



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

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

# RISK REDUCTION 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 prevention activity taking place within Gedling Borough Council as part of a multi-agency initiative. This report will be accompanied by a presentation.

## CONTACT OFFICER

**Name :** Wayne Bowcock  
Deputy Chief Fire Officer

**Tel :** 0115 967 0880

**Email :** wayne.bowcock@notts-fire.gov.uk

**Media Enquiries Contact :** Bridget Aherne  
(0115) 967 0880 bridget.aherne@notts-fire.gov.uk

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Service has specific arrangements in place for the delivery of prevention, protection and response services to enable the Fire Authority to meet its statutory obligations.
- 1.2 The report will present brief information to Members regarding a multi-agency initiative taking place in Gedling. This will be accompanied by a presentation from a member of the Risk Reduction Team.
- 1.3 With the current restrictions on public spending, an ageing population and a social care policy that encourages elderly people to live independently, it is vital that a programme to reduce the amount of emergency care accessed by this group of people is embedded into the partnership agenda.
- 1.4 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) has established, after analysing data provided by housing providers, that those over the age of 80 are at a higher risk of being injured in a fire, people over the age of 90 are four times more likely.
- 1.5 By accessing the Adult Social Care Framework database that contains the names and addresses of all Nottinghamshire citizens who are in receipt of social care, the Service is able to target its interventions towards those that are most at risk and the Service is therefore not reliant on referrals.

## **2. REPORT**

- 2.1 The Service, in partnership with Gedling Borough Council, has adopted an approach of 'make every contact count'. In order to support this, the priorities of other partner agencies were examined and it was found that:
  - Nottinghamshire Police data shows that those over the age of 90 are more likely to be the victims of burglary;
  - Public Health data shows that falls in the home are most likely to occur to those in the 70 plus age group. This is also responsible for the largest percentage of hospital admissions within that age group.
- 2.2 The Service has a specialist risk reduction operative who works with the elderly to ensure that they have adequate fire protection in their home, they are aware of the risk of fire, what precautions to take and are able to escape their property in the event. This operative works closely with Age UK and other specialist partners to gain an expertise in dealing with the elderly.
- 2.3 The risk reduction operative has received additional training to be aware of other risk areas for this demographic group and where possible, address these risks whilst they are in the premises. Where this is not possible they will refer

on to appropriate services, this could be through First Contact or specialist contractors.

2.4 The Risk Reduction operative is competent to:

- Complete Home Fire Safety Checks including the fitment of alarms and providing fire safety advice;
- Advise on home security including the fitment of bolts and door chains, door and window alarms;
- Rectify hazards in the home, loose carpets rugs etc., advise on correct footwear;
- Fit hand rails and other aids;
- Advise on electrical hazards, dangerous appliances and heating;
- Issue temporary emergency heating;
- Give advice on doorstep callers and the 'Buy With Confidence Scheme'.

2.5 Where there are specialised pieces of work (fitment of outdoor lighting) this could be referred on to local traders.

2.6 Once the operative has visited and made the property safe, the householder will be 'risk rated'. Those in the higher risk bracket will be placed on an 'observation list' controlled by the local authority who will ensure that they receive follow up visits from local police beat teams and are checked on a regular basis by local services (Neighbourhood Teams, refuse collectors etc).

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no specific financial implications arising from this report as the work of the Risk Reduction Teams is to target activity to those most vulnerable in our communities.

### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

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 ensures that

the Service is effectively targeting some of the most vulnerable members of the community. On the availability of evaluation data, consideration will be given to targeting other appropriate areas within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

#### **6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

This initiative assists the Service and partners to meet their obligations within the Crime and Disorder Act.

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

#### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The evaluation and capturing of learning present effective risk management for the Service in relation to training for staff and controls for effective data sharing.

#### **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**