



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

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

PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY UPDATE

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

Date: 03 April 2009

Purpose of Report:

To provide an update for Members on the partnership activities undertaken by the Service.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name : John Buckley
Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Tel : (0115) 967 0880

Email : john.buckley@notts-fire.gov.uk

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

1. BACKGROUND

At a meeting of the Community Safety Committee of 31 October 2008 Members requested that regular updates be provided on the progress of partnership work undertaken by the Service. This is the first of those updates and provides information on recent developments

2. REPORT

Secondments

- 2.1 The work of the Avoidable Injuries Team based at Central Fire Station has demonstrated positive outcomes from the co-location of staff from different organisations. This informed the decision to seek the appointment of seconded Fire Officers into both the City and County Council community safety departments.
- 2.2 Commencing in January 2009 for a period of up to two years, Station Manager Andy Bettison has been working at County Hall within the Safer and Stronger Communities Team. This has been joint funded by the two constituent Authorities and has already demonstrated benefits in terms of increased communication and identification of opportunities for both organisations. A similar secondment is being pursued within the City Crime and Drugs Partnership and this is currently being progressed through their governance processes.
- 2.3 The Service is also pursuing the opportunity to create a multi agency team dedicated to reducing injury to those most at risk within the community. This will be an expansion of the existing team at Headquarters comprising police and fire service personnel who currently profile casualties and investigate the cause of injury from fire. The intention is to broaden this to include the wider community safety agenda and identify common factors which inform risk reduction strategies for the future. We are currently discussing these proposals with County Council, City Council and the NHS Primary Care Trusts.

Local Area Agreements

- 2.4 Both City and County Local Area Agreements (LAAs) were submitted and subsequently accepted by central Government in May 2008. Targets were set for each of the National Indicators, however in some cases data was not available and this has required work to be conducted recently to develop the final version. This piece of work has been termed "LAA Refresh" and presented the opportunity for other targets to be reconsidered, particularly in the emerging economic environment.
- 2.5 This "Refresh" work has now been concluded by the partnerships and final versions submitted to Government Office East Midlands for approval. When

these are returned the targets will be locked in place for the remaining two years of the LAAs.

- 2.6 In February 2009 Communities and Local Government (CLG) published guidance on the reward schemes in place for the LAAs. In the document CLG identify that £340 million has been set aside nationally for the achievement of targets, and its overall intention to incentivise performance at the local level. As yet it is not clear how this money being apportioned to each of the LAAs across the country and consequently the Service does not have the final figures for the City and County partnerships. Where rewards are achieved, payments will be made in two instalments during 2011-12 and 2012-13, each with a 28% capital element.
- 2.7 From 01 April onwards the performance of local government organisations will be regulated by one overarching audit mechanism known as Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). This will involve two strands of assessment, namely:
- **Area Assessment**
This will focus on how the LAAs have been developed, targets agreed and governance arrangements put in place to demonstrate the awareness of partners regarding the actual issues concerning our communities. A further element will focus on the actual outcomes which have been achieved against the National Indicators;
 - **Organisational Assessment**
Fire and Rescue Authorities will be subject to an organisational assessment. This will be conducted by the Audi Commission and comprise Use of Resources and Managing Performance assessments.
- 2.8 For the first time this new process of regulation will measure how well individual organisations work together to achieve shared objectives. It also brings with it potential risks, in that poor performance of any of the constituent partners within the LAA could have a detrimental impact on the overall Area Assessment.

Safer Nottingham Board

- 2.9 The Safer Nottingham Board (SNB) was launched in February 2009 after a substantial programme of change. The SNB was previously known as the County Community Safety Board and was initiated as part of the implementation of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This Act required that each district area must have a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) in place, and that in two tier Authorities there should be an overarching strategic body co-ordinating activities of the local CDRPs. An integral part of the Act also identified statutory partners, of which Fire and Rescue Authorities are one.
- 2.10 Over time it was clear that the previous Board had lost focus and a review commissioned by the Home Office in 2007 identified that change was required. This led to the funding of a Change Manager and a subsequent

change programme which commenced in spring 2008. This has resulted in positive changes within the Board which has improved Governance arrangements (Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Reduction) and Chair of the Authority are now members), implemented a robust performance management framework, provided clarity to constituent partners, created strong links with district CDRPs and changed the whole focus to one of co-ordinated delivery.

- 2.11 It was felt that February was the right time to launch the Board under its new title, however the change programme is still ongoing as new processes become embedded within the partnership.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, however, any potential changes discussed within the report will be communicated through the appropriate Authority structures.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report, however, any potential changes discussed within the report will be communicated through the appropriate Authority structures.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An initial equality impact assessment has been undertaken and is attached at Appendix A. This has revealed there are no equality issues arising from this report.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

As part of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) each responsible Authority is required to communicate its activity in this area and as such this report is an integral part of the process.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Failure to pro-actively engage with our partners to achieve the required outcomes within the City and County LAAs will lead to criticism within the forthcoming Fire and Rescue Service Organisational Assessment. This in turn will have a negative impact

on the overall Area Assessment conducted within the City and County Authorities and could damage existing positive partnership relations.

Consistently failing to demonstrate commitment to the partnership agenda will lead to a 'poor' rating which could ultimately result in Ministerial intervention.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of this report and encourage the continued engagement of the Service in the wider partnership and community safety agenda.

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

- Communities and Local Government (2009), Local Area Agreements Rewards Guidance: 2009.
- Audi Commission (2009), Comprehensive Area Assessment: Framework Document.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Initial Equality Impact Assessment Questionnaire

This questionnaire will enable you to decide whether or not the new or proposed policy or service needs to go through a full Equality Impact Assessment.

Title of policy or service Partnership Activity Update						
Name of Employee completing assessment: John Buckley				Department and Section: Strategic Management Suite		
1. State the purpose and aims of the policy or service. <i>This should identify “(the legitimate) aim” of the policy or service</i> To provide an update for Members on the Partnership activities undertaken by the Service.						
2. Who is responsible for implementing it? Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Risk Reduction)						
3. Who is likely to be disproportionately affected by the proposal? People from which of the equality strands? (please tick)						
Age	Disability	Family Status	Gender	Race	Sexual Orientation	Religion or Belief
4. If no boxes are ticked – there is no need to continue the EIA						