



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

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

MISTERTON `RISKY ROOMS` & ASHFIELD `SWAN` PROJECT

Report of Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

Date: 13 April 2012

Purpose of Report:

To update Members on community safety activities within the North Group, specifically 'Risky Rooms' at Misterton and the 'SWAN' project at Ashfield.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The North Group are engaged in many Community Safety activities both station based and in the community. Two of the more notable station based projects are the 'Risky Rooms' at Misterton, and the 'SWAN' (Safety, Water Awareness, Nature) project at Ashfield.
- 1.2 Following the refurbishment of Misterton Fire Station in 2009 a portacabin, which had previously been used as a gymnasium, was identified as being surplus to requirements. The aim was to create a resource which would highlight hazards within the home, creating a physical representation of the home safety check.
- 1.3 Ashfield Fire Station developed a wildlife pond on land to the rear of the fire station using resources donated by local companies. Their aim was to create an experience for primary school children to teach them about the dangers of playing near water and at the same time understand the nature in their local environment.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Misterton Risky Rooms were launched in June 2011. Visitors to the rooms are given a short presentation on fire safety in the home and are then shown to the Risky Rooms. They are provided with a sheet to list any hazards within the rooms. Discussion then takes place over how a few simple safety measures could be life saving. For instance, a working smoke alarm; use of an extension block; use of a fireguard etc. Any hazards not identified are pointed out and awareness raised.
- 2.2 Three rooms were created within the portacabin, funded by donations from the Misterton Gala Committee and Southmoor Lodge Residential Home. Local people have also generously donated items for inclusion in the rooms, for instance an entire kitchen unit.
- 2.3 The three rooms represent a typical family home:
 - Granddad's Lounge-** designed with generic lounge/living area hazards, as well as hazards pertinent to older members of our community who are at heightened risk from dwelling fires.
 - Family Kitchen-** various hazards associated with a kitchen area, chip pan, toaster, hazardous materials etc.
 - Sister's Bedroom -** developed as a teenager's bedroom with such hazards as overloaded sockets, candles, make-up etc.

- 2.4 Over 100 visitors to date have benefited from this innovative community safety resource, including local Cub Scouts, Worksop Young Mums, Misterton Young Mums and various Surestart Groups.
- 2.5 Future plans include the expansion of the resource to include a garden shed. The Service attends a number of shed fires some of which may be attributed to incorrect storage of chemicals and poor housekeeping. Education in respect of this may lead to a reduction in incidents
- 2.6 Ashfield Fire Station 'SWAN' project has historically been used to encourage School children to be safe around water but is now a much broader resource for an educational experience for the children of Ashfield.
- 2.7 The Station is host to the yearly multi agency Safety week which has seen up to 800 children from the Ashfield area attend over recent years.
- 2.8 The project has been tailored with the School's Personal, Social and Health educational key stages in mind. It was felt that to get schools to hire buses and take children out of school it needed to be made clear they would be developing some of their own educational needs during the visit.
- 2.9 The aim of the project is that every child in Ashfield of a Primary School age would be taught how to keep themselves safe in their home, in and around water along with an understanding of the consequences of making hoax calls and setting deliberate fires.
- 2.10 The dedicated classroom at the Fire Station has Graffiti style pictures depicting Safety images which assist the children in their understanding of the subject. The images have been coloured by the children themselves to give them 'ownership' of the issues raised during the input.
- 2.11 'Mini Beasting' takes place in the Stations own woodland. The children are encouraged to discover the plants and wildlife which exist all around them – and the consequences if they deliberately set fire to grasslands.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The overall budget for the Risky Rooms resource is contained within the Retained Community Safety budget. The Ashfield 'SWAN' project has been developed through local donations with minimal direct cost to the Authority

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 this report is presented to Members to make them aware of the educational activities undertaken through the SWAN project and Risky Rooms, 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 and Rescue Services Act 2004 places specific duties upon the Service to provide community safety education. This report identifies unique ways in which station facilities are utilised to achieve that aim.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Service has a statutory obligation around community engagement and risk reduction. An inability to demonstrate engagement with key risk groups could incur adverse scrutiny to the Service should incidents occur.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of this report and continue to support the creative ways in which the resources of the Authority are used to educate young people and reduce risk.

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

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER