

## report

meeting	<b>NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>	
	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE</b>	
date	<b>19 January 2007</b>	agenda item number

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

#### COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION STRATEGY 2007 - 2010

##### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present to Members, Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue 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.

##### 3. REPORT

3.1 The 'Fire and Rescue Services' Act 2004 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.

3.2 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 Community Safety Committee recommend adoption of the Community Risk Reduction Strategy 2007 – 2010 to the Fire & Rescue Authority.

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION**

- Community Risk Reduction Strategy 2007 - 2010

Paul Woods  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

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## Introduction

The 'Fire and Rescue Services' Act (2004) 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.

Our 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 Risk Watch, MaCS (Make all Children Safe) or Safety Zone days and Impact Roadshow.

The aim of this Strategy is to build on these successes through partnerships, joint initiatives and 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 Councils' LAA, a 3-year agreement with Government starting in April 2006. The Service is predominately involved in the Healthier Communities & Older People and the Safer Stronger Communities elements of the LAA.

Our partnership around Healthier Communities & Older People aims to reduce the number of avoidable injury casualties from accidents in the home, on the road and at work focusing on key 'at risk' groups. Our partnership around Safer Stronger Communities aims to reduce deliberate fires focusing on vehicle and property arson and fires caused through Anti-Social Behaviour.

This new partnership will strengthen and give clarity to our already strong partnership with Crime and Disorder Partnerships (CDP) and Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP's) where the Service works with other agencies to reduce vehicle crime generally and especially arson related vehicle crime with initiatives such as Operation Cubbit where a multi-agency approach is adopted to ensure untaxed vehicles are removed from the streets before they are used for criminal activities or are subjected to vandalism that ends in arson.

Within this document is set out Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service's Risk Reduction Strategy for the 3 year period March 2006 to March 2009 and it has been designed to link into the wide range of statutory plans and strategies of other partners.

## **Purpose and Scope of Risk Reduction Strategy**

The Risk Reduction Strategy is a single logical strategy in 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 priorities 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.

The Strategy outlines an overview of the problems faced by our community from the socio-economic and disadvantage contained within specific areas and the wider issues faced by the ex-coalfield communities and the inner city communities of Nottingham and how this translates into some of the highest incidence rates of avoidable injury events in the UK.

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.

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.

## Vision and Aims of the Fire Authority

In keeping with the Government's ambitions, the vision of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority is to:

- ◆ Ensure that the people it serves are safe from a range of hazards including fire
- ◆ Reduce the effects on people, property and the environment of emergency incidents

### **The Service will do this by:**

- ◆ Reducing the number of incidents and their effect by providing services which inform, encourage and support people, organisations and communities, to take action themselves to reduce risk.
- ◆ Reducing the effects of any accident or situation where the Fire Service is required.
- ◆ Providing the support systems to ensure that our services are provided effectively and economically.

In meeting the Authority's vision and aim the Service needs to take a wider view of its role. We are already committed to a range of activities that meet our core activities, for example the link between smoking cessation campaigns and deaths from smoking related fires.

In addition, we are closely aligned with, and participate in, the Regional Public Health work on Avoidable Injury Reduction. Local crews have also engaged in this wider agenda with multi-agency initiatives such as 'Safety Zone' and 'Start Thinking of Other People' - a programme aimed at young offenders.

Nottinghamshire F&RS is committed to acting in support of the Government's agenda on social inclusion, neighbourhood renewal, tackling health inequalities and regenerating deprived areas. This Strategy is a key step in ensuring the modern 21<sup>st</sup> century Fire Service is focused on 'Putting Safety at the Heart of Our Community'.



## Our Challenging Operating Environment

Below is an extract from the ODPM's Neighbourhood Renewal Unit's own publication.

*“Disadvantaged communities tend to face multiple deprivation, which can have a serious effect on health. The most disadvantaged are likely to experience lower levels of education attainment, poorer housing, higher rates of unemployment and crime. They are exposed to more risks than people in less disadvantaged communities. They are less likely to have access to the best services when they are ill. As a consequence of this multiple disadvantage they are more likely to die at a younger age than people living in more affluent areas”.*

It clearly sets out the challenges facing all public services in meeting the Government's social inclusion vision of narrowing the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest, so that within 10 – 20 years, no one is seriously disadvantaged by where they live.

There is clear evidence that links disadvantaged communities, as measured by the Indices of Deprivation, to a higher level of exposure both to fire and other avoidable injury risk. This link clearly affects Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service, where we experience significantly higher levels of demand from the communities with the highest level of deprivation.

