



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM
FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date: FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER 2011

Time: 10.00 am

**Venue: Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold,
Nottingham.**

**Members are requested to attend the above meeting to be held at the time, place
and date mentioned for the purpose of transacting the following business.**

Clerk to the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority

AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
Councillors, colleagues or other participants in meetings are requested to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest in any matter(s) on the agenda
- 3 MINUTES** Attached
Last meeting held on 15 July 2011 (for confirmation)
- 4 FIRE PROTECTION DEPARTMENT UPDATE** Attached
Report of Chief Fire Officer
- 5 PRINCE'S TRUST** Attached
Report of Chief Fire Officer
- 6 DISTRICT INITIATIVES – INFORMAL REPORTING PROCESS** Attached
Report of Chief Fire Officer

If you are unsure whether or not you should declare an interest in a particular matter, please contact the constitutional services officer shown on this agenda, if possible before the day of the meeting, who will provide advice in the first instance.

Any councillor who is unable to attend the meeting and wishes to submit apologies should do so via the personal assistant to the chief fire officer at fire services headquarters on 0115 967 0880

Agenda, reports and minutes for all public meetings can be viewed online at:-
<http://open.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/comm/default.asp>

Constitutional Services Officer: Carol Jackson 0115 8764297
carol.jackson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM
FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **15 JULY 2011** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, from 10.00 am to 11.10 am.

Membership

- Councillor S Fielding (Chair)
^ Councillor J Hemsall
Councillor E Kerry
Councillor J Packer
^ Councillor J Zadrozny
Councillor K Girling (substitute for Councillor Hemsall)

Members absent are marked ^

Councillor B Grocock attended as an observer.

1 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Hemsall.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 8 April 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

4 PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing and updating the Committee on developments within the partnership agenda. The Partnership Manager explained the impact of recent financial restraints and changes in policy on the structures and conduct of Local Strategic Partnerships. As a result of these, the Fire and Rescue Service had become more targeted on delivery of preventative interventions, with a focus on the people most vulnerable to fire. Consequently, the Services' approach to partnership engagement needed to change and, whilst it would still engage at formal partnership level, the emphasis was now on reaching out to its target groups through the professional agencies which dealt with them on a daily basis. Examples of the new approach included:

- information sharing agreements with Health and Social Care services;
- the commissioning of Home Safety Checks to organisations catering for vulnerable persons;
- the training of specialist care and health workers to identify those most vulnerable to fire in the course of their normal duties;
- creating formal links with Mental Health Services to train workers and identify 'at risk' individuals living in the community;
- establishing formal referral systems for the vulnerable when discharged from hospital;
- the review of the established 'First Contact' referral system to focus on those most in need;
- better joint working with housing associations and Residential Social Landlords (RSLs);
- collaborative working with Nottinghamshire Police and County Older Persons Services to provide joint home security and home safety checks.

For the future, the aims were:

- to have fewer meetings and more practical projects;
- to encourage the greater exchange of information with other agencies;
- to focus on internal partnerships;
- training and awareness raising for key partners;
- further commissioning of preventative initiatives to the third sector.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the refreshed approach being taken by Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Service in conducting its partnership activity be endorsed;**

- (2) further reports be submitted to the Committee by the Chief Fire Officer as to the progress of the revised partnership arrangements.**

5 PROGRESS OF THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIP

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing and updating the Committee on current progress with the Knowledge Transfer Programme. The Partnership Manager explained to the meeting that a partnership formed with Nottingham Trent University (NTU) under the Knowledge Transfer Programme, enabled the Fire and Rescue Service to improve its efficiency and productivity and performance, allowing knowledge gained through the project to be embedded into the organisation.

The programme had been running for just over six months and the associate from NTU had begun to work closely with both Community Safety and Corporate Teams.

During this period, major pieces of work had included;

- a review of current Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service 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

The review of current Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety projects included;

- 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.

The information had been drawn together in a document which would be used when discussing information requests with other agencies. A database would be developed to record interventions in different districts and an evaluation toolkit would be developed through research to inform the future planning of preventative interventions and corporate risk of management planning.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the approach to risk analysis being undertaken by the project be endorsed;**

- (2) **further reports by the Chief Fire Officer on ongoing progress be submitted to the Committee.**

7 RETAINED REVIEW PROGRESS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing and updating the Committee on the progress of the Retained Review (review of the retained duty system (RDS)).

The Review conducted in 2008/09 contained 25 recommendations of how the Service may improve its recruitment, retention, development and engagement with its retained staff. The recommendations were to be delivered over a 3 year period.

Progress in respect of the 25 recommendations was summarised in paragraph 2.3 of the report. There had been notable areas of success but some recommendations were still outstanding. There were a number of reasons for this as outlined in the report, one being the impact of the Fire Cover Review. The results of the consultation in relation to the Fire Cover Review may well result in different objectives being set and the recommendations from the review of the RDS would need amending and to be re-submitted to the Committee in future.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) **the progress against the recommendations in the Retained Review be noted;**
- (2) **a further report be submitted, updating the Committee on the status of the recommendations identified by the Retained Review once the Fire Cover Review was complete;**
- (3) **the Chief Fire Officer submit further reports to the Committee on ongoing activities.**

8 VULNERABLE PERSONS' POLICY AND HOME SAFETY CHECK SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing the Committee on the implementation of the vulnerable Persons Policy revised Home Safety Check Scheme.

Fire and Rescue Services nationwide were looking at ways to streamline Home Safety Check (HSC's) policies to ensure that they were using resources most effectively, in order to be able to react quickly and target the most vulnerable in communities. For Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service this had led to the development of a 'Vulnerable People Policy' and a review of the HSC procedures had been undertaken in order to develop a policy to ensure it was reaching the most vulnerable people and communities at risk from fire, through the delivery of a risk based service.

The general principles of the new HSC procedure were: call challenging, awareness training for the services' partners, six monthly re-visits to those deemed at high-risk and the provision of risk information.

RESOLVED that the policy attached to the report and implementation of a risk based approach to the management of vulnerable people and delivery of Home Safety Check Scheme be endorsed.



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

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

FIRE PROTECTION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

4

Date:

14 October 2011

Purpose of Report:

To provide Members with an update on Fire Protection Activity.

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

- 1.1 The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO) came into effect in October 2006 and replaced over 70 pieces of fire safety law. The requirements for enforcement in the FSO were not new to Fire and Rescue Authorities as there were close similarities with the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997. However, the FSO covers a far larger range of premises including:
- Non domestic premises including common parts of houses in multiple occupation;
 - Premises used by self employed (including family run businesses);
 - Premises used by the voluntary sector.
- 1.2 Exceptions include Crown occupied/owner properties, premises in armed forces establishments, certain specified premises including construction sites, ships under repair and construction, nuclear installations; and sports grounds and stands designated as needing a safety certificate by a local authority.
- 1.3 Article 26 of the FSO requires that every enforcing authority must enforce the provisions of the Order and any regulations made under it. The Chief Fire Officer has responsibility to ensure that the Service fulfils any requirement made on the Fire Authority within the FSO.
- 1.4 Fire safety enforcement activities are designed to ensure the Fire Authority's statutory requirements, under the remit of the Fire Safety Order (2005) (FSO), are met and that risk to life and property is reduced.
- 1.5 The enforcement of fire safety is a critical element of the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan and the Authority's strategy for the enforcement of fire safety forms a key part of its overall strategy for the protection of its community. Fire Protection will ascertain the risks in the community, analyse them and assign resources in the most effective way to reduce or eliminate those risks.
- 1.6 This report builds on previous reports to the Committee and highlights how the fire protection department's activities contribute to community safety. The report will be supported by a presentation which will focus on how the department will:
- Maintain a risk-based approach to enforce our statutory responsibilities;
 - Meet the fire safety enforcement statutory requirements;
 - Continue to reduce unwanted fire signals;
 - Will prepare for the impact of the localism bill and other changes relating to deregulation.

