



Prevention Strategy

2021 - 2025



**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

Making Northamptonshire Safer



Strategic Objectives and Prevention Priorities

The Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) sets the strategic objectives for the service, taking into account community risk.

This strategy sets out how we will prioritise and deliver prevention activities in order to deliver against the strategic objectives of “Keeping Our Communities Safe and Well” and “Making the Best Use of Our Resources.”

Prevention priorities have been identified to address local risks but also to fit well with the National Fire Chiefs Council’s Prevention work streams. The service has a named lead for Prevention who will work as part of the NFCC network to contribute to the continual improvement of these work streams at a national and local level. This will ensure that we achieve the national Fire Standards for Prevention and Safeguarding.



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Prevention Priorities

We have identified our prevention priorities to reduce the risks identified in our CRMP and to “Keep Our Communities Safe and Well”:

“We want to make the biggest impact we can with the resources we have.”

- 1 Improve Home Fire Safety and reduce accidental dwelling fires
- 2 Reduce Arson and Deliberate Fire-setting
- 3 Provide Road Safety Education to reduce risk
- 4 Engage with young people to improve safety awareness and deter/divert them from anti-social behavior and fire crime
- 5 Improve Awareness of Water Safety

We want to make the biggest impact we can with the resources we have. Our Delivery Triangle shows how we create capacity in a tiered approach to prevention and make “Best Use of Our Resources”

Specialist Support

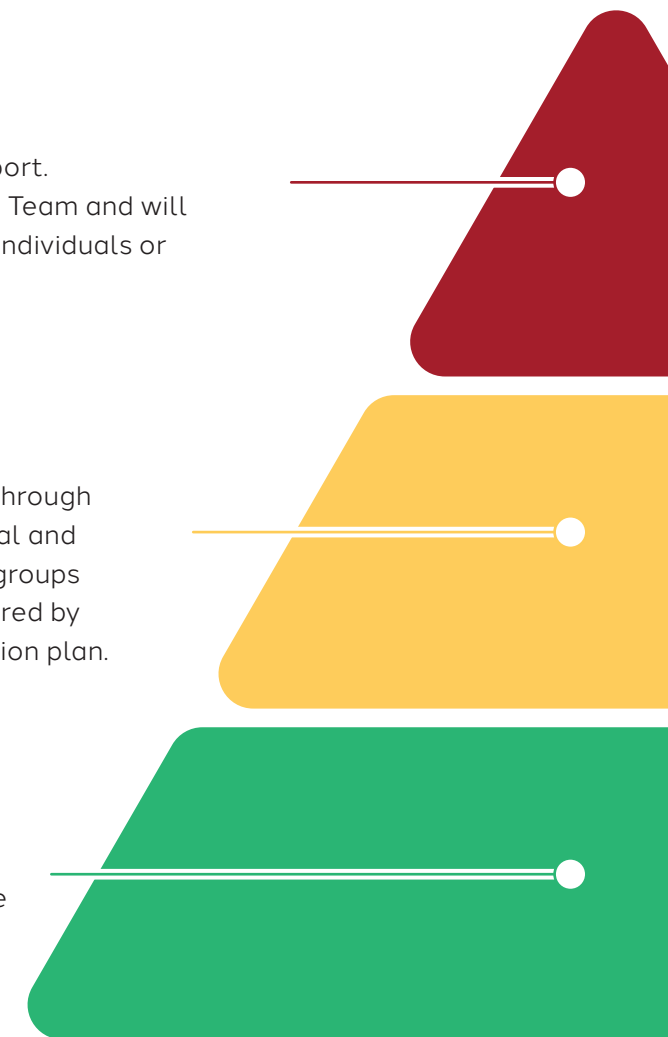
Managing individual risk or risk requiring specialist support. These activities are usually delivered by the Prevention Team and will often involve multi-agency working around vulnerable individuals or localities for a specific time period.

Targeted Engagement

Managing Community Risk identified in the CRMP and through Community Safety and other partnerships, using internal and external data to problem solve and to identify priority groups and/or priority places. Targeted activities can be delivered by prevention specialists or crews as part of the local station plan.

Universal Offer

Advice and guidance is provided to help individuals and groups to help themselves. This will include our website content, educational toolkits, local and social media campaigns and seasonal messaging.





Learning from the COVID-19 pandemic

This triangle takes into account our learning from the first 12 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time we worked closely with partners to identify home safety risk in relation to those who were shielding, utilising person centred referral information to triage and deliver advice in the most appropriate way to ensure COVID security. We introduced a telephone version of the HFSV where occupiers were able to engage successfully in that way and where fire risk did not require a face to face visit. This has enabled us to reconsider home safety risk and how we respond to it.

“... worked closely with partners to identify home safety risk in relation to those who were shielding”

We also adapted our wider prevention work to include a virtual offer of advice and education where appropriate and increasing our use of social media.



