



Summary of the Joint Summit to discuss the role of Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service in improving health & Wellbeing 27th April 2016

Background

A joint summit was hosted by the Nottingham City & the Nottinghamshire County Health & Wellbeing Boards to discuss the ways in which the Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service (NFRS) could help improve health & wellbeing. The workshop was designed to give participants an understanding of the changes within the Fire & Rescue Service, an understanding of current initiatives in Nottinghamshire & an overview view of progress in other areas of the country as well as allowing an opportunity to discuss local opportunities.

The objectives of the session were:

- To understand the changing role of the fire & rescue service locally & nationally through a focus on prevention
- To identify opportunities where NFRS can support the delivery of the health & wellbeing strategies for Nottinghamshire & Nottingham City
- To identify capacity within NFRS to support health & wellbeing
- To identify next steps in developing a plan on behalf of the City & County Health & wellbeing Boards

The table discussions for the workshop were structured around 5 themes based on case studies:

- Mental health (hoarding)
- Holistic workers/older people (reducing falls & Manchester Crisis Intervention Teams)
- Children and young people (childhood obesity)
- Prevention and early intervention (health champions)
- Older people and assistive technology (Gedling handipersons scheme)

Each table had a lead or 'expert' who acted as facilitator for the discussions.

Evaluation of the session

The event was attended by over 40 participants and feedback from the session was very positive. Twenty seven (65%) evaluation forms were returned. All agreed or strongly agreed that the event met their expectations. All agreed or strongly agreed that they could participate in the event & that they found the event useful.

The evaluation asked 2 additional questions:

- What have you learnt from the event?
- What will you do differently as a result of what you've learnt?

A range of comments were received; the following selection illustrates the main points from the feedback:

Voluntary sector – *'I have learnt more about the role of the fire & rescue service'*

Health provider – *'Would like the opportunity to work on 'falls' intervention & fire service areas for the fire service. Would be happy to contribute to training – basic intervention/assessment tool – contingency planning.'*

Anon – *'Momentum important'*

Nottingham City HWB – *'More can & needs to be done.'*

Provider – *'Fire Service has a lot to offer us in terms of skills, building assets & service user accessibility.'*

Nottingham City – *'Lots of ideas to work collaboratively. Needs strategic coordination.'*

CCG – *'The fire service are open to be approached & support our services to our population.'*

Provider – *'The service have invaluable resources that can be utilised in a variety /diverse way.'*

Health – *'The collective enthusiasm to move ideas forward.'*

Summary of Discussions

Mental health (hoarding)

The Hoarding Framework for Nottingham & Nottinghamshire has been well received & has been in place for some time. It was suggested that NFRS could be appointed as lead agency for hoarding across Nottingham & Nottinghamshire with a remit to lead & join up services for people affected by hoarding to include referral pathways, establishing & coordinating support for groups & individuals.

Holistic workers/older people (reducing falls & Manchester Crisis Intervention Teams)

One of the issues highlighted during this discussion was a lack of awareness about how to refer people into the support currently offered by the Service. Improved interface with health providers was highlighted, in particular prior to discharge from hospital where adaptations might be required in order to ensure that individuals remain safe & well at home. *There is work being undertaken nationally with the Chief Fire Officers around this theme.*

Children and young people (childhood obesity)

The Service is universally respected & firefighters have a unique position within local communities to act as role models for children & young people and members of the wider community. The discussions acknowledged the work that the service has already done in areas of the City & County which could be extended.

The Service profile could also be utilised to undertake online - safety & safeguarding training utilising NFRS resources – premises & IT equipment.

Consistency was regarded as key. While the Service were visiting individuals in their homes staff needed to be fully trained & up to date on wider initiatives and services to ensure that advice they are giving is consistent with colleagues in other health & care organisations.

The Making Every Contact Count initiative was raised. This has been in place in health for some time & it was suggested that it could be extended to include NFRS to make sure that public services advice is joined up & consistent.

Prevention and early intervention (health champions)

The availability & utilisation of Service resources was discussed by a number of tables. The Service has stations across the County & each has meeting rooms & spaces which could be used as community information hubs. These hubs could be a one stop shop for advice & signposting to other services. Meeting rooms could also be utilised for community based activities which might be particularly relevant in rural areas. Community engagement was highlighted as a particular area of expertise for the Service.

Stations also have a fully equipped gym which is used by crews for physical training daily. These facilities could be opened to individuals within the community. This could be extended to include fitness lead activity through the local fire crews 'Fit as a firefighter or FireFit' sessions targeting particular groups within local communities.

Activities could also be extended to community based cooking & nutrition courses.

Older people and assistive technology (Gedling handipersons scheme)

The potential to extend the Safe & Well checks currently undertaken by the Service was raised during a number of the table discussions. These visits were recognised as invaluable with the potential to expand the remit to include other aspects of health & wellbeing. It was suggested that collaboration with health & social care could inform how these visits could be expanded with a primary focus on prevention. Falls prevention was a focus for the suggestions including assessing support requirements for individuals.

Suggestions were also made to develop better links with housing colleagues & particular reference was made to provision of mobile phones in households with no land line.

General issues

There were a number of themes which were common to several of the tables in particular the need to ensure a systematic approach based on evidence of need from the JSNAs with clear outcomes & evaluation processes in order to embed initiatives within communities & ensure that they are sustainable.

Data sharing was another common theme during the discussions, including specific coordination regarding hard to reach groups such as the homeless, people affected by drugs & alcohol & carers champions. It was also suggested that communications with local MDTs, GPs & integrated care teams could be improved, particularly for referral into the Service for adaptation & assistance following discharge from hospital. In some areas there are meetings to review the patients within GP practices who are most at risk of being admitted to hospital. These discussions could be extended to include NFRS & their role in keeping individuals safe and well.

There was a general theme of better integrating the Service into local health & care systems and sharing information about the most vulnerable members of local communities to enable the Service to offer adaptations & assessment.

Next Steps

More detailed feedback from the event will be collated to inform future work.

That a paper be prepared for presentation to the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Boards recommending that a project group be established to prepare an action plan with clear objectives and timescales for delivery.

Nicola Lane, Public Health Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council

Email: nicola.lane@nottscc.gov.uk Tel: 0115 977 2130

Alison Challenger, Interim Director of Public Health, Nottingham City Council

Email: alison.challenger@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Tel: 0115 8765105