



AGENDA ITEM: 10

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

17 October 2011

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Report by Gareth Griffiths, Senior Fire Safety Manager

Purpose of Report

- 1 To inform Members of the Community Engagement activities conducted over the summer of 2011 and their importance in publicising fire safety, contributing to the Authority's compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and shaping the Services we deliver in the future.

Background

- 2 North Wales Fire and Rescue Service engages with the public constantly throughout the year, this is achieved in a variety of ways through recognised teams or individuals with the support of the Corporate Communications Department. This is done not only to comply with the requirement for statutory consultation under the Wales Improvement Measure 2009 and the Equality Act 2010 but more importantly to understand how to make our services better and meet people's differing needs. The Service takes advantage of the summer period to attend a range of events as part of its prevention strategy. This is a good opportunity to communicate with large numbers of people both residents and visitors, helping to make the communities of North Wales safer.

Information

- 3 The Community Safety Department co-ordinates Service attendance at events with resources such as the Multi-Purpose Education Vehicle. These include high profile venues such as the

National Eisteddfod held this year in Wrexham and the Anglesey Show, together with numerous smaller events held across North Wales. These included the open day at Rhyl Community Fire Station, Colwyn Bay prom day, North Wales Police open day as well as many stations attending their local carnivals and fun days.

4 We work with our colleagues in Mid and West and South Wales Fire and Rescue Services to ensure our stand at national events such as the National Eisteddfod delivers fire safety advice in Welsh and English.

5 The breakdown of visitors attending the Fire and Rescue Service stand at the larger events in North Wales is as follows:

National Eisteddfod, Wrexham	4,078
International Eisteddfod, Llangollen	2,230
Anglesey Show	1,707
Denbigh and Flint Show	350
Meirionnydd Show	480

6 The theme for the stand at this year's National Eisteddfod was summer fire safety. Several attractions were devised to appeal to various sections of the community such as an interactive quiz for youngsters.

7 We took the opportunity to invite members of the public to complete the Service's Risk Reduction Plan consultation document whilst attending these events which resulted in over 50 responses.

8 In order to improve safety on the roads the Subaru has been busy over the summer attending a number of events across North Wales targeting the 16-25 age group, The vehicle which was purchased with Welsh Government funding is equipped with DVD facilities to improve the roadcraft of young drivers.

9 We recently undertook an awareness raising project aimed at reducing the risk of fire within the home for those suffering with mental health issues. This included consultation with service users on what they required from the Service. As part of this initiative a

workshop was recently held in Bangor with the support of Firebrake to develop a tailored information pack for carers and health professionals. This event was attended by over 40 people from various organisations across North Wales.

- 10 Another project has been set up to understand the issues and identify potential solutions to the number of incidents and injuries from domestic fires within the Rhyl South West community. This project includes community consultation using both a telephone survey and additional surveys undertaken by members of the community themselves. The Communities First Co-ordinator has identified that this joint initiative has contributed to improved understanding of the risks of fire and allowed the Service to tailor advice to meet the community's specific needs.
- 11 The Service's Business Education department has been busy over the summer period with events including an information day for employers on the Deeside Industrial Estate and a total focus event at Wrexham Industrial Estate. They also ran a seminar for voluntary sector organisations at Rhyl Community Fire Station to inform them of their obligations under fire safety legislation following the success of a similar event earlier in the year. An evening event was held in the 'Galeri' in Caernarfon for providers in the Early Years care sector.

Recommendation

- 12 That Members note the contents of the paper which provides evidence of engagement with the members of the community as part of the Service's prevention strategy.