



## Safety in Care

### Fire Evacuation Procedures – Questionnaire

**NASHiCS** has formed a Fire Safety Working Group to look at issues of concern in connection with fire safety in care homes. Currently the group is working with the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) to try to address concerns about fire evacuation procedures. The Fire Risk Assessment - Residential Care Premises guide published by the Department for Communities and Local Government, which contains guidance for care home providers on how to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, provides three options for managing a fire situation in residential care premises:

- Evacuate residents from each protected area within two and a half minutes.
- Practice “delayed evacuation” by upgrading each resident’s room to 60 minute fire resistance leaving a carer with the resident.
- Install sprinklers to enhance the protected areas.

The working group believes that in most care homes none of the above options is viable, and we are working with CFOA to develop another option.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information from care home providers on how they manage fire evacuation in practice. We will use this information to inform our discussions with CFOA. If possible please fill this questionnaire in during the conference and leave it with one of the organisers. If you need to take it back to your organisation to answer some of the questions please post it to:

Jill Barlow  
Head of Health and Safety  
Anchor Trust  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Ambler Mill  
Bradford BD1 4RP

Thank you for taking the time to fill in the questionnaire.

NASHiCS Fire Safety Working Group  
July 2008

#### **NASHiCS Fire Safety Working Group Members**

Jill Barlow, Anchor Trust,  
Andy Clarke, Order of St John Trust,  
David Vallender, Hampshire County Council,  
Cath Dyson, Barchester Healthcare,  
David Hulton, The Disabilities Trust,  
Iain Cox, Reading & Berkshire Fire & Rescue Authority (Representative of CFOA).

**P.T.O.**

## Fire Evacuation Procedures – Questionnaire

Name of organisation:		
Person filling in this form	Name:	Job title:
	Contact Tel. no/email	
Name of your Competent Person for health and safety (if external consultant, please give name of consultancy, and name and job title of the person in your organisation to whom they provide advice):		
Type of organisation (tick whichever applies)	Private company	
	Charity	
	Local authority	
	Other (please specify):	
Number of care homes:		
Nature of service users/residents and service provided (tick all that apply):	Children	
	Young adults	
	Adults	
	Older people	
	Nursing	
	Care only	
	Dementia	
	Learning disability	
	Physical disability	
	Sensory impairment	
	Mental health	
	Drug dependency	
Alcohol dependency		
Number of care homes fitted with sprinklers	As part of new-build	
	Retrofitted to existing building	
Number of care homes where service users' rooms are 60 minute fire compartments		
Number of care homes where service users' rooms are 30 minute fire compartments		
Evacuation procedure – please describe briefly the procedure used in most of your care homes:		
Evacuation aids used (tick all that apply):	Evac chairs	
	Ski sheets under mattresses	
	Ski pads	
	Other (please name and describe)	
Are your homes able to evacuate protected areas within the two and a half minutes specified in the Residential Care Premises guide at times of minimal staffing, i.e. at night?		
Any other fire safety issues you are concerned about?		

**Please use additional sheets if necessary to explain – Thank you.**