



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

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

# **SERVICE DELIVERY ACTIVITY**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

**Date:** 03 July 2015

**Purpose of Report:**

To inform Members of the activity across Service Delivery in support of the priorities in the Service Delivery Business Plan and the Integrated Risk Management Plan.

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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Prevention, protection and response are the three areas within Service Delivery which reports to the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) through the Community Safety Committee. The IRMP and Service Delivery business plan ensures that officers take a risk based approach to balancing community safety activities, fire protection work and emergency response in order to maximise the safety from fire and other emergencies in the community. In addition to any statutory duty this approach supports the vision and objectives of the Service and the broader approach of working in partnership.
- 1.2 As part of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service's (NFRS) priorities under the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2014 – 2019, it aims to deliver a professional, effective and value for money service to all those who live, work and travel in the county of Nottinghamshire

## 2. REPORT

### PREVENTION

- 2.1 To address the risks identified in our communities the Community Safety priorities are:

Persons at risk  
Road Safety  
Older persons  
Education

The risks, roles, interventions and evaluation approaches for these priorities are outlined in the draft Community Safety Strategy.

### Persons at Risk Team (PART)

- 2.2 PART was established in January 2015 and oversees the following functions:
- All high risk home safety checks derived from Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) incidents and those referred from other agencies
  - Chairing of the Hoarding Steering Group for the County;
  - Chairing the Environmental Health Officers meeting;
  - The Firesetters programme for young people;
  - Developing our delivery of Service to the older persons;
  - The Gedling Homes Project.

- 2.3 The PART have recently hosted a county wide workshop and produced a multi-agency Hoarding Guidance Framework which was launched at a national conference on the 2 June. The framework was produced through consultation with Adult and Children's Social Care, the Safeguarding Boards for children and adults across the county, Environmental Health, Mental Health Services and the CCG's and will be facilitated through the Vulnerable Persons Panels and Complex Person panels in the City and County.

### **Pilot Scheme Working in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

- 2.4 With effect from 17 June, the PART will be working in the MASH. Initially NFRS will be providing the vulnerable persons training to all agencies from both adult and children's services and will then work from the MASH one day a week. The pilot scheme aims to target individuals or families at an earlier stage who meet the safeguarding threshold but also risk assesses those who do not. This will increase the number of home safety checks undertaken in order to increase our reach to the most vulnerable prior to an incident occurring.

### **Safeguarding Update**

- 2.5 Recently the links between the service and the City and County adults and children's safeguarding boards have been further improved to help with training, competency and to maintain the authorities obligations within the Care Act 2015. There have been nine child safeguarding referrals and 31 adult referrals received into the Service over the last quarter. The PART have processed these referrals and where appropriate, passed them on to the relevant agencies.

### **Emerging Communities: Joint Weeks of Action**

- 2.6 A joint Community Safety, Fire Protection and Police Prevention initiative for emerging communities has taken place in the Sneinton area of the city. The weeks of action target the business community, providing business safety and security advice. Guest speakers from both Services will discuss legislative requirements and access local businesses to assist business leaders in addressing enforcement and safety concerns. Following the evaluation of the June week of action, further weeks are planned throughout 2015, working collaboratively to address the risk surrounding emerging communities.

### **Activity Update**

- 2.7 The primary focus of this quarter will be continuing the successful interventions for seasonal deliberate secondary fires and also accidental dwelling fires.
- 2.8 A partnership approach is key to mitigating occurrences of fire which are linked to anti-social behaviour. Staff use the Local Area meetings to inform

partners which has proved to be successful in reducing deliberate secondary fires.

2.9 Other activity to note across the Service includes:

- Specific road safety and arson prevention in the Harworth area;
- Youth diversionary activity with partners to reduce incidents of ASB;
- National dementia awareness week campaigns;
- Deaf awareness week;
- Child safety campaign;
- Swann Project teaching safety messages to infant school children;
- Safety Zone which will deliver safety messages and life skills to 1100 school children;
- National arson awareness week;
- Road safety week;
- Public reassurance campaigns following serious fires.

### **Prevention Staff Development**

2.10 A number of personnel from Nottinghamshire Police have undertaken a work placement with the PART to increase awareness of the Community Safety role and explore further opportunities for operational collaboration. The people exchange is now being introduced at Mansfield and Highfields with Risk Reduction Officers being offered the opportunity to undertake a short work placement with the police prevention department in the county. This integration supports the ethos of effective partnership working.

### **PROTECTION**

2.11 Recent risks identified by the protection teams include people sleeping above commercial premises and high risk kitchen practices in restaurants and fast food outlets.

2.12 Protection and Prevention staff have been working together to address the risks identified. In order to address these risks a Black and Minority Ethnic Support Officer and a Business Education Advocate supported by foreign language students from Nottingham University have been engaging with these target groups and delivering workshops on business safety and regulatory compliance. Feedback has been positive and is has been validated through post event questionnaires.

