



SEPTEMBER 2017

INFORMATIVE

➤ The quarterly bulletin of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service



NORTH WALES LAUNCH OF NATIONAL FIRE CADETS

new educational scheme for 11-18 year olds helps develop citizen skills and offers nationally accredited qualifications

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TEAM CELEBRATES ONE YEAR MARK

'falls in the home' initiative goes from strength to strength

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A 'TYPICAL' FIREFIGHTER

retained firefighters sought for fire stations across North Wales

SHOWING VISITORS THE WAY TO KEEP SAFE

thousands learn about the importance of regular smoke alarm testing at summer events across the region

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TEAM CELEBRATES ONE YEAR MARK

The initiative set up to attend to North Wales residents experiencing a fall in their home continues to go from strength to strength.

In August 2016 the emergency services in North Wales collaborated and launched this new venture aimed at protecting people in their homes.

A year later the Community Assistance Team has attended 640 non-injury falls and on 96% of occasions this has avoided the need for an emergency ambulance to attend, freeing up over 900 hours for paramedics to be able to attend other emergencies.

The pilot started running in Conwy and Denbighshire and was then extended into Flintshire and Wrexham during a period of wider system pressures experienced during the winter.

The aim of the initiative is to reduce the number of people who need to attend hospital as a result of a fall, thereby reducing the pressure and demands on ambulance and medical services.

The team consists of fully trained staff members recruited from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service who are equipped to provide a service of excellence and an improved patient experience.

Stuart Millington, Senior Fire Safety Manager at North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, said: "We are extremely pleased with how this initiative has developed over the last 12 months and are proud that our team has been able to assist over 600 people without having to call the ambulance out.

"There are very clear benefits to working collaboratively in this way with other emergency and public services, both in monetary savings and in respect of delivering improved services to our communities.



"By responding as a specialised team to non-injury falls through this initiative we hope to alleviate some of the pressures faced by others as well as provide a much improved service."

During the pilot the team has also received training from North Wales Police on how to carry out searches for those reported missing from home as well as offer crime prevention advice whilst visiting properties.

Mark Timmins, the Welsh Ambulance Service's Tri-Service Collaboration Lead in North Wales, said: "The Community Assistance Team is a perfect example of how emergency services can work together to improve patient care and community safety.

"Each of the patients is referred for onward support through our falls pathway if appropriate and the team has also provided safe and well checks that include providing fire safety as well as target hardening and crime prevention advice."

The initiative is supported by Welsh Government in conjunction with the three emergency services, Denbighshire County Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, Galw Gofal / Care Connect, and North Wales Regional Call Monitoring Service.

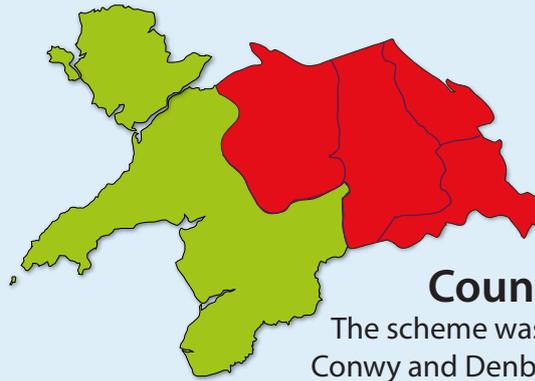
COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TEAM 2017

640



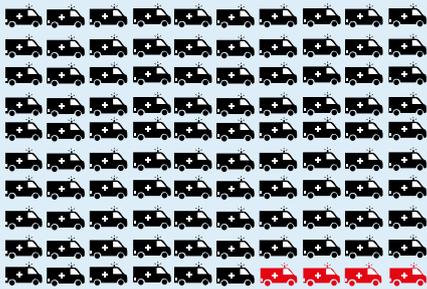
On Call Outs

CAT responded to 640 calls in the last 12 months.



County Pilot

The scheme was initially piloted in Conwy and Denbighshire, then rolled out to Wrexham and Flintshire to deal with winter demand.



No Ambulance

614 of those calls did not need ambulance support.



Award Winning

Already recognised at the All Wales Continuous Community Improvement Awards 2016.



A Bright Future

The success of the past 12 months will hopefully secure the funding needed to roll the scheme out across the Service.



900+

Time To Save

The team has saved paramedics over 900 hours; more time to save lives.

The service is mobilised through Ambulance Service control, so the public do not need to do anything different than they would have done previously, however if it is appropriate the Community Assistance Team will be deployed instead of an ambulance.

This initiative along with others has already been recognised at the All Wales Continuous Improvement Community Awards 2016 in the 'Collaboration' category that celebrated the success of the Tri Service Prevent and Respond Project Team.

As a result of the success achieved during the first year, the Service is attempting to secure the necessary funding to continue and roll out this valuable response service across North Wales.



NORTH WALES LAUNCH OF NATIONAL FIRE CADETS SCHEME

A new scheme for young people interested in the fire and rescue service was launched at the National Eisteddfod in Bodedern in August.

The National Fire Cadets is an educational youth organisation run by fire and rescue services in partnership with the Chief Fire Officers Association.

Its aim is to create safer, stronger communities through developing an individual's knowledge and awareness of their community to enhance citizenship skills.

The initiative provides an opportunity for young people aged between 11 and 18 to achieve nationally recognised qualifications such as a BTEC Level 2 in Fire and Rescue Services in the Community and vocational certificates of achievement in a variety of areas.

Young people are taught various skills including teamwork, problem solving and communication alongside enhanced life skills to strengthen their employability.

Paul Scott, Head of Community Safety, said: "We have had Young Firefighter branches for many years but we have now moved over to the National Cadets Scheme along with most other fire and rescue services in the UK.



"This new scheme is a national scheme where the instructors guide the cadets through a recognised course to enable them to learn new skills and achieve a qualification at the same time.

"Young people will benefit in a wide variety of ways by joining as cadets, with the scheme helping them to build their confidence, learn about respect, as well as work as part of a team."

Anyone interested in becoming a Fire Cadet or who would like more information please contact: nationalfirecadets@nwales-fireservice.org.uk or click [here](#)

There are **eight units in North Wales** where cadet units meet once a week at their local fire station – locations and meeting nights are highlighted box on right:

- Amlwch**
Monday evening
- Beaumaris**
Tuesday evening
- Conwy**
Monday evening
- Chirk**
Thursday evening
- Llanfairfechan**
Wednesday / Thursday evenings
- Prestatyn**
Wednesday evening
- Pwllheli**
Wednesday evening
- Ruthin**
Thursday evening

SUPPORTING CHILD SAFETY WEEK

A campaign to raise awareness of the risks of child accidents and how they can be prevented was a particular focus for fire and rescue service staff in June.

Child Safety Week is an annual campaign supported by a variety of organisations and this year staff visited the children's wards of Ysbyty Glan Clwyd Hospital and Ysbyty Wrexham Maelor Hospital as well as local schools to talk to young people about how to stay safe.

Kevin Jones, Community Safety Manager, said: "The fire and rescue service is here to keep people safe, but in addition to responding to incidents when they do occur, we understand the value of preventing the incident from happening in the first place. As a result we also carry out a huge amount of work to prevent accidents from happening as part of our Safety and Well-being visits to homes across the region.

"We supported Child Safety Week in a bid to encourage parents, guardians or carers to think about how they can put simple measures in place to safeguard children against anything from minor accidents to serious harm and injury."



"We work hard throughout the year supporting campaigns and coordinating educational school visits, but Child Safety Week is a fantastic opportunity to spread the word on safety as wide as possible."





SHOWING VISITORS THE WAY TO KEEP SAFE

Thousands of visitors to the Eisteddfodau and agricultural shows this summer were able to call by our fire and rescue stand to receive the latest fire safety information from staff.

At the Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells all three fire and rescue services in Wales worked in partnership to promote fire safety across the whole of Wales.

The shows in Anglesey, the Flint and Denbigh, and Meirionydd focussed on encouraging visitors to learn about fire safety by taking part in a fire safety quiz as well as highlighting recruitment opportunities with the fire and rescue service.

At the National Eisteddfod in Anglesey and the Llangollen International Eisteddfod, visitors could view the new 'Reasons to Test' film commissioned to draw attention to the importance of testing smoke alarms weekly.

Paul Scott, Head of Community Safety, said: "We feel that it's hugely important to get out into the community to put across our safety messages - these events enable us to communicate face to face with thousands of visitors about fire safety.

"Hopefully those we have engaged with over the summer months have taken our messages away with them so that they are more conscious of the importance of having working smoke alarms and of ensuring their homes are safe from fire."

As well as having a large presence at the main events across North Wales members of staff also attended a variety of smaller events across the area such as Chester Pride and the Cartrefi Conwy Big Day Out.

You can take a look at our 'Reasons to Test' campaign for yourself [here](#).



'WE DON'T WANT TO COME DINE WITH YOU' VISITS CONWY AND DENBIGHSHIRE

The campaign to highlight the dangers of cooking continues to travel across North Wales to spread the word on the importance of taking care in the kitchen.

Forgetting to turn off the hob, leaving food in the microwave for too long, overheating a chip pan, burning the toast, leaving the oven on - all of these can spell disaster and can lead to serious injury or, even more worryingly, the loss of life.

Cooking is a major cause of accidental fires in the home in North Wales - that is why staff have been talking to shoppers across Conwy and Denbighshire about how to stay safe in the kitchen, providing free washing up brushes to encourage people to think safe when cooking and to remember to ensure that you regularly clean your oven and grill.