2. REPORT

Risk Based Approach to Inspections

- 2.1 The Fire Protection inspectorate consists of 21 Officers, some of whom are Operational, have management responsibilities and are conditioned to different duty systems and Conditions of Service etc. Additionally, each Officer will be at a different stage of development and may also have additional responsibilities that reduce available time for Fire Protection inspection activity. Based on this information the inspection capacity of the Department can be calculated.
- 2.2 Fire Protection staff collect high quality risk data about premises, and prioritise inspections based upon the level of risk. This enables the service to target prevention, protection and response options effectively, efficiently and in a verifiable manner. The inspection activity aims to reduce the risk and impact of fire on the community, safeguard fire fighters, protect heritage and the environment. It also reduces loss of life, injuries and economic and social costs.
- 2.3 The risk-based inspection programme is a key part of the overall community safety fire risk reduction strategy. The Fire Safety Order makes a risk assessment approach central to determining the necessary level of fire precautions in premises.
- 2.4 Premises managed by public, commercial or voluntary organisations which present the highest risk are inspected on a more frequent basis. Those premises considered to be lower risk are inspected primarily in response to complaints, or on a sample basis to verify their lower risk classification.
- 2.5 Fire Protection relies heavily on quality data sets, and this is predominantly contained within the Community Fire Risk Management Information System (CFRMIS). Such is the importance of data within the risk management process a full time 'Coordinator' of CFRMIS is in place. This ensures there is an ongoing process of refining and identifying issues relating to the datasets contained within the system and how they impact upon the Fire Protection aspect of service delivery.
- 2.6 The Fire Protection department has changed significantly over the last few years to ensure the delivery model is as efficient as possible. This has been achieved by restructuring the department and converting some roles to non-uniformed Inspecting Officers, utilising technology to enable mobile working and modernising Inspecting Officer processes.
- 2.7 A proposed web based version of CFRMIS is being progressed and once the implementation project is complete it will increase the ability to work remotely and reduce the requirement to return to base, and therefore release more time for inspection activity.

- 2.8 Due to the risk based approach taken in the inspection regime, there are a range of different activity types available to the Officer to enable an appropriate response relative to the different circumstances and risks they may find. These are defined below:

Audit

The 'Fire Safety Audit and Data Gathering Form' is the principle tool at the heart of the inspection programme. It enables the Officer to collect identification and risk data about premises in a systematic and consistent manner. In pre-planning these inspections it will be expected that a minimum of four weeks notice is given to the responsible persons at the premises.

Thematic

Designed to allow the Officer to visit the premises, gather some critical data (as per the Audit process) and assess the general risk in a shorter time than a full audit would take. For example a number of small hotels which had previously not been visited by the Service, could form the basis of thematic inspections. The risks could then be assessed and decisions taken on any future actions. These inspections can also be used in assessing the risk(s) within multi-occupied premises.

Follow up

A follow-up inspection is one which is carried out in order to ascertain the progress made in carrying out the measures required or recommended following a previous visit; e.g. steps included in a notice of deficiencies issued under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Peak risk inspection

There is an increased risk within certain premises when they are operating at their 'peak risk'. For example, it may well be necessary, on occasion, to visit licensed premises when they are operating at or near to full capacity or to visit premises with overnight life risk at times when staffing levels may be reduced, or to visit shops when they are trading at their busiest times e.g. during the lead up to Christmas.

Specific

A specific inspection is one that covers a range of instances and that requires something less than a thorough and comprehensive examination of the premises in question, but deals with one or more specific items at the request of the occupier of the premise. It may be instigated by the Service to check specifically on the availability of exits following a complaint or allegation from a member of the public etc.

Enforcement

- 2.9 The principle aim of the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) is to make Nottinghamshire a safer place by reducing as far as possible the risks and social and economic costs of fires and other dangers, without imposing unnecessary burden. Securing compliance with legal regulatory requirements is an important part of achieving this aim.

- 2.10 The purpose of the enforcement function is to ensure that preventative remedial action is taken to protect relevant persons and to secure compliance with the regulatory system. The need for enforcement may stem from a lack of knowledge or a deliberate or negligent act. The term enforcement has a wide meaning and applies to all dealings between the Service and those on whom the law places a duty.
- 2.11 The purpose of enforcement is to:
- Promote and achieve sustained compliance with the law;
 - Ensure that the person responsible for premises subject to fire safety regulation takes action to deal immediately with serious risks to the safety of relevant persons.
 - Ensure those individuals, businesses and other undertakings that breach fire safety requirements are held to account, which may include bringing alleged offenders before the courts.
- 2.12 The Service has a wide range of interventions at its disposal to secure compliance with the law and to ensure a proportionate response to criminal offences. Officers may offer individuals, businesses and other undertakings information and advice either in person, in writing by letter or email, or over the telephone. This may include a warning that, in the opinion of the officer, they are failing to comply with the law. Where appropriate, officers may agree an action plan; provide a notification of deficiencies report or serve enforcement or alterations notice; prohibit or restrict the use of premises; or they may prosecute.
- 2.13 Enforcement notices, prohibition notices, and prosecutions are important ways to bring individuals, businesses and other undertakings to account for alleged breaches of the law. Where it is appropriate to do so and in accordance with this policy the Service will use one or more of these measures to secure compliance with fire safety law.
- 2.14 Investigating the circumstances encountered during audits or following incidents or complaints is essential before taking any enforcement action. In deciding what resources to devote to these investigations, the Service will have regard to the principles of enforcement and the objectives published in the Community Safety Plan.
- 2.15 A specialist role based team exists within the Fire Protection Department that deals with specific enforcement issues namely prohibition and restriction of premises and the responsibility for progressing fire safety breaches that may result in prosecution. There are six Officers within the team (all competent Fire Protection Inspecting Officers) and a number of shadow officers who gather certain skill sets and then are available to join the full team as required.
- 2.16 This team is facilitated by a Station Manager within the Fire Protection Support Team and will actively pursue litigation against those who breach the

