



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

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

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIP

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

Date: 15 July 2011

Purpose of Report:

To inform and update Members on current progress with the Knowledge Transfer Programme (KTP).

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Following a CMB report on 18 January highlighting the need for a more in depth examination of Community Risk Reduction a paper was prepared for the Community Safety Committee of 18 April 2010. Following approval at Committee the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) entered into talks with Nottingham Trent University (NTU) to explore the adoption of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) within Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS).
- 1.2 Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) is a UK-wide programme enabling organisations improve their efficiency, productivity and performance. It achieves this through the forming of a Partnership between the host organisation and an academic institution (in this case, Nottingham Trent University) enabling it to access skills and expertise to help the organisation develop. This symbiotic relationship allows the knowledge gained through the project to be embedded into the organisation as well as retained by the academic institution. This current KTP will be for a period of 2 years, after which time the organisation has the option to retain the 'associate' as a member of staff.
- 1.3 The project will address the issues around Community Risk Reduction by undertaking a review of the analytical and performance management processes for the relevant Community Safety initiatives, developing analytical, performance management and evaluation tools and models not only of current provision but also future possible modes of provision. It will also provide an evidence base to help influence future service delivery.
- 1.4 After negotiations with Nottingham Trent University (NTU), the Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) 'associate' was appointed and commenced duties on 29 November 2010.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The KTP programme has been running for just over 6 months now, during this period the associate has begun to work closely with both Community Safety and Corporate teams and has impressed with his quick grasp of NFRS requirements and analytical skills.
- 2.2 During this period, major pieces of work have included;
 - A review of current NFRS Community Safety Interventions
 - A summary of interventions in use by other Fire Services
 - A guide on Information Sharing and Data Protection
 - An analytical study of Fire casualties over the last 5 years

- 2.3 The review of current NFRS Community Safety projects includes;
- Community safety structure.
 - Community safety interventions and initiatives.
 - Evaluation methods used for community safety interventions and initiatives.
 - Risk profiling.
 - Data collection.
 - The practice of other UK fire and rescue services with regards to evaluation methods.
- 2.4 This information has been drawn into a document that also includes some general statistics regarding the demographic and incident trends within communities as well as some initial correlation analysis on fire casualties, specifically looking at the circumstantial trends surrounding accidental dwelling fires.
- 2.5 The key to the success of the NFRS policy of identifying individuals that present the greatest risk is the sharing of information with other agencies. The Service currently relies on the goodwill of these agencies to refer these individuals through either a formal or informal referral process. A formal process where this information is shared as a matter of course would vastly improve our performance in identifying and making safe those most at risk.
- 2.6 This approach though is often hindered by the reluctance of other agencies to share any sort of personal data that would identify the individual at risk, usually; the Data Protection Act is cited as the reason for non-compliance. Out of our last 9 fatalities, 8 were known to other agencies, much therefore could be gained by establishing information sharing protocols with these agencies.
- 2.7 The associate has researched the act and its relevance to our requests and produced an information sharing guidance document for use in such cases. This clearly shows that information can be shared where; *“The sharing of the information is vital in order to protect the subject’s interests.”* NFRS will now use this document when discussing information requests with other agencies.
- 2.8 In order to target those most at risk, the initial need is to identify who those people are. Previous national research has given some general indications but there has not been an in depth analysis into previous accidental dwelling fire casualties in Notts.
- 2.9 The associate has completed the first stage of his study into accidental dwelling fire casualties over the last 5 years using data collected by NFRS. Whilst definite conclusions cannot be drawn due to the limited scope of the data, it is possible to identify trends that warrant further investigation particularly when associating causes with particular age groups.

- 2.10 The second stage involves gathering information from other agencies and the associate is currently working with Nottingham City Homes to identify any potential trends in incidences of accidental dwelling fires in the City which take place in social housing, compared to private housing. In addition, he will be analysing the proportion of accidental dwelling fires which have taken place in Nottingham City Homes' properties in comparison to other social housing providers in the City.
- 2.11 To supplement this data the associate will work with NTU to run 'focus groups' made up of members of the public, some of whom will have had experience of a domestic fire, in order to provide the more qualitative data. When completed, this information will not only identify those at most risk but what type of intervention will have the most impact dependent on their age, health and other social conditions.
- 2.12 The next piece of work will be the analysis of demographic trends in Nottinghamshire which can be used to inform the future planning of preventative interventions. This should hopefully include an element of horizon scanning so that political, legislative, economic and social trends are incorporated. Again Tom will be working closely with Corporate Services, using the results to inform future corporate risk management planning.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no further costs associated with the actual KTP project as the NFRS contribution of 50% has already been met from the LPSA reward grant. The rest of the cost has been covered by a Government grant.
- 3.2 At the conclusion of the project, there is the potential that revised community safety interventions may be required and this creates the potential for future costs. If this issue arises, full business cases will be presented to secure appropriate funding and resources.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The NFRS Human Resources department was involved in the recruitment; however NTU remains the associate's employer. At the end of the two year KTP project there is no obligation on NFRS to employ the associate.
- 4.2 There are no Learning & Development implications for NFRS arising from this report.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The current programme ensures that we reach out to, and work with those hard to reach groups that are most at risk.
- 5.2 The objective of the project is to evaluate where the Service is most effective with its interventions. This will ensure that if there are any particular issues to be addressed with regard to minority groups, the Service will be able to respond appropriately.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

The Service's intervention strategy is linked to the crime and disorder agenda and the reduction of anti-social behaviour in Nottinghamshire.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 An agreement between NFRS and NTU has been produced that lays out the legal implications of programme and the arrangements for the handling of financial agreements.
- 7.2 NFRS has a legal duty, under the Fire Service Act 2004, section 6, for '*the provision of information, publicity and encouragement in respect of the steps to be taken to prevent fires and death or injury by fire*'.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 NFRS must ensure that resources are targeted in areas of greatest need to ensure that, within current and future financial constraints, the greatest impact is achieved. Failure to do so could see an increase of risk within the community, and potentially cause reputational damage.
- 8.2 This is a two year project and the Service needs to ensure that the knowledge and expertise gained is maintained after the end of the project.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That Members endorse the approach of risk analysis being undertaken by the project; and,
- 9.2 Members agree to receive further reports from the Chief Fire Officer on ongoing progress.

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

None

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER