

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 YEAR END REVIEW

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on the ongoing work within the Community Safety Section and at District level to reduce avoidable injuries and deliberate fires within our community.

2. BACKGROUND

Members will be aware that the Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service has a number of initiatives aimed at reducing avoidable injuries and deliberate fires, delivered both by colleagues in the Community Safety Section and by local crews supported by district based Community Safety Advocates. This report, which will be supplemented with a verbal report at the Community Safety Committee meeting, aims to give an overview of the progress and achievements made over the past few months in delivering safety to the heart of our communities.

3. REPORT

3.1 RiskWatch

RiskWatch is making significant progress in establishing the programme into local schools. The team has delivered RiskWatch packages to 310 schools around the county with another 100 expected to introduce it early in 2007. A programmed approach has been taken and the RiskWatch team have conducted a marketing strategy to visit every primary school in the county, delivering presentations to school teachers and head teachers to demonstrate the importance of the RiskWatch package. Districts are supporting the initiative locally by visiting schools on request to deliver elements of the scheme. Community Safety Advocates will be making contact with all the schools in their Districts to establish local working arrangements.

3.2 Risk Reduction Team

The Risk Reduction Team based at Central Fire Station began operating on 3 January 2007 as an element of the revised shift system and demand led resourcing. Over the first few weeks significant training and development was undertaken with members of the team now skilled in delivering the following :

- RiskWatch
- Impact Roadshow
- RTC awareness days
- Smoke Alarm fitting to members of our communities who are deaf
- Caring for the Carers package

The team has also undertaken awareness training on areas such as the 'Pb Views' performance management system, Prince's Trust Team programme, Arson Task Force work and cultural awareness, with visits to a number of our black and minority ethnic communities in Nottingham.

The team has been supported a significant number of events and initiatives including :

- Support to Bendigo programme ;
- Assisting with weeks of action throughout the City and County ;
- Assisting crews deliver Impact Roadshow, RTC awareness days as well as training and support to crews delivering high risk Home Safety Checks ;
- Providing support in local communities by working alongside Neighbourhood Wardens and Police Community Support Officers in the City ;
- Assisting with the recent Egg Run by providing road safety information ;
- Presenting at the City and County's Road safety seminar on Young Drivers ;
- Developing links with Primary Care Trusts on the roll out of the Caring for Carers package ;
- Developing links with the Polish and Migrant communities in Nottingham and the county ;
- Working with Bassetlaw district to research and develop an action plan to reduce high number of deliberate fires ;
- Assisting Nottingham City's Road Safety team with their Road Safety Quiz.

The team has also provided operational cover within the City area and attended a number of high profile incidents including a ten pump fire, a special service call and a tram incident with a total of 103 incidents attended in January alone.

3.3 Prince's Trust

The Princes Trust team have run seven groups so far this year with the average number on each group being 12.7. That is a total of 89 young people from a variety of backgrounds. The Service has a retention rate of 73.91% and 61.54% positive outcomes. There are three more groups to run in this financial year.

Comparing the team's performance against other teams in the region, Nottinghamshire is second only to Northamptonshire across all of the performance categories. The positive outcomes can be witnessed at the Prince's Trust Team presentation events where individual participants describe what they have got out of their experience and what they intend to do with the experience gained.

3.4 Bendigo

The Bendigo initiative is a diversionary programme devised to reduce anti-social behaviour and fire crime, including deliberate fire setting and attacks on fire crews. This is achieved by encouraging young people aged between 13 and 16 to develop their life skills. Four courses have been completed so far, involving 20 young people from the youth inclusion projects based in Radford and Aspley. These have been the focus because they are in the top 50 young people at risk of social exclusion.

The courses have all been successful and the feedback has been very positive from the young people participating and the youth inclusion team. The BBC followed the last course and the footage was shown on the regional 'Inside Out' programme in January. The project was also showcased at a youth behaviour conference in March at the Albert Hall in Nottingham. Work is being carried out to prepare the initiative to be delivered out onto Districts where operational crews will deliver the programme of events supported by the project co-ordinators.

3.5 Community Safety Advocates

Community Safety Advocates have been on Districts for about a year now and real progress is being made, their roles are developing and working relationships in district teams are in place. They spearhead and champion Community Safety on districts, creating essential links to the central Community Safety Team and local partners. The advocates have established themselves as an important addition to Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service.

In 2007/2008 the Community Safety Advocates have received training in problem solving based upon the National Police model; this will provide Districts with the ability to take a structured and proactive approach to reducing risk in their communities. Providing new skills to the Community Safety Advocates will improve District performance and assist in creating valuable and meaningful partnerships.

Community Safety Advocates have been involved in organising events across the county including RTC awareness days, Duke of Edinburgh, Safety Zones, fairs, schools awareness, child seat safety, travellers health and well being, National Falls days, student safety, firefighting for life, fun days, youth events and many more.

3.6 Impact Roadshow

The Impact Roadshow is fully embedded and is being delivered by District personnel supported by the central Community Safety RTC co-ordination team. Research will be carried out to look into alternative RTC awareness programmes to satisfy demand in all schools on a risk basis. Some difficulties have been experienced with the two hour Impact Roadshow, as it does not always fit into the curriculum easily. 35 schools have been involved across the county, since 2003. Approximately 7000 mainstream students a year receive the Impact Roadshow with additional youth groups visits totalling 42 (350 young people).

3.7 STOP (Start Thinking of Other People)

STOP is a partnership programme between Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service and Nottinghamshire Youth Offending Team (Mansfield and Ashfield). The project has developed three structured programmes which directly assess the young person's offending behaviour in relation to arson and criminal damage by fire.

3.8 Firesetters

It has been another really busy year for the Firesetters' team in Nottinghamshire. The team has dealt with upwards of 200+ referrals for the year. Most of the referrals received have been new referrals and less than half a dozen were re-offenders. This is very pleasing and provides evidence that the Firesetters' team are delivering extremely good firesetter intervention to the children.

It is clear that most other agencies are now aware of the work that the Firesetters entails and delivers, and the Service is receiving referrals from all parts of the county. A lot of hard work is carried out by the existing team and their workload is about to be reduced for 2007 with the approval for Firesetters training for up to 32 new volunteers. Most of the referrals are still to assist young males and the majority have combinations of the following; learning difficulties, disruptive family backgrounds and neighbourhoods with high levels of deprivation.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

Community Safety involves those personnel within Community Safety itself and operational staff. It is a combined approach of all personnel that enables the Service to meet its objectives for Community Safety.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

There are no direct implications for equalities related to this specific paper as each initiative is assessed individually. The Service does ensure that all aspects of its community are involved in its Community Safety initiatives.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

All of the above ensure that the Authority meets its aspirations as laid out in its Community Safety Plan. Failure to do so could lead to poor Comprehensive Performance Assessment results and potential intervention.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members review the contents of this report and continue to support the Community Safety initiatives contained within it.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

None.

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