

**Safer and Stronger Communities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

27 June 2022

Home Fire Safety



Report of Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information in advance of a presentation from County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) on home fire safety.

Executive summary

- 2 The presentation attached in Appendix 2 will aim to provide Members with an overview of community fire safety activity with a focus on home fire safety visits.

Recommendation

- 3 Members of the Committee are asked to note information contained within this report and presentation.

Background

- 4 CDDFRS undertake a wide range of fire safety activity in relation to homes, communities and businesses across the county. This activity includes free home fire safety visits (previously known as Safe and Wellbeing Visits) to which are predominately delivered by staff including community risk officers and firefighters from local fire stations who during a visit will check for working smoke alarms, provide advice on keeping residents safe from fire within their homes and plan a safe escape in the event of an emergency. Following visits, referrals linked to fire risk within the home can also be made to partner agencies for wellbeing support linked to residents.
- 5 Information within this presentation is linked to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan priority “Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community”, CDDFRS Community Risk Management Plan presented to the Committee at its meeting on 6 December 2021 and previous work undertaken by the Committee on Safe and Wellbeing Visits in 2016/17.
- 6 Appendix 2 to this report contains a presentation to provide Members with an overview of fire safety activity by CDDFRS and further details of home fire safety checks that are undertaken by the service. Keith Carruthers, Director of Community Risk Management, CDDFRS is scheduled to be in attendance to deliver the presentation attached in Appendix 2 and respond to questions from the committee.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

- 7 Information with this report aims to contribute to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan strategic objective to promote being safe and feeling safe in your community.

Conclusion

- 8 The attached presentation provides an opportunity for members to receive information on community fire safety activity.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- Community Risk Management Plan, Annual Consultation – Safer and Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 6 December 2021

- Progress of Recommendations following the Overview and Scrutiny Review of Home Safety – Safe and Wellbeing Visits – Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 14 February 2019.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None

Finance

None.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Human Rights

None.

Climate Change

None.

Crime and Disorder

Information with this report aims to contribute to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan strategic objective to promote being safe and feeling safe in your community.

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None