



Fire Safety Network Notes

Monday 5th December 2016

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service

Police and Justice Building, Parc Noyadd Park, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5DF

Attendance

Organisation	Name
1. Aelwyd Housing Association	Bill Meiklejohn
2. Bro Myrddin Housing Association	Keith Jeremy
3. Cardiff County Council	Kerry Powell
4. Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd	Mike Roberts
5. Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd	Hadyn Maxwell
6. Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd	Bryan Griffiths
7. City & County of Swansea	Darren Whetton
8. Community Housing Cymru	Will Atkinson
9. Family housing Association (Wales)	Stephen Mainwaring
10. First Choice Housing Associati	Philip Green
11. Flintshire County Council	Chris Grocott
12. Hafod	Leon Clifford
13. Isle of Anglesey County Council	Owain S. Owen
14. Isle of Anglesey County Council	Stephen Parry-Williams
15. Linc Cymru	Adrian Brain
16. Merthyr Valleys Homes	Derek Hillier
17. Monmouthshire Housing	Sue Kidd
18. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service	Rob Williams
19. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service	Richard Davies
20. Newport City Homes	Emma Pearson
21. North Wales Fire And Rescue Service	Paul Jenkinson
22. NPT Homes Ltd	Phil Owen
23. NPT Homes Ltd	Neil Davies
24. NPT Homes Ltd	Gareth Evans
25. Pembrokeshire Housing Group	Seamus Doyle
26. Pennaf Housing Group	Keith Morris
27. Pobl Group	Lois Davies
28. Pobl Group	Nefyn Cardwell
29. Powys County Council	Alan Corbett
30. Taff Housing Association	Karen Walters
31. Taff Housing Association	Pamela Evans
32. Tai Ceredigion	Wayne Williams
33. United Welsh	Skye Burton
34. Valleys to Coast Housing	Ryan Shearan
35. Wales & West Housing Association	Paul Rowan
36. Wales & West Housing Association	Stephen Wathan



1. Morning Session

The Vice Chair (Seamus Doyle) introduced himself and thanked Sarah Roberts (Chair) for her work in passing the information to him as Sarah is currently on adoption leave.

Will Atkinson discussed the current work being undertaken by CHC and reminded the network about Yammer. A register was taken of network members who didn't currently have access. The Fire Safety Yammer is a valuable resource for discussion and storage of documents. If you would like access, please email Will-Atkinson@chcymru.org.uk

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

National Fire Safety Group presentation on scooters shown:

http://chcymru.org.uk/uploads/events_attachments/5eii_CFOA_FETS_Presentation.pptx

Guidance in Wales – Follow up recommendations sent up to National Fire Safety Group from Wales Fire Safety Network. The issue of the storage and charging of scooters outside of properties. Welsh document mainly focussed on storage. National Group wider context.

2. Primary Fire Authority Update

The Network was brought up to date with progress towards a primary fire authority. The paper sent to CHC Board was discussed. The concept of a primary fire authority was discussed. Under the scheme a housing association would deal with one fire authority organised through their trade body (CHC). It is suggested that a CHC panel would interview a selection of fire authorities across Wales. Once established the primary authority would issue sector wide guidance.

The Chair discussed next steps. It was agreed that a working group should be established to discuss costs and viability of establishing a Primary Fire Authority before taking the document to the executive network group.

There was a discussion around whether the scheme would be available to Local Authorities (LA's) as well as Housing Associations. Local Authority members have doubts around whether they would be allowed to join the scheme, although they would find it beneficial.

Action: Working group to look at viability of LA's joining the scheme.

Members raised the point that assured advice would only cover specific elements. Housing is not homogenous and so there may be areas which the Primary Authority would not cover initially.

Creation of assured advice can take some time. Enforcement continues as normal until each section is superseded by the new primary authority advice. Prohibition notices can still be issued.



3. Fire Safety Network Future Events

The Network discussed potential topics/speakers for future network meetings.

- People living in sheltered accommodation: Who is responsible for the evacuation of infirm tenants? Especially where the tenant is bed ridden.
- Invite Stuart Ruckledge, Staffordshire FRS, to a Network meeting to discuss scooter safety
- Sharing of guidance issued to tenants. It would be useful to know the guidance each housing association is issuing to tenants. For example, some housing associations would allow removing of a fire door to adapt a property for accessibility purposes, some would not.

4. Portable mist sprinklers presentation

Mainpoint fire & security delivered a presentation on Automist CPD.

The presentation is available on the CHC website: <http://chcymru.org.uk/en/events/networks/network-information/fire-safety-network/>

Notes:

- Maintenance regime: Warranty for two years. Warranty extended to 4 years if serviced annually.
- Cost of each head unit and pump: £2000 + VAT.
- Cost of servicing: around £125 + VAT.
- However, it is possible for HA staff to be trained in servicing the units.

5. Working with tenants who are hoarding

Kate, a recovering hoarder and Conrad Hancock from MAWWFRS delivered a presentation on Working with tenants who are hoarding. The presentation can be found on the CHC website:

<http://chcymru.org.uk/en/events/networks/network-information/fire-safety-network/>

Kate recommended 'Overcoming Compulsive Hoarding' by Neziroglu as the best text to read on the subject. A preview can be found here:

<https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=aPJ4gmKSY4QC&oi=fnd&pg=PT11&dq=Overcoming+Compulsive+Hoarding,+Neziroglu&ots=Yrlo7GCyu-&sig=WhhplOFEhWEJlHG4BAi--vTpus#v=onepage&q=Overcoming%20Compulsive%20Hoarding%2C%20Neziroglu&f=false>

It was recommended to contact local fire service safeguarding officer/community partnership development officer to build links.



6. Area Input

No business

7. CFAO Specialised Housing

Members were invited to send comments to Will Atkinson, Will-Atkinson@chcymru.org.uk, to collate before 19th December.

There was a discussion on the document. Discussion around some issues pertaining to how the guidance affects delayed calling of fire service when an alarm is triggered.

8. Meetings Calendar

Attendees invited to offer to host next meeting. Location TBC

9. AOB

Action: It was asked when the Welsh guidance would be published. Seamus Doyle to follow up.

10. Date of Next Meeting

TBC