



**NORTH YORKSHIRE  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

# **Prevention (Community Safety) Strategy 2016/17 – 2018/19**

## Introduction

This strategy aims to reduce the number of deaths and injuries caused by fires, road traffic collisions and other emergencies, by reducing the frequency and impact of those emergencies on the communities in, and visitors to, North Yorkshire and the City of York.

## Overall approach

Our main aim is to prevent emergencies occurring through education and by providing advice, and, where they do occur, to prevent injury and death. This is called community safety.

The key elements of this strategy are:

- We organise our community safety activities at District, Borough or City of York level, where local managers, working with partners are able to better understand the local circumstances.
- We prioritise community safety work using data and risk analysis, as far as possible, down to household level.
- We use national research and information to deliver effective prevention services.
- We work with partners, primarily through community safety partnerships and 95Alive, the York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership, to deliver the best outcomes for the community.
- We target our work with partner agencies through information sharing to assist the most vulnerable in our community. All information sharing will conform to the highest appropriate standards of data protection through data sharing agreements.
- We provide central support, primarily through the provision of guidance, accurate data and support materials, to ensure local managers are able to accurately prioritise their resources.
- We deliver the best possible service to the community by ensuring that staff who carry out community fire safety work are adequately trained and equipped to undertake their role.
- We aim to deliver value for money through performance management and regular review, to ensure that the cost of delivering prevention activity is proportionate to the risk in North Yorkshire and the City of York.

The strategy is set around the three core areas according to the risk and concerns in North Yorkshire and the City of York along with our statutory responsibilities. These are:

- Home Fire Safety
- Road Safety
- Other Risks

In addition to this there are three cross-cutting areas that apply to the strategy. These are:

- Young People
- Communication and publicity
- How we organise and manage community safety

This strategy has been formulated on an assessment and evaluation of what the Service has previously achieved and reflects national best practice.

### Home Fire Safety

We have a statutory responsibility to provide “information, publicity and encouragement in respect of the steps to be taken to prevent fires and death or injury by fire”<sup>1</sup>. The majority of deaths and injuries from fire occur in the home and this is, therefore, a major focus of our community safety work.

Whilst we are the lead authority for organising and undertaking home fire safety, we will work in partnership with others to deliver this collectively, where this is the best approach. This is organised mainly through Community Safety Partnership structures (i.e. local delivery groups).

We encourage people to have Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) which are undertaken by us and we will attend any domestic premises on request. The HFSV is a check of the premises and the likely risk factors of the people who live there. The visits may include recommendations about smoke alarm fitting.

We will try and identify households that are at higher risk from fire, using data from partners and commercial data sources. We will then try and contact these households and offer them HFSV.

If funding allows, and specific risk factors are identified, then we will provide a smoke alarm free of charge.

We also have arrangements in place with partners to request funding for equipment, such as fire alarms suitable for the hard of hearing, fire retardant bedding or self contained misting systems, specific to certain, risk, disabilities or vulnerabilities, that we will fit free of charge, if the equipment is available.

We may work with any other agencies to jointly deliver community safety activity, but the key partnerships will be the structures under the Community Safety Partnerships, to which we provide strategic membership and active support.

Other partners may deliver home fire safety advice and we may deliver other home safety advice based on best practice or guidance from partners.

Home fire safety activity is delivered by both specialist staff and operational crews (i.e. the staff on fire appliances).

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<sup>1</sup> Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, Part 2, section 6

## Road Safety

In the City of York and North Yorkshire there are more deaths and injuries from road traffic collisions than there are from fires. We, therefore, have a major interest in reducing these incidents.

However, unlike home fire safety, road safety is not one of our statutory responsibilities and in practice there is a limit to what we could achieve on our own. We will, therefore, work almost exclusively in partnership to try and achieve this reduction.

The overarching partnership body is 95 Alive, the York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership, of which we are a key member. This sets the overall approach to road safety in the City of York and North Yorkshire. The partnership road safety activity is co-ordinated by Road Safety Task Groups and we will remain an active member of these groups.

The two main elements to the joint road safety work is in providing education to all road users, and collecting data that can then be used to make decisions on the best approach to road safety issues in a specific area.

We also use information and data from a variety of public and partnership sources to identify road safety issues of particular interest to the fire and rescue service.

Education activities are delivered primarily through campaigns that are targeted at specific issues and groups, such as: walking to school safety, younger drivers education, drink and drug driving, motorcycle safety and older driver education and driver referrals. We commit staff time to these events thereby providing valuable resources to support the campaigns.

Within the 'Speed Management Protocol' for the City of York and North Yorkshire there is a requirement to collect data. We will commit to deploying data collection equipment for the partnership in accordance with the Speed Management Protocol. This data can then be used to help determine whether, education, enforcement or engineering solutions should be used to address specific issues.

Although enforcement activity and engineering solutions are key elements in the overall provision of road safety, these remain the responsibility of the police, Highways England and the relevant local authority.

Road safety activity will be delivered by both specialist staff and operational crews.

## Other Risks

The other risks that we will focus community safety work on are set out below:

- **Water and boat safety:** North Yorkshire and the City of York have a significant number of rivers and lakes, as well as a coast line. Some of the waterways and lakes have large numbers of pleasure craft and other recreational water users on them. The area is prone to regular flooding.
- **Farm safety:** North Yorkshire has large areas that are predominantly agricultural and there are some specific hazards associated with farms.
- **Natural environment:** There are two upland national parks which are mostly within North Yorkshire and they are both prone to wildfire during extended dry periods and when managed burning is being undertaken.