2.13 A new and emerging communities project with the City Council to educate and instill home and business fire safety further in BME and new emerging communities is underway. The project will support the opportunity for small businesses to develop growth in their communities. The overall project will be based around domestic and commercial properties. The key outcomes expected from this project are:

- Identify target communities through faith leaders, business officials, and networking events that are potentially at risk from fire;

- Gain support in the form of ambassadors for the weeks of action from the targeted community groups;
- Use national and local fire service and partner statistical analysis to determine where the events will be held in the community;
- Target domestic and commercial premises;
- To train Community Champions in Fire Safety to act as advocates in the community for the future;
- To give businesses the opportunity for potential growth by engaging with regulators and networking events across the City

2.14 Key to the success of weeks of action is the promotion of business development and supporting the growth of local economy but also delivering key messages around regulatory bodies and expectations. The Fire Protection department wishes to ensure through these weeks that businesses are aware of where to access information and support to ensure compliance with regulations.

### **Activity Update**

2.15 Other activities relating to either Protection or joint Community Safety and Fire Protection work includes:

- Targeted weeks of action;
- Educational interventions;
- Fire safety risk assessment workshops for small businesses.

2.16 Evaluation of these activities will be carried out through performance data and qualitative questionnaires. This will be reported to a future Community Safety Committee.

## **RESPONSE**

### **Significant Incidents – Player Street**

2.17 On 30 March 2015 the Service attended a large and complex fire in the Radford area of the city which lasted 12 days. There were no significant injuries as a result of this fire. However, at its height there were approximately 20 fire service appliances engaged in tackling the incident.

2.18 Assistance was requested, under existing arrangements, from neighbouring fire and rescue services in order to use regionally available specialist equipment.

2.19 Due to the effective use of resources and strategic cover the Service adequately responded to and dealt with 283 other incidents whilst resolving this incident.

- 2.20 As this was a significant incident a thorough debrief has been undertaken to identify learning points, key findings and recommendations for improvement or good practice to share.

### **Exercises**

- 2.21 Annually NFRS carries out a number of local, district and Service-wide exercises to test operational preparedness, competence and resilience of staff at all levels.
- 2.22 The exercises are subject to evaluation by the Organisational Assurance Team who collate good practice and learning points and ensure they are recorded and disseminated throughout the service.

### **Fire Deaths and Injuries**

- 2.23 Since the last Community Safety Committee meeting on 27 March 2015 there have unfortunately been three fire deaths and a small number of injuries within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.
- 2.24 The three fire deaths and the injuries are consistent with NFRS's known vulnerable demographic groups. The Service has carried out both operational debriefs to capture learning from these incidents and high profile community safety activity to raise awareness amongst similar groups and provide public reassurance within the communities affected.

### **Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)**

- 2.25 Last year the Service attended 506 RTCs. Activities at these incidents ranged from the washing away of fluids, making vehicles safe through to extricating people from the vehicle.
- 2.26 The total number of people killed within Nottinghamshire this year up to 26 May 2015 (data from Police) is 12. This equates to six drivers, one pedestrian, three motorcyclists and two pedal cyclists.
- 2.27 The Service is currently writing the Community Safety Strategy 2016 – 2019 which will set out five priority areas. One of these is road safety and this document will outline the Service's ambitions for future delivery of road safety engagement.
- 2.28 Crews currently deliver a number of packages including Safety Zone to year 11 school children, The Honest Truth and Fatal Four. This is delivered to schools across the county. They also assist in the national Chief Fire Officers Association campaigns in road safety education in June and November.

### **Interoperability and Collaborative Working**

- 2.29 NFRS is represented at both City and County level when attending Safety Advisory Groups (SAG). These look into specific risks within geographical areas such as football stadia, sports grounds and numerous events. Through

this NFRS actively assists in the design and delivery of risk-specific plans which include plans for multi-agency level incidents at all of Nottingham's key sporting venues. NFRS also participate in exercises at these venues to test their plans around major incident planning and response.

### **Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) Training**

2.30 NFRS has recently taken on a key role in the delivery of a JESIP training programme which has seen NFRS and blue light partners working together to train all officers and control staff. Operational members of staff are involved with the use of e-learning package and we now assist regional FRSs with training where we have the capacity.

### **East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) Collaboration**

2.31 The location of EMAS resources at several of the Service's locations is now well established. In addition to accommodating EMAS resources at a number of locations and based upon neighbourhood needs identified by EMAS a trial emergency first responder scheme has been established which is subject to a separate report on the agenda.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Expenditure relating to community safety, fire protection and response activity is contained within existing budgets.

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

4.1 Activity contained within this report relates to staff in established roles and within defined job descriptions. Where roles develop, job descriptions are reviewed to ensure accuracy.

4.2 There are elements of this report relating to development and competence. Development activity is managed through existing learning and development policies and organisational learning is cascaded through existing organisational assurance policy and procedures.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because the purpose of this report is to provide an update on response activity within service delivery.

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

Community safety, fire protection and response activity, when combined in a preventative approach, assists the Authority in meeting its obligations regarding criminal and anti-social behaviour under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Part 2 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires Authorities to make provisions for fire safety, firefighting, road traffic accidents and other emergencies. Activities presented within this report support the Authority in meeting these statutory obligations.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The activities detailed in this report assist the Authority in mitigating risk through meeting its statutory obligations under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
- 8.2 The IRMP outlines the Authority's objectives for promoting community safety and responding to emergencies. This report details how the Service is working towards the objectives within the current IRMP in order to create safer communities and discharge its duties under the relevant legislation.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the contents of this report.

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

None.

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**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**