Report for A6 Towns Forum

Meeting on 28th November 2012 at Rothwell Town Council Offices

Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Objectives

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service have three main strategic objectives:

1. To enhance preventative, protective and intervention work within our communities
2. To provide value for money and minimise environmental impact
3. To develop a competent and diverse workforce

These objectives all link to our main purpose;

“To protect the people, property and environment of Northamptonshire, improving engagement with all sectors of the community”

Fire Safety in the Home

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service publish an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) on a 3 year basis, with annual updates. The current plan runs from April 2010 to March 2013. The plan outlines the strategic objectives for the service, with specific targets for departments.

Domestic Fires

The latest published figures continue to indicate a falling trend in accidental domestic fires in Northants:

* 2008-09 442
* 2009-10 411
* 2010-11 381

The main known causes of accidental dwelling fires are:

* Cooking related incidents
* Faults in electrical equipment
* Combustible items placed too close to a fire or other heat source

90% of all fire related deaths and injuries are as a result of accidental fires. These are, therefore, avoidable.

Home Fire Safety Checks

This is a free service carried out by station personnel, partner agencies and part-time sessional workers. Advice is given to the householder on:

* Cooking/kitchen safety
* Electrics
* Heating
* Cigarettes and candles
* Bedtime routine and escape plans

We will also fit smoke alarms if required, and leave a “Fire Safety in the Home” booklet.

Home Fire Safety Check visits are prioritised using a risk matrix calculator. This enables us to give priority to persons who fit certain higher risk categories:

* Those who live alone
* Those who do not already have a working smoke alarm
* Those who have particular mobility or sensory impairment issues
* Those who have smokers in the home
* Those who have children under 5 living or staying in the home

We also take into account the socio-economic status of the address using available software. Those persons scoring below the required total will not receive free smoke alarms, but may still have the visit and advice.

In addition to requests for Home Fire Safety Checks from the public we receive referrals from Social Services, the Police (via the Arson Task Force) and partner charities such as Age UK and the Red Cross.

The current IRMP laid down the extremely challenging target of 30,000 Home Fire Safety Checks to be carried out within Northamptonshire in the three year period (10,000 a year). We are well on target to achieve this.

Home Fire Safety Checks are carried out by fire station personnel, our partner agencies (Age UK and Red Cross) and part-time sessional workers.

The A6 Towns

Relevant figures for the delivery of Home Fire Safety Checks in the area are:

Total Jobs Total HFSCs HFSCs this year

Rothwell 543 431 61

Desborough 721 574 90

Burton Latimer 227 185 15

Barton Seagrave 348 307 21

**Total 1839 1497 187**

Station personnel also carry out visits in surrounding villages, such as Rushton, Loddington and Isham. The total number of Home Fire Safety Checks undertaken in the Kettering area since 1/4/12 is 1127.

Additional Information

Further preventative work, as indicated in the IRMP, is carried out by service personnel:

* Action Reaction Consequence (ARC)
* Road Safety Education
* “YES” scheme
* Princes Trust

In addition to normal fire service duties, Rothwell, Desborough and Burton Latimer fire stations respond to “co-responding” calls via ambulance control. Personnel are trained in the use of defibrillators and the fire engines carry these, for use when ambulance attendance will be delayed.

Station Manager Neil Imrie

Kettering Fire Station