



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Community Safety Plan

Annual Update

(July 2007)



Your County Your City, Your Safety

This document presents the annual update of progress against The Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service 2007 - 2010 Community Safety Plan.

Nottinghamshire is a unique county; a blend of city and countryside, historical tradition and current achievements, industrial history and new opportunities. All these combine to make it a county that is attractive to live in, work and visit. We in the Fire and the Rescue Service are working hard to create a safer community. Working towards a safer Nottinghamshire by putting safety at the heart of the community.

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Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service Community Safety Plan Annual Update 2007

Introduction

Our Community Safety Plan sets out our intentions to deliver continuous improvement; changing to meet the new demands placed on us both locally, and following world events.

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service recognises that we need a balanced approach, which includes delivering an immediate emergency response whenever we are called, together with the need to engage in activities to drive down risk through a programme of prevention and protection.

The Community Safety Plan is all about how we use our resources to focus our efforts in the right areas.

The Plan brings together all the elements of our service to our communities, and shows how we will use our resources in the period 2007 - 2010 to deliver effective fire prevention, protection and response. Our Community Safety Plan is divided into nine areas, in line with the Government's current National Fire and Rescue Framework:

- Community risk reduction
- Working together
- Effective response
- Resilience
- Fire & rescue staff
- Workforce development
- Finance
- Performance management
- Research

It is expected that the National Framework document will be refined in 2008. Our plans will be adjusted, in accordance with this, as it becomes clear.

This section looks at how we assess local risk to life and property, and how we will deploy our resources to tackle these issues.

Protection (Technical Fire Safety Initiatives)

To meet our statutory obligations, we will enforce Fire Prevention standards through our programme of inspections as part of our overall Community Risk Reduction process. Our approach is based on clearly understanding the risks in our community. It includes the physical inspection of premises, giving advice and guidance, helping people to learn about fire safety and maintaining fire protection schemes.

In order to do this, we consider:-

- Government guidance
- Professional directives and policies
- Prioritising risk
- National guidance and expectations
- Local risk reduction plans
- Matching resources to risk
- Effective partnerships

Responsibility for fire safety now rests with the person responsible for the premises. We are on hand to give advice on reducing risk and so help to protect those who enter these premises.

If you require fire safety advice, please phone our Community Protection Team on 0115 967 5834.

Prevention (Managing the Risk in Your Community)

The Service is involved in a range of innovative safety initiatives throughout the community. A cornerstone is our active partnership in both the Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council Local Area Agreements.

- The Risk Watch safety programme continues to be delivered to an increasing number of primary schools across the county.
- The Firesetters programme continues to accept referrals from our partner agencies to address the behaviour of young children who play with fire.
- Over the last three years, we have delivered over 25,000 Home Safety Checks. Our approach in the future will be to focus on vulnerable and high risk groups through a evidenced based targeted approach.

If you would like a free home safety check, please call 0115 967 0880

Our approaches to encourage greater community involvement are co-ordinated by our central community team modern facilities and targeted intervention programmes.

We are also closely involved in the Seatsafe partnership. This aims to ensure that child car seats are fitted correctly and are appropriate for the child and the vehicle.

Every Child Matters

A good example of how we are working with our partners across the county and city is the Every Child Matters project. In 2003, the Government published a Green Paper called Every Child Matters. This was published alongside the formal response to the report into the death of Victoria Climbié. One of the ways our Fire and Rescue Service is supporting the aims of Every Child Matters is in the area of increasing the focus on supporting families and carers – the most critical influence on children's lives.

Within the Stay Safe section of Every Child Matters, we are contributing towards keeping children and young people safe from accidental injury and death. We are engaging children and young people in youth schemes across Nottinghamshire which helps to develop a sense of community and promotes law-abiding and positive behaviour, both in and out of school. Our youth programmes also contribute to the achievement of economic wellbeing through helping to build skills in readiness for employment.

Response (Dealing with Emergencies and Resilience)

Our protection and prevention work aims to help people avoid emergency situations, but we must also maintain our swift response to emergency incidents if they do occur.

We are currently replacing our existing appliances and equipment to deliver a modern professional service to the communities we serve.

Growing legislation and accompanying regulations require us to be ready to face a wide range of emergencies – including a major terrorist attack. Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service is up to the challenge and has formulated detailed plans for maintaining our service and helping to return things to normal following a major emergency or event. We work closely with other agencies in the 'Local Resilience Forum' to develop these plans.

Performance Management and Governance

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service looks forward to the Government's new performance framework for local services, the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), which is expected to be in place by April 2009. This framework replaces the former Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) against which we have been measured previously. Since the CPA was carried out we have not stood still. We have been working hard on some key areas to make the necessary changes to drive improvement.

Our achievements include:

- The development and implementation of revised governance arrangements, which will be strengthened further through the actions within this plan.
- The development of our performance management framework, which will be embedded through robust performance management.
- Improved succession planning for Members and senior officers.
- Agreement of our Personal Development Review system, which will be strengthened further through this plan.
- We have carried out Best Value Reviews to drive improvement, such as our Best Value Review of Partnerships, which will be further progressed in line with this improvement plan.

The transition to CAA will be informed by the revised public service agreement priority outcomes arising from the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review and related new national indicators. CAA transition will also include 'new generation' Local Area Agreements and joint working with other regulators.

Local Area Agreements (LAA's) represent a new relationship between local and central government and key partners. They are a three year agreement giving more freedom and flexibility to achieve local solutions that meet local needs – with the incentive of gaining extra funding if successful.

The Service is an active partner in both Nottingham City Council's and Nottinghamshire County Council's LAA's. We will need to show how all the partners will deliver a better quality of life for people through improving performance on both local and national priorities. Partners have been asked to agree what needs to be done in four areas of community life:

- healthier communities and older people
- economic development and enterprise
- safer and stronger communities
- children and young people

The Service has been working with partners to develop targets to:

- Reduce the prevalence and impact of avoidable injuries with particular regard to those suffering disadvantage by reducing avoidable injuries.
- Reduce deliberate fires and the impact of Anti-Social Behaviour related arson on our communities.

The need to reduce avoidable injuries has been recognised as so important that it has been identified as a key area of focus within both the City's and County's LAA's.

We are also aiming to measure and manage corporate and departmental performance through Local Performance Indicators.

At corporate level, Local Performance Indicators are being set up linked to our corporate objectives in addition to the Best Value Performance Indicators:

- Number of Home Safety Checks completed
- Number of Special Service Calls
- Percentage of incidents attended within 10 minutes
- FDR1 (fire reports) completed within 7 days of incident
- Number of schools receiving community safety intervention

Departmental Local Performance Indicators are being set to manage specific department objectives. Local Performance indicators will be used by the following departments:

- Finance
- Fire safety
- Information services
- Safety services
- Human Resources
- Community safety

Fire and Rescue Service Staff

We value our staff and recognise them as our most important asset. We encourage diversity and continue to work to attract people from all backgrounds and with a wide variety of skills. We are committed to developing flexible working patterns and increasing opportunities for job sharing arrangements, flexible hours and part-time working.

To ensure that we have a competent workforce, we continue to develop structured workforce development programmes and encourage the way to higher and specialist roles. We value our service to the community, how we treat people, how we seek to improve and how we respond positively to diversity.



Finance

We have extended our financial analysis to develop a greater understanding of the link between finance and service delivery - and to do this we plan to improve our financial management information system. We aim to release resources wherever we can to support our delivery of front-line activities.

