



Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service

Prevention Strategy 2017- 2020



1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PREVENTION PRIORITIES

The Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) Community Protection Plan (CPP) sets our strategic objectives which include 'Keeping our communities safe and well' and 'Making the best use of our resources'.

This prevention strategy seeks to deliver these two objectives and steers the delivery of certain priorities that fall under them:

1.1 Reducing fires and accidents in the home by educating and supporting people

Those at risk from fire in the home are often vulnerable to other accidents too. Their risks often relate to health or social needs and therefore NFRS continues to work closely with partners to promote public health, safety and wellbeing in a consistent way. Our pilot scheme of Safe and Well visits will be extended with the aim of developing a countywide scheme during 2018. To help with this NFRS attend the county's Health and Wellbeing Board and are a member of the Falls Prevention Implementation Group and Dementia Action Alliance.

1.2 Working with others to broaden our prevention activities to improve the wellbeing of our communities

These activities include:

- **Road safety awareness** to reduce numbers of those killed and seriously injured on the roads – we work closely with the Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance/Safer Roads Team to achieve this
- **Water safety awareness** to reduce incidents of drowning and water rescue – we align our work to the UK Drowning Prevention Strategy and work as part of the Northamptonshire Water Safety Partnership
- **Arson reduction** – this work is managed and driven by the successful Arson Task Force (ATF) partnership between NFRS and Northamptonshire Police who work alongside our Local Authority colleagues and charitable organisations such as Crimestoppers

1.3 Working with volunteers to improve community safety

This includes young volunteers from Northamptonshire Emergency Service Cadets (NESC), NFRS volunteers and volunteers from other charitable organisations such as Age UK, Royal British Legion and Baby Basics.

2 SAFEGUARDING AND EARLY HELP

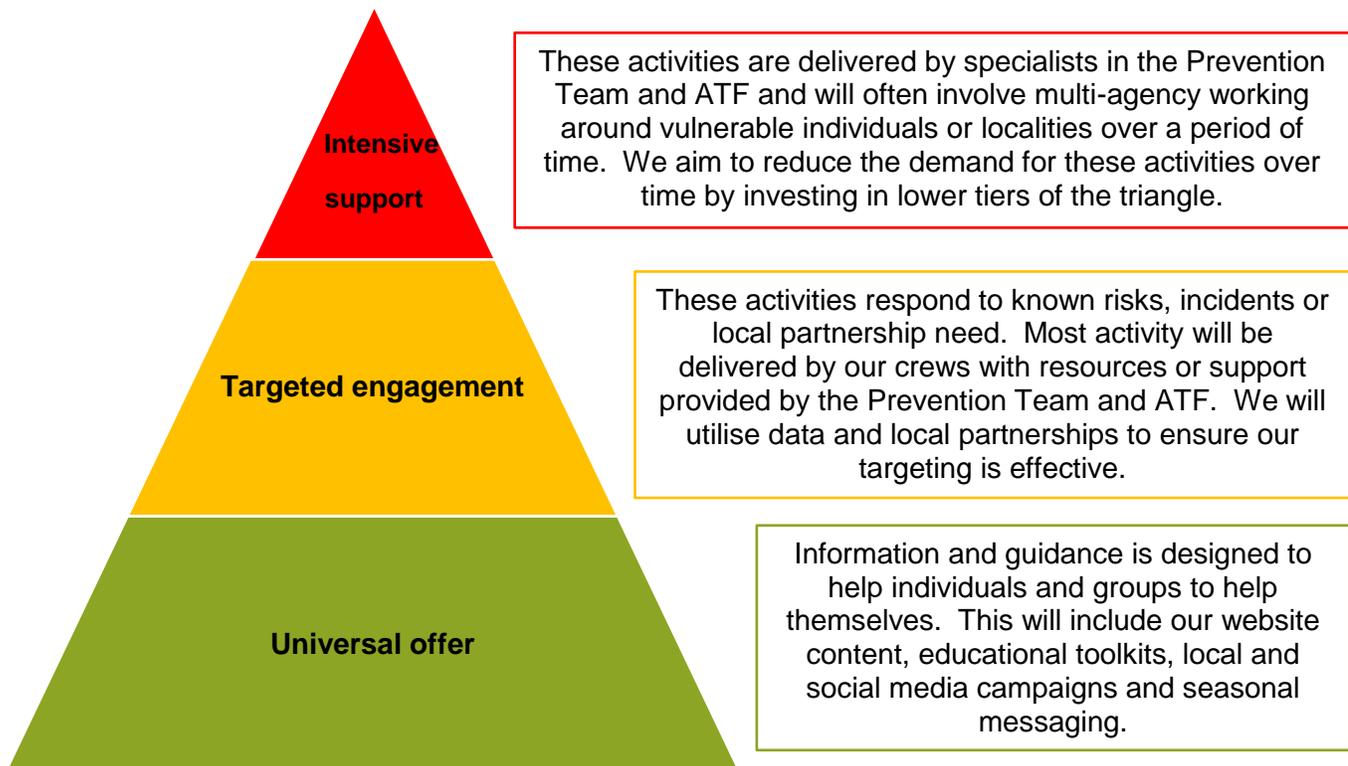
In addition to these priorities, the safeguarding of children and adults at risk is an integral part of keeping our communities safe and well and so is an important area of focus. The establishment of an internal Safeguarding Management Group led by the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) has been a key achievement as well as ensuring we are an active partner in the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children and Adults board. We will continue to improve the way that we process and make decisions about safeguarding concerns internally in order to make effective referrals when needed and to ensure we provide early help and signposting for those below safeguarding thresholds.