legislation in order to set a clear example that such breaches are unacceptable and a risk to public safety.

Enforcement Case Study

2.17 A recent prosecution brought by the Authority for serious fire safety breaches at two hotels in Mansfield was heard in the crown court at Nottingham in July of 2011. The responsible person at the Dial Hotel and the Market inn in Mansfield was jailed for eight months and ordered to pay £15,000 in costs.

2.18 The individual who runs Mansfield fire protection services, and provided risk assessment advice to the responsible person at the hotels was also jailed for eight months and ordered to pay £5,863.38 after pleading guilty to two breaches of fire safety requirements in relation to the inadequacy of fire risk assessments.

2.19 The judge in summing up stated:

The Fire Officers carried out an assessment of the premises, which you were in charge of and owned. They discovered very serious defects to the building.

The risk assessment that you produced to them, done by your co-Accused....was completely inadequate, and would have been apparent to any honest person that it was inadequate...

..they discovered that there were inadequate fire doors....which meant that a fire would have spread easily along the corridors of the premises and to the stairs, which would have compromised escape routes as a result of smoke logging and fire spreading, preventing evacuation of the premises as quickly and safely as possible.

There was a door at the bottom of a signed emergency exit staircase, but that was found to be locked. The door couldn't have been immediately opened by any person required to use it in an emergency. The escape exit routes were not kept clear. There was a mound of material on the stairs.

The emergency lighting was inadequate, and there was no emergency lighting within the staircase or bedroom corridors, there was no fire detection system. The fire extinguisher was not sufficiently maintained. The fire alarm and emergency lighting were not sufficiently maintained.

As a result of that, any member of the public staying at the premises were put at risk, and the risk was described by the Fire Officers as so serious that the Prohibition Notice had to be issued immediately.

....it seems to me that no one must be under any illusion that those who run hotels are under a very high duty, by the very nature of the fact that people – strangers, who are unaccustomed to the geography of the hotel - are staying in the hotel. If there is a fire at night and they wake up, they might be

confused. They might not wake up in time if the fire alarms are not satisfactory, or indeed not present.

The court takes a most serious view of offences of this nature.

- 2.20 In order to get a case of this nature to court requires a great deal of effort, technical expertise and invariably cost. To achieve a result that has such a resounding impact continues to contribute not only to improved Fire Safety Order compliance levels, but also to the safety of communities.

Unwanted Fire Signals

- 2.21 An Unwanted Fire Signal (UFS) is defined as a signal transmitted through an Automatic Fire Detection System (AFD) reporting a fire where upon arrival of the fire service it is found that a fire has not occurred. UFS are entirely avoidable through design, management practice, procedure, maintenance and the appropriate use of space within buildings.
- 2.22 The number of AFD systems installed in Nottinghamshire and the City of Nottingham is not known and, as Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service has no direct control of these systems, the Service needs to be pro-active in influencing the management of such systems in order to reduce the adverse impact caused by UFS.
- 2.23 The principal areas of impact on the Service generated by UFS include;
- Diverting essential services from attending other more serious emergencies
 - Increased risk of accidents and collisions as a result of the service responding under emergency conditions
 - Demoralising to personnel through frequent attendance
 - Disruption to the programmed activity of the Service, e.g. community fire safety education, fire prevention activities and operational training.
 - Adverse affect on performance
 - Significant financial burden.
- 2.24 The impact of UFS on the community includes;
- Disruption to business through downtime and loss of revenue
 - Loss of credibility in the alarm system which may result in occupant complacency leading to inappropriate response in the event of a real fire
 - Cost to business from retained duty system fire fighters being released from duty
 - Impact on the environment caused by unnecessary appliance movements
 - Drain on public finances
- 2.25 The strategy for reducing responses to UFS calls is based on the following principles:

