

report

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

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM: FOUR MONTH PROGRESS REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

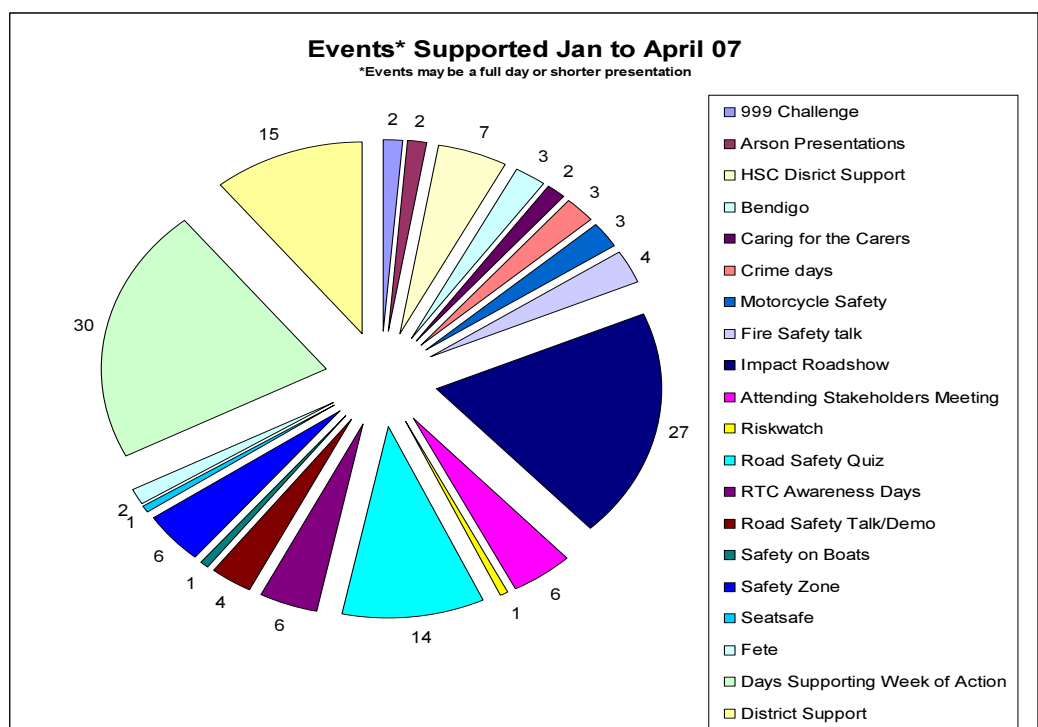
To update Members on the progress of the Community Safety Team (CST) during its initial four months.

2. BACKGROUND

The CST has been operation since 3 January 2007 by providing operational cover on the City based fire appliance between 1100hrs and 2300hrs, support for community safety events within Districts County wide, and direct support for specific initiatives, additionally holding specific support remits.

3. REPORT

3.1 Following the initial community safety (CS) training, the team has taken on its role to support the Service both operationally and in with CS delivery by direct support for districts and liaison with the CS (Research & Development) Team based at Headquarters. This approach has been paying dividends, as can be seen below the range of events supported has been great with over 139 events being supported despite January being used for training.



- 3.2 Assimilation into the station has had few issues and although day to day procedures are constantly being monitored and amended, the support from the existing firefighters has been good.
- 3.3 Operational commitments have been carried out fully, except for two occasions when the pump was put off the run due to sickness and injury. On one occasion this was caused by a manager being injured when attending a special service call. Although he was away from work for over a week, his operational commitments were all covered by the remaining managers.
- 3.4 The sickness level of the team is particularly good and is a credit to the team members who are keen to support their colleagues. This is reflected in the morale of the team which is particularly high. A recent survey amongst team members produced particularly positive results.
- 3.5 The team has been divided into four supporting groups, the Road Traffic Collision Reduction Team (RTCT), the Fire Reduction Team (FRT), the Vulnerability Team (VT) and the Local Communities Team (LCT). These teams work in conjunction with stakeholders and directly with the Research and Development Team at HQ to reduce injuries within the community.

The Team Profiles

3.5.1 Road Traffic Collision Reduction Team (RTCT)

- Providing direct support to Districts for presentations of Impact Roadshow, BRAKE presentations and RTC Awareness days.
- Involvement with The Crime and Drugs Partnership in their high profile campaign against drug driving.
- Assisted with a mock trial at the Galleries of Justice in support of the City Road Safety Team*
- Directly assisted in running the City Schools Road Safety Quiz by providing 'quiz masters'
- Attended the Highways Agency briefing day together with road safety professionals from across the region

3.5.2 Fire Reduction Team (FRT)

- The FRT has carried out presentations over 3 days on reducing arson; these were high profile and carried out in partnership as part of the 'Prison Me No Way!' initiative.
- Additional work centre's on arson campaigns in areas such as Bulwell Forest and Harworth.

3.5.3 Vulnerability Team (VT)

- The VT has taken the lead on coordinating and fitting deaf alarms in conjunction with the deaf alarm fitting technician based at R&D HQ.
- Partnerships have been formed with care workers to enable the team to have a greater knowledge of how the support systems operate and to inform the care workers how the service can support them.

3.5.4 Local Communities Team (LCT)

- The LCT has been proactive in working with the Polish community, having recognized that the large influx of migrant workers bring with them issues around safety and keeping safe.

- Additional work has led to the setting up of an interim arrangement with the Refugee Housing Association to facilitate home safety checks within the Association's properties.
- Informal partnerships have been formed with 'Neighborhood Element' in support of regeneration areas in Mansfield.
- Within this team there is a continuous drive to establish links with ethnic groups throughout the City and County.

Bendigo

- 3.6 This project is a good example of the unique way in which the team can support an initiative, which would not be possible on a watch is the assistance provided to Bendigo, an initiative aimed at reducing attacks on firefighters and arson within the community. This support has been provided by three individual Firefighters on 14 consecutive Thursdays. This support would not be possible for anyone working anything but the flexible working pattern the team enjoys, however as leave was plotted in these individuals have agreed to carry on the work rather than take their leave as originally planned.

"The Community Safety Team have supported Project Bendigo on the last two courses, they have been very professional, engaging with the young people in an appropriate manner and ensuring that their time on the programme was enjoyable. Two of the team are now shadowing the lead instructor to gain an insight into the running of the course with the possibility of delivering future Bendigo programmes when the project 'goes live' across the county."

Youth Issues Manager

Caring for the Carers

- 3.7 This initiative aims to educate carers who enter people's homes on risks that might pose a risk to both the resident and the carer. The initiative takes the form of a morning or afternoon classroom session delivered by Districts. The carers can then not only assess homes for themselves, but also to recognise the need to refer the vulnerable to the Service so that an HSC may be carried out.

- 3.7.1 This has led to interaction with our team with groups such as the Independent Living Team based at Brook House, this in turn will lead to work with the Rehabilitation team and the Stroke team. This initiative has enabled some of the team to spend time with the Jackdaw team who care for people with dementia, on the first visit with this team may have saved one persons life as the team member spotted that she was permanently using an electrical socket on a stainless steel sink.

Young Drivers and Riders' Road Safety Forum - Friday 9th March 2007

- 3.8 The team were asked to present at the Road Safety Forum in support of the City and County Road Safety Teams due to the work we carry out educating young drivers. The teams work was highly regarded by colleagues from other organisations and is encapsulated by the comment below.

"Thank you very much for your hard work in preparing and giving the excellent presentations. They were very informative, interesting, wide ranging and really well received. They certainly provoked questions, comments and discussion, which is great. Thank you also to the workshop facilitators. The questions considered produced some useful opinions and information."

Principal Officer Road Safety Plan Manager

Assessing the Teams Impact

- 3.9 The number of events supported and the morale of the team are indicative of the team's success. The number of requests for assistance has risen dramatically as personnel in the Districts start to recognise the support that the Team are able to provide. It is clear that with the formation of this team the Service has added to its ability to engage with its communities and increase community safety.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

There are no equality impact implications surround this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications regarding this update report on the activities of the team.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Member's note the ongoing progress of the team and that further update reports are brought before the Committee at regular intervals.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

None.

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