

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 19 September 2017

Wards: All/Merton

Subject: LFB Fire Safe and Well Visits

Lead officer: Darren Tulley LFB Borough Commander

Recommendations:

- A. For Information and support as required to assist with referral pathways for Smoking cessation, Falls prevention and Winter Warmth.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the London Fire Brigade trial of the Fire Safe and Well visit in the borough of Merton and 4 other boroughs across London. The aim is to encourage support from partners where necessary, explore referral pathways as required and to examine any local initiatives that partners may wish the LFB to support in the implementation of this project

2 BACKGROUND

The London Fire Brigade and Healthy London Partnership (HLP) are working in partnership to pilot Fire Safe and Well in 5 London Boroughs during 2017-18. The boroughs that have been selected from each Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) footprint in London are: Ealing, Merton, Islington, Waltham Forest and Greenwich.

Fire Safe and Well visits build on the traditional Home Fire Safety Checks model, with a new emphasis on promoting better health and wellbeing outcomes. The London Fire Brigade currently undertake approximately 86,000 Home Fire Safety Checks per year and this prevention work has contributed to a 40% reduction in fatal fires over 10 years across the country¹. The Home Fire Safety Checks also provide LFB with access to the most vulnerable people in their communities, in ways that other services cannot, due to the public trust in the brand.

3 DETAILS

Throughout this year, LFB and HLP have been working with local fire brigades to engage the CCG, local authority and voluntary and community sector in every borough to secure support for the project, find out more about existing service provision locally, to highlight local priority areas and to

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/official-statistics-reveal-fire-deaths-fallen-by-40-in-last-decade>

work collaboratively to identify citizens that would benefit from a holistic assessment of their health and fire safety needs.

During August and September, 10 Community Safety Advisors (CSAs) employed by LFB will be trained to carry out the visits in people's homes under the guidance of the Fire Safe and Well Regional Manager, employed through HLP. Local data sources will be used to target residents based on 3 key intervention areas:

- Slips, trips and falls
- Smoking Cessation
- Winter warmth

Boroughs can also choose to include other locally agreed additional priorities. Merton Council has already suggested that the LFB consider healthy eating via the One You Merton service and incorporate childhood obesity/diabetes. This along with the befriending scheme is being closely considered and discussed with Merton council and other partners.

Key benefits to citizens include:

- Increased public awareness of risks and preventative actions
- Safer home environment and peace of mind after visit
- Increased referrals and access to specialist services and alternative support
- Improvements to quality of life and independent living
- Increased connectivity with hard to reach communities via new and different targeting methods

System Benefits include:

- Improved collaborative working, shared information, communications and targeted support for vulnerable people
- Increased availability of evidence on what works and identification of opportunities to undertake further collaborative working (i.e. Delayed Transfer of Care)
- Keeping people safe and well to alleviate pressures in primary care and reduce hospital admissions.

The project is aligned to other HLP pan-London work streams such as Making Every Contact Count (MECC) and Care Closer to Home.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1. N/A

5 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

Meetings currently have been held with the following partners

- Smoking Cessation – Merton Public Health
- Winter Warmth – Wimbledon Guild and Age UK (Merton)

- Falls Prevention – Falls Prevention Service CLCH
- CCG

6 TIMETABLE

Local implementation in October 2017. Full implementation across all London Boroughs following evaluation of the trial is expected to be around the summer of 2019. This will involve the roll out to all fire stations and to all operational firefighters in turn leading to approximately 86,000 visits per year.

7 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

Fire Safe and Well is already established in other areas of the country including, Greater Manchester and this is the first phase of a pan-London roll-out. Evaluation of impact and outcomes from the Greater Manchester pilot highlighted approximately **£5.3 million** equivalent gross fiscal benefits estimated to accrue to the various partners from the programme over a five year period (85% of these benefits (£4.3m) accrued to the NHS)².

Local financial obligations to partners will be nil. Resource and training implications as offered.

8 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None

9 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

9.1. N/A

10 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

10.1. N/A

11 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1. Local training in support of initiative to be carried out and support by the LFB and local partners as required. All LFB Staff will undergo full training before Brigade wide roll out. All staff to have necessary background checks and Safeguarding training.

12 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

None

² GM Fire and Rescue Safe and Well Visits Analysis of Impact and Outcomes, v1.1, 15/07/2016, New Economy

13 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Highlights from other Fire Safe and Well pilot areas in England

Cheshire Fire Service undertook Arterial Fibrillation (AF) screening in one borough (Halton) and out of a total of 1490 visits 380 were screened for AF and of those 15 were signposted to their GP. As well as highlighting the importance of bowel screening during the visits for which they, jointly with Merseyside Fire Rescue Service, won a Healthcare Transformation Award in the category of Improving Cancer Outcomes, alongside their partners Public Health England, NHS England (Cheshire and Merseyside) and Cancer Research UK³.

Firefighters in Bury and Salford have been given advice and training on falls and are able to identify people at risk and refer them to a falls service. An evaluation of those who were helped shows that 80 per cent reported feeling like they were less likely to fall at home⁴.

³ <http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/in-your-area/fire-rescue-services-win-health-13324525>

⁴ **Beyond fighting fires**, The role of the fire and rescue service in improving the public's health, Case Studies