

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND PROTECTION
SELECT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 13 MARCH 2001 AT 10.30 AM**

Agenda Item No.

2

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION FOR SCHOOL AGE PUPILS

Author: - Assistant Chief Fire Officer Terry Standing Tel: 01992 507504

Executive Member: - Gerald Game

1. Purpose of the Report

To provide a response to questions raised by the Select Committee of 11 October 2000, and provide an update on Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service's progress in this area of Community Fire Safety activity.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 11 October 2000 the Fire and Rescue Service presented a report to the *Community Information and Protection Select Committee* which discussed Community Fire Safety (CFS) Education for School Age Children in Hertfordshire.
- 2.2 The Committee, at that time, requested further information regarding an OFSTED report issued to a school outside Hertfordshire. It was suggested that a report raised concerns over Community Fire Safety Education and its compatibility with the National Curriculum criteria.

3. Events Since Select Committee Meeting

- 3.1 Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hertfordshire County Council Education Departments have attempted to trace the OFSTED report referred to in Section (2) above. This has not been successful due to the difficulties in locating specific items within a single school report. When contacted, the Home Office Fire Inspectorate were unaware of any such adverse comment being made within an OFSTED report.
- 3.2 The Fire and Rescue Service has been in contact with HCC Education Department and have established future liaison protocols in relation to

CFS Education to ensure that the important links to the national curriculum are maintained, particularly in respect of the Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum. This partnership approach is important for future Fire Safety projects.

- 3.3 As a result of this liaison the Fire and Rescue Service has allocated £30,000 of this year's Community Fire Safety budget to develop structured educational material, linked to the National Curriculum, for Hertfordshire schools.
- 3.4 With regard to our most recent project, 'Safe Havens', the Service have sent a copy of the project documentation to OFSTED for their comments on compatibility with the National Curriculum (HCC Education Department have already approved the project). OFSTED's initial indication is supportive of the joint scheme, but will consider the project in detail and provide a formal response.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hertfordshire County Council Education Department believe that neither the Community Fire Safety Education initiatives currently in operation nor those proposed conflict with the National Curriculum and OFSTED objectives.
- 4.2 Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service will continue to consult with Hertfordshire County Council Education Department on future projects, and where appropriate seek approval from OFSTED.
- 4.3 At their meeting on 31 January 2001 Members of the Community Fire Safety Panel discussed this matter and agreed to receive a further report should any new information be received.

Background Information Used by the Author in Compiling This Report:

Select Committee Scrutiny Work Programme – Fire Safety Education for School Age Pupils.