Key Prevention Activities

This infographic shows the key drivers, mechanisms and activities for delivering our prevention priorities and how this is organised across our 3 tiers:

“Themed safety talks delivered to priority groups or communities in priority places”

	Home Safety	Arson Reduction	Promote Road Safety	Youth Engagement	Promote Water Safety
Specialist Support	Driven By Partnerships, Inter-Agency Working and Referral Pathways Focused On Safeguarding & Risk Management				
	Referral Pathways focused on Safeguarding & Risk Management	MAPPA Arson Threat Visits FS Intervention Covert Operations Rural Operations	Behaviour Change talk	Juvenile Fire setter Early Intervention Scheme Cadets – wellbeing support	Throwlines Project
Targeted Engagement	Driven By CRMP, Station Plans, “Community One” Problem Solving & Action Planning, Focused On Priority Groups and/or Localities				
	Local Operations/Themed/Community Events - Reactive to incidents or place based problems				
	Themed safety talks delivered to priority groups or communities in priority places				
	Pre-planned and reactive campaigns aimed at target groups or communities in priority places				
	H/VH risk HFSVs Hot strikes & Door knocks Telephone Advice	Fire-Stopppers OSARA problem solving	Safer Roads Alliance Delivery plan	Priority School Programme Cadets community activity	Water Safety Forum Plan
Universal Offer	Providing Accessible, Inclusive Services, Advice & Information, Raising Awareness, Empowering People To Help Themselves				
	Station Open Days – inclusive and accessible				
	Advice and guidance on our website				
	Seasonal campaigns utilising media and social media				
	Self-referral triage Self-checker Themed Advice	Fearless Campaign	National Road Safety Week	Northants ESC Promotion of Staywise Kidzone	Drowning Prevention Wk Be Water Safety Aware Seasonal Flood Risk



Understanding Risk

The CRMP profiles our data with that of partners to provide a more comprehensive picture of risk. We understand that risk will be different across the prevention priorities and that local and national incident data will lead to further analysis and continually shape prevention work so we can identify priority people, communities and places.





Individual Risk – Priority People

HFSV Risk Matrix

Our HFSV policy and risk matrix is consistent with the NFCC Person Centred Approach which takes into account that a combination of factors contribute to fire risk. Our matrix shows our priority profiles and the behavioural and environmental factors that combine to increase risk. This will help to ensure we can triage our tiered approach and prioritise visits effectively, offering advice in different ways to people at lower risk and ensuring a swift or multi agency response to those at highest or complex risk.

In particular we still continue to target those who live alone, those with care and support needs or frailty, and those who are over the age of 65 because of data from our Community Impact Assessments, our serious fire incidents and our own HFSV data.

We also prioritise individuals and families who may be in need of care or some kind of support but are not fully accessing it, this could be for a variety of reasons such as poor mental or physical health, dependency on drugs and/or alcohol, limited understanding and social isolation.

HFSV referral pathways

To help us to reach priority people we promote our Home Fire Safety Visit referral pathway to the organisations that already work with them. This 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 know when and how to refer.

We currently receive referrals from a range of agencies including adult and children’s social care and early help teams, blue light services, housing providers, home oxygen teams, community health teams such as district nurses, mental health support workers and charities.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is already changing our understanding of different risks and we will continue to work with public health partners to those previously on the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable List can be offered a HFSV where living alone, health, mobility and wellbeing has an impact on fire safety.

Children and Young People

We know that CYP with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), those who are Looked After (LAC) and those living in deprivation can end up with multiple risk factors that can impact on fire, road and water safety. We have specific HFSV pathways in relation to CYP and also run specific Fire setter and Early Intervention Programmes to address individual risks. Young Drivers are identified as a target group for road safety education by the Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance.

Victims of Arson Threats and Threats to Life and Managing Arson Offenders

Threat Danger (TD) referral processes via Northamptonshire Police 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 TD visits will be delivered by the Home Safety Team in liaison with Crime Prevention Officers to ensure a balance between security and safety planning.

We recognise that those convicted of arson can still represent a risk to themselves or others upon finishing a custodial sentence. We will work as part of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements to provide targeted action planning to manage risk.



Complex Cases and Risk Intelligence

When a HFSV or other specialist intervention identifies complex risk where fire safety is dependent on other factors that cannot easily be mitigated, the Prevention Team will manage outgoing referrals and instigate multi-agency working.

When operational risk to firefighters is identified, for example in a hoarded property, this will be recorded and communicated whilst appropriate work is undertaken to reduce risk.

“... the Prevention Team will manage outgoing referrals and instigate multi-agency working”





Community Risk – Priority Communities and Places

Places

Geographical risk profiles will inform station plans, this, along with reactive incident data and that of Community One partners will also identify priority places. Together this informs where targeted engagement activity of our crews will take place.

