



AGENDA ITEM: 12

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

20th June 2011

COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES

Report by Gareth Griffiths, Senior Fire Safety Manager

Purpose of Report

- 1 To inform Members of the development of Community Safety activities in 2010/2011 and to report progress against the Fire and Rescue Authority target of 30,000 Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC) per year.

Background

- 2 North Wales Fire and Rescue Service's Community Safety Department co-ordinates the delivery of a number of activities designed to make the communities of North Wales safer. These include HFSCs, youth intervention and Road Traffic Collision (RTC) reduction initiatives. They are predominantly funded by a direct grant from the Welsh Government (WG). Critical to this aim is the delivery of HFSCs. The Authority's strategy was to deliver an HFSC to all dwellings in North Wales over 10 years, which translated into a target of 30,000 per year.

Information

Home Fire Safety Checks

- 3 North Wales Fire and Rescue Service carried out 36,900 HFSCs in 2010/2011. This maintains the increase in the number of checks delivered year on year since the re-focus of all Service personnel in 2007 towards Community Safety.

- 4 Due to re-allocation of the ALP posts, 5 additional front line HFSC practitioners were employed by the Service in September 2010. The increase in the number of practitioners has seen an increase of 60% in the number of HFSCs carried out by the practitioners (from 8168 in 2009/10 to 13531 in 2010/11).
- 5 The breakdown of HFSCs per county area is as follows:

	2009/2010	2010/2011
Conwy	6368	6465
Denbighshire	4977	5760
Flintshire	4998	7480
Gwynedd	6325	6960
Wrexham	4532	4608
Ynys Môn	5602	5632

- 6 Each county has shown an increase on last year's figure achieved. A significant increase has been experienced in Flintshire with additional resources being deployed to deal with the demand for HFSCs generated within the county.
- 7 Information Sharing Protocols are recognised as being essential for identifying individuals at risk in case of fire. North Wales Fire and Rescue Service has reviewed the existing agreements and agreed new protocols with all 6 Local Authorities. For the first time the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Trust has signed an MOU which includes the facility for partners to provide lists of vulnerable individuals on a regular basis.
- 8 During 2010/2011 over 70 agencies provided in excess of 8,000 referrals to the Service. Through our third sector co-ordinator we now have 12 agencies contracted to deliver HFSCs on our behalf. These include Care and Repair agencies, Age Concern and the Royal British Legion.

Road Safety Education

- 9 In 2010/2011 the Community Safety team, supported by North Wales Police (NWP) and the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) formalised and ran several 'Deadly Impacts' events at

schools and colleges across North Wales, engaging with 5,108 students across the six unitary authorities. The roadshow is co-hosted by the 3 emergency services and is designed to educate young people about the hazards associated with driving.

- 10 Two strategically placed 'Impact Roadshow' vehicles, based in Gwynedd and Wrexham, were used at the events in order to support the message. These units were also used locally on smaller, locally arranged events and staff engaged with an estimated 3000 young people in 2010/11.
- 11 In April 2009 NWFRS embarked on a project to deliver road safety education to the public of North Wales, particularly the 16-25 age group. In order to achieve this, a youth engagement vehicle was purchased, partly with WAG funding. The vehicle was equipped with DVD facilities and is crewed by the Community Safety department. The initiative is called 'Fire Cruz' and the vehicle is taken to 'hot spots' that young drivers are known to frequent in a bid to engage and educate them. Between April 2010 and April 2011 NWFRS engaged with over 5,000 young drivers via 'Fire Cruz'. The locations are identified by NWP, through the NWP led Tasking and Co-ordination group, of which NWFRS is a partner.

Youth Schemes

- 12 NWFRS' Community Safety and Youth Intervention teams endeavour to engage with young people across a wide spectrum ranging from mainstream school education to those excluded from school, those with offending behaviour issues or those simply deemed 'at risk' in some way. The Phoenix Project is one such initiative aimed specifically at young people who may benefit from intervention outside of mainstream approaches.
- 13 Referrals to the Phoenix scheme are received from a number of partners including Local Education Authorities, NWP, Probation Service and Youth Justice Service. A course has also been provided to HMP Altcourse for offenders from North Wales who are due for release. A total of 24 courses were completed in 2010/11.

14 The number of Phoenix participants per county is as follows:

2010/2011

Conwy	35
Denbighshire	37
Flintshire	56
Wrexham	49
Gwynedd	60
Ynys Môn	51
Total	317

15 The schools education programme, which is facilitated by our educationalists, allows for visits to all our secondary schools on an annual basis and primary schools once every two years.

16 The breakdown of schools visits is as follows:

2010/2011	Schools	Pupils
Key Stage 1	308	10,355
Key Stage 2	317	11,141
Key Stage 3	48	6,618

Recommendation

17 That Members note the:

- (i) achievement of the Service in exceeding the Fire and Rescue Authority target for home fire safety checks;
- (ii) continual development of Community Safety activities in the areas of RTC education and youth intervention.