



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

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

PUB WATCH CAMPAIGN - VALUE AND BENEFIT

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

Date: 31 October 2008

Purpose of Report:

To make Members aware of the campaign, its progress and evaluation and to recommend that Members continue to endorse initiatives such as the Pub Watch campaign, which reduce the risk of fire within vulnerable groups of the community.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Fire and Rescue Authority is committed to identifying those persons at risk from fire, and home safety visits carried out by operational crews are a vital element of this commitment.
- 1.2 The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 places a statutory duty upon the Fire and Rescue Authority to police and enforce this legislation within non-domestic premises and this new initiative seeks, alongside the Fire Safety Order, to improve the service that the Authority provides to persons identified as at high risk from fire.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Home Safety Check (HSC) is the term given to a visit which involves firefighters and other trained individuals carrying out a comprehensive risk assessment of an individual's home. This identifies potential hazards not only from fire, but also from other avoidable injuries such as trips and falls. Where considered necessary it may involve the provision and fitting of free smoke alarms into the property, complete with a battery which lasts for 10 years.
- 2.2 This initiative developed over a number of years and is now an integral part of the Community Safety work of fire and rescue services across the country.
- 2.3 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service established HSC as core Community Safety work in 2003. It was a natural progression from the introduction of the Service's Domestic Smoke Alarm Policy which was introduced in June 2002 to:

“encourage all residents to install, maintain and appreciate the benefits that a working smoke alarm will provide for a domestic property”

Guidance was issued to personnel which detailed the prescribed manner in which HSCs were to be completed. This guidance was subsequently reviewed and revised early in 2005, to incorporate the experiences and proposals of the personnel performing the visits.

- 2.4 The objective of the Pub Watch Scheme is to identify people who fall into the high risk category as defined by locally and nationally collated fire statistics and reduce fire related injuries and deaths in this target group
- 2.5 Using data from recent incidents, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service has been able to produce a personality profile of those most at risk from being seriously injured by a fire in their own home. Those most at risk are:
 - Over 60 years old;
 - Smokers;
 - Drinkers;
 - Likely to live alone, often in single rooms or small dwellings.

- 2.6 The Service is committed to reducing the number of deaths and injuries caused by fire and it has been difficult, in the past, to identify priority HSC requests. To address this, a scheme has been developed by the Special Risk Group to utilise pub landlords to identify the key target group and act as first point of contact. The National Pub Watch Scheme was utilised to promote the initiative and the Service also received support from the Police Licensing Authority and local licensing officers.
- 2.7 Landlords involved in the scheme are voluntarily extending their legal duty as responsible persons by helping to improve safety of their customers within their own homes and becoming more aware of the risks that are inherent with the consumption of alcohol.
- 2.8 To assist with performance and data/information, a selective approach to Pub Watches by geographic risk area has been adopted, so that high risk areas were launched as a priority. St Ann's Pub Watch, together with a local pub and supporting licensee, were identified by the Fire Protection Licensing Group city area launch. Post initial launch, the Community Fire Safety Advocates have taken over the promotion of the scheme through attendance at Pub Watch meetings across the county. They also provide support and advice to pub landlords with the addition of a dedicated phone number.
- 2.9 The scheme was launched on 1 July 2008 at the Lord Alcester Public House, St. Ann's, Nottingham, as part of their Pub Watch meeting. The scheme was supported by local Police Licensing Officers and introduced by the Chief Fire Officer.
- 2.10 The scheme is supported by the production of specific display materials. 20,000 beer mats and 500 posters were issued during the initial launch. A further 20,000 beer mats have been ordered with the production of posters using in house facilities. (Examples are attached at Appendix A).
- 2.11 The HSC referrals will be monitored by entering a unique code so that specific data can be retrieved and the progress of the scheme monitored. To date one referral has been received and actioned.
- 2.12 This initiative is to be monitored on an ongoing basis and will be fully reviewed by the Risk Reduction Department in December 2008.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The posters were designed and printed internally by Media Services and were funded by their own internal budget from the year 2008/2009.
- 3.2 The first order of 40,000 beer mats cost £1645 including artwork and design.
- 3.3 A further 10,000 were ordered at a cost of £235. Future costs may be incurred in 2009/2010 following the review of the initiative.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no human resources and learning and development implications arising from this report.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An equality impact assessment is not required for the purposes of this report.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no identified implications for Section 17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998 arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no identified legal implications for Section 17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998 arising from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

This initiative will further reduce the risk management issues. This report supports the way the Service safely manage the risks within the county. It encompasses a new identified range of at risk individuals that previously were not addressed in this way.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members continue to endorse initiatives such as the Pub Watch campaign, which reduce the risk of fire within vulnerable groups of the community.

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

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

In Nottinghamshire there have been 12 fire related deaths since January 2006



You are at high risk if:

- you are 60 years or over
- you are a smoker
- you are a drinker
- you live alone

Help us to help you!

We will:

- carry out a FREE fire safety check of your home
- provide and install FREE smoke alarms where necessary
- offer FREE and confidential advice on all aspects of fire safety within the home

For further information contact us on

0800 022 3235

or ask at the bar

Please quote: PUB WATCH






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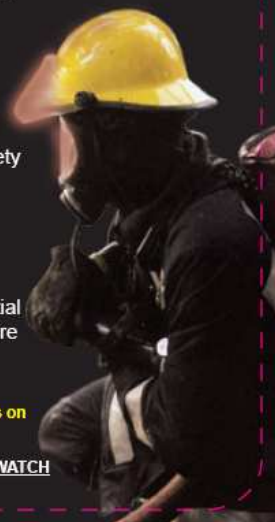
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