



Subject:	Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service – People at Risk Partnership Working Agreement
Date:	10 th May 2016
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Lead Operations Officer Stephen Leonard, Environmental Health Manager

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Throughout City and Neighbourhood Services Department officers come into contact with people who may be a risk of a fire in their home (e.g. during home safety checks or housing inspections).
1.2	The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) have developed a partnership agreement to provide enhanced assistance to people at risk of a fire in their home.
1.3	This report provides an update to Members on the NIFRS Home Fire Safety Check service and details the mutual benefits for both organisations.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree that City and Neighbourhood Services Department sign up to the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue - People at Risk Partnership Working Agreement attached at Appendix 1.

3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="260 226 416 255"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="150 275 1445 353">3.1 The partnership agreement focuses on “people at risk”. NIFRS defines people at risk as persons who:</p> <ul data-bbox="309 376 970 510" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="309 376 632 405">▪ are aged 60 or older; <li data-bbox="309 427 695 456">▪ have impaired mobility; or <li data-bbox="309 479 970 510">▪ are referred to NIFRS by a partnership agency. <p data-bbox="150 577 1445 656">3.2 The agreement also notes that NIFRS will accept referrals for people who fall outside this definition but who may be at risk (e.g. those who have a history of fire in the home).</p> <p data-bbox="150 723 1445 958">3.3 The aims of the working partnership are to:</p> <ul data-bbox="309 779 1445 958" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="309 779 1445 857">▪ provide additional fire safety and home safety advice to people at risk for the mutual benefit of both organisations. <li data-bbox="309 880 1270 909">▪ reduce fire deaths, injuries and fires in the home of people at risk; and <li data-bbox="309 931 1206 958">▪ improve partnership working for the benefit of both organisations. <p data-bbox="150 1025 1445 1261">3.4 The overall objectives of the partnership agreement are to:</p> <ul data-bbox="309 1081 1445 1261" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="309 1081 1445 1160">▪ contribute to an overall reduction in the number of accidental fire deaths and fire-related injuries in dwellings in Northern Ireland; and <li data-bbox="309 1182 1445 1261">▪ provide a free Home Fire Safety Check to every referral from the partnership agency, within 28 days from the date of the referral. <p data-bbox="150 1328 1445 1518">3.5 The free Home Fire Safety Checks involve a visit to the home to offer detailed fire safety advice to the occupant(s) and ensure that the home is fitted with a working smoke alarm. This service would complement the work carried out by the department including: home safety checks, housing inspections and community safety visits.</p> <p data-bbox="150 1585 1445 1821">3.6 As signatories we would have a number of responsibilities including:</p> <ul data-bbox="309 1641 1377 1821" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="309 1641 1238 1671">▪ communicate the partnership agreement guidance to relevant staff; <li data-bbox="309 1693 1377 1722">▪ publicise the partnership through a local joint press release and media launch; <li data-bbox="309 1744 1174 1774">▪ raise awareness of the partnership within the organisation; and <li data-bbox="309 1796 1015 1821">▪ maintain equal opportunity when offering referrals. <p data-bbox="150 1888 1445 1966">3.7 In addition, the department is required to ensure that data protection protocols are followed when processing data. The digital home safety form currently used by home</p>

	<p>safety staff includes a disclaimer for onwards referrals which householders must sign. A similar disclaimer will be developed for other staff who may be making referrals to the NIFRS including: Environmental Health Officers and Safer Neighbourhood Officers.</p>
3.8	<p>A review process will take place including joint evaluation after one year and, thereafter, every three years.</p>
3.9	<p>The proposed partnership agreement is subject to review by legal services and the Council's Records Management Unit.</p>
	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.10	<p>There are no associated costs with the proposed scheme.</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.11	<p>There are no relevant equality considerations associated with the proposed scheme.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
4.1	<p>Appendix 1 - People at Risk Partnership Working Agreement</p>