

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service: a Health Asset

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Over the last 15 years, the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) has seen a revolution in prevention with early intervention methods leading to a significant reduction in fire deaths, injuries and numbers of fires in both domestic and non-domestic premises.
- 1.2 We are looking at how the FRS can complement an already highly professional health service by becoming part of a wider public health workforce working in partnership with others, making people safer, healthier and more resilient. The determinants for vulnerability from fire are often also indicators for poor health. There is therefore an opportunity for the FRS to make a real difference to the demand on health and social services.
- 1.3 A fire/health summit was held in April 2015 with representatives from Chief Fire Officer Association (CFOA), NHS England, Public Health England, Age UK and the LGA in attendance to establish what the FRS can offer to complement the health and social care sectors.
- 1.4 CFOA have been specifically challenged to think about how they could help support the NHS to reduce excess winter deaths. FRSs can put in place specific interventions and strategies for those at risk which, if taken forward with sufficient pace, would make a difference this winter.
- 1.5 To establish a unified offer, CFOA has created the national level Strategic Health Group. This group will have responsibility for coordinating and developing the strategic partnership working, collaboration and information sharing being undertaken with NHS, Social Services and Third Sector around health, behaviour and addiction.
- 1.6 The group will meet regularly and produce frequent updates to ensure those working locally are aware of the discussions happening nationally and the key messages coming from CFOA. The group are also gathering case studies from services who have piloted innovative schemes and working arrangements locally. These studies will then be used to promote the role of the FRS in health to CCGs as well as developing the understanding of the key issues, barriers and successes back to other FRSs.
- 1.7 Locally, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service is fully committed to a partnership approach to prevention and early intervention to reduce the need for acute health and social care provision. Derbyshire FRS is already working with a range of partners to shape the local FRS contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of the local population. Examples include a new initiative with Age UK for this coming Winter

called 'ICE' that will focus on Age UK's primary outcomes for older people regarding keeping warm during cold weather and empowering older people to become more independent where possible.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To acknowledge and actively support the contribution of Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service in working in partnership towards healthier, safer and more resilient local communities.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To support the Board in implementing its Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 3.2 For the Board to recognise the role and contribution of all partners in improving the health and wellbeing of the local population.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Since the publication of the Ageing Safely strategy, CFOA has taken a role in advocating the role the FRS can play in care provision, due to the recognition that the determinants for vulnerability from fire are often also indicators for poor health
- 4.2 NHS England will be working with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to support them to work collaboratively with the FRSs as a partner for delivering preventative activities.
- 4.3 To establish a unified offer to health, CFOA has created the Strategic Health Group. The group, which is comprised of representatives from across CFOA's directorates, will have responsibility for coordinating and developing the strategic partnership working, collaboration and information sharing being undertaken with NHS, Social Services and Third Sector around health, behaviour and addiction.
- 4.4 The group are also gathering case studies from services who have piloted innovative schemes and working arrangements locally. These studies will then be used to promote the role of the FRS in health to CCGs as well as developing the understanding of the key issues, barriers and successes back to other FRSs.
- 4.5 Work is underway on a number of specific projects to support this work:
- Consensus Statement: this consensus statement will set out how NHS England, Public Health England and CFOA will work together.
 - Safe and Well Visits: the design principles for a 'Safe and Well visit', which is an expanded and refocused Home Safety Check.
 - Working together: there are a number of areas which the group are looking to Identify and exploit opportunities to work together and improve synergies.
- 4.6 Further information about the development of the FRS as a Health Service can be found here: <http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=18ea4f306c6d6684148401792&id=b3fabe97d8&e=244321a457>

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	n/a
Financial officer	n/a
Human Resources officer	n/a
Estates/Property officer	n/a
Service Director(s)	n/a
Other(s)	n/a

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List of appendices:	None
	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 None.

Legal

2.1 None.

Personnel

3.1 None.

IT

4.1 None.

Equalities Impact

5.1 None.

Health and Safety

6.1 None.

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 None.

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None.

Risk Management

9.1 None.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 None.