All of these risks are managed through education driven by the District level plans. In the case of the natural environment, there are established partnerships in place with the Country Land and Business Association (formerly the Country Landowners Association), the North York Moors National Park, Yorkshire Dales National Park, Natural England and other land owners.

(Business safety is undertaken under the Protection Strategy and is therefore not included here).

### Young People

Community safety activities for young people will be delivered through a combination of educational visits and group courses. In addition to this there will be some interventions on an individual level to address 'fire setting' behaviour.

Most of our work with young people is delivered by specialist community safety staff although they may be supported by operational crews. In all cases trained staff will deliver courses and instruction to young people, targeting relevant issues and working closely with local agencies.

We ensure the associated policies are robust and followed appropriately. Such a consistency of approach provides assurance that we comply with current legislation. All courses involving children and young people are validated by a designated Safeguarding Officer.

The core set of events aimed at young people will be:

- Key Stage 1 (school visits)
- Key Stage 2 (school visits)
- LIFE courses (for individuals referred by partner agencies)
- BTEC schemes (run at schools)
- BTEC Young Firefighter schemes (run on fire stations)
- Prince's Trust course (for individuals aged 16-23 years referred by agencies to enable them to gain the skills required to enter local colleges)
- Firesetters programme (for individuals who have been engaging in fire setting)

Whilst we aim to provide a key stage 1 or 2 visit to any school that requests one this is dependant on capacity. If demand outstrips capacity priority would be given to those schools in high risk areas or with pupils with identified needs that would be appropriate for us to address.

### Safeguarding

Through our Vulnerable Person Intervention Partnership we will pass on information to partner agencies, under certain specific circumstances, about vulnerable people or households that we come into contact with, when there is a significant risk of harm that could be avoided. We will usually gain permission from service users before sharing information about them with another agency.

Where a person is in immediate danger, a child is at serious risk or a serious crime has been committed then a decision may be taken to pass information to another agency without the service users consent.<sup>2</sup>

Although the referral is a prevention issue, in that it is intended to prevent harm, the referral could come from any of our staff including protection (technical fire safety) or operational staff.

We have arrangements in place to allow other agencies to refer any individuals or households to us, when they think that there is a risk from fire. We will work with other agencies to increase their understanding of risk from fire so that their staff can identify when there is a need to make a referral to us.

To ensure that our instructors are trained to a high standard and our core courses are run and monitored within safeguarding board guidelines we provide robust policies, core courses and service level agreements with appropriate risk assessments; and ensure that all required safeguarding checks (DBS) are in place and that they remain current

### Communication and publicity

We will promote and communicate safety messages, and advertise events, in various ways including the use of:

- Social media
- Local radio
- Local and regional newspapers
- Our website
- Roadshows
- Home visits
- School visits
- Community meetings and events

Communication will be undertaken in a variety of ways that best meets the needs of individuals. We recognise that people or target groups respond differently to different methods of communication and we will use available information to select the most appropriate method.

In order to make best use of existing national campaigns we will decide each year, which national campaigns to support and align our community safety work across the whole area with those campaigns.

In addition to that we will decide what campaigns best meet specific local needs and align the local community safety work to those campaigns.

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<sup>2</sup> [Privacy Notice](#)

## How we manage our community safety activity

Community Safety Officers are specialist staff based in each district who deliver most of the community safety activities. They will be managed centrally but take advice and direction from local managers on any specific areas of concern. A headquarters based Group Manager, assisted by officers, with the specific reference for community safety; youth engagement and safeguarding, will provide the management of the community safety staff, along with the planning, policies and procedures for community safety.

Operational crews also deliver community safety, primarily HFSVs. Their community safety work is driven by the District plan and the amount undertaken can vary depending on other priorities such as training, technical fire safety or risk visits. Some operational staff undertake additional community safety work outside of their core contract. This is how many of the programmes of work with young people will be delivered.

All specialist and operational staff that have responsibility for providing community safety will be trained and competent to undertake that work.

District and headquarters based managers will meet regularly to consider the workloads, trends and capacity to ensure that resources are allocated where they are needed and to assist in setting District plans and prioritising central support.

We will monitor and manage community safety work to ensure that it is having a positive impact on the community and providing best value. Specifically we will:

- Use data and intelligence, including from other agencies, to identify trends or target activities towards specific at risk groups or individuals
- Monitor and analyse the number and causes of fires in domestic premises
- Undertake case reviews where there is a death or serious injury from fire
- Monitor the District plans to ensure that community safety work is maximising the capacity of crews relative to the other workloads
- Monitor the number of Home Fire Safety Visits we carry out and overall hours dedicated to community safety

## Associated Documents (hyperlinks)

Internal Documents:

- Child Protection Policy
- Child Fire Setter (CFN) Network Policy
- Guidance for premises providing sleeping accommodation
- Home Fire Safety Guidance
- Home Fire Risk Check Procedure
- LIFE Service Level Agreement
- Partnership Working Policy
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adult Procedure
- Vulnerable Persons Policy
- Vulnerable Person Intervention Partnership Agreement
- Water Safety Guidance

External Documents:

- CFOA Home Safety Strategy
- CFOA Road Safety Strategy
- Road Safety Strategy for York and North Yorkshire