

# SECTION 41 MEMBER BRIEFING

**JUNE 2017**

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



## Authority funding scheme's third bidding round to open later this year

Applications will open later this year for the third round of the Stronger Safety Communities Reserve (SSCR).



The fund is a South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority scheme which reinvests money into local communities to support our work to prevent emergencies. The money has been set aside from the Authority's reserves.

More than 40 projects won funding during two previous open bidding rounds, [which you can read about here](#)

## SSCR Fund Information Event

To help potential applicants prepare for the bidding process, an information event will be held on **4 August 2017** at the **fire service Training & Development Centre on Beaver Hill Road, Handsworth, Sheffield.**

Speakers at the event will include successful applicants from the second open bidding round, including:

- Edlington Community Association
- Crisis Skylight South Yorkshire
- Barnsley NHS Trust Specialist Midwives
- SpeakUp Self – Advocacy

Delegates will also be advised on the application process, the funding criteria they must meet and the proposed tools for evaluating the successful projects.

## Round 3 Timeline

Fund open for applications 1 September

Closing date for applications 12 noon 30 September

- SYFR Task and finish groups meet 2 to 14 October to assess applications
- Assessment board meets w/c 23 October to make recommendations
- Recommendations for approval for funded projects to Fire Authority on 27 November
- Approved projects notified w/c 27 November
- Projects launch 1 January 2018

For more information please contact the SSCR co-ordinator, Toni Tranter on [ttranter@syfire.gov.uk](mailto:ttranter@syfire.gov.uk)

## House fires fall across South Yorkshire



South Yorkshire has recorded its lowest ever number of house fires.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue says it attended 561 accidental house blazes in 2016/17- an 11 per cent drop on the previous year's figure (629). It's also nearly half the number attended by the fire service 15 years ago (1008).

Fire officers say the latest figures are proof that its efforts to make people safer are paying off, with firefighters having carried out nearly 300,000 safety checks in people's homes since 2006.

Staff also spoke to more than 30,000 children last year, as part of its education work in schools and the fire service has run successful campaigns targeting older people, electrical and cooking blazes.

But to maintain the record low figures, bosses say they need to become even more targeted in their prevention work and for local people, organisations and charities to get more involved.

Head of Prevention Steve Helps, said: "South Yorkshire is safer from house fires now than it has been at any time in its history, but people should never become complacent when it comes to fire safety. Every single incident we do attend is someone's own, personal disaster and, potentially, someone's tragedy.

"That's why we need the help of local people and organisations to support our work. Nearly all of the most serious house fires we attend involve some common issues which are often being dealt with by other agencies, or involve people who are known by neighbours or loved ones to be at higher risk. The fire service can often put in place measures to prevent deaths from fire- but only if an individual is referred to us for support."

Top tips for preventing house fires include:

- ◇ Make sure you have **smoke alarms** on every floor of your home. Test them regularly.
- ◇ Take extra care in the kitchen and **never leave cooking unattended**
- ◇ **Don't overload electric sockets**— most can only take a maximum of 13 amps
- ◇ Keep matches and lighters away from **children**
- ◇ **Put out cigarettes properly** and dispose of them carefully

## LIFE Team trials innovative dementia products

Following on from Dementia Awareness Week last week, the multi-agency Local Intervention and Falls Episodes (LIFE) Team in South Yorkshire have launched a pioneering trial into the use of GPS tracking software to help loved ones locate missing people, particularly those living with dementia.

The LIFE team, which consists of staff from South Yorkshire Police and South



Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, have been working on behalf of all three emergency services in Sheffield since August last year, visiting vulnerable people to reduce fire risks, improve security and help people who have fallen.

Their work has expanded over the last year to include offering support to individuals that are living with dementia and their families or carers, and it is hoped that the trial of GPS tracking devices will offer some much needed reassurance.

Emergency services collaboration lead Temporary Chief Inspector Jenny Lax says: “When a loved one goes missing, it is an incredibly worrying and distressing time. Those concerns increase when that person lives with dementia.

“For police, when we receive a report of a missing person who lives with dementia, it generates a massive response immediately from across the force.

“In partnership with South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, we wanted to see what additional support we could offer to those families and carers of those with dementia and that’s why we secured funding to explore the use of GPS trackers.”

The GPS trackers, which provide emergency services with the ability to trace a person’s movements, can be attached to any item that the individual frequently wears or is likely to always have on them, like a watch or a particular pair of shoes.

TCI Lax continues: “We know that those with dementia often feel they need to walk somewhere or retain some sense of routine and it’s important that the trackers are tailored to individual needs so that if they do go missing it’s more likely they’ll have the tracking device in their possession.

“This means that if they are reported missing, we can trace their movements more effectively and locate them much quicker.

“We hope that this trial offers an additional layer of reassurance to those families whose loved ones live with this awful and often debilitating disease, and provides some form of comfort that if they go missing, our emergency services are in a better position to locate them and return them home safely.”

SYFR Area Manager Steve Helps added: “This is yet another example of how the LIFE team is working together to produce meaningful outcomes for some of the most vulnerable people in society.

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

The LIFE team are currently assessing potential candidates to take part in the trial and individuals that meet a certain set of agreed criteria will be offered a device.



#### **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.

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