



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

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

FIRE PROTECTION UPDATE

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 03 October 2014

Purpose of Report:

To provide Members of the Community Safety Committee with an update regarding the current fire protection activity taking place.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Service has specific arrangements in place for the delivery of prevention, protection and response services in order that the Fire Authority may meet its statutory obligations.
- 1.2 This report contains information about some of the current fire protection activity taking place which Members may be aware of through recent media coverage.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Fire protection has been reacting to investigations which have established that more needed to be done to support people living with dementia.
- 2.2 Nottinghamshire County Council, Social Care have reviewed their funding arrangements for care providers and developed a scheme that provides additional funding for those providing care for people living with dementia.
- 2.3 Significant additional funding has been made available to care homes providing dementia care if they achieved the “Dementia Quality Mark”. This was determined by a number of criteria set by the County Council and evaluated by inspection. One of the criteria involved the provision of additional stimulus, which could be achieved by sensory decorations within the care home setting and could involve the use of combustible items.
- 2.3 The interpretation of the guidance available and the need for operators of care homes to comply with other relevant legislation or guidance has been inconsistent. For example, balancing the criteria required for the Dementia Quality Mark and compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order – eg: increasing the fire loading in acceptable or unacceptable areas of care homes.
- 2.4 The Service has liaised closely with Dementia Care to develop effective guidance for care homes. The Service has also liaised closely with Nottinghamshire County Council to ensure that fire safety compliance can be achieved without affecting the opportunity for care homes to achieve the Dementia Quality Mark and the associated funding.
- 2.5 The Fire Protection Team has been working with care home operators to ensure that guidance and compliance is understood and interpreted appropriately. Clearly the Service has a legal obligation as the primary authority to uphold the requirements of the Fire Safety Order. Where care home operators have been unable or unwilling to follow advice or comply with informal notices the Service has the option to adopt a more formal approach.

- 2.6 Fire protection continues to support premises and responsible persons that provide care for people living with dementia who aspire to achieve the Dementia Quality Mark by providing guidance on how to achieve this while still meeting their legal obligations under the Fire Safety Order.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

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 is not required for this report as it is for information only. However, the actions taken to support the welfare of individuals suffering from dementia and to assist the care homes to comply with relevant legislation, ensures that the Service is effectively targeting some of the most vulnerable members of the community.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

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

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The actions of the Fire Protection Team are directly related to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order and are therefore subject to the requirements of this legislation.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of this report and support the work contained within it.

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

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER