



Abertillery Station Overview Overview

Introduction:

Abertillery Fire Station is situated adjacent to the A467 and serves the town of Abertillery plus the surrounding villages of Cwmtillery, Llanilleth, Six Bells and Trinant. The area has a varying range of industries, businesses and residential properties. The population as at 2001 census was 21439, which is 30.59% of the population of the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. The area covers approximately 11 square miles.

88% of the Boroughs 16 electoral wards are in the top 25% of the NAW Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000. As a result many wards have been awarded "Community First" status. Work is currently underway establishing partnership working with "Community First" who are pro-active in providing the station with HFSC referrals from our "at risk" groups. Presentation talks have been carried out at a local social meetings and it is hoped to provide further support to local groups according to their service delivery needs. The local Youth Liaison Officers of the organisation have also attended the station and remain in contact to discuss joint working. There has been an overall reduction in the population of 3% in Blaenau Gwent between 1991 and 2001; in the same period the number of persons aged 80 and above has increased by 23%. In 2001 two thirds of the people of pensionable age were living in single pensioner households (the sixth highest in Wales).

The same census reports the third highest proportion of lone parents with dependant children living in Wales and the highest proportion of lone parents with non-dependent children.

Unemployment is the second highest in Wales with long term unemployment the third highest. Proportion of persons permanently sick or disabled is the second highest in Wales and persons with limiting long term illnesses the third highest.

As can be seen from the statistics above there are several areas whereby local people fall into a higher risk classification and it is these groups that the station will endeavour through various means to contact as a priority and carry out HFSC's as soon as possible.

Property prices are the lowest in Wales and the percentage of vacant premises the second highest. It is therefore planned to contact the local estate agents and encourage them to make regular checks on vacant premises in order to avoid the potential for arson. The Town Centre has the usual range of retail premises and is currently undergoing a facelift with the council placing emphasis on attracting office based employment to the area. Several major



retailers exist near the town centre namely Tesco and Somerfield. The station activity can range between 400 and 500 incidents per year with FDR3 type fires being high on the agenda for reduction in the forthcoming year and maintaining the downward trend of other types of fires and incidents. Most SPI figures are down in the period 2008/09 with RTC incidents an exception. Besides the RTC course described below it is hoped through partnership working that this type of incident can be reduced.

There are several schools in the area that act as a feeder to the Abertillery Comprehensive School. Regular contact is maintained through the Key Stage visits and seasonal campaigns and it is hoped to re-establish a Duke of Edinburgh course on station this year. A recently developed RTC presentation run in conjunction with the Ambulance Service aimed at the 5th form i.e. those who are approaching the minimum driving age began at the beginning of 2008. This course has proved to be very successful at both Cowbridge and Abercarn where they have been run previously and it is hoped it will have the same impact at Abertillery Comprehensive.

Initiatives generated over the last year have included

- Community home fire safety visits.
- Educational visits targeted at key stage level one and two.
- Visits to local Retirement complexes/ residential care establishments.
- Seasonal campaigns including a poster campaign for Bonfire Night
- Joint RTC initiative with the Welsh Ambulance Service
- FireWatch course at Abertillery Comprehensive School
- "Fun in the Forest" grass fire campaign also at local Primary Schools

- Menash (mental action, support and help) group

Local nurseries are also regular visitors to the station and station personnel regularly attend mother and toddler groups and coffee mornings in order to give advice and generate HFSC referrals. A new community fire-fighter team was set up in January 2009 and is now based in Abertillery Station. The team consisted of 1 crew manager and 1 fire-fighter. However at present the crew manager role is vacant.

The team's role is to identify and reduce risk through education and initiatives in Abertillery and the surrounding area in line with the Intervention Directorate Plan.

The team will reduce risk by carrying out additional HFSC.

There are 7979 residential properties within our administration area of which 1643 checks have been completed which equates to 20%



of the properties, the CS team is working in partnership with Station personnel to target the most at risk properties in the area, working with existing groups and partnerships as well as pro actively seeking and creating links with new groups.

The station currently shares the premises with the Ambulance Service, which has used the facilities since the closure of its own premises at Aberbeeg. This partnership has improved working practices between both agencies and it is hoped to extend this with increased training opportunities.

The stations objectives are to:

- To provide and support the delivery of an effective Fire and Rescue Service in Abertillery and surrounding areas
- To implement the overall objectives of the Community Protection Plan by implementing the following series of Station objectives and targets
- Assist with the achievement of the wider annual objectives of the Intervention Department 2008-2009
- Contribute to the wider social agenda of the Welsh Assembly Government in building safer communities

Overview of Performance for 2009/10:

Top 5 Achievements in 2009/10:

1. the Majority of RDS Completed their NVQ awards allowing the transition to fully RDS
2. DC/RDS Project completed on time 27/2/10
3. Training for WT staff transferring to Ebbw Vale following completion of project completed.
4. All station personnel who were to be moved had one of there choices of new stations.
5. Completing all initial courses for 15 RDs Staff all modules now completed



Equality and Diversity:

The station actively encourages equalities and diversity in its day-to-day activities and it is intended to contact more local groups such as disabled and minority groups and identify what their individual needs are and what services we can provide for them. All staff have had a CRB (Criminal Records Board) check for their work with children and vulnerable adults. Although the ethnicity in the Blaenau-Gwent Authority is 99.5% White there has been a recent influx of Eastern European workers, predominantly Polish, into the area. Although recent figures show this trend is reversing it is our intention this year to make contact with this minority group, develop links and extend our services in order to make their community a safer place to live.

In addition we will promote and develop the Organisations core values through development training and the PDR process as well as encouraging open discussion and debate, and inclusion on all Station management meeting agendas.

Welsh Language:

The Directorate is dedicated to the aims and objectives of the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Welsh Language Scheme 2007-2010. In particular we will ensure the Welsh language continues to play an increasing role in all station activity but even though there are Welsh Primary and Secondary Schools nearby, there are none in the station area, and in the areas of the Welsh Schools, English is still the first language, however, all personnel have received Welsh language awareness and are pro actively seeking ways to deliver our initiatives through the Welsh language. There are currently two fluent Welsh speakers on Station and it is our intention to utilise these personnel and the Welsh language Dept to promote and support the many initiatives we have planned this year.

Sustainable Development:

In discharging the Service's aims and objectives, consideration will be given to minimising the negative impact we have on our natural environment as a result of our activities.

We will appoint an environmental champion on Station, and ensure through training, all personnel are aware of their environmental responsibilities.

We will continue to recycle as much as is practically possible.

We will strive to further reduce our use of electricity and gas, by embedding an environmentally aware culture and by monitoring our performance.

Through training we will ensure our operational personnel consider



potential environmental impacts and the control measures available.

Budgetary and Resource Implications:

Efficiency Gains:

Geographical Risk Profile:

Number of Dwellings in Station Area:

Number of HFSC's completed in Total Prior to April 2010:

**% Dwellings in Station Area Received HFSC since HFC's
Commenced:**

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