The recently published 'Indices of Deprivation for 2004' clearly indicated the level of deprivation within the areas covered by Nottingham City Council – 9<sup>th</sup>, Mansfield District Council – 36<sup>th</sup> and Ashfield District Council – 50<sup>th</sup> all being ranked as being the 50 most deprived local authorities in England.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has also recognised the level of deprivation and its associated challenges in Nottinghamshire by including Nottingham City Council, Ashfield District Council and Mansfield District Council in the 88 local authorities to be given Neighbourhood Renewal Area status.

## **Avoidable Injury and Deprivation**

The mortality rates from avoidable injuries in the East Midlands in 2004 are the second highest in England with an excess of 15% above the national average.

Nottinghamshire has the highest levels of mortality rate from avoidable injuries in the Region; with the incidence rate across the County being in excess of 40% above the national average.

Further analysis reveals the clear relationship between the levels of deprivation and high risk, with Nottingham, Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Mansfield and Newark & Sherwood all having mortality rates related to avoidable injuries significantly higher; in excess of 15%, than the national average.

## **Fire and Deprivation**

Nottinghamshire has a significantly high incidence of non-fatal casualty rates in accidental dwelling fires with an excess of 63% when compared with the average for non-metropolitan services in England.

When the Authority's data on casualties in accidental dwelling fires (BVPI 143ii) is analysed for each District the clear link between areas of high deprivation and as a consequence high risk of being a victim of fire can be seen.

## Changing the Focus

For far too long there has been a culture within the Fire Service where prestige is measured by fire stations that attend a high number of fire calls. This focus on reactive intervention has to change to a focus on community safety where the prestigious stations are those with the most successful community safety initiatives and greatest reduction in deaths and injuries from avoidable injuries.

The 'Fire and Rescue Services Act' and the Government's White Paper 'Our Fire and Rescue Service' clearly indicated the Government's wish that greater emphasis is to be placed on a preventative approach rather than a reactive one.

The Fire Authority in its Integrated Risk Management Plan has set out clearly this new direction for the Service.

The Service will focus more front-line resources on a preventative approach targeting those at greatest risk. This will mean firefighter posts being reallocated to community safety work where they actively engage with communities that are suffering high levels of arson related crime or high levels of accidental dwelling fires and as a consequence deaths and injuries.

Local managers will focus on managing the risk within the community and become key partners within Local Strategic Partnerships and Crime and Disorder Partnerships. There will also be a greater role for fire crews in this community engagement. This will involve working in partnership with local schools to deliver the 'Risk Watch' programme, undertaking 'Home Safety Checks' across the whole of their local community and working with local partners at practitioner level to enhance the safety of the community.

To enable this the Service is committed to expanding the working day of crews to create the optimum capacity to empower local crews to engage in this vital work.

Each District will produce an annual Risk Profile and Risk Reduction Action Plan that details how it intends to reduce the level of risk to its community and the partnerships it will create to deliver this enhanced safety.

Performance will be measured against achievement with those Districts regarded as the most prestigious being those who deliver the greatest increases to the safety of their community.

## Safety Services Structure

The Service has recognised that this change in direction could only be delivered by a structural change in service delivery. The service is now delivered through co-terminus Districts aligned to the seven District authorities and one unitary authority in Nottingham.

The new structure is based on three performance groups that align with both the sub-regional and the County framework with the North and South Groups aligned to Nottinghamshire County Council. Each of the performance groups will contain one of nine geo-political performance districts based on the seven district council boundaries and two districts aligned within Nottingham City Council boundaries as follows:

### North Performance Group

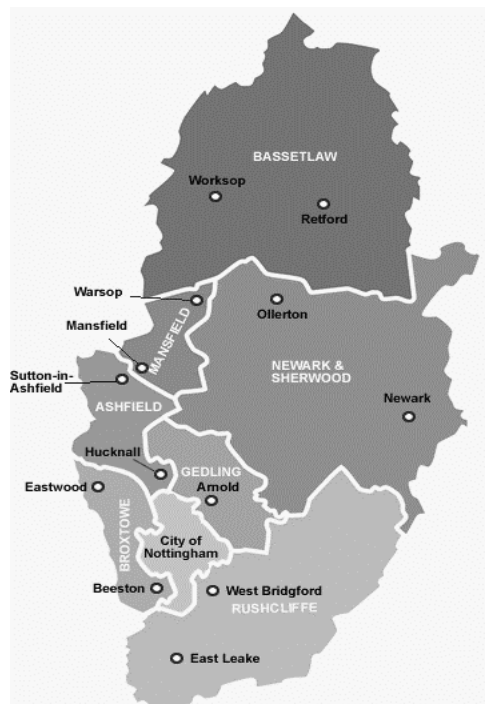
Ashfield Performance District  
Bassetlaw Performance District  
Mansfield Performance District  
Newark & Sherwood Performance District

### South Performance Group

Broxtowe Performance District  
Gedling Performance District  
Rushcliffe Performance District

### City Performance Group

North Performance District  
South Performance District



The structure ensures that the appropriate levels of management responsibility and accountability are provided at strategic sub-regional/county level moving down through to the tactical level at both district/city council in Local Strategic Partnerships and Crime & Disorder Partnerships, and on to practitioner level Area Committees and Local Area Forums.

