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This circular is	For information	No response required	
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This Circular introduces the work CLG, in partnership with CFOA, is doing to create a new Strategy for Children and Young People.		

FRS Fire Prevention Strategy for Working with Children and Young People

Issued by:

James Webb

Fire Safety Policy Team

Addressed to:

**The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
The Chief Fire Officer**

Please forward to:

Heads of Community Fire Safety

Summary

This Circular introduces the work Communities and Local Government, in partnership with the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA), is doing to create a new Fire Prevention Strategy for Children and Young People to take effect from April 2010. A key part of this work is to evaluate the current Strategy, which has been in place since 2006, to ensure that the new one can effectively meet the needs of those expected to implement it.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Since 2006, the Fire and Rescue Service Strategy for Children and Young People has been available to help individual Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) to deliver an effective reduction of fire risk and fire crime among young people. This is now coming to the end of its life and Communities and Local Government (CLG), which has a Strategic Objective to ensure safer communities by providing the framework for the FRA and other agencies to prevent and respond to emergencies, is keen to review and renew this Strategy for the period 2010-2013.
- 1.2 This Circular outlines the plans that CLG has made to develop a new Strategy for 2010-2013 that Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) will be able to use effectively to engage with children and young people to drive down levels of fire-crime and numbers of accidental fires and casualties. A key success factor for this work will be the Service's ownership of the Strategy so our aim is to secure significant practitioner input from the Service and others to the development process.
- 1.3 In taking this work forward, CLG is working in partnership with CFOA with whom we aim to jointly issue the final Strategy. In addition, we are pleased to have the opportunity to work closely with a member of the Communities Secretary's panel of Young Advisers who has offered to be part of the process for taking forward the development of the new Strategy. We believe that such active interest and engagement from both the Young Adviser and the FRA will ensure the final Strategy is well positioned for all those expected to use it.

2.0 Work programme - evaluation and research

- 2.1 A summary of the planned activities needed to deliver a new Strategy by March 2010 is set out below. To help us with the research and information gathering phase of the work we have appointed GfK NOP Social Research Agency (GfK). They are expected shortly to start making contact with individual FRAs.
- 2.2 **Literature Review** – CLG will review the literature and other strategies that are relevant to the new FRS Strategy. This will include reviewing 'Every Child Matters' and the recently-published Lord Laming report 'The Protection of Children in England'. A summary of the literature review, highlighting key crossover points will be included in the final Strategy document.
- 2.3 **Advisory Panel** – will be established to help steer the project. It will include practitioners from the FRS, representation from CLG, including the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser, as well as the Young Adviser, who will deliver a real contribution by representing the perspective and views of young people throughout the process. The Advisory Panel will meet at key points over the life of the project to consider progress and advise on the next steps. It will also have an important role in agreeing the content of the new Strategy.
- 2.4 **Peer Review Group** - the new Strategy will need to align with the work of other key stakeholders. We will write to other Government Departments, the Local Government Association and other key stakeholder organisations in the Autumn to offer an opportunity to review and contribute to the emerging Strategy document to ensure that it adequately reflects their policy interests.

- 2.5 Regional Focus Groups** – will be held by GfK to establish FRS views. These regional workshops/focus groups will offer the opportunity for wider discussion and debate around the FRSs' work with children and young people. We expect the workshops to be held in early July and GfK will seek delegates and hosts from different regions in due course.
- 2.6 In-Depth Interviews** – qualitative interviews with practitioners from FRAs will be held between mid-June and end July. These will explore in more detail the use and suitability of the current Strategy, with a view to refining the content of the new one.
- 2.7 Case Studies** – the new Strategy will highlight areas of good practice within the FRS through the inclusion of case studies. These aim to be a useful learning tool for the FRS and will identify what is working well. We plan for the case studies to be completed by September.
- 2.8 Questionnaire** – we will use a quantitative approach to understand overall views on the current strategy and how it can be developed, using respondents engaged in the qualitative stage. The questionnaires will be sent out for completion in the first two weeks of September.
- 2.9 Indicative Timetable** – A high level and indicative timetable for completing the new Strategy document is set out below.

Activity	Date
Recruitment for workshops and telephone interview	w/c 15 June
Interview and workshop material agreed with Advisory Panel and Peer Review Group	w/c 22 June
Telephone interviews begin	w/c 29 June
Workshops take place	w/c 6 July
Case Studies undertaken	w/c 20 July
Initial findings presented to Advisory Panel and shared with Peer Review Group. Questionnaire agreed.	w/c 24 August
Questionnaire fieldwork begins	w/c 7 September
Draft report of research shared with Advisory Panel and Peer Review Group.	w/c 9 October
Research findings published	November
First draft of Strategy document discussed with Advisory Panel and sent to Peer Review Group for comment	January
New Strategy document printed	March

3.0 New Fire Prevention Strategy

The new Fire Prevention Strategy for Children and Young People 2010-2013 will be published by March 2010.

4.0 Contacts

4.1 For more information, contact::

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