

SECTION 41 MEMBER BRIEFING



SEPTEMBER 2016

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



Charity bike ride—South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue

Area Manager Steve Helps, Head of Prevention and Protection and four members of SY Fire and Rescue Service staff are raising money on behalf of the Firefighters' Charity.

The Fire Fighters Charity provides assistance, rehabilitation and recuperation to ill or injured firefighters, serving or retired, and their dependants.

AM Helps, GM Stuart Nicolson, FF Rogers from Tankersley and former Fire Officer Tony Deakin are undertaking a sponsored bike ride from Lands End to John O' Groats raising money for the charity. This will take place from the 18th of September to the 2nd of October 2016 and will involve a total distance of 965 miles.

Anyone wishing to donate please visit the Just Giving page –

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SYFRCC-LEJOG2016>

Princes Trust Team Programme

Do you know what the Princes Trust Team Programme is and what it can do for the young people it caters for?

We've joined forces with South Yorkshire Police to produce this [video](#).

Government criticised over quietly abandoning requirement for new schools to install fire sprinklers

(taken from 'The Independent')

Government ministers have been heavily criticised after quietly abandoning the requirement for fire sprinklers to be fitted in new schools, in what has been called a "retrograde step" by fire chiefs.

An update to the Department of Education's (DfE) [Design in Fire Safety in Schools](#) stated that "Building Regulations do not require the installation of fire sprinkler suppression systems in school buildings for life safety".

"Therefore," it added, "[guidelines] no longer include an expectation that most new school buildings will be fitted with them."

The move has been lambasted by fire officers and follows two recent major school fires.

More than 75 firefighters were called out to tackle a blaze at Selsey Academy in Sussex on 21 August leaving the structure "effectively a skeleton", while on 24 August, 12 fire engines tackled a blaze at Cecil Jones Academy in Southend-on-Sea.

According to [The Mail on Sunday](#), neither school was fitted with sprinklers.

Julian Parsons, of the Chief Fire Officers Association, told [The Argus](#): "This is a retrograde step that doesn't make any sense. Sprinklers don't just save lives, they prevent fires from spreading and causing significant damage and disruption to our children's education."

Brian Robinson, Chairman of the Fire Sector Federations, said the Government "appears to have relegated the principles of property protection to an afterthought".

Are you a housing provider with properties in South Yorkshire?

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue would like to invite you to attend a free event to find out about your fire safety responsibilities to protect your tenants and residents.

Safe as Houses? Protecting the Vulnerable from Fire

We have set aside some funds from our Stronger Safer Communities Reserve as a sprinkler fund to put fire suppression systems into buildings housing high-risk vulnerable residents.

How we can support you:

The event will include speakers from the SYFR Business Fire Safety team focussed on identifying best practice and legal responsibility in high risk residential settings.

Sprinklers and suppression:

Our sprinkler and suppression advocate will be on hand to show how assisted technology can reduce fire risk to occupants.

Funding:

Find out about the Fire Authority's Stronger Safer Communities Reserve (SSCR) and how to apply for funding to help with the cost of installation of fire suppression systems.

Spaces are limited and will be available on a first come first served basis. **Please visit the SY Fire and Rescue Authority website—[here](#)—for further details.**

SYFR will then send you details of the event that is planned to take place in October.

Fire service scheme praised for transforming life of Sheffield sight loss patient

A Sheffield woman has hailed the life changing impact of a fire service referral scheme which saw her given vital help with her eyesight after suffering a blaze in her home.

Dawn Caney, aged 60, from Sheffield was referred for specialist sight loss support from Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind after fire service staff noticed cataracts may have contributed to the incident.

She was referred for help thanks to 'Optimeyes'- a new lottery funded partnership between South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue (SYFR), Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and local charity Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind (SRSB).

The scheme has trained dozens of fire service staff in delivering a simple, five minute sight screening tool to assess sight problems. The assessment is built into the fire service's established programme of home safety visits.

Nearly 5,000 people have now been offered the assessment by the fire service in South Yorkshire, with at least 40 people referred to SRSB for further interventions, including Dawn.

Dawn has now spoken to a hospital consultant about undergoing surgery on her cataracts, is visited by a physiotherapist to help her walking and referred to a care agency who help her with day-to-day tasks.

.Dawn said: "I noticed that my eyes were getting bad about three years ago when things started to look blurred and I got a lot of headaches. I used to go out to the local shops every day but it got too difficult for me to manage the steps down from my first floor flat, I just couldn't see the rubbish. I was frightened of slipping, so I stopped going out, except to the rubbish chute. I was also frightened because I didn't know why I couldn't see clearly anymore. I thought it was because I smoked and that was what was causing everything to be blurred. Now I know it's also because I have got cataracts so that's a bit of a relief in some ways.

"I had an incident at my flat and the fire service came out. They sent a home safety officer out to visit me after that to check that my flat was well protected with smoke alarms and that I knew how to avoid the risks of having another incident. The home safety officer noticed that I couldn't see clearly and referred me to Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind who I had heard of, but didn't know how to get in touch with. I also didn't know that they helped people like me who weren't totally blind.

"Since then my life has changed a lot, all for the better. A Community Advice Officer from SRSB came to my flat and has arranged appointments and support for me. I've been able to tell her all my problems and she always listens and asks me what I want and what I prefer. She gives me time to think about things first so I don't feel pressured into making decisions. It feels like I have some say in my life again.

"My support worker is helping me to trust people again and I now get out of my flat at least once a week. I would say there have been lots of positive changes in my life since February thanks to being referred to SRSB by the South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue."

The fire service said the partnership is all part of its efforts to extend the benefits of the work it does with some of the county's most vulnerable residents.

SYFR Area Manager Steve Helps, said: "In the last decade, the fire service has helped to make South Yorkshire safer than it has been at any time in its history in terms of house fires and fire related deaths and injuries.

"But we believe we can play a much wider role in terms of tackling some of the big health challenges our country faces in the future. This scheme is the perfect illustration of that aspiration, where the fire service's contact with some of the most vulnerable people in society is



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.

Follow the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority on Twitter



@syFireAuth

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue help hundreds of homeless people through Crisis

South Yorkshire-based homelessness charity has used fire service funding to support vulnerable homeless people whilst simultaneously providing fire safety advice.

Crisis Skylight South Yorkshire partnered with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR) to help 300 homeless people to better understand how to find and sustain a tenancy, improve their housing situation and provide safety advice to prevent fires.

The project aims to improve the tenancy skills of homeless people, many of whom have never lived in private rented accommodation before.

The charity works with the fire service to identify single homeless people who are considered very vulnerable due to their physical and mental health, their lack of tenancy skills and their inability to secure quality housing. Support workers then ensure the tenant receives all the support and guidance they need to find and sustain a tenancy, including arranging for safety



checks to be carried out, fitting smoke alarms and helping them to source fire safe electrical goods.

The project was awarded £82,789 under South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority's funding scheme, the Stronger Safer Communities Reserve (SSCR).

Station Manager Darren Perrot said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for SYFR to work with some of the most vulnerable people in South Yorkshire, and help those in need who we haven't been able to reach previously. Crisis is a great charity which offers these people a chance at living a comfortable life, and if we can educate them in how to prevent fires at the same time then it benefits everyone. This is why the SSCR fund was set up and it's brilliant to see the direct benefits within the local community."

Fire service attends hundreds of medical 'break ins' in unique 999 collaboration

Firefighters are attending hundreds more incidents each year in a unique arrangement with the county's police force.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue says it has attended more than 1,800 'medical break-in' incidents since July 2014- when it became the first fire service in the country to take on this type of work.

It sees firefighters provide humanitarian assistance at emergencies where people are thought to be in need of urgent medical attention, but where ambulance service paramedics cannot get to them, for example when they are locked indoors.

Firefighters will normally use specialist equipment to break into properties, allowing paramedics to quickly deliver help to patients. The equipment and skills they use also means less damage is caused when entering properties and crews can help to make the scene safe afterwards.

The work used to be carried out by police officers, so is helping to save thousands of hours of police time each year. The scheme was the first of its kind in the country when it was first trialled in Rotherham in September 2014, but has now been adopted by other UK fire and rescue services.

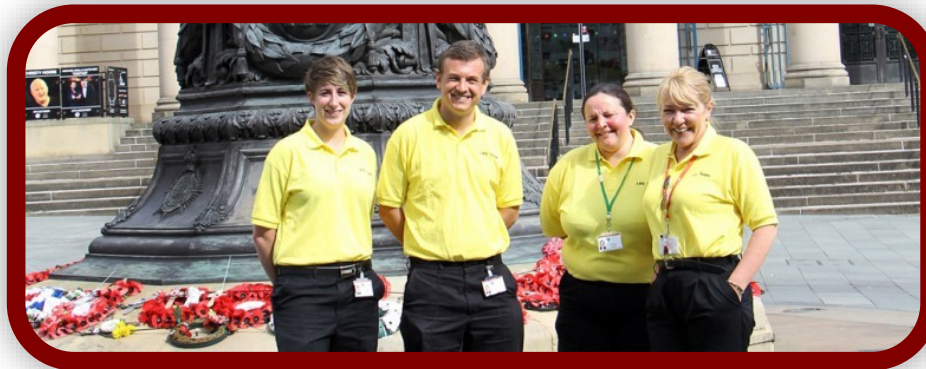
This type of incident now comprises a growing element of fire service incident activity in South Yorkshire. Officers say the arrangement is another example of the valuable contribution of the modern fire and rescue service, on top of the thousands of fires and other emergencies like road traffic collisions and water rescues the service attends across the county each year.

Head of Emergency Response Tony Carlin, said: "We provide a first class emergency response to the people of South Yorkshire, but the skills and equipment our firefighters have mean we can apply that service to more than just fires.

"This arrangement benefits everyone. For the police it helps them to concentrate their resources on other areas of work. For our firefighters, they get experience of a wider range of emergency incidents and get to apply their extensive training to an even wider set of situations. For patients themselves, it means they can receive the medical attention they need as efficiently as possible."

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner Dr Alan Billings said: "All the emergency services are working together in South Yorkshire to make our resources go further and avoid duplication. I welcome these initiatives by colleagues in the Fire Service. It is saving a lot of police time which can be better spent on directly fighting crime. I look forward to working more closely with both the Fire and Ambulance services in the future."

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.



New joint emergency services team launched in Sheffield

South Yorkshire firefighters and police have joined forces with Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust to launch a new team to attend lower priority incidents in Sheffield, with the aim of reducing the demand on 999 responders.

The Local Intervention and Falls Episodes (LIFE) team, will see fire and police staff visit hundreds of homes in the city to reduce fire risk in properties, improve security and help people who have fallen and contribute to reducing the risk of falls.

The team will respond to help people at high volume, lower priority incidents, which can take police officers and paramedics off the road for many hours.

Those incidents include helping residents who have had a fall, are not seriously injured, but are unable to get up on their own. Their work will also involve carrying out welfare visits relating to low risk missing people and vulnerable people who are at risk of anti-social behaviour.

The team will operate using two specialist vehicles and will consist 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.

SYFR Head of Prevention and Protection Steve Helps, said: “The fire service already does far more than simply fighting fires and rescuing people from road traffic collisions. Really, this team is just an extension of our vision to make our communities safer.

“We also 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 strengthening our knowledge and referral mechanisms through collaborative working such as this must surely benefit our public safety work.”

South Yorkshire Police Chief Inspector Jenny Lax, said: “This is an exciting and innovative way of working in collaboration to help reduce risk and vulnerability within our communities, and improve their quality of life.

“The team will support the work of South Yorkshire Police, working in local communities to provide a service that includes a range of prevention advice spanning all three emergency services to help improve safety.”

Dr Steven Dykes, Deputy Medical Director at Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust, said: “This is a great example of a number of organisations working together effectively and using the skills of their staff to benefit residents in the local area by providing the most appropriate care and support for their needs. The pilot is a good opportunity to explore how we can further develop partnership initiatives with our emergency service colleagues.”

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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.

Plans have also been approved for 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.

Five ambulance stand-by points created at fire stations in South Yorkshire



A landmark agreement between emergency services in South Yorkshire will see up to five ambulance stand-by points created at fire stations across the county.

The existing fire stations at Aston Park, Barnsley, Birley Moor, Edlington and Parkway will be modified to allow ambulance staff to share space in one of the first schemes of its kind in the country.

The memorandum of understanding signed between South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue and Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust sets out the proposed co-location of ambulance service resources at the sites, including office space for ambulance staff, welfare facilities and ambulance parking bays. It also allows for shared use of meeting rooms and gyms.

Deputy Chief Fire Officer John Roberts said: “This is the best possible proof of our commitment to pursue meaningful collaboration opportunities with our emergency service partners.

“This agreement makes perfect sense for us, for the ambulance service and for the taxpayer. By working alongside each other, the move will also benefit both organisations by improving how we work together to solve problems we both face, which can only help to improve the quality of the service we offer to local people.”

Jackie Cole, Locality Director of Emergency Operations in South Yorkshire, said: "Our staff often work together at incidents across the county and this opportunity means that our close working relationship will be further endorsed. Our vehicles operate from a network of strategically located stand-by points and the locations of some of SYFR's stations are well matched to where our resources need to operate from to serve local communities and provide responsive patient care."

The fire service is pursuing similar opportunities to share buildings with South Yorkshire Police.

Planners in Rotherham have previously approved proposals for a joint police and fire station in Maltby. Maltby fire station will close and the nearby police station will be modified to accommodate fire service vehicles and staff.

The project won Government Transformation Funding of £560,000 last year and will help save both South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue money by sharing building running costs, enabling funding to be targeted at frontline services.

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Fire Service funded waste food scheme wins national award

A fire service funded waste food project has won a national industry award for sustainability.



(L to R): Cllr Pat Haith (South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority), Dave Scully (South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue), Fiona Cahill (Real Junk Food Project), Cllr Eva Hughes (South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority)

The Doncaster based Real Junk Food project campaigns to end food waste and runs a 'pay as you feel' cafe catering for people who use food banks and struggle with the cost of food.

The Real Junk Food Project is run entirely by volunteers and was voted as the community winner at the Footprint Awards ceremony held in London recently. The award recognises the catering and hospitality businesses that contribute to a reduction in the environmental impact of the industry and in turn making it a more sustainable in environmental, economic and social terms.

Fire safety officers hold regular drop in sessions at the Project, giving face-to-face safety and fire prevention advice to service users and their families.

The project was awarded just over £8,000 under South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority's funding scheme, the Stronger Safer Communities Reserve.

The fund saw dozens of registered charities, community organisations and partner agencies come forward and apply for grants from the £2 million fund, which had been set aside from the Authority's reserves.

Head of Prevention & Protection Steve Helps said, "House fires have reduced massively in the last decade, but sadly the people most likely to suffer a fire are also often the hardest to reach with fire safety information. That's why it's important that we work closely with partners, like The Real Junk Food Project, so that we can continue to reduce death and injuries in accidental house fires."