- The use of clear protocols for call challenging by Fire Control staff. In most circumstances, where there is no risk to life, the caller will be asked to establish the cause of an alarm before Fire Control mobilises any PDA to the premises.
- Liaising with and educating the responsible person taking full responsibility for the alarm system and all fire safety measures in his or her premises as detailed in the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
- The adoption of a robust off line policy whereby there is a delay in the signal being transmitted to the Service at certain times of the day.
- The recognition that the key purpose of an alarm system is to give the occupiers of a premises warning that there may be a fire so that the occupiers can evacuate the premises or otherwise as directed by the premises Emergency Action Plan.
- The adoption of a generic pre-determined attendance (PDA) based on risk assessments and call challenging protocols.
- The introduction of protocols to ensure the safety of vulnerable people and high risk buildings.
- The provision of appropriate protocols for control staff to support the mobilisation decision making process.

2.26 The implementation of the unwanted fire signal reduction policy has resulted in a reduction over the period December 2009 to July 2011 of 25.8 %. Actual numbers of calls received compared to unattended calls as a result of the application of the policy for the same period are; 7005 calls were received and of those 1807 were unattended.

The Localism Bill and Charging

2.27 The localism bill is currently going through its third reading in the House of Lords and is the main vehicle for the Government to enact its programme of decentralization within local authorities.

2.28 One element of the Localism Bill is the introduction of a 'General Power of Competence' for local councils. This power will give fire authorities the Legal capacity to do anything that an individual can, provided the authority is not specifically prohibited from undertaking the activity.

2.29 In addition to the general powers proposed, the Bill also amends the current restrictive charging regime in place for all fire and rescue authorities and aims to enable them to deliver more personalised effective and efficient services for individuals and communities.

2.30 The functions and actions of fire and rescue authorities are governed by statute primarily prescribed by the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. Wider general powers are intended to empower fire and rescue authorities with greater freedoms and flexibilities to act in the interests of delivering their purpose.

- 2.31 The potential impact of wider general powers will simplify existing charging provisions by removing the order for what may be charged for and replacing with specific provisions where charging is not possible.
- 2.32 It is proposed that Section 19 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 will be amended to enable the simplified charging provisions but will retain the existing requirement that fire and rescue authorities are unable to charge for:
- Extinguishing fires, or protecting life and property in the event of fires, other than fires at or under the sea (which is an existing provision).
 - Emergency medical assistance.
- 2.33 The ability of authorities to charge for certain actions/services could lead to increased opportunities for revenue generation. However the focus is likely to be upon using charges to help influence better behavior e.g. reduction in automatic fire alarms.
- 2.34 NFRS Fire Protection Department is undertaking preparatory work by assessing the impact of charging and the risks associated with them, e.g. potential for alarm systems to be turned off and the associated risks that may ensue if a charging regime is adopted by the Authority for UFS.

Local Better Regulation

- 2.35 The department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) is currently consulting on extending the primary authority scheme to include fire and rescue authorities. Previously FRA's had little to do with this government department, but it is clear that the governments vision includes the fire and rescue service at the heart of joined up risk based local regulation.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Although there are no direct financial implications arising from this report it is worthy of note that the cost of pursuing a conviction for a contravention of the Fire Safety Order is seldom fully recovered in the courts, however this financial burden is contained within the legal services budget.
- 3.2 Should the Localism Bill become statute consideration will be given to the potential to raise revenue through charging for specific services. Any such proposals will be presented to the Authority for consideration.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because the purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress of the Fire Protection Department and does not seek to change policy or procedures.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

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

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Fire Authority is legally bound to pursue convictions for contraventions of the Fire Safety Order (2005). Furthermore there is a legal responsibility to mitigate risk and prevent fires within the Fire Services Act (2004). The activities of the Fire Protection Department assist the Authority in meeting these legal obligations.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The work of the Fire Protection Department is a key strand to ensuring the Authority is managing risk within the community through a robust regime of inspection, information gathering and enforcement. Failure to undertake such work has the potential to affect the safety of the public and firefighters alike, and poses a real risk to the reputation of the Service.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the contents of this report and continue to support the activities of the Fire Protection Department.

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

None

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

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

PRINCE'S TRUST

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

5

Date:

14 October 2011

Purpose of Report:

To update Members on the progress of the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service as a delivery partner of the Prince's Trust Team Programme.

