

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

**1 July 2024**

**Home Fire Safety**



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**Report of Keith Carruthers, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, County  
Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service**

**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) which are predominately delivered by firefighters from local fire stations and also by Community Safety Officers. During a visit they 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” and CDDFRS Community Risk Management Plan presented to the Committee at its meeting on 26 February 2024.
- 6 Appendix 2 to this report contains a presentation to provide Members with further details of home fire safety visits that are undertaken by the service, information on work with partners and current performance related to home fire safety.
- 7 Keith Carruthers, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, 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*

- 8 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**

- 9 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, 26 February 2024

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **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