

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

WORKING PARTNERSHIP WITH TELFORD & WREKIN SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

1 Purpose of Report

To update Members on the community safety work being carried out with Borough of Telford & Wrekin.

2 Recommendations

Members are asked to agree the contents of the 'Service Level Agreement' attached as an appendix to this report.

3 Background

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service has been actively involved in community safety initiatives with Borough of Telford & Wrekin for many years. In partnership we have achieved a great deal in reducing loss and suffering throughout the community. With the new 'Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership', of which we are a member, the opportunity has been presented to create a formal service level agreement that sets out clearly what we will achieve over the next three years.

Our Safer Communities core strategy, which was agreed at the last Fire Authority meeting, sets out what we shall deliver throughout the County. The Borough of Telford & Wrekin document extracts the actions from this strategy that are relevant to the local communities.

4 Legal Comment

All actions within the document can be linked to requirements of legislation or items discussed within the new Framework document.



5 Financial Implications

The funds available to pump prime the work of the thematic groups referred to in the Service Level Agreement are very limited (£300,000), so ultimately it will be up to the Fire and Rescue Service together with other partners to fund the projects detailed.

6 Equality and Diversity Implications

One section of the action plan directly targets improvements in Equality and Diversity.

7 Appendix

Supporting Telford & Wrekin Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership

8 Background Papers

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority
14 December 2005, Report 14 – Community Safety

For further information about this report please contact Alan Taylor, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260201 or Paul Raymond, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260205.



Appendix to report on
Working Partnerships with
Telford & Wrekin Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority
8 February 2006

SHROPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

SUPPORTING TELFORD & WREKIN SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP



INTRODUCTION

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service has worked successfully in partnership with Borough of Telford & Wrekin (BT&W) for many years. In that time we have together achieved a great deal in making the communities and individuals within the Borough safer. Through working on Local Public Service Agreements we have also become better at working in partnership and have learned how to get the most from our diverse organisations to deliver an improved service to all, and particularly the hard to reach.

Moving forward under the new Safer & Stronger Communities partnership we intend to be a hard working partner that is fully involved in delivering the vision of the Partnership which is of

“A community that feels safe and protected”

How the Fire and Rescue Service’s Aims Match the Vision

Our Purpose is to

Save life, protect property and the environment and reduce the risks from fire

or put more simply Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority is

Putting Shropshire’s Safety First

But what does that mean?

The Community Safety teams of Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service strive to deliver a number of key outcomes. Many of these are shared with other organisations that work with, and serve, the people of Borough of Telford & Wrekin. Indeed, we can only deliver our Purpose by collaborating with other public and private organisations and with the support of the people we serve.

We believe that the **key outcomes** of the work we do are:

A Safe Telford – where all residents and visitors to the Borough are safe from fire, fire related anti-social behaviours and other hazards, whilst at home, work, study, during leisure activities, travelling through our County or being cared for by others.

A Prosperous Telford – where all of our wealth creating organisations are safe from the dangers of fire and other emergencies and where the wealth creators of the future, our children, have an education uninterrupted by fires in schools and colleges.

An Attractive Telford – where the environment is sustainable, healthy, clean and attractive to both residents and visitors; and where the rich natural and built heritage within the County is protected from fire and other emergencies.



A Cohesive Telford – where all people work together at a neighbourhood or local level to improve and maintain a tolerant and diverse society, where we all respect the freedom of the individual and accept the responsibility of living in a free society. Where Social exclusion is reduced and the most vulnerable people are supported and protected.

To achieve these ambitions we have set ourselves a number of Corporate Strategic Aims. Of these, the ones relevant to our work within the Partnership are:

Number	Corporate Aim
1	Reduce the incidence of deaths and injuries in the community
2	Reduce the incidence of fires and false alarms
3	Ensure the effective enforcement of fire safety legislation
4	Ensure the provision of an appropriate risk based response to fires
5	Ensure the provision of an appropriate response to non-fire emergencies
6	Minimise the effect of our intervention actions on the environment
10	Promote a partnership approach in pursuance of continuous improvement, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness
11	Ensure the provision of a service that meets the needs of the community
14	Provide a fair and equitable service to the communities of Shropshire

SUPPORTING THE PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE

Following the merger of Wrekin Community Safety Partnership and the Drugs and Alcohol Team during 2004, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service took the opportunity to analyse the community safety structure within the service and to realign it to the direction of both the partnership and the delivery structure of Borough of Telford & Wrekin.

This new structure ensures that the correct level of support will be provided to each area of the partnership.

- The Director of Community Safety (Deputy Chief Fire Officer) will support the Local Strategic Partnership and will represent the Authority on the Safer & Stronger Communities Executive;
- Our Youth Officer will support the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership;
- Our Business Fire Safety and Crime Reduction Manager will support the Crime Reduction Task Group;



- Our Community Safety Manager will support the Substance Misuse Task Group; and
- Our Head of District Delivery for Telford will support the Anti-Social Behaviour / Locality Management Task Group and will provide resources to the neighbourhood Co-ordination and Safer Communities teams.

We will ensure that each of our delivery teams in the Borough have geographical safety responsibilities that match the boundaries of the Key Wards and maintain liaison with all partners within these areas.

SUPPORTING THE MAJOR THEMES

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service will support the partnership in all 5 major themes:

- Crime Reduction;
- Anti-Social Behaviour and Locality Management;
- Substance Misuse;
- Empowerment and Reassurance; and
- Children and Young People.

Each of these themes is briefly explored below. More detailed exploration, together with targets and objectives are set out in the next section.

CRIME REDUCTION

The areas where we will be particularly involved in reducing crime are Criminal Damage, Vehicle Crime, Domestic Violence and Hate Crime.

Many of these crimes are precursors to, or result in, fire-related incidents, so it is essential that we are involved. Additionally, as a local authority, we are morally obliged to eliminate hate crime and support those suffering from domestic violence.

Working with organisations in the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership, and particularly the Crime Reduction Task Groups, we will support the reduction of crime in Telford & Wrekin by 20% over the next 3 years by:

- Reducing the level of criminal damage by fire;
- Reducing vehicle crime;
- Reducing the number of domestic burglaries;
- Taking action with children and young people who are, or may become, young offenders;
- Building confidence in the reporting of hate crime and take action to prevent it;
- Reducing the incidence of business crime; reducing anti social behaviour; and
- Improving the management of the community.

Working with the Anti-Social Behaviour/Locality Management Group we will help reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour within the community, and perception of it, by:

- Reducing anti-social fire-related behaviour and improving management of the community through effective education and enforcement.



We will support the partnership in reducing the harm caused by substance misuse in our communities and the perceptions of drugs activities by:

- Helping prevent substance misuse amongst adults and young people;
- Promoting sensible drinking and reduce the harmful effects of alcohol abuse and;
- Reducing the impact of substance misuse by parents on children and young people.

We will reassure the community and build community involvement at a local level by:

- Delivering co-ordinated local action and planning to improve responses on the ground;
- Encouraging involvement and empowerment to build community involvement in decision making; and
- Improving 'liveability' by building confidence and reassurance amongst local communities through rapid response to local issues.

We will work to discourage children and young people from becoming involved in crime by:

- Promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle within schools;
- Encouraging involvement in personal and social development and recreation amongst young people;
- Promoting positive citizenship amongst children and young people; and
- Deterring anti-social and fire-setting behaviour.



Key Aim 1 – Crime Reduction

To reduce crime in Telford & Wrekin by 20% over the next 3 years

Objectives	Approach / Key Actions
<p>Criminal Damage – reduce the incidence of this through preventative approaches and through a focussed approach to hotspots</p>	<p>Reduce the level of deliberate primary fires in dwellings, commercial properties and vehicles</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educating young people in the dangers of fire • Providing information to residents • Supporting business crime initiatives and • Targeting religious groups <p>Targets:</p> <p>20% reduction in deliberate dwelling fires, commercial fires, farm fires and vehicle fires over the next three years</p>
<p>Vehicle crime – reduce this through public awareness and a targeted approach to hotspots</p>	<p>Reduce the level of criminal damage and deliberate primary vehicle fires occurring against vehicles</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting “car clear” initiatives • Offering car crime courses for offenders • Supporting vehicle crime initiatives and • Targeting hotspots with ‘Crime stoppers’ <p>Targets:</p> <p>Reduce vehicle arson by 20% over the next three years</p>
<p>Burglary – reduce the number of domestic burglaries</p>	<p>Promote schemes to make the elderly and vulnerable safe at home</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting home security initiatives <p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All local firefighters trained in basic security assessment by the end of 2006 • Domestic security included in Home Fire Risk Assessment surveys by the end of 2006 • Findings of assessments communicated to relevant groups