These changes will allow the Service to successfully engage with key partners at strategic, tactical and practitioner level. This will enhance our involvement with both countywide and local partnerships.

## Partnerships

The Regional Public Health Agenda highlights the need for co-ordination across disciplines that include collective responsibility, prevention, concern for underlying economic determinants, a multi-disciplined approach and partnerships with the community. Nottinghamshire F&RS shares these values and currently convenes and chairs the Regional Avoidable Injury Reduction Group which is delivering one of the East Midlands Region's key priorities – 'the reduction of accidental deaths and injury'.

This encompasses accidents:

- ◆ On the roads
- ◆ In the home
- ◆ At leisure
- ◆ In the workplace

Nottinghamshire has a strong tradition of partnership working with over 300 partnerships across the County. Clearly Nottinghamshire F&RS will need to focus on the key sub-regional, countywide and district council based partnerships.

Nottinghamshire F&RS is a key partner in both Nottinghamshire County Council's and Nottingham City Council's Local Area Agreements which although separate agreements with Government allow NF&RS to have a countywide partnership with every district council.

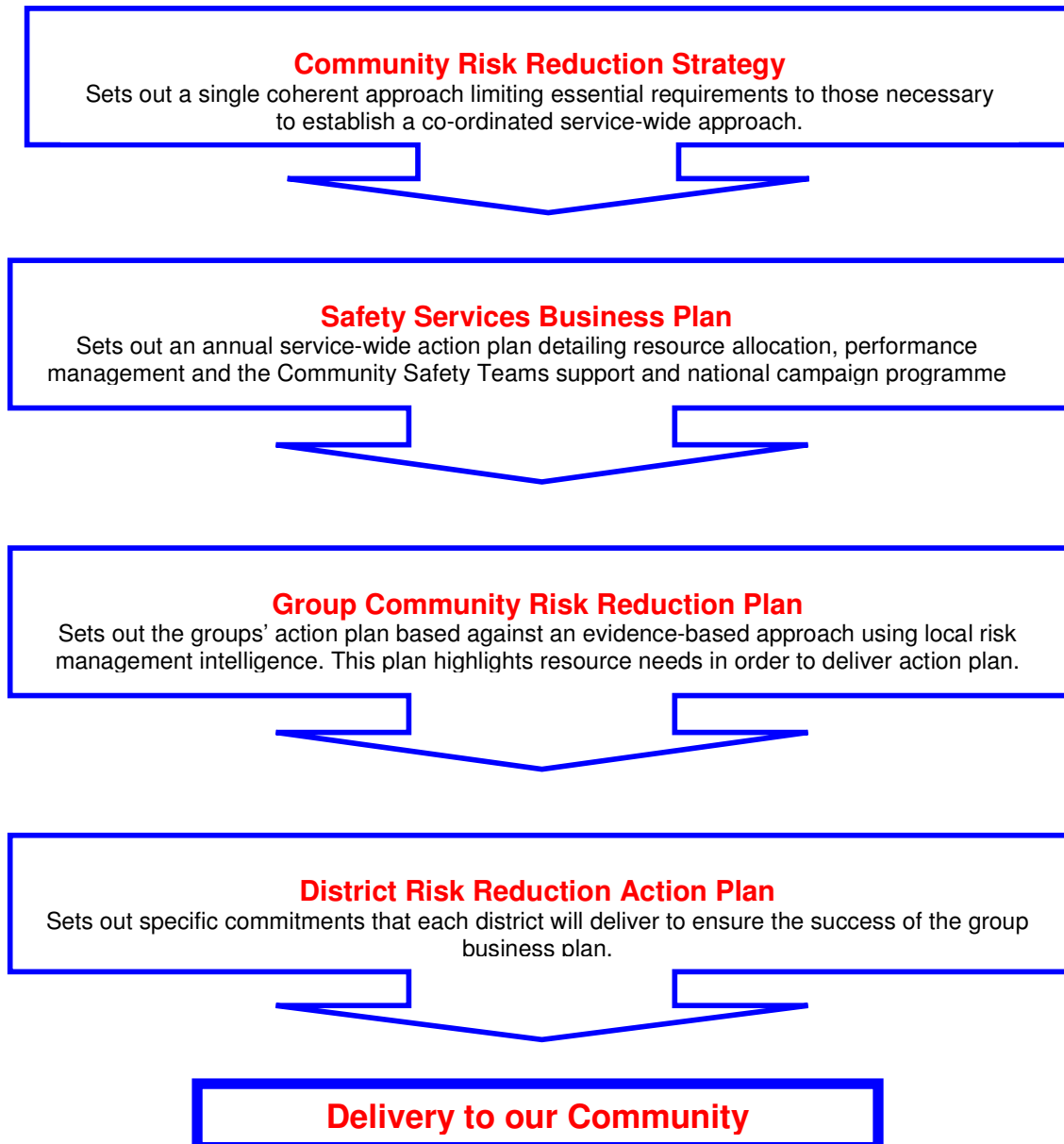
Through the partnership created by the LAA's Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service aims to set up a community safety partnership within each district area linked to either the Local Strategic Partnership or the Crime and Disorder Partnership.

This approach will enable NF&RS to fully engage with the Police, Primary Care Trusts, district councils, Youth Offending Service, Drug Action Teams and other agencies.

## Roles and Responsibilities

A vital element in ensuring the success of this Strategy is to ensure that there is clear direction and clarity of roles and responsibilities. It is important that colleagues within the Nottinghamshire F&RS, partner agencies and especially members of the community clearly understand how this Strategy is to be applied.

The Strategy has been designed to link strategic direction to the established business planning process in the Safety Services department as shown:



### **Safety Services Management Team**

- ◆ Setting overall direction
- ◆ Approving district risk reduction plans.
- ◆ Monitoring performance and initiating recovery plans.
- ◆ Reporting progress to Performance & Co-ordination Team

### **Group Performance Team:**

- ◆ Producing Risk Reduction Plan that is aligned to the Community Risk Reducing Plan.
- ◆ Implement and monitor performance against target and where necessary ensure recovery plans are in place.
- ◆ Engage with LSP's and CDRP's to ensure delivery of Risk Reduction Plan.
- ◆ Produce Risk Profile of Group area.

### **District Management Team**

- ◆ Produce a District Risk Reduction Action Plan.
- ◆ Produce Team Charters and monitor against agreed targets.
- ◆ Deliver appropriate initiatives to target areas to empower their local community to stay safe.
- ◆ Produce local Risk Profile that highlights key issues and priority groups.

### **Community Safety Team**

- ◆ Assist Districts to build engagement with their local neighbourhoods.
- ◆ Assist in producing Risk Profiles.
- ◆ Provide support for specific projects in Groups.
- ◆ Working with partners, develop, design and introduce tailor-made initiatives for local Districts to deliver.
- ◆ Manage integration of National Campaigns.
- ◆ Working with Information Services maintain an evidence book to inform future programmes.

## **Our Commitment to Putting Safety at the Heart of the Community**

This next section details the Services commitment to improving safety within our community by setting out clearly the main initiatives the Service will focus on to empower local communities to lead safer lives.

The strategy focuses on key programmes that are aimed at creating

- ◆ Safer Homes
- ◆ Safer Roads
- ◆ Safer Neighbourhoods

For each programme a clear goal is set out, information on the issues behind programme details of how the Service intends to deliver and succeed and finally how the public will be able to measure our performance.



<b>REDUCTION CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES RISK FRAMEWORK</b>				
<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>SAFER HOMES</b>		
	<b>AIM</b>	<b>IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES BY REDUCING AVOIDABLE INJURIES IN THE HOME.</b>		
	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>THE SERVICE WORKS WITH PARTNERS TO EMPOWER LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO IDENTIFY AND MINIMISE RISKS IN THE HOME.</b>		
<b>TARGETS &amp; INDICATORS</b>	<b>LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT &amp; SERVICE INDICATORS</b>			
	<b>Number of hospital admissions caused by avoidable injuries in the home in older people 65 years and older</b>	<b>Number of hospital admissions caused by avoidable injuries in the home in children &amp; young people 15 years and younger</b>	<b>Number of accidental dwelling fires</b>	<b>Number of deaths and injuries caused by accidental dwelling fires</b>
<b>AUDIT</b>	<b>HOW THE DISTRICTS WILL BE JUDGED IN THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVING OUTCOMES</b>			
	<b>Judgements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Districts will produce an annual Risk Reduction profile identifying those at risk in their communities.</li> <li>• Districts will produce an annual Risk Reduction Plan detailing what they will do to ensure their communities have safe homes.</li> <li>• Children and young people, older people, vulnerable groups and carers are informed about risks to their safety in their homes and how to deal with them.</li> <li>• Districts have a home safety check programme that prioritises at risk groups.</li> <li>• Districts have a programme that ensures that following every dwelling fire, local crews carry out Hot Spotting in their neighbourhood and undertake a Community Safety review.</li> </ul>		
	<b>Evidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every School has the “Risk Watch” programme as part of their curriculum and is supported by local crews in delivering home safety.</li> <li>• Families, older people and vulnerable groups are offered Home Safety Checks by local crews.</li> <li>• Carers are offered access to the Caring for Carers programme delivered by local crews.</li> </ul>		

## REDUCTION CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES RISK FRAMEWORK

<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>SAFER ROADS</b>		
	<b>AIM</b>	<b>IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES BY REDUCING AVOIDABLE INJURIES ON OUR ROADS.</b>		
	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>THE SERVICE WORKS WITH PARTNERS TO EMPOWER ROAD USERS TO IDENTIFY AND MINIMISE RISKS ON THE ROADS.</b>		
<b>TARGETS &amp; INDICATORS</b>	<b>LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT &amp; SERVICE INDICATORS</b>			
	<b>Number of hospital admissions caused by avoidable injuries on the roads in older people 65 years and older</b>	<b>Number of hospital admissions caused by avoidable injuries on the roads in children &amp; young people 15 years and younger</b>		
<b>AUDIT</b>	<b>HOW THE DISTRICTS WILL BE JUDGED IN THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVING OUTCOMES</b>			
	<b>Judgements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Districts will produce an annual Risk Reduction profile identifying those at risk in their communities.</li> <li>• Districts will produce an annual Risk Reduction Plan detailing what they will do to ensure their communities have safe roads.</li> <li>• Districts work in partnership with other agencies to improve safety on the roads.</li> </ul> Impact Roadshow and the BRAKE programme are delivered to at risk groups.		
	<b>Evidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every School has the “Risk Watch” programme as part of their curriculum and is supported by local crews in delivering road safety.</li> <li>• Districts work with partners in delivering road safety awareness to older people and vulnerable groups.</li> </ul>		

## REDUCTION CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES RISK FRAMEWORK

<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS</b>			
	<b>AIM</b>	<b>IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES BY REDUCING AVOIDABLE INJURIES AND DELIBERATE FIRES.</b>			
	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>THE SERVICE WORKS WITH PARTNERS TO ENGAGE WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND WORK TOGETHER TO MINIMISE RISKS, CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ASSOCIATED WITH DELIBERATE FIRES.</b>			
<b>TARGETS &amp; INDICATORS</b>	<b>LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT &amp; SERVICE INDICATORS</b>				
	<b>Number of deliberate primary dwelling and building fires</b>	<b>Number of deliberate primary vehicle fires</b>	<b>Number of secondary fires</b>	<b>Number of attacks on crews</b>	
<b>AUDIT</b>	<b>HOW THE DISTRICTS WILL BE JUDGED IN THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVING OUTCOMES</b>				
	<b>Judgements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Districts will produce an annual Risk Reduction profile identifying those at risk in their communities.</li> <li>• Districts will produce an annual Risk Reduction Plan detailing what they will do to ensure their communities have safe neighbourhoods.</li> <li>• Districts will have a programme of community engagement activities focusing on priorities areas.</li> <li>• Districts will work with local partners to develop a safer neighbourhood programme.</li> <li>• Districts will ensure that every abandoned (void) property has been identified, risk assessed and that risk management plans are in place to reduce risks to the community and firefighters.</li> </ul>			
	<b>Evidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Districts have well established links into all community groups.</li> <li>• Districts have well established links with local police command teams including attendance at weekly briefings.</li> <li>• Districts work with community police support officers and other agencies to build intelligence on vulnerable people and at risk areas and ensure early interventions take place to reduce vulnerability and risks.</li> <li>• Every fire is fully investigated so the cause is identified so risk reduction measures can be implemented.</li> </ul>			

## Safer Homes

Our goal is to create partnerships with the community and other agencies to improve the safety of people within their homes.

Our aim is to reduce accidental deaths and injuries in dwelling fires by 20% by 2010 from a baseline of the five-year average up to 1998.

To contribute to the reduction by 20% in all accidental deaths as set out in Saving Lives: Out Healthier Nation.



## Our Commitment

We will ensure every home has the opportunity of a Home Safety Check.

We will adopt a targeted approach focussing on the homes at most risk from fire and avoidable injuries.

We will never leave a home without a smoke detector.

We will develop partnerships with agencies to jointly deliver Home Safety Check and other initiatives.

