

# Children and Young People's Strategy



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**Fire and Rescue Service**  
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#### French

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#### Urdu

یہ دستاویز اگر آپ کو کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہو، یا اگر آپ کو ترجمان کی خدمات چاہئیں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے رابطہ کیجئے۔

#### Bengali

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান অথবা যদি আপনার একজন ইন্টারপ্রেটারের প্রয়োজন হয়, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

#### Punjabi

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਾਂ ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਸਮਝਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਇੰਟਰਪ੍ਰੈਟਰ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

#### Arabic

إذا أردت هذه الوثيقة بلغة أخرى أو بطريقة أخرى، أو إذا كنت بحاجة إلى خدمات مترجم، فنرجو أن تقوم بالاتصال بنا.

#### Chinese

本文件可以翻譯為另一語文版本，或製作成另一格式，如有此需要，或需要傳譯員的協助，請與我們聯絡。

#### Farsi

اگر این مدرک را به زبانی دیگر یا در فورمتی دیگر میخواهید و یا اگر احتیاج به سرویس مترجم دارید، لطفاً با ما تماس بگیرید

 08451 22 11 55

# Meeting the challenge of working with children and young people

## Introduction

We consider the safety of children and young people as paramount and consider this a priority when producing our strategic plans and deciding on the balance and prioritisation of funding and resources - we believe in investing in the next generation. With support from a number of partners, colleagues from across the Service and children and young people from various communities we have created a strategy for children and young people from birth to 18 years of age (25 years of age if they have learning needs), which identifies where and how they we educate them in the matters of fire and road safety.

Children and young people are potentially both victim and perpetrator of incidents of accidental fire, anti-social behaviour (such as deliberate fire setting and hoax calls) and road traffic collisions (RTCs), so the approach we have taken is multi-layered. At the most universal level we provide information and education in order that all children and young people have the opportunity to be made aware of the risks they face, understand the consequences of their actions and are able to make safe choices to protect themselves, their friends and their family. At a more targeted, and specialised, level we also deliver interventions designed for children and young people who face higher risk, or are more likely to commit crime or anti-social behaviour linked to fire or vehicles.

Whilst fire, RTCs and health and wellbeing remain our key focus, where suitable we will tackle other issues, such as water safety, home safety and substance misuse. This will be either as a response to particular local priorities or as part of a wider approach to risk and safety.

We understand the correlation between social deprivation and the risk of being killed or injured due to fire, RTC or other unintended incidents. Generally, those children and young people at greatest risk come from complex and troubled families within communities where they are impacted upon by multi-faceted issues. In these situations the issues affecting them cannot be tackled in isolation. In many instances, in order to have an impact on outcomes related to fire and RTC, other wider issues for that child or young person need to be addressed.

These same children, young people and families will also be the focus of a number of other agencies. Our developing partnership approach will continue to be essential if our work is to be seen to have a measurable benefit. We work alongside other public, private and third sector organisations in order to maximise resources and impact on our children and young people.

# Vision

To be at a place where we can be satisfied that we are doing all that can be reasonably expected to ensure that our children and young people are healthy and safe and have the confidence to make positive and well informed life decisions that will help them to fulfil their potential.

# Outcomes for Children and Young People

Our strategy is linked to the objectives of our Community Safety Plan, namely:

- To know and understand vulnerability in our communities, identify current and emerging risks to our organisation and prepare our Firefighters for the emergencies they may face
- To work to understand our communities, business and partners to improve quality of life by delivering the highest quality, fit for purpose public service
- Invest in and develop our workforce to ensure that we continue to be a high performing organisation
- Educate communities and business to raise awareness about fire safety, help them understand the risks they face, reduce fires, mitigate the economic impact of fire and contribute to the wider issues which impact on community safety and wellbeing. We will also work in partnership to improve road safety for everyone living in or travelling through Staffordshire
- To ensure we provide safe, effective, efficient and resilient response arrangements

By following these we will ensure that our children and young people have been provided with skills to enable them to;

- **Be Healthy** - Enjoy good physical and mental health and live a healthy lifestyle
- **Stay Safe** - Be protected from harm and neglect and grow up able to look after themselves.
- **Enjoy and Achieve** - Get the most out of life and develop broad skills for adulthood
- **Make a Positive Contribution** - Not engage in antisocial or offending behaviour within their community and society at large
- **Achieve Economic Wellbeing** - Not be prevented by economic disadvantage from achieving their full potential in life

# Working with children and young people

In order to work effectively and professionally with children and young people we will ensure that key policies and procedures are in place and implemented before work is undertaken. These include:

- Safeguarding
- Staff trained and competent to carry out their role
- Suitably risk assessed programmes and activities

Our work with children and young people generally falls into two broad categories.

## **I. Universal prevention programmes**

These prevention services are applied universally across the County and all children and young people have the opportunity to access them via their educational and/or community group setting. Activities and learning outcomes are dependent on the age and requirements of the children and young people and Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service but cover our five prevention learning outcomes: fire safety in the home, smoke alarms and escape plans, calling 999, antisocial behaviour and road safety. If resources become scarcer these services will be targeted to those children and young people who are most at risk.

## 2. Targeted & specialised programmes

These services are for those who:

- have been identified as being at a higher risk of offending
- are actively offending and are in need of more formal interventions tailored to their individual needs or circumstances.
- wish to engage more closely with the fire and rescue service.

Work in partnership with other public and third sector organisations is imperative to maximise use of our resources to meet shared objectives and directly towards its outcomes.

Evaluation of activities is required to access the positive outcomes for each activity for the Service, partners and the children and young people to ensure that outcomes are being met in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

Details of the different programmes within the universal prevention services and the targeted and specialised intervention are in the **Strategy Guidance**. This outlines each programme, the partners involved, indicators for each activity as well as the positive outcomes from us, our partners and our children and young people.

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