

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	19 DECEMBER 2013	REPORT NO:	CFO/144/13
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	MYLES PLATT	REPORT AUTHOR:	[AUTHOR NAME]
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	DCFO GARRIGAN, WM PHIL HUNT		
TITLE OF REPORT:	MITYANA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION		

APPENDICES:	THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT – A PRESENTATION WILL ACCOMPANY THIS REPORT WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST
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Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the involvement of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) staff with the Mityana Community Foundation.

Recommendation

2. That Members;
 - a. Note the report and
 - b. Approve the continued involvement of MFRA with the charity.

Introduction and Background

Introduction

3. The following report details experiences of four staff who have represented MFRA in support of the Mityana Community Foundation.
4. In July 2013 four MFRA staff travelled to Uganda in Africa to deliver 3 weeks of intense interventions that covered the following topics:
 - Delivering fire safety to schools and hospitals.
 - Training the Mityana Police Force in fire fighting, first aid and also to develop their skills with regard to road traffic collisions.
 - The development of a new temporary fire station, kit room and appliance within the local community.

Background

5. The Mityana Community Foundation was formally registered as a UK Charity in 2007 [No 1118765] following long standing links with the community of Mityana, one of the central Districts of Uganda. The region of Mityana is situated 50km North West of Kampala. The Regional population is 300,000, the town population is 40,000 (more than 50% under the age of 15), and the main occupation is subsistence farming.
6. Since 2007 the Foundation Trustees have built a series of projects to enhance its safety education programme, primarily focusing on;
 - Fire Safety Education
 - Fire Fighting
 - Road Traffic Collisions(RTC)
 - First Aid

Delivery of fire safety interventions to schools and hospitals

7. The fire safety education programme takes into account that there is no National Fire Service, restricted hospital treatment for burns, high use of open fires and candles in the home and that within boarding schools the children are locked in dormitories for security with candles as their light source.
8. During the period between April-July 2008 there were 30 school fires and 20 child fatalities. As a result of the foundations intervention and awareness raising these figures has reduced to zero.
9. The four MFRA staff; WM Phil Hunt, FF Claire Crilly, Princes Trust Team Leader Lisa Smith and District Prevention Manager Sarah Bell delivered a variety of fire safety interventions to approximately 70 schools and 2 hospitals. These interventions consisted of a short informal and interactive discussion about the science of fire and the components that make up the fire triangle, fire safety advice within the home and school involving candles and evacuation procedures, and also first aid for burns.
10. The children and young people who participated in these sessions really enjoyed the informal nature and interaction. The feedback received from the staff of the school was very positive regarding engagement methods, delivery and evaluation.
11. The engagement of the hospital staff throughout these fire safety sessions was exceptional; they welcomed the information and asked a variety of questions appropriate to the session. Evacuation procedures were also covered and role play allowed the hospital staff to consider some hypothetical situations in relation to evacuating a building that could be on fire.

Training the Mityana Police Force in fire fighting, first aid and also to develop their skills in regards to road traffic collisions

12. The training and development of the Mityana Police Force is a rolling programme aimed at delivering fire fighting, first aid, and also developing the skills of the Police to enable them to deal with road traffic collisions in a safe, effective and professional manner.
13. The sessions with the Police were tailored for their requirements and included;
 - Fire Science
 - Donning fire kit provided by UK Fire and Rescue Services
 - Proceeding to and dealing with a fire call
 - Proceeding to and dealing with a road traffic collision
 - First aid responding
14. These sessions were delivered in a professional and assertive manner to ensure their importance was reinforced.

The provision of a new temporary fire station, kit room and appliance within the local community

15. The charity has been working on the fund raising, development and provision of a new temporary fire station. This project is 2 years ahead of schedule and was completed during the visit with MFRA staff contributing to the building programme. The official handing over ceremony was greatly welcomed by the community, Police and local government officials.

Conclusion

16. The MFRA staff engaged with more than 170 schools during the three week stay in Mityana delivering fire safety to more 25,000 children and teachers.
17. Smoke alarms were fitted to all of the wards and treatment rooms at two local hospitals.
18. Smoke alarms were also fitted in school dormitories whenever possible.
19. Schools and hospitals were given advice of smoke alarm maintenance, and also correct procedures to follow in the event of smoke alarm actuation.
20. 20 Police officers were given fire kit, fire fighting equipment and training to deal with fire situation, RTC (Road Traffic Collision) and First Person on Scene (First Aid).
21. Winners of a charity organised football competition were given points towards gaining entrance to local universities, furthering education in Mityana.
22. The charity has funded for and now provided a functioning kit room and temporary fire station housing a fire appliance and ambulance for the first time in Mityana's history.

23. The foundation has delivered the same messages to the Police [Fire Service] Training school in Kampala. The foundation have built and equipped the District's first ever Fire Station and Store.
24. The foundation have also provided first response/RTC training to taxi, boda boda (motorbike taxis) and truck drivers as they are, very often, the first on the scene.
25. The fire prevention work that is completed by the foundation has helped to save the lives of many children, young people and adults and is fundamental in cross cultural engagement and the development of the Mityana Community.

Equality and Diversity Implications

26. The project was delivered outside the country in response to a need in Uganda therefore an EIA was not completed.

Staff Implications

27. Staff involved are volunteers to the project.

Legal Implications

28. Legal Implications have been considered by the Charity.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

29. Staff engaged in the project in their own time however normal arrangements for leave and flexi were relaxed to allow staff to bank additional hours to cover the period of the project. Line managers need to ensure that these additional hours have been accrued whilst delivering meaningful work that provides best value.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

30. These matters are considered by the charity.

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

31. The project was delivered outside of Merseyside however it provided staff with a unique development opportunity allowing staff to be the best they can be.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

PowerPoint presentation to be delivered.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

RTC Road Traffic Collision