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**To:** Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) – 18 July 2018

**Classification:** For Information

**Subject:** Kent Fire & Rescue Service (KFRS) Update on Community Safety

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**Summary** This report provides an update on the key services provided by KFRS Community Safety teams.

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 KFRS is committed to working in partnership in order to save lives and reduce harm. The Authority's vision is helping everyone to be safer by working towards a future where no one is killed or seriously injured by a fire or other emergency. The Service has recently published a new Customer and Corporate plan, which focusses on five customer focussed objectives:



- 1.2 KFRS deliver a variety of community safety engagement activities, these include Safe and Well visits, Firesetter scheme, youth engagement, schools education, Road and Water Safety as well as advice and regulation in relation to business safety.

## 2.0 Safe and Well

- 2.1 The main preventative service is delivering advice and home visits to help people to live [safe and well](#)<sup>1</sup>. These free visits are targeted at those most at risk of being injured in a fire including homes where people are aged over 70 or under 5 years, have health concerns such as dementia, are smokers or have a reason to feel unsafe at home.
- 2.2 In addition to the tailored advice, staff can provide a range of free fire safety products, such as smoke or carbon monoxide alarms and specialist alarms for the hearing impaired. People who smoke can be offered fire resistant bedding packs, fire retardant sprays for carpets or soft furnishings, metal bins and special ashtrays for people with mobility issues. Specialist equipment can also be provided for those living with memory issues such dementia or Alzheimers as well as other support, such as winter warmth packs.
- 2.3 KFRS support NHS making every contact count, so staff can conduct simple falls assessments and look to reduce the risk of falling as well as helping to identify social issues such as isolation through the [Show You Care](#)<sup>2</sup> campaign. Hoarding can also be a significant fire risk, so staff can undertake a clutter assessment and provide relevant support to the occupant.
- 2.4 KFRS have a team of 20 dedicated specialist staff to deliver safe and well visits in addition to the operational fire crews, so can be flexible to meet the needs of partners and the customer across Kent and Medway. There is also an evaluation programme underway with the Kent Public Health Observatory using an integrated data set to measure the effectiveness of this intervention, including any impact on hospital admissions.
- 2.5 KFRS are proactively targeting individuals who could benefit from a safe and well visit, including using NHS Exeter data and a pilot partnership with Maidstone Hospital to promote awareness with certain patient groups. However, we strongly encourage partners to make referrals for these visits via [vulnerable.people@kent.fire-uk.org](mailto:vulnerable.people@kent.fire-uk.org).



## 3.0 Firesetters

- 3.1 The [Fire-setter](#)<sup>3</sup> Advisory Scheme aims to influence the behaviour, actions and attitudes of children and adolescents by providing early intervention to those who have set fires or display a fascination with fire.
- 3.2 With the consent of the individuals' parent/guardian, a number of advisors are available to respond to referrals which may be received from Social Services, Kent Police, schools, fire stations, youth groups and parents themselves. Assisted by fire prevention workbooks, case studies and visual presentations, advisors engage with the individual and encourage them to fully understand the consequences of their actions. A Safe and Well visit will also be undertaken as part of all firesetter cases.

## 4.0 Youth Engagement

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/home-safety/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/news/campaigns/show-you-care/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/home-safety/children-and-young-people/>

- 4.1 KFRS provide a variety of activities for disengaged young people working in partnership with organisations such as Princes Trust. These are normally two day sessions designed to boost confidence and self-esteem through team building, communications skills and problem solving activities. A range of safety input is also provided at the road safety experience, which includes water and home safety.
- 4.2 FireFit is a physical training course that utilises the positive role models of KFRS staff to make exercising fun. Our specifically designed programme demonstrates functional fitness. Each exercise carries with it a practical application and each session carries a valuable message that relates to the fire service. We apply our knowledge, experience and expertise of physical culture, to inspire young people.
- 4.3 KFRS have created [The Byrnes Family](https://www.thebyrnes.co.uk/)<sup>4</sup> to help communicate key safety messages. They represent an average family living in the county going about their daily lives and they encounter some of the pitfalls of modern living to help people try to avoid making similar mistakes. This is a developing area for KFRS which was recently launched at the County Show.



## 5.0 Schools Education

- 5.1 KFRS has a team of 9 delivery officers which deliver an education programme to all primary and secondary key-stage groups. Messages include fire and road safety, consequences of arson and how to deal with burns and simple messages such as 'stop/drop/roll'. A review was completed in 2017 on the education programme and a project has been developed to deliver the recommendations from this review. KFRS are keen to expand the number of schools where this service is provided.

## 6.0 Road Safety

- 6.1 KFRS works with a range of partners, including Kent County Council, Kent Police, Medway and Highways England to reduce death and injury on the roads in Kent and Medway, to deliver variety of [Road safety](http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/road-safety/)<sup>5</sup> interventions and raise awareness.
- 6.2 The Road Safety Experience opened in April 2016 and is the UK's only Road Safety Centre dedicated to delivering education for young people on the subject of passenger and driver safety. The delivery of the information is aimed at groups of students/young people with an age range of 17-24. The Centre provides a number of different learning experiences which cannot be provided through standard classroom based learning. The learning ethos is based on choices and consequences, aimed at making people think about their responsibilities on the road both as a driver and a passenger.
- 6.3 KFRS has two Fire Bikes which are used to engage motorbike riders, delivering a [Ride Skills](http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/road-safety/road-safety-for-bikers/ride-skills/)<sup>6</sup> package in partnership with the Institute of Advanced Motorists aimed at beginners and based at Brands Hatch. [Biker Down](http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/road-safety/road-safety-for-bikers/)<sup>7</sup> is a KFRS initiative which has been adopted by 30 Fire and Rescue Services nationally and covers incident scene management and casualty care for motorcyclists.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.thebyrnes.co.uk/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/road-safety/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/road-safety/road-safety-for-bikers/ride-skills/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/road-safety/road-safety-for-bikers/>

## **7.0 Water Safety**

- 7.1 Around 400 people drown every year because of accidents in and around water in the UK. Many of these deaths are as a result of simple everyday mistakes, such as trips or falls. People underestimate the effects of swimming in outdoor water and playing or walking on iced over water.
- 7.2 Community safety delivery officer's deliver summer and winter water safety presentations to local communities where water safety related incidents occur. In addition there is currently a pilot underway in partnership with the RNLI to train waterside businesses as part of the [Community Responder Programme](#)<sup>8</sup>.
- 7.4 A recent water safety event was conducted by KFRS Community Safety and Operational Crews at Bewl Water. This multi-agency event was delivered in partnership with the RNLI and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service. This event provided water safety advice to over 1500 customers. Additional water safety messages are being promoted through social media campaigns, including the popular [#GotDuckedFellIn](#)<sup>9</sup> which involves large rubber ducks being placed in areas where water rescues have been required.

## **8.0 Business safety**

- 8.1 KFRS have recently launched an online [business safety portal](#)<sup>10</sup> to assist with regulatory compliance. This is the first system of its kind among fire services in the UK and provides businesses with a self-service approach to safeguard against a multitude of hazards bespoke to the specific business needs.
- 8.2 Tailored advice is also available to the range of businesses that provide specialised housing or residential care services to people who may have additional vulnerabilities. The [Safer Living](#)<sup>11</sup> and [Safer Care](#)<sup>12</sup> campaigns designed to improve awareness of safety requirements within these properties for providers, as well as residents and their families.

## **9.0 Recommendations**

- 9.1 The KCSP is asked to note the information provided by KFRS regarding the range of community safety services and activities provided. Further information is available at [www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/](http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/).
- 9.2 Colleagues raise awareness within their own organisations of the range of community safety services provided by KFRS and specifically encourage the referral those more vulnerable to fire risks for a free safe and well visit.

### **For Further Information:**

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/water-safety/community-responder-programme/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/news/campaigns/got-ducked-fell-in/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/business-safety/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/business-safety/safer-living/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/business-safety/safer-care/>