



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Community Safety Committee

PROPOSED COMMUNITY SAFETY EVALUATIONS FOR 2008/9

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

Date: 18 January 2008

Purpose of Report:

To update Members of the Community Safety Committee with regard to the proposed Community Safety activity evaluations for 2008/9.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name : Sean Whelan
Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Tel : 0115 967 0880
Email : sean.whelan@notts-fire.gov.uk

**Media Enquiries
Contact :** Elisabeth Reeson
(0115) 967 5889 elisabeth.reeson@notts-fire.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 To ensure the Service has a consistent and sustained approach to evaluating its Community Safety Initiatives a process has been developed for assessing the benefits of such work. This was presented to the Community Safety Committee at its October meeting. The report presented to the Community Safety Committee highlighted the importance of evaluations especially considering the actual value for money of the work undertaken, future external assessments of local public service performance and in the development of improved methods of education.
- 1.2 It was decided that the Community Safety Committee would receive high level evaluation reports for scrutiny and challenge so that an assessment of impact can be made against investment. It would also allow Members to assess the impact of the overall strategy for community safety work and the Services contribution towards future Local Area Agreement (LAA).

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The Fire & Rescue Authority and the Service itself embraced the wider remit of Community Safety. It figures prominently in the Services vision and ensures the Services resources are used to the best of its ability. This approach also ensures that the Services wider contribution to the LAA can be recognised through external audit.
- 2.2 To ensure the Service is delivering its agenda, and so as to ensure that the principles of Value of Money are inherent in the Services external focus several initiatives will be assessed and evaluated during 2008/09.
- 2.3 The planned events and progress reports to be submitted next year include the following;
 - **Risk Watch programme** – To include the coverage, delivery quality and outcomes.
 - **Home Safety Checks** – To include an assessment of delivery quality and outcomes.
 - **Bendigo project** – An evaluation of outcomes against the objectives of the project including an assessment of any additional benefits.
 - **Safety Zone** – An evaluation of the educational quality at the event regarding the Fire & Rescue Service involvement
 - **Fire Setters** – An evaluation of the programme and its effect on reducing re-offending fire setters.

- 2.4 To assist with the process a Station Manager within the Community Safety Department has now been allocated lead responsibility for the development of an evaluation programme and ensuring that it becomes an integral part of our educational activity. It is proposed that Risk Watch will be the first evaluation to be reported to the Community Safety Committee followed in the year by the aforementioned initiatives.
- 2.3 In mainstreaming evaluation in Community Safety activity other initiatives will undergo assessment at a local level. This will in turn lead to a method of evaluating the impact of work at Service level and feed into methods of developing different strategies, resources and approaches. An example of this would be our methods of educating the community of the risks they face on the roads in conjunction with other partners.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Evaluating the impact of our Community Safety activity will ensure that an assessment is made regarding its actual impact on changing behaviours or influencing the number of incidents.
- 3.2 As Community Safety is a statutory duty and forms part of local public services agenda's either under new Local Area Agreements or associated safety initiatives; value for money is a key concern for the organisation. Information gained from evaluations can be used to develop improved strategies and initiatives' ensuring that the organisation follows the principle of Best Value to deliver economic, efficient and effective Service.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

A Station Manager is now responsible for leading on and co-ordinating the evaluation of Community Safety activities, other staff will support this process as part of their Community Safety role.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The initial equality impact assessment is attached at Appendix A.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act the Service is a statutory partner. It is expected that the Service works in partnership to reduce the number of incidents in this category.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A failure to effectively demonstrate the impact and effectiveness of Community Safety activities could lead to criticism through external audit processes such as Comprehensive Performance Assessment. The Service also needs to demonstrate that it is using its resources' effectively as part of the Value for Money framework.
- 7.2 The impact of our Community Safety work will be important in future partnerships arrangements under the Local Area Agreements.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Community Safety Committee endorse those areas proposed in 2.3 for evaluation and agree to receive reports on the effectiveness of all Community Safety initiatives undertaken by Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

- **Community Safety Committee** – Evaluation of Community Safety Initiatives October 2007

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<i>Section</i>	<i>Manager</i>	<i>Date of Assessment</i>	<i>New or Existing</i>
RISK REDUCTION	ACFO SMART	DECEMBER 2007	N/A
Name of Report to be assessed		SCHEDULE OF COMMUNITY SAFETY EVALUATIONS 2008/9	
1. Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the report.		To inform Members of the Community Safety Committee as regards to prioritised and planned Community Safety activity evaluations for 2008/9.	
2. Who is intended to benefit from this report and what are the outcomes?		The Service should benefit by having improved information about the impact of its Community Safety work. The schedule for high level evaluations is the main outcome of this report.	
3. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the report?		The Community, the Service and the Fire Authority.	
4. Who implements and who is responsible for the report?		Risk Reduction ACFO.	

5. Please identify the differential impact in the terms of the six strands below. Please tick yes if you have identified any differential impacts. Please state evidence of negative or positive impacts below.

<i>STRAND</i>	Y	N	<i>NEGATIVE IMPACT</i>	<i>POSITIVE IMPACT</i>
Race	X			Evaluation will ensure that our initiatives are designed to reach the most vulnerable people irrespective of their race .
Gender	X			Evaluation will ensure that our initiatives are designed to reach to most vulnerable people irrespective of their gender .
Disability	X			Evaluation will ensure that our initiatives are designed to reach to most vulnerable people irrespective of their disability .
Religion or Belief	X			Evaluation will ensure that our initiatives are designed to reach to most vulnerable people irrespective of their religion or belief .
Sexuality	X			Evaluation will ensure that our initiatives are designed to reach to most vulnerable people irrespective of their sexuality .
Age	X			Evaluation will ensure that our initiatives are designed to reach to most vulnerable people irrespective of their age .

6. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group?	Y	N	7. Should the policy/service proceed to a full impact assessment?	Y	N
					x

I am satisfied that this policy has been successfully impact assessed. I understand the impact assessment of this policy is a statutory obligation and that, as owners of this policy, we take responsibility for the completion and quality of this process.

Signed (completing person) ACFO SMART.....

Date ...DECEMBER 2007.....