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

- 1.1 In May 2011 the Prince's Trust published a report 'Broke, Not Broken: Tackling Youth Poverty and the Aspiration Gap'. The report investigates the aspirations and self belief of young people from the UK's richest and poorest families.
- 1.2 A sample of 2,311 16 to 24 year olds took part in an online poll conducted by YouGov. Respondents were asked about their life and career goals, and whether they felt that these aims would be achievable in the future. They were also asked about their childhood and what life was like when they were growing up.
- 1.3 The report reveals a clear gap in the aspirations of the UK's richest and poorest young people. Young people growing up in poverty are significantly less likely to believe their life and career goals are achievable. It also reveals the impact of poverty on young people, who are growing up without the most basic necessities in life. Young people living in poverty are more likely to grow up feeling stressed and depressed, as well as facing bullying from their peers. A summary of the key findings is attached at Appendix A.
- 1.4 Thousands of vulnerable young people are growing up believing that they will never be able to escape the cycle of poverty and disadvantage. With the right support it is possible to help them turn their lives around and fulfil their potential.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) has worked in Partnership with the Prince's Trust as a delivery partner for the Team programme since 2001 delivering over 70 teams. The Team programme is a twelve week personal development programme for 16 to 25 year olds taken from the NEET group (Not in Education, Employment or Training). Most have either struggled at school, are long term unemployed, have been in trouble with the police, in or leaving care.
- 2.2 The Team programme helps disadvantaged young people overcome barriers through practical support and re-engages them to think about their futures. Participants are involved in a range of activities which are carried out under the guidance of trained team leaders and include:
 - Spending a week at a residential activity centre;
 - Undertaking a project that will benefit the local community, using funds raised by the team;
 - Completing a work placement and reviewing their post programme options;
 - Completing a Team challenge that involves helping others in a local community;

- A final presentation where Team members recount their experiences to an invited audience.
- 2.3 The Team programme makes a positive difference to the lives of young people by improving self confidence, self esteem, problem solving skills, and key skills through the attainment of vocational and national qualifications.
 - 2.4 The services youth team have also developed, and provide a number of youth programmes such as Bendigo, Bootcamp and Team Challenge, to support and develop younger people. Some of these young people are referred onto the Prince's Trust Team programme.
 - 2.5 In 2001 NFRS started its first Team programme in Nottingham at Stockhill Fire Station, the programme continued to be delivered in the city. In 2005 the programme extended into the county and by 2006 with the appointment of another team leader there were three team programmes across the county and city. The programme has grown from strength to strength with the appointment of a fourth team leader in 2008 and two peripatetic assistants in 2011. This measured and gradual development has enabled the service to deliver ten teams per year with an average of fourteen young people per team.
 - 2.6 The Team programme runs from locations in Mansfield, Worksop, City/Central, and Sherwood with a mixture of 16 to 18 year olds and 19 to 25 year olds delivered through the four team leaders with the support from the assistants and volunteers

Funding

- 2.7 The Team programme financial business model is self financing through a complex funding formulae distributed through Derby College on behalf of Princes Trust. The service is funded up to a maximum of 139 young people per year.
- 2.8 Each individual who attends the Team programme generates an income for completing the course and achieving a qualification. It must be emphasised that some of the team members are some of the most challenging young people who have very complex issues, some of whom have never achieved a qualification or completed any structured education.
- 2.9 The income generated pays for the staff salaries, team rooms and associated costs of running the programme. NFRS make some contributions in kind for example, office accommodation, administration, community safety support and use of vehicles.

Performance

- 2.10 NFRS have an average of 14 young people on a team with a retention rate of over 80%. Throughout the programme the team members work towards a qualification - City and Guilds in Team Work and Community Skills. This year the qualification has changed to the Prince's Trust Certificate in Team Work

and Community Skills (equivalent to the City and Guilds). They are also exposed to a number of other opportunities to gain other awards such as first aid and food hygiene.

2.11 The programme has been enhanced over the years with support from a number of local and national organisations including:

- The Army;
- Royal Air Force;
- Nottinghamshire Police;
- Marks and Spencer;
- Nottingham Forest Football Club;
- Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club;
- The National Trust;
- Nottingham Trent University;
- Browne Jacobson Solicitors; and
- Starbucks.

2.12 Support is provided through work experience placements, sponsorship, sending employed personnel or student social workers as a development opportunity to support the team, supporting community projects, and assistance with CV and interview techniques for the young people.

