

<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>			
<b>MEETING OF THE:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>19 DECEMBER 2013</b>	<b>REPORT NO:</b>	<b>CFO/141/13</b>
<b>PRESENTING OFFICER</b>	<b>DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER PHIL GARRIGAN</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	<b>MYLES PLATT</b>	<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>MYLES PLATT</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	<b>CAROLINE CHRITON. WENDY KENYON</b>		
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>FIRE SAFETY WEEK 2013</b>		

<b>APPENDICES:</b>	<b>APPENDIX A:</b>	<b>FIRE SAFETY WEEK MEDIA COVERAGE</b>
	<b>APPENDIX B:</b>	<b>EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – FIRE SAFETY WEEK 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPT TO 4<sup>TH</sup> OCT</b>

### **Purpose of Report**

1. To inform the Authority of the activity and outcomes of Fire Safety Week 2013

### **Recommendation**

2. That the Authority;;
  - a) Note the findings of the report that cover Fire Safety Week and
  - b) Approve Inclusion of Fire Safety Week in next year's calendar of events / campaigns.

### **Introduction and Background**

3. Fire Safety Week was delivered from 30th September to 4th October 2013. It was timed to encompass CFOA Home Safety Day and European Older Persons Day.
4. The week was launched on 30th September with the delivery of HFSC's throughout the day by staff from **all areas** of the organisation. Prior to commencement the week three briefing sessions were held for staff not normally involved in the delivery of a Home Fire safety Checks (HFSC) in order to familiarise them with the delivery of the HFSC and what the expectations were of them on the day.
5. The day was co-ordinated by the Central Prevention Team, covered each key station areas and totalled 11 separate campaigns. The Strategy and Performance team provided status reports giving due regard to our Customer

Insight data; the campaign areas were then selected by the district teams to ensure HFSC's were carried out in the areas of highest risk.

6. All district Prevention Teams, all operational crews and approximately 90 staff from SHQ, Training and Development Academy and Community Fire Protection assisted in HFSC delivery.
7. During the day **4619** properties were visited and **1398** HFSC's were completed in households across Merseyside.
8. On Tuesday 1st October District Prevention Managers from each district held events to support Older Peoples Day; utilising the CFOA Older People's Toolkit which provides direction and guidance for activity and campaigns associated with older people.
9. The Wirral District held an open day at Birkenhead Community Fire station; Over 150 older people attended the event and enjoyed poetry reading sessions, Bingo, light refreshments as well as receiving Home Fire Safety advice.
10. Liverpool district ran a stall at a marketplace event for older people that involved partners who deliver services that support independent living. Thirty five older people were provided with fire safety advice and guidance with HFSC referrals taken for 6 people.
11. Liverpool District Management Staff accompanied an older people's group on a visit to St Gregory's School, Netherley. They met with Year 5/6, approximately 70 children. They were asked questions by the school children on what it was like growing up in the area.
12. St Helens district delivered two sessions at older persons clubs using the memory box that has been loaned from Liverpool museum.
13. Knowsley brought together three Age UK clubs at one venue for an afternoon of activities including a buffet lunch, quizzes, games, Tai Chi and Home Fire Safety.
14. Sefton staff supported a local community club that brings older people together for an afternoon of celebration including a full lunch, photographic exhibition of the area, quizzes and Fire Safety advice.
15. The Diversity and Consultation Manager, supported by Prevention staff, arranged for several groups from Age UK to visit the MFRA heritage centre where our Historian gave a presentation followed by a performance by a local choir. A vintage afternoon tea was then served accompanied by a Home Fire Safety presentation and a speaker from charity Daisy UK.

16. To complement the day, operational crews performed audits in nursing homes and were encouraged to engage with residents. Protection teams delivered audits in premises that largely serve the older members of the community.
17. On Wednesday 2nd October operational crews and Prevention teams launched the delivery of safety advice in support of the Bonfire Plan in 22 schools across all districts. This focused launch assisted in the delivery of these sessions to schools prior to 5/11/13.
18. On October 3rd a new scheme in Wirral in Partnership with Regenda housing was launched. The partnership provides deep fat fryers to replace chip pans. The launch of the partnership in Fire Safety week assisted in reinforcing the safer cooking safety message and offered the opportunity for increased publicity across all districts as well as the distribution of Deep Fat fryers as necessary.
19. On October 3rd Liverpool District completed 39 high risk visits to consider safe heating provision. This resulted in 1 elderly male with mental health problems being issued with a radiator due to poor heating provision. Another elderly male with memory problems and reduced mobility was referred to Healthy Homes for a full house assessment.
20. Activity from prevention teams and crews included the delivery of safer cooking messages at venues including sheltered housing schemes and retirement villages in addition to student accommodation.
21. The Community Fire Prevention Manager worked closely with the Corporate Communication team prior to. This enabled the Corporate Communications Team to maximise the coverage of the week. A full list of the media coverage for the period is attached in Appendix A.
22. A survey was carried out with staff not normally engaged in HFSC delivery to determine their opinion of their participation on 30th September. 96% said their experience was either good or very good and 96% also said they understood their role on the day. There were 17 suggestions for improvement and these will be considered for 2014.

### Conclusion

23. The week offered the opportunity to deliver a high number of interventions across several home fire safety areas. This will have contributed to increased community safety and has raised the profile of Prevention work delivered by MFRA with the community and our partners. In addition it has offered an opportunity to staff working in other areas of the organisation to gain an insight into Community Fire Prevention.
24. The content of the week reflected current and seasonal risk. Should a Fire Safety week be held at a different time of the year the events and messages delivered would be adjusted appropriately.

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**Equality and Diversity Implications**

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25. An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out prior to Fire Safety Week and is attached at Appendix B

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**Staff Implications**

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26. The HFSC campaign provided all staff with an opportunity to experience the delivery of Fire Prevention work. The opportunity was balanced with the essential duties that had to be delivered in other areas of the organisation.

27. Operational staff supported and worked together with teams operating in each District.

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**Legal Implications**

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28. The work completed contributes to meeting The Public Sector Equality Duty and Special Duties as specified in the Equalities Act 2010.

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**Financial Implications & Value for Money**

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29. All funding requirements were met from existing budgets.

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**Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications**

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30. Each event was subject to Risk Assessment.
31. Engagement and activity was targeted in areas of known risk and vulnerable members of society.

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**Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters***

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32. The High Profile delivery of Fire Safety initiatives has contributed to the management of community's risk from Fire and the provision of a safer environment for Firefighters.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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N/A

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**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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**MFRA** Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority

**HFSC** Home Fire Safety Check

**CFOA** Chief Fire Officers Association