

**Safety Event – Community Preparedness**

**Date –** December 2013

**Personnel Involved:** Community Safety Advocates

**Summary**

The Strategic Plan clearly indicates our move to Preparedness and Recovery as well as Prevention, Protection and Response. Our advanced planning during the floods in December 2013 meant that we were able to mobilise many of our existing, non-operational, Community Safety Advocates to assist in Community Preparedness in the hours leading up to the flooding. An operational manager coordinated the deployment of those staff from the Services Major Incident Room, working alongside officers in the Service Gold Command who were coordinating the deployment of operational resources and who were in contact with the Strategic Co-ordination Group (Multi agency Gold Command) attended by DCFO Sanders.. It was the first time that those staff had been made available in such a way. They were initially deployed to a holding centre set up at Humberside International Airport, and from there were mobilised to separate parts of the Service area to assist on the ground with advice to residents and evacuation activity. Arrangements have been reviewed and improvements put in place to ensure their deployment in the future will, where possible, be significantly in advance of any predicted event to support local flood action plans. This has been a significant step change in how we utilise non-operational staff in the Preparedness phase of an incident.

**Safety Event – Assessment of Princes Trust delivery**

**Date –** October 2013

**Personnel Involved:** Inclusion Team / Princes Trust delivery staff.

**Summary**

Our Princes Trust team took part in Grimsby Institute's Observation of our Teaching Learning and Assessments in which a member of their quality assurance team observed our teaching practices. The Team received a **Grade 1 - Outstanding** based on the Ofsted Common Inspection Framework Grading System, which is the highest Grade which can be achieved for teaching. This is a great success for the Team, as achieving an outstanding assessment under that framework is extremely difficult, but more importantly is great for the young people taking part in the programme. We now have a dedicated Princes Trust Manager funded through the scheme, Jamie Morris. Jamie will be working with the central support team to look at the feasibility to extend the Princes Trust into North Lincs

## **Safety Event – BTEC courses**

**Date** – January 2014

**Personnel Involved:** Inclusion Team

### **Summary**

We have been commissioned to deliver 4 BTEC courses for Jobcentre plus on behalf of the Department of Works and Pensions DWP with the emphasis on targeting young people Not in Education Employment or Training (NEETs) in the age bracket of 18-24 yrs. The contract has attached to it certain performance indicators / targets for the Service to meet. At present we have delivered the courses in Scunthorpe and Goole, Bridlington is on-going, and Hull is planned to start in March.

Achievements so far

1. 30 students to date with 1 more course to go (*some have dropped off due to employment and other reasons, see no3*)
2. 16 already achieved BTEC qualification (*Bridlington and Hull are still to complete*)
3. 10 already have gained employment (*target is 7 for all 4 courses*)
4. 3 have gone onto further education (*Bridlington and Hull figures are not yet available*)

Managers from Jobcentre Plus have looked at our target figures so far; they were extremely pleased at our performance and want us to continue delivering the course in the same way.

## **Safety Event – Technical Fire Safety Enforcement and Business Support**

**Date** – October 2013

**Personnel Involved:** Operational personnel and Technical Fire Safety Officers

### **Summary**

During a fire in a packaging plant a FDS Officer noticed contraventions to the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order 2005. Technical Fire Safety Officers, who enforce this Order, were requested to attend. The Managing Director was found to be in contravention of a number of the articles within the Order. These contraventions were significant and the issuing of an 'enforcement notice' or 'prohibition notice' under the order was considered. The decision was taken to issue an 'enforcement notice'. The Managing Director was given 1 month to complete all of the works required under the notice.

It is possible that premises, such as this one, could have been issued a prohibition notice. This notice would have meant that all or part of the premises would be taken out of use. Even though a prohibition notice is available it must be used appropriately. In this case if that had been served then the building would have been closed down, suspending the business, and ultimately those employees may have been placed out of work. In this instance the Managing Director accepted the deficiencies and was willing to work with Humberside Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) to complete all of the required works within the time scales set.

If the Technical Fire Safety Officers could not have been reassured of the safety of persons on the premises, during the period of works, then a prohibition notice would have been served in this case.

Subsequent acknowledgment has been received by the Managing Director putting on record his praise for HFRS direct involvement in helping them comply with the law and how this working relationship helped them to ensure that all of the works were completed well before the time stipulated in the enforcement notice.

## **Safety Event – Fire Investigation**

**Date** – January 2014

**Personnel Involved:** Operational WM, Fire Investigation managers

Training has been arranged through a nationally recognised training provider (Gardiners) to up skill operational Watch Managers in fire investigation at level one incidents. The need has emerged through the removal of the 'unknown' category when completing fire reports for the IRS. Operational personnel have not received any training in FI for a number of years. Up skilling is needed so that a rational and informed judgement can be made after the fire as to the origin and cause. This will ensure that the need for further investigative work, by our highly trained Fire Investigation Officers, is identified so that organisational risk can be minimised.

Accurately identifying origin and cause of fire will positively impact on our performance and in areas where the numbers are small this could have significant effect on community safety prevention activity. The option for operational crews to call upon the services of a Fire Investigation Officer will always be available.

Those Fire Investigation Officers who are trained to investigate level 2 and level 3 incidents have also had further training in evidence gathering and legal training for evidence presentation. This was seen as important to assist in the legal process to support the successful prosecution of arson offenders and ultimately see a reduction of fires due to offenders receiving custodial sentences. It also assists Operational planning and Community Safety work as the offenders become known and appropriate risk prevention activities can be put in place. The need for Fire Investigation Officers to be developed in issues around the Criminal Justice System has been identified by the Forensic Science Regulator and is being considered by the working group developing the new Code of Practice for Fire Investigation. ACFO Blacksell is part of that working group in his capacity as Chief Fire Officers Association Lead for Fire Investigation.

## **Safety Event – Community Recovery**

**Date** – January 2014

**Personnel Involved:** Community safety advocates

The Strategic Plan clearly indicates our move to Preparedness and Recovery as well as Prevention, Protection and Response. Currently the Fire and Rescue Service has an agreement with the British Red Cross (BRC) to help people cope in the aftermath of a fire or other emergency providing practical help, advice and comfort.

The aims of the Fire & Emergency Support Service (FESS) are to respond quickly and effectively in an emergency situation. FESS does not aim to duplicate work of the statutory bodies such as social services but assist in planning their recovery and help them access help that is available from statutory bodies or other agencies. Operational crews will request the attendance of FESS when appropriate.

Typical practical support provided includes immediate temporary shelter, first aid and availability of clothing. The FESS will also provide use of a digital camera and telephone communications. They also offer emotional support assisting victims to identify their own needs. They provide clear impartial non-directive advice and sign post to other relevant organisations. The FESS also provide enhanced security for vulnerable adults and have a secure environment for children and young people, not currently provided by operational crews during day time incidents.

Currently support is only available during night time hours which leaves a gap in Recovery provision. During the day Community Safety Advocates generally attend an incident already to provide Safety support in the area and also attend in the morning following a fire during the night. Advocates are now starting to receive training and improved skill sets to enhance the valuable support already offered by FESS by enabling them to undertake the FESS role, as volunteers, during daytime periods. They will utilise the FESS vehicles during daytime hours and therefore will be immediately available to attend incidents, when requested by operational crews, to provide enhanced Recovery provision in the same way that FESS do during the night. This is a significant step in improving our delivery of the Recovery part of the Strategic Plan.