

Equality and Diversity Work at Fire Stations

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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1 Purpose of Report

This report provides elected Members' with an overview of the Equality and Diversity work that is being undertaken at Fire Stations.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

3 Background

The Equality and Diversity Steering Group requested that a number of stations provide the Group with a presentation on the Equality and Diversity work that they were undertaking in their respective areas.

To date the Steering Group have received presentations from:

- Shrewsbury Station
- Telford Station
- Wellington Station

4 Overview of Equality and Diversity work undertaken by the Stations

Each of the Stations provided the Steering Group with a breakdown of the demographic profile of their areas to give an understanding of the communities living there. This then resulted in different types of activity for each area depending on local requirements.

Shrewsbury Station

Some of the activities the station has been involved in are:

- Red Watch – Excluded youth initiative in 2 schools in Sundorne, ARK liaison, Moston Road Sheltered accommodation presentation to residents, New Park Road Castlefields drop in centre, the watch have been attending to give advice.
- Green Watch – A variety of different ages have been targeted, the elderly, young mothers, single parents, multi-agency clean sweep, youth group activities, young farmer group visits, youth working – the watch are attempting to reach problematic groups, currently not engaged, in the future.
- White Watch – attendance at the ASDA/Police unit, regular contact with housing scheme managers giving access to the elderly sheltered community. This group is identified as being at risk of distraction based kitchen/cooking fires - Forrest Way and 5 other centres have been visited. Currently making appointments to visit a hard of hearing group and a partially sighted group.
- Blue Watch – engaging with youth groups in the North of Shrewsbury. The watch will link up with the police and Severnside Housing to target vulnerability in the ward.

The future:

- Have suggested redeploying the Watches more effectively in order to better accommodate the more high risk areas of Shrewsbury
- Looked at various different ways of becoming more involved with the community; climbing wall, football match and kick boxing sessions, such as taking a football to an area known to be high risk would encourage the younger generation to approach the Fire Service themselves

Telford Station

Some of the activities the station has been involved in are:

- Mischief fortnight - A two week period which encompasses both Halloween and Bonfire Night. Traditionally this period, with its darker evenings, sees a rise in calls to illegal use of fireworks and bonfires. They worked with the police to survey the area for this activity by speaking to the local community.
- Red Watch - started school visits, targeting garden centres and supermarkets, to members of staff on the Springboard programme, targeting residential care homes
- White Watch – dealt with an attack on firefighters. They were also involved in the clean sweep project which was litter picking around Ketley bank, working with local communities to reduce anti-social behaviour.
- Blue Watch – involved in discussions with the Southwater development programme, which is the Telford Town Centre development, and how accessing will work. Also they are targeting charity shops and doctors surgeries to focus on high risk individuals.

- Green Watch – are targeting schools, Brownies, Beavers and holiday clubs.

Wellington Station

Some of the activities the station has been involved in are:

- Identifying vulnerable people to target; i.e. elderly and isolated
- Identified community forums to take part in:
 - Wellington Neighbourhood Delivery Group
 - Donnington Partnership
 - Connecting Communities Group
 - North & Newport NDG
 - Ringmaster
- Identified other areas to target
 - Youth Parliament and Speak Out Group
 - Women’s EID Mela
 - Regent Street Community Centre
 - Wrekin Housing Trust
 - Mosques and Temples
 - Telford College of Arts & Technology (TCAT)
 - Age UK
 - Polish Community
 - Local Schools
 - Station Management Meetings
- Watch are interested in getting involved with the Polish Community to help with any language barriers that may occur
- Watch feel very positive about the work that they are doing with all members of the community and would like to do more

5 Financial Implications

All work undertaken is part of the Stations day to day activities.

6 Legal Comment

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

7 Equality Impact Assessment

This is a historical report and as such does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

8 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

9 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.