

# LONDON FIRE BRIGADE: PREVENTATIVE WORK

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## REASON FOR ITEM

To enable the Committee to comment on the impact of the preventative work being undertaken locally by the London Fire Brigade.

## OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and ask questions of the chief officers of the London Fire Brigade (LFB) in order to clarify any matters of concern in the Borough.

## INFORMATION

### Safe Drive Stay Alive

Young drivers are much more likely to be involved in a crash on the roads, often due to inexperience and a lack of knowledge of the risks. Around 1 in 4 deaths on the road are drivers aged 17-24. Safe Drive Stay Alive is produced by a road safety partnership including Thames Valley & Hampshire Police forces, local councils, and emergency services. Each partner has been working for years to reduce the number of people dying on the roads and, by the end of this year, the initiative will have welcomed over 130,000 young people through the doors of a Safe Drive presentation. The good news is that, since 2004, the number of under 25's killed in car crashes has fallen by nearly three quarters, but there is still more to do. The initiative has been programmed to take place in Hillingdon in November 2015.

Through a combination of roads policing, road safety education, engineering measures and speed enforcement, Thames Valley and Hampshire areas saw road casualties who were killed or seriously injured fall to an all time low by the end of 2013. However, a disproportionate number of these remain young, inexperienced drivers and sometimes they don't help themselves.

The Safe Drive Stay Alive campaign reaches new and pre-drivers in an emotive and hard-hitting way, influencing behaviour and attitude on the roads.

### Hoax Calls

A new program of school visits is commencing in September 2015. Fire station personnel will be visiting 36 infant/primary schools in Hillingdon to deliver a fire safety package, which includes an element on the risks associated with hoax calling.

### Home Fire Safety

Most fires in the home start accidentally and the effects can be devastating. It is important that residents know how to reduce the chances of a fire starting in their home and keep themselves, their family and their property safe from fire. The LFB offers information to help, including the offer of a home visit, information about kitchen safety and how to safely use candles in your

home. The LFB also offers a two-page A5 Home Fire Safety Guide to provide helpful advice, at a glance, on issues including smoke detection, living in purpose-built blocks of flats and smoking.

Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) continue throughout the Borough with crews targeting those more vulnerable. Hillingdon's target for 2015/16 is to fit 2,400 smoke detectors, with 80% of these being fitted in the homes of more vulnerable people - current progress indicates that this target will be exceeded.

The Fire Brigade is undertaking a new strategy within the Borough to identify vulnerable people who are more likely to have a fire in their home. Working with partners, the Fire Brigade is starting to facilitate training sessions which help front line staff become more aware of the dangers of fire happening in the home and which of their clients may be more vulnerable. This includes hoarding, mobility, drugs and alcohol, mental health and the identifiers for those at risk. As part of this work, the LFB Borough Commander in Hillingdon chairs the vulnerable persons panel which meets monthly and brings together partners from Health, Housing, Adult/Children's Services, ASB, etc, and provides an arena to a partnership approach to meeting the needs of the more urgently vulnerable people in the community. On the back of this, LFB has set up a direct referral protocol whereby practitioners or their managers can contact LFB managers in Hillingdon directly to offer their services to those most in need.

### **Junior Citizens Programme – Annual Event - March**

As part of the Junior Citizens Programme, Year 6 school children in Hillingdon are learning about keeping themselves safe by considering topics such as internet safety, travelling on public transport and road safety.

Funded by Hillingdon Council and run in partnership with Transport for London, London Fire Brigade, the Metropolitan Police, the NHS, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and Hillingdon's Federation of Community Associations, Junior Citizens includes a range of educational and interactive group sessions aimed at 10 and 11 year olds to help them make the transition to secondary school.

Local volunteers, including students from Brunel University and social work students from New Bucks University, help to support the running of the sessions. Junior Citizens takes place at Hillingdon Fire Station for three weeks in March. All year 6 children from primary schools in the Borough (over 3,000 local children) were invited to attend, as well as local special needs schools.

The programme includes interactive education sessions for the Junior Citizens programme so that children will leave feeling more confident of the best way to react to new and challenging situations they encounter as they grown up and enter secondary school. Children who take part in Junior Citizens learn about:

- road safety (Hillingdon Council)
- cycle safety (Hillingdon Council and London Fire Brigade)
- travelling on the London Underground (Transport For London)
- bus travel (Transport for London Safety and Citizenship team)
- fire safety (London Fire Brigade)
- knife crime (Metropolitan Police)
- drugs and alcohol (NHS Nurses)

- internet safety (New Bucks University)
- stranger danger (volunteers)
- water safety (RNLI)

They are awarded a Junior Citizens programme certificate at the end of the day that shows they have taken part.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL.