

**Organisation:**

**Surrey Fire and Rescue Service**

**Attendees on 24<sup>th</sup> September *(name and role)***

Malcolm Styles – Area Manager (East)  
Graham Mitchell – Mole Valley Borough Manager

**What role does your organisation play in improving community safety?**

2007/8 Borough Plan set out aims to reduce:

- Incidents of arson and deliberate fire setting
- The number of incidents, deaths and injuries resulting from road traffic collisions
- The number of unwanted fire calls
- The number of injuries sustained in accidental dwelling fires.

Any increases in specific incidents types are reported to CDRP each quarter.

Carry out Home Fire Risk Checks (HFRC) and fit free smoke detectors for all members of the community.

Identify vulnerable children and adults on the same lines as Police and Ambulance services.

Continue to integrate with the community, promoting local, service wide and nationally lead prevention initiatives and campaigns during routine work, programmed activities and emergency incidents.

Coordinates the award winning Safe Drive, Stay Alive performances at Dorking Halls.

Acting partner on CDRP, RAG, CIAG and JAG and Mole Valley Road Safety and Casualty Reduction Working Groups.

Involved in community groups across the Borough (Links and LCP)

Eastern Area Schools Liaison Officer fulfils an annual programme of activities.

Involved with partners in running the Junior Citizen Scheme.

Provision of the Fire Wise Advisory Scheme. 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. In the year to the end of March 2008 the Borough of Mole Valley had 3 referrals from schools and parents.

Implementing the Fire Watch Scheme in schools, a programme which

provides input by fire personnel with the aim of teaching pupils to look for the signs and symptoms of arson.

Duke of Edinburgh Scheme run by fire station based personnel

**What successes have been achieved in 2007/08 by your organisation, either individually or in partnership with other organisations?**

Reduction in the number of fire calls from 238 to 208.

Reduction in the number of injuries in accidental fires from 5 to 2.

Reduction in unwanted calls from 280 to 239.

Reduction in malicious calls from 14 to 10.

5 Firewise referrals for 2007/8.

Completed over 324 Home Fire Risk Checks (HFRC) involving the fitting of more than 400 smoke detectors.

Effective partnership working with Mole Valley Community Alarm in referring individuals for HFRC's and identifying vulnerable persons for their scheme.

New call challenge policy introduced on 1 January 2008 by the Service, aimed at reducing the number of unwanted fire alarm signals in commercial premises. This has resulted in a reduction of 43% in unwanted calls within the borough for the last quarter of 2007/8 compared to the same period in 2006/7.

Re-launch of the Joint Action Group (JAG) in November 2007. Chaired by Fire and Rescue. This has produced a joint partnership problem solving process for geographical or community based hotspots within the borough. It has also improved partnership communications.

Provision of a derelict/unoccupied building register. Active monitoring of these premises by police, fire and MV community safety personnel. An audit of activities and reported incidents is maintained by Fire. This ensures that these premises do not become the focal point for anti-social behaviour and that physical dangers to the community are highlighted.

Completion of a Duke of Edinburgh programme at Leatherhead Fire Station. (Bronze)

Expansion in the involvement of Dorking Schools in the Firewatch Scheme.

Mole Valley Road Safety Group carried out a number of School Speed Watches, speed analysis on the casualty reduction routes (A24 and A29) Also held Road Safety Days, Kickstart and Biker Safe schemes. A very active and productive partnership.

Active role within the Review and Audit Group in allocating CDRP funds to community based projects that aim to improve community safety or promote prevention messages.

More focused multi-agency community action being carried out. Improved communications and a more proactive response to safety issues.

**Have there been any barriers to improving Community Safety in Mole Valley?**

**How can the Local Committee Members assist in overcoming these?**

Identifying vulnerable groups within the community remains a problem. Fire deaths across the county have increased and the majority of those fatalities were later assessed as vulnerable adults unknown to the majority of agencies.

Need greater information sharing so that the identification and safety of the more isolated individuals or groups within the community are known.

HFRC's targets have been set for 2008/9 (480) but it is more important that these checks target the more at risk groups of the community.

Unsuccessful involvement in 2 Integrate schemes with the Youth Development Team.

Loss of the Community Safety Manager in December 2007 had an impact on the combined community safety work carried out by joint partner groups.

Continued attempts to involve Leatherhead schools in the Firewatch Scheme have been unsuccessful.

Very difficult to reduce RTC incidents for the hotspots identified within the borough as engineered solutions are not financially viable.

Number of deliberate fires, deliberate vehicle fires and accidental fires in dwellings show a slight increase between 2006/7 and 2007/8. However the numbers of incidents recorded does not require local committee assistance.

**What are your organisations aspirations for improving community safety over the next 2 years?**

Introduction of the Youth Engagement Scheme (YES) across the eastern area. During 2008/9 the intention is to run 1 YES programme at a fire station within the Eastern area and then expand this to 1 in each of the 4 eastern boroughs during 2009/10. This will be subject to local funding support.

Target of 480 HFRC's set for 2008/9. Free specialist smoke detectors are also available for those with hearing or mobility impairments.

Derelict Building register to be introduced to JAG and a 3 stage process, involving identification, warning and enforcement letters will be set up during 2008/9.

Build on and expand the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme (Silver) within the Borough

Monitor all deliberate fires within the borough to identify any geographical hotspots and identify those who are responsible.

Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) The Service is now seeking to build on the recent success of the performance, expanding the format to bring variants to each individual borough, as well as re-recording and updating the production material used at the event. This will be subject to a separate funding request to CDRP's. Improved local publicity for the evening performance will be introduced to target young drivers within the community who are outside of mainstream education.

Create a proactive relationship with Mole Valley Housing Association in promoting and implementing community fire safety initiatives, whose tenants make up a large percentage of the more vulnerable elements of the community.