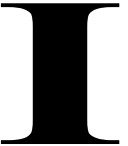




PRCC.49 13/14
Committee: Prosperous Communities Committee
Date: 4th Feb 2014



Subject: Fire Safety – Vulnerable Adults

Report by:	Mark Sturgess
Contact Officer:	Michelle Howard Home Choices Team Manager 01427 676609 michelle.howard@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	To inform members of identified fire safety risk for vulnerable adults and information sharing opportunities to enable prevention

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1) That Members note the contents of the report

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None arising from this report

Financial: FIN/83/14

None arising from this report

Staffing: None arising from this report

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

*NB: A full impact assessment **HAS TO BE** attached if the report relates to any new or revised policy or revision to service delivery/introduction of new services.*

Risk: Information Sharing - There is a need to ensure that information is shared appropriately with Lincs Fire and Rescue.

Mitigating Action: An information sharing agreement is being developed by West Lindsey DC officers, supported by the Information Sharing and Governance Group

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: N/A

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

N/A

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

Yes

No

Key Decision:

Yes

No

1. Background

1.1

A recent fire death in the County prompted Lincs Fire and Rescue to contact all District Councils in August 2013, to look at opportunities to work together to prevent future incidents.

1.2

Lincs Fire and Rescue identified that the fire victim was known to authorities and it had previously been identified that he was at risk from fire because of his disability and the fact that he smoked in bed.

There was a fire alarm fitted to the property and it did operate, however the victim's wife was unable to move her husband to a place of safety.

1.3

A coroner's report further to the fire death indicted that the death was preventable.

Lincs Fire and rescue have identified that the victim did not appear on any of their internal systems at 'at risk' registers. The victim was known to other partner agencies.

1.4

There have been five recent fire deaths in the County, all with a particular demographic:

- Elderly
- Disabled
- Bed Bound
- Smoker
- Living in a rural area (leading to longer Fire and Rescue response time)

1.5

Lincs Fire and Rescue are keen to work with District Council partners to identify vulnerable people and share information effectively in order to resource targeted preventative interventions.

1.6

A working group, led by Lincs Fire and Rescue has been established and has met on two occasions to date. The working group consisting of representatives from Lincs Fire and Rescue and the seven District Councils has been established to consider the information held by District Councils that might identify people (who meet the demographic outlined) within the District that may be vulnerable to the risk of fire and fire death.

1.7

This report sets out the information held by West Lindsey District Council that may inform those targeted interventions and the associated information sharing requirements and considerations.

2. Information Sharing

2.1

A number of service areas across the organisation hold information that could assist Lincs Fire and Rescue to do the following things:

- Put an alert on Lincs Fire and Rescue systems to identify 'at risk' or vulnerable households
- Carry out targeted intervention to safeguard people who may be at risk of fire (or fire death). Targeted interventions may include awareness raising, provision of fireproof bedding, sprinkler systems (this list is not exhaustive)

2.2

During some initial scoping work with Lincs Fire and Rescue, the areas of work identified for consideration through this process are:

- Housing Register Data
- Disabled Facilities Grant Data
- Assisted Bin Collection Data
- Council Tax Data

It is acknowledged that there may be additional areas of work across the organisation that may also be relevant. This will be explored by the officer leading this piece of work.

2.3

An information sharing agreement to allow relevant information to be shared between West Lindsey District Council and Lincs Fire and Rescue is currently being prepared. This piece of work is being completed by the Council's safeguarding officers, with the support of the Corporate Information Governance Group.

Lincs Fire and Rescue are aware that we are unable to share the information outlined above, until this piece of work has been completed.

2.4

An action plan is being developed by the working group which will also include the following actions:

- For officers from each District Council to speak to the responsible person to seek agreement that all social housing within their district will have a Home Fire Safety Check as a mandatory requirement as part of any future tenancy agreement. In West Lindsey, this will be Acis

- For officers from each District Council to provide details of any local groups or meetings that may be able to help identify the whereabouts of vulnerable adults or children, in order that a Home Fire Safety Assessment can be undertaken
- For officers from each District Council to identify officers and elected members that would benefit from Home Fire Safety Awareness training, provided by Lincs Fire and Rescue