



## Celebrating 10 years of building safer communities together

### Local agencies work together to help youngsters stay safe

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service are running a number of schemes across the region to connect with youngsters in the community to help them stay safe. Targeted at young children aged 8-12 years, in Partnership with Safer North Devon, Devon and Cornwall Police and Torridge District Council, the Youth Engagement programmes have been set up to improve relationships between young people and the emergency services and to provide them with information on how to stay safe.



"Working with partner agencies means we can effectively reach young people in the community with fire prevention messages and advice about staying safe," said Area Manager Neil Blackburn. "This preventative work recognises that the best way of fighting fire is to stop it happening in the first place. It is extremely cost effective and prevents unnecessary harm."

Funded by the partner agencies, the preventative work provides information and education on safety issues through a number of projects. These projects aim to engage young people in enjoyable activities and to provide them with an opportunity to learn about fire reduction, arson and anti-social behaviour.

Soccersafe gives young people an opportunity to take part in football coaching, as well as learning life safety skills. The programme culminates in a tournament day at Bideford AFC Football Ground. Junior Life Skills provides young people with the chance to learn safety critical information to help keep them safe; it is supported by many organisations including the emergency services, councils, voluntary organisations and utility companies. These events often lead to closer working with local schools and to the provision of free home safety checks for the participants.

"We have been working successfully with the Fire Service over the last ten years to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour," said Amanda Palmer, Safer North Devon Manager. "The Fire Service has community safety at the core of their working practices making them an excellent partner and one that ensures we can provide the best solutions to solve local crime and anti-social behaviour concerns and to make North Devon and Torridge a safer place to live, work and visit."

Safer North Devon, Barnstaple Police Station, North Walk, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 1DU  
01271 335241, [www.safernorthdevon.co.uk](http://www.safernorthdevon.co.uk)

Building safer communities together