



Staffordshire
Fire and Rescue Service
preventing • protecting • responding

community are identified and protected at the earliest opportunity using equipment and technology available providing a safer environment to live.

Additionally – Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service run a scheme called ‘Olive Branch’. This scheme provides training to people who are in contact with, or visit vulnerable members of communities within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. It encourages them to identify potential fire hazards and other risks in the home. In addition it highlights how to refer vulnerable people onto Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service for Safe and Well advice.

Olive Branch was launched in February 2011 after a report by the coroner investigating the death of [REDACTED], and has since been adopted by other local authorities and Fire Services. The primary aim of the Olive Branch Programme is to reduce the number of accidental dwelling fires, fire-related deaths and injuries across Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent.

The training is free and we will deliver to groups of any number at either their premises or at venues supplied by us across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. We aim to train all persons involved with caring for the elderly, disabled and vulnerable on a daily basis in how to identify hazards and to understand how to deal with these risks and to refer them on to the appropriate organisation. Each session lasts minimum of 1.5 hours and each delegate receives a certificate of attendance.

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service work closely with partner agencies and Olive Branch training has recently been redeveloped to accommodate our ever changing community needs. The findings from the investigation into the death of Sylvia Griffiths and Neil Barre will be fed into these training sessions, particularly the availability and use of fire/smoke alarms that are designed for people suffering with dementia. These training sessions will also be used to improve communication with groups who provide domiciliary and reinforce feedback regarding people who may not be using the special equipment provided to them.

Thank you for raising your concerns and providing us with the findings from your inquest, as a sector we will make every effort to learn from this tragic event in order to prevent further potential deaths and injuries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Howard Watts'.

Howard Watts
Director of Prevent & Protect

