

**M. Pearson  
CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY**

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**To: The Chair and Members of the  
Community Safety and Corporate  
Planning Committee (see below)**

**SERVICE HEADQUARTERS  
THE KNOWLE  
CLYST ST GEORGE  
EXETER  
DEVON  
EX3 0NW**

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Your ref : SS/SY/CSCPC/Oct 2012  
Our ref :  
Website : www.dsfire.gov.uk

Date : 28 September 2012  
Please ask for : Sam Sharman  
Email : ssharman@dsfire.gov.uk

Telephone : 01392 872200  
Fax : 01392 872300  
Direct Telephone : 01392 872393

**COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORPORATE PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**(Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority)**

**Friday 5 October 2012**

A meeting of the Community Safety and Corporate Planning Committee will be held on the above date, **commencing at 10:00 hours in Committee Room B in Somerset House, Service Headquarters** to consider the following matters.

M. Pearson  
Clerk to the Authority

**AGENDA**

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 6 July 2012 attached (Page 1).
3. **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

Items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any **disclosable pecuniary interests** they may have in items as set out on the agenda for this meeting and to declare any such interests at this time.

**PART 1 – OPEN COMMITTEE**

5. **Establishment of a Charitable Arm**

Report of the Director of Service Support (CSCPC/12/3) attached (page 5).

6. **DSFRS Position in Relation to the National Fire Kills Campaign Annual Report 2011/12**

Report of the Director of Service Support (CSCPC/12/4) attached (page 11).

**PART 2 – ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Nil

**MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

Membership:-

Councillors Leaves (Chair), Bakewell MBE, Brooksbank, Eastman, Foggin, Fry and Healey

**NOTES:**

**1. Substitute Members**

Members are reminded that, in accordance with Standing Order 35, the Clerk (or his representative) MUST be advised of any substitution prior to the start of the meeting.

**2. Access to Information**

Any person wishing to inspect any minutes, reports or lists of background papers relating to any item on this agenda should contact Sam Sharman on the telephone number shown at the top of this agenda.

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORPORATE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

(Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority)

6 July 2012

### Present:-

Councillors Brooksbank, Healey and Leaves.

### Apologies:-

Received from Councillors Eastman, Foggin, Fry and Woodman

#### **\*CSCPC/1. Election of Chair**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Leaves be appointed Chair of the Committee until the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting of the Authority in May 2013.

#### **\*CSCPC/2. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2012 be signed as a correct record.

#### **\*CSCPC/3. Election of Vice Chair**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Eastman be appointed Vice Chair of the Committee until the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting of the Authority in May 2013.

#### **\*CSCPC/4. Declarations of Interest**

Members were asked to consider whether they had any personal/personal and prejudicial interests in items as set out on the agenda for this meeting and declare any such interests at this time.

No interests were declared.

#### **\*CSCPC/5. Alarm Awards 2012**

The Committee received for information a report of the Director of Service Support (CSCP/12/2) that highlighted the success of the Service at the national Alarm Awards 2012.

The Committee noted that this was the first year in the history of the awards that one organisation had been successful in winning or being runner up in 4 of the 7 categories. The awards received were as follows:

- Winner – People Risk: Phoenix Job Centre Plus Programme – Nick Birt;
- Winner – Strategic Risk: Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) – Jim Holgate;
- Winner – Young Risk Management Achievement of the Year – Dave Church;
- Runner up – Operational Risk: Fire Track Asset Management System – Colin Rockey.

The Committee commended the winners and runner up on their excellent achievement.

**\*CSCPC/6. Job Centre Plus/Phoenix**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Director of Service Support at the meeting in respect of the progress made to date with the Job Centre Plus/Phoenix Programme. This Programme was aimed at encouraging 18 to 24 year old people in long term unemployment to realise their potential and to build confidence in themselves.

It was noted that there had been 8 courses completed to date and that an additional 4 courses were in progress. There had been 105 students of which 96 had completed the course. Of these, 75% of the students had ended up in employment and the remaining 25% had re-engaged with the Job Centre and wished to seek employment.

The Head of Community Safety referred to a course that had recently finished at Bridgwater with a 100% completion rate. Of the candidates, 2 had been offered a job directly on completion of the course. He added that there were now 4 other fire and rescue services running Job Centre Plus schemes and EDF had expressed an interest in the principles of the Scheme for planned recruitment purposes.

