

Partnership Working

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact Paul Raymond, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260205 or John Redmond, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260278.

1 Purpose of Report

This report provides Members with an overview of the partnership working being undertaken by the Fire Authority and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service (the Service).

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to note the contents of the report.

3 Background

Partnership working is a key element in the Service strategy to meet its vision of "Putting Shropshire's Safety First". It is also a key theme of the new (draft) Fire Service National Framework. The Fire Authority and the Service are actively involved in over 37 partnerships (see appendix A), which are assessed and scrutinised by the Service's Partnership Scrutiny Group (PSG). The Service maintains a partnership register and monitors the outcome and productivity of each of the partnerships.

4 New Partnerships

In 2011/12 the Service formed a number of new partnerships including; Shropshire Council Landlord Services, the Harlescott Place Based Intervention Group, and Telford and Wrekin Primary Care Trust. All of the partnerships have been reviewed and, where necessary, refreshed. A refresh of our involvement with partners in the Brookside Improvement Group has had a dramatic impact on reducing fire and anti-social behaviour in the Brookside area.

5 Partnerships in Development

In addition to existing links a number of partnerships are in development, such as a data sharing partnership with Shropshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and work with the Troubled Families Group (now called Supporting Families Group). We are also working with the Frail and Complex group within Shropshire PCT.

The majority of these partnerships are prevention related and are aimed at supporting our focus on "Precision Prevention". The intention is to make the best use of our resources to target those most vulnerable in the community and reduce the number of emergency incidents and, therefore, the demand upon the Service.

Other partnerships have different aims and objectives, such as the Mihai Eminescu Trust. At the invitation of Shropshire Council, the Service has entered into a 'task and finish' fixed-term partnership with the Mihai Eminescu Trust. The Trust operates in the Transylvania region of Romania and is tasked with undertaking charitable conservation work to preserve the heritage and culture of the region's Saxon communities. The aim of the partnership is to provide end-of-life fire appliances, equipment, uniform and training to firefighters based in the Mures County of Romania, with the objective of providing improved protection, prevention and response arrangements to the communities, in which the Trust operates. The partnership will offer personal development opportunities to volunteers participating from the Service. The partnership should conclude at the end of 2012.

6 Local Strategic Partnerships and Local Joint Committees

The Service maintains its strong links with the statutory partnerships, such as the Safer and Stronger Communities Board (Shropshire) and the Safer Cohesive Communities Partnership (Telford & Wrekin) and a number of sub-groups focussing on specific areas.

The Service also attends the Local Joint Committees, mainly on request or to provide information to the local population on matters of interest from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, such as policy consultation.

Operating Methods

The Service provides support to these partnerships via direct assistance or by working with them to cascade the safety messages via their own trained staff.

7 Equality and Diversity

The Service's Equality and Diversity section deals with a number of partnerships, including the Shropshire Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) Group and the Shropshire Equalities Forum. These groups also provide small amounts of funding to a diverse range of groups that set up projects to support specific equality and diversity criteria, including Hate Crime Shropshire (which is attended by our Fire Crime Officer) and Rights and Fairness Telford (formerly the Telford Race Equality and Partnership).

8 Conclusion

The Service continues to invest in supporting international, national, regional and moreover local community initiatives, where tangible benefits can be demonstrated.

All partnerships are required to have protocols and an agreement in place and are risk assessed for liability and reputation. The Partnership Scrutiny Group is in the process of reviewing all the partnership agreements in 2012 and will make recommendations, where required.

9 Financial Implications

Information on income and expenditure within partnerships is collected and updated in line with the frequency of monitoring that takes place on each partnership and is recorded on the partnership register.

Any changes to income and expenditure are logged and discussed in the Service's Partnership Scrutiny Group and a report is taken to the Senior Management Team annually. Income and expenditure also form part of the risk assessment of the partnerships.

10 Legal Comment

The functions exercised within the partnership working arrangements fall within the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the aims and objectives of the Fire Authority.

11 Equality Impact Assessment

Officers have considered the Service's Brigade Order on Equality Impact Assessments (Human Resources 5 Part 2) and have determined that there are no discriminatory practices or differential impacts upon specific groups arising from this report. An Initial Equality Impact Assessment has not, therefore, been completed.

12 Appendix

Current Partnerships list

13 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.

Current Partnership List

Partnership	Aims and Objectives of group	Link to SFRS Objectives
Ennstone Products (F P McCann)	To provide a low cost training facility for our specialist emergency response crews. The advantage to the concrete company is that they do not have to break up the concrete blocks at their own cost as this is done by the Fire Crews during the training.	To be there when you need us with a professional and well equipped team
Environment Agency	The partnership aims to protect and enhance the environmental conditions for the communities/stakeholders of Shropshire. It enables an immediate response to environmental issues with little or no cost to the Fire and Rescue Service by way of providing equipment required to deal with environmental issues	To be there when you need us with a professional and well equipped team To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
Institute of Advanced Motoring	This initiative is aimed at improving the driving skill levels of young drivers via their involvement with the institute of Advance Motorists.	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
Local Resilience Forum (LRF)	The purpose of our membership of the LRF is to ensure effective delivery of our statutory duties under the requisite Acts.	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
Market Drayton Home Care Services	To increase smoke alarm ownership and increase fire safety awareness among vulnerable groups by training Drayton Home Care Services Staff to identify fire risks.	To reduce the number of deaths and fire related serious injuries
Supreme Homecare	To increase smoke alarm ownership and increase fire safety awareness among vulnerable groups by training Supreme Homecare Staff to identify fire risks.	To reduce the number of deaths and fire related serious injuries
Mental Health Foundation Trust	To improve the flow of information between SFRS & Staffordshire South & Shropshire National Health Service Foundation Trust	To reduce the number of deaths and fire related serious injuries
Northern Shropshire Partnership	Each Area Partnership is a framework for agencies, sectors and partners to work collectively to promote economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area.	To reduce the number of deaths and fire related serious injuries
Oswestry Care	To increase smoke alarm ownership and improve fire safety awareness amongst the staff and service users who are generally elderly people.	To reduce the number of deaths and fire related serious injuries
Red Cross	To increase smoke alarm ownership and fire safety awareness within vulnerable groups and to train staff on identifying fire risks	To reduce the number of deaths and fire related serious injuries
Safer Road Partnership	Support casualty reduction. Support communities where speeding traffic is an issue.	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership (T+W)	To deliver a range of 'Safer Communities' objectives across the Borough, many in line with ours	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership (Shropshire)	To deliver a range of 'Safer Communities' objectives across the Borough, many in line with ours	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies

Shropshire Equalities Forum	To ensure equal opportunities in staff recruitment, development and training by ensuring all services are accessible to potential users regardless of the protected characteristics. To increase awareness of minority groups in the County. The group also has a small grants award system which enables small projects to be run in the County	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
START	To increase smoke alarm ownership and increase fire safety awareness among vulnerable groups	To reduce the number of deaths and fire related serious injuries
Switch On Shropshire	To increase access to broadband for rural Shropshire and improve communications for our communities.	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
TCAT	To promote greater understanding of the Fire Service and to help in training and development within SFRS.	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
T&W Housing (Safety in the home)	To create safer homes in Telford and Wrekin and reduce accidents and fires in the home and to increase smoke alarm awareness.	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
RAFT (Was TREDP)	Strategic aims and outcomes of the partnership are to develop advice and information, community development and engagement, public information and education policy development over a three	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
Youth Intervention Partnership with YOS	To reduce the number of people killed or injured on the roads. To reduce the number of arson incidents and reduce the re-offending rate by young people through education.	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
West Midlands Arson Task Force	Fire Crime reduction	To reduce the numbers of fires in the community
Multi Agency Public Protection Agreement (MAPPA)	To assess and Manage the risk posed by Sexual, violent and dangerous offenders (which is often linked to fire Crime)	To reduce the numbers of fires in the community
Hate Crime Shropshire	To address hate crime through partnership working	To reduce the numbers of fires in the community
Shropshire Sanctuary Scheme (Domestic Violence)	To develop and improve services for Domestic Abuse	To reduce the numbers of fires in the community
Shropshire Council (BLT) Bronze Level Tasking North/Central/South	Part of the Crime and Disorder Reduction partnership	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
T&W Council (NDG) Neighbourhood Delivery Groups Central East/Wellington/Central West/South/North and Newport	Part of the Crime and Disorder Reduction partnership	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
One Telford Safer Stronger Business Partnership	Part of the Crime and Disorder Reduction partnership but a sub group of representatives from the business community	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
Youth Offenders Service YOS Project	Aimed at young people and focusing on reducing arson incidents and RTCs through education	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
Shropshire Chamber of Commerce	Championing the cause of local businesses at regional and national levels	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
IFIG - Insurance Fraud Investigators Group	Raising the profile of insurance fraud as a crime and a forum to share intelligence on insurance crime	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
Community Support Officers	Working with CSOS to reduce Crime in the community	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies

Harlescott Place based Intervention	To build trust between the organisations involved in the delivery of services	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
Manor Place Community group	To work with the community in the Manor place area of Prees	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Telford	Educate young people in Science in particular Chemicals and Fire	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
Telford and Wrekin PCT	Unintended injuries group (young people)	To Save and protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies
Shropshire PCT	Data Sharing initiative.	To reduce the number of deaths and fire related serious injuries
Shropshire Council Landlord Services	Housing association. Identifies vulnerable groups for HFSV advice	To reduce the number of deaths and fire related serious injuries