



Lead Fire Authority Partnership Scheme

Between

**Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service
and
South Yorkshire Housing Association**



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Introduction

In 2011 initial discussions were undertaken between South Yorkshire Housing Association (SYHA) and Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service (DFRS) with a view to forming a partnership which would ultimately enhance the safety of residents and staff across SYHA.

This Lead Fire Authority Partnership Scheme (the Scheme) is based on a system operated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and its aims are to provide a focal point for liaison on fire protection matters for both SYHA and other enforcing authorities. The aim of the partnership is to maintain at a high standard and further improve the fire protection management systems of SYHA and to increase the consistency of fire authority enforcement to the organisation.

In the spring of 2011 the Health and Safety Manager at SYHA approached DFRS with a view to formalising the agreement. Meetings have been held to ascertain the future scope and mutual benefits of a partnership and it was agreed that the partnership should go ahead.

In order to reinforce the scheme DFRS will undertake an additional fire protection management review, where key elements of the SYHA's policies and procedures will be scrutinised and recommendations given.

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service

DFRS provides a wide range of services, often in partnership with others, to the people who live, work and visit the county and aims to achieve excellence in all it does.

DFRS employs 883 personnel and has a total of 31 fire stations based in strategic areas to cover an area of over 1,000 square miles, which includes a variety of urban and rural communities with a population in excess of 1 million.

DFRS is headed by the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive and the Strategic Leadership Team. Its outward facing work is split into three areas - prevention, protection and response.

The governing body for DFRS is the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) which comprises of 12 Elected Members from Derbyshire County Council and four elected members from Derby City Council. Members of the Authority lead and support the determination and realisation of the Authority's vision, service priorities and values. The role of the Authority is to ensure that the services provided by DFRS are delivered economically, efficiently and effectively and meet the needs of the communities of Derbyshire. The DFRS vision is:

“Making Derbyshire a safer place to live, work and visit”

South Yorkshire Housing Association

SYHA is a charitable not-for-profit organisation governed by voluntary members on a Board of Management (the Board). The Board comprises of ten members, which includes two residents. The SYHA was founded in 1972 and manages more than 6,000 homes throughout Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and North Derbyshire. SYHA are a leading provider of care and supported housing in the region - providing support through voluntary agencies or directly by their own staff.

The SYHA Senior Management Team comprises of a Chief Executive and four Directors who cover Housing Services, Care and Supported Housing, Development Services, Human Resources & Central Services, Finance and IT. SYHA also have an in-house Architectural team and a Direct Services team that deliver repairs and improvements to SYHA homes.

SYHA is financed by the Homes and Communities Agency, Local Health Authorities, Social Services and other funders such as Transform South Yorkshire and private lenders. SYHA is regulated by the Tenant Services Authority. The SYHA vision is:

"Getting it right for our customers & communities every time"

Scope of the Scheme

This Scheme relates to all premises owned by SYHA which are covered in whole or part by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Date of Commencement

This Scheme will come into force and will commence on 27 April 2012

Joint Commitment

Both parties are in agreement that the partnership has benefits to the SYHA, DFRS and other fire authorities in that:

- Consistent advice and fire safety guidance will be provided to SYHA with over 6,000 premises thereby reducing fire safety risks for over 410 staff and a large number of residents.
- Improvements in enforcement consistency will allow SYHA to concentrate time and resources on fire risk priorities.
- Fire authorities will have a single point of contact for the discussion of national fire protection issues and policies.
- There is an acknowledgement that this partnership does not affect individual fire authorities' powers to deal with local enforcement issues.
- Liaison meetings should be held twice yearly in April and October. These meetings will allow both parties to exchange information and provide a forum for feedback and discussion. The aim of the meetings will be the continued improvement of fire safety management systems and fire safety enforcement consistency. Additional meetings can be called outside these dates should they be deemed necessary by partners.

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service Commitment

DFRS will provide a Liaison Officer within the Fire Protection Department. This Officer will act as a single point of contact for both parties and other fire authorities.

This Officer will maintain an awareness of the policies, procedures and practices of SYHA.

DFRS will offer advice to SYHA in relation to all new build projects and will be available for consultation on projects that may fall outside of the Derbyshire area. Advice and consultation given within this partnership will not preclude or affect individual fire authorities' powers to deal with local enforcement issues at SYHA premises.

The nominated Officer will attend the liaison meetings.

South Yorkshire Housing Association Commitment

SYHA will keep DFRS up to date with any changes in fire safety practices within its premises, any changes in policy and any major projects which are taking place in Derbyshire and nationally.

SYHA is committed to continuous fire safety improvement and has agreed to the following areas of development:

- The completion of a comprehensive fire risk assessment programme. All premises within its area of operation will be risk assessed by competent persons to an agreed standard.
- The implementation of fire safety training to all members of staff employed within SYHA.

- The review and implementation of a fire safety maintenance programme in order to assist the responsible persons on the testing and maintenance of fire safety provisions, and the management of records.
- SYHA will also champion the promotion of domestic and residential sprinkler systems or other fire suppression systems within its own premises.
- SYHA will encourage the fitting of domestic sprinkler systems within its private housing stock.
- SYHA will enable DFRS to be represented on national Registered Social Landlord committees, meetings and forums.

Withdrawal from the Scheme

Both SYHA and DFRS will have the right to withdraw from this scheme by giving written notice of that intent. A minimum notice of withdrawal will be 12 weeks.

Review date of the Scheme

The partnership arrangement to operate this Scheme will be reviewed on 1 April 2014

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service

And

South Yorkshire Housing Association

Lead Fire Authority Partnership Scheme

This Lead Authority Partnership scheme reflects the working arrangements between South Yorkshire Housing Association and Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service

Signed on behalf of South Yorkshire Housing Association

..... *W. Stacey*

Position..... *Chief Executive*

Date..... *27.4.12*

Signed on behalf of Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service

..... *Sean Fraymon*

Position..... *Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive*

Date..... *27.4.12*



Derbyshire
Fire & Rescue Service
Making Derbyshire Safer



South Yorkshire Housing Association