

# SECTION 41 MEMBER BRIEFING



**JANUARY 2017**

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 £1 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](mailto: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/>

## Can you get free home safety equipment worth £100?



South Yorkshire  
FIRE & RESCUE



Yorkshire Children's Centre is a Yorkshire based charity working with **South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue** to help improve the safety of children in the home.

Accidental injury is one of the biggest killers of children in the UK. It is second only to cancer. In the Doncaster area alone 8,962 under 4's attended A&E last year as a result of an accident in the home.

We run a scheme for families with a child under the age of 2 to specifically help reduce accidents in the home. The scheme can provide and fit **FREE** home safety equipment including safety gates, fire guards, bath mats, cord winders and cupboard locks.

The value of the equipment is around **£100** and could really make a difference and help you keep your child safe.

Do you have a child under the age of 2?

Do you receive benefits?

Do you live in Doncaster?

If the answer to all the questions above is **YES** then you could be eligible for this **FREE** equipment.

Just pop into your **local children's centre** and ask about the '**Safety in the Home**' scheme

or contact

Yorkshire Children's Centre on **01484 415465**

email: **safetyinthehome@yccuk.org.uk**

### **Fire Service partner with Homeless Charity**

A partnership between Crisis Skylight South Yorkshire and South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue is supporting people at risk of homelessness to develop the skills they need to live independently and stay safe. Mandy Carlson the Director of Crisis said: "many of our clients have multiple and complex needs such as experience of drug and alcohol addiction and mental health issues, making them vulnerable and at increased risk of fire in the home. We see this project as being the first step towards developing a long term relationship with SYFR".

SYFR identify homeless people as being a particularly hard to reach group for them, and Crisis want to help them work more closely with this group.

Pictured at a celebration event for Crisis clients who have completed training programmes, together with Cllr Jackie Satur, a Member of South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and Group Manager Trevor Bernard, Head of Community Fire Safety.



## South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue recruitment ....

### 'Have a go days' for under represented groups

We will soon be **opening recruitment** for wholetime firefighters and are holding some taster days at our training centre in January so that people from groups currently under represented amongst our frontline staff can find out more about a career in the fire service.

We will always recruit the best people for the job. But we also want to ensure our workforce accurately represents the communities we serve, so these days are about providing information to potential women, black and minority ethnic and LGBT applicants so that they can make an informed career decision.

If you would like to register your interest in one of the days on either Wednesday 4 January (women) or Saturday 14 January (other under represented groups, including women) please email [recruitment@syfire.gov.uk](mailto:recruitment@syfire.gov.uk)

You can find **more information about positive action and what it means here**



### **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](http://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.

### **Follow the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority on Twitter**

@syFireAuth



**Firefighters thank public for number one bid support**

Firefighters have thanked the people of South Yorkshire for their support with a campaign to reach Christmas number one.

Central red watch and 999 operators were part of the drive to reach the festive song summit with 'Chip Pan' by the Everly Pregnant Brothers.

Thousands of people have downloaded the track and, although it's unlikely to reach the top spot when the official chart is released later on Friday, the campaign has helped raise awareness of kitchen fire safety and firefighters on duty over Christmas amongst millions of people.

Highlights of the assault on the yuletide music chart included two national television appearances and more than five million views online for a video which accompanies the song. Leaders, businesses and celebrities from across Sheffield also threw in their support for the campaign.

It's thought that sales of the track will have also raised thousands of pounds for Shelter and Age UK Sheffield, once official download figures are collated.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Martin Blunden, said: "This campaign was clearly a bit of festive fun, but with chip pans still responsible for large numbers of house fires every year, we think it's important to raise awareness of important safety messages in different ways.

"We also wanted to remind people that across the UK thousands of firefighters and 999 operators- not to mention many more of their colleagues in the emergency services- will be on duty this Christmas keeping people safe.

"None of it would have been possible without the work of firefighters at Central fire station or the Everly Pregnant Brothers. But we also want to thank people locally for really getting behind the campaign in a big way."