We will ensure that every person caring for a family member has the opportunity of receiving 'Caring for the Carers' training.

## Background

Home accidents account for 31% of all fatal accidents they happen behind closed doors in isolated incidents so they rarely attract public and media attention. It is important that we work with partners to educate and help to prevent accidents in the home.

Traditionally the Fire Service has concentrated on fire safety within the home, this has focused on preventative initiatives such as smoke detectors and escape plans as well as legislative change requiring fire retardant furniture. This has resulted in reducing fire deaths and injuries.

It is now recognised that the Service can save even more lives by utilising its resources to promote a wider safety agenda in the home. An example of this is the home safety inspection called 'Home Safety Checks'.

In essence fire crews visit homes and undertake an inspection based against a checklist that has been devised with other agencies. Crews are then able to identify a wide range of risks that include trip hazards that could result in falls for elderly residents or hazards in the kitchen that could present dangers to young children.

The key to this approach is working in partnership with the community enabling residents to have a better understanding of risks and allowing them to make informed choices about controlling them. Equally this partnership with the community extends to other agencies that are also in a position to deliver Home Safety Checks and the sharing of information to better protect the community.

It is also important that we focus on the communities at most risk from accidents in the home; these communities also tend to be the most disadvantaged communities. A startling fact is that children living in these most disadvantaged communities are 16 times more likely to die in a fire.

## Measuring Success

**We will measure our success by monitoring the following:-**

- ◆ Deaths and injuries in accidental dwelling fires.
- ◆ Accidental dwelling fires.
- ◆ Number of people aged 65+ admitted to hospital due to accidental injury in the home.
- ◆ Number of children aged 15< admitted to hospital due to poisoning and accidental injury in the home.

## Risk Watch

Our goal is to create a local partnership with every primary school in the County to ensure that the Risk Watch programme is a key component of the curriculum.

Our aim is to contribute to the reduction by 20% in all accidental deaths especially in young children by ensuring that every primary school child successfully completes the risk watch programme.



*Coalition member quote- "I am very enthusiastic about Risk Watch and I have heard other agencies comment that it takes their efforts out of the random unprogrammed present into a structured presentation which matches the needs of any particular group of children to the expertise and experience available locally"*

### Our Commitment

Working in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council education departments ensure that every school has the opportunity to adopt the Risk Watch programme as part of the National Curriculum covering Citizenship.

Fully support each school with the programme by local firefighters attending the school as part of the coalition when the programme is being delivered.

Supporting local firefighters with both training and the appropriate resources for them to deliver the programme.

Providing the resources and training for the schools involved in the programme.

## Background

One key role in the move to a preventative culture is improving access and delivery of safety education, particularly for children. On average around 50 children under the age of 11 are killed in fires in the UK every year and a further 1,634 are injured. Against this background the Service implemented a pilot of a generic safety education programme – ‘Risk Watch’, which was originally developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in the United States, in two schools in the North of the County in 2003.

The enthusiasm of the teachers and pupils combined with an evaluation of the pilot programme has been the key driver for the service to continue to develop ‘Risk Watch UK’ and implement within Nottinghamshire schools and development of a national pilot programme.

‘Risk Watch’ is a school-based safety education programme that links teachers with community safety experts and parents. It caters for children aged three to fourteen. Teachers deliver the Risk watch programme in a classroom setting where eight topics are covered: water safety; motor vehicle safety; bike and pedestrian safety; fire and burn prevention; poisoning prevention; falls prevention and weapons injury prevention.

It integrates into the core curriculum subjects. Teaching folders and resource boxes that contain materials to support classroom teaching of the safety topics are supplied to the schools with training on their use. The schools are also supported by a local coalition of safety advocates.

## Measuring success

- ◆ External evaluation of the city programme and development of an evaluation tool for future use.
- ◆ Deaths and Injuries in accidental dwelling fires.
- ◆ Accidental dwelling fires.
- ◆ Reduce the number of children and young people aged 15< killed or seriously injured as a result of a road traffic collision.
- ◆ Reduce the number of children and young people 15< admitted to hospital due to poisoning and accidental injury.
- ◆ Number of children and schools accessing the Risk Watch programme.

## Young People

Our goal is to engage with young people at all levels and assist in making them aware of the dangers and associated risks to themselves and their community through fire, arson, hoax calls and other antisocial behaviour. Giving them an opportunity to prepare for their role as future citizens and develop a wide range of skills.



Create local partnerships with the community and other agencies to develop programmes in improving the health and wellbeing of young people and their families

Our aim is to contribute to the reduction by 20% in all accidental deaths especially in young people, and reduce by 10% the number of deliberate fires by 31 March 2010 from the 2001/02 baseline; by the development and delivery of targeted intervention programmes in partnership

### Our Commitment

Working in partnership with education and youth services to ensure that every young person has the opportunity to access intervention programmes.

