

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY	
date	23 February 2007	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION STRATEGY 2007 - 2010

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present to Members the Service's Community Risk Reduction Strategy for formal adoption.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Members will be aware of the extensive community safety work undertaken across the Service in order to put safety at the heart of our communities. These initiatives range from RiskWatch, that brings a holistic safety approach into the classroom environment, to the Impact Roadshow that focuses on road safety issues, as well as Prince's Trust TEAM programme and Home Safety Checks. The Service is also a key partner in both Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Area Agreements where it is working with various agencies to reduce the number of avoidable injuries that take place each year and the volume of deliberate fires.

2.2 To ensure that both colleagues within the Service and external partners have clarity on the Service's aims and objectives, roles and responsibilities, and the Service's commitment to putting safety at the heart of the community, it is important the Service publishes a single strategy detailing these areas.

2.3 The Community Risk Reduction Strategy was presented to the Community Safety Committee at its meeting on 19 January 2007, where it was recommended that the Strategy be presented to the Authority for formal adoption.

3. REPORT

3.1 The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 places a statutory duty on Fire & Rescue Authorities 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.

3.2 The Service's national reputation is based around innovative initiatives and commitment from the very highest level of the Service through to firefighters who visit homes in their local community and undertake Home Safety Checks, work

with other partners delivering the 'Caring for the Carers' training and empowering local school children in the classroom and on fire stations with such initiatives as RiskWatch, MACS or Safety Zone days and Impact Roadshow. 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 dropping by 31% over the last 5 years.

- 3.3 The aim of this strategy is to build on these successes through partnerships and joint initiatives and through active engagement with Crime and Disorder and Local Strategic Partnerships through Local Area Agreements (LAA). The Service is an active partner within the Nottinghamshire County Council's and Nottingham City Council's LAA, a 3-year agreement with the Government which started in April 2006. The Service is predominately involved in the Healthier Communities & Older People and the Safer Stronger Communities elements of the LAA.
- 3.4 The Community Risk Reduction Strategy 2007/10 (Appendix A) is a single logical strategy with three complementary strands: the Service's 'Operating Environment', the 'Structure & Responsibilities' to ensure successful delivery and 'Areas of Focus' which details a coherent Service wide commitment. This strategy aims to avoid a prescriptive approach that is applied from the centre by recognising that optimum success will be achieved by local delivery teams identifying trends within their district and working in collaboration with both the community and other agencies to deliver an effective local solution. In doing this, the strategy limits the essential requirements to those that are necessary to establish a consistent Service-wide approach.
- 3.5 The strategy outlines an overview of the problems faced by the community from the socio-economic issues and disadvantage within specific areas and the wider issues faced by the ex-coalfield communities and the inner city communities of Nottingham and how this translates in to some of the highest incidence rates of avoidable injury events in the UK.
- 3.6 It is important that everyone within the Service has clear direction and fully understands their role and responsibilities in improving the safety of our community. This strategy sets out clearly these roles and responsibilities across the Safety Services department. This includes responsibilities regarding partnership engagement and in particular attendance at Crime & Disorder Partnerships and Local Strategy Partnerships.
- 3.7 To ensure that resources are used effectively and efficiently it is important that local delivery teams focus on areas that meet the Authority's vision and aims. To enable a coherent approach, the final part of the strategy sets out the key 'Areas of Focus' that local teams will concentrate on when meeting the needs of their local community.
- 3.8 The Areas of Focus cover the following issues :
 - 3.8.1 Safer Homes, RiskWatch, Young People, Road Safety Partnership, Reducing Deliberate Fires and Raising Awareness through Campaigns and Consultation.
 - 3.8.2 In order to set clear service delivery expectations for colleagues and partners three distinct frameworks have been created that set out expected outcomes, targets and indicators and how district performance

will be measured. The frameworks cover Safer Homes, Safer Roads and Safer Neighbourhoods, this approach dovetails with the regional Avoidable Injuries strategy and Local Area Agreement delivery plans.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional financial implications have been identified which cannot be accommodated within current budgets.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This strategy will assist the Service in delivering the Authority's vision of creating safer communities to all members of our communities.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The failure of the strategy to deliver key outcomes could create opportunities for external scrutiny. The strategy is therefore comprehensive in terms of what risks it will address and dovetails with the Authority's Community Safety Plan.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members formally adopt the Community Risk Reduction Strategy 2007 – 2010.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

- Community Risk Reduction Strategy 2007 – 2010.

Paul Woods
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER