



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

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham  
Fire and Rescue Authority

# REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF INTENT

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

**Date:** 24 September 2021

**Purpose of Report:**

To advise Members that NFRS's Written Safety Policy Statement of Intent has been reviewed to ensure that it remains current.

**Recommendations:**

That Members endorse the content of the updated Written Safety Policy to reaffirm their commitment to effective health and safety risk management for employees and others who are affected by the Service's activities.

## CONTACT OFFICER

**Name:** John Buckley  
Chief Fire Officer

**Tel:** 0115 9670880

**Email:** john.buckley@notts-fire.gov.uk

**Media Enquiries  
Contact:** Simon Cotton  
0115 967 0880 simon.cotton@notts-fire.gov.uk

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) is required to produce and then periodically review and revise a Written Safety Policy (WSP) which outlines its approach to identifying the hazards and associated risk to employees and others who may be affected by the work of the Service.
- 1.2 An important part of the WSP is its initial Statement of Intent which indicates the commitment of the organisation to a high standard of health and safety risk management.
- 1.3 The Statement of Intent must indicate the approach to be taken and be endorsed by signature by those who represent the organisation, its employees, and its values.
- 1.4 The current Statement of Intent was last considered and endorsed by CFA on 27 November 2020.

## **2. REPORT**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to gain endorsement from the Fire Authority for the review of the NFRS Health and Safety Statement of Intent, attached as Appendix A to this report.
- 2.2 The content of the current Statement of Intent accurately reflects the Service's approach to discharging its Duty of Care to its employees and others affected by its work activities. The policy statement is reviewed each year by the Service's competent person for health and safety who will ensure the statement reflects current legislation, best practice and advise as to the priorities and approach to be adopted by Service.
- 2.3 Following the review of the Statement of Intent, there are no changes to be made.
- 2.4 The document is underpinned by further details within the NFRS Written Safety Policy; together the two elements form an auditable approach to achieving and maintaining safe systems of work.
- 2.5 Endorsement signatures of the Chief Fire Officer and the Chair of the Fire Authority will continue to provide confirmation of the Services high level commitment to the management of health and safety.

## **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 implications associated with the report. Current learning and development provision considers health and safety risk management issues as defined by the Statement of Intent.

#### **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because equality issues arising have been previously identified and addressed.

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

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

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

The production of a Written Safety Policy - inclusive of the Statement of Intent, is a requirement under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

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

The Statement of Intent provides a basis for NFRS's commitment to identifying hazards, quantifying risk, and applying proportionate risk controls as a means of reducing loss to ensure it maximises its reducing budget.

#### **9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS**

There are no collaboration implications arising from this report.

#### **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members endorse the content of the updated Written Safety Policy to reaffirm their commitment to effective health and safety risk management for employees and others who are affected by the Service's activities.

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)**

None.

John Buckley  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**



**HEALTH & SAFETY at WORK etc. ACT 1974**

Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service  
 Written Safety Policy

**Statement of Intent**

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service [NFRS] is committed to ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of all its employees - and the health and safety of those non-employees affected by its work activities - and has devised a Safety Management System which is detailed in its Written Safety Policy. Application of this Policy will contribute to improved service delivery.

This Statement of Intent forms the first of the three parts to the Written Safety Policy, the contents of which continue to be developed, discussed, and adopted. They are audited, reviewed, and then revised as necessary.

It is NFRS's intention to strive to ensure a safe and healthy working environment as part of its wider risk management initiatives and to pursue progressive improvements in health and safety risk management performance. Its employees are a key resource and have a vital part to play in implementing the Policy.

To achieve this the Service will consider:

- the equipment that is used by employees to do their work;
- the premises where they carry out their work;
- the information, instruction, training, and supervision they receive;
- the substances they use and encounter;
- the suitable and sufficient risk controls they need to follow - as indicated by objective risk assessment;
- occupational health and fitness matters;
- the competence of employees in terms of health and safety;
- the need for effective communication of health and safety risk management information.

The following approach will be applied:

- constructive dialogue with employee representatives;
- recognition that legal requirements are the minimum;
- ultimate responsibility for matters of health, safety and welfare resting with the Chief Fire Officer with the Deputy Chief Fire Officer having delegated day-to-day responsibility;
- provision of the necessary expert advice when needed;
- inclusion of best practice as identified in other organisations;
- linkage of risk assessments to site specific risk information, incident monitoring and incident debrief.
- application of risk assessment to the procurement of equipment and services;
- identification of targets for improvements in risk management;
- inclusion of risk management aims in the organisation's Integrated Risk Management Plan;
- recognition of the importance of health and safety risk management objectives in relation to other service objectives;
- recognition that failures of health and safety risk management controls are not necessarily the fault of individual employees;
- integration of risk management considerations into all management decisions;
- auditing of compliance with the standards given in the Written Safety Policy;
- annual consideration of health and safety performance by the Combined Fire Authority.

All employees will play a part in the Safety Management System and resources will be made available to achieve the necessary safety culture based on risk assessment and the "safe person" concept.

The standards outlined in the Written Safety Policy will be applied in the spirit of fairness and dignity and the above Statement of Intent applies to future legal requirements as well as current ones.

Endorsed by the Combined Fire Authority at its meeting of .....

Signed	Chief Fire Officer	Signed	FOA
Signed	Chair of CFA	Signed	UNISON
Signed	FBU		