Our capital investment throughout the three-year Community Safety Plan will be over £12.54 million – a 51% increase on the previous year’s 3-year capital programme. This is to help us meet the needs of the communities we serve through, for example, building state-of-the-art fire stations which impact as little as possible on the natural environment. By efficiently managing the investment the public make in our Fire and Rescue Service we have managed to keep the cost per head of the population down to around 73p per week for the Service.

Research

We believe that research is essential for us to develop our future policy, for us to understand the evolving risks to our communities and meet them effectively, for us to identify best practice and for us to be best-informed of the most efficient and effective ways to deliver our service.

We will engage in detailed research to analyse our incident statistics, so that we can target education and prevention activity at areas of greatest need.

Key projects include rolling out the latest generation of fire appliances and rescue equipment and introducing very effective rescue vehicles.

We are improving our command and control arrangements at incidents. The replacement of our command and control vehicle will greatly improve this capability. During the next two years we will be reviewing our special appliances, foam and water carrying capability.

We will replace our firefighters’ protective clothing under the national ‘Firebuy’ system. The communications system will be replaced with the new national equipment and system which will greatly improve our ability to communicate with other emergency services. We have replaced the breathing apparatus in use in the Service with the latest model of sets available and will deliver the necessary training to all operational firefighters.

Environmental Issues

Local Agenda 21 is about taking action to ensure that the environment on which we and future generations depend is not irreparably damaged by the way we live today. We have a responsibility to future generations to pass on an environment which is capable of sustaining life, providing the raw materials which generate wealth, and which supports a society where there is respect and care for one another and the environment in which we live.

Our Service recognises our responsibility to contribute to this sustainability. We recognise that sustainability and community safety are linked, and we are therefore undertaking to deliver a quality public service, whilst at the same time minimising our impact on the environment.

These activities include:-

- Confining more fires to the room or space of origin through rapid and effective intervention.
- Procuring environmentally sensitive firefighting foams.
- Promoting efficient vehicle usage across our fleet and introducing energy saving features and designs across our existing and proposed buildings. We are working to preserve our environment for the communities we serve.

At an operational level we have developed a highly effective response to hazardous materials incidents. This will help prevent environmental damage caused by chemical incidents and major fires. We are also involved in the Detection, Identification and Monitoring equipment project which provides the most sophisticated analysis of chemicals currently available.



This picture of the Buncefield incident demonstrates the environmental challenges posed by major fires. Staff from Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service were involved in this incident for several days.

Further Information

More detailed information on our plans and progress can be found in our 2007 Annual Performance Plan and Review, available in either electronic format from our website (www.notts-fire.gov.uk), or in hard copy by writing to: Information Services, Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service, Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 8PD.



Creating Safer Communities

“At Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service we are working as an organisation to ensure that we provide the best service possible.

We want the citizens of Nottinghamshire to judge how well we deliver that service to them, it's citizens living in the communities we serve who, when in partnership with us locally, will tell us how well we are performing.

We will continue to develop our high quality response service and reduce the risk right across the community at, work, at leisure, at home and as people travel around our city and county. Finally we will continue providing an excellent service and value for money to residents and visitors in the heart of the East Midlands.”



Frank Swann
Chief Fire Officer

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Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service recognises the diverse make up of the county and is therefore committed to equality and fairness. Part of that commitment is to ensure our Community Safety Plan is available in the 10 main languages spoken in Nottinghamshire.

This document is available in the following languages on request.

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਹਮਿਲ ਹੈ
یہ دستاویز اردو زبان میں دستیاب ہے۔

ہے میکر دید، اگر کہ میدانستید به هیچ نحوی رد نخواهید شد؟

આ ડોક્યુમેન્ટ ગુજરાતીમાં ઉપલબ્ધ છે.

這個信息有中文版。

यह जानकारी आपकी भाषा में उपलब्ध है।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة أيضاً باللغة العربية.

এই লেখাটি (ডকুমেন্ট) বাংলা ভাষাও পাওয়া যাচ্ছে

Ky dokument eshte i perkthyer ne gjuhen shqipe.



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