



AGENDA ITEM: 13

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

15th June 2009

HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKS

Report by Richard Fairhead, Senior Fire Safety Manager

Purpose of Report

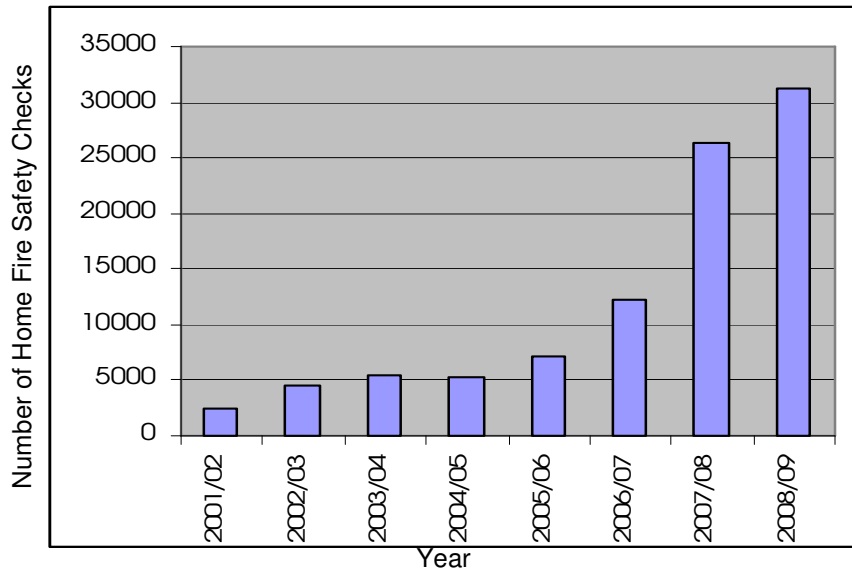
- 1 To inform Members of the total number of Home Fire safety checks carried out by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service in the financial year 2008/2009.

Background

- 2 The North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority annual target for home fire safety checks is 30,000. This target was introduced following the publication of The Chief Fire Officer's Task Group Report (CFOTG) into Accidental Dwelling Fire Deaths in 2006. North Wales Fire and Rescue Service began carrying out home fire safety checks in 2001/2002 and at the time of the publication of the CFOTG were undertaking approximately 7,500 home fire safety checks a year. The target was intended to ensure that all households in North Wales have a working smoke alarm by 2016.

Information

- 3 North Wales Fire and Rescue Service carried out 31,180 home fire safety checks in 2008/2009. This maintains the increase in the numbers of checks delivered year on year since the re-focus of all Service personnel following the publication of the CFOTG report.



4 Due to a reduction in the number of emergency calls received over the first 6 months of the year 2008/09, additional funding of £50,000 was made available to the Senior Fire Safety Manager. This funding was used to pay RDS firefighters to carry out additional home fire safety checks. The Welsh Assembly Government also provided £20,000 additional funding in early 2009 to carry out further checks. This total of £70,000 provided the funding to carry out an additional 5,600 checks. Without this financial injection the Service would not have reached the Fire and Rescue Authority target and would have carried out close to 26,000 checks, similar to the quantity carried out in 2007/08.

5 The breakdown of home fire safety checks per county areas is as follows:

Conwy	6084
Denbighshire	4692
Flintshire	4761
Gwynedd	6041
Wrexham	4317
Anglesey	5285

- 6 The breakdown of home fire safety checks by members of Service and other agencies is as follows:

Wholetime stations	15,198
RDS stations	3,840
County Practitioners	5,358
Home Safety Support Workers	4,943
Other staff	1,229
Other Agencies	612

- 7 The breakdown above shows that there is commitment and engagement by all staff in the delivery of home fire safety checks across North Wales. The number of checks carried out by other agencies will increase in 2009/2010 due to more partnership working across all constituent authorities in North Wales.

Recommendation

- 8 That members note the achievement of the Service in exceeding the Fire and Rescue Authority target for home fire safety checks and the increase in the numbers of completed checks.