

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Equality Impact Assessment Form

Title of policy/report/project:	Knowsley District Plan 2015/16
Department:	Strategy and Performance
Date:	06/02/2015
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>	
<p>To reduce risk throughout the community through the provision of protective community safety services</p> <p>We will support the people who live and work in Knowsley in their endeavours to reduce crime and disorder</p> <p>We will aim to provide a safe, healthy and happy environment that will enrich and sustain the development of our neighbourhoods and communities.</p> <p>We are committed to Equality and Diversity which will be a key aspect of how we deliver our services.</p>	
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>	
<p>Those effected by this policy include memebers of the general public not just living in Knowsley but working here also, MFRS staff including; District Manager, District Prevention Manager, Prevention and Protection Team and operational staff.</p> <p>Key partners and stakeholders including Local Authority, Police, Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership, Road Safety Team, ASB Reduction Team, Knowsley Chamber of Commerce, Registered Social Landlords and Strategic Health leads.</p>	

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?

ONS data on age/ethnicity/
Knowsley Resilience
Monitor

English Indices of Multiple
Deprivation 2010.
Department of Health –
Health Profiles provide ward
and populous data sets on
key health outcomes.

MFRS Strategy &
Performance

What did it show?

The 2011 Census of England & Wales counted population as at 27 March. At this point the population of the Borough was 145,893.

During the planning meeting it was recognised that Knowsley has a small BME community (approx. 2.8% - compared to 14.1% in England & Wales).

The demographic breakdown of the district shows those aged 16-25 years form approximately 12.1% of the Knowsley population.

Knowsley is the fifth most deprived borough in England and has high levels and concentrations of deprivation, poor health and low attainment. Large numbers of people in the borough depend on benefits, particularly incapacity benefit. Almost 30% of homes are social housing.

Internal reports highlight - ASB fires happen at specific times and that certain areas are more susceptible to ASB fires than other areas.

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. CFOA/CLG guidance, other FRSs, etc

What research have you considered?

MFRS research/data on
number and types of
incidents.

Road Safety Data from
Knowsley Road Safety
Team

What did it show?

We use sophisticated information tools to identify and analysis data pertinent to the vulnerable community of Knowsley.

- Reduction in number of Deliberate Secondary Fires during 2014.
- Slight increase in the number of incident during the Bonfire Period.
- Accidental Dwelling Fires continues to be a challenge, however in comparison to 2013 we estimate a reduction of approx. 21.4%.
- Data highlighted those aged between 16 – 25 are disproportionately involved in RTC across the Borough.

<p>Governments Strategy on independent living</p> <p>Key findings from Knowsley Resilience Monitor – this is produced every quarter and informs partners.</p> <p>Sport England 2005.</p>	<p>➤ RTC's across the borough have reduced year on year since 2012/13 we estimate a slighty reduction again this year.</p> <p>This information is used to support our risk reduction activities in the District and Station Action Plans.</p> <p>There are currently government strategies in place to support the elderly and vulnerable to continue to live in their own home with suitable assistance.</p> <p>The creation of a Knowsley “healthy homes” team will deliver significant benefits to the fire service and key partners operating in Knowsley – it will help focus the efforts of front line responders to view the property holistically when devising risk reduction strategies, in the first 4 months the team have knocked on over 5500 doors, completed near to 500 surveys which in turn generated over 1380 referrals .</p> <p>During 2014/15 the Safer Knowsley Partnership will have a concerted multi agency approach to the Hillside Estate; this will see engagement across all groups.</p> <p>Sport and active recreation can contribute to the four key areas which are the heart of social policy and they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier communities • Safe strong sustainable communities • Economic vitality and workforce development • Meeting the needs of children and young people <p>We currently deliver Fire Fit in 3 Knowsley Primary Schools it is our ambition to extend to 6 schools during 2014/15.</p>
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5. Consultation

*Summarise the opinions of any consultation. Who was consulted and how? (This should include reference to people and organisations identified in section 2 above)
Outline any plans to inform consultees of the results of the consultation*

<p>What Consultation have you undertaken?</p> <p>Meetings held in January 2015 with internal staff, partner agencies, Local Authority, Elected Members, community organisations</p> <p>Use of snap survey and on line questionnaires to capture responses.</p>	<p>What did it say?</p> <p>The Knowsley district identified a number of priorities which derived from a series of station planning meetings. The priorities identified from the meetings were then used as a catalyst during the station and local service planning meetings to reflect the relevant Merseyside Fire & Rescue Services priorities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce accidental dwelling fires and the deaths and injuries which result from these fires in Merseyside • To reduce risk consistently across Merseyside • To reduce the impact of fire on commercial enterprise
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<p>CFOA Business Safety Strategy for 2013 -16.</p>	<p>and the wider community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reinforce our role in fire prevention by improving fire safety within the public and commercial buildings of Merseyside <p>This is particularly prevelant at this time in terms of minimising the impact of fire to the business community and supporting economic stability and regeneration.</p> <p>This is in addition to other key consultation exercises undertaken throughout the year such as Bonfire Planning.</p>
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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 District Management Team, Prevention Team and Operational Crews are working with the Knowsley Road Safety Management Team in order to make an impact on reducing the number of road traffic collisions in those aged 16-25 years which forms 12.1% of the Knowsley population.

We are currently delivering Fire Fit in 3 Knowsley primary schools and are working towards establishing the project in 3 more schools.

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

13.4% of the population of Knowsley are registered as having a disability. The Prevention Team look to empower people disabled people and the wider community so everyone can enjoy life equally. They do this by providing advice and issuing equipment i.e. fire retardant bedding packs to reduce the risk of fire death or injury. We actively look to engage with the disabled community through the use of Community Messaging, by providing this method of communication we can provide a service to those hard to reach due to social isolation or refusal to accept services. FSN are engaged in delivering a disability sport programme in Huyton.

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

Knowsley has a small BME community (2.8%) However our actions are broad enough to ensure we effectively target people who we have identified as being at risk. These challenges are reviewed quarterly by the Knowsley Resilience Group (MFRS chair this forum) along with other matters of community cohesion.

(d) Religion or Belief

There were no issues raised by our partners to suggest that religious orientation identified individuals as vulnerable. Our home fire safety strategy reflects a non-discriminatory approach to proactive community safety.

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

Domestic Violence is taken very seriously by the Safer Knowsley partnership and is one of the Key objectives in its business plan – MFRS will support joint working in this area.

As a Fire Service we take Hate Crime seriously. Through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC), Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) procedures we share information with partner agencies.

(f) Sexual Orientation

As a service provider and employer, MFRS has an important leadership role in influencing others, promoting and encouraging fairness and equality and contributing to a more just and compassionate society. MFRS will work with all its citizens, partners, businesses, voluntary and community groups to develop a shared understanding and commitment to its objectives.

(g) Socio-economic disadvantage

Knowsley is the fifth most deprived borough in England and has high levels and concentrations of deprivation, poor health and low attainment. Large numbers of people in the borough depend on benefits, particularly incapacity benefit. Almost 30% of homes are social housing. Growth and Economic development have been considered in our plan, as has welfare reform – these challenges are reviewed quarterly by the Knowsley Resilience Group.

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.

MFRS are an active and fully engaged partner in Knowsley; we are well aware of the Socio economic issues in the Borough and how this impacts on communities particularly around ADF's and ASB. We will target those from deprived communities and work with all key stakeholders to ensure we effectively provide services tailored to meet specific needs.

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