



Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service



Toddington Community Fire Station Plan 2020-21

Introduction

This Station Action Plan outlines how Toddington Community Fire Station will contribute towards protecting our local communities, responding to emergencies and preventing fires and other incidents. The risks our communities face are set out in the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) which also details how we plan to ensure that your Fire and Rescue Service contributes, in a co-ordinated and meaningful way, towards keeping our communities safe. The document is available to view at www.bedsfire.gov.uk

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue service is committed to providing services that meet the differing needs of our diverse communities. This will ensure that all our communities are equally protected from the risk of fire and other incidents. Actions identified within this station plan contribute to this commitment and helps to ensure that the Service supports all communities.

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has a simple key strategic service mission:

To provide outstanding fire and rescue services that help make Bedfordshire safer and we are committed to doing everything we can to achieve this within the resources we have available to us.

To deliver on this mission we will focus on the following Service aims:

- **PREVENTING** fires and other emergencies from happening
- **PROTECTING** people and property when fires happen
- **RESPONDING** to fires and other emergencies promptly & effectively
- **EMPOWERING** our people as we work together to make Bedfordshire safer
- **UTILISING** our assets & resources efficiently & effectively
- **MAXIMISING** use of data analytics and digital solutions to drive improvements

The rest of this Station Plan sets out how Toddington Community Fire Station fits into deliver on our strategic mission during 2020/21.

Our Community

Toddington Community Fire Station.

Area	Population	Average Age	% of population who speak English	Other languages spoken
Toddington	The population is 9,740, approximately 50% are female.	The average age of people is 40.	97.6% of people living in the area speak English	Top languages spoken are Polish, Hungarian, Cantonese, Gujarati, Chinese, Urdu, French, German, and Tamil.

Community Risk Profiling

Risk Group	Most at risk of:	Action:
Group 1 - Less affluent social renters with high fire risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High risk of accidental dwelling fires. Cooking, electrical or smoking related fires. 	Targeted Safe and Well visits. Use of Social Media.
Group 2 - High risk, elderly singles reliant on state support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High risk of accidental dwelling fires. Cooking fires. 	Targeted Safe and Well visits and promoting Beds Fire Alert.
Group 3 - Transient young singles with high risk and few interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highest risk of accidental dwelling fires. Cooking fires. 	Targeted Safe and Well visits. Use of Social Media. Student Safety Week.

Group 4 – Independent affluent seniors with low fire risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low fire risk. 	Local engagement through national campaign initiatives. Use of Social Media.
Group 5 – Young, urban, mixed ethnicity families with moderate fire risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate fire risk. 	Local engagement through national campaign initiatives. Use of Social Media.
Group 6 – Rural families and couples with moderate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate fire risk. • Chimney fires. • Road Traffic Collision 	Local engagement. Use of Social Media. Reduce RTC risk through targeted initiatives.
Group 7 – Affluent families in suburban locations with very low risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very low fire risk • Electrical fires • Road Traffic Collision 	Local engagement. Use of Social Media. Reduce RTC risk through targeted initiatives.

Working with Experian, the UK’s leading provider of consumer measurement and analytical services, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has utilised Customer Insight Profiling and has identified the following Groups within Toddington Station Ground as specifically being at higher than average risk of accidental dwelling fires;

Risk Group	At risk of:
Risk Group 2 High risk, elderly singles reliant on state support.	Smoking related fires and Road traffic Collisions.
Risk Group 5 Young, urban mixed ethnicity families with moderate fire risk	Cooking Fires.
Risk Group 6 Rural families and couples.	Chimney fires and Road Traffic Collisions.

Further evidence also shows that younger people and motorcyclists are more likely to be involved in a road traffic collision. Drivers who speed, drink drive or drive not only put themselves at greater risk but other road users also. Toddington Station Ground contains the following specific road risk:

- **M1 motorway;**
- **A5120 running through Toddington linking to the M1 motorway;**
- **A5;**
- **Various rural B roads to adjoining villages within the Toddington area;**

Customer Insight has identified the 2 Mosaic Groups prevalent in the Station Ground that have high levels of car and motorcycle ownership and complete high levels of annual mileage.

These groups are:

Group 6 - Rural families and couples;

Group 7 - Affluent families in suburban locations;

In addition there are the following additional risks within the Station Ground;

- **The Midland main Line rail link runs through Toddington's station ground with the nearest station located in Harlington;**
- **Harlington High School;**
- **Toddington Services (Moto) North and South;**

Toddington Community Fire Station will interact with all of the above groups by providing fire safety information and promote National safety campaigns via our social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter and BedsFireAlert.

