



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

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

COMMUNITY SAFETY TASK FORCE UPDATE

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

Date: 16 July 2010

Purpose of Report:

To update Members on the progress of the Community Safety Task Force (CSTF)

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1. BACKGROUND

In January 2009 the newly formed Community Safety Task Force (CSTF) took over the work of the former Risk Reduction Team in supporting the Community Safety Team and local districts. Based at Clifton Community Centre the team consists of eight personnel; one Watch Manager, one Crew Manager and six Fire Fighters. Whilst initially it suffered from a couple of vacant posts, the team is now at full complement and providing a range of support for the delivery of specialist interventions and community safety.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The CSTF is a smaller group of operational personnel and an integral part of the Community Safety department, whose primary role is to support the delivery of specialist interventions and community safety. The team supports district community safety events around the City and County such as 999 challenge, Safety Zone, MACs days, Prison Me No Way (PMNW) and Riskwatch. They have carried out all of the support duties required of them by districts, delivery of specialist intervention programmes such as firesafe alongside maintenance of their operational competencies over the past year.
- 2.2 Each member of the team is allocated as a point of contact with a district which enables some continuity for support within the districts. The following is an example of how the team support district work.
 - 2.2.1 An increase in dwelling fires had occurred in the Ashfield area from October to December 2009. Two members of the CSTF compiled a report and in-depth analysis of these fires. The incidents were occurring in single occupancy houses, flats up to three storeys and the majority of incidents were cooking related, with a small number relating to the influence of alcohol. Appropriate interventions were sought that would assist in the reduction. In consultation with the district a six week action plan was put in place to target the area of Stanton Hill and Skegby, in Ashfield.
 - 2.2.2 Contacts were made with the local community, community centres and groups and leaflets and posters distributed highlighting the safety advice around cooking hazards and safety advice. Safety advice talks and presentations were given to vulnerable groups and a number of high risk home safety checks delivered. A member of the CSTF produces regular advice columns for the local quarterly news sheet and provides a physical presence within the community building relationships and liaising with the district team. This work is integrated into the local district plan.

2.2.3 The CSTF support the annual Safety Zone Event at Holme Pierrepont where 1200 young people participate in an event aimed at helping children to stay safe. This year they helped develop an interactive scenario focused on water safety, including the dangers of steep banks, deep water and what to do in an emergency. Further work is to be developed through the education team, with the specialist rescue team.

2.2.4 Delivery of specialist programmes is a core part of the team's work, and they receive additional training to enhance their skills to enable them to deliver this work. An example of this is Firesafe. The programme is a 10 session one to one cognitive behavioural programme aimed at medium to high risk offenders over the age of 12 years and above. The programme is based on a model of change and the key areas addressed are:

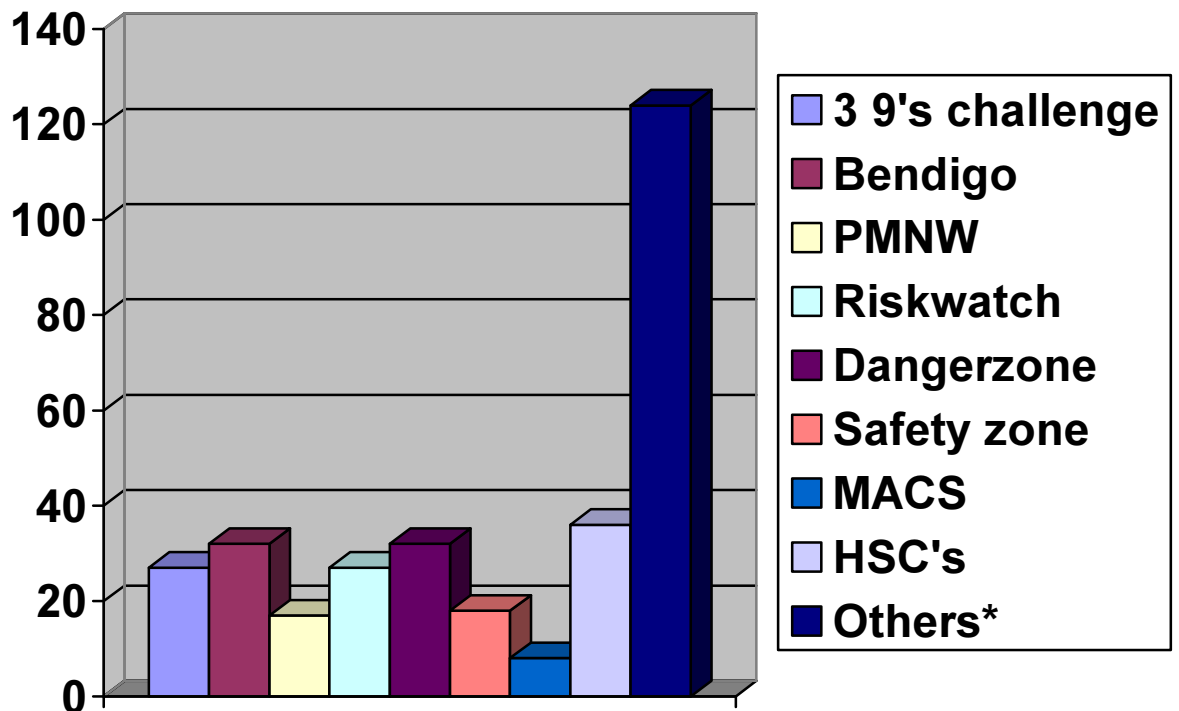
- Cognitive behavioural skills
- Education and fire awareness
- Family involvement

Referrals are received from youth offending; youth services case managers to the NFRS fire setter intervention co-ordinator usually as part of a court order.

2.2.5 A recent comment from a senior case manager from the youth offending service about a young person who participated in the programme, ' the young person completed his order and there has been no further offending or reports of fire setting behaviour since. I feel the fire service programme is a valuable resource and I would recommend using with any young person where there are concerns in relation to dangerous behaviours involving fire'

2.3 The CSTF have received additional training to deliver specific specialist interventions, working with difficult client groups and one to one interventions. Fig.3 shows the breakdown of the number of days spent supporting interventions over the year.

Fig.3



* Others includes Fire and Burn, safety days, Prince's Trust, Freshers fair, RTC days, Ashfield project work and firework safety.

The team deliver with a professional confidence in their duties and are keen to be involved with the improvement of both the packages they deliver and their delivery of the interventions to the audience. They have demonstrated a flexibility balancing the needs of the service and various work streams that they are involved in.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All of the above will be met from within existing budgets.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

Specialist training and guidance on the use of the resource is to be given to personnel who deliver specialist intervention programmes.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

There are no specific aspects in relation to a disproportionate effect in respect of the key equality strands.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Crime and disorder reduction is facilitated by the work of the CSTF as part of overall functionality.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Under the Fire Services Act 2004, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service has a statutory duty to make provision for the purpose of promoting Fire Safety in its area. The CSTF enhances the services ability to meet this obligation.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

An inability to demonstrate engagement with this key risk groups could incur adverse scrutiny onto the organisation should incidents occur.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the content of the report and work undertaken by the CSTF, and continue to support further work programmed.

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

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER