

Wales Road Traffic Collision Reduction – A Scoping Study (June 2007)

The Scoping Study commenced in mid-2006 as a joint initiative by Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service and South Wales Police, on behalf of all the Police and Fire & Rescue Services in Wales. It was initially regarded as a 12 month project and was supported by the Welsh Assembly. The study was undertaken by Station Officer Wyn Cornelius and Police Constable Patrick Joyce.

The main objective of the study was to research and evaluate existing Road Traffic Collision (RTC) initiatives in Wales and the UK, in order to produce a good practice toolkit for use by the Police and Fire & Rescue Services in Wales. 12 such schemes have been identified and are outlined in the study.

However, the study went further and also identifies the two most at risk groups in Wales as being Young Drivers (17-25) and Motorcyclists. There is a considerable amount of background information provided in the study on both these groups.

The study also presents some recommendations on how it is considered best to progress road safety work by the Police and Fire & Rescue Services in Wales.

The study has been accepted by the other Fire & Rescue Services in Wales, through CFOA, and also by South Wales Police, who are progressing it with the other three Police Forces. The study was also presented to the Welsh Assembly's Community Safety Committee in November for final sign off.

South Wales Police and ourselves have agreed to continue the joint working for a further 12 month period. The main objectives for this next stage will be to produce:-

1. A Fire & Rescue Service road safety strategy for Wales, on which individual Service strategies will be based.
2. Communicate the identified good practice to police and fire road safety practitioners.
3. Develop and evaluate new initiatives.
4. Progress other recommendations from the study through the CFOA Wales Road Safety Group and the Police Senior Traffic Officers Committee.

The study is considered to have been a success and has created a good foundation on which to build a road safety framework. It has also enhanced police/fire working relationships at different levels of the organisations, in terms of both preventative and intervention activity.