Provide access to the services Fire Safety Awareness programmes; Junior Fire Setter Intervention; STOP and FireSafe.

Support multi-agency initiatives such as Safety Zone and MACS, by the attendance of our local firefighters and community safety staff.

Provide training and resources to support them to deliver the intervention programmes.

Continue to support the Prince's Trust and engage our employees in the programme.



## Background

Finding ways of preventing children and young people from becoming involved in crime or antisocial behaviour is a priority. "Every Child Matters" stresses the need to both protect children and to maximise their potential. The new 'Children's' Bill creates the legislative framework for developing effective and accessible services focused around the needs of children, young people and their families. It is important that we focus on the risk factors that are present in the four key domains of a child's life: the neighbourhood: the school: the family: and within the individual child and the protective factors that can help children ameliorate risk.

We welcome the opportunity to work with multi-agency teams and across professional boundaries to focus on prevention and early intervention. In partnership we will assist in identifying families and children that are at risk and facilitate effective targeting of interventions that aim to reduce such risk.

'Junior Fire Setters' is a fire safety awareness programme that is available for children and their families. Specially trained personnel visit children who have been identified as having involved themselves with fire. The aim is to highlight the dangers and possible consequences of the child's behaviour through education and advice.

This early stage intervention has an indirect bearing on crime reduction in that it is accepted children experimenting with fire out of curiosity or as a symptom of emotional difficulties often moves beyond their own home and into the public domain.

'STOP'- Start Thinking of Others Programme is a programme that looks at a young persons behaviour in relation to arson, the emphasis is to challenge existing behaviour and prevent further offending.

The service is a delivery partner of the Prince's Trust and offers a series of personal development programmes to young people, especially those unemployed, aged 16 to 25 yrs. They develop a range of skills: caring for others; taking responsibility; solving problems; teamwork and improving their qualifications and self-esteem. Many go on to obtain employment or return to full time education.

## Measuring Success

- ◆ Reduce deaths and injuries from accidental dwelling fires.
- ◆ Reduce deliberate fires.
- ◆ Increase number of young people who have been involved in criminal activity attending Princes Trust Schemes.

## Road Safety Partnership

Our goal is to contribute towards the cross services road safety plan and support our partners in delivering a safer Nottinghamshire.

Our aim is to contribute to the reduction of the number of admissions to hospital of children and young people and older people because of road traffic collisions.



### Our Commitment

To Work in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council Road Safety Departments, and Police to ensure that every opportunity is taken to reinforce education and behaviour.

Supporting local firefighters with both training and the appropriate resources for them to deliver RTA awareness days, the IMPACT Roadshow alongside other safety initiatives.

## Background

The 'Fire and Rescue Services Act' gives a statutory duty to Fire Services to attend and rescue the public from road traffic accidents; we attend more incidents which result in injury and death on our roads than fires. The Service also recognises that it has a vital role to play in the reduction of avoidable injuries on our roads. In developing partnerships and joint planning we can assist with the delivery of improving road safety and travel awareness both locally and nationally.

The cost to society caused by road traffic collisions is estimated at £17.4 billion irrespective of the pain and suffering of the individuals and their families.

There is a strong link between vehicle speed and the risk of collisions with pedestrians or other vehicles and the severity of the injury sustained.

"Tomorrows Roads Safer for Everyone" 2000 encourages a multi disciplinary approach for all sections of the community to work towards the Government strategy. Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Encouragement play an important role.

The services Community Safety Unit is an active member of the Nottinghamshire Road Casualty Reduction Partnership and is developing and delivering initiatives to contribute towards the casualty reduction targets.

RTA awareness days are delivered as a multi agency programme on fire stations. The events are aimed at 16-17yr olds with the aim of raising awareness of the dangers of vehicle transport and giving the necessary skills to make positive decisions relating to personal safety.

Vehicle crime and associated vehicle arson is a major cause of concern within the community safety agenda, with one third of vehicle arson being committed by under 18's. We are working with our partners to reduce the number of abandoned vehicles and issues around youth crime. Research within the Community Safety Unit identified a model of best practice to tackle some of these issues.

"The IMPACT Roadshow" is a vehicle awareness workshop set up with the aims of diverting young people away from vehicle related crime by heightening awareness of the consequences of involvement in vehicle crime and its effect on others. Service personnel and key partners are being trained to deliver the programme.

## Measuring Success

- ◆ Reduce people's perception of Anti-Social Behaviour.
- ◆ Reduce vehicle related deliberate fires.
- ◆ Reduce the number of people killed in RTC's.
- ◆ Reduce number of young people 15< and older people 65> injured in RTC's.

