

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY		
DATE:	18 OCTOBER 2018	REPORT NO:	CFO/050/18
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	AM GUY KEEN	REPORT AUTHOR:	KEVIN JOHNSON TEL: 4424
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	GM MARK THOMAS		
TITLE OF REPORT:	HOME SAFETY STRATEGY 2018-2021		
APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A:	HOME SAFETY STRATEGY 2018-2021	
	APPENDIX B:	HFSC STRATEGY EVALUATION	
	APPENDIX C:	OLDER PERSONS DAY INFOGRAPH	

Purpose of Report

1. To inform members of the progress made in relation to the Home Safety Strategy 2015-2018 and the contents of the Home Safety Strategy (HSS) for 2018-2021).

Recommendation

2. That Members note the progress made during the implementation of the Home Safety Strategy 2015-2018; and
3. That Members approve the contents and direction that are set out in the Home Safety Strategy for 2018-2021 which is attached as Appendix A to this report.

Introduction and Background

4. The Home Safety Strategy 2015-2018, which was approved in November 2015, has been reviewed and refreshed to enhance the already targeted approach adopted by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA).
5. The 2015-2018 Strategy was introduced against a backdrop of increasing fire deaths, accidental dwelling fires and heightened social care challenges with the introduction of the Care Act 2014. Responding to evaluation of incidents and associated fatalities, a key driver of the strategy was the focus on those over 65 years of age, particularly those living alone, who were known to other agencies.
6. To achieve this, the Service utilises NHS over 65s (Exeter) data, overlaid with adult social care data in order to target individuals deemed to be most at risk.

7. Members will recall MFRA were instrumental in ensuring that this data was made available for all Fire and Rescue Services' nationally.
8. More recently in partnership with local health (NHS/PHE) and social care partners, MFRA has expanded the scope of its Home Fire Safety Check; to incorporate health assessments and brief advice in order to enhance its existing fire safety interventions. These 'Safe and Well' visits are focused on those deemed high risk, following direct referral or through a Home Fire Safety Check.
9. Since May 2017 MFRA Vulnerable Persons Advocates (VPA) have conducted 10,486 'Safe and Well' visits to residents who were identified as vulnerable or at greater risk of fire.
10. Over the same period, Operational Crews delivered 126,091 Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC) targeting those over 65's that live within Merseyside.
11. These visits are complemented by additional activity and campaigns which are undertaken post-fire or on the basis of national campaigns.
12. During the delivery period of the HSS 2015-2018, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) reported a reduction in fire fatalities from 16 to the lowest recorded figure of 4.
13. Over the same period accidental dwelling fires fell from 1088 to 928.
14. The scope of the revised HSS 2018-2021 will look to build on the success of the previous strategy, and will concentrate on the following areas:
 - An intelligence led and targeted approach to individuals at risk of fire in the home;
 - Quality assuring the service delivery of our staff to ensure high quality, effective interventions;
 - Delivering out Home Safety Strategy to align with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and HM Government campaigns;
 - Influencing the use of Assistive Technology to support vulnerable individuals;
 - Collaborative working to ensure residents safety in specialised housing, registered providers and the private rented sector; and
 - Effective safeguarding of adults and children at risk.
15. To evaluate the impact of the Home Safety Strategy the Service has recently introduced a, quality assurance loop using the evaluation toolkit. To achieve a representative sample, 381 responses to a telephone questionnaire are required. At the time of report, a representative sample of 107 responses have been received and this monitoring report is attached at Appendix B.
16. In addition to this work other data analysis has been used to evaluate the strategy including incident data, fatality reports and research undertaken independently by Liverpool John Moores University to consider the impact of the strategy.

17. The day to day activity undertaken by operational crews and prevention staff is enhanced by our volunteers and organisational campaigns. By way of example on 1st October 2018, MFRA participated in the United Nations International Day of Older Persons. Approximately 80 staff, authority members, local councillors, senior officers and principal managers teamed up with fire crews and prevention teams in visiting older persons. Activity was targeted using Exeter Data and facilitated by Prevention Managers from four Prevention Stations with the support of all community fire stations.
18. Six hundred and eighty six (686) HFSC visits were completed and over 1,000 properties were visited. This is shown on the infographic attached at Appendix C to this report.
19. To further promote and increase the reach of the engagement and interventions delivered by MFRA, the Community Risk Management Department (CRM) has worked closely with Corporate Communications to utilise and maximise the impact of social media more effectively.
20. The Safe and Well pilot is currently being evaluated by Liverpool John Moore's University (LJMU) and the outcomes of this research will be reported to the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) for further consideration.

Equality and Diversity Implications

21. The HFSC form captures key Equality and Diversity data which is utilised to ensure delivery against our equality duty. The outcomes are reported to the Strategy and Performance Strategic Board.

Staff Implications

22. CRM continue to engage with all staff to ensure that the HSS 2018-2021 is effective and that where appropriate staff competencies are met through training and Continual Professional Development.

Legal Implications

23. Where appropriate, CRM will always consult with Legal and Procurement in the delivery of the strategy.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

24. There are no financial implication within this report.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

25. Extensive training and awareness has been delivered to MFRA staff ensure compliance with GDPR.
26. MFRA continue to trial and consider appropriate and relevant devices to support lone working in the community.

27. MFRA continue to adopt a risk based approach to target, identify and engage with the most vulnerable and at risk individuals in Merseyside in order to reduce the risk of fire in the home.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CFO/025/2017 Home Safety Strategy Update 2016/17

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

HSS	Home Safety Strategy
MFRS	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
MFRA	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
VPT	Vulnerable Persons Team
FSD	Fire Service Direct
CRM	Community Risk Management
HFSC	Home Fire Safety Check
NFCC	National Fire Chief's Council
LJMU	Liverpool John Moore's University
SLT	Strategic Leadership Team