

# Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

## Equality Impact Assessment Form

<b>Title of policy:</b>	<b>St Helens Community Safety District Plan</b>
<b>Department:</b>	<b>Prevention and Protection</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>6.02.15</b>
<b>1: What is the aim or purpose of the policy</b>	
<i>This should identify "the legitimate aim" of the policy (there may be more than one)</i>	
<p>The District Prevention Plan details the actions to be taken by MFRS working with partners to reduce the risk of death and injury to our communities whilst seeking to improve community cohesion and quality of live.</p> <p>We will continue to adhere to the principles of sustainability, equality and social inclusion</p> <p>We will remain focused and realistic about agreed priorities to maintain or improve community safety.</p>	
<b>2: Who will be affected by the policy?</b>	
<i>This should identify the persons/organisations who may need to be consulted about the policy or procedure and its outcomes (There may be more than one)</i>	
<p>MF&amp;RS Prevention, Protection, Response and Volunteer Teams Helena Housing Riverside Housing Arena Housing St. Helens Council Merseyside Police Neighbourhood Management Teams Residents and Community Groups St Helens Chamber of Commerce Youth Offending and Schools Liaison Teams</p>	
<b>3. Monitoring</b>	
<i>Summarise the findings of any monitoring data you have considered regarding this policy. This could include data which shows whether the policy is having the desired outcomes and also its impact on members of different equality groups.</i>	

<p><b>What monitoring data have you considered?</b></p>	<p><b>What did it show?</b></p>
<p>ONS Data on age / ethnicity</p>	<p>During the 2011 census, St Helens had a population total of 175,308 with 12.7% of the Merseyside total. The population is split into 49.1% males and 50.9% females. St Helens has a higher proportion of children at 17.0% and older people (17.9%). 65.1% of residents are of a working age, slightly lower than the Merseyside Average.</p> <p>In St Helens 98.0% of the population has a white ethnic background, which is a higher proportion compared to the Merseyside average. 1.9% of the St Helens population has a Black, Minority Ethnic background (BME) which is a lower proportion compared to the Merseyside average.</p> <p>78% of St Helens Residents class themselves as Christian, higher than the Merseyside average of 74%. The next highest group do not follow an organised religion (14%).</p>

<p><b>4: Research</b></p>	
<p><i>Summarise the findings of any research you have considered regarding this policy. This could include quantitative data and qualitative information; anything you have obtained from other sources e.g. CFA/CLG guidance, other FRSs, etc</i></p>	
<p><b>What research have you considered?</b></p>	<p><b>What did it show?</b></p>
<p>KIM, statistics and hotspot maps. Partner's data was also utilised.</p>	<p>The district has seen a steady reduction in accidental dwelling fires, deaths and injuries. The previous plans continue to support this but there remains an increased risk to elderly and vulnerable people.</p> <p>In the past year ASB has begun to show increases in most categories. ASB fires have also increased.</p> <p>The CSP has noted an increase in hate crime reporting, this is being monitored to ascertain if there is an actual increase in crime or better awareness and reporting by the public.</p> <p>Our data is shared and mapped with Police, CSP and RSL's to ensure resources are targeted as required.</p>

	<p>Gender and Ethnicity aspects are considered in this work.</p>
<p><b>5. Consultation</b></p> <p><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></p> <p><i>Outline any plans to inform consultees of the results of the consultation</i></p>	
<p><b>What Consultation have you undertaken?</b></p> <p>Multi – Agency Planning Meetings</p> <p>1-1 meetings with partners</p> <p>1-1 meetings with WMs</p> <p>Consultation with Neighbourhood Management Teams</p> <p>Consultation with Elected members</p> <p>Team Briefings</p>	<p><b>What did it say?</b></p> <p>The St Helens District conducted a series of Planning Meetings to confirm MFRS and Partner Priorities and agree actions to address the most problematic.</p> <p>Follow up meetings were held with key partners to ensure respective plans were complimentary.</p> <p>The priority issues were as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Need to improve quality and detail of data sharing to target resources and seek out high risk individuals</li> <li>❖ The continuation of our youth engagement and cadet programs</li> <li>❖ Development of our presence in schools and colleges</li> <li>❖ The continuation of our seasonal response and pre planning campaigns. Seasonal response will be specific to changing weather, holidays etc.</li> <li>❖ Continuing our specific multi agency approaches to improving Road Safety</li> <li>❖ Supporting the Business Community</li> <li>❖ Improving operational intelligence</li> </ul>

## **6. Conclusions**

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

### **(a) Age**

The plan considers the challenges of previous years and targets specific groups in the younger and older groups.

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

We will aim to reach those most vulnerable first to complete HFSCs. Individuals with Physical Disability have applied for volunteer positions within the station. Providing empowerment and social empathy.

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

97% Of the St Helens population are white British and the other 3% minority group is mainly traveller communities.

### **(d) Religion or Belief**

Local Churches in St Helens are eager to reassert their community message and are becoming more involved in the partnership arena. We will continue to attend such partnership meetings and work closely with the churches during seasonal events.

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

We are stakeholders within the Domestic Violence Partnership Arena and core members of The Domestic Homicide Review Panel; we attend to such properties and conduct a detailed arson risk assessment providing additional resource where applicable and necessary. During our work experience / volunteer program with partners and local charitable organisations we will work with all community members.

### **(f) Sexual Orientation**

We will contribute and support the Community Safety Partnership to consider the increases in hate crime reporting and ensure our teams continue to receive awareness briefings and training.

### **(g) Socio-economic disadvantage**

In terms of deprivation there are 118 LSOAs throughout the borough. 25 of these LSOAs fall within the most deprived 10% nationally. There is also a cluster of SOAs falling within the top 5%.

## 7. Decisions

*If the policy will have a negative impact on members of one or more of the protected groups, explain how the policy will change or why it is to continue in the same way. If no changes are proposed, the policy needs to be objectively justified as being an appropriate and necessary means of achieving the legitimate aim set out in 1 above.*

Following the increases in ASB Fires, road accidents, hate crime reporting and the increased risk of kitchen fires specific campaigns will be created to target these challenges.

Hate Crime will continue to be jointly managed through the CSP

The station has created and expanded its safe haven scheme through the 'Safer in Town' charity, utilising stations, appliances and some light cars as beacons for vulnerable people.

## 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 and 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**

<b>Action Planned</b>	<b>Responsibility of</b>	<b>Completed by</b>
<p>For any advice, support or guidance about completing this form please contact the <a href="mailto:DiversityTeam@merseyfire.gov.uk">DiversityTeam@merseyfire.gov.uk</a> or on 0151 296 4237</p> <p>The completed form should be emailed to the Diversity Team at the above address for inclusion on the Diversity Action Group Agenda</p>		