

Life saving partnership – Page three



New stations for Cheshire – Centre pages



Pledge from new Authority Chair – Page six



# annual report



2015-2016

CESHIRE WEST & CHESTER

## KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE AND WELL

The Service is launching Safe and Well Visits - an exciting new initiative to help improve the health of potentially vulnerable people.

Safe and Well Visits, build on the Service's successful Home Safety Assessment programme that has helped protect thousands of people throughout Cheshire from the risk of fire in their home.

Cllr Bob Rudd, Chair of Cheshire Fire Authority, said: *We have a proud tradition of delivering successful safety prevention programmes. Therefore, we are well placed to extend what we currently offer in order to support our health colleagues and promote further potentially life saving advice to the people we visit. It is often the case that those people who are most at risk from fire are at the same time vulnerable to certain health concerns. This is an extremely exciting programme that I am sure will bring huge benefits to the wellbeing of Cheshire residents.*

The visits will be offered to residents who are aged over 65 or who are referred to the Service by partner agencies. The visits will still incorporate the traditional fire safety information but will also offer additional advice on slips, trips and fall prevention; bowel cancer screening as well as offering additional support to those who wish to stop smoking, taking drugs or reduce their alcohol consumption.

It is expected that over the next year the visits will be extended further to provide extra help to people who have just been discharged from hospital after a fall and to address hypertension and blood pressure concerns.

Clare Duggan, Director of Commissioning Operations for NHS England, said: "We are delighted to be working with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service on the delivery of these Safe and Well Visits, which will be an invaluable way of supporting vulnerable people to look after themselves and stay safe and well in their homes. We are one of the very few areas in the country offering this service and are proud to be part of this new, innovative way of working. The Safe and Well Visits are a fantastic opportunity and a wonderful example of the great ways in which health and emergency services can work together to help improve the health and wellbeing of the populations we serve."

### Education, education, education



Over the past year we have engaged with thousands of people across Cheshire in a bid to keep people safe in their home and on the road. This engagement included school visits, community events and station open days.

### Stay safe with Risk Rater

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service has launched its first ever app, called Risk Rater, which allows residents to check how fire safe their homes are.

Colourful and easy to use, the app asks a series of short safety questions before delivering a full risk assessment straight to your email.

The app is free to download on Google Play and App Store and is specifically designed to risk assess domestic properties.

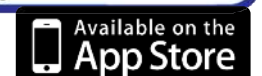
Head of Prevention Nick Evans said: "With our new app all residents can now assess their home for fire risk, digitally, free of charge. Users are simply asked to fill out a short questionnaire to assess fire safety in their home before being given their personalised fire safety plan which includes advice on how to prevent fires at home.

"The app is a quick and easy check that not only shows you how fire safe your home is now

but also gives you hints and tips on how to keep your home and loved ones even safer."

There are plans to further develop the new app to contain additional modules and safety assessments, with a view to eventually include a feature for business continuity risk assessment.

People can also complete an online Home Safety Check by visiting the Service's website. This produces a personal safety plan to help keep you and your family safe.



### Don't play at it - be it!

Tired of playing video games? Want to be part of the action rather than watching it? Then come and join the Cheshire Fire Cadets, an exciting group that offers more than most.

Try your hand at a range of sporting, adventure and exciting activities in a fun and friendly environment. Experience first hand what it takes to be a firefighter.

If you are aged between 13 and 17 and think that this sounds like your kind of thing then get in touch. We have units based on most of our fire stations so there should be one near you.

The Service is also looking for people aged 18 plus to become Adult Volunteers working with the Cadet Units. So if you have a few hours a week to spare and would like to get involved and make a difference to the lives of young people we would love to hear from you.

Call 01606 868700 or email [feedback@cheshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:feedback@cheshirefire.gov.uk) today for more information.



For the latest news visit: [www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk)













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# Safety talk in Chester

**C**hester firefighters visited Upton Heath Primary School and gave a fire safety talk to 60 children as part of Child Safety Week.

The importance of safety in the home and how the children can help by making their family and friends aware was the aim of the class.

