



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

Agenda Item No:

Date: 04 July 2014

Purpose of Report:

To provide the Community Safety Committee with an update on progress with regards to fire fatalities, road traffic collision (RTC) and the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) safety week, and the re-allocation of the Partnership and Engagement Team.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In December 2013 the first meeting of the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) Serious Fire Incident Review Panel met. Representatives from the Partnership and Engagement Team, Service Delivery, Arson Reduction and Investigation Team and Risk Reduction Teams were in attendance.
- 1.2 As this was the first meeting of the review panel, terms of reference and roles and responsibilities were discussed. As a starting point for the work of the panel the Arson Reduction and Investigation Team were asked to review fire fatality cases which occurred during 2012 looking at the personal profiles of each case all of which would be captured in a report.
- 1.3 The report was produced and circulated to panel members for consideration. The Fire Fatalities element of this report provides a summary of findings for consideration by this Committee.
- 1.4 In support of the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) campaign for road safety and designated week of activity (9 – 15 June 2014), NFRS personnel were involved in a host of initiatives across both the County and the City, a summary of the Service's activity is highlighted in the main body of the report.
- 1.5 A review of the 2012 organisational restructure has been undertaken by the Chief Fire Officer in consultation with all department managers and trade unions. This review identified the need to re-align the management of the Partnerships and Engagement Team to the Service Delivery directorate. This report updates Members on that transition.

2. REPORT

REVIEW OF FIRE FATALITIES

- 2.1 During 2013, the then Deputy Chief Fire Officer put in place a process of reviewing all incidents resulting in a fire fatality or serious injury. This has led to the creation of a Serious Fire Incident Review Panel.
- 2.2 The Panel is chaired by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and includes representatives from all of the key departments within the Service. The Panel undertakes a function that is similar to an Individual Management Review within safeguarding, and has the following aims and objectives:
 - To establish whether there are lessons to be learnt from the circumstances of the case, about the way in which local professionals and agencies work together to safeguard vulnerable adults and children;
 - To review the effectiveness of procedures;

- To inform and improve local inter-agency practice;
- To improve practice by acting on learning (developing good practice);
- To bring together analysis;
- To ensure recommendations for future action are decided upon along with a time frame and ownership of specific actions.

2.3 Following the inaugural meeting of the NFRS Serious Fire Review Panel, the Arson Reduction and Investigation Team carried out a review of the fire fatalities in 2012, in which they looked at the personal profiles of the victims and identified the primary factors involved in each case.

2.4 The matrix below contains the results of the personal profiles identified by the review of fire fatalities in 2012:

| | PP1 | PP2 | PP3 | PP4 | PP5 | PP6 |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Known to NFRS | | | | | | |
| Known to other agencies | X | X | | X | X | X |
| Male | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 60+yrs old | X | X | | X | X | X |
| Living alone | X | | | | X | X |
| Smoker | X | | X | | X | X |
| Poor mobility | X | X | | | | X |
| Alcohol consumption | | | X | | X | X |
| Mental health issues | | | X | X | X | |
| No working smoke detection | X | | | | | |

2.5 The conclusions of the review highlighted common factors across each case and identified primary factors such as poor mobility, mental health issues, alcohol consumption and smoking.

2.6 It is the intention of the Service to profile future individuals involved in incidents that are either near misses or rescues, to determine if they match the same common factors. Below is a near miss case that occurred on 4 February 2014.

| | MR? |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Known to NFRS | |
| Known to other agencies | X |
| Male | X |
| 60+yrs old | X |
| Living alone | X |
| Smoker | |
| Poor mobility | X |
| Alcohol consumption | X |
| Mental health issues | |
| No working smoke detection | |

- 2.7 It can be seen from the results of the profiling exercise, that males over the age of 60 years of age living alone with one or all of the risk factors – eg: smoker, poor mobility, alcohol or mental health issues – are particularly vulnerable to death or serious injury due to fire.
- 2.8 The findings above will enable the Panel to direct those responsible for risk reduction activity to concentrate on individuals who have the same or similar profiles to support and provide interventions to reduce the risk of death or serious injury. Further work in this area will be progressed by the Serious Fire Review Panel and members of the Arson Reduction Team.

