

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY	
	COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE	
date	20 April 2007	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

COMMUNITY SAFETY RISK REDUCTION STRUCTURE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on the proposed new structure for delivery of the Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service's Community Safety Risk Reduction Strategy.

2. BACKGROUND

Members will recall the Service's Risk Reduction Strategy 2007–10 which was presented to the Community Safety Committee on 19 January 2007. Following the decision by the Community Safety Committee to recommend that the Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority formally adopt the Strategy, a review of the existing delivery structure was undertaken.

3. REPORT

3.1 The review focused on identifying the most appropriate structure to ensure the Service achieves its stated aim of a safer Nottinghamshire by putting safety at the heart of the community. Initiatives such as the advent of the new Risk Reduction Team based in the City area, and the associated increased capacity to support district based delivery have meant that it is important that clear roles and responsibilities are identified to enhance service delivery.

3.2 The proposed structure consists of three key areas of work and responsibility :

- Strategy and Development, which will be undertaken by a Research and Development Team and the Fire Investigation/ Arson Task Force;
- Support and Facilitation, which will be undertaken by the Risk Reduction Team and District Advocates;
- Delivery, which will be undertaken by District Teams and Partnerships through Response.

3.3 This model will provide a robust framework of personnel with the appropriate skills, knowledge, policies and processes that will ensure communication, support, delivery and sustainability of the Service's Risk Reduction Strategy. A synopsis of these functions is given in paragraphs 4-7 below.

4. THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM

4.1 The team consists of a mixture of skills from specialist and uniformed posts. They are responsible for the development and implementation of the Service's Community Safety Strategy, underpinning the statement of 'Creating Safer Communities'.

4.2 The Research and Development Section has been set up in to five specific teams :

- Fire Investigation and Arson Task Force;
- Research and Development;
- Youth Issues;
- Education;
- Prince's Trust.

4.3 The team will :

- Lead on the development of appropriate interventions and programmes at a strategic and community level in partnership with a range of agencies;
- Research evidence based practice;
- Develop a suite of tools "toolbox" to support district delivery;
- Provide a link between the National Community Fire Safety Centre providing up to date accurate information;
- Evaluate and review programmes and the toolbox of initiatives;
- Form a local point of contact for specialist advice for the effective reduction of avoidable injuries and deaths;
- Support and encourage the development of learning about what works alongside developing a culture of learning;
- Ensure a corporate approach to community safety across the county and city;
- Engage and develop partnerships to facilitate joined up services and delivery;
- Integrate community safety into the mainstream activities of our partners and the community.

4.4 Areas of work will support the key outcome areas of the Local Area Agreements :

- Children and Young People;
- Healthier Communities and Older People;
- Safer Stronger Communities;
- Economic Development and Enterprise.

Key managers will form part of the Community Safety Management Team, supporting the Head of Community Safety.

5. RISK REDUCTION TEAM

5.1 The Risk Reduction Team will be the interface and support between the Research & Development Team and the District Delivery Team. The Risk Reduction Manager of this team will form part of the Community Safety Management Team and be responsible for the Risk Reduction Team and the Community Safety Advocates. Members of the Research & Development team will be allocated to provide contact and specialist support to the Advocates in the North, City and South groups.

5.2 The Risk Reduction Team has been set up in to four specific teams :

- Local Communities Team that will develop and build links within local communities working alongside partners in a neighbourhood approach;
- Fire Reduction Team focusing on adding value to the work of local crews in reducing fires in identified target areas and groups;
- Road Traffic Collision Team that will support and assist local crews and work in partnership with road safety partnerships to reduce deaths and injuries on our roads;

- Vulnerability Team that will focus on those in our communities that are at greater risk from avoidable injuries.

5.3 The Risk Reduction themed teams will link into the Research & Development Team leads to enable access to specialist support which will assist in the support of district delivery. The team will :

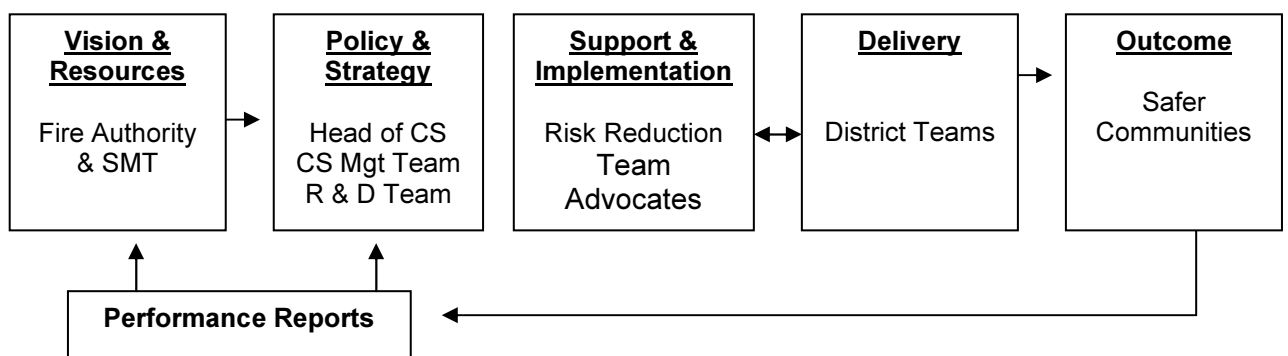
- Provide support and guidance to operational crews when undertaking community safety activity;
- Establish links with agencies and groups working with at risk communities and promote the Service’s community safety programmes and initiatives;
- Provide training where appropriate to partners working with at risk groups in the community who can deliver a community safety message;
- Engage with local communities and develop a culture of learning;
- Develop accountable and delivery focused partnerships that link into the Research & Development Team.
- Similarly, the Community Safety Advocates will be the main contact for the district, community and partners within the district in relation to community safety to ensure continuity and synergy;
- Co-ordinate activity of the districts;
- Build capacity and sustainability within the community;
- Assist with the identification of at risk groups, collate local intelligence, share with the Research & Development Team and identify local interagency actions that can be taken;
- Monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of activity.

6. DISTRICT TEAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS – RESPONSE

The Response District management matrix has a functional role for Community Safety delivery headed by a Group Manager supported by four Station Managers. This team will work closely with the Research & Development Team and the Risk Reduction Team to ensure that every firefighter working from all stations will be the key deliverers of community safety activity using the Community Safety “Toolbox” suite of tools. Each initiative within the “Toolbox” identifies with evidence based practice and forms part of a safety matrix used as a planning tool highlighting how potentially useful each activity is in meeting specific safety needs in our communities.

7. FRAMEWORK FOR DELIVERY OF NEW STRUCTURE

The schematic below best describes the framework this new structure will delivery :



8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications related to this specific paper as funding for each initiative is contained within existing budgets.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

A full management consultation with key managers and staff has been undertaken to raise awareness of proposed changes and to invite comment.

10. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

There are no direct impacts of equalities arising from this report as each initiative is assessed individually.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

This structure ensures successful delivery of Community Safety Plan objectives in line with Government expectations. Failures to do so places the Authority at risk from intervention following processes such as Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members support the adoption of the Risk Reduction structure.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

None.

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