The youngsters went into the smoke tent where they were taught what they should do if they were ever in a fire, before being given a tour of the fire engine. Their teachers then joined in the fun by dressing up as firefighters.



# Training with the 'View'

The Mersey View Nightclub became the venue for a firefighter training exercise attended by Frodsham crews.

The scenario that faced the firefighters was that a fire had broken out in the basement of the club and two people were missing. Two teams wearing breathing apparatus entered the building and set about locating the casualties.

Exercises such as this form part of the Service's comprehensive training plan that ensures that its firefighters are ready to respond to all types of incidents.

# Allotment for the community

St Chad's Church of England Primary School has benefited from a new allotment thanks to a Winsford Prince's Trust Team who took on the task of renovating an unused play park.

A campaign to upcycle, recycle and borrow was taken on by the school who then invited the Team to take on the project. Local companies donated tools and timber for allotment beds and decking. The result is a wonderful outdoor learning space for all children who go to the school to take ownership of and enjoy.



Headteacher, Mrs Natalie Tomlinson, said: "We were very grateful to the Prince's Trust Team for the work completed here to create an allotment space that will be multi-purpose in all it has to offer our school and the community it serves."

The Prince's Trust Team programme is a 12-week scheme that aims to give people between the ages of 16 and 25 the opportunity to learn new skills, complete qualifications and gain greater self-confidence. The Community Project is one element of the course that encourages the Team to work together to fundraise and implement something that will bring benefit to others.

More information about the Prince's Trust Team programme can be found on the Service's website.



## Cheshire West & Chester Unitary performance area profile



In the last three years, primary fires in Cheshire West and Chester have reduced by 7%. These are fires that involve property such as buildings and vehicles and include both accidental and deliberate incidents. The numbers of fire related fatalities and injuries remain positively low.

Also included in the primary fires category are accidental dwelling fires, which continue to decrease. Delivery of Home Safety Assessments continues to be focused on those households most at risk and this is backed up with publicity campaigns highlighting key safety messages, particularly around safety in the kitchen where around 60% of house fires start.

A 17% reduction in deliberate fire activity has been recorded over the past three years in Cheshire West and Chester. The most significant decrease has been in the number of small (secondary) deliberate fires which are often associated with anti-social behaviour. Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's intelligence-led approach to identifying 'hotspot' areas has become more sophisticated and these problem areas are tackled with a range of arson and youth engagement initiatives.

### Fire Authority Members



Pam Booher Hugo Deynem Eleanor Johnson



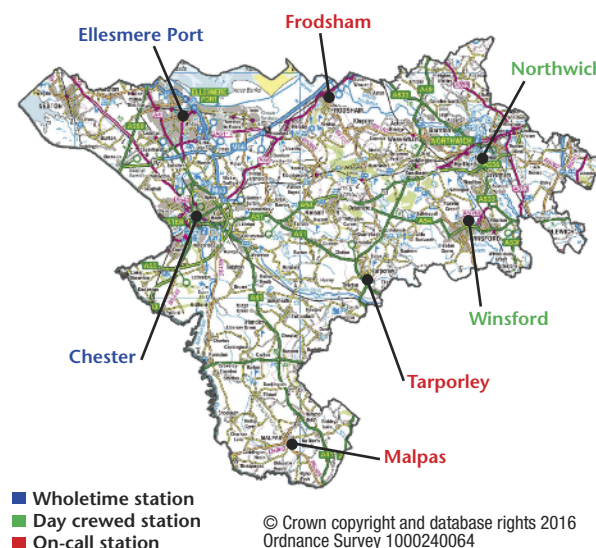
Jane Mercer Stuart Parker Bob Rudd Tony Sherlock

Key statistics	2013-14	14-15	15-16
Primary fires per 100,000 population	103.8	101.6	96.5
Fatalities from primary fires per 100,000 population	0.0	0.0	1.0
Injuries from primary fires per 100,000 population	2.4	3.9	2.4
Deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population	2.2	2.3	2.5
Deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population	12.7	9.9	9.8

### Key contacts



Steve Barnes Service Delivery Manager  
Emma Coxon Locality Safety Manager  
Emma Mason Hub Administration Manager  
Ian Kay Station Manager - Protection



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