**\*CSCPC/7. National Road Safety Day**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by Nigel Flowers (Devon County Council) and Laura Vincent (Road Traffic Collisions Reduction Officer) on the projects the Service had been working on as part of the Road Safety Partnership such as The Honest Truth and Learn 2 Live re-filming and websites.

The Committee noted that Learn 2 Live was one of the road safety campaigns which was a travelling roadshow aimed at reducing the number of young people killed or seriously injured on our roads. This event enabled the Service to talk to young people about the importance of taking care whilst driving and highlights the impact of careless driving.

"The Honest Truth" was a campaign about working together in partnership to get the messages across that 'small changes save lives'. A new Resource Booklet had been completed to give the information needed to back up the key messages for educational establishments such as schools and colleges to pass on to students during their lessons. A new series of exciting posters had also been developed together with a dedicated website and in-car resources to help promote discussion around "The Honest Truth" messages during lessons. This information was displayed at the meeting for information.

Reference was made in particular to a new application for mobile telephones – PANIC – aimed at giving young people information on what to do in the event of an accident or incident that was being launched by the Road Safety Partnership. It was hoped that this would be successful given the current youth interaction with mobile applications and this was to receive a public launch shortly.

**\*CSCPC/8. Olympic Games - Service Preparations for the Sailing Event**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Director of Service Support in respect of the planning and preparatory work being undertaken for the Olympic Sailing Event in Weymouth in July 2012.

It was noted that the Service was to be represented at the Sailing Event by the USAR team headed up by Group Manager Colin Rockey. Colin updated the Committee on the progress made to date with the support arrangements. He stated that there were 3 main agencies involved in this, namely:

- Dorset Fire and Rescue Service;
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (USAR), and;
- National CFOA Resilience Forum.

The event, which was to be based at the old naval station at Portland Bill, involved:

- 380 athletes;
- 61 nations;
- 264 boats of differing sizes;
- 600 officials;
- 400 support boats;
- 50 security boats, and;
- 5000 expected spectator boats.

There would be live media global broadcasting of the sailing event and as a result, the preparation and response arrangements needed to be right. It was envisaged that there may be up to 10,000 visitors per day for the sailing events and whilst the fact that there was only one road into and out of Weymouth was good from a security perspective, this would provide challenges in terms of traffic movement.

The Committee noted that, although the Service was providing its support to this prestigious event from 28 July 2012 to 12 August 2012, it would not be committing all of its personnel in USAR to it in the event of other incidents occurring during the same period.

**\*CSCPC/9. Fire Angels Project**

The Committee received for information an update given by the Director of Service Support in respect of the progress made with the replacement of smoke detectors that had already been fitted to premises but had been deemed to be not fit for purpose as a result of potential problems with the battery and fixings.

The Head of Community Safety advised the Committee that the Senior Management Board had taken the decision to replace 4774 of the smoke detectors already installed as a precautionary measure and had given an instruction to staff as to how these should be fitted in the future. In addition, the Service had written to all of the premises to which the smoke detectors had been fitted to offer a replacement. 650 visits had already been requested and of these, 204 had already been replaced.

The Committee noted that the Service was now working with the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA) in respect of an end user specification for a new product in the future.

**\*CSCPC/10. Engaging with Private Rented Landlords**

The Committee received for information an update given by the Director of Service Support in respect of the progress made with engaging with landlords in respect of the provision of smoke alarms for private rented stock.

The Head of Community Safety advised the Committee that the existing legislation did not make provision for landlords to fit smoke alarms to privately owned accommodation as compulsory. A Private Members' Bill had been pursued by Adrian Sanders MP but this had not been supported by Government. It was estimated that 14% of premises did not have a smoke alarm fitted and that 55% of fires occurred at these premises. As a result, the Service was working together with private industry and with the Chartered Institute of Housing and a sponsorship deal had been set up with ICreate to develop a product accordingly. It was hoped that this work would be realised in September 2012.

**\*CSCPC/11. Inter Agency Liaison Officers**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Director of Service Support at the meeting on the role of the Inter Agency Liaison Officers (ILOs).

**\* DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 12.27hours

# DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY



<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	<b>CSCPC/12/3</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY &amp; CORPORATE PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>5 OCTOBER 2012</b>
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	<b>ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHARITABLE ARM</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF SERVICE SUPPORT</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<p>That the Fire &amp; Rescue Authority be recommended to approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The establishment of a charitable arm for the purpose of securing funding to deliver community safety initiatives for and with communities in Devon and Somerset.; and</li> <li>(b) The employment of a fundraising officer as set out within section 7 of the report.</li> </ul>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>The Authority has had limited success in securing external funding to support Community Safety activities. Limited capacity, a lack of fundraising expertise and the status of the Authority as a statutory body inhibit opportunities to access external funding.</p> <p>This paper considers opportunities for the Service to move beyond current constraints and presents a recommendation with potential to sustain existing delivery, fund aspirational activities and create opportunities to support partner organisations in delivering our the service vision of making Devon and Somerset – a safer place for people, communities and business.</p>
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	£26,000 in the first year, self- funding thereafter.
<b>EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	It will be important to monitor the engagement of communities and of individuals within communities to ensure that no group is excluded or discriminated against. As a part of the monitoring process any gaps in project delivery or representation can be identified and addressed
<b>APPENDICES</b>	None
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	None

## 1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Against the backdrop of diminishing funding to support Community Safety across both the public sector and through partnership sources, the Authority must look to alternative funding models. With some exceptions, such as Job Centre Plus, the Authority has had limited success in securing external funding to support Community Safety activities. Limited capacity within existing staff, a lack of fundraising expertise and the status of the Authority as a statutory body inhibit opportunities to access external funding.
- 1.2 This proposal seeks to secure additional funds to support innovation and give communities the resources to deal with the issues that are important to them. In doing so we will improve community safety through preventative strategies.
- 1.3 This proposal would stand alone from other fund raising schemes that might seek to secure funding for other elements of service support and delivery.

## 2. **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Research has identified that an opportunity exists to develop a charitable arm of the service. By employing a fundraising officer the service could support and develop the delivery of Community Safety in a cost effective and sustainable way. Realising this opportunity will support the principles of the Big Society and Localism and will not only benefit local communities in a move towards taking responsibility for their own safety, but will help the Service meet performance targets and work efficiently whilst delivering savings and increasing delivery.
- 2.2 Other Fire Services, most notably Merseyside and a joint venture by the three Welsh services have developed charitable status and each has established its own company limited by guarantee. This has enabled these services to secure the funding and delivery of services to the community that would not otherwise have been possible.
- 2.3 Merseyside and Wales continue to support their charitable arm directly through their Service budget. However, in each case it has been proven that the overall benefit has significantly enhanced delivery through the provision of additional external funding.
- 2.4 In the case of Merseyside through the 'Fire Support Network' charity, their accounts demonstrate that over the last three financial years the financial contributions made (through grant aid and Service Level Agreements) by the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service has declined from £360,046 to £267,167. To put these figures into perspective in the financial year 2007/08 Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service provided 78% of the Fire Support Network's income, by 2009/10 this had fallen to 37%. However, over the same period of time the total income for the Fire Support Network has risen from £462,889 to £712,893. Firebreak Wales have achieved similar results.
- 2.5 The foundation of charitable status would improve the funds available and the opportunities to deliver community safety activities.
- 2.6 Charitable status has traditionally been achieved through registering with the Charity Commission and to set up a company limited by guarantee. Guarantee companies are useful for non-profit organisations that require corporate status. This means that its profits are not distributed to its members but are retained to be used for the purposes of the guarantee company. Of course this does not mean that the guarantee company cannot make a profit, as indeed it is almost paramount that it can and does so.



- 2.7 Where an organisation is likely to enter into contracts (which could well be the case) it may need the benefit of limited liability to protect its Board of Trustees and its members, who may be involved on a voluntary basis.
- 2.7 An alternative would be to operate as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. A Charitable Incorporated Organisation, or CIO, is a new legal form for a charity. A Charitable Incorporated Organisation:
- is an incorporated form of charity which is not a company
  - only has to register with the Charity Commission and not Companies House
  - is only created once it is registered by the Commission
  - can enter into contracts in its own right and its trustees will normally have limited or no liability for the debts of the CIO
- 2.8 The CIO was created in response to requests from charities for a new structure which could provide some of the benefits of being a company, but without some of the burdens. There is no cost. This would seem an ideal vehicle to take forward the DSFRS charitable arm. The CIO initiative is yet to go live but it is anticipated that its timescales would roughly meet those of DSFRS should a charitable arm be established.
- 2.9 Once charitable status is achieved the charitable arm will become an arm's length company with its own governance structure. DSFRS will provide the charity with funding and in return will hold some positions on the board of trustees and receive regular updates of accounts.

### 3. **CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 Elements of current and planned Community Safety activities are already linked into a number of community based initiatives including Community or Participatory Budgeting and the development of a volunteering policy. Although some elements of this work can continue under current funding methods at this time, opportunities to widen these activities and to develop a range of broader risk reduction activities will be not be realised without additional funding.

### 4. **OPPORTUNITIES**

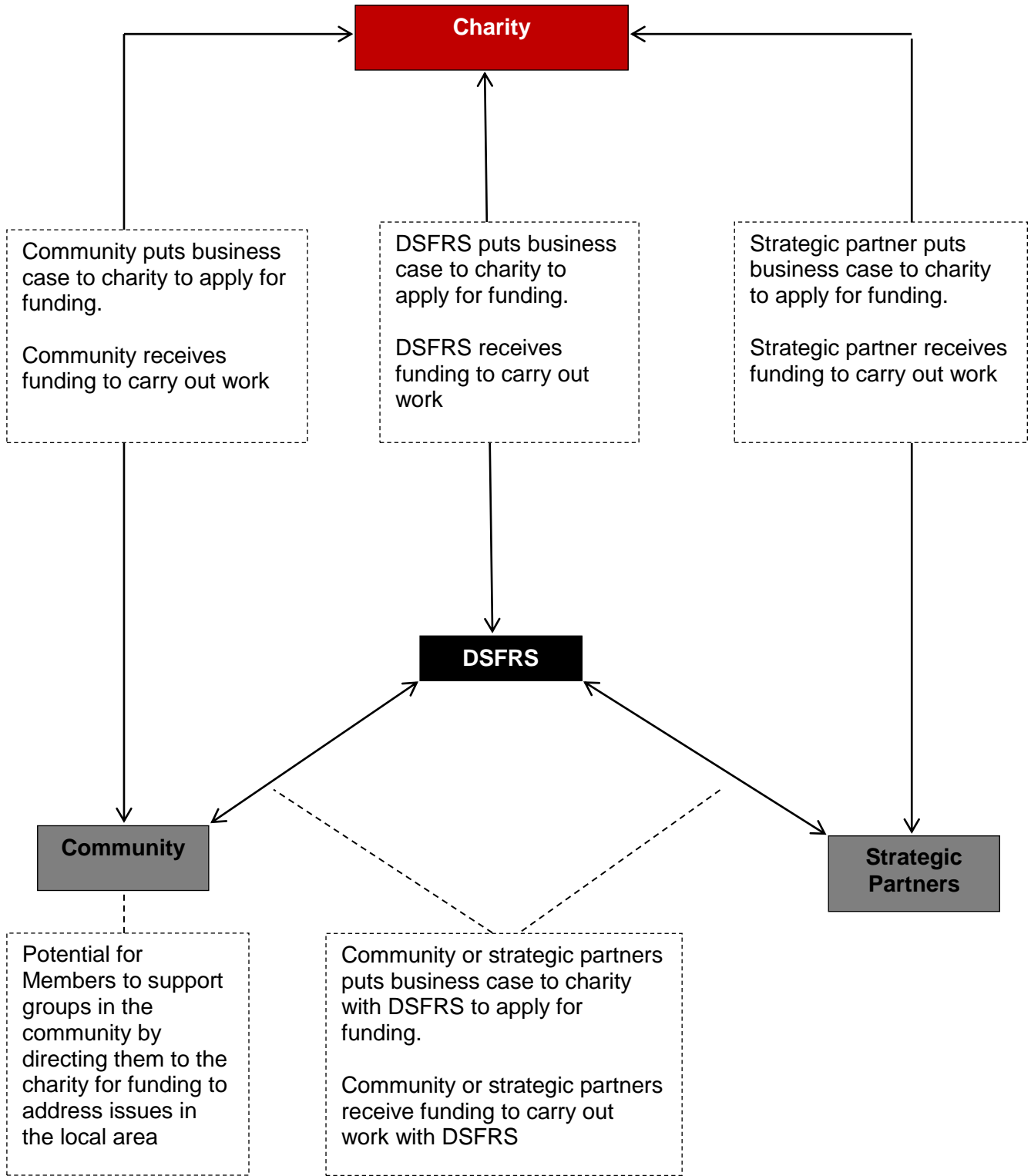
- 4.1 The Merseyside experience demonstrates how targeted pump priming and support can enable a charity to develop and prosper with benefits for both the FRS and the wider community.
- 4.2 There is a good body of evidence to suggest that DSFRS could achieve similar results.
- 43 The charity would provide opportunity to develop new initiatives to engage with and support community needs. It would also provide resilience for current community engagement initiatives by ensuring money is available through the charity at a time when funding may be withdrawn from other avenues.

