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| REPORT REFERENCE NO. | CSC/23/10 |
| MEETING | COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE |
| DATE OF MEETING | 8 SEPTEMBER 2023 |
| SUBJECT OF REPORT | PARTNERSHIPS |
| LEAD OFFICER | ACFO Gerald Taylor, Director of Service Delivery |
| RECOMMENDATIONS | <i>That the report be noted.</i> |
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | This report explains how the Service's Prevention team works with partner agencies to targeted individuals in high risk groups for fire safety checks. |
| RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS | Business as usual. No resource request |
| EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS | Partnership officers network in the community to ensure equality of access to services |
| APPENDICES | None |
| BACKGROUND PAPERS | None |

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. A Home Safety Partnership is a partnership arranged by the Service with an external organisation in order to help support the targeted generation or delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits.
- 1.2. Partners sign a partnership agreement with the Service which outlines how both organisations will work together and covers data sharing requirements. Partners are provided with Training which gives an overview of what a Home Safety Visit is, how to make a referral, and how to identify if someone would benefit from a visit.
- 1.3. Once agreements are signed, partners are added to a central register and provided with a unique reference number which makes their referrals eligible for visits. When they visit a client in the everyday course of their work, they are able to recognise if the client would benefit from being referred to the fire service, and if they meet the criteria the service sets to be eligible for a home safety visit.

2. WHY DO WE HAVE PARTNERSHIPS?

- 2.1. Fire deaths in the Southwest have been studied over the past 10 years. The following factors have been identified as being common risk factors:
 - Mental health;
 - Poor housekeeping (hoarding);
 - Alcohol;
 - Smoking;
 - Drugs (prescription or illegal);
 - Limited mobility;
 - Living alone; and
 - Age (Over 65 and especially over 80).
- 2.2. When cases have been examined, it was frequently found that victims were known to other agencies who had the opportunity to influence the victim's lifestyle and behaviour and could have referred these individuals to the fire service for fire safety advice and intervention activity.
- 2.3. Partnership working allows the Service access to individuals who are at risk of fire. These individuals would not self-identify to the Service as tis approach gives access to other, harder to reach communities.
- 2.4. Partnerships allow the Service to target highly vulnerable individuals with fire safety advice, helping to achieve it's mission of reducing preventable fires and fire deaths.

2.5. In addition to the above fatal fire indicators, the Service also targets and considers the following vulnerabilities:

- Children and families;
- Disabilities;
- Domestic abuse;
- Fuel poverty;
- Sensory (hearing or sight impairments); and
- Underrepresented communities (protected characteristics).

3. HOW ARE PARTNERSHIPS MANAGED?

3.1. The partnership team consists of one partnerships co-ordinator to oversee and manage partnerships for the Service together with three partnership leads co-ordinating in the geographical areas. These individuals manage partnerships across the Service area.

3.2. There are currently 382 active partnerships which covers a range of campaigns, teams and agency types. Organisations which actively refer for Home Safety Visits includes health providers/National Health Service (NHS), care agencies, local authorities, charities/voluntary services, housing providers, and other organisations that are able to refer high risk individuals that fit the risk profile. It is the role of the co-ordinators in the three geographical areas to network and identify partners that can assist with these referrals.

3.3. The Service also has specialist partnerships which involve funding agreements. This includes a child safety visit offer, where child safety equipment is installed as part of a home safety visit. This is a part-funding arrangement which allow the Service access into highly vulnerable families. Another specialist partnership is the Wales and West Utilities agreement which provides free carbon monoxide alarms for the Service to deliver to eligible vulnerable customers.

3.4. All partners are reviewed regularly. This includes reviewing the number of referrals received, offering and delivering Training sessions, resources and addressing any identified issues.

3.5. Training sessions are face to face delivery of a presentation which covers:

- why their clients are at increased risk of fire;
- what a home safety visit is;
- how to identify someone at risk; and
- how to make a referral for a home safety visit.

3.6. Alternative arrangements also help the Service to target and deliver fire safety information in various ways, for example, through delivery of fire safety talks to Sheltered Accommodation schemes or talks at English language classes for those learning English for the first time. The partnership officers network in the community to ensure equality of access to services.

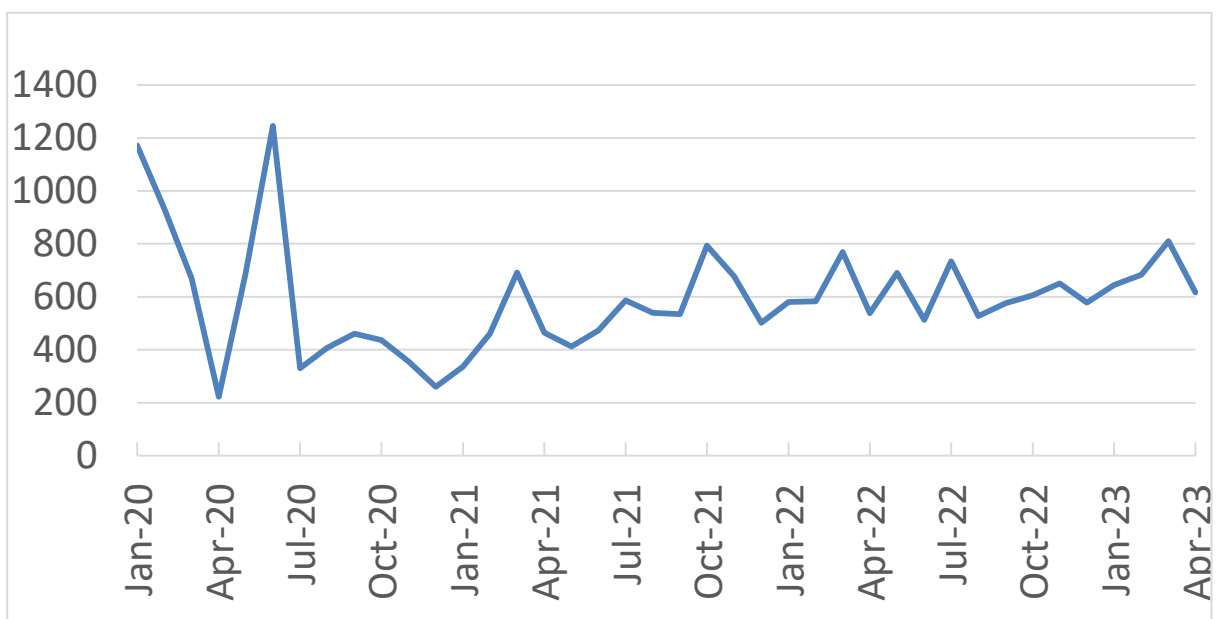
4. RISK IDENTIFIED THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

4.1. Between October 2018 to March 2023, 28,410 dwellings were identified through partnerships which had the following risks:

| Risk Identified | Dwellings |
|--|------------------|
| Over 65 | 18,315 |
| Limited Mobility | 13,169 |
| Living alone | 10,778 |
| Over 85 | 6,344 |
| Sensory Loss such as hearing or visual | 6,305 |
| Disability | 5,855 |
| Smokers | 4,204 |
| Poor housekeeping | 4,169 |
| Hoarding | 3,029 |
| No Working Smoke Alarm | 2,265 |
| Under 12 | 2,194 |
| Alcohol | 765 |
| Drugs | 306 |
| Under 18 | 208 |

5. PARTNERSHIP REFERRALS FOR HSVS (OVERALL)

5.1. The blue line shows the total number of partner referrals received each month between January 2020 to March 2023.



5.2. Other referral strategies include self-referral through the Service's website and the online home fire safety check, along with the telephone option and referrals from our operational crews.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1. The Service approach to collaborating with partner agencies allows us to target those individuals identified as being at high risk of having a fire in our communities using the well-established networks of other organisations.

6.2. The constant review process ensures that the quality of partnership referrals remains focused and targeted ensuring efficiency and effectiveness. Partnerships is also an essential element of the Service's community safety strategy, ensuring synergy between agencies.

GERALD TAYLOR

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