<p>Prolific and Priority Offenders – take action against a small group of individuals who cause a disproportionate amount of crime</p>	<p>Work with children and young people to prevent them slipping into anti-social or offending behaviour by identifying and targeting those most at risk of offending with appropriate intervention programmes</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with partners in hotspot areas • Increasing investigation profile where necessary • Placing nuisance fires within the Crucial Crew arena • Juvenile intervention scheme and • Juvenile vehicle crime course <p>Target: 20% reduction in deliberate nuisance (secondary) fires.</p> <p>Prevent the most at risk young offenders from becoming the prolific offenders of the future through appropriately targeted interventions</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juvenile interventions scheme and • Juvenile vehicle crime course <p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidating existing referral arrangements • All referrals dealt with by trained staff
<p>Hate Crime – build confidence in the reporting of hate crime and take action against it</p>	<p>Continue to build community confidence in reporting hate crimes</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting crime and disorder partnership strategies and • Supporting neighbourhood action teams <p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closer liaison with neighbourhood action teams • All staff trained to react appropriately to community reports of hate crime • All teams have access to information on hate crime and are aware how to report suspected hate crimes involving fire <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully engaging with minority groups



	<p>Targets: Take up of community fire safety initiatives by minority ethnic communities increased over 3 year period</p>
<p>Business Crime – reduce the incidence of business crime</p>	<p>Reduce the level of deliberate commercial fires</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcing fire safety legislation and • Educating business owners in arson avoidance <p>Targets: 20% reduction in commercial fires over the next three years</p> <p>Support businesses to reduce the risk of accidental fire in commercial premises</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness • Enforcing fire safety legislation and • Providing information to business on new legislation <p>Targets: 20% reduction in commercial fires over the next three years</p>



Key Aim 2 – Anti-Social Behaviour and Locality Management

To reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour within the community and the perception of it

Objectives	Approach / Key Actions
<p>Reduce Anti Social-Behaviour – through multi agency approaches</p>	<p>Reduce the number of deliberate secondary fires (fires in bins, undergrowth etc.)</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising the profile of nuisance fires within the community • Educating young people through school visits and Crucial Crew and • Supporting hotspot initiatives <p>Target: 20% reduction in secondary fires</p>
<p>Improve Management of the Community – through effective education and enforcement</p>	<p>Support a planned programme of ‘clean ups’ in key locations</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving local teams in clean up days <p>Targets:</p> <p>Reduce the frequency of malicious false alarms to emergency services</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing a regional policy on false alarms and • Working with the Police to bring about prosecutions and publicising these <p>Target: 5% reduction in malicious calls year on year</p>



Key Aim 3 – Substance Misuse

To reduce the harm caused by substance misuse in our communities and perceptions of drugs activity

Objectives	Approach / Key Actions
<p>Prevention, education & awareness – help prevent substance misuse amongst adults and young people</p>	<p>Promote drug-free lifestyles within schools and the wider community and educate people about the dangers of drugs</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging full participation of year 7 pupils in the “Be Cool Be Safe” quiz • Engaging with drug action teams and • Sharing data with the Drugs and Alcohol Team and ensuring homes of known dependants are made safe from fire <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All secondary schools to take part in the quiz • All homes of known drug dependants provided with suitable fire protection
<p>Alcohol Abuse – promote sensible drinking and reduce the harmful effects of alcohol abuse</p>	<p>Deliver better education and communication to promote sensible drinking in the community</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging full participation of year 7 pupils in the “Be Cool Be Safe” quiz <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All secondary schools to take part in the quiz • Stronger links with local licensing activities developed to ensure that the prevention of alcohol related crime, disorder and public nuisance is highlighted <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with neighbourhood action teams and Community Support Officers



	<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Action Teams and Community Support Officers are aware of the increased risk of fire to people under the influence of alcohol <p>Forge closer links with Neighbourhood Action Teams and Community Support Officers via Crime and Disorder Partnerships</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with alcohol awareness safety groups and • Targeted Fire Safety Campaigns <p>Targets:</p> <p>Closer links developed with alcohol advisory groups and a targeted fire safety campaign is delivered All homes of those known to be dependant on alcohol have adequate fire safety provision</p>
<p>Hidden Harm – reduce the impact of substance misuse by parents, carers and older siblings on children and young people</p>	<p>Promote access to fire safety measures in drug and alcohol using homes</p> <p>By.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working closely with drugs and alcohol teams <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forge closer links with drugs and alcohol advisors via the Community Safety Partnership



