

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

4 SEPTEMBER 2017

PARTNER CHANGE UPDATE: LEICESTERSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Background

1. Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) is working towards their vision for 2020, of 'a proud and inspirational fire and rescue service'. Its core purpose, or its mission statement, is 'protecting our communities'.

They have 6 priority areas, and each one has a strategic aim as follows:

Priority area	Aim. By 2020 we want to achieve:
Response	A modern, safe and effective response to emergencies
Community Safety	Improved safety for our communities
Finance	Making the most of financial resources
People	Staff are skilled, equipped and motivated to deliver our vision
Governance	Effective governance and openness to the community
Working Together	A better service through working together

Notable Developments and Challenges:

Past Year

“The Blues” Project:

2. The “Braunstone Blues” project began in 2015 and is scheduled to end in 2018. This is a multi-agency team (Fire, Police, Ambulance) established with the aim of reducing demand on the 999 services.

Braunstone was chosen as this was the area of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) with the highest demand on all three 999 services.

The project aim has developed as the team has developed and got to know the community and its need and is now also focused on improving the health and wellbeing of the residents of Braunstone alongside strategies to manage 999 demand.

3. The team have several tools to assist them in meeting their goal, these include;
 - i. Healthy, Safe and Secure visits; any member of the team, irrespective of 999 service they represent, is able to give advice and education on matters usually pertaining to another partner.
 - ii. Life Skills Programme; taken from an academic study and programme developed in Mexico City. The programme aims to empower individuals to take responsibility for their life choices.
 - iii. Events; working closely with organisations already established within the area and developing new, innovative events where appropriate e.g. fishing clubs, sports activities, bingo, community cinema, breakfast clubs. All of which have the collective aim to increase trust in the team, improve the health and wellbeing of residents and manage 999 demand.
 - iv. Embedded in community; the Blues team has worked hard to understand and become part of the community of Braunstone. The team do not take over from organisations and charities already established in the area, they work to align with and complement their work.
 - v. Data sharing progression; this has been a major challenge. Asking organisations to share address level data on high service users and those that may benefit from the work of the team has been difficult. However, as the team have developed and become more joined up as partners, many of the barriers for sharing data have been removed. There is further work to do to make this further improved.
4. Next Steps; how and whether we apply learning from this project to extend, expand and mainstream the work across more areas of LLR.

Road Safety:

5. The road safety team delivers input to Year 11 and above students in LLR to help reduce instances of collision, injury and/or death where young people are involved. This project utilises a nationally recognised syllabus combined with an innovative and award winning virtual reality package. This year the team has directly reached over 14000 students.

Biker Down:

6. The Biker Down project aims to educate motorcyclists in first aid and scene management. It is part of a national project and in LLR has educated over 120 riders this year with plans for another 12 courses over the next 12 months.

High Rise Building Safety:

7. Following the tragic fire in Grenfell Towers, LFRS has developed and implemented a 3 stage programme to inspect all of LLRs high rise buildings and offer reassurance and education to their residents. Work is completed based upon a risk assessment process, identifying buildings of a similar design to Grenfell, those that have a history of fire safety issues and those that partner agencies identify. Throughout this work, LFRS has worked closely with local authority building control officers and emergency planners. The three stages are:

Stage 1; all buildings of 8 floors and over (62 buildings) were visited by a specialist Fire Safety Officer and operational crews attended the buildings to offer advice and education (this included advise of “stay put” policies, actions in the event of fire and reassurance as to the safety of high rise buildings).

Stage 2; all buildings of 5 and 6 floors (115 buildings) are in the process of being visited by a specialist Fire Safety Officer and operational crews attended the buildings to offer advice and education

Stage 3; provide advice and reassurance to all residents of buildings of 4 floors.

8. This work continues is in addition to our standard fire protection work which is based on a risk assessed audit programme.

Home Fire Safety Checks:

9. In 2016/17 we worked to target our Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSCs) more efficiently to those most at risk. We created a new online partnership referral form and risk matrix, and in some localities we have extended HFSCs to ‘Healthy Safe and Secure’ visits when we look at a wider range of vulnerabilities and risks. We have led on advice about assessing risks related to hoarding. In cases of Domestic Violence, we worked with the police and other agencies, to offer a service to make the victim safer in their home through the fitting of smoke alarms, letterbox security devices, window alarms and tailored advice regarding security and fire safety. We also worked with a psychologist to support delivery of an intervention programme for adult arsonists within a residential mental health setting.
10. HFSCs are delivered primarily by operational fire crews but for those most vulnerable members of the public the service is delivered by a highly trained Community Safety Education team.
11. The support of our partners is key to identifying those that may be vulnerable to fire and referring them to LFRS for a Home Fire Safety Check.

Schools safety education:

12. We have continued to deliver our schools programme, which involves annual visits to every primary school in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, as well as seconding a full-time post to Warning Zone. We have also maintained our targeted “Firecare” service for children and young people who set fires.

Fire Cadets:

13. We provide youth services to help fill the void in youth provision within LLR and help reduce ASB. Following the success of the two Cadet groups in the City we have opened a joint Emergency Services Cadets group in Market Harborough, and we are also delivering a targeted youth course in North West Leicestershire.
14. LFRS is keen to expand its Cadet programme across further areas of the County, as a public service we do not qualify for most external grants, so support and contributions from districts are always welcome.

Coming Year

15. Extension, expansion and mainstreaming of the Braunstone Blues approach if desired by the Strategic Partnership Board (SPB).
16. Road Safety – an aspiration would be to extend the prevention through education element of this work, supportive of the physical measures such as safety cameras and hard road safety features. Expand Biker Down and work more closely with national partners to lead on, develop and share truly innovative education products that embrace developing virtual reality (VR) technology.
17. Work to improve data sharing arrangements across all partners to ensure every contact with a resident of LLR matters, with particular focus on those that are considered vulnerable, by any partner.

Key issues for partnership working or affecting partners

18. The Braunstone Blues work closely within communities with high demand service users. Expansion of the project should reduce demand across all partners and improve the lives of the residents in those communities. Areas the team aim to improve are; fire safety in the home, security of the home and vehicles, doorstep fraud, ASB, social isolation, food poverty, health and wellbeing, slips, trips and falls and appropriate use of public services.

It is hoped partners will support an expansion of the project across other areas of LLR.

19. Our road safety team are at the forefront of delivering an innovative approach to road safety education. LFRS is a leader in the country in the use of virtual reality to deliver the safety messages to young drivers.

In the coming year LFRS would like to be an active member of the Road Safety Partnership, able to influence the physical makeup of the counties' roads.

20. Data sharing is key to ensure all agencies are aware of the specific needs and vulnerabilities of those members of the communities any agency has contact with. LFRS has seconded a member of staff into the Integrated Vulnerability Management Initiative (IVMI) within Leicestershire Police to help access and share data more effectively.

Recommendations for the Board

21. The Board note the content of the report.

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