

TO: CYPL DMT
DATE: 21 April 2015

SCHOOLS BROADMOOR CASCADE
Chief Officer: Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform DMT of forthcoming changes to the Broadmoor Cascade.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That DMT notes the forthcoming changes to the Cascade.

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 3.1 As part of the latest review the range and remit of the cascade was reviewed and it was agreed with the Borough's Emergency Planning Officer and Community Safety Officer to reduce the cascade to BFC schools. Forestcare had been in contact with the Emergency Planning Officers in Wokingham and RBWM and it had been agreed that Forestcare would still implement the cascade to the Emergency Planning Officer of each Council and it would be their responsibility to cascade to their own schools. The BFC only cascade had the additional benefit of being used as an emergency planning tool to disseminate information in the case of a significant emergency to the schools and Service Heads.

Cascade

- 3.2 The Schools Broadmoor Cascade will be initiated in the event of an escape. There are 4 cascades which include Berkshire, Hampshire, Surrey and Private schools. In 1998 BFC had taken the lead for the Berkshire cascade which included parts of Wokingham BC and RBW&M.
- 3.3 The Hospital start the cascade through Forestcare for Berkshire/BFC and the notification of an alert is passed by telephone from school to school. Non-school Heads of Service are also contact by Forestcare so that they can put in place their own emergency procedures. The system is tested every second Wednesday of each term.
- 3.4 The current telephone cascade system takes approx. 30 minutes and there is immediate confirmation that the message has been received. However concern was expressed about phones being blocked in a real emergency. Forestcare will now send out an email with a confirmation read receipt to schools along with the telephone cascade. After talking to school secretaries it was agreed to send emails to headteachers, secretaries and bursars including academies. Groups were already set up on Outlook. Details of the cascade are set out on the flow chart attached as Appendix A.

Unrestricted

- 3.5 The next testing of the system will be on 29/04/2015 and Forestcare will try out the new telephone and email system for the first time.
- 3.6 Further changes proposed by BFC would be that practice cascades are carried out the second Wednesday of the Autumn term and a termly unannounced practise for the Spring and Summer terms. This would not stop Broadmoor Hospital running further unannounced cascades in addition. This proposal needed the agreement of Hampshire, Surrey, Private schools and the Police. The Hospital are arranging a meeting to discuss this proposal with these other stakeholders.

Warning Sirens

- 3.7 Due to the decommissioning and the unreliability of the sirens the Broadmoor cascade has been reviewed and revised to make it more robust.
- 3.8 Broadmoor Hospital have stated that they will decommissioning the warning sirens in 2019, however one siren will remain within the perimeter of the hospital. Broadmoor will retain and maintain all existing sirens until 2019. However, because of the age and condition of a number of these sirens Broadmoor will not replace sirens where they have catastrophically failed.

3 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 Not applicable, as this is not a Policy or a Project

4 STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 The cascade is in place to inform quickly schools and services of an escape from Broadmoor Hospital. The cascade reduces the risk of endangering the users of the services, staff and pupils. Increasing the robustness of the system by using telephone and email further reduces the risk especially when the sirens do not work or no longer exist.

Background Papers

Appendix:Cascade Flow Chart

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