CFOA ROAD SAFETY WEEK

- 2.9 CFOA Road Safety Week was held during the week of 9 – 13 June 2014. Risk Reduction Teams and operational personnel were involved in a host of activities across the County and the City. Listed below are some examples of the commitment and initiatives the Service provided in support of the national campaign.
- 2.10 The North Group were involved in a large scale initiative across the area to engage with the public and educate them on road safety matters. This included handing out leaflets, a biker drop-in event, cycle safety event, danger zone, a multi-agency event in Portland Square, Mansfield and road safety presentations at schools and to other vulnerable groups including the Prince's Trust. Operational Crews and Risk Reduction Team members visited West Nottinghamshire College to present RTC awareness sessions to young construction workers, engaging with a total of 65 young people over four days.

This initiative has been extended within the college to other young people, over a three week period and is the start of a longer term relationship.

- 2.11 The South Group held events at Trowell services, a multi-agency event in West Bridgford and a carnival in Arnold, where the Service engaged with the public using a vehicle that had been involved in a road traffic collision to highlight the dangers and promote the road safety message.
- 2.12 The City Group targeted students and had a week of action which included attendance at Trent University, highlighting the dangers to pedestrians of the use of mobile phones and headphones when walking next to roads. Throughout the week banners and literature displayed the Honest Truth messages and a presence outside of Central Fire Station engaging with students, highlighted the risks to young drivers. The use of a vehicle that had been involved in a road traffic collision proved effective in gaining the students interest and attention.
- 2.13 The early indications are that the events and engagement were well received. It is the intention to build upon the activities above and working in a co-ordinated and collaborative effort with partners, a reduction in incidents can be achieved.
- 2.14 To further develop our aims in reducing road deaths, NFRS has established an internal working group to support and develop our activity in a consistent and coordinated way.

PARTNERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

- 2.15 The Partnerships and Engagement Team was formed through the last restructure of the Service. The members of the team were drawn from the former Community Safety team and the Partnerships and Engagement Officer from Corporate Services. The team consists of the following members:
 - Partnerships and Engagement Manager
 - Youth Engagement Officer
 - Older Persons Engagement
 - Social Housing Officer
 - Fire Setters Officer
 - BME Engagement Officer
- 2.16 During the functional analysis of the needs of the Service, specifically through discussions between Service Delivery and Corporate Support, it was highlighted that as a predominantly outward facing function, the roles and service the Partnerships and Engagement Team deliver can be delivered at point of contact in a more efficient and effective manner. The Service's Risk Reduction Teams provide the ideal organisational position to deliver the methodology and interventions for the Service.
- 2.17 The ethos of an outward facing Service Delivery culture is for the support roles to work on behalf of Service Delivery. The work of the team should be focused

on the needs of Service Delivery to ensure that the Risk Reduction Teams and operational crews have the capacity to focus on appropriate areas.

- 2.18 The volume and diversity of the work which the team are responsible for, differs greatly between different areas of the Service. As an example, A1 Housing services the north of the County where as the City is covered by City Homes. Both organisations, although similar, have different needs at different times, therefore a holistic approach is difficult to achieve.
- 2.19 Risk Reduction Teams, with the support of response crews, will respond to performance issues affecting their local area, providing short to medium term local solutions to local problems. The thematic leads will provide long term sustainable Service- wide solutions to Service-wide performance issues normally engaging with relevant partners to enhance effectiveness.
- 2.20 A review will take place of the partnership and engagement roles within Service Delivery to establish any necessary re-alignment of objectives or focus.
- 2.21 The process for the re-allocation of the Partnership and Engagement Team has begun with full consultation taking place with all stakeholders.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

Any issues which arise from the re-alignment of the Partnerships and Engagement Team will be dealt with by the use of existing policies.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken as this report does not seek to change or implement policy or procedures.
- 5.2 Re-alignment of resources and undertaking critical reviews of all serious incidents will ensure that the Service is continually focusing effort on those most at risk from death and injury from fire.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Working with partners and delivering key messages around the impact of speeding, drink driving and driving whilst using mobile phones clearly demonstrates our commitment to the broader agenda of road safety.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Engaging in the broader safety agendas, continually evaluating our performance and ensuring resources are appropriately aligned to areas of need ensures that the Service remains focused on reducing risk, both in the community and within the organisation.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 9.1 Note the contents of the report.
- 9.2 Support the work being undertaken and agree to receive further update reports as required.

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

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER