



4LSAB Fire Safety Development Group (FSDG) Learning Briefing

Introduction

The purpose of this briefing is to communicate to all LSAB partner agencies the key learning from the fire deaths and near miss incidents reviewed by the 4LSAB Fire Safety Development Group (FSDG) over a 12 month period.

The role of the FSDG is to co-ordinate work across the 4LSAB area. The group aims to ensure fire safety and risk management is embedded into the day to day work of partners. The group also maintains oversight of fire incidents and deaths involving adults with care and support needs.

Partner agencies are required to review the identified learning, consider their own agency procedures, ensure this learning is fully embedded within their organisations and develop internal mechanisms to identify, support and effectively manage fire risks for all individuals across the 4LSAB areas.

Learning from 4LSAB Fire Safety Development Group Case Reviews (1-12)

Agency Training Needs

- Requirement for an increased understanding of frontline practitioners in the correct maintenance, testing and positioning of smoke detection.
- All agencies to ensure clear record keeping for all fire safety decision making, including rationale as to reasons why risk mitigating actions were not implemented.
- All agencies to be aware of the increased vulnerabilities towards fire for individuals where substance misuse is a risk factor.
- Increase awareness to all commissioned services, GP's and Health and Social Care providers to consider a person's vulnerability to fire and to refer for Safe and Well intervention.
- Effective management of Fire Risk training to be embedded with all frontline practitioners.

Multi Agency Arrangements

- All agencies to promote the use of the 4LSAB MARM Framework for complex cases where vulnerability to fire is a significant risk factor.
- All agencies to promote an increased awareness of Safe and Well intervention and referral pathways to Hampshire and IOW Fire and Rescue Service's.
- Interpreters should be arranged in all instances where significant information needs to be elicited from or conveyed to a person presenting fire risks where English is not their first language.
- Improved use of 4LSAB Hoarding Guidance in order to improve understanding of risk and to support multi-agency interventions.

Fire Risk Management

- Professionals to be aware of potential links between suicidal ideation and deliberate fire setting behaviours.
- All social care providers to ensure fire risk is embedded within care plans and regularly reviewed.
- Agencies to consider electrical safety, particularly to develop a greater understanding of overloaded sockets.
- Agencies to consider implementation of risk management arrangements for high risk cases where the individual chooses to disengage from support services.
- To raise awareness within local communities of Fire Safety interventions, encourage referrals for friends, relatives and neighbours.
- Agencies to continually assess whether the level of fire protection equipment in place is suitable to manage the risks being presented.

Best Practice

Think...Person, Behaviour and Environment – The most effective way to assess a person's vulnerability to fire is to identify the individual risk factors which impact upon their health, safety and wellbeing. This includes the person, such as physical or cognitive impairments, their behaviours, such as unsafe cooking practices or carelessness with smoking materials and their environmental considerations, such as hoarding, trip hazards or blocked escape routes. The more risk factors identified the greater their vulnerability.

Care Plans and Person Centred Risk Assessments – For individuals who are in receipt of a social care Services, the management of their fire safety should be risk assessed and embedded within their individual care plans. Ensuring an individual is kept safe from the risk of fire must be a key consideration in their overall care provision. Ensuring smoke detection systems are tested weekly, fire retardant bedding is in use or the individual has an ability to summon assistance in case of an emergency are simple steps that will greatly increase a person's safety if a fire should occur in the home. As with all care plans, an individual's vulnerability to fire should regularly be reviewed and documented. Should the vulnerability increase, so too should the fire safety control measures in place, to appropriately manage and mitigate the risk.

Risk Management – It should be recognised that there are situations where an individual may be presenting 'significant' fire risks to themselves and others, but they choose not to engage with support Services or adhere to the fire safety advice provided. In such cases, and where the concern does not engage a statutory safeguarding framework (Section 42 – Care Act 2014), it is essential that agencies work together and consider the Multi Agency Risk Management Framework as a method of fully understanding the risks being presented. This will ensure an effective, co-ordinated and multi-agency response can be provided to these 'critical few' cases, and assist in the development of an action plan to mitigate the impact of the individuals actions of which may be compromising the safety and wellbeing of others.

What to do if you are concerned for a person's safety due to fire risks

- Refer to Hampshire and IOW Fire and Rescue Services for Safe and Well interventions. Partner agencies can make a direct referral for Safe and Well intervention across the Hampshire, IOW, Portsmouth and Southampton areas by completing the online referral form: <https://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/keeping-safe/loveyourhome/safeandwell/safe-and-well-referral-form/>
- Consider implementing the [Multi Agency Risk Management Framework](#)
- Follow the guidance and support detailed within the [4LSAB Hoarding Guidance](#)
- Management of Fire Risk training is available for all frontline practitioners and agencies from Hampshire and IOW Fire and Rescue Services. To request this training, agencies should email community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk