

SECTION 41 MEMBER BRIEFING



DECEMBER 2016

Please find below information from your
Section 41 Member representative on South
Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Cllr Pat Haith



Fire service event to launch sprinkler safety fund

South Yorkshire housing providers are being asked to come to a free event to find out more about a fire service fund set up to support the installation of life saving sprinkler systems in high risk homes.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue (SYFR) is hosting the Think Sprinkler event in a bid to explain to landlords, charities and social housing organisations the benefits of installing sprinklers to protect their tenants from fire.

Business fire safety officers will also explain how organisations can apply for funding under the Fire Authority's Stronger Safer Communities Reserve. Up to £2 million has been set aside from the Authority's reserves to support sprinkler projects on a match funded basis.

Head of prevention and protection Steve Helps, said: "The combination of working smoke alarms and a home sprinkler system reduces the risk of death from fire by more than 80%.

"Automatic fire sprinklers are most effective during the initial stage of a fire occurring, as a properly installed sprinkler will detect the heat, initiate an alarm and activate just moments after the flames appear.

"I would encourage local housing providers to attend this free event to find out more about the potential funding opportunities available to them to help make their most vulnerable residents safer from fire."

SYFR has pioneered the use of sprinklers in high risk residential settings, leading a UK first project to retrofit an automated system at the Callow Mount block of flats in Gleadless. That scheme is now internationally recognised for the improved safety it offers the people living within the building. It has also worked alongside Sheffield City Council to make more than 540 properties in the city safer by installing lifesaving sprinkler systems at council owned flats in Gleadless Valley, Westfield, Stannington and Netherthorpe. This project was another UK first.

The installation of sprinkler systems in new build homes is now mandatory in Wales and SYFR is actively promoting the use of this type of protection in all types of buildings to build resilience and safety into local communities.

The Think Sprinkler event takes place at SYFR's training centre in Handsworth, Sheffield on 11 January. To book your place email BFSCenSupp@syfire.gov.uk with **SSCR SPRINKLER FUND in the subject line.**

For more information on sprinkler systems, visit <http://www.syfire.gov.uk/business-advice/fire-sprinklers/>

Award win for Fire Service Prince's Trust Team Programme

Eleven young people on a fire service team programme have won a regional award for their community project.

The young people were winners in the Community Impact category at the Yorkshire & Humber Prince's Trust Celebrate Success Awards 2016 and are now hoping to be shortlisted for the national awards in Spring 2017.

The team were part of the Prince's Trust Team Programme run by South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue. A 12 week personal development course for unemployed 16 – 25 year olds, offering work experience, qualifications, practical skills, community projects and a residential week.



The community project which helped win them the award involved cleaning up and painting three unloved bridges in the Goldthorpe area with the support of the local people behind them.

SYFR Team Leader Rhian Oxley said, "I am so proud of this group and what they have achieved. From a small idea proposed by four members of the team into incorporating a whole village into believing they could make a change. I wish them luck as they progress to the next stage and hope they are shortlisted for the national awards."

SYFR Area Manager Steve Helps said: "This is a real achievement for these young people. The Prince's Trust Team Programme is a fantastic scheme which South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue are proud to be associated with and the role we have played in helping these young people aspire to a better future."

To be part of the next Team Programme please contact John Daley on 07769 887249 or princestrust@syfire.gov.uk

Sheffield emergency services team picks up major NHS collaboration award

A joint emergency services team set up to reduce demand on 999 responders in Sheffield has picked up a major health award.

The Local Intervention and Falls Episodes (LIFE) team, set up by South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue and South Yorkshire Police and supported by Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust, won the award for best NHS Collaboration at the Health Business Awards 2016 event in London.



(l-r): Catherine James (Yorkshire Ambulance Service), Rob Hall (LIFE), Jonathan Dyson (South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue), Jenny Lax (South Yorkshire Police), Jayne White (LIFE)

The team is four months into a six month pilot which sees staff visit homes to reduce fire risk in properties, improve security and help people who have fallen.

So far the project has carried out more than 150 crime prevention checks and 250 home safety visits, which include the fitting of free smoke alarms.

The team also responds to help people at high volume, lower priority incidents, including helping almost 40 people who have had a fall, are not seriously injured, but are unable to get up on their own.

LIFE team staff have also helped find missing people and visited vulnerable people who have either been victims of crime or are at risk of anti-social behaviour.

Some of this work traditionally takes police officers and paramedics off the road for many hours.

SYFR Head of Prevention and Protection Steve Helps, said: "This award is the best possible example of our commitment to collaborate with our emergency services partners. It's also deserved recognition for a brand new team, which proves emergency services are working together locally to help make people safer and healthier.

"We know that there are huge links between the people who need the help of the police and health services, and those who are at risk of fire. So collaborative working such as this undoubtedly benefits our public safety work."

The team operates using two specialist vehicles and consists of four staff - two South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue employees and two South Yorkshire Police community support officers (PCSOs).

The scheme has been funded by South Yorkshire Fire Authority for six months and researchers from the University of Huddersfield have been commissioned to evaluate its effectiveness. If successful, it could be extended and taken to other parts of South Yorkshire.

Last year the Government announced new proposals to transform the way the police, fire and rescue and ambulance services work together. It wants to encourage collaboration by introducing a new statutory duty on all three emergency services to look at opportunities to work with one another better to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

In South Yorkshire, fire crews already attend hundreds of 'medical break-ins' every year, where they gain access to properties where people are thought to be in need of urgent medical attention, but where ambulance service paramedics cannot get to them. This work used to be carried out by the police.

Work has also now started on a joint police and fire station in Maltby, whilst five ambulance stand-by points will also be created at five other fire service premises across the county.

Retailer Boyes first to sign up to new business fire safety partnership scheme

A major UK retailer has become the first business to sign-up to a new fire service partnership scheme in South Yorkshire.



South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue (SYFR) will work with department store chain Boyes as part of the initiative, which will see fire service experts providing the company with safety advice the company can adopt across its sites nationwide.

Partnerships like this, also available to other organisations, are known as Primary Authority Schemes (PAS) and allow the fire service and businesses to come together to improve the quality and consistency of safety and prevention measures.

The schemes also help to cut red tape for larger businesses, by streamlining their compliance with fire safety laws.

SYFR Business Fire Safety Manager Amy Jenkinson, said: "Boyes is a well known local business with strong Yorkshire roots. It has since expanded its operations and now runs 59 department stores throughout the north of England so we are pleased to be working with them to ensure that fire safety compliance is effective and consistent across the company.

"Primary Authority Schemes are a brilliant tool for helping us to work more closely with companies who are proactive about delivering on their fire safety duties and we hope to sign agreements with further businesses to work with them in this way."

Boyes opened its first shop in Scarborough in 1881 and operates 59 stores across the UK and is due to open its 60th store at the end of November at Firth Park in Sheffield.

Boyes Safety Manager, Vivienne Sheader said: "The safety of our customers and staff is very important to us. We are delighted to have established this relationship which was first suggested to us following a successful routine fire audit that was carried out by SYFR in our Doncaster store.

"Our business is growing every year and to have a single point of reference that is recognised by every local fire authority enables us to apply consistent fire safety standards across all of our buildings."

Primary Authority Schemes are statutory schemes, established by the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 (the RES Act). It allows an eligible business to form a legally recognised partnership with a single local authority in relation to regulatory compliance. This local authority is then known as its 'primary authority'.

Primary authorities play a valuable role in leading and shaping the regulation of businesses that partner with them. In doing so, they deliver benefits for the regulatory system as a whole, for the businesses they partner with, and for those that the regulations are designed to protect - consumers, workers and the environment. Primary authorities, including fire and rescue services, are able to charge for this service on a cost recovery basis.

For more information contact tfs.cs@syfire.gov.uk or visit <http://www.syfire.gov.uk/business-advice>



Did you know you can watch all Authority meetings LIVE?

All Fire Authority meetings are open to the public and are broadcast live on the internet. Visit www.southyorks.gov.uk. You can also view previous meetings.

Whilst viewing the meeting you can contribute comments and debate proceedings with other viewers via CoverItLive or Twitter.

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