

Health and Wellbeing Board

12 February 2018

West Midlands Fire Service Overview of Prevention Activities in Walsall

1. Purpose

This report gives an overview of how the Prevention agenda within West Midlands Fire Service's Strategic Plan, is ensuring that Health and Wellbeing is at the forefront of its vision of making 'West Midlands Safer, Stronger and Healthier' including being recognised as Marmot champions within the Walsall area.

2. Recommendations

That the Health & Wellbeing Board note the activity that West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) is actively engaging in, to support the Board's priorities around Health.

3. Report detail

- In the Walsall conurbation and surrounding areas, West Midland Fire crews are actively involved in Mental Health work as Dementia champions trained by pathways. Through engagement with Dementia cafes they are providing support and completing essential Safe and well referrals. Champions are clearly identified wearing the Champion Insignia on their lapels.
- Fire crews are also working with a number of alcohol and drug rehabilitation groups such as the Beacon centre. This work is relevant when teams discuss the issues around what and when individuals involved in drugs/ legal highs and alcohol impacts on others. Referenced as a trusted public service who attend to deal with the aftermath with a different perspective to our partners, WMFS work closely to ensure support for these proactive centres from a public service point of view and educate the outcomes of what officers see. Our teams have completed Drug and legal high awareness training.
- Through the safe and well visits WMFS has created an approach to Healthy lifestyles and Healthy eating as well as ensuring those identified are living safely and independently. Our safety service incorporates all lifestyle choices and offers support, referrals to partners such as the Falls response service and sensory teams as well as signposting to other services both Public and Volunteers. During the visit WMFS also monitor carbon monoxide levels to ensure that those most at risk are not being exposed to dangerous products from faulty gas or solid fuel heaters, cooker or boilers.

- Our Vulnerable Persons Officers (VPO's) will engage with those identified at greater risk and work tirelessly to achieve the greatest protection and service for those most at risk. Their specialist training ensures that they are fully aware of Mental Health Challenges, Safeguarding and hoarding procedures working closely with our relevant partners to intervene and secure the best outcome. WMFS understands the importance of creating a safer environment to support independent living allowing our conurbations to remain in their homes and VPO's are at the forefront of this service.

- **WMFS Cadets**

A number of the Walsall Fire stations have WMFS cadets running 18 week programs for children ages between 12 -16, they engage in Fire Service activity as well as Health and well-being modules for the period of time, through Mentoring and Coaching they receive recognised qualification and can stay on to become Cadet instructors.

- **WMFS Specific Needs Cadets**

This Cadet Service is for children and young people with challenging illnesses or mental health diagnosis, the cadet project builds independence, confidence and skills for further development as well as support and long lasting friendships, promoting health and well-being.

- **Health related projects**

New NHS data sharing protocol and agreement signed for early years referrals, six-week pilot with new mums and feeding clinics held at Walsall Fire Service premises.

- **SANDS Charity**

Work with bereaved parents of new babies and children for Safe and Well referrals in the Walsall area.

- **Adult Social care**

Completed a new partnership to deliver Safe and Well referrals from Community Alarm users.

- **Walsall NHS Trust**

A Safe and Well referral partnership for medical oxygen users across the Walsall area

- **Making Connections Walsall**

Through this project WMFS are now delivering Safe and Well visits following referrals direct from Doctor's Surgeries.

Future projects.

Pilot for Provision of Back Home Safe & Well Service from Hospital.

- Our service has been developed using a collaborative approach to develop services with University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire (UHCW) hospital, social care providers and feedback from elderly residents in Coventry. This service provides the hospital with confidence and assurance that people are going back to a safe and healthy environment. Older, vulnerable adults receive a fast link from discharge to their homes where they are made safe and comfortable with their immediate support needs addressed. The scope for this work is targeted at people aged over 50, medically fit to return home, certified by a clinician, mobile to the extent of needing no more than the offer of an arm for support. Our team is called direct by the Emergency Department (ED) or any associated wards. We respond immediately and arrive, on average, within ten minutes (teams are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year round). They make contact with the clinician in ED and receive the person including a hand over of any appropriate information or assistive equipment. They are transported home individually and their environment is checked for any physical hazards or safeguarding issues. Basic needs are catered for such as some essential shopping if necessary, turning heating on, etc. We always make sure they are comfortable and happy before we leave. Any essential immediate referrals are made at this point. A follow up visit is carried out a few days later when they've had time to recover from their hospital visit. West Midlands Fire Service carry out a comprehensive Safe and Well visit which lasts for over an hour and covers a number of topics including:
 - Home Safety,
 - Weight, exercise & healthy eating
 - Mobility and falls
 - Mental health, memory loss & dementia
 - Loneliness & social isolation
 - Smoking, alcohol, medication & drugs
 - Hoarding
 - Employment
 - Road safety
 - Home security

West Midlands Fire Service are currently speaking to Russells Hall Hospital & Sandwell Hospital around the benefits of this service to Health.

4. Implications for Joint Working arrangements:

The Health & Wellbeing Strategy is a partnership strategy and therefore West Midlands Fire Service will always seek to work collaboratively with partners to contribute to service delivery and improvement.

5. Health and Wellbeing Priorities:

Following Assessment of need in Walsall through the current Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), the Economic Needs Assessment and the Strategic Assessment to inform the Community Safety Plan the two overarching priorities are:

- Improve healthy life expectancy
- Reduce Inequalities

Author

Name – David Baker
Operations Commander
West Midlands Fire Service

☎ 0121 380 7751
07973 810836

✉ david.baker@wmfs.net