People have also been taking part in safety quizzes to win £100 worth of shopping vouchers and those who cannot make it to the supermarket are encouraged to take the quiz online.

Kevin Jones, Community Safety Manager for Conwy and Denbighshire, said: "It is our responsibility to do everything we can to highlight that cooking causes a high number of house fires and to change behaviours to prevent these fires from occurring, however, whilst we can advise and educate the individual must want to change the things that they do in order to make themselves safer.

"Time and time again we attend house fires which have started in the kitchen - it is so easy to forget your cooking, especially if you are tired, distracted or have been drinking or on medication, and the consequences can be devastating. We don't want to come dine with you and tackle your kitchen fire!"



The 'We don't want to come dine with you' campaign will be visiting stores in Conwy and Denbighshire until the end of October and the location of each visit will be publicised on social media.

Congratulations to Cathy Jones as the winner of our most recent Cooking Safely competition for the Deeside and Flint regions – she was presented with £100 of vouchers by staff at Deeside Fire Station.

RETAINED FIREFIGHTERS SOUGHT FOR FIRE STATIONS ACROSS NORTH WALES – CAN YOU FILL THESE BOOTS?



There's no such thing as a 'typical' firefighter – that's the message from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service as its latest recruitment campaign is launched for Retained Duty System (RDS or on-call) firefighters to help protect communities across the region.

Following last year's successful recruitment campaign, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service is again calling on local communities to help support its work by asking people who live or work within 5 minutes of a fire station to take up the challenge and consider this rewarding career.

RDS firefighters are sought at a number of the region's 44 fire stations and the fire and rescue service is keen to hear from enthusiastic individuals interested in working as firefighters at their local station.

Local employers are also being asked if they can support their community by talking to their staff about the role of an RDS Firefighter, and if appropriate, releasing their staff from work, within pre-agreed days and times, to respond to emergency calls.

Gary Brandrick, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, explained: "Such firefighters provide essential and rewarding fire and emergency cover for their communities 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Last year's recruitment campaign was so successful that some fire stations now have a holding list of people waiting to fill future vacancies - however, there are still some stations that have opportunities for recruitment and are looking for new team members.

The fire and rescue service is therefore keen to hear from enthusiastic individuals who live or work within five minutes of a fire station in North Wales, particularly in rural areas, who would be interested and available to work as an RDS Firefighter.

For more details on opportunities for a career as a RDS firefighter in stations across North Wales, please click [here](#)

If you require more information please contact North Wales Fire and Rescue Service on **01745 535250** or HRDesk@nwales-fireservice.org.uk

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age. They must possess a good standard of physical fitness and have the ability to pass aptitude tests. In addition to their monthly retaining fees, payments are made for turnouts, attendance and drill nights.

Many employers are aware of the essential role that retained fire and rescue service personnel carry out within their local communities and agree to release staff to carry out firefighting and other emergency duties.

"We're emphasising that there is no such thing as a 'typical firefighter' - as our firefighters represent a diverse range of people, including builders, administrators, shopkeepers, nurses, factory workers, self-employed professionals and stay at home parents.

"They are all trained to an equally high standard to provide vital on-call fire and emergency cover. Some firefighters provide cover from home, others from work and some from both and this can be over varying times of the day through the week and weekends."

AUTHORITY CHAIR RE-ELECTED

Denbighshire County Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies will return as Chair for the North Wales Fire Authority after being re-elected for a further 12 month term.

He will be joined by the re-elected deputy chair, Conwy Councillor Peter Lewis, MBE. The election was held on June 19, in the annual meeting at Denbighshire County Council Chamber, Ruthin.

Cllr Davies, who joined the Authority in 1999, said: "I am very pleased to be able to take on this role for another year. Together we will work as an effective Authority to face future challenges in order to ensure the best protection possible for the public of North Wales."



Cllr Peter Lewis has been a member since 2012, saying: "I am grateful for the support of members. The Chair and I have worked well together over previous years which I am sure will benefit the Authority in ensuring we can provide a strong foundation not just for today but also for tomorrow."

PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Fire and Rescue Service

Did you know that Rhyl Community Fire Station is available for public use?

Have you thought about using our facilities?
We can host your meeting or training course
We welcome local people and organisations to come along

Facilities available include;

- Variety of large and small meeting rooms to suit everyone - all with overhead projectors
- Free wi fi
- Free parking
- Accessible via public transport
- Viewing area to see working fire station

Costs from
as little as
£7 an hour
for a room



It's the first purpose built facility of its kind in Wales - reaching out to the local community and promoting fire safety

Call us on 01745 352 722 or visit www.nwales-fireservice.org.uk