



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: 27 July 2012

Purpose of Report:

To update Members regarding the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) award for Safety Zone.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name : John Buckley
Deputy 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

For a number of years Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) has coordinated a multi-agency educational programme called Safety Zone. This originally started through a partnership with Severn Trent Water and was held at Stoke Bardolph. More recently the twice yearly event has been held at Holme Pierrepont Water Sports Centre.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Safety Zone is a twice yearly outdoor safety education initiative that teaches children how to keep themselves, their families and friends safe by making the right decisions when exposed to risk. The week-long events take place during the summer and autumn terms and engages 2500 children aged 10 and 11 through a range of interactive scenarios.
- 2.2 The multi-agency event focuses on topics such as the dangers of playing near sub-stations, how to avoid hazards on or near water, safe behavior when using public transport and the impact of making hoax 999 calls.
- 2.3 The organisations delivering Safety Zone, working together in the Nottinghamshire Safety Education Partnership, are:
 - Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
 - Nottinghamshire Police
 - East Midlands Ambulance Service
 - St John Ambulance
 - Nottingham City Council
 - Nottinghamshire County Council
 - Nottingham E-Learning
 - Western Power Distribution
 - Nottingham City Transport
 - NET Trams
- 2.4 To ensure that the community safety activities undertaken by the Service are effective, a process of evaluation is undertaken, and in some cases external accreditation is sought.
- 2.5 Through engagement with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) it was identified that Safety Zone was able to seek formal accreditation through the LASER Alliance (Learning About Safety by Experiencing Risk).
- 2.6 Evidence has been collected and presented to LASER which demonstrates that the hazard scenarios in Safety Zone represent real risk to the children of Nottinghamshire, and that there is a clear and long term positive increase in their knowledge and behavior as a direct result of them taking part in the programme.

- 2.7 This has led to Safety Zone receiving formal LASER accreditation from RoSPA, and the Partnership received the award at a presentation held on 5 July 2012 at Fire Service Headquarters.
- 2.8 The award remains in place for two years and assures the local and wider community that all agencies are committed to educational excellence and quality. It also helps to measure the impact of interventions and encourages self-evaluation and innovation.
- 2.9 Plans are already underway for the next Safety Zone events, which take place at Holme Pierrepont from 17 to 28 September 2012 and 11 to 22 March 2013 and Members are invited to attend to observe the learning experience.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Each partner organisation meets its own costs during the Safety Zone events and the schools engaged in the programme cover any travel costs for the children.
- 3.2 Direct costs for NFRS beyond that of staff time is minimal and met from existing Community Safety event budgets.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken as this report is for information and does not change policy or procedures.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Fire and Rescue Authorities, through the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) are required to engage with partners in the reduction and impact of crime. Engagement in the Nottinghamshire Safety Education Partnership and the delivery of Safety Zone reinforces NFRS's commitment to this responsibility.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Fire and Rescue National Framework compels Fire and Rescue Authorities to engage in activity to promote public safety.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

A key requirement within the Authorities' Integrated Risk Management Plan is to create safer communities through education. Safety Zone is an excellent example of how that strategic direction is transferred in to delivery.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That Members acknowledge the LASER accreditation award and continue to support NFRS's leadership and engagement in Safety Zone.
- 9.2 The Chief Fire Officer extend an invitation to all Members of the Combined Fire Authority to attend the forthcoming Safety Zone events.

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

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER