



## **COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**

**22 FEBRUARY 2019**

### **SAFER FUTURES 'LIVE' (SCHOOL SAFETY CAROUSEL)**

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#### **REPORT OF THE MEMBER CHAMPION FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY**

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##### **Purpose of the report**

1. To provide members with an update on Safer Futures 'Live', formerly known as the school safety carousel organised by the Service and to encourage members to continue to promote the benefits of the event.

##### **Background**

2. The Authority 'champions' various areas of service delivery through the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) Member Champion roles. These roles provide the opportunity for members and officers to work closely together to help develop the services provided by better engagement with local communities, staff and other stakeholders.
3. Cllr Brian Jones was appointed to the role of Community Safety Member Champion in 2017 and previously provided a report to the Fire Authority regarding the school safety carousel on 21 December 2017.
4. The Service has organised the school safety carousel for over 16 years and it is delivered annually to year 6 school children across County Durham and Darlington. The event is organised by the Service and delivered in partnership with several other agencies over 10 weeks each academic year; the aim being to educate children who are at a key developmental stage in their lives, in a broad range of key safety areas.
5. In 2018, 'Safer Futures' was introduced as a brand by the Service for all community safety education and campaign delivery and the school safety carousel being the main live event was rebranded to Safer Futures 'Live'. The new branding is now being used in communications and media material and feedback shows that it has been well received by the schools.

##### **Safer Futures 'Live' 2018/19**

6. The 'Live' event is delivered in two periods at The Work Place in Newton Aycliffe, each period lasting approximately five weeks, this academic year the dates being:
  - a. 29 October to 29 November 2018; and
  - b. 25 February to 28 March 2019.

7. Individual schools pay for and arrange their own transportation to bring children to the event, with the cost of the venue and other ancillary equipment being met by the Service. As the Service has hosted the 'Live' event at The Work Place for the previous four years, we receive a discount of 46% on the normal rate, resulting in the venue costs for 2018/19 being £21,950, plus an additional £500 on ancillary equipment. Each year the Service also applies for a grant from Northern Powergrid as the event supports them in their statutory duty to deliver electrical safety education. This year we received £2,600 in grant funding resulting in a net cost to the Service of £19,850.
8. Whilst this is a sizeable investment for the Service the benefits are significant. Some other fire and rescue services operate dedicated premises to deliver this kind of community safety engagement initiative at considerable costs. The approach taken by the Service is therefore extremely cost effective.
9. During October/November 2018, 107 schools attended with a total of 3249 pupils and 220 teachers. The February/March 2019 sessions are still being arranged with attendance figures not being finalised until just prior to the event to maximise the school intake, however we expect total attendance figures across the academic year to be similar to the previous year at around 7000 to 7500 pupils.
10. Children attending are split into six groups and rotate through six 30-minute sessions which are designed to be interactive, educational and fun. The six sessions of the 2018/19 'Live' event are:
  - a. Fire Safety (Fire and Rescue Service);
  - b. Road Safety (County Durham and Darlington Borough Councils' road safety teams);
  - c. Water Safety (RNLI);
  - d. Internet Safety (Durham Constabulary);
  - e. Electrical Safety (Northern Powergrid);
  - f. Unintentional injuries in the home (NHS).
11. During each event teachers are asked to evaluate the sessions while they are delivered which is then used to produce an end of year evaluation report. Each year the individual workshops and overall event are reviewed and any areas of potential improvement are discussed and used to improve future events.
12. The main changes for 2018/19 are the introduction of the new Safer Futures brand for the 'Live' event and the fire safety presentation has been updated with an improved video and more up to date and relevant content. The Police workshop on internet safety has been adjusted to ensure it does not duplicate topics already delivered in school on e-safety. The NHS workshop scored the lowest last year as this was the first time they had delivered it, changes have been made to this and the evaluation scores for October/November 2018 have significantly increased.

## **Conclusion**

13. The safety education delivered through the Safer Futures 'Live' event has significant benefits in improving the safety and welfare of children, not only now but also as they grow older. Cllr Jones would therefore encourage any members who have not observed the event, to attend during February / March 2019 to gain greater understanding of the benefits it delivers.
14. Many members have close associations with the local schools in their areas and Cllr Jones asks that members continue to promote the benefits of Safer Futures Live and encourage schools to continue to support it.

## **Recommendation**

15. Members are requested to:
  - a. **note** the contents of the report

Cllr Brian Jones, Member Champion for Community Safety.