



SEPTEMBER 2015

INFORMATIVE

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



NEW PARTNERSHIP BEGINS IN NEFYN

Nefyn Fire and Police Station
officially opened in June

'WE DON'T WANT TO COME DINE WITH YOU CAMPAIGN'

Moves to Wrexham

LAUNCH OF WALES ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

At the Royal Welsh Show

OFFICIAL OPENING MARKS BEGINNING OF NEW PARTNERSHIP IN NEFYN

Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies, Chair of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, officially opened the new Nefyn Fire and Police Station in June.

The joint station, sited on Ffordd Dewi Sant, Nefyn, is a fully operational fire and police station.

Work began on this project back in April 2014 and this investment has upgraded the facilities at the previous fire station on Well Street that had been operational on the same site since the 1920s.

Simon Smith, Chief Fire Officer, said: "The previous fire station at Nefyn was an old building in great need of upgrading. Today we work more closely with our partners in the police, therefore it made operational sense for us to work from the same building.

"We have tried and tested the co-location of our staff on previous occasions, including at our Joint Communications Centre in St Asaph, and our relationship has always been very successful. We look forward to building on this relationship as well as on other collaboration opportunities in other locations in the future.

"The project has involved a substantial investment on behalf of the fire and rescue service and demonstrates our commitment to our firefighters and to the local community."

The building works were carried out by P T Griffiths. The fire station now includes a muster bay, drying room, kit room, and breathing apparatus workroom and watch office. The police will have an office and an interview room, and both organisations will now share male, female and disabled toilets, shower facilities, a lecture room, a kitchen, and a gym.

Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies, said: "Both organisations deliver a wide range of services which require the building to have the most up to date facilities. This new building provides an excellent facility, not only to help support the training of firefighters to tackle incidents, but also to deliver the diverse education and prevention schemes that are operated here in North Wales by both organisations."

District Inspector for Gwynedd South, Dewi Jones, said: "North Wales Police is delighted to be a part of this shared facility.

"We can only be successful in preventing crime by working closely with our partners, and the joint location of public services is a positive step forward, given the financial constraints facing the organisations. It will enable us to maintain a strong community policing presence in Nefyn."



Julian Sandham, the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, added: "We already have a close working relationship with the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service so, wherever possible, shared facilities make perfect sense at a time when budgets are tight."



'FALLS IN THE HOME' PILOT COLLABORATION LAUNCHED IN DENBIGHSHIRE

A pilot has been launched which sees North Wales Fire and Rescue Service working alongside the Single Point of Access in Denbighshire to help safeguard people in the home against a fall.

The aim is to make better use of the resources available to allow individuals to live a more healthy and active life, maintain their independence and reduce social isolation.

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service is moving towards adopting a more integrated approach to home safety which will enable working collaboratively with other partners to ensure residents remain safe in their homes.

This approach will not only consider the risk of fire but also other issues of safety, such as security and mobility, so that more vulnerable residents in particular will be provided with the best advice available from a whole variety of sources, stemming from just one home visit.

The 'Falls in the Home' pilot involves fire and rescue staff who are undertaking Home Safety Checks helping to determine whether a person is at risk from a fall in the home, and if so then generating a referral to the Denbighshire Falls Prevention Service.

Stuart Millington, Senior Fire Safety Manager, explains: "One in three people aged over 65 will fall each year and this increases to one in two when 80 years of age is reached. Nationally 250,000 people are admitted to accident and emergency hospital departments each year with falls related injuries.

"Often the people who suffer from falls in the home are the same people who we as a Service would be targeting as they are also at an increased risk of fire. This is therefore an excellent opportunity to deliver a more integrated home safety check and a referral to our partners which will in turn help keep our most vulnerable residents safe."

Councillor Bobby Feeley, Cabinet Lead Member for Social Care, said: "The Council has worked with the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board over the last 12 months to provide a single point of access to promote health, well-being and independence. The service focuses on identifying the needs of the caller from the initial enquiry, making sure they get the right response which may include signposting to other services in the local community or directed to the correct service.

"One of the primary targets for the Falls Prevention Service is to reduce the number of falls people are experiencing and as such reduce the associated number of injuries, calls to the ambulance service, hospital admissions, the need for treatment, and all the associated costs which can be reinvested in other areas of treatment and care."

The Falls Risk Assessment Tool used identifies people who have had a fall or who are at risk of falling. Once identified through five simple closed questions, people are then referred to the service for a full assessment to reduce or eliminate their risk of falling which may include further referral onto further services such as: physiotherapy, exercise classes, home modifications, referral onto third sector services or simply a referral back to their GP for a review of their medication.

