with the work of the Fire Safety Officers, and information received through the FSA1.

Princes Trust

The Service established a partnership with the Princes Trust in 2001. The scheme focuses on young people who struggle at school, are in or leaving care and those who are at risk of offending or who have offended. It aims to offer a series of personal development programmes. Giving young people an opportunity to prepare for their roles as future citizens and to develop a wide range of skills.

National Fire Safety Campaigns

The Service supports National Fire Safety campaigns developed by the National Community Fire Safety Centre (NCFSC) through local initiatives designed to increase the impact of national TV and press campaigns. An annual calendar is produced with all of the safety themes throughout the year for all stations and guidance for participation, supported by literature produced by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the local community safety team. The Service has worked closely with the NCFSC in developing campaign materials for the BME community for their religious festivals, Eid and Dewali. The Service's BME Community Development Worker continues to build strong links with our diverse communities to enable us to effectively engage in meaningful consultation to fully identify their needs and continually develop initiatives in partnership with the community.

Education Strategy

In addition to the more specialised educational initiatives such as Risk Watch and Safety Zone, the Service provides educational packages for schools which integrate safety messages within the national curriculum. An example of this is “Backfire” – a complete classroom lesson which specifically focuses on the dangers of hoax calls and arson. For the foundation stage / nursery education the Service is developing a fire safety risk education box.

Risk Watch

Risk Watch is a school based safety education programme that links teachers with community safety experts and parents. It provides a consistent modular approach to risk awareness and safety education through the national curriculum. After a small pilot in the north of the county and evaluation by the ODPM, an extended pilot began in the City last year, with a local evaluation being undertaken by Nottingham University and development of a national evaluation tool to be used with the programme. Supported by a wide range of stakeholders, the programme will continue to be rolled out across the county schools.

Safety Zone / Making All Children Safe (MACS)

This is a multi-agency partnership with many of the County’s safety organisations, which promotes safety education through experiential learning, working towards the reduction of avoidable injuries and encouraging safer behaviour by developing children’s understanding between hazard and risk. This year the programme has been adapted to support the learning of those with disabilities, older people and young people on the verge of offending behaviour.

Impact Roadshow

A vehicle crime awareness workshop that provides a resource for use with appropriately identified young people, which will seek to reduce crime, offending and road accidents. This initiative is also supported by station personnel and their Road Traffic Collision (RTC) awareness days.

Junior Firesetters

Junior Firesetters is a highly successful and well established programme of early intervention to respond to firesetting behaviour particularly in young children. Specially trained personnel who are part of the “Fire Setter Intervention Team” visit the children and family. This early stage intervention has an indirect bearing on crime reduction as unchallenged behaviour may evolve into a series of offending and antisocial behaviour.

STOP Programme

This is a structured programme of interventions assessing the person’s behaviour in relation to arson and criminal damage by fire. The emphasis is to challenge existing behaviour and prevent further offending.

Firesafe

Firesafe is a cognitive behavioural programme with the aim to reduce or extinguish offending behaviour with the emphasis being on firesetting. It seeks to do this by introducing, sequentially, the problem solving model that addresses in particular : impulsivity, empathy, alternative thinking, creative thinking and consequential thinking. There are ten sessions in total, each lasting approximately 90 minutes. Specialist training for implementation of this programme and recruitment of suitable personnel has commenced.

Other Youth Schemes

A significant part of the Service's youth work will be assisting other youth organisations in delivering safety education to their own members at local fire stations. The Service participates in the Duke Of Edinburgh Scheme, and youth organisations such as Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Cubs.

Abandoned Vehicles / Rubbish Removal / Secure Building Schemes

The Service encourages and co-operates with Local Authorities and other agencies in removing abandoned vehicles, accumulation of rubbish from public places, and securing of empty properties to prevent unauthorised access in order to reduce the threat of vandalism, theft, criminal activities and fire setting. The Arson Task Force plays an important role in the co-ordination of the strategy for arson reduction across the county with our partners.

Arson Fire Awareness Training

The Service offers a 2-hour awareness session, giving advice on housekeeping techniques and reducing the risks around arson. All Police Community Safety Support Officers receive this training with Street Wardens, CCTV operatives, and other Local Authority staff.

After Incident Responses (AIR)

Following any large or traumatic fire the community seek both re-assurance and advice. The AIR programme enables a rapid response to be made to a local community to meet these important needs. Fire and Rescue Service personnel give advice and re-assurance to the local community and offer home safety checks.

Fire Investigation

The Service carries out a number of fire investigations every year in order to determine causes of fire and how best to prevent them. High standards of investigation and understanding the causes of fires and explosions are the key to community safety, and in turn lead to successful prosecutions of arson offences. The ten dual role specialist Fire Investigators are an integral to the Community Safety Team, whose information determines future targeting and activity. They also provide technical support to Nottinghamshire Police in the investigation of deliberate fires. Since January 2005, 57 fire investigations have been conducted – 40 of these have been dwellings, which include 2 fatalities and 1 arson homicide, in addition to 3 factories, which includes a £3million loss. Due to improved police liaison through the secondment of a retired police officer into the Arson Task Force, the Service is able to report that 77 persons have been arrested on suspicion of arson offences since January 2005. Assistance is often required from the hydrocarbon detection dog from Derbyshire.

Technical Fire Safety

Risk Based Inspection Programme

Inspecting Officers are undertaking new systems of work which adopt a risk based approach to the inspection of premises within the county and is based on the Enforcement Management Model utilised by the Health and Safety Executive. This involves gathering of information and the grading of each premises, resulting in actions to be taken. This includes the forwarding of critical information to Operational Crews and will ensure a more consistent approach to any enforcement issues that may arise. This process allows the Service to target its Fire Prevention inspection work to where it is most needed.

Fire Safety Advice/Enforcing Legislation

The Service not only provides technical advice on all aspects of Fire Safety, but also acts as the main fire legislation enforcing authority in the County.

Advice Line

A Fire Safety advice line has been established within Fire Service Headquarters. This deals with all queries emanating from commercial premises and is advertised on all general literature – eg: leaflets.

Data Gathering

The collation of data from the risk based audit will bring together data which will inform enforcement/compliance, and the data that will be gathered for FSEC, which in its turn informs the Integrated Risk Management Planning process (IRMP).