5. **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

5.1 The charity would provide a one-stop shop for local communities and DSFRS to deliver aspects of the Big Society, localism and community empowerment. It would provide a dedicated website providing information, advice and guidance to local communities, fundraising advice and support around safer communities and generate funding for DSFRS, the local community and partners. Communities would become more involved in planning safer communities; better community links will be developed, providing advice and support to enable community involvement.

5.2 Figure 1 (as set out on the following page) demonstrates the relationships the charity would create it would allow for greater working with partners and the community; strategic partners and the community would be able to work directly with the charity as well as working with DSFRS to access the charity. There would be opportunity for Members to help their local community through the charity to apply for funding to improve community safety in their local area.

**Figure 1 - Charity Relationships**



## 6. **RISKS AND CHALLENGES**

- 6.1 The risk within this proposal is limited to year one when the Service would be funding the employment of a Fund Raising Officer.
- 6.2 The research conducted provides evidence that there are a number of funding streams that would be accessible to the service and therefore this risk is deemed minimal. However, if the reality did not deliver sufficient funding the post would be withdrawn and losses therefore minimised.
- 6.3 Reduced funding from existing sources of grant and council tax poses the most significant threat to on-going success in risk reduction activities.

## 7. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There will be a need for the Service to provide the initial investment to establish a charity and employ a fund raiser.
- 7.2 The set up costs and seven month's salary would be £41,000. It is projected that the charity would produce £15,000 for the remainder of the financial year. This would result in an overall year one cost of £26,000. Appointment to the post would be made on a 1 year contract to be reviewed annually by trustees alongside the progress of the charity. The post would be made available for application from both internal and external applicants, in order to secure appropriate skills in running a successful charity.
- 7.3 In year two there is a predicted benefit of £46,000 in rising to £94,000 in year four. These are conservative figures based on the experiences of other fire and rescue services.
- 7.4 This funding would allow us to undertake new and innovative community safety activities. It would also ensure the continued delivery of activities we currently undertake such as:
- Phoenix Course - This costs approximately £500 per person to deliver through funding from the Job Centre Plus. There has been an 86% success rate of getting medium term unemployed young people back into work or education.
  - Learn2Live – This costs approximately £2 per person to deliver through the partnership and reaches 10,000 – 15,000 young people a year.

## 8. **CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1 Foundation of charitable status and the creation of a fund raising position, offers the Service the potential to secure the funding and delivery of services to the community that cannot be sustained through any reduction in the revenue support grant.
- 8.2 It appears that although other services have established either a charitable status, or a trading company this Service would become the first to have established access to public, private and third sector funding.

**TREVOR STRATFORD**  
**Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Service Support**

# DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY



<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	<b>CSCPC/12/4</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORPORATE PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>5 OCTOBER 2012</b>
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	<b>DSFRS POSITION IN RELATION TO THE FIRE KILLS CAMPAIGN ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF SERVICE SUPPORT</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>That the report be noted.</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service strategy for community engagement is data lead and target driven. Any community safety activity is relevant to the risks in communities we serve.</p> <p>DCLG have recently published the Fire Kills Annual Report 2011/12. This report provides an overview of Fire Kills related activity and their relationship and comparison to the activities delivered by DSFRS over a similar reporting period.</p>
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	None
<b>EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	None
<b>APPENDICES</b>	None
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<p>Fire Kills Campaign Annual Report 2011/12  <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/fire/pdf/2213713.pdf">http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/fire/pdf/2213713.pdf</a></p> <p>Devon &amp; Somerset Fire &amp; Rescue Service Annual Report 2011/12  <a href="http://www.dsfire.gov.uk/AboutUs/WhoWeAre/OurPerformance/Index.cfm?siteCategoryId=2&amp;T1ID=9&amp;T2ID=231">http://www.dsfire.gov.uk/AboutUs/WhoWeAre/OurPerformance/Index.cfm?siteCategoryId=2&amp;T1ID=9&amp;T2ID=231</a></p>

