



## Report of the Chief Executive of the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

### Report to Inner West Area Committee

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Subject: "Safety Central"

<b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b>		<b>Specific Implications For:</b>	
Armley Bramley and Stanningley		Equality and Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)		Community Cohesion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Narrowing the Gap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Council Function	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function available for Call In	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Delegated Executive Function not available for Call in Details set out in the report	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Executive Summary

Currently under development Safety Central is the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Services center of excellence for the development and delivery of safety awareness and education.

Upon launch safety Central will focus on working with partner organisations towards the eight workstreams outlined below;

1. Road Safety
2. Alcohol Abuse
3. Community Cohesion
4. Deliberate and Anti Social Fire Prevention
5. Working with Minority Ethnic and Migrant Communities to increase Safety in the Home
6. Safety Awareness for Older people
7. Accident Prevention for Vulnerable Groups
8. Safety for Young People

Safety Central is scheduled to open in Autumn 2009.

### 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 To provide information about the development of Safety Central and to invite the continued involvement of Leeds Inner West Area Committee in the local development.

## **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 Safety Central is the working title for West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service's centre of excellence for the development and delivery of safety awareness and education. Safety Central is being developed on the grounds of the disused Fire Station in Armley, re-using the station shell in the construction of the building

## **3.0 Main Issues**

### **3.1 Why does WYF&RS need Safety Central?**

3.1 Safety Central will:

- Significantly assist WYFRS in its performance against its core objectives.
- Tackle fire related incidents by addressing the wider issues that contribute to community safety.
- Help WYFRS play an even stronger role in the partnership arena by helping to achieve Local Area Agreement and other multi-agency targets.

3.1.2 Safety Central will also demonstrate WYFRS commitment to being a forward thinking service with a proactive, trailblazing stance on prevention.

### **3.2 What Parts of West Yorkshire does Safety Central cover?**

3.2.1 Safety Central is a resource for the whole of West Yorkshire, not just for the local area or Leeds.

3.2.2 The building itself will act as a centre point, or hub, for a range of safety awareness and educational activity spread throughout West Yorkshire.

3.2.3 The word 'hub' is crucial, as it is likely that the building itself may only attract audiences from a limited catchment area (as demonstrated in a Feasibility Report commissioned by WYFRS in winter 2006). Work will therefore be coordinated from the center across the whole region. This will include innovative delivery through outreach and a dedicated website which will give access to teaching and other resources.

### **3.3 What areas of safety will Safety Central cover?**

3.3.1 Upon launch, Safety Central will focus on working with partner organisations towards the 8 work streams outlined below:

1. Road Safety
2. Alcohol Abuse
3. Community Cohesion
4. Deliberate and Anti Social Fire Prevention
5. Working with Minority Ethnic Groups and Migrant Communities to Increase Safety in the Home
6. Safety Awareness for Older People.
7. Accident Prevention for Vulnerable Groups
8. Safety for Young People

3.3.2 These work streams may change over time, but it is envisaged that they will be the only areas of work covered by Safety Central in its first 12 months of operation.

### **3.4 How will Safety Central achieve the above aims?**

3.4.1 Safety Central will add value to West Yorkshire, and achieve its aims by offering:

- the highest quality learning and awareness raising materials available in the region (and UK);
- a model for sharing resources;
- a model for sharing intelligence;
- an 'excellent practice' information sharing hub
- a state-of-the-art training facility.

### **3.5 When will Safety Central launch?**

3.5.1 Safety Central is scheduled to open in Autumn 2009.

### **4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance**

4.1 This project is part of the Area Delivery Plan for Inner West 2008-11 and has been developed via consultation with Area Committee Members. This project helps to fulfill the Council's Corporate Plan objectives by aiming to create better neighbourhoods and confident communities and by narrowing the gap.

### **5.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising. Wellbeing funding has been supplied by the Inner and Outer Area Committees amounting to £50,000 capital. Staffing resources will be supplied by West Yorkshire Fire Authority.

### **6.0 Conclusions**

6.1 Safety Central is a local and a West Yorkshire wide resource. It is hoped that the Inner West Area Committee will have an ongoing input into how Safety Central can continue to meet its local aims.

### **8.0 Recommendations**

8.1 That members note the contents of this report.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None