



Safer Homes Factsheet

What is the Safer Homes scheme?

Along with practical help to make homes safer, the project's aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of those people involved. The project is designed to foster further collaboration with as many frontline health care professionals, practitioners, families and friends as possible in order to reach the most vulnerable members of the community.

One of the cornerstones of the project has been to increase and train a number of volunteers, Neighbourhood Watch and frontline professionals such as carers, nurses and social workers to recognise a range of vulnerabilities when carrying out home visits. A centralised referral process is in place to ensure that any individual requiring advice or specialised security and safety equipment designed to prevent burglary and fire receives the help they need.

What is the issue?

The Safer Homes Project is run by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service in partnership with Durham Constabulary and Durham County Council. The Safer Homes Project has transformed the way in which isolated, vulnerable and elderly people receive crime and fire safety advice and protection.

Why is it important?

Being and feeling safe both in our homes and within the wider community impacts on both our emotional and physical wellbeing. It also directly impacts on our personal resilience as well as impacting overall on a community's resilience, confidence and cohesion.

How does it impact people?

Identifying vulnerable people within our communities and ensuring they receive the support needed to prevent them becoming either victims of crime or becoming exploited.

County Durham context

- Between 2016 and 2020 we have delivered an average of 14,682 safe and well visits per calendar year, in County Durham.
- Between 2016 and 2020 we have attended an average of 1772 deliberate secondary fire incidents per calendar year in County Durham, there has been a gradual year on year reduction since 2017.

- Between 2016 and 2020 we have attended an average of 496 deliberate primary fires per calendar year in County Durham, the year on year trend remains stable.
- Between 2016 and 2020 we have attended an average of 178 accidental dwelling fires per calendar year in County Durham, there has been a slight yearly increase in accidental dwelling fires in 2018 and 2019 but the overall trend has remained stable.

Resources

<https://www.ddfire.gov.uk/free-safe-and-wellbeing-visit>