## 1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Fire Kills campaign is delivered through the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in partnership with fire and rescue authorities across England.
- 1.2 Our strategy for community engagement is data lead and target driven which means our campaigns are relevant to the risks in Devon and Somerset. Our Annual Report 2011/12 illustrates a range of activities used across the service over the last year. Although Fire Kills campaigns featured in some activity, by comparison DSFRS have delivered a greater number of more targeted initiatives over a similar reporting period.
- 1.3 The Chairman of DSFRA directly supports Fire Kills having been appointed as the Fire Ministers Advocate for the campaign in relation to fire safety for tenants in rental property. The Chairman has featured in a successful safety video campaign and the role provides opportunities to influence improved safety in the housing sector both locally and nationally.
- 1.4 In March 2012 the Fire Minister confirmed continued support for Fire Kills for 2012/13.
- 1.5 The service continues to recognise and exploit the benefits of aligning with and supporting the Fire Kills campaign where this assists in targeting those identified as being at risk. Where the message Fire Kills is delivering is outside of our target activity it does continue to provide a method at nil cost to the service for the delivery of fire safety information using a wide range of popular media.

## 2. **NOTABLE SAFETY CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY DELIVERED BY DSFRS IN 2011/12**

- 2.1 The following list outlines some of the notable DSFRS campaigns delivered over 2011/12:

- April - Safety advice issued to thatched property owners after attending three incidents in such properties in one weekend.
- May – Boat safety week supported, although the number of fires in coastal waters is low, the potential impacts are devastating.
- June – The Chairman of DSFRA became the Fire Ministers Advocate for the Fire Kills campaign in relation to fire safety. Tenants in rental property are at greater risk of fires in their homes and the Service is leading the development of a national product to engage with landlords and tenants.
- July – Smoke alarm maintenance was highlighted. Although smoke alarms are installed in the majority of homes, evidence suggests they are not being checked and maintained rendering them useless. We reminded people to check and maintain their alarms on a regular basis.
- May to September – Recreational activities should be fun and safe. We provided safety advice on issues such as barbecues, camping and caravanning.
- October – We aligned with the Fire Kills campaign to promote the checking of smoke alarms at the end of British Summer Time.
- November – The first of three planned Participatory Budgeting events, the first to be delivered by any UK fire and rescue service. Communities identified community safety issues in their area and made a bid for funding to support their local delivery.

- December – Our safer Christmas campaign delivered messages to ensure the public had a safe and happy Christmas.
- January – Our first Phoenix/Job Centre Plus pilot programme was delivered. It has gone on to receive national acclaim and ministerial support.
- February – The successful prosecution of an arsonist led him receiving a custodial sentence. We used the media coverage of this case to highlight the risks associated with arson and the problems it creates for society.
- March – In an activity supported by our Joint Venture Company (FalckDS) we delivered a rural community engagement event targeted at farmers on remote Exmoor. The event raised awareness of the issues associated with rural fires and attendees were able to receive fire extinguisher training.

### 3. **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

3.1 In addition to campaigns we delivered a wide range of preventative activity planned and delivered against local community plans. Such activities include;

- Education programmes delivered with and by schools.
- Junior life skills programmes in partnership with the Police and Ambulance services.
- Firesetter intervention activities.
- Cadet schemes both fire and joint 999 schemes.
- Firebreak delivered with and for schools.
- Learn to Live, Honest Truth and Sixty Plus road safety programmes.
- Home safety visits.

### 4. **CONCLUSION**

4.1 The DCLG Fire Kills annual report for 2011/12 provides details of nationally lead campaign activity worthy of credit. By comparison, the DSFRS annual report for the same period demonstrates that the Service exploits the benefits associated with aligning to Fire Kills activity although in practice we deliver an increased number and a far broader range of campaigns with specific focus on the risks and issues associated with the communities across Devon and Somerset.

**TREVOR STRATFORD**  
**Director of Service Support**