

## **Safe and Independent Living (SAIL)**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

This report provides members with a summary of the work of the Safe and Independent Living project that is being undertaken by Dorset Fire and Rescue Service, in conjunction with local authorities, the police and health services. The Commission will receive a presentation from Cllr Rebecca Knox and CFO Darran Gunter, giving further details on this work.

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

1. note the contents of the report; and
2. consider how fire and rescue authorities can learn from the experiences of Dorset FRS in participating in the SAIL project.

### **Action**

Officers to take forward actions.

**Contact officer:** Clive Harris  
**Position:** Adviser  
**Phone no:** 0207 664 3207 / 07747 636931  
**E-mail:** [clive.harris@local.gov.uk](mailto:clive.harris@local.gov.uk)

## **Safe and Independent Living (SAIL)**

### **Background**

1. In 2008, a high number of people had accidents in their homes due to fires in Dorset. As a result of this, partners with a vested interest, led by Dorset Fire and Rescue Service, came together to create a scheme that improves safety at home. Safe and Independent Living (SAIL) was created in 2010.
2. The aim of SAIL is to provide a multi-agency referral point to enable access to signposting, support, and services, which is particularly beneficial to those who are aged 50+ or experiencing vulnerability.
3. SAIL partner agencies undertake their normal business activities and offer to undertake an A4 referral form with clients that they meet. Clients identify which services, support or information they would like to access and sign the referral form (documents attached as **Appendix A**) to agree to have their details passed on. A calling card is left with the client (attached as **Appendix B**) so they can retain details of the SAIL initiative.
4. The referral form is sent into the hub organisation (Age UK in Dorchester) where the details from each form are input to a database. A referral is generated to each partner agency required to carry out an action as agreed with the client. Referrals are only sent on to those agencies identified by the client.
5. All identified agencies then undertake the required action e.g. complete a benefits check, undertake a home fire safety check, provide information about energy saving and insulation grants, contact the client about accessing food and nutrition, provide support to help the client stop smoking or drinking alcohol etc.
6. Monitoring is undertaken, co-ordinated by Age UK Dorchester of all aspects of the SAIL initiative. This includes any follow-up required as a result of actions being delayed or not being completed.
7. A significant number of vulnerable people do not receive direct services and are excluded from support opportunities. The intention is that not only will those clients completing a form be able to better access services, but that partnership working is improved and duplication reduced.
8. The SAIL approach provides the opportunity for all individual agencies to 'broaden our reach' by extending the 'no wrong door' approach across the County and across agencies working with the public.
9. Target groups for referral purposes include friends, relatives and neighbours - all these need access to the help and support opportunities provided.
10. SAIL provides access to information, services, and support which ensures preventative measures take place, and promotes health and well-being.

**Item 2**

11. The SAIL scheme is a partnership of respected agencies in Dorset including: Local Councils, Police, Fire Service, NHS, Dorset Partnership for Older people's Project and others.
12. Since the project began the hub has received 1300 referrals resulting in 4,400 actions in vulnerable people's homes.
13. In September 2011 a Governance Board was established to monitor funding and activity of the project. Each key partner, including Housing Associations, commit funding to the project on an annual basis. The Governance group is also responsible for the Service Level Agreement with the Hub organisation and reviewing the Equality Impact Assessment aligned to the scheme.
14. The scheme costs £8,000 per year to run.