Title: Scotland Together: a Study Examining Fire Deaths and Injuries in Scotland

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Document available to download at: http://www.cfoa.org.uk/11992 or http://www.strathclydefire.org/news--campaigns/features/july-2010/scotland-together.aspx (accessed July 2011)

A Scottish Government statistical bulletin 'Statistical Publication Notice: Crime and Justice Series: Fire and Rescue Services Statistics, Scotland 2009-10' provides diversity and equality statistics about Scotland's Fire and Rescue Services and information on non-domestic fire safety audits. Available at: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/09/03093526/22 (accessed July 2011)

SCS topic headings: Personal Safety; Home Safety; Safety in Public Spaces; Environment Safety; Safety of Vulnerable Groups; Partnership Working; Community Engagement; Evaluation and Monitoring

This document is a REVIEW of effective intervention approaches.

Summary of the intervention's aim

A task study team was formed by the Chief Officer to examine how to reduce deaths and injuries caused by fire in Scotland. The report addresses four key areas:

- What are the key reasons why Scotland faces a disproportionately high number of primary fires, fire deaths and fire casualties as compared to other parts of the United Kingdom and Europe?

- What are the key reasons why Scotland suffers an increasing number of secondary fires?

- What initiatives are in place to combat these issues and what impact are they having locally and nationally to reduce fire-related deaths, injuries and damage?

- How can the Scottish Government and Local Government work collaboratively to develop and implement good practice to improve community fire safety in Scotland?

Case studies are used to illustrate examples of practice.

Outcomes

A statistical overview presents Scotland's fire safety context in comparison to the wider United Kingdom and Europe. The social contexts of Scotland is also illustrated through summaries relating to alcohol, smoking, and mental health, housing stock, and social deprivation.

A synopsis of Scottish Fire and Rescue Services approach to identified problems and community safety are highlighted. Community safety initiatives through partnership working supported by information sharing are emphasised.

The study team present 37 recommendations. Each report section concludes with recommendations relating to a different topic. Themes include:

- Recording monitoring data of fire incidents; creating IT registers of partnerships; establishing data sharing protocols
- Training resources
- Reviews of resource allocation
- Additional research to understand fire safety contexts and initiatives
- Developing accreditation schemes
- Community fire safety initiatives, including long-term approaches
- Multi-agency partnership working to identify 'at risk' groups
- Standardisation of terminology.

Section 7 of the document presents the report's recommendations in a tabular format, depicting specific titles, descriptions, responsibilities, anticipated costs, and possible timeframes.

Summary of evaluation conclusions

The study identifies a range of issues that play a significant role in the number of fire deaths occurring in Scotland. Key contributory factors include:

- Health issues (such as alcohol consumption, smoking prevalence and mental health)
- High levels of [social] deprivation
- Rising numbers of people living alone
- The projected increase in the number of older people
- The number of people receiving social care or care.

Most are recorded at higher rates than the rest of the United Kingdom.

Conclusions highlight the importance of information sharing, common terminology, partnership working arrangements, and involving the Third (voluntary) Sector to approach the challenges faced by all Fire Safety agencies.

How the evaluation gathered information for findings and conclusions

To inform their recommendations the authors adopted a mixed-methods approach to gather and analyse qualitative and quantitative data. The approach included:

Structured interviews with community safety representatives from all eight Scottish Fire and Rescue Services. The Chief Officer and Elected Members from each Service were also engaged through meetings and formal discussions.

Formal interviews and visits were held with seven Fire and Rescue Services located elsewhere within the United Kingdom (including Northern Ireland, North Wales, West Midlands, Kent, Merseyside and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Services and London Fire Brigade).

Formal interviews were conducted with practitioners and senior/ strategic management from partner agencies (including Scottish Government, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, local authorities, Community Planning Partnerships, Health, Social Services, Education, Police, Representative Bodies and the Third Sector).

Opinion Research Services Ltd were commissioned to undertake three written [questionnaire] surveys examining community safety. These were distributed to three groups: Scottish Fire and Rescue Services, United Kingdom Fire and Rescue Services and over 300 external

agencies. All of Scotland's Fire and Rescue Services responded. A further 28 of United Kingdom Fire and Rescue Services and 50 external agencies also responded.

A review of published United Kingdom and international fire statistics, combined with socio-demographics, financial data and trends was conducted. A three-year Fatal Fire Survey analysing all fire deaths in Scotland from April 2005 to March 2008 was also undertaken.

A literature review was undertaken to challenge or support the emerging findings of the study.

A reference list is included at the document's end, detailing the various information sources the study team employed to inform their commentary and recommendations.

Further details about the SCS evaluation of this report are available on request. Please contact info@scsn.org.uk

Date added to the SCS website: July 2011 (DH)