

18th June 2013

Agenda Item: 11

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

JOINT AGENCY VULNERABLE PERSONS IDENTIFICATION PROJECT – (NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Members of a potentially important multi-agency partnership approach to reduce the vulnerability of individuals in their local communities and to provide the background for a short presentation from an officer from Fire and Rescue Service.

Information and Advice

2. Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) have changed the way that they deliver their Fire Prevention activity over the last 3 years and now focus their activity on those that they consider most at risk from fire.
3. Through extensive data sharing with other organisations they have been able to build a picture of the demographic groups that are most at risk in certain situations and prioritise these groups.
4. Those over 65 and living alone were found to be particularly at risk of fire with the risk increasing as people get older.
5. In order to engage with these people NFRS have been working closely with the County Council to access the Framework database that contains the details of those receiving Social Care.
6. A small multi agency working group has been looking at how the two organisations can work together to develop a service to protect the vulnerable. In December of last year, an agreement was reached between the County Council and NFRS that the Framework system could be accessed to locate those that may be at risk and a programme be put in place to contact those identified.
7. In order to identify a suitable cohort to run a pilot it was decided to isolate those over 85 living alone in the Ashfield District, this gave a workable number of around 500 people.

8. The County Customer Service Centre (CSC) was commissioned to call and send out letters to those on the database asking whether or not they required a Home Fire Safety Check from the Fire Service. This also ensured that there was no physical data exchange between parties and Data Protection was not compromised.
9. Over a 2 month period those residents who expressed an interest were referred to NFRS to book an appointment for a free Home Fire Safety Check.
10. In all, some 525 people were called resulting in NFRS carrying out 60 Home Fire Safety Checks on vulnerable individuals in the Ashfield area, only 4% declined this service whilst the CSC were unable to contact a further 14% (71 people).
11. This pilot will now be evaluated to look at how it can be improved before it is rolled out across the County, district by district. This is a major step forward for Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service and enables them to quickly and efficiently identify and assist people that are considered most at risk of fire.

Other Options Considered

12. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. A full evaluation is to be carried out, which should influence any decision on whether the initiative should subsequently be rolled out across the county on a district basis. Any proposed developments will be subject of a future report to Committee.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

15. There are no financial implications identified at this stage, although this would change if countywide rollout was agreed.

Equalities Implications

16. The initiative is focused on older members of society, who are more at risk from domestic fires, a risk which increases with age.

Crime and Disorder Implications

17. There are no crime and disorder implications linked to this initiative.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the Community Safety Committee:

- 1) Notes the contents of this report.
- 2) Receives a further report once the evaluation has been completed.

PAUL MCKAY

Service Director for Promoting Independence and Public Protection

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Constitutional Comments

18. As this report is for noting only no constitutional comments are required.

Financial Comments

19. There are no financial implications contained in this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All