Successes

2.13 Getting through life can be difficult, particularly for those young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. However, by committing to the programme these young people have given themselves an opportunity to move on to a better life. More than three quarters of the young people from the Nottinghamshire Team programme have moved into education, training or employment after attending the programme.

2.14 Listed below are some examples of what some of the young people have gone on to achieve:

- Ben from Team 1 joined the Army following the programme and is still serving.
- David who lived in Ashfield travelled to the City programme every day so he could complete the course and join the Army, which he did and is now a Corporal and still serving.
- Anne-Marie was on a Bulwell Team as a 17 year old single parent. After the programme she became an Ambassador for the Trust meeting the Prince on many occasions and hosting 'Celebrate Success' in London this year. Following a successful grant from the Trust Anne-Marie now runs a Youth Café in Sherwood.

- Elisse was on a City Team following a period of living in care. She was a self harmer and had tried to commit suicide on more than one occasion. Following her work placement at Headway house, Elisse volunteered to work with Headway after her Team finished. During her time there she studied for a Youth qualification & is now taking her place at University.
- 2.15 A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), along with a NFRS Team Leader ran a Team in Bestwood following the multi-agency "Operation Kingdom". This proved to be a big success and subsequently received a visit from HRH the Prince of Wales.
- 2.16 There have been 5 PCSOs working with NFRS on the Team programmes over the last 2 years. This additional benefit has provided those individuals with a valuable development opportunity and a greater understanding of engagement with young people within their role.

Current Activity

- 2.17 There are currently 4 Teams running across the City and County engaging approximately 50 young people. As mentioned above, the Team concludes with a final presentation where they share their experience gained from the process and articulate their future plans and aspirations.
- 2.18 Below is a list of the next presentations which all Members of the Authority are able to attend.

The proposed dates for end of Team presentations are as follows:

10 November 2011	Venue Nottingham Forest Football Club
24 November 2011	Venue Pleasley Landmark Centre
1 December 2011	Venue Worksop (TBC)
15 December 2011	Venue Nottingham Forest Football Club

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The business model for the Prince's Trust is self financing, however, where income is raised above expenditure it is carried forward as an earmarked reserve and used to develop the programme.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional Human Resources or Learning and Development implications arising from this report.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because the purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress of the Prince's Trust Team Programme and does not seek to change the policy or procedures.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

This Programme, as part of the Authority's broader youth engagement strategy, provides diversionary activities for those at risk of offending; supporting young offenders back into education, training and employment. The outcomes of the programme assists the service in its statutory duty towards section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 places specific duties upon the service around Community Fire Safety. The Prince's Trust relationship and programme delivery assists in meeting those requirements.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Service has a statutory obligation around community engagement and risk reduction. The Prince's Trust relationship seeks, in part, to maximise youth engagement and thus meet those obligations. The recent disturbances across the Country demonstrates the need for raising the aspirations of young people and enabling them to see themselves as valued and contributing citizens within their communities.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the content of the report and continue to support NFRS as a delivery partner of the Prince's Trust.

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

- 'Broke, Not Broken: Tackling Youth Poverty and the Aspiration Gap' Prince's Trust, May 2011.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: KEY FINDINGS**'Broke, Not Broken: Tackling Youth Poverty and the Aspiration Gap' Prince's Trust, (May 2011)**

The report reveals a clear gap in the aspirations of the UK's richest and poorest young people. Young people growing up in poverty are significantly less likely to believe their life and career goals are achievable.

Key findings:

- > More than one in five of those from deprived homes (22 per cent) believe that "few" or "none" of their goals in life are achievable, compared to just five per cent of those from affluent families
- > More than one in four young people growing up in poverty (26 per cent) believe that "few" or "none" of their career goals are achievable, compared to just seven per cent of those from wealthy families
- > One in four young people from poor homes (26 per cent) feel that "people like them don't succeed in life"
- > Almost a quarter from deprived homes (24 per cent) believe they'll "end up on benefits for at least part of their life" and more than one in five feel they'll end up in a "dead-end job"
- > Around one in six young people from poor homes (16 per cent) say their family and friends have made fun of them when they talk about finding a good job
- > One in four young people growing up in poverty (25 per cent) say that starting their own business is one of their future goals, compared to 19 per cent of those from affluent families. But almost one in three of those from poor backgrounds (31 per cent) do not believe they could do it
- > But a clear majority of all respondents (78 per cent), including those from affluent and poor homes, agree that finding a good job is a key priority for the future

The research also reveals the impact of poverty on young people, who are growing up without the most basic necessities in life.

