

MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	11TH APRIL 2019	REPORT NO:	CFO/014/19
PRESENTING OFFICER	ACFO MOTTRAM		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	AREA MANAGER KEEN	REPORT AUTHOR:	STRATEGIC SAFEGUARDING MANAGER JOHNSON
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	GROUP MANAGER THOMAS T/ARSON MANAGER BURATTI LEGAL SERVICES EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY TEAM		
TITLE OF REPORT:	STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND USEAGE OF MFRA SAFE HAVENS		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A:	EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT
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Purpose of Report

1. To inform Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) of the use of Community Fire Stations as Safe Havens and recorded activations submitted via the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) intranet portal.

Recommendation

2. That members;
 - a. Note the contents of this report.
 - b. Note that, given the national, local and regional priorities in respect of Organised Crime Groups (OCG) and the prevalence of knife and gun crime, MFRA staff will review processes and raise awareness regarding Safe Havens across MFRA Community Fire Stations.
 - c. Note that the majority of Safe Haven activations are triggered by individuals with one or more vulnerabilities that place them at a heightened risk of threat or harm. As such the overarching responsibility will be placed under the management of the Strategic Safeguarding Manager, Community Risk Management.

Introduction and Background

3. A Safe Haven is a location that offers a place of safety to any members of the public, including children and young people who feel unsafe in any situation. The Safe Havens also provide individuals with the opportunity to report hate crime and/or domestic violence.

4. The Safe Haven initiative was introduced following the murder of 16 year old Jimmy Mizen in Burnt Ash Hill, south London on 10th May 2008. Following this a London Citizen's Scheme was introduced in London whereby shops and public buildings could join to give refuge to adults at risk and children and young people.
5. In January 2011, Liverpool became the first city outside of London to set up Safe Havens to help people who felt threatened by violence. City Centre Community Fire Station become the first MFRA premises to join the initiative.
6. All MFRA Community Fire Stations are now designated Safe Havens.
7. Service Instruction (SI) 0798 describes the process should a Safe Haven require to be activated. The member of MFRA staff who is approached must carry out a Dynamic Risk Assessment (DRA) that involves managing the potential changing situation.
8. The relevant Community Fire Station will contact Fire Control who will create an incident log, make the fire appliance unavailable and inform a Station Manager.
9. MFRA Staff will then consider a person centred approach to the situation and where appropriate consider a collaborative solution with partner agencies that may include Police, North West Ambulance Services, Social Services. Consideration should also be given to utilise the British Red Cross Emergency Response Service (ERS) who are able to offer additional support to individuals and where appropriate transportation to a more sustainable place of safety.
10. The person will be assisted until the vulnerability has passed (i.e. the risk has been removed or reduced to an acceptable level, and the person is deemed safe to leave the Community Fire Station).
11. During the period of 01/04/2016 to 10/03/2019 there have been **18** reported Safe Haven activations in MFRA premises. The most activations were reported at City Centre and St Helens Community Fire Stations (4 each) and Bootle/Netherton Community Fire Station (3).
12. The majority of the above reported activations were due to either suspected mental health issues and/or threats to individuals.
13. All Safe Havens are resolved with the assistance of relevant partners or the individual leaving the station of their own accord. Where appropriate Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service will engage with the individual to undertake a Home Fire Safety Check.

Equality and Diversity Implications

14. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed which is attached as Appendix 1

Staff Implications

- 15. Fire Appliance(s) are made unavailable for the duration of the Safe haven activation.
- 16. A Station Manager will be informed and may decide to mobilise to the station.
- 17. The Strategic Safeguarding Manager will consider appropriate multi-agency engagement and interventions with relevant partners.

Legal Implications

- 18. MFRA has a duty of care to its employees who may be providing assistance under the scheme with safety of employees remaining paramount. This should be captured within a risk assessment.
- 19. Any visitors attending MFRA should comply with all the relevant health and safety guidelines.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

- 20. Safe Haven signage was donated by City Safe.
- 21. Installation for all 23 Community Fire Stations cost approximately £2500.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

- 22. A Dynamic Risk Assessment is to be completed by the officer based on the situation at the time.

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

- 23. Members of the public already consider Community Fire Stations as places to seek assistance and Safe Havens are an extension of that perception.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
SI	Service Instruction
DRA	Dynamic Risk Assessment
ERS	Emergency Response Service
OCG	Organised Crime Groups

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Equality Impact Assessment Form

Title of policy/report/project:	Safe Havens.
Department:	Community Risk Management
Date:	23 March 2019
1: What is the aim or purpose of the policy/report/project <i>This should identify "the legitimate aim" of the policy/report/project (there may be more than one)</i>	
The Safe Haven initiative was launched on 12th January 2011 and builds on the model operating in London. All Community Fire Stations and various shops and buildings across Merseyside are designated Safe Havens. A Safe Haven is a location that offers a place of safety to any members of the public, including children and young people who feel unsafe in any situation. The Safe Havens also provide individuals with the opportunity to report hate crime and/or domestic violence.	
2: Who will be affected by the policy/report/project? <i>This should identify the persons/organisations who may need to be consulted about the policy /report/project and its outcomes (There may be more than one)</i>	
Various Multi-Agency Partnerships, including Community Safety Partnership (CSP), Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) and Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB) – Made up of following Partner Agencies: MFRS personnel Local Authority Merseyside Police Youth Services Department of Adult Social Services Department of Children's Services Anti-Social Behaviour Team North West Ambulance Service Third Sector Partners	

3. Monitoring

Summarise the findings of any monitoring data you have considered regarding this policy/report/project. This could include data which shows whether it is having the desired outcomes and also its impact on members of different equality groups.

What monitoring data have you considered?

MFRA Safe Haven Activations

What did it show?

Data shows that between the period of 01/04/2016 and 10/03/2019 there were 18 Safe Haven activations by MFRA Community Fire Stations, these were:

Station 11 (City Centre) – 4
Station 50 (St Helens) – 4
Station 33 (Southport) – 3
Station 30 (Bootle/Netherton) – 2
Station 20 (Birkenhead) – 2
Station 19 (Croxteth) -1

The reasons for activations were:

Threats – 7
Mental Health – 6
Self-Harm/Neglect – 3
Domestic Abuse/Violence – 1
Hate Crime – 1

The breakdown of activations are:

White British – 15
White Other – 3
Males – 11
Females – 7
Adults – 14
Children & Young People – 4

4: Research

Summarise the findings of any research you have considered regarding this policy/report/project. This could include quantitative data and qualitative information; anything you have obtained from other sources e.g. CFA/CLG guidance, other FRSSs, etc

What research have you considered? Government and Local Policies regarding Organised Crime Groups and Gun and Knife Crime. Hate Crime	What did it show? £200m Youth Endowment Fund to tackle violence
5. Consultation <i>Summarise the opinions of any consultation. Who was consulted and how? (This should include reference to people and organisations identified in section 2 above)</i> <i>Outline any plans to inform consultees of the results of the consultation</i>	
What Consultation have you undertaken? CSP – Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership MFRS	What did it say? Previous consultations was taken in 2011 by Wirral District. This should be reviewed as part of the recommendations of the MFRA report: Figures suggest that the 16-24 age-groups are most at risk from street crime but anecdotally a lot of such crimes go unreported. This can arise from ‘street culture’ and mistrust of the Police but under reporting makes statistical analysis difficult. As such crimes, by nature, have been perpetrated against vulnerable people; an easily recognisable and accessed place of safety is desirable. The ‘Safe Haven’ scheme could provide this. The Service is willing to allow its Wirral Community Fire Stations to be designated as ‘Safe Havens’. It is hoped that once these are established the scheme will be extended by the Local Authority to shops and businesses across the Borough to provide numerous points of access to ‘Safe Havens’. Members of the public already see Fire Stations as places to seek assistance and this scheme would purely be an extension of that perception. Security, Safeguarding and reporting protocols are already in place to protect the vulnerable.

6. Conclusions

Taking into account the results of the monitoring, research and consultation, set out how the policy/report/project impacts or could impact on people from the following protected groups? (Include positive and/or negative impacts)

(a) Age

The scheme would have a positive impact on younger people who are victims, or perceive to be at danger, of street crime by providing immediate recourse to a place of safety. 'Joint Strategic Needs Assessment' demographic figures for Merseyside can identify concentrations of young persons, by ward, allowing targeted interventions. More generally, as recorded crimes fall in the vicinity of 'Safe Havens' all age groups would be positively impacted upon.

(b) Disability including mental, physical and sensory conditions)

As 'Safe Havens' are to be identified by an illuminated sign, this may have a negative impact upon members of the public with vision problems. There would be no negative impact upon disabled persons, as access would only be need to the ground floor of the Community Fire Stations.

(c) Race (include: nationality, national or ethnic origin and/or colour)

Those members of the community who are at risk from hate crime due to their race will be positively impacted upon by the scheme as they will have access to an immediately available place of safety. All Station Managers have completed Level 2 Safeguarding (constantly reviewed) and Operational Crews have been delivered a Safeguarding Awareness presentation.

(d) Religion or Belief

Those members of the community who are at risk from hate crime due to their religion or belief will be positively impacted upon by the scheme as they will have access to an immediately available place of safety.

(e) Sex (include gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership and pregnancy or maternity)

MFRS Safeguarding policies, dynamic risk assessment and increasing availability of CRB checked personnel would mean there would be no negative impact on this protected group. An internal 'Learnpro' package covering all the 'Safeguarding' issues will be developed and this must be completed by all members of staff.

(f) Sexual Orientation

MFRS Safeguarding policies, dynamic risk assessment and increasing availability of CRB checked personnel would mean there would be no negative impact on this protected group.

(g) Socio-economic disadvantage

As ASB and street crime hotspots are found in the more deprived areas of Merseyside, the reduced crime rates around 'Safe Havens' will have a positive impact upon those communities.

7. Decisions

If the policy/report/project will have a negative impact on members of one or more of the protected groups, explain how it will change or why it is to continue in the same way.

If no changes are proposed, the policy/report/project needs to be objectively justified as being an appropriate and necessary means of achieving the legitimate aim set out in 1 above.

Negative impact. Group b.

As the scheme will be initially run at Community Fire Stations, it will be promoted as such. It is believed that the locations of local fire stations are well known and that the buildings are easily identifiable thus negating the need for additional identifiers. However, as this negative impact has been highlighted by this assessment, close monitoring of activations will take place to evaluate access arrangements.

As extension of the scheme would be the responsibility of the Local Authority to progress and take ownership of, they would have to produce their own EIA which would need to take into account what reasonable measures could be put in place to mitigate this item. Through C.S.P., the outcomes of this assessment will be communicated for evaluation. Where other schemes are running, an illuminated sign is the only indicator of a 'Safe Haven'.

8. Equality Improvement Plan

List any changes to our policies or procedures that need to be included in the Equality Action Plan/Service Plan.

9. Equality & Diversity Sign Off

The completed EIA form must be signed off by the Diversity Manager before it is submitted to Strategic Management Group or Authority.

Signed off by:

Date:

Action Planned	Responsibility of	Completed by

For any advice, support or guidance about completing this form please contact the DiversityTeam@merseyfire.gov.uk or on 0151 296 4237

The completed form along with the related policy/report/project document should be emailed to the Diversity Team at:

DiversityTeam@merseyfire.gov.uk