

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Service Delivery Policy and Challenge
Group
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Item No. 15

REPORT AUTHOR: ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

SUBJECT: HAZARD ALLEY, MILTON KEYNES

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Background Papers:

Audit & Standards Committee Meeting Minutes 6.12.18 (Pages 4-5 Ref 17-18/AS/036)

Implications (tick ✓):

LEGAL			FINANCIAL	✓
HUMAN RESOURCES			EQUALITY IMPACT	
ENVIRONMENTAL			POLICY	✓
CORPORATE RISK	Known	✓	CORE BRIEF	
	New		OTHER (please specify)	

Any implications affecting this report are noted at the end of the report.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this paper is to provide Fire Authority Members with an overview of Hazard Alley (HA) Safety Centre Delivery and an outline comparison of BFRS core delivery and the Service position on advocacy, promotion and use of the HA facility.

RECOMMENDATION:

Members receive this report to fulfil the information request and clarify BFRS position on supporting the use of Hazard Alley in Milton Keynes.

1. Background

1.1. Hazard Alley (HA) is a bespoke Safety Centre located in Milton Keynes. HA was set up in 1994 by a collaboration including Thames Valley Police,

Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service, the Local Authority and other key partners.

1.2. Hazard Alley can accommodate 72 children per session and can run up to 3 sessions per day (AM, PM and Evening), for children in school years 2 – 6. It is an excellent resource imparting knowledge and guidance on a variety of safety topics to visitors.

1.3. Hazard Alley offers the following learning opportunities to visitors:

- Fire Safety
- Home Safety
- Internet Safety
- Building Site Safety
- Road Safety
- Car Safety
- Personal Safety
- Water Safety
- Recovery Position (singular component of first aid)
- Safe places to cross
- Safety around Railways
- Bullying & Crime
- Vandalism
- Safety Around Farms

1.4. Children attend the venue and take part in all the educational safety activities rotating between topic bases during morning or afternoon sessions.

1.5. The facility is run as a charitable trust and children attend at cost. The current cost is approximately £8.95 per child, plus the associated transport costs to attend sessions.

1.6. Hazard Alley costs £350,000 per annum to run. 10% of this is covered by Partner contributions. The remaining 90% has to be raised through income, admissions, grants, sponsorship and donations.

1.7. Bedfordshire schools do already send children to benefit from the facility and this is supported through funding by corporate sponsors or other sources like Crimebeat. Alternatively, visits are directly financed by schools and/or parents as a school trip. (See Appendix A)

2. Summary: Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) Engagement with Bedfordshire School Children

2.1. BFRS Prevention Team delivers a number of safety education interventions delivered to school children in the County. The majority of these interventions take place directly in school and are free at point of delivery. Examples are:

2.2. Safety Squad

Safety Squad is offered to all Luton schools for Year 5 and 6 children. The initiative has been operating for about 30 years in various guises and involves input from a number of different agencies who deliver a range of safety messages to children. Over the years, the method of delivery has evolved and currently relies on agencies each delivering a 30 minute assembly with each school identifying the 4 topics of most interest to them. Four agencies deliver the selected topics for each Safety Squad over 2 x 1 hour assemblies.

2.2.1 Current Safety Squad topics offered to schools are:-

- Personal Safety
- Hate Crime
- Internet Safety
- Knife Crime
- Gangs
- Bullying
- Fire Safety
- Road Safety
- Water Safety
- Drugs
- Alcohol

2.2.2 Fire and Water safety sessions are delivered and the content of each session covers:-

2.2.3 Fire Safety

- Importance of working smoke alarms/positioning/testing
- Making escape plans and what to do if trapped by fire
- Explain differences between accidental and deliberate fires and arson
- Hoax calls
- Get out, Stay out messages

2.2.4 Water Safety

- Importance of staying with an adult near water
- Dangers of open water spaces
- Safe places to swim
- What to do if someone gets in difficulty
- Throwing line demonstration

2.3. Year 5 Alive

2.3.1 This intervention is offered to all Bedfordshire schools with Year 5 children and is delivered as a one hour assembly covering fire, water and road safety. The topics covered are:-

- Importance of staying with an adult near water
- Dangers of open water spaces
- Safe places to swim
- What to do if someone gets in difficulty
- Throw line demonstration
- What is road safety?
- Staying safe as a pedestrian
- Cycle safety
- In-car safety using Zoo Trip film
- Drivers who show off and the consequences
- Drivers who speed and the consequences
- Drivers who use mobile phones and the consequences
- Importance of seatbelts/the law/child seats
- Distractions for drivers when children behave inappropriately
- Importance of working smoke alarms/positioning/testing
- What to do if the smoke alarm sounds in school
- Escape planning as a family exercise
- Why fire is important
- Difference between accidental and deliberate fires and arson
- Get out, Stay out messages

2.4. Sixth Form and College Interventions

2.4.2 The following interventions are delivered to young people in colleges often jointly with Casualty Reduction Partners

- Why young/new drivers are at high risk of being involved in a collision
- Importance of seatbelts – safety and the law
- Drink and drug driving and the consequences
- Speed
- Mobile phones and other distractions

2.4.3 Delivery uses a reaction machine, driving simulator, Central Bedfordshire Council safety car, beer and drug goggles to emphasise learning.

2.5. BFRS Safety Centre

2.5.1 The Safety Centre is located at Luton on the Fire Station site.

2.5.2 The Centre provides an adaptable simulated environment to teach attending groups of school and other children safety education, which includes many of the topics mirroring those listed above.

2.5.3 The Safety Centre caters for school groups, youth organisations and includes support for SEN groups.

2.5.4 The Safety Centre also hosts the Luton Cadet Unit. Cadet delivery includes many of the same safety topics listed.

2.5.5 Luton Safety Centre Manager maintains links and contact with colleagues in Hazard Alley.

2.6. Operational Crews

2.6.1 Operational Crews deliver the Year 2 programme to all school children in Bedfordshire Schools.

2.6.2 This intervention includes many of the home safety topics already listed above plus personal fire safety e.g. stop, drop and roll.

3. Variances in delivery: BFRS – Hazard Alley

3.1. The following Hazard Alley topics are not delivered by BFRS:

- Building Site Safety
- Car Safety
- Vandalism
- Farm Safety

3.2. It is likely these topics will be covered by other agencies directly within Bedfordshire schools.

4. Summary

4.1. Hazard Alley is an excellent safety centre facility offering quality safety education for children who attend. It is logical and appropriate for BFRS to support and promote the centre.

4.2. BFRS offer the majority of the same safety topics directly to school children in Bedfordshire. There is no cost to schools at point of delivery for the programme of education.

4.3. Hazard Alley is acknowledged as an excellent supplement to the delivery provided by BFRS.

4.4. Were BFRS to directly fund attendance at Hazard Alley, to supplement core delivery, it would be required to do so at cost. This would require a considerable investment in additional funding by the Authority.

5. BFRS Proposals to further support Hazard Alley

- 5.1. Where BFRS delivers its existing programme of interventions outlined in this report practitioners will be encouraged to actively promote and advocate visits to Hazard Alley to supplement and maximise the safety and education of Bedfordshire school children.
- 5.2. Coinciding with the publishing of this paper Prevention Team Members will receive a presentation and instruction to promote the benefits of using Hazard Alley at the next available monthly Prevention Management and Prevention Team Meetings.
- 5.3. Luton Safety Centre Manager will maintain existing professional contacts with Hazard Alley for mutual assistance and will collaborate to support the use of the facility through advocacy and promotion to groups using the Luton Safety Centre.
- 5.4. BFRS will promote Hazard Alley wherever possible and appropriate using social media and through establishing direct links on the new website, currently in design and development and due to go live in spring 2018. The link will be hosted on the Prevention area of the website. This will be facilitated by the Prevention representative on the Website Working Group.
- 5.5. BFRS will actively consider and make use of all appropriate opportunities to support the promotion and use of Hazard Alley when attending partnership meetings within Bedfordshire and the immediate region.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1. Members receive this report to fulfil the information request and clarify BFRS position on supporting the use of Hazard Alley in Milton Keynes.

APPENDIX A

Statistics on attendance and use of Hazard Alley by Bedfordshire Schools

Number of Bedfordshire school children visiting Hazard Alley

Dates	Number of children*
October 2015 to September 2016	4104
October 2016 to September 2017	2640
October 2017 to date (December 2017)	1078

*Combined total of the three Local Authorities

Breakdown of Bedfordshire visits by LAA in Financial Year October 2016 to September 2017

Authority	Total number of schools / organisations in area	Number of schools / groups using service	
Bedford Borough	65	9	Including 1 SEN school
Central Bedfordshire	117	24	
Luton Borough	51	3	
Independent	N/A	1	
Non-school visitors	N/A	10	

Numbers of Bedfordshire School Children visiting Hazard Alley by Authority Area (Oct 16 –Sept 17)

Bedford Borough; 538

Central Bedfordshire; 1448

Luton Borough; 121