

## SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



### OLDER PERSONS STRATEGY

This strategy meets the corporate vision, mission and objectives through policies and procedures.

- To reduce the number of fires, fire deaths and injuries amongst older people.
- To empower older people to take responsibility for their own safety.
- Use a multi agency approach that reduces the risk to older people.
- Our service extends to all older people at risk, irrespective of race, disability, gender, sexual orientation and faith.

Out of a population of approx 1.2 million people living in South Yorkshire 21% are aged 60 and above. (These figures were taken from the 2001 census)

Statistics show that people in the 60+ range are at greater risk from fire when compared to other age groups in South Yorkshire and whilst an older person may survive a fire, it may cost them their independence and lead to a downward spiral in their quality of life.

This strategy involves a range of activities aimed at -

- **Preventing** older people falling victim to fires by giving fire safety information and advice, and improving and maintaining their awareness of the dangers that fire poses.
- **Protecting** older people from accidental fires, through providing and fitting, where appropriate, free equipment such as smoke alarms in homes (including those for the hard of hearing) and the installation of sprinkler systems for the very vulnerable.
- **Responding** efficiently and effectively to older people after a fire, ensuring that they recover quickly from their experience, thereby promoting continued independence.
- Work will continue with existing partners and new partnerships will be built with other agencies to reduce the risk of fire to older people.
- Continuous statistical analysis to ensure objectives are met.
- Utilise all methods of communication at all levels.
- Collaboration and networking with other fire and rescue services to determine best practice in all fire safety initiatives.
- Develop resources to meet the changing needs of older people in the community.
- Our service will gain the trust and confidence of older people in the community by working closely with older persons related agencies.
- The effect on the older person's community will be monitored and evaluated to ensure that we are complying with all the relevant statutory requirements and those improvements in the service are made as and when appropriate.