

MEETING: 19 JANUARY 2009

SUBJECT: ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION POLICY

JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of Members regarding the formal introduction of the Road Traffic Collision (RTC) Policy into mainstream service delivery. A proposed RTC Policy was set before the Policy Advisory Committee on 28th July 2008.
- 1.2 The report also outlines the Authority's approach towards achieving reductions in deaths and injuries resulting from road traffic collisions in Tyne and Wear.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 places a responsibility on Fire and Rescue Services to make provision for the protection of the people in its area from the consequences of Road Traffic Collisions. Subsequently the Fire and Rescue National Framework 2008-11 sets out Government's expectations for Fire and Rescue Authority's (FRA's) in relation to Road Safety.
- 2.2 The Fire and Rescue National Framework states *"that the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads remain a significant social problem. It can only be successfully tackled using a multi-agency approach, bringing together Government departments and, at a local level, the key service delivery agencies and interest groups"*.
- 2.3 The 'Changing Lanes' report, published by the Audit Commission in February 2007, provides a clear recommendation for Fire and Rescue Services to become fully involved with the road safety agenda. The report provides a framework for improving road safety and provides clear guidance for the development of local strategies.
- 2.4 This Policy has been produced to reflect the contents of the above and other related guidance.

3 ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION POLICY

- 3.1 The Policy directly supports the achievement of the Authority's goals which is to: *Prevent loss of life and injury from fires and other emergencies and: To respond appropriately to the risk.*
- 3.2 The Policy will apply to all staff but will be directly applicable to Prevention and Education and Service Delivery staff, including operational crews.

- 3.3 The aim of the RTC Policy will be to assist key partners in achieving a reduction the incidence of Road Traffic Collisions across the Authority area. The specific objectives of the Policy will be:
- To create cost effective opportunities for the Authority to contribute to the road safety agenda particularly the prevention of RTC's;
 - To assist in the development of risk based programmes for targeting high priority groups;
 - To support the local delivery of prevention programmes by Prevention and Education and operational staff;
 - To raise the profile of the Authority as a participating agency within the wider road safety arena.
- 3.4 The Assistant Chief Officer Community Safety would have responsibility for the monitoring and compliance in relation to the Policy. The Area Manager Community Safety would have responsibility for the review and revision of the policy on an annual basis.
- 3.5 A copy of the Policy is attached at Appendix A for the attention of Members.

4 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The Authority will be working to the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the National Framework. The reduction of deaths and injuries from Road Traffic Collisions will directly support achievement of the Authority's vision for 'Creating the Safety Community'.

5 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

- 5.1 The policy will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment prior to publication.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Any costs associated with the adoption of the RTC policy would be met from within the existing Community Safety budget.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no implications associated with this specific report.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Authority is requested to:
- a) Endorse the actions detailed in this report
 - b) Receive further reports as appropriate

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The undermentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of this report;

- Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
- National Framework Document 2008-2011
- CFOA 'Prevention Toolkit' – CFOA Circular 2007
- 'Changing Lanes' – Audit Commission 2007
- TWFRAs IRMP
- Strategic Community Safety Plan 2008 - 2013

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE	
Community Safety	Road Traffic Collision Policy <i>Functional Policy</i>
Reference: CSP/RTC1	Version 1
	Issue Date: January 2009

1. Purpose of the Policy

This policy is designed to set out the organisational commitment to a value for money partnership approach to the reduction of risk in terms of road traffic collisions.

2. Detailed Policy Statement

2.1 General

This policy relates directly to the Authority's goals: To prevent loss of life and injury from fires and other emergencies; To respond appropriately to the risk.

2.2 Who this policy applies to

This policy is for use by all service staff and is directly applicable to Prevention and Education and Service Delivery staff. Accountability for ensuring implementation and compliance with this policy rests with the Assistant Chief Officer – Community Safety.

2.3 When this policy applies

This policy applies at all times.

2.4 Mission

TWFRS aims to make an effective contribution to the reduction of risk from road traffic collisions by maximising the partnership work within the wider Road Safety arena.

2.5 Aim of Road Traffic Collisions Policy

To assist key partners in achieving a reduction the incidence of Road Traffic Collisions across the Authority's area. The specific objectives of the Policy will be:

2.6 Objectives of Road Traffic Collisions Policy

- To create cost effective opportunities for the Authority to contribute to the road safety agenda particularly the prevention of RTC's;
- To assist in the development of risk based programmes for targeting high priority groups;
- To support the local delivery of prevention programmes by Prevention and Education and operational staff;
- To raise the profile of the Authority as a participating agency within the wider road safety arena.

Road Traffic Collision Policy	Version 1
Issued – January 2009	Review Date – January 2010

3. Responsibility for this policy

The Assistant Chief Officer – Community Safety has responsibility for ensuring and monitoring compliance with this policy.

Area Manager Community Safety is responsible for ensuring regular reviews and issuing updates of this policy.

4. Contacts

Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Area Manager Community Safety.

5. Related Information

IRMP

Strategic Community Safety Plan 2008-2013.

National Framework 2008-11.

Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

CFOA Changing Lanes Document 2007

RTC data relating to target groups and high risk areas

6. Review date

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

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