



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

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

SAFETY ZONE

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

Date: 16 October 2009

Purpose of Report:

To update Members on the child safety education activity Safety Zone.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Safety Zone has become an integral part of the safety programme across Nottinghamshire and has for a number of years been delivered from the Stoke Bardolph Water Treatment / Education Centre facility provided by the Severn Trent Water Authority. This event services the children from both the city and south of the county. Similar smaller safety events run in the North; for example Making All Children Safe (MACS) in Retford.
- 1.2 At these events children are able to experience risky situations first hand and learn how to deal with them in a controlled and supervised environment. They are taught safety skills through demonstrations using real equipment based on lifelike scenarios, which are difficult to replicate in the classroom setting. Where possible, they are given practical opportunities to practise the skills taught to them so that they can apply them to real life situations with some degree of experience.
- 1.3 In 2008 the Safety Zone partnership were informed that the site would no longer be available due to the redevelopment in 2010 of the water treatment site and movement of their Education Centre to Derbyshire. Alternative sites were sought and negotiations with Nottinghamshire County Council were successful in obtaining agreement for the use of the National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierpont. From September 2009 Safety Zone will be running from the National Water Sports Centre.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Twenty schools are offered places to attend over two weeks over the spring and summer terms. They arrive via their own transport from the City for the first week and then from the districts of Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe during the second week. Schools bring a minimum of 40 children, maximum 70 (aged 9 -11 years). The programme is intended for year 6, but some smaller schools include year 5 children.
- 2.2 Students work in small groups visiting a number of 'safety zones' (work stations) where partners specific to their own area of expertise present scenarios which challenge and educate the children in developing safe behaviour. These cover the following aims:
 - To be more aware of their personal safety and that of others;
 - React appropriately in dangerous situations;
 - Contribute to crime prevention and avoid becoming a victim of crime;
 - To be aware of the role of the emergency services, utilities and other agencies;
 - To be good citizens.

Their responses are then evaluated by the Safety Zone presenters.

2.3 The Zones are currently provided by the following organisations:

- Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service;
- Nottinghamshire Police;
- Road Safety City and County;
- British Transport Police;
- Severn Trent Water;
- E-on Electricity Safety;
- Trading Standards;
- Community Nursing;
- Nottingham City Transport.

Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service at Safety Zone - Outline of activities

2.4 During the two week period of Safety Zone, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service is able to meet the following objectives with the schools taking part:

- To recognise the consequences of deliberate fires (secondary fires) to themselves and the community locality of their school;
- Recognise the consequences of hoax calls to themselves and their community.

2.5 The presentation has been designed to help deliver messages to reduce secondary fires and burn injuries. The resources demonstrate in a visual way the availability of fire appliances attending secondary fires and hoax calls and the consequences this has on the public when there is a house fire with persons reported.

2.6 As an additional resource to deliver home fire safety messages the Service has a dolls house where children can see the potential dangers of smoke and the need for smoke alarms and bedtime routines. Resources used in the presentation are visual and 'hands on' making the messages more memorable to the children.

2.7 During two weeks of Safety Zone, 1,500 children from 20 City and County primary schools received messages from the Service.

2.8 The Service is currently working with the Child Safety Education Coalition (CSEC) and the RoSPA, LASER (Learning About Safety by Experiencing Risk) Co-ordinator, to explore the opportunity of obtaining accreditation for the scheme at the new site. This will ensure that we are delivering high quality and effective safety education.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the event is met by the individual partners. Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service costs are met from within the existing budgets.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

Human resources and learning and development implications are met from within existing resources from within the Prevention: Community Safety Department, from primarily the Education Team and the Community Safety Task Force.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An initial equality impact assessment has identified no specific aspects relating to a disproportionate effect in respect of the key equality strands.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

All staff involved from within Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service in the delivery of this event at the National Water Sports Centre are currently criminal records bureau (CRB) checked and have had training to deliver the programme.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of this report and continue to support Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service in its delivery within the Safety Zone programme and receive future reports on progress.

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

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER