

DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY **Prevention & Community Engagement Policy**

The Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority (DWFRA) is the combined fire and rescue authority for its area, as defined within sections 1 and 2 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. This document is the Prevention policy statement for the Authority. It is underpinned by a set of procedures.

To meet the requirements of section 6 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority will make provision for the purpose of promoting fire safety in its area. This includes making arrangements for the provision of information, publicity and the steps to be taken to prevent fires and injury by fires. It also relates to preventing fires and restricting their spread in buildings and other property and how to maintain the means of escape from buildings and other property in case of fire.

We will also work with our partners and stakeholders to expand home-safety initiatives to improve the wellbeing and independence of vulnerable people. Including identifying opportunities where we can assist in providing advice, support, education and interventions (including the use of assistive technologies) that will enable people to live longer and more safely in their homes.

We will ensure that safeguarding is at the core of all service delivery working with local councils and other partners to ensure Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is legally compliant with national safeguarding legislation.

We will continually develop our staff, to ensure that they can offer the best quality advice and service to the public and invest in their development and levels of competence to make sure we maximise the positive impact that we have in our communities.

Why is this policy needed?

The policy will ensure that we comply with our statutory duties as set out in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and other relevant legislation and guidance that relates to the prevention of fires.

It will ensure that we are focused on reducing risks and saving lives by contributing towards the education of members of our communities and delivering positive interventions that help the people in Dorset and Wiltshire to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives in their communities of choice.

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It will also assist us in focusing on delivering our vision and in helping people to make safer and healthier choices that will result in;

- Fewer preventable fires and accidents in the home and public buildings
- Fewer road traffic accidents, deaths, serious injuries and casualties
- Fewer hospital admissions for vulnerable people, including older people and those with long term conditions.
- Fewer people undertaking risky behaviours resulting in arson and less antisocial behaviour
- Healthier lifestyles and fewer preventable diseases, such as diabetes

How we will meet the above requirements?

To achieve our priority of helping people to make safer and healthier choices we will;

- Work with partners to identify those most at risk from fire and those who are vulnerable as a result of wider health concerns, delivering targeted safe and well checks to help to change behaviours. We will also be proactive in promoting assistive technology and we will use our brand to signpost people to other agencies and our capacity to help to keep people safe in their homes.
- Deliver core statutory and non-statutory safety education programs developing education packages and presentations in line with Local Authority Children's Service's and delivering them in mainstream, special, private and public schools, learning centres and to the home educated. We will make sure our staff and volunteers are competent in delivering these programs and we will also develop and deliver educational experiences with our partners aligned to local needs through geographically based safety centres.
- Deliver a firesetters education scheme for 4-18 year olds and provide educational talks and presentations on safety and health awareness for older people and community groups. We will use physical resources such as our sprinkler demonstration unit, electrical safety vehicle and our vent vehicle to complement the delivery of safety messages and education programs.
- Deliver education and personal development programs designed with partners to reduce incidents of arson and to enable attendees to achieve positive outcomes. We will work with our partners to see if there are other areas where we can use our reputation and brand to assist in helping individuals and communities to become safer; avoiding risky behaviour such as arson and promoting health and well-being. We will also introduce the new national model for Fire Cadets as capacity allows.
- Continue to develop and deliver targeted road safety education initiatives such as 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' with our partners to try to encourage and help people to stay safe. We will also attend and support road safety partnerships across the Service and support national road safety campaigns.

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Success of the Policy – How is this Policy assured?

To monitor and make sure we continue to meet our requirements and improve where possible we will:

- Monitor progress against our prevention and education Key Performance Indicators, including the agreed outcomes of our partners where appropriate at monthly Area Management Team meetings and on a quarterly basis through Local Performance and Scrutiny Committees, using this process to drive improvements where they are identified.
- Ensure all staff progress through the appropriate skills pathway and that their continuing development and levels of competence are supported through effective and supportive annual Performance and Development Reviews.
- Continually to identify with our partners and stakeholders opportunities that may arise for us to provide support in delivering positive interventions and education programmes across Dorset and Wiltshire.
- Monitor and report on compliance with the Fire and Rescue Services National Framework for England.
- Once a year review the effectiveness of this policy and publish the results within the Annual Statement of Assurance.

Review Date

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years or will be brought back to Members if requirements change.