



**East Lothian  
Local Fire and Rescue Plan  
Review 2014 - 2017**



**SCOTTISH  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**  
Working together for a safer Scotland

**Working together  
for a safer Scotland**

  
**East Lothian  
Council**



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## 1. Introduction

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is required under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 as amended to prepare Local Fire and Rescue Plans for each local authority in Scotland. Following the publication of our Strategic Plan in our inaugural year, our first Local Plans were published in April 2014.

These plans were developed to direct the Service through its initial transformation journey and have helped to forge our place as a national organisation with a strong sense of local accountability. Against the drive of public sector reform, the local planning landscape continues to evolve to provide a greater focus on protecting the most vulnerable, and improving community outcomes through collaborative working.

The publication of our new Strategic Plan 2016-19 in October 2016 has instigated a timely requirement to carry out a mandatory review of all Local Fire and Rescue Plans. This review will provide us with information on how well we are performing against our existing priorities as well as highlighting areas for continued improvement and opportunities for change against the diverse needs of our communities.

## 2. Performance Data – what the figures told us

Over the past five years within East Lothian, the SFRS have responded to 6804 incidents. The indicators below relate to our reduction priorities within the 2014-17 Local Fire and Rescue Plan. They do not include certain data such as non-domestic, non-dwelling accidental fires and non-fire related Special Services, this data however does form part of the overall incident totals above.

Dwelling fires accounted for 6% of our operational activity over the five-year period and resulted in 51 fire casualties including three fatalities. Deliberate fires, other than dwellings, accounted for 14% of our operational activity over the five-year period. Special Service, Road Traffic Collision's (RTC's) also accounted for 6% of our operational activity for the same period.

Disappointingly, Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) accounted for 60% of our operational response activity.

*Green figures indicate we have met our performance target, a red figures indicate we have failed to reach our performance target.*

| Key Performance Indicator            | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Accidental dwelling fires            | 96      | 81      | 73      | 79      | 52      |
| All fire casualties and fatalities   | 17      | 15      | 12      | 9       | 8       |
| All deliberate fires excl. dwellings | 150     | 191     | 140     | 198     | 230     |
| Special Service – RTC's              | 29      | 48      | 47      | 56      | 50      |
| Unwanted fire alarm signals          | 808     | 790     | 788     | 831     | 815     |

### 3. Scrutiny Arrangements

Scrutiny arrangements in East Lothian require SFRS to report local performance on a quarterly basis to the Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee. The SFRS Local Senior Officer presents performance reports to the Committee. The following Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) are scrutinised.

1. Reduction of Dwelling Fires
2. Reduction of Fire Casualties and Fatalities
3. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting (not including dwellings)
4. Reduction of Road Traffic Collisions
5. Reduction of All Special Service Casualties
6. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

The term "Special Service" relates to a range of incident types including RTC's, rescues from height, machinery, water and confined space, medical emergencies and effecting entry. Whilst not captured as a priority in our 2014-17 Local Fire and Rescue Plan, our attendance at non RTC Special Services calls continues and has increased by 29% over the last five years.

#### **HM Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI) inspection 2016**

To support this formal review, consideration of the outcomes from HMFSI's Local Area Inspections that examine the development and delivery of Local Fire and Rescue Plans.

By undertaking inspections of our service delivery within local authority areas, HMFSI have given independent assurance to Scottish Ministers and the public that adequate provision for local service delivery is being made. There is equal access to specialist resources, service provision, partnership working is of sound quality, and strong scrutiny arrangements are in place. This allows HMFSI to maintain a good awareness of how well we are functioning and builds intelligence to inform future inspections.

By the end of the period 2016/17, examination of the SFRS service provision in nine local authority areas will be complete. These areas included Aberdeen City, East Renfrewshire, Western Isles, West Lothian, Dundee, South Ayrshire, Scottish Borders, Moray and Glasgow City. Once prepared, HMFSI will publish these inspection reports.

The published Local Area Inspection Reports indicated that HMFSI felt that there was a need to identify unique characteristics for each local area and provide clearer use of risk-based evidence to identify and shape priorities across our Local Plans. They also encouraged a stronger emphasis made on specific local priorities and contribution supported by an appropriate level of local performance measures. Local priorities and measures should be balanced against our national needs as well as aligning to the collaborative partnership working requirements of Local Outcome Improvement Plan delivery.

## 4. Reduction of Dwelling Fires

*We will contribute towards the Scottish target of a 10% reduction over a three-year rolling period.*

### What the figures told us

Dwelling fires can have devastating effects on our communities. The reduction of dwelling fires, accidental or deliberate, continues to be a priority for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in East Lothian.

The incidence of Dwelling Fires in East Lothian has seen decreased numbers over the last five years.

Over 50% of these fires started in single occupancy dwellings involving persons 18-64 years old. Most fires occurred during the day between 1600-2100hrs with human behaviour rather than equipment faults being a common cause.

Not surprisingly, the kitchen and cooking continues to be the most common rooms of origin and cause for Dwelling Fires.

East Lothian has generally charted just below the Scottish average over the last five years where people have required the attendance of the SFRS to a fire in their home.

| Reduction in accidental dwelling fires | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| East Lothian Wards                     | 96      | 81      | 73      | 80      | 52      |
| Musselburgh West                       | 13      | 9       | 10      | 10      | 1       |
| Musselburgh East and Carberry          | 12      | 16      | 8       | 10      | 12      |
| Preston/Seton/Gosford                  | 17      | 9       | 6       | 11      | 11      |
| Fa'side                                | 15      | 16      | 10      | 9       | 7       |
| North Berwick Coastal                  | 12      | 8       | 10      | 14      | 11      |
| Haddington and Lammermuir              | 8       | 13      | 14      | 16      | 3       |
| Dunbar and East Linton                 | 19      | 10      | 15      | 10      | 7       |

### What are we doing to help prevent Dwelling Fires?

Over the last three years, we have conducted over 4000 home safety visits and fitted just over 2000 smoke detectors in East Lothian. We continue to work alongside our community partners in order to reach those most vulnerable to fire.

## 5. Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities

*We will contribute towards the Scottish target of a 5% reduction, over a three-year rolling period in relation to fire casualties and fatalities.*

### What the figures told us

Fire casualty and fatality rates provide an indication of the amount of serious, life-threatening injuries that occur due to fire. This can indicate not only the success of SFRS in reducing the number of life risk fires through community fire safety and similar activities, but also their success in response activity in saving lives.

Figures relating to fire casualties have halved over the last five years showing a steady reduction year on year. There have been three fire fatalities for the same period.

Casualty figures include those who have received a precautionary check