

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



**SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Working together for a safer Scotland

SAFE & WELL PROJECT

Presentation and overview of the SFRS Safe & Well project, presented by DACO Ali Perry & GC Kevin McCusker to the Cross-Party Group on 5/2/2020.

Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, as defined by Scottish Ministers in the first Fire and Rescue Framework 2013 and reaffirmed in the revised Framework in 2016, is;

To work in partnership with communities and others in the public, private and third sectors, on prevention, protection and response, to improve the safety and well-being of people throughout Scotland

In accordance with this purpose we seek to work in partnership in many areas of activity, but it is perhaps best encapsulated in our current work on the Safe and Well Project.

The Home Fire Safety Visit programme has been ongoing in Scotland for many years across the 8 Fire and Rescue Services that used to exist in Scotland and now the single Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. We currently visit around 70000 homes per year with an increasing focus on high risk.

The visits can effectively be split into two elements, the fitting of smoke detectors and giving advice

- New smoke detector legislation coming into force
- Providing fire safety advice

This has coincided with a reduction of fire incidents in Scotland of over 40% in the last ten years. Given the apparent success of the visits in driving down incidence of fire the service is working with partners to broaden the visit to include consideration of other safety matters and to direct people to the appropriate agency. These expanded visits are currently called Safe and Well visits.

The Safe and Well visits will result in an expansion of the part of the element of the visit focused on providing advice to people during the visit. While the visit will remain focussed on fire safety it will encapsulate a number of other matters with community safety implications and involving other organisations.

The service is currently negotiating a wider role with staff and it is intended that the role will be adopted by all Firefighters, irrespective of this the service will introduce the Safe and Well visits through our Community Action Teams.

The introduction of Safe and Well visits will require the assistance of many other organisations and will truly be a partnership, there have already been a number of stakeholder meetings to inform the development of the project.

CURRENT POSITION

Currently the SFRS carry out around 70,000 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) per year. The main purpose of a HFSV is to provide fire safety advice and guidance. If required, at the visit we will also provide fire smoke and heat detectors.

Visits are gathered from various sources, self-referral (via a phone call or online), partner referral and Service generated, either through community events and initiatives or following fire incidents in the neighbourhood.

Over recent years, staff carrying out HFSVs have included other home and personal safety considerations. These include; alcohol and drug brief interventions, smoking cessation advice, falls referrals, child safety information and advice and guidance on home and community safety. We want to cement this good work and provide a standard approach to our visits; ensuring our staff are fully training and supported, with robust local partnership arrangements.

Feedback from recipients of a HFSV is extremely positive, we are an organisation of considerable standing within the communities we serve and a key contributor to partners we interact with.

WHY CHANGE

We know that only around 40% of those 70,000 identify as High Risk, that many causes of poor health outcomes are the same as the factors that increase the risk of fire e.g. poor mobility, smoking, drug and alcohol misuse, and social isolation.

We know we have a trusted reputation that is respected within the communities we serve, that will allow us access and engage with those hard to reach communities and people most in need,

We know that we are a respected and seen as a can-do partner to other organisations and that will allow us to build on the existing partnership work already in place.

and we know that by tackling these factors the SFRS will not only improve public health outcomes, but will reduce fire incidents, injuries and deaths amongst those communities who are most at risk.

THE SAFE & WELL VISION

The objectives of the Safe and Well project are:

- Looking to build on the current HFSV model and incorporate wider health and social care considerations.
- Move to a person-centred intervention to enable people to maintain independence, improve personal resilience and quality of life.
- Increase public value and support partners to deliver national and local outcomes.

A Safe and Well visit would be a free person-centred home visit which replaces and expands upon previous HFSVs. Staff will continue to give fire safety advice but they will also consider the householder(s), their home environment and lifestyle factors in order to identify risks or needs and provide an effective response.

We want to target areas and households where we know there is a higher risk of fire, primarily the more vulnerable groups in the community. Visits will therefore be offered to individuals who meet standard criteria such as:

- Anyone in the household has a history, or may be a target of, fire related crime
- High levels of clutter / hoarding
- History of fire, including signs of burns/scorch marks on furniture or clothing
- Sensory impairment – Hearing Impairment / Visual Impairment Blind
- Use of medical oxygen, paraffin based emollients or medical airflow mattress
- Unable to evacuate the property in an emergency due to their age or medical condition
- Mental health issues including dementia / cognitive impairment
- Use medication that causes drowsiness, visual disturbance or dizziness
- Alcohol or drug issues
- Anyone in the household has shown an interest in starting fires
- The household has telecare/community alarm
- Households with occupants over 65

Those not identified as “high risk” will still receive advice and guidance on fire safety, either through a tailored pack generated via the SFRS website or a booklet sent out in the post.

VISIT CONTENT

While the visit will remain focused on fire safety it will encapsulate many other thematic areas, these may include:

- Fire
 - Smoke alarms
 - Fire safety advice
 - Escape route plans
- Advice on health and wellbeing
- Advice on home safety
- Signposting or referrals to other services / support

It is important to note that SFRS staff will not take on the role of specialist workers in other fields. Our role would be to provide a contribution that is complementary to, and part of, the wider health, public health and community safety prevention agenda, adding value to the dedicated work that other professionals already provide.

By delivering early interventions SFRS will enable people to maintain independence, personal resilience and improve their quality of life. These early interventions enable SFRS to be an important public asset by improving the wellbeing of people in our community and reducing demand on other public services.

SAFE & WELL PROJECT TO DATE

We are currently in year 2 of the project.

In phase 1 having established the scope of the project, the terms of reference and broad benefits, we have undertaken considerable research both:

- Internally undertaking a review of SFRS fire casualty and incident data.
- Externally with other Services who carry out safe and well visits, visiting several of them.
- Reviewed NFCC guidance in full.
- Reviewed the BSC strategic assessment of unintentional harm in full.
- Undertook a state of the nation review.
- Met and engaged with Local and National partners, holding a National stakeholder event held in May 2019.

Now in Phase 2 we have secured funding for the development of the ICT system and associated hardware, and formed 4 working groups to assist in moving the project forward.

- Research & Design.
- ICT Systems & Processes.
- Training development and delivery.
- Data, information sharing and communications.

We are currently developing an ISP framework and MOUs with partners along with the training information and packages to support our staff in delivering Safe and Well.

We continue to engage with our staff and partners to keep them informed, engaged and ensure we capture all relevant feedback throughout the process and

By Autumn of 2021 we hope to be implementing elements of the Safe & Well concept across the communities of Scotland.