

ESSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service



MEETING

AGENDA ITEM

**Audit, Governance & Review
Committee**

9

MEETING DATE

REPORT NUMBER

20 January 2016

EFA/016/16

Subject

Community Development & Safeguarding (Evaluation report 2013/14-2014/15)

REPORT BY

Assistant Chief Fire Officer for Safer & Resilient Communities, Paul Hill

PRESENTED BY

Assistant Chief Fire Officer for Safer & Resilient Communities, Paul Hill

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to assess the delivery and impact of the education and intervention schemes delivered by Essex County Fire & Rescue Service over the last two years. The report responds to questions regarding the effectiveness of prevention activity, and the appropriateness of the variety of needs met by some of these schemes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Essex Fire Authority are asked to:

1. Note the content of this report.
2. Continue to support the Education, FireBreak, Fire Cadets and Junior Fire Setter intervention schemes.

BACKGROUND

The work of the Safer and Resilient Communities Directorate is to prevent incidents that would attract an emergency response from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service; and to support a Community to become resilient to such events. There has been a recent challenge during our Integrated Risk Management Planning consultation that the work of the Service has had no impact on the number of house fires or on the reduction of incidents; and so the appropriateness of work delivered must be considered.

The reduction in operational demand for fire services, and developing collaboration between service providers has generated a number of conversations across the Country with Partners and Government Departments regarding fire services engaging in activity outside a simple fire prevention remit.

The evaluation of our Community Development and Safeguarding activity only includes the formal delivery of regularly delivered and repeated interventions and Courses. It does not include the delivery of prevention and protection activity in the following arenas:

- Road Traffic Collision (subject to its own type specific evaluation)
- Volunteers
- Fitting Of Smoke Alarms
- Water Suppression Systems (Sprinklers)
- Fire Safety in the Workplace, Crowded Places and for Leisure Activities
- Fire Safety Guidance, Advice and Enforcement
- Local Fire Safety and Safety support (incl. Delivering Differently in Neighbourhoods)
 - Community Builders and Liaison Officers
- Fire Station Personnel delivery to reduce local risk
- Volunteers (incl. Parish Safety)
- Fire Museum
- Flood Alleviation
- Fire Investigation and Arson Reduction
- After Incident Responses (incl. Comm. Safety Investigations)
- High Risk Groups and Activity, Seasonal and National Media Campaigns and Support
- Partner and Multi Agency Collaboration and Training (Home Safety, Hazard Spotting and Risk Analysis)

The report only includes information and outcomes from completed evaluations and it is noted that there has been a significant increase in the number of safeguarding referrals, with approximately 50 live cases currently.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The potential risk to reputation is managed through an evaluation of every course, and the update activity that checks the impact of the course on participants' months after the courses have ended. Schools are also asked for feedback on the delivery of classroom sessions and the outcomes of these are considered regularly.

There is also a risk that our courses and interventions have either no beneficial impact on the behaviour of its participants or worse, a detrimental effect. This is assessed by our staff and subsequently by partners after 3 and 6 months from the end of FireBreak courses.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985	
List of appendices attached to this paper:	
ECFRS Community Development & Safeguarding Evaluation 2013/14-2014/2015	
List of background documents (not attached):	
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