

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE - TANDRIDGE**Friday 4 December 2009****Place:** District Council Offices, RH8 0BT**Time:** 10:15am**Organisation:****Surrey Fire and Rescue Service****Attendee(s):**

Malcolm Styles - Area Manager
 Martin Garrod - Borough Manager

What role does your organisation play in improving community safety?

SF&RS has a statutory right to carryout community safety work including

- Arson reduction
- Working with young children
- Working with vulnerable groups
- Supporting and attending Local Strategic Partnerships

It undertakes joint partnership working with Community safety officers and School liaison officers and is a partnership agency working with, and represented on, groups such as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP); Community Incident Action Groups (CIAG); Joint Action Groups (JAG) and Road Safety Forums. It is a member of the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board (SSCPB).

The Service has fully supported, and attended, the Community Safety days organised through CIAG and JAG with the aim of targeting identified risk areas. It also works closely with the District Council and its Care & Repair team. It undertakes active enforcement and policing of the Regulatory Reform Order and provides fire safety consultancy, free of charge, to Local Authority Building Control. It is a Member of the Casualty Reduction Working Group (CRWG).

The Service is committed to making the district a safer place to live, work, travel and to do business. By liaising with external partners we are more aware of issues than previously, a more pro-active approach can be adopted due to receipt/exchange of important information. We work closely with all partners and agencies to identify the real problems within our communities.

Recent successes

- Obtaining more partners on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Pension Service for community referrals
- Getting all relative partners around the table to make clear the understanding of each other's roles.
- Beer mat and taxi card campaign each Xmas
- Hot strikes cold strikes
- YES scheme (9 successfully completed)
- Rural Affairs scheme now going County wide as part of the Wildfire strategy
- Partnership working on Arson
- "Safe Drive Stay Alive"
- Involvement in Partnership Safety Events and Community Safety days
- Firewise
- Firewatch
- YFA
- Duke of Edinburgh scheme
- Schools liaison officers (3882 children)
- Nursery Boxes
- Facilitate educational talks to various groups
- F150 – Risk information gathering – Mobile Data
- Arson Task Force
- Reduction in unwanted calls

Station initiatives have helped to drive down arson within the borough and have led to a significant reduction in the numbers of such incidents.

- The Service operates the 'Home Fire Risk Check' (HFRC) initiative which involves operational crews visiting domestic premises and discussing home fire safety with the occupier, offering advice on prevention, detection and escape plans, for free, and where necessary will supply and fit free of charge, smoke alarms. Nearly 150 residential properties have benefited from such visits.
- The station has also responded to local issues which have been addressed through a variety of station based initiatives and campaigns.
- Incidents of rural and farm fires have been reduced with crews visiting such properties and giving advice on arson prevention.
- Arson to commercial and industrial premises has also been reduced, with the help of visits by operational crews, who are able to provide relevant information, with a view to minimise the risk of such incidents.

Aspirations For The Future

- Tandridge has a large rural area with a high number of farms. We aim to raise awareness within the district of the link between arson and vehicle fires in relation to crime figures involving all partners around the Safety agenda.

- Continuing involvement in LSPs and CDRPs to make a difference and be pro-active in Community Safety by setting targets within our Borough Plans.
- Continued support for the YES initiative and Save Drive Stay Alive
- Reducing fire related injuries; reducing the number of fires; increasing the success of the Arson Task force team and reducing road traffic collisions
- Greater involvement with partners, vulnerable groups, youths , children
- Greater involvement at the different partnership meetings
- Improving on environmental issues
- Improving working relations and understanding of minority groups

As a Service we would like to see an increase with the installation of residential sprinklers. The Service has striven to increase the use domestic sprinklers for some time. They are proven to reduce damage due to the effects from fire, and will improve community safety. Many new developments provide a major increase in the housing stock within the district and this development with sprinklers could provide the safest housing in the country, with the additional benefits of limited damage thus offering very early re-occupation and reduced housing costs. This would also reduce the inevitable strain on the limited resources of the fire service due to the increase in numbers of dwellings.

The Service is committed to reducing the numbers of accidental domestic dwelling fires through the HFRC initiative. (See above)

The Service will continue to work with our partner agencies, the police and SCC Traffic and Road Safety teams, participating in various campaigns, with the aim of reducing the numbers of road traffic collisions.

Our service delivery strategy: We will better understand risks in Surrey allowing us to provide a more flexible and appropriate response and so deliver a better level of service in terms of reducing the risk to people who live, work or visit Surrey. We will deliver a more equitable level of service to more people no matter where they are in Surrey.

