

Safest People, Safest Places

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

21 DECEMBER 2017

SCHOOL SAFETY CAROUSEL

REPORT OF THE MEMBER CHAMPION FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

Purpose of the report

1. To provide members with an overview of the school safety carousel organised by the Service and to encourage members to continue to promote the benefits of the carousel.

Background

2. The Authority 'champions' various areas of service delivery through the CFA Member Champion roles. These roles provide the opportunity for members and officers to work closely together to help develop the services provided by better engagement with local communities, staff and other stakeholders.
3. Cllr Brian Jones was appointed to the role of Community Safety Member Champion in 2017 and in this role he visited the school safety carousel on 13 November 2017.
4. The Service has organised the school safety carousel for over 15 years and it is delivered annually to year 6 school children across County Durham and Darlington. The event is organised by the Service and delivered in partnership with a number of other agencies; the aim being to educate children, who are at a key developmental stage in their lives, in a broad range of key safety areas.

School Safety Carousel 2017/18

5. The carousel is delivered in two periods at The Work Place in Newton Aycliffe, each period lasting approximately five weeks, this year the dates being:
 - a. 31 October to 30 November 2017; and
 - b. 26 February to 28 March 2018.
6. Individual schools pay for and arrange their own transportation to bring children to the carousel with the cost of the venue being paid for by the Service. The venue costs for 2017/18 are £21,950; however, each year the Service applies for and has received a grant of £2,500 from Northern Powergrid as the carousel supports them in their statutory duty to deliver electrical safety education.
7. The November sessions were fully booked within two days of the invitations being sent to schools which demonstrates the excellent reputation of the events which is due to the success of previous events and the value placed on it by the schools. In November 2017 there were 106 schools with a total of 3545 pupils booked to attend. The February/March 2018 session is currently being arranged but similar numbers are expected with the total

number of children across County Durham and Darlington receiving safety education via the carousel this academic year expected to be between 7000 to 7500.

8. Children attending are split into six groups and rotate through six 30-minute sessions which are designed to be interactive, educational and fun for the children. The six sessions of the 2017/18 carousel are:
 - a. Fire Safety (Fire and Rescue Service);
 - b. Road Safety (County Durham and Darlington Borough Councils' road safety teams);
 - c. Water Safety (RNLI);
 - d. Internet Safety (Durham Constabulary);
 - e. Electrical Safety (Northern Powergrid);
 - f. Unintentional injuries in the home (Harrogate and District NHS Trust).
9. During each carousel teachers are asked to evaluate the sessions while they are delivered which is then used to produce an end of year evaluation report. The combined feedback from teachers for all six sessions delivered in 2016/17 showed a rating score of over 96% for either very satisfied or excellent. Any minor areas of improvement are discussed and used to improve future events.
10. The only change from the 2016/17 carousel to 2017/18 is that a session on resuscitation has been replaced by the NHS delivering a session on unintentional injuries in the home. This supports the County Durham Health and Wellbeing Boards' work in this area and the Service's Community Safety strategy in relation to home safety and safe and wellbeing visits.

Observations

11. After observing the carousel Cllr Jones was incredibly impressed with the organisation of the event by the Service's Community Safety team and the dedication and professionalism of the organisations delivering the sessions to make them fun and educational and he passed on his thanks to all involved.
12. It was also clear how much the children enjoyed and positively engaged with the various sessions. There is no doubt that the key safety messages that are delivered during the carousel are of huge benefit in helping keep children safe.

Conclusion

13. After visiting the safety carousel and gaining a greater understanding of this initiative, Cllr Jones could clearly see how the education delivered through the carousel has significant benefits in improving the safety and welfare of children not only now but also as they grow older. Cllr Jones would therefore encourage members to attend the event during February / March 2018.
14. Many members have close associations with the local schools in their areas and the Service would ask that members continue to promote the benefits of the carousel and encourage schools to continue to support it.

Recommendation

15. Members are requested to:
 - a. **note** the contents of the report

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Cllr Brian Jones, Member Champion for Community Safety.