## Reducing Deliberate Fires

Our goal is to contribute to creating Safer Neighbourhoods by reducing the destruction and suffering caused by deliberate fires.

Our aim is to work with communities and partners to ensure that those responsible for deliberate fires are detected and convicted and, as a consequence, reduce deliberate fires.



## Our Commitment

The Service will ensure that all fires are investigated and those where arson is suspected are jointly inspected with the Police.

We will work with local communities and businesses to ensure that opportunities to start a deliberate fire are reduced.

We will work with partners to develop and implement a void properties programme.

We will work with partners to remove illegal and abandoned vehicles before they are subjected to arson.

## **Background**

Deliberate fires cause significant suffering to those communities and individuals whose property and neighbourhoods are affected by this criminal act. Each year lives are lost and put at serious harm due to arson.

The Services sees itself as a key partner in creating safer stronger communities and is committed to working with partners to reduce deliberate fires caused by serious criminality and anti-social behaviour. A key element in empowering local people to reclaim the places where they live and work in the Safer Neighbourhood Programme. The Service is fully committed to working with Local Authorities, the Police and voluntary sector to engage with local people.

The Services Arson Task Force is now well established with a team of Fire Officers and Police Officers working with other key partners such as Scenes of Crime Officers, Forensic Science Service and Youth Services. A key element of this is partnership has been the greater sharing of data between the Police and its service which has resulted in a speedy identification and appreciation of those responsible.

Fire Investigation plays a key part in identifying public safety issues and identification of criminality. The Service continues to develop and improve fire investigation to assist in the identification of targeted or improved Community Safety Initiatives both at a local level and Service wide.

## **Measuring Success**

- ◆ Reduce the number of deliberate dwelling fires.
- ◆ Reduce the number of deliberate fires in buildings other than dwellings.
- ◆ Reduce the number of deliberate vehicle fires.
- ◆ Reduce the number of grass and rubbish fires.

## Raising Awareness through Campaigns and Consultation

Our goal is to ensure that every opportunity is taken to raise fire safety and the wider unintentional injury issues within the community and deliver consistent good quality advice.

Our aim is to create engagement and involvement with our stakeholder groups in the formulation of the work and future direction of the service.

To contribute to the reduction by 20% in all accidental deaths and injuries as set out in 'Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation' and the reduction by 10% of all deliberate fires as set out in the Fire & Rescue service's: National Framework document.



## Our Commitment

The Service will actively seek to engage with local partners to ensure that local communities are informed.

We will work with local communities to empower them through education and consultation.

Ensure every home has access to safety information through a variety of different media which will include access to our diverse communities.

## Background

There are many ways in which the service can deliver important safety messages and raise awareness of the risks that face local communities. The role of delivering a safer community is something that cannot be accomplished in isolation. Through networking with other agencies and voluntary organisations, developing partnerships and services, which support each other in working together, we can make a difference.

The service recognises that it will be difficult to achieve a significant sustained reduction in avoidable injuries unless work is done to improve the supporting infrastructure. Collection and dissemination of data is vital in monitoring and evaluating prevention programmes and assisting with the targeting of resources and activity to those identified with the greatest need. Injury prevention is the responsibility of many people but none more so than those working at the local or community level, our priority is to develop a skilled workforce who have a common base line of information and understanding to underpin their joint working and initiatives.

We work with the ODPM and National Community Fire Safety Centre in delivering a programme of national fire safety publicity campaigns to meet specific domestic fire risks and trends. At a local level we continue to deliver a programme of media campaigns and community partnership action, focused on areas of high risk, emphasising the need for kitchen safety, the use of working smoke alarms, maintenance, night time routines and escape planning. By linking into the national campaigns and working with other organisations that are involved we can obtain a high profile for delivering the safety messages at a local level and reinforcing the message with advice from personnel and supporting literature.

A vital part of our work is ensuring that the Service engages with Nottinghamshire's diverse communities and communicates in the most appropriate way. With the support of the Service's Black and Minority Ethnic Outreach Worker the Service will engage in meaningful consultation to fully identify the needs and develop initiatives in partnership with the community.

Information and Communications Technology plays an increasing important part in daily living. We recognise that we can use this to improve our communication with our communities and also within the organisation to improve efficiency.

Our website [www.notts-fire.gov.uk](http://www.notts-fire.gov.uk) provides access to information on safety-related matters and links to other sites.

## Measuring Success

- ◆ Number of hits on website.
- ◆ Number of positive press articles.
- ◆ Monitoring number of minority groups accessing safety related information.