Key Aim 4 – Empowerment and Reassurance

To reassure the community and build community involvement at the local level

Objectives	Approach / Key Actions
<p>Support Co-ordinated Local Action and Planning – improve responses on the ground</p>	<p>Develop locality structures by building on neighbourhood co-ordination and school and community cluster infrastructure</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilising local fire crews to work closely with Neighbourhood Action Teams and local schools within the cluster <p>Target: Integrate locality structures into station action plans Provide better local information to residents</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of fire crews at a local level and • Full involvement in local partnership activities <p>Support improved involvement of local councillors</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting ongoing links between local councillors and fire stations <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every team on each local fire station linked with their councillors
<p>Involvement and Empowerment – build community involvement in decision making.</p>	<p>Extend Neighbourhood Watch initiatives to other areas, e.g. fire safety</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing local “fire wardens” <p>Target: Liaise with local Neighbourhood Wardens and Community Support Officers to set up protocols and training</p> <p>Develop a co-ordinated approach to community consultation across agencies</p> <p>By: Supporting the setting up and training of local Wardens</p>



	<p>Target: Ensure community consultation is used effectively to inform the development of strategies and actions</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that strategic planning fully involves local people <p>Target: Integrated Risk Management Plan consultation carried out through local groups</p>
<p>Liveability – build confidence and reassurance amongst local communities through a rapid response to local issues</p>	<p>To build confidence and reassurance amongst local communities through a co-ordinated response to local problems</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to local needs through partnership with Safer & Stronger Communities task groups <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service fully supportive of Safer & Stronger Communities groups. <p>Reduce the visible scars to our communities and the local environment by minimising arson</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting “car clear” initiatives • Offering car crime courses for offenders • Supporting vehicle crime initiatives • Targeting hotspots with ‘Crime stoppers’ • Working with partners in hotspot areas • Increasing investigation profile where necessary • Placing nuisance fires within the Crucial Crew arena • Enforcing fire safety legislation and • Educating business owners in arson avoidance <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce vehicle arson by 20% over the next three years • 20% reduction in deliberate nuisance (secondary) fires • 20% reduction in commercial fires over the next three years



Key Aim 5 – Children & Young People

To discourage children and young people from becoming involved in crime

Objectives	Approach / Key Actions
<p>Being Healthy – choose not to take illegal drugs and lead healthy lifestyles</p>	<p>To promote drug-free lifestyles within schools and the wider community and educate people about the dangers of drugs</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full involvement at school year 7 in the “Be Cool Be Safe” quiz <p>Target:</p> <p>All eligible Telford & Wrekin schools participating in the ‘Be Cool Be Safe’ quiz</p>
<p>Enjoying and Achieving – encourage involvement in personal and social development and recreation</p>	<p>To engage with young people to deter anti-social and fire-setting behaviour.</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the Junior Fire Education Scheme • Continuing support for Crucial Crew and Safety Scene and • Promoting “Backfire” project <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increased take up of places on the Fire Education Scheme • At least one fire related scenario operated in the Crucial Crew event • Increased take up of places on Backfire programmes
<p>Making a contribution – promote positive citizenship amongst children and young people</p>	<p>Make children and young people feel valued as part of the community through consultation and involvement in decision making process</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Forums <p>Target:</p> <p>Prevent the most at risk young offenders from becoming the prolific offenders of the future through appropriate targeted interventions</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juvenile Intervention Scheme and • Juvenile Vehicle Crime Course



	<p>Target: Build and recognise positive images of children and young people in the local media Work to discourage hoax calls to the emergency services</p>
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RESOURCES

The funds available to pump prime the work of the thematic groups are very limited (£300,000), so ultimately it will be up to the Fire and Rescue Service together with other partners to fund the projects detailed above. Influenced by the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership we shall ensure that resources in Borough of Telford & Wrekin area are focussed on the achievement of these objectives. In addition we shall, wherever possible, create synergies in the work we do so that resources are shared across the partnership and we create ‘more bangs for the buck’!

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Each nominated Fire and Rescue Service representative on the Groups will be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of each action. They will report on a frequent basis to their groups and to the Deputy Chief Fire Officer on the targets set out above. The Service will report annually on the overall achievement of targets.

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service will also request outside evaluation from other partners, wherever partnership money is allocated to any project, so that the funding is seen to be used efficiently.

Consultation and Communication

The Fire and Rescue Service has limited consultative structures across the area and these are primarily designed to facilitate fire service specific actions. We would, therefore, welcome the opportunity to participate fully in the range of structures available to partners, including the Police Consultative Group; the Supporting People network; the Race Equality and Diversity Group; and the Children’s Fund to ensure consultation and feedback from communities and hard to reach groups.

This document sets out in clear terms what we wish to achieve over the next four years together with partners on the Telford & Wrekin Safer & Stronger Communities partnership. If you require further information, please write to:

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