

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2021
REPORT OF: HEAD OF PREVENTION AND PROTECTION
AUTHOR: MARK SHONE, SAFETY CENTRAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: SAFETY CENTRAL ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

Purpose of Report

1. To present a review of the performance of Safety Central, the Service's safety and lifeskills education centre, between April 1st 2020 and March 31st 2021.

Recommended:

- [1] Members review the information presented in this report.

Background

2. This is Safety Central's third annual report. Its briefer format differs to the previous two years owing to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the centre's activity during 2020/21.

Information

3. The report comprises four key sections to provide an overview of Safety Central's work over the last 12 months; how the team supported the pandemic response, delivery of limited family and school visits during summer 2020, development work and plans for 2021/22.
4. Key points to note from the report include an unavoidable decrease in visitor numbers on the year before owing to the centre's closure for much of the reporting period. However, at the time of this report being produced a targeted marketing campaign has generated more than 100 school bookings for the 2021/22 academic year.

Financial Implications

5. Safety Central's revenue costs are met from the Prevention Department budget. An annual grant of £10,000 from SP Energy Networks supports the running of the volunteer ranger programme. It is not yet known whether this award will be made in 2021/22 owing to reduced education delivery last year.

However, volunteer costs are currently significantly lower owing to much-reduced mileage claims and in-person training days.

Legal Implications

6. Cheshire Fire Authority has a statutory duty to promote fire safety through the provision of information, publicity and encouragement in respect of the steps to be taken to prevent fires and death or injury by fire

Equality and Diversity Implications

7. Safety Central's facilities and learning programmes were subject to full Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) during the development phase. All lesson plans are underpinned by 'EIAs', which were reviewed during the course of the year.

Environmental Implications

8. There are no environmental implications to consider as part of this paper.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS: APPENDIX 1 - SAFETY CENTRAL ANNUAL REPORT
2020-21**