



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

MEETING	Fire Authority
DATE OF MEETING	14 October 2015
OFFICER	Greg Smith, Head of Service Delivery
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Catriona Morris
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Community Safety Update
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>Over the past decade the number of operational incidents attended by this Authority has declined markedly. For the Service to continue the reduction in incidents and further reduce injuries and fatalities there is a need to share more data with partners to ensure resources are most effectively targeted.</p> <p>The reduction in incidents also means that the Authority has capacity to deliver more with its resources to protect the community. This Service is undergoing a fundamental change to ensure that health and wellbeing is considered in its wider sense.</p> <p>Using its trusted brand and existing resources, the Authority is well placed to support partner agencies in identifying those most vulnerable in our communities and working together to deliver effective interventions and also to create longer-term and more cost-effective prevention initiatives.</p>
ACTION	Information.
RECOMMENDATIONS	It is recommended that the content of the report be noted.
RISK MANAGEMENT	No risks identified to date.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	No implications to date.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	None identified to date.
CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION	Opportunities for collaboration will be sought during the term of the project.
HEALTH AND SAFETY	No issues identified.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	No equality and diversity issues identified.

<p>USE OF RESOURCES</p>	<p>Officers will work with Members to identify opportunities where Members can help the Authority influence partners in the wider health and wellbeing agenda.</p>
<p>PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS</p>	<p>Background</p> <p>Whilst this Service is still undertaking Home Fire Risk Checks, a new approach is being trialled for this year. In Milton Keynes a points scheme has been adopted where operational crews will gain more points for higher risk premises (the risk is based upon calculations using known vulnerabilities, including age, mobility and whether the occupant smokes). The intention is for crews to start targeting resources more effectively.</p> <p>This approach is being supported by a monthly update from the Information Team on the number and type of incidents mapped against station grounds to enable crews to target more effectively and deliver to the public relevant information.</p> <p>What initiatives have already started?</p> <p>At Buckingham Fire Station the operational crew have all undertaken dementia training as part of Buckingham town's drive to become a Dementia Friendly Society. The crews are also involved with creating activity classes for local schoolchildren as part of the wider drive to improve health and fitness amongst young people.</p> <p>High Wycombe Fire Station staff are being trained to improve their knowledge and understanding of those members of the public with Asperger's and Autistic Spectrum Disorder.</p> <p>How is the Authority looking to collaborate with partners?</p> <p>Due to work carried out at a national level by CFA and the NHS, all fire and rescue services will receive access to the 'Exeter Database' which lists the address, gender and date of birth of all those receiving NHS care. Whilst this information cannot be shared with partners directly it will help to build a better understanding of community risk and will place this Service at the centre of data gathering in the public sector.</p> <p>The Authority is spending time talking to partners and communicating where there may be mutual benefits. The information stated in Appendix 1 illustrates how this Service feels it can support the wider Health & Wellbeing agenda. The document is used to maintain a consistent approach with partners and sticks to three main areas of potential support:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sharing of data 2. Use of operational crews' latent capacity 3. Use of fire stations as community hubs <p>To date the Service has started discussions with Bucks & Milton Keynes Carers about joint training to ensure fire safety messages are understood by carers and the operational crews will give carers information about how they can access support.</p> <p>This Service is creating a joint approach with Milton Keynes Council and Buckinghamshire County Council to support the Falls Prevention teams. This will intentionally be a staged programme with crews initially trained to identify falls risks which they will refer to the relevant team. Should this prove successful there could be further discussions over crews becoming more involved in fitting falls prevention items such as handrails.</p> <p>The Service has had a number of staff trained in the 'Making Every Contact Count' initiative, which they will cascade across the Service to help our staff identify where they can deliver safety messages on behalf of partners.</p>
APPENDICES	Appendix 1: <i>Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service: Now and the future – what can we do for you?</i>
TIME REQUIRED	15 minutes.
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	Greg Smith gsmith@bucksfire.gov.uk

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

NOW & THE FUTURE: WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

Background

The fire and rescue 'landscape' has changed dramatically over the last ten years or so. We have seen a dramatic reduction in the number of emergency incidents and consequent deaths and injuries across the UK including here in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. These changes result from a broad range of measures taken by government, industry and the fire and rescue service to improve the safety of the public.

They are all the more remarkable when they are considered against the backdrop of what traditionally has caused rising risks, such as a population that is growing, ageing and becoming more diverse at a time when fire and rescue authorities are having to find ways of reducing their expenditure to cope with reducing funding from central government and constraints on their ability to offset this through local taxation.

Whilst fire and rescue authorities have taken steps to respond to this changing environment there is still more to do. Here in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes we have been at the forefront in terms of making your fire and rescue service a lean and efficient operation whilst maintaining and, indeed, improving our effectiveness. In addition to already being one of the lower cost fire and rescue services in the country we were, this year, able to set the lowest Council Tax rate of any combined fire authority in England thanks to the effectiveness of the measures we have already taken to date.

We are not, however, content to 'rest on our laurels' and nor, indeed, can we afford to do so given the continuation of a constrained outlook for the funding of all public services over the next few years. Nor are we complacent about the potential risks facing the communities we serve, despite the reduction in incidents that has occurred. The pace of change in the areas that we serve shows no sign of reducing and this can result in increased or new types of risk.

This has also resulted in the need for the service to look at its delivery model in the face of falling demand. We can either keep reducing in size, merely dealing with 'traditional' activities, or we can take on additional work to complement the work undertaken by our partners for the improved general safety of the communities we serve.

Where are our resources?



Our twenty fire stations are crewed by approximately 280 full-time members of staff and 140 part-time responders.

We are supported by approximately 100 people who deal with Finance, Human Resources, Workshops, Facilities Management as well as policy writers and central administration.

What do we do?

We do what you would expect.....

Respond

We respond to a wide variety of operational incidents including commercial and domestic property fires, road traffic collisions, chemical incidents, animal rescues, local and wide area flooding and all the traditional activities the public expect us to respond to. We protect people, property and the environment.

Protection

We enforce fire safety legislation to support the safety of the public and employees when they are present in commercial enterprises.

Prevention

We deliver key safety messages to schools as well as supporting youth intervention work alongside the police. Predominantly we go into over 5,500 houses every year to ensure occupants consider the risk of fire and mitigate against it happening in the first place and what they should do if it were to occur.

But you might not expect that we also...

Co-respond

We work alongside our partners in the South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) to support people most in need of medical intervention. Our staff respond in cars and on fire engines to be first on the scene at medical emergencies. Those staff members then use those extra skills back in the fire service in their traditional 'core' activities. This does not replace ambulances or ambulance staff but supports them to maintain a level of care to the communities we serve.

What else could we do?

Share data

We already have a lot of data on vulnerable people. Statistically those same people will also require support from other agencies. Sharing data effectively would enable all partners to target resources more effectively and efficiently.

This has been tried before with a data sharing hub working out of our headquarters, gathering and analysing data on our behalf and also for the police and the local authority.

Could this be tried again?

Health & Wellbeing Agenda

The NHS and Public Health are facing an ageing population with chronic illnesses which are costly to treat. The fire service has been successful in its prevention activities. Could the fire service help mitigate long-term illnesses?

What might this look like?

Fire stations used as community hubs by partners to deliver health messages directly to the communities and those most at risk

Fire stations used as community hubs to prevent social isolation amongst the elderly

Firefighters delivering health and wellbeing information to the public whilst carrying out a fire safety visit in their homes

Firefighters referring those people they feel need support urgently from other agencies in a streamlined and pre-arranged manner

Firefighters delivering physical training sessions to those youngsters identified as being at risk from obesity and the long-term accompanying illnesses

Support other organisations with ongoing joint training

The fire station is a trusted brand and people want to be involved with us. Potentially this could see us creating reciprocal working relationships with organisations to support wider prevention activities in the communities.

Could we become involved with supporting training in other organisations so we all gain a broader understanding of community safety? We would welcome other organisations telling us how we can support them.

What are other fire & rescue services doing?

Manchester

A Critical Risk Intervention Team has been established to deal with those life-saving incidents where an ambulance might not be available in time. The team also deals with non-crime-related police calls.

Hampshire

The local Clinical Commissioning Group sponsors the fire service to deliver a 12 week health education programme to those youngsters that GPs have identified as at risk of developing diabetes and other long-term illnesses because of their diet and lifestyle.

Cheshire

The fire service has trialled the use of the 'Exeter database' which identifies those over-65s receiving NHS care. This data is then used to risk profile those at risk from fire and is linked to partners who use the data to inform their targeting.

This database will soon be given to all fire and rescue services across England and Wales.

Wales

Part-time firefighters are paid for by a private company to respond to alarms in the homes of vulnerable people. The alarm uses integrated technology to warn of fire, carbon monoxide, flooding and when the home becomes too cold to be safely habitable.

If you have an idea of how we might be able to work together, or if you would like further information, please contact us via info@bucksfire.gov.uk