Key findings:

- > One in ten young people from the UK's poorest families (10 per cent) did not have their own bed when they were growing up
- > More than one in ten (13 per cent) admit that their school uniform was rarely washed
- > More than a quarter (29 per cent) had "few" or "no" books in their home
- > One in three (34 per cent) were "rarely" or "never" read to by their parents
- > More than a quarter (28 per cent) had no access to a computer
- > Almost one in three (30 per cent) did not have access to the internet

Young people living in poverty are more likely to grow up feeling stressed and depressed, as well as facing bullying from their peers, according to the research.

Key findings:

- > More than one in four young people from the UK's poorest families (28 per cent) have been bullied about their clothes, whilst almost one in ten (nine per cent) have faced bullying about their home
- > They are six times more likely to feel that "everyone puts them down" and more than three times as likely to feel depressed "all" or "most" of the time than those growing up in wealthy families
- > These young people are also more than twice as likely to feel they "don't have anything to get up for in the morning"



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

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

DISTRICT INITIATIVES – INFORMAL REPORTING PROCESS

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

6

Date: 14 October 2011

Purpose of Report:

To seek approval from the Committee to continue with the regime of informal briefings from District Group Managers at the rising of the next four meetings.

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

- 1.1 At the meeting of this Committee on 16 July 2010 it was agreed that the Members would receive informal briefings from District Group Managers at the rising of the following four Community Safety Committee Meetings. The final one of these briefings was concluded at the rising of the meeting held on 15 July 2011. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee to continue with these arrangements.
- 1.2 The structure within Risk Response to manage operational resources is coterminous with local political boundaries to ensure that local managers are best placed to engage in initiatives and build consistent relations with partner organisations.
- 1.3 This structure is led by an Area Manager and consists of 4 Group Managers and 14 Station Managers. The 4 Group Managers are allocated to a geographical area together with a number of Station Managers relative to operational and community needs.
- 1.4 The managerial structure controls the activity of all operational crews which comprises both Wholetime and Retained Duty Firefighters, together with a number of district based support staff including Administrators and Community Safety Advocates.

District	Areas Covered
City	City of Nottingham
South	Broxtowe, Rushcliffe and Gedling districts
North West	Ashfield and Mansfield districts
North East	Newark & Sherwood, and Bassetlaw districts

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The work undertaken throughout the Districts comprises frontline operational response to incidents as well as the delivery of community safety activities within the local areas.
- 2.2 To underpin this work local risk profiles are created. These identify the community education and response needs, site specific fire and rescue risks, and the needs of staff in terms of learning and development. This framework ensures that work undertaken within the Districts is targeted at specific local needs.

- 2.3 The outcome of the work within the Districts is formally reported to the Fire Authority through the Performance Monitoring Committee, however this does not cover in any great detail the actual work being undertaken on the ground.
- 2.4 Reports covering specific themes of activity are regularly brought to this Committee, generally at the launch stage of a new initiative or on an adhoc basis as a review of a specific area of work. Due to the formality of committee structures these reports usually cover the larger initiatives undertaken across the Service and in reality much more goes on at the local level.
- 2.5 It is clear that through the informal briefings previously undertaken that Members have benefited from an appraisal of these smaller local areas of work, which by themselves would not constitute a report, but as a collection of issues are worthy of a briefing.
- 2.6 District based Officers have also benefited through this process by gaining a greater understanding of how Members, through their position within the community, can assist with furthering organisational objectives at the local level. Furthermore, the briefings have helped stimulate debate, and led to formal reports being requested for specific areas of activity.
- 2.7 To build on the previous positive outcomes it is suggested that at the rising of future Community Safety Committee meetings the briefings continue in the same way and that one of the Group Managers will provide an informal update to Members on the current activities within their District. Throughout the year this will result in each Group Manager being in attendance with the intention of giving Members a broad overview of the range of activities ongoing within the organisation at any one time.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because the purpose of this report does not seek to change to policy or procedures.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

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

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 Community Safety.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The National Framework document makes clear that Members should actively scrutinise the work of the Fire and Rescue Service. This informal approach will enhance existing arrangements and provide opportunities for Members to request further formal reports if required.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members agree to receive informal briefings from District Group Managers at the rising of the next four Community Safety Committee Meetings.

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

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER