



SURREY FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)

8th OCTOBER 2008

KEY ISSUE:

This report outlines the major strands of activity being undertaken within Guildford by the Fire Service teams based at Guildford and Gomshall Fire Stations.

SUMMARY:

The report contains information on the various activities undertaken by the Borough Team to reduce the risk from fire and road traffic to the residents of Guildford, including direct contact public education programmes and campaigns.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Surrey County Council Local Committee (Guildford):

- 1 Recognise the achievements of the Borough Teams at Guildford and Gomshall.
- 2 Support the achievement of the Retained duty personnel at Gomshall Fire Station and acknowledge the availability offered by employers who release staff, and those who are self-employed
- 3 Decide how much they would like to contribute from their individual members' allocations to the proposals for expenditure attached as Annexes A and B.

Contact Details

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1 Guildford continues to be a safe place to live, which is reflected in the following performance figures. These figures relate to the reporting year April 2007 to March 2008.

- The Service attended 385 calls to fires; this represents a decrease of approximately 30% on the previous year's total of 549.
- Fires in non domestic premises decreased by 29% from 58 to 41.
- The number of accidental fires in dwellings decreased slightly from 67 to 64. This represents an increase of 4%.
- Malicious false alarms attended increased approximately 12% from 34 to 38. Although this would appear to be a significant increase, this figure is still lower than the 4 year average (45).
- False alarms from Automatic Fire Detection (AFD) systems in commercial buildings decreased by 17% from 687 to 572, which reflects the position across the Service. Since the introduction of the AFD policy the Service has seen a significant reduction in the number of AFDs (approximately 40% reduction across the Service for the last quarter of 2007/8).
- There was a decrease of 20% in deliberate fires, excluding vehicle fires, from 123 to 94. This figure remains slightly below the 4 year average (131).
- Deliberate fires in vehicles decreased by 26 from 64 to 38.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

Road Traffic Casualties (RTCs)

1. The Service's award-winning Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) event continues to be an unqualified success. Aimed at young drivers and those who are about to begin learning to drive, the event is a staged production held at Dorking Halls and has so far reached some 28,000 school pupils, college students and young drivers in the county.
Using real-life victims of RTCs, the production carried a high satisfaction level - almost 100% of all attendees say they will be a safer driver as the result of attending the event.
More pupils from Guildford Borough have attended this event than any other Borough in the county, with 1783 attending last November and 2344 already booked for this coming November.
The Service is now seeking to build on this success, expanding the SDSA format to bring variants to each individual borough, as well as re-recording and updating the production material used at the event. This is subject to a separate funding request to the committee, detailed in the appropriate proposal for expenditure form attached as Annexe A.
In the last year 82 people were killed or seriously injured in RTC incidents in the Borough of Guildford, and the expansion of Safe Drive will be aimed at reducing this local figure. RTC levels are also detailed in the proposal for expenditure form in Annexe A.

Schools' education programme

2. This is an ongoing programme of fire safety education for school children, with classroom-based input in years 2, 5, and 8. In year 6 Fire fighters from Guildford support additional input as part of the Junior Citizens scheme.

Junior Citizens Scheme

3. Guildford Junior Citizens is a joint initiative between between Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, Surrey Police, Guildford Borough Council, Surrey County Council and other partner agencies such as St. John Ambulance, South West Trains and Health Promotion to deliver a safety event to Year 6 pupils in the borough of Guildford.

It is an imaginative way of teaching primary school children how to deal with everyday dangers safely and effectively. It provides practical learning for youngsters who are shortly to make the transition to secondary school, while at the same time encouraging good citizenship and sense of community responsibility. The next Junior Citizens Scheme in Guildford will take place in June 2009.

Firewise scheme

4. This scheme is aimed at young people who have displayed an unhealthy interest in fire, which has led or could lead to deliberate fire setting. It has been running for many years with great success. In the year to end of March 2008 Guildford had 13 referrals and this financial year a further 6 referrals have come in to date.

Youth Engagement Scheme (YES)

5. The Youth Engagement Scheme is a one week, 5 day practical programme (Monday to Friday), based on a fire station, for young people aged 14 – 17, which has been successfully piloted in the north of the County. The Service is now seeking support to expand this initiative to provide opportunities for relevant young people from all boroughs. Please see proposal for expenditure form attached as Annexe B. The scheme aims to aid personal development of the young people and address anti-social behaviour in the community, including fire and vehicle related crime. YES is part of intervention package, which, in partnership with Youth Justice Service and Educational Welfare Service, can last up to 3 months.

Community Action Days (Home Fire Risk Checks)

6. The presence of a working smoke alarm considerably reduces the chance of being killed or injured in a fire and reduces the amount of damage caused by providing an earlier warning of fire. The county average of smoke alarm ownership is 82% of households. Non-ownership of smoke alarms does not fall evenly throughout the community. Free home fire risk checks provide an opportunity for fire service personnel to visit residents within the Borough of Guildford. However we recognise that we need to target the most vulnerable members of the community particularly the young and elderly to improve their chances of not having a fire or being able to survive one if they do. Increased smoke alarm ownership in the borough is through targeted campaigns at specific housing areas to include high-risk properties and premises that do not have a working smoke alarm.

Calls to Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA)

7. As of January 1, 2008, the Service introduced a Call Challenge system when dealing with AFAs at commercial premises, to gather additional information to ensure the appropriate response is sent.

The service had traditionally provided an emergency response (generally one appliance) to all fire alarms from all businesses in the county. However, for every 200 responses the service sends out, only one results in any fire being put out by our staff – the vast majority are false alarms. Furthermore there are occasions when this automatic response - one appliance from the

nearest location – is not adequate and there is subsequently a delay while additional appliances are mobilised for genuine fires. These statistics left us in no doubt that the previous procedure is detrimental to both the businesses we work with and to life-critical incidents elsewhere in the county. The changes are aimed at providing a more appropriate response to business alarms, while minimising the risk associated with attending non-emergency alarms which prevent fire crews from attending other incidents. This has led to reduction of 40% in the number of false alarms attended at commercial premises.

CONSULTATION

- 8. The Service will consult with Members and Partners to ensure the community safety initiatives in Guildford continue to target priority areas and contribute to our aim of making Surrey safer.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9. The Service is now seeking to build on this success, to expand the YES scheme and to refresh and further develop the SDSA format to bring variants to hard to reach groups in each borough, as well as updating the production material used at the event. These are subject to a separate funding request to the Committee, detailed in the appropriate proposal for expenditure forms attached in Annexe A and B.

All other initiatives are carried out within existing budgets of Surrey Fire and Rescue with no additional funding being sought at this time.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10. All Surrey Fire and Rescue Service activity continues to support the principles of sustainable development, particularly in relation to road safety, common land fires and pollution.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 11. Initiatives and campaigns within Guildford will contribute to a reduction in crime and disorder particularly in relation to arson and vehicle crime.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12. All initiatives, campaigns and operational procedures will be subject of an Equality Impact Assessment. There are no equality implications directly related to this report.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	None
Number of Annexes:	None

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE IN
GUILDFORD

PROPOSAL FOR EXPENDITURE OF LOCAL BUDGET



Name of Member:	
Name of project:	Expansion and improvement of "Safe Drive Stay Alive" (SDSA) safety initiative for young drivers
Organisation responsible for carrying out the project?	Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)
Description of Project: What outcomes are expected? What needs will it address? What geographical area will it cover? Who will benefit? How many people?	SFRS is 20 times more likely to save a life at the scene of a road accident than at a fire. 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' is a dramatic performance, currently held at Dorking Halls, aimed at young drivers, telling the story of participants in a road traffic accident event; actual fire fighters, drivers and victims help to convey the powerful messages about road safety. The Service is seeking to widen the approach of the Safe Drive Stay Alive campaign. Primarily the funding will cover the <u>one-off</u> cost of re-recording and updating the DVD material used at SDSA performances, including full production and video recording; The number of SDSA performances in 2008/9 will increase aiming to reach 100% of Surrey's students by expanding the number of shows with delivery in each borough supported by the flexible format that the DVD material will bring. In so doing they will reach a wider target audience. The new material will also be formatted to be of greater use to offender rehabilitation initiatives. Please see attached table for supporting Road Traffic Casualties data.
Who has been consulted?	SFRS has consulted with Area Directors prior to making this funding request.
When will the project be started and completed?	SDSA events organised for this financial year.
What is the total cost of the project?	The total cost of the event including DVD production projected as £120,000. Private sponsorship hopes to reach £70,000 this year.
Amount and purpose of proposed Local Committee funding?	The Service is requesting £5,000 from each local committee, which if successful would result in a total allocation of £55,000, covering the cost of DVD production entirely.
What alternative funds have been sought or secured?	At present private partners include Exxon, Esure and Mercedes Benz, and a sponsorship event is planned for November 2008
Has any other part of Surrey County Council been approached for funding?	£5000 is being requested from each Local Committee.
Has the Local Committee given funding for this purpose in the past?	Not for this purpose.
If this project will need funding in future, how will that be met?	Through private sponsorship.
Area Director's / comments	Recommends approval
Date of Local Committee	8 th October 2008

Local Committee Funding Request – Supporting Data

The table below shows the number of people killed or seriously injured on Surrey’s roads annually over the past three years. For 2007, the table also shows in brackets the number of victims aged between 17-25 years old – the target audience for Safe Drive Stay Alive.

Borough	KSI 2007 (figures in brackets are 17-24yr-olds)	KSI 2006	KSI 2005
Runnymede	59 (20)	40	48
Spelthorne	58 (15)	61	49
Surrey Heath	39 (10)	44	57
Woking	41 (10)	40	40
Elmbridge	61 (17)	59	62
Epsom & Ewell	31 (13)	27	24
Guildford	82 (14)	86	75
Mole Valley	34 (12)	44	62
Reigate & Banstead	68 (19)	69	50
Tandridge	45 (9)	61	46
Waverley	71 (15)	52	71

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE IN
GUILDFORD

PROPOSAL FOR EXPENDITURE OF LOCAL BUDGET



Name of project:	Expansion and improvement of Youth Engagement Scheme (Y.E.S)	
Organisation responsible for carrying out the project?	Surrey Fire & Rescue Service	
Description of Project: What outcomes are expected? What needs will it address? What geographical area will it cover? Who will benefit? How many people?	The Youth Engagement Scheme is a one week, 5 day practical programme (Monday to Friday), based on a fire station, for young people aged 14 – 17 which has been piloted in North Surrey. The scheme aims to aid personal development of the young people and address anti-social behaviour in the community. YES is part of intervention package, which, in partnership with Youth Justice Service and Educational Welfare Service, can last up to 3 months. The course is accredited by the National Open College Network. The young people will also have the opportunity to attend follow up sessions. SFRS plan to widen the availability of Y.E.S to young people from the other eight boroughs and districts.	
Who has been consulted?	Y.E.S expansion is included in the Surrey Fire & Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan (2008/2009)	
When will the project be started and completed?	Courses to be delivered in east & west of the county in February/March 2009.	
What is the total cost of the project? Estimate/breakdown of costings.	Fire kit (60 sets, various sizes) £15000 Boots £500 Hoses, branches, standpipe £4000 Ladders £2100 Rescue dummies £700 Smoke generators £1120 T-shirts £1700 Other (glasses, gloves, masks) £410 Radiators £250 Other (Urns, frames) £470 Total £26250	
Amount and purpose of proposed Local Committee funding?	£1000 to fund as above	
What alternative funds have been sought or secured?	Funding from CDRPs and 'Positive activities for Young People'	
Has any other part of Surrey County Council been approached for this funding?	The Service is requesting £1000 from each local committee, which if all successful would result in a total allocation of £11000, towards the total cost of equipment for Y.E.S expansion.	
Has the Local Committee given funding for this purpose in the past?	Not for this purpose.	
If this project will need funding in future, how will that be met?	Through alternative funding.	
Area Director's comments	Recommends approval.	
Date of Local Committee	8 th October 2008	