



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE**  
(Surrey Heath)

**Surrey Fire & Rescue Service Annual Report**

**30 June 2011**

**KEY ISSUE**

This report outlines the major strands of activity being undertaken within Surrey Heath by the Fire Service teams based at Camberley and Chobham 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 collisions to the residents of Surrey Heath, including direct contact, public education programmes and campaigns.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) is asked to:

- (i) Recognise the achievements of the Borough Teams at Camberley and Chobham.

**Contact Details**

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## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Surrey Heath continues to be a safe place to live, which is reflected in the following performance figures.

- There were 112 primary fires in the year April 2010 - March 2011. This represents improved performance on the previous year where there were 140 primary fires in total. There were 106 deliberate secondary fires in Surrey Heath, which again is a decrease on the previous year (136). However these numbers are low bearing in mind the type of incident (outdoor fires) that this indicator on the whole captures activity from and the potential for this type of incident in Surrey Heath.
- There have been 17 fires in non-residential premises during the last year. This is a decrease of over 30% on the previous year.
- The total number of accidental fires in dwellings for the year 2010-11 is 35, which represents an increase of 1 incident on the previous year.
- Hoax calls appear to be continuing their downward trend with 14 calls this year against the 15 calls received last year. This continues to be monitored and action taken as appropriate.
- False alarms from Automatic Fire Detection systems decreased again dramatically, this time by over 30%, from 156 in 2010 - 11 to 104 last year.

## ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

### 1. Road Traffic Casualties

The Service's award-winning Safe Drive Stay Alive event continues to be an unqualified success. The updated films, tailored to meet the needs of specific groups including the Armed Services, University Undergraduates and Corporate Business are now in extensive use. Personnel from Camberley fire station continue to work with colleagues from Surrey Police to present the Pass Plus Scheme aimed at young people who are approaching driving age or who have recently passed their driving tests at reducing this local figure.

### 2. Schools' education programme

The delivery of fire safety education for school children, with classroom-based input in years 2, 5, and 8, is currently being reviewed. With the changes to the education team in the Service there is likely to be a suspension of this programme whilst the revised method of delivery is finalised and any new team members trained. Station personnel will continue to deliver fire safety education, either through visits into the schools or through hosting school and youth groups at the station.

### 3. Wildfire

The comprehensive fire plans have been refreshed for the Borough in light of the new vehicles in the Service that have seen a much quicker initial attack on this type of incident – something that is key to bringing these fires to a speedy conclusion. Much closer partnership working locally should help prevent these incidents from starting and the Service is currently looking at how we use volunteers, to either provide early warning of these fires starting or to provide specialist equipment to assist in extinguishing them.

#### **4. Calls to Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA)**

Following on from the introduction of Call Challenge system introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 for dealing with AFA's at commercial premises calls to this type of incident continue to decline. When operational crews do attend such incidents they will discuss with the owners/occupiers methods for reducing such calls in the future. All such incidents are monitored and persistent activations at any particular premise are dealt with in an escalating process culminating if necessary in enforcement action.

#### **5. Community Safety Works**

Surrey Heath continues to be proactive in delivering its community safety messages. Successes last year have included targeted partnership campaigns in both the Frimley and Lightwater areas and have seen over 700 home fire safety visits carried out amongst some of the most vulnerable groups in the borough.

#### **6. Youth Engagement Scheme**

There have now been six highly successful schemes run in the West Area of Surrey Fire, which includes Surrey Heath. In the three courses last year a total of 20 young people were referred to the scheme, 10 started the course and 6 graduated. The earlier issues with the referrals seem to have been resolved. The effect that YES has on young people though is not in doubt – with two thirds either not offending at all or offending much less and at a lower 'tariff'.

### **CONSULTATION**

The Service has consulted – where possible face to face and where not electronically - with Members and Partners to ensure the community safety initiatives in Surrey Heath continue to target priority areas and contribute to our aim of making Surrey safer. Whilst we deliver the Borough Plan each year we would like to see as much input as possible from partners to maximise its success

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Currently planned initiatives will be met from within existing budgets of Surrey Fire and Rescue. These initiatives have been greatly enhanced however with the purchase of an 'events toolkit', funded by a Surrey Heath Member (David Ivison), and we now present a more professional image and deliver a much more powerful message at the events that we attend.

### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

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**

Initiatives and campaigns within Surrey Heath will contribute to a reduction in crime and disorder particularly in relation to arson and vehicle crime.

### **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Surrey Heath Borough Plan will deliver community risk reduction, partnership working and LAA priorities within the Surrey Heath Area

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members to be aware of past performance and support the planned initiatives in Surrey Heath over the coming year

## **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

- Members asked to support borough plan for 2011-12
- Members asked to recognise good performance by Surrey Heath personnel in 2010-11

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	None