3 DELIVERY OF THE STRATEGY

The Fire Executive Group (FEG) and NFRS Prevention Team undertake strategic partnership working to support prevention activity within the service. The Prevention Team keep up to date and communicate with the National Fire Chief Council's (NFCC) Prevention Committee and are a member of the NFCC's online communities which help to share knowledge, best practise and resources relevant to prevention.

The Triangle of Delivery

Our Prevention Team is small and so to maximise our resources we have developed the Triangle of Delivery below. We aim to reduce demand on the tip of the triangle by creating capacity and investing in our universal offer and our targeted activities.



4 UNIVERSAL OFFER

Our universal offer is available to the wider communities in Northamptonshire and is designed to help people and groups to help themselves to stay safe and well.

Our website: www.northantsfire.gov.uk - we will continue to develop this as the main channel for this universal advice and information to ensure it provides:

- Advice about home safety
- Encourage self-supported Home Safety Checks
- Education resources to promote safety education for school children
- Road safety advice

Public relations campaigns - we will promote our safety messages via public relations campaigns working to an annual campaign calendar which will drive:

- Local and social media activity for seasonal and themed campaigns for road safety, water safety, fire safety and arson reduction
- Local awareness of national prevention campaigns and complimentary campaigns from partner agencies that focus on community safety and public health themes

Local community events - our crews and volunteers will engage with and be accessible to our local communities through events such as:

- Fire station open days
- Fundraising activities
- Community events

NESC – we will work with the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS), Northamptonshire Police and the NESC charity to expand the programme to:

- Positively engage with young people across the county
- Encourage young people to be active citizens
- Create volunteering opportunities and promote career pathways

Working with volunteers to expand our capacity:

- Utilising existing NFRS volunteers to assist with local community engagement events
- Working with partner agencies to spread our community safety messages via their own volunteer networks for example via the Neighbourhood Watch scheme

5 TARGETED ENGAGEMENT

Identification of the highest risk groups, most vulnerable and hard to reach people in our communities and the high-risk geographical areas in which they live is a key part of our ongoing planning process.

We will utilise our own data and that of local partners and also use the bigger dataset of National Fire Statistics to provide information regarding at risk groups that may not yet be reflected in our local statistics.

We will apply a rationale for analysing this data to ensure a consistent approach to risk profiling. The resulting station area profiles will form the basis of our station prevention plans. The Prevention Team will provide consistent training, support and resources to crews and volunteers to enable them to deliver targeted activities to address their risk profile. These activities will support the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) priorities and are described below:

5.1 Home safety and wellbeing

Following our Fatal Fire Review we know that we need to particularly target home fire safety advice at older people aged 65 and over, and in particular those over 80 years. Those older people living alone are at greatest risk. Through a national agreement with NHS England we will utilise the Exeter Data to help us to target our home safety advice to these older people. We have particularly prioritised those who are over 80 and where possible have identified those that live alone.

Our stations will utilise the Exeter Data for their locality to target local Home Safety visits which during 2018 will change into Safe and Well visits.

Safe and Well visits will enable us to continue giving fire safety advice that is tailored to individuals and also to “Make Every Contact Count”, giving level 1 advice to those who need it on falls prevention, staying warm and healthy, crime prevention including scams and fraud awareness. Working as part of the wider public health workforce we hope to provide early advice and signposting to help enable people to live safely and independently for longer and improve their quality of life. This in turn may help to reduce demand on other public services.

Local and national fire statistics show us that others are at risk from fires in the home because of other lifestyle and social factors, these include:

- Children in disadvantaged families
- Those living with dementia or other mental health diagnosis
- Those who are dependent on substances or alcohol
- Those living with a physical disability or long term health conditions
- Those living in Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO)
- Those living in hoarded/cluttered properties

In order to reach these members of the community we will deliver tailored home safety talks to target groups to create awareness and to generate quality self referrals from those most in need of a home safety visit. These talks will be delivered by our Community Safety Officers (CSO) and crews with referrals being managed by the central Home Safety Team.

