

MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY		
DATE:	17 DECEMBER 2015		
PRESENTING OFFICER:	PHIL GARRIGAN		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:		REPORT AUTHOR:	FRANNY HILL
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	IAN MULLEN WM JOANNE HENDERSON DPM		
TITLE OF REPORT:	SAFE PROGRAMME		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A:	(TITLE)
	APPENDIX B:	(TITLE...ETC)

Purpose of Report

1. To request that SMG approve the new SAFE (Safety Advice Fire Education) juvenile fire setting intervention programme.

Recommendation

2. That SMG note and approve the new juvenile fire setting programme.

Introduction and Background

3. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires that Fire and Rescue Authorities must make provision for the purpose of promoting fire safety. The MF&RA Community Safety Plan outlines how the Service intends to provide services to the local community and a priority is to make people safer by working to prevent emergencies.
4. In order to discharge this provision particularly to at risk young people Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MF&RS) has delivered a juvenile fire setting programme called FACE (Fire Awareness Child Education) as part of our early intervention / risk reduction programmes.
5. This product had become dated over time and is considered no longer fit for purpose.
6. As a result the scheme was subjected to review as referenced within this year's Functional Delivery Plan for Prevention and a task and finish group was established to align MF&RA's approach to the national approach recommended by the Chief Fire Officers Association.

7. As a result of this work a new intervention programme has been developed to replace FACE scheme, this product will be branded as SAFE (Safety Advice Fire Education).
8. Whether they happen, at home, in school or in the community intentionally or unintentionally, fires set by children are always a cause for concern as they risk serious injury to themselves and to others.
9. For older children where fire setting is motivated by underlying issues a multi-agency approach is required. An assessment for these children will be completed via a referral to the Local Authority EHAT team (Early Health Assessment Team).
10. Prevention staff will arrange to visit the family home to complete a SAFE visit which will include a HFSC. The session involves relevant members of the household including the fire setting child and parent/carer.
11. The aims and objectives for this session are:-
 - To be able to say why it is unsafe to play or experiment with fire.
 - In more serious cases explain the consequences of deliberate fire setting.
 - Provide education to the young person and parent around the implications of fire setting.
 - To be able to recognise / identify potential fire risks around the home and state the actions required to reduce the risks.
 - To educate and inform the parent/carers on safety advice in order to reduce the risk of fire.
 - To be able to explain the importance of a bedtime routine and to be able to create a fire escape plan.
 - To be able to describe what to do in the event of a fire.
 - At the end of the session a feedback form will be completed by the attending member of Prevention staff to record the finding of the session, which will support the possible EHAT referral.
12. For high risk referrals, apart from the child fire setting risk in the household there may be other additional fire risks or other health issues identified by the attending Prevention staff.

Equality and Diversity Implications

13. An EIA has been completed and is attached at Appendix **A**

14. All E&D implications have been considered and consultation has been undertaken with the E&D Manager.

Staff Implications

15. All Prevention staff who will deliver the product will be given 3 days training which will consist of 2 days with an external consultant who specialises in adolescent fire setter and 1 day internal training around MF&RS processes.

Legal Implications

16. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2005 section 6(1)(a) provides that a fire and rescue authority must make provision for the purpose of promoting fire safety in its area and, in making such provision must in particular, to the extent that it considers it reasonable to do so, make arrangements for the provision of information, publicity and encouragement in respect of the steps to be taken to prevent fires and death or injury by fire;
17. Product name and branding have been registered by Corporate Communications, with MFRA holding the domain rights to the name.
18. Appropriate staff of MFRA have been provided with safeguarding training.
19. The lone working policy has been updated to support this programme.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

20. The cost of producing the revised product SAFE, inclusive of training, merchandise and on-going costs is £7,000
21. All costs will be absorbed from internal budget lines.
22. The economic outcomes expected from the programme are reduction in ASB fires and long term economical cost reduction associated with families with complex needs.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

23. To manage risk, structured training has been delivered with the implement the appropriate tools and measures required.
24. Health & Safety implications have been considered through the review of the lone worker policy and HFSC risk assessments.
25. Environmental factors are a reduction in ASB fires in the community and the home which in turn will have a positive impact on the environment and community.

26. The SAFE programme will benefit our Communities and the Authority by reducing ASB/deliberate fires across as per the community safety plan and have a direct contribution to our mission.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

EHAT	Early Help Assessment Team
FACE	Fire Awareness Child Education
HFSC	Home Fire Safety Check
MF&RS	Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
SAFE	Safety Advice Fire Education