- www.facebook.com/bedsfire
- www.twitter.com/bedsfire
- www.bedsfirealert.co.uk

Fire Fighter Safety Development

In order to ensure the ongoing Safety of our Fire Fighters our crews will undertake courses and training exercises throughout the year. Classroom sessions and practical drill will be supplemented with the Services E-learning service which ensures continuing competency across a Fire Fighters skills set. The service appraisal system will be used to identify training and development needs. Fire Fighter training will be monitored and reviewed through the services electronic personal development tracking tool.

Response

At Toddington Community Fire Station the On-Call Fire Fighter section crew one Rescue Pump, one Rural Water tender and a Water Carrier.

The following exercises and simulations will be organised during the year:

2 high rise simulations (1 in each half of the year).

1 RTC simulation.

Protection

Business premises and public buildings, such as schools are highly important to our local community as they provide both local services and employment opportunities. The majority of businesses affected by a fire never fully recover as customers are lost to competitors.

In order to protect these buildings and ensure the safety of building users, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service delivers a risk based inspection programme to ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 on those premises to which it applies.

Toddington Community Fire Station will complete all allocated Fire Safety Inspections during 2020/21

The Service will concentrate its Fire Safety resources on determining and reducing the levels of fire risk in the community by undertaking a series of fire safety audits and inspections of premises. This will focus primarily on those premises, workplaces and activities giving rise to the most serious risk to life, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion and age.

Fire safety audits will grade premises into one of five categories: very high, high, medium, low and very low risk. This audit process determines the future audit frequency, ranging from 1 year for very high / high risk to 5 years for low risk.

Fire Safety Inspection Officers (FSIO) will focus their audits on very high and high risk premises whilst Fire Crews will audit medium and low risk premises.

Other types of Inspections carried out by Fire Crews:

Follow-up inspections - These are carried out to check whether the required or requested works on premises have been completed.

Specific inspections - These may be generated to check on a specific item or items e.g. overstocked stock rooms, the purpose of all these inspections is to ascertain that the fire safety arrangements are being maintained and adequate.

Risk Activity inspections - These are carried out on a whole host of premises that are either:

- Used extensively by large numbers of the public;
- Staffing capacities are below optimum levels;
- Where activities vary from the norm.

The purpose of the inspection is to ascertain that the fire safety arrangements are adequate, that sufficient numbers of staff are present and those staff on duty are

aware of the fire safety measures within the premises and of the fire routines and evacuation procedures.

Risk activity inspections may be undertaken:

- On routinely programmed premises such as nursing homes and care homes
- 'One off' events (including Scout, Guide camps and other types of sleeping and activity events involving children);
- Licensed premises whilst it is anticipated that occupancy levels are high e.g. Night Clubs, Outdoor concerts;
- Christmas inspections of retail premises where it is anticipated that stock levels in shops are high.

Fact finding visits – Fire Crews may be asked to visit a specific location to establish the current occupants of premises e.g. a specific industrial estate. This provides the Service with up to date information on whether a new occupier requires auditing.

All inspections should be completed by the last day of the month in which they were allocated.

For further information on Business & Commercial Fire Safety please refer to our website www.bedsfire.gov.uk under Community/Business Safety, Business Fire Safety or follow the link:

<http://www.bedsfire.gov.uk/CommunitySafety/BusinessFireSafety/Pages/default.aspx>

Prevention Activity

In order to reduce the risks identified Fire Crews at Toddington Community Fire Station will undertake a range of Prevention Activities.

Activities	Period/Dates	Target Audience	Watch Allocated to:
Toddington Fireworks Night	November	All Groups	On Call
Christmas	December	All Groups	On Call
Safe and Well Visits	All Year	Groups 1, 2 and 3	On Call
After Incident Hot-strike	As and When	The 20 neighbouring properties following an incident	On call
Year 2 Visits	All Year	Young People	On Call

In addition each section will carry out targeted prevention activities, some of which are in line with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), Fire Kills campaign calendar. Details of these can be accessed by following the link [Community Safety Event Planning](#). All relevant information on the planning and delivery of the event will be recorded on this spreadsheet. Following the event it will be subject to a review and evaluation to measure its success.

National Fire and Rescue Campaign Calendar

The National Fire and Rescue Campaign Calendar provides a yearlong series of National Fire and Road Safety campaigns and initiatives. In order to reduce the risks identified above. Toddington Community Fire Station will support the following campaigns and initiatives:

Campaign	Date	Target Audience	Watch Allocated to:
Cooking Fires Month	(TBC)	All Groups	On Call
Cooking Safety	(TBC)	All Groups	On Call
Chimney Safety Week	(TBC)	Rural homes – Group 6	On Call
Road Safety Week	(TBC)	All Groups At the Toddington Services.	On Call

The crews from Toddington will attend the Moto services during the Road Safety campaign and provide RTC reduction information to educate the motorists using this busy stretch of the M1 in an attempt to reduce the number of RTC's that may occur.

Chimney fires were Toddington's biggest response last year and the crews will once again look to provide prevention information during this Safety Week. Toddington and Westoning are two of the targeted prevention areas.

Cooking Safety and Road Safety will be the themes of the Open Day as this is a high cause of a number of dwelling fires across Bedfordshire.

The above campaigns will all be advertised on the Stations various social media sites and the Junior Officers will ensure an Activity Management Plan is completed for each.

Home Safe & Well Visits

We will make people safer by educating them in their home by delivering a programme of Safe and Well visits. Acting on referrals from partner agencies. Toddington Community Fire Station will deliver a minimum of 100 Safe & Well visits to vulnerable households in the community. In particular, risk groups 1, 2 and 3.

A Safe & Well visit will include following elements:

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- Identifying and advising of the potential risks within the home;
 - Advising householders what to do in order to reduce or prevent these risks;
 - Putting together an escape plan in case a fire does break out and ensuring the householder has working smoke alarms. The Safe & Well visit can include installing a smoke alarm(s) where appropriate.

The Safe & Well visit may also include:

- Crime Prevention Advice;
- Falls Risk Assessment;
- Smoking Cessation;
- Alcohol Audit; and,
- Safeguarding referral.

The elements that will be included in each individual Safe and Well visit will be determined by risks present in the household and the agreement of the occupier to engage in each element of the visit.

Safeguarding referrals can also be made by the crews following a visit as Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service will work and collaborate with partner agencies to implement and maintain robust arrangements for safeguarding the vulnerable within our community through effective protection plans which minimise risks of harm.

A Community Fire Safety Operational Risk Information exchange form may also be completed if significant risks to the operational crews are identified.

Schools

Children can be especially at risk in a fire situation. Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service runs a county wide education programme for Year 2 students that educates them about fire safety in the home. Crews from Toddington Community Fire Station will support this programme by completing all allocated Year 2 visits during the year.

Station Open Day

Toddington On call will be responsible for organising the Station Open Day. The theme of the open day will be Cooking Safety, targeting the whole community.

Period/Dates	Theme	Key Activities:
(TBC)	Cooking Safety/ Road Safety	Demonstrations and activity areas
		Cooking Safety information
	Target Audience	Road Safety information
	All Groups	On Call recruitment information

Recruitment

Toddington Community Fire Station works under the Retained Duty System/On-Call and relies on members of the community who live or work within the Station catchment area to provide cover as On-Call firefighters.

Toddington Community Fire Station is looking for women and men, from all backgrounds to become On-Call firefighters and provide vital cover in the Toddington area and work alongside colleagues in the busier urban areas.

On-Call firefighters joining Toddington Community Fire Station will receive training and development opportunities to effectively respond to a wide range of emergencies, including fires, road traffic collisions, animal rescues and flooding incidents.

Further information on On-Call recruitment can be found at www.bedsfire.gov.uk

Recruitment is major part of the work that all employees of BFRS will promote. It is important to engage with the community at every chance and communicate how Bedfordshire FRS is the choice employer. Stations like Toddington with a Retain Duty System section (On-Call) will plan and run specific engagement activities,

ensuring they target the cover times that they require. During these activities we will advise the community on support staff roles such as Information Technology, Procurement and finance. BFRS support apprenticeships and have actively been involved in the continued drive to utilise alternative educational programmes.

Toddington Community Fire Station is undertaking the following recruitment promotion activities in the coming year:

Campaign	Date	Target Audience	Watch Allocated to:
Have a go days	TBC throughout the year	All Groups	On Call
Open Day	TBC	All Groups	On Call
New housing estate leaflet drop	TBC	All Groups	On Call
Social Media advertisement	On going	All Groups	On Call
Toddington fireworks night	November	All Groups Attending the Station Display.	On Call
Open Drill Night	TBC	All Groups	On Call

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Visit our website for fire and home safety advice: www.bedsfire.gov.uk

Follow us on Twitter: [@bedsfire](https://twitter.com/bedsfire) or Facebook at Toddington Community Fire Station

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