Our CSOs will also deliver hazard awareness training to partner agencies who work with these groups so that they can recognise hazards and give basic fire safety advice on our behalf.

5.2 Fire safety education

CSOs or crews will deliver education to Early Years Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children in targeted nurseries and schools, or in response to a local incident.

5.3 Road safety

Local and national data will influence targeted road safety intervention delivery, campaigns, communications and resources. This data will include Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) data, NFRS Road Traffic Collision (RTC) incident data, high risk ‘Red Route’ information. We will work in partnership with Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Highways (Safer Roads Alliance) with a goal of changing behaviours and reducing those killed and seriously injured on roads in the county.

5.4 Water safety

Using local and national water safety statistics, CSOs and crews will deliver water safety education in partnership with the Northamptonshire Water Safety Forum. During drowning prevention week we will target activities at primary school aged children and will also deliver a drowning prevention schools conference in April for teachers. As our University campus in Northampton relocates to a waterside location we will be focusing on education for University students. We will also produce local campaigns and education following a water related incident in the county.

5.5 Arson and deliberate fire reduction

The ATF will co-ordinate and support:

- A local problem solving approach in response to localised incidents of arson and deliberate fires. This utilises the OSARA methodology supported by Northamptonshire Police with responses including local community safety operations which bring together fire crews, Local Authorities and Neighbourhood Policing
- A consistent approach to the management of void buildings in the county supporting Local Authority use of Community Protection notices to achieve results
- A consistent approach to reducing arson in rural areas through partnership working and educating local communities
- The provision of arson education and awareness to target groups across the county. Most of this group work will be aimed at young people already involved in anti-social behaviour or at risk of offending including those attending provisions for excluded pupils

5.6 Youth engagement

We recognise that positive engagement with young people in our community will encourage them to be active and responsible citizens which will in turn will reduce fires and other incidents and improve community safety.

The Youth Diversion Officer, supported by operational firefighters will deliver:

- Action, Reaction, Consequence (ARC) – a short term programme aimed at young people who are not thriving in the main stream classroom and who would benefit from practical and confidence building activities to improve their life chances
- Princes Trust team building days – a unique experience as part of the longer Princes Trust programme for 18-24 year olds

In addition our CSOs and crews will support youth activities and events such as Young Citizens Days in response to local partnership needs.

6 INTENSIVE SUPPORT

6.1 Home safety and vulnerable people

To help us reach those vulnerable groups of people we promote our home safety visit referral pathway to the organisations that support them. This pathway ensures that we have consent to engage which in turn helps to ensure that our contact is successful and effective.

We provide information and guidance to enable frontline workers in these organisations to recognise fire safety concerns and triggers and to make a referral. We currently receive referrals from a range of partner agencies including adult and children's social care and early help teams, housing providers, home oxygen teams, community health teams such as district nurses, mental health support workers and charities.

The resulting visit requests are managed and delivered by our central Home Safety Team who can spend longer in an individual's home or attend jointly with a partner agency. Tailored advice is given during the visit which may also include the provision of a smoke detector and other personal protection measures such as fire retardant bedding.

These visits are delivered as part of the Safe and Well pilot and help to identify:

- Vulnerable adults in need of onward referrals, further care and support and those who may need safeguarding
- Children who need protecting from harm and families in need of early help
- Premises where hoarding or clutter are having a significant effect on wellbeing and safety
- Those occupiers who would benefit from further advice or support from partner agencies regarding other needs

In these cases the Prevention Team will signpost and refer to other agencies, or make appropriate safeguarding referrals to reduce the risk of harm. In some cases where significant fire risk remains, even after our Safe and Well visits, we will adopt a casework approach which may involve further visits and multi-agency meetings.

6.2 Arson and deliberate fires

The ATF will engage with multi-agency public protection arrangements to manage high risk arson offenders, within the county, to reduce repeat offending.

Threat danger referral processes will continue to ensure a swift and effective partnership response to arson threats made as a result of domestic abuse, hate crime, honour based violence and neighbourhood tensions. Referrals for home safety visits will be delivered by the Home Safety Team in liaison with Crime Prevention Officers if needed, in some cases subsequent target hardening work.

The ATF will continue to provide a firesetter intervention programme for teenagers and adults involved in firesetting or arson. Our CSOs will deliver a similar intervention for younger children and those with a developing fascination for fire.

6.3 Youth engagement

Our youth engagement and firesetter intervention work may identify young people who would benefit from a suitable role model or mentor which NFRS could provide. We will develop a formal approach to providing this with the support from local crews.

6.4 Evaluation

We will develop a prevention scorecard to enable us to monitor the outputs of our prevention activities and measure the reduction or change in risk profiles in the county.