

PR 4742

For Immediate Release

21 November 2011

New partnership for fire home safety visits

Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service has joined forces with a care and social housing specialist to help carry out home safety visits around the county.

To reduce the risk of house fires and help keep people safer in their own homes, the fire and rescue service conducts free home safety checks across Cumbria.

And to help the county reach its target of 18,000 annual visits, Mears Care Ltd have been commissioned on a 12-month contract to deliver up to 6,000 checks - primarily focusing on more vulnerable members of the community living in remote rural areas.

The work of Mears Care Ltd is intended to support the valuable work already undertaken by fire crews, community safety teams and volunteers and to help reach a greater number of residents who fall into the socio economic profile that deems them to be most at risk of domestic fires.

Mears Care Ltd staff have extensive experience in working with vulnerable people in their own homes and are a national organisation with Cumbrian offices in Workington and Carlisle. They have undertaken full training to enable them to deliver home safety visits to the required high standards.

Cllr Gary Strong, Cumbria County Council's cabinet member for community safety and local services, said: "The fire and rescue service already carries out thousands of home safety visits in every part of Cumbria each year and these visits are largely responsible for the number of dwelling fires in Cumbria dropping by nearly 50 per cent over the past decade.

"Enlisting Mears Care to work alongside us will allow us to increase the number of visits we carry out even further and reach the most vulnerable members of our communities such as the elderly."

Every home in Cumbria is eligible to apply for a free home safety visit to help deal with any potential fire hazards.

The visits can include the designing of a fire plan so the occupiers will know what to do in the event of fire and the fitting, where applicable, of a battery powered smoke alarm free of charge.

This service for the residents of Cumbria, normally takes about 30 minutes.

To arrange a visit call freephone: 0800 358 4777

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