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New stations for Cheshire – Centre pages



Pledge from new Authority Chair – Page six



annual report



2015-2016

HALTON

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 today for more information.



For the latest news visit: www.cheshirefire.gov.uk



Focus on Performance 2015-16

The Service continues to focus on fire prevention activity on those who are most vulnerable. Over the past three years fire crews and safety advocates have visited and carried out Home Safety Assessment in almost 84,000 homes.

The Service's prevention agenda continues to have a positive impact on the numbers killed and injured. Over the past decade house fires have almost halved, fire related injuries have reduced by more than 60% and smoke alarm ownership is now at record high levels.

In addition, deliberate fires, which often occur outdoors, have also reduced by almost 80% since 2006 with conviction rates also being higher than average.

The Service has also helped to change the lives of thousands of young and often disadvantaged young people through its Prince's Trust and RESPECT courses.

The following infographic highlights some of the key trends on different aspects of the organisation's performance over recent years.

Key Service Trends

Community Outcomes

There have been 43% fewer accidental fires in the home over the last decade...



... although 60% of these still start in the kitchen

Injuries caused by fires in the home are down 63% compared to 10 years ago



Smoke alarm ownership is at an all time high - 93% according to the English Housing Survey

76% fewer deliberately ignited fires than 10 years ago



Over 5,200 fewer fires were attended last year compared to 10 years ago

Prevention and Protection

In the past 3 years, over 83,900 Home Safety Assessments have been completed



The Service continues to work with partners to share data and identify those who are most at risk.

Nearly 5,000 young people have completed Prince's Trust and RESPECT courses since they began



False alarms caused by automatic systems in businesses and commercial premises reduced by 46% over 5 years



Over 4,100 business inspections and audits were completed last year



Conviction rates for deliberate fire activity still exceed the national average



Staff and Services



Sickness is at the lowest level ever recorded with an average of 3.5 days per person

All essential firefighting training has been completed



Value for money reviews continue to generate savings

A novel approach

Cheshire is one of three fire and rescue services to have received an award in recognition of their partnership work to reduce health inequalities.

Cheshire, Merseyside and West Midlands Fire and Rescue Services were all awarded Marmot Partnership Status following their efforts to improve the social circumstances and health of individuals living in their communities.

Simon Gibbins, Head of Protection for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "We are delighted that our hard work with health and social care organisations has been recognised. We are very proud of these partnerships, which are not only making people safer in their own homes but also improving the health and wellbeing of many vulnerable people."

The award was by Sir Michael Marmot author of 'The Health Gap and the Challenge of an Unequal World'.

For some time, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service has worked with partners across the health and social care sector to target vulnerable people and help to prevent fires in their home.



Green Values

Fully committed to reducing its carbon footprint, this year saw the Service take delivery of twelve new electric vehicles.

The all-electric Nissan LEAF cars, distinctly liveried with the message 'Red Fire Engines, Green Values', replace some of the existing fleet of petrol cars used mainly by support staff as they go from station to station or carry out home visits.

75% of the total value of the vehicles is being grant funded by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service the remaining amount over a two year period. Multi-charge posts have been installed at nine fire stations across Cheshire, ensuring a network of fleet charging points.

The LEAFs are based at Warrington, Chester and Crewe Fire Stations, as well as at the Service's Winsford Headquarters.

Cllr Tony Sherlock, Cheshire Fire Authority Environmental Champion, said: "We launched our Environment and Sustainability Strategy in 2014 to ensure we achieve 40% carbon reduction by 2020 and have been very fortunate to be included on the OLEV readiness project for the procurement of electric vehicles reducing our carbon footprint and the implementation of a charging infrastructure, working towards being an increasingly environmentally friendly Authority."



Action packed visit

Widnes firefighters welcomed the entire Year Six from Farnworth Primary School to the Lacey Street station as part of the Phoenix Project.

The whole school group, 60 pupils and accompanying teachers, enjoyed an action packed day of activities. These included being shown all the equipment on a fire engine, trying on full fire kit and the favourite part of any visit to a fire station, the chance to spray water from a hose reel jet.

Watch Manager Jason Fletcher, said: "This visit was the perfect way for Red Watch to say goodbye to the Year 6 children who will be moving up to high school. There were vital lessons learnt in a fun and interactive way."

The Phoenix Project began in 2005, all Runcorn and Widnes Fire Station Watches have since adopted a school to mentor the pupils. This approach has led to a significant reduction in the number of fire-related calls in the area.



Boats and hoses

Firefighters took to the open water along with nine Halton residents for their second annual Boats and Hoses event.

In conjunction with the Canal Boat Project, firefighters hosted nine older people from Widnes and Runcorn on two boats, Ada and Friendship, for a day out on the canal.

Deputy Chair of Cheshire Fire Authority, Cllr Stef Nelson, was at the marina to wave the group off. He said: "Boats and Hoses is a fantastic project created by Runcorn firefighters. They arrange the whole day from ensuring everyone is picked up, taking them on a leisurely cruise, feeding them a hearty lunch before sailing them back to the marina and driven back to their homes. It is a unique way of showing our more vulnerable residents that they are cared for and that people are prepared to take them out and spend time with them, in addition to obviously getting across some vital fire safety messages."

Those aboard, who don't normally get the opportunity to get out and about, were given fire safety talks and the chance to meet new people.

A lasting legacy

A team of young people on The Prince's Trust Team programme unveiled a community project in Runcorn for the benefit of stroke sufferers.

As part of the 12-week programme the Team had to complete a community project and chose Halton Hospital Support Service, Haddock Wood Allotments to work on.

The young people got stuck in to painting fences and flagging footpaths making the allotments easier to access. They then built a shed as part of the project. To raise money for the project the Team bag packed in a local supermarket. They were supported by Barclays Bank and Halton Borough Council who also helped with funding the allotment that will be used by those recovering from a stroke.

The work was unveiled in front of the town's Mayor and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service staff.

The Prince's Trust Team programme is a 12-week programme 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.



Halton Unitary performance area profile



In the last three years, primary fires in Halton have reduced by 14%. 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 low, with the majority of hospital admissions as a result of slight injuries.

Also included in the primary fires category are accidental dwelling fires, which have reduced by 6% in the last three years. 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.

Deliberate fires are more of an issue in Halton than in the other areas covered by the Cheshire Fire Authority, however a 34% reduction has been recorded over the past three years. Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's intelligence-led approach to identifying 'hotspot' areas of high activity has become more sophisticated and these problem areas are tackled with a range of arson and youth engagement initiatives.

Fire Authority Members



Phil Harris



Stef Nelson



Rob Polhill

Key statistics	2013-14	14-15	15-16
Primary fires per 100,000 population	118.5	100.2	101.8
Fatalities from primary fires per 100,000 population	0.0	0.0	0.5
Injuries from primary fires per 100,000 population	1.6	3.2	4.8
Deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population	4.4	3.3	3.2
Deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population	32.1	17.1	20.8

Key contacts



Lynsey McVay
Service Delivery Manager



Emma Coxon
Locality Safety Manager



Liz Thompson
Hub Administration Manager



Ian Kay
Station Manager - Protection



■ Wholtime station
(Runcorn also has an on-call watch)

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