

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY	
	COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE	
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REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

RISKWATCH UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update about our avoidable injuries programme 'RiskWatch' currently being undertaken within Nottinghamshire and the City of Nottingham schools.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The RiskWatch programme was adapted from an initiative run in North America. It was introduced in September 2003 as a pilot programme in Nottinghamshire and the Highlands and Islands. Since then 'RiskWatch', has since grown in strength and is now available as part of our schools educational programme.

2.2 'RiskWatch' is a school-based safety education programme that is fully integrated with the national core curriculum subjects. It is designed to be delivered by the classroom teacher where they are linked with community safety experts and parents. It caters for children aged three to fourteen covering key stages 1 to 3. The programme is delivered by teachers deliver the RiskWatch programme in a classroom setting where eight topics are covered:

- Water safety
- Motor vehicle safety
- Bike safety
- Pedestrian safety
- Fire and burn prevention
- Poisoning prevention
- Falls prevention
- Weapons injury prevention.

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.

2.3 RiskWatch also crosses into Year 7 and 8 of secondary schools. To follow with good practise Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service (NFRS), in conjunction with the education Authority have started to extend the Services Education Programme developing resources to cover the following:-

- Fire & Burn Prevention;
- Arson and Hoax Calls; and
- Deliberate Fire Setting.

- 2.4 In our efforts to continue to promote safer communities future developments in 2008/9 will cover Key Stage IV.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 As another academic year starts it is important to reflect upon the activities taken during 2006- 2007 and report on the proposed programme of work for 2007 – 2008.

Academic year 2006-2007:

There are now over 400 schools who have received RiskWatch resources. Throughout September Rushcliffe schools were visited to complete a major milestone of every primary age child in the City and County schools having access to the RiskWatch programme.

- 3.1.1 The Service has expanded the interactive use of RiskWatch. The 'learning zone' on NFRS website now provides useful links to RiskWatch materials as well as allowing teachers, students and parents to learn more about avoidable injuries through links to other sites. The following features have been added or updated;

- Make time for safety booklet of activities added for Key Stage 2
- New front page design to fit into corporate branding of website
- New links to booking a RiskWatch visit
- RiskWatch 'blog section' added

- 3.1.2 Schools can now receive information from the NFRS Geographical Information System (GIS) about fire service incidents around their locality. The school is presented with data in map form showing the schools location and incidents of arson, hoax calls etc. This a useful tool when explaining not only the need for tackling these issues but in helping to prevent more in the future.

- 3.1.3 A RiskWatch CD-Rom presentation has been prepared for use with interactive whiteboards. This has been well received by operational crews and has been distributed to all stations for use as an additional visual resource. Interactive whiteboards are now commonplace in classrooms throughout Nottinghamshire and allowing crews to access this visual resource allows for a more effective presentation to children in the primary schools.

- 3.1.4 New Fire & Rescue Service trainees have also been provided with the information they will need to understand this programme as part of their role in delivering community safety education. The experience of a visit to a school to deliver RiskWatch presentations are always well received by the schools and provide a vital learning experience for the new trainees.

Academic year 2007-2008:

- 3.1.5 Throughout the next year the service will continue to improve the delivery of the RiskWatch programme. This will include be revisiting stations in the next academic year 2007 – 2008 to introduce the updated program for RiskWatch in Key Stage 3. The Key Stage 3 RiskWatch lesson reinforces the basic Fire Safety messages from the primary age range and then covers the more hard hitting messages targeting Hoax Calls, Fire Setting and Arson.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Since inception approximately £353,000 has been spent on RiskWatch including 2007/8. This includes £101,000 of external funding received by way of grants from sponsors which means that the net cost to the Authority has been £252,000. Ongoing funding has settled to about £82,000 for 2007/8 with a projected £97,000 in 2008/9. This includes the provision of the RiskWatch co-ordinator post. There is no sponsorship currently expected to offset any of these costs.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

RiskWatch is predominantly resourced by operational personnel, who perform the duty within their risk reduction role.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

It is important that RiskWatch is delivered to all sections of our community. This ensures that all sections are educated against the risks of injury.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The CLG has set targets for reducing the number of accidental fire related deaths in the home by 20% by 2010, and reducing deliberate fires by 10% by 2010. This is recognised by the CLG as a challenging target and only by working in true partnership across the whole of Nottinghamshire with the targeted responses in those communities at most risk, will the service successfully achieve a reduction.

7.2 The NFRS Community Safety Risk Reduction Strategy 2006 – 2009 sets out the commitment to ensure that the community has the opportunity to engage and access intervention programmes, giving them the opportunity to prepare for their role as safer citizens and develop a wide range of skills.

7.3 RiskWatch provides the organisation with a focused approach to specific groups and agendas community safety within the curriculum. By continual investment and further development of the programme we expect to maximise opportunities for delivering the “Every Child Matters” framework to help children stay safe, and working towards the specific aims of ‘The Fire and Rescue Service Strategy for Children and Young People’.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members continue to support Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service in its Community Safety initiative RiskWatch and agree to receive future reports on progress.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

- RiskWatch Schools Update 2006 - 2007
- The Fire and Rescue Service Strategy for Children and Young People 2006-9

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