Priority Groups and Communities

It is difficult to fully understand community risk, particularly in relation to seldom heard groups who may not readily engage with services, be hard to reach through mass media channels or be under represented within consultations. We will work with partners and stakeholders to build trust and relationships with different groups to better understand risk. We will do this strategically through our consultation and engagement strategy, through our prevention partner network and also at a local level as embedded in station plans. This will help us to deliver targeted engagement activities to provide advice, information and services to groups and people within them, in the most appropriate and accessible ways.

As part of this commitment to the Equality Duty we have ensured that our universal offer of prevention advice is accessible in different languages and formats on our website.

We will carry out stakeholder marketing and targed communications, for example to seek self referrals for HFSVs from priority people and groups. The list below gives some examples of these communities or groups of people:

- Ethnic Minority communities
- Faith groups
- LGBTQ
- Carers
- Young Carers
- Homeless/Rough Sleepers
- Those with a physical disability
- Those with sensory impairment
- Those with poor mental health
- Those with a learning disability
- Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Priority Schools

In order to deliver our priority of child and youth engagement we have worked with the Northamptonshire Children’s Partnership Trust and Northamptonshire Police to utilise their Vulnerable Locality Matrix to identify schools we want to target with our education offer because of what we know about CYP and their risk factors.

Data capture for HFSVs will provide one way for us to monitor our reach into some of these groups, in particular we want to ensure that the number of HFSVs in non-White British Households is representative of the county demographic based on census data



Prevention Principles

“Sharing information and data to identify individuals, families, groups and localities that are at risk and why.”



1 Working with Partners

We will continue to Make the Best Use of Resources by working closely with partners to:

Improve our understanding of individual and community risk

Sharing information and data to identify individuals, families, groups and localities that are at risk and why. Working together to overlay and analyse data or to compile case information will help us to problem solve effectively.

Formulate single or joint action plans to reduce risk

This will help us to pool our resources, avoid duplication of effort and maximise opportunities.

Deliver effective interventions, activities and programmes

Where it makes sense we will deliver activities or communications together to maximise our impact or to gain trust with individuals, groups or communities to raise awareness and reduce risk.

We are part of existing partnerships and key strategies which already help us to do this:

- The Arson Task Force partnership with Northamptonshire Police
- Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance (NSRA)
- Northamptonshire Emergency Service Cadets (all blue light services)
- Water Safety Forum (WSF)
- Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB)
- Northamptonshire Children’s Trust (NPCT)
- Northamptonshire Tobacco Control Alliance (NTCA)

Changing partnership landscape

Two new unitary authorities are now in place and providing services to the people of Northamptonshire. This has meant that new partnerships are now being formed that will also drive the way that we deliver our prevention work:

- The North and West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

The new CSP structure allows us to work both strategically at board level and provides a new forum called Community One which facilitates local data sharing, problem solving and joint action planning around community safety issues. Resulting partnership events or projects can be opportunities for us to deliver against our prevention priorities, for example arson reduction, and to engage with target groups and communities.

- The North and West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBBs)
- The Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership - I-CAN programme

We will utilise these new partnerships to influence and update our incoming/ outgoing HFSV referral pathways for priority people, ensuring our service is embedded within the My Health and Care App and the Supporting Independence programme (SIP).



2 Safeguarding and Early Help

Safeguarding of children and adults at risk is at the heart of our prevention work and the Prevention Team will work closely with safeguarding partners to make appropriate person centred referrals to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and to Adult Safeguarding Teams where there is risk of harm or abuse.

In addition we will ensure we take action to prevent escalation of risk and the need for statutory services by signposting and referring to other services and support, for example for housing repairs or for assistive technology, particularly when this mitigates high fire risk.

Where risks remain difficult to mitigate we will adopt a casework approach and our Complex Case Officer will work intensively with individuals and partners to make progress.

With support from safeguarding partners we will embed our Hoarding Framework so that we can work together in a consistent way to support and reduce risk for those living in cluttered homes.

Through our Safeguarding Management Group we will ensure oversight of our safeguarding and early help work, contribute to multi-agency audits, share learning and identify new training needs and plans for our staff.





3 Monitoring and Measuring Success

We will measure the success of our prevention work by monitoring on our Dashboard:

Outputs

The prevention work delivered and our use of resources

Reach

How effectively we have targeted priority people, communities or places

Impact

The “so what” factor, have we reduced risk/improved safety/raised awareness

Longer Term Impact

We will use case studies for individual and community risk to demonstrate and provide examples of longer term impacts across the prevention priorities

This information will come from different sources, including CFRMIS, partner and customer feedback, surveys, the OSARA tool and partnership project reports.

Outcomes

To ensure our prevention work is delivering reductions in incidents such as accidental dwelling fires.



4 Evaluation and Learning

This logical framework for monitoring activity and linking impact with community outcomes such as incident data, will build a better understanding of which prevention activities have the best outcomes and which methods of targeting reach the right people in the right way. This along with continued national learning will shape our activities, plans and partnerships in the future.



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