Stuart Millington added: "Denbighshire will be the first county in which our staff will use the Falls Risk Assessment Tool in this way – and depending on results we may look at expanding this more widely."



SUCCESSFUL CARTREFI CONWY PARTNERSHIP EXTENDED

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service has extended a successful partnership with Cartrefi Conwy – a pilot scheme launched last year has proved so successful that it is being extended for a further year.

Cartrefi Conwy is a housing association committed to the growth and improvement of communities by investing in the future of tenants and their homes – with about a third of the 3,800 housing offered being sheltered accommodation for the elderly or vulnerable. The remaining properties are made up of one, two or three bedroomed houses.

Gwyn Jones from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service said: "The pilot scheme has enabled the joint funding of a dedicated Home Safety Support Worker tasked with reducing the number of fires occurring in Cartrefi Conwy properties.

"North Wales Fire and Rescue's Chad Rogerson was seconded into the new role and his work has gone from strength to strength over the past year.

"Chad's role is to promote and undertake Home Safety Checks with Cartrefi Conwy tenants – many of which are vulnerable people. These interactions provide residents with the opportunity to raise any general home safety concerns, such as those relate to slips, trips and falls, have their smoke alarms tested, and receive electrical safety advice.

"And Chad has also had the opportunity to build strong working relationships with Cartrefi Conwy's Independent Living Coordinators, Caretakers and front line Neighbourhood Services colleagues along with other community supporting agencies – this has increased their knowledge and confidence in relation to fire safety risks."

Chad said: "I go out into the communities to meet tenants face to face in their homes or through organised events, with the focus on raising awareness of hazards that could be putting them at risk in their day to day lives.

"It's important that we engage with the more vulnerable tenants; older tenants, or hard to reach tenants in rural locations and those with mobility, disability, addiction or learning issues.

"It's about encouraging them to make small changes such as not overloading electricity sockets, not having wires trailing from appliances, ensuring smoke alarms are working and to have a fire escape emergency plan in place."

Nerys Veldhuizen, Cartrefi Conwy's Older Person's Engagement Co-ordinator, said: "We work hard with our tenants to promote health and wellbeing, and safety in the home. It's vital for example that our older tenants don't allow their to age get in the way of improving their independence and quality of life. And Chad's role has contributed enormously to this so I am delighted that the partnership will continue."

In the last year Chad has attended over 20 community group talks and events, reaching over 1,500 tenants. The total number of fires at Cartrefi Conwy properties has decreased during the past year by 10% with no smoking related incidents in 2014 and a notable reduction in fires associated with cooking.

Chad has recently been successful in his application for a new role with the Service as Partnership Manager for Conwy and Denbighshire, however the role with Cartrefi Conwy will continue with a new person being sought to maintain the successful partnership.

**CARTREFI
CONWY**
creu cymunedau i fod yn falch ohonynt
creating communities to be proud of



'WE DON'T WANT TO COME DINE WITH YOU!' CAMPAIGN VISITS WREXHAM

The 'We don't want to come dine with you – Think Safe, Cook Safe!' campaign was launched in Wrexham in June to help drive down the number of cooking related fires in the area and educate local residents about the importance of cooking safely.

Cooking is a major cause of accidental fires in the home in North Wales – this campaign highlights the dangers of leaving your cooking unattended and follows on from the successful campaign held across North Wales last year.

In Wrexham county, between the 1st January 2014 and 31st December 2014 crews attended 37 cooking related fires.

Firefighters were out and about in June and July, educating shoppers across Wrexham 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 keep ovens and grills clean at all times.

People were able to put their safety knowledge to the test by taking part in a cooking safely quiz with a chance to win £100 worth of supermarket vouchers.

An online cooking quiz is also available to help those who could not make it to the supermarket visits to learn about safety in the kitchen and have a chance of entering the competition.

Paul Scott, County Safety Manager for Flintshire and Wrexham, 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!"

Further information about the campaign is available on www.nwalesfireservice.org.uk and on social media [#wedontwanttocomedinedinewithyou](#)



INVESTING IN BUILDINGS FOR THE FUTURE

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service continues to invest in buildings for the future as part of its strategy to keep costs down in the long term.

These projects have involved a substantial investment and demonstrate the commitment to both firefighters and to the local communities.

As well as providing modern facilities and offering more opportunities for establishing closer links with the local community, these projects have often presented an opportunity to work collaboratively with partner organisations to improve services and make future savings.

At the new joint Ambulance and Fire Services Resource Centre (AFSRC) the steel frame around the main building was completed in June and work has now begun on the roof and the concrete floor. This should be completed early next year with everything planned to be operational in March 2016.

At Deeside Fire Station there has been substantial building preparation works as part of the refurbishment of the premises and the fire station has remained operational throughout. The refurbishment of Deeside Fire Station and construction of the new training house is due for completion in the autumn after which time the station will be fitted out internally. The external works are scheduled to be completed in November.

In a similar design to the new Fire and Police Station at Nefyn, building works at Tywyn started back in February and completion is scheduled for the autumn.

Stephen Roberts, Head of Facilities, said: "These projects are vital for us to be able to continue protecting our communities for decades to come and I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff and the community for their patience whilst we have been driving forward with this work – we still have a lot of work ahead but everyone's commitment to these projects for the benefit of the community and staff is clear."



LAUNCH OF WALES ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

The Welsh Fire and Rescue Services Road Safety Strategy was launched at the Royal Welsh Show in July. It provides a framework for communicating and implementing road safety commitments on both a national and local level across Wales.

As road safety has improved over recent years the number of incidents has declined. However, there has been an increase in the number of people seriously injured on roads in Wales, with poor driving and observation being the factors which lead to the cause of collisions.

Statistics show that young people aged 16-24 and motorcyclists are most vulnerable, with drivers aged 70 or over identified as being at risk, often holding their licence for many years without undertaking any further training since passing their test.

The road safety strategy therefore represents a coordinated effort in the education of road users, specifically targeting the vulnerable groups identified with a range of activities, interventions and publicity that result in behavioural change. This is in support of the Welsh Government's vision for a continued reduction in the number of people killed and seriously injured on Welsh Roads, with the ultimate aspiration of no fatalities.

Stuart Millington, Senior Fire Safety Manager, said: "All three fire and rescue services in Wales have a common objective which is at the heart of everything we do – to work together for a safer Wales."

"We are delighted to be part of the All Wales Road Safety Strategy that will continue to ensure that we all work together as best as we can within the fire and rescue services across Wales and with our partner agencies to make Welsh roads as safe as possible.

"The key to this will be that we continue to work collaboratively across Wales and with our partners to make our communities and roads safer and save lives. As part of this strategy, we are looking at a variety of approaches that organisations can take to improve road safety including training, education, publicity, sharing information and evaluation. By combining all these we hope that we will be able to improve road safety across Wales."



CHAIR RE-ELECTED

Denbighshire County Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies was re-elected as the Chair of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority at the Annual Meeting held at the Conwy County Borough Council chamber in June.

Councillor Davies began his career in local Government over 30 years ago, and has twice been a member of the Fire and Rescue Authority since 1999.



Meirick Lloyd Davies

On his election to serve as Chair of the Authority for the next 12 months, Councillor Davies thanked members for their support and said: "I am very pleased to be able to take on this role for another year."

"It is a challenging time for all public services and as an Authority we have some difficult decisions ahead. But I am confident that together we will do our utmost to work through these in order to achieve our vision for the future of the fire and rescue service in North Wales."

Conwy County Councillor Peter Lewis MBE was re-elected as the Deputy Chair.

Councillor Lewis first joined the Fire and Rescue Authority in 2012. He said: "I am grateful for the support of members. The Chair and I have worked well together over the past two years which I am sure will benefit the Authority as we face the challenges ahead."



Peter Lewis MBE

GRAFFITI ART BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER

The Arson Reduction Team funded a graffiti art project in Wrexham recently in an effort to reduce deliberate fires in the area.

The project brought two different age groups in the community together. Young people from the Wrexham Detached Group and members of the youth club worked with local graffiti artist 'Graffiti Dave' to decorate the changing rooms at Bradley Park Bowling Club.

In the past the changing rooms at the club had become a target for deliberate fires and anti-social behaviour and this project has seen young people in the area taking ownership of the club after they decided on how it should be decorated.



Les Williams, Advanced Practitioner at Wrexham Youth Services, said:

"It looks great there; we've had some brilliant feedback from both the public and from those who took part in the project. Many said it helped them learn a new skill, as well as to meet new people, which is great to hear."

Kevin Jones, Arson Reduction Manager, said: "We are pleased to hear that members of the community are happy with the project that we have helped to support. It is also encouraging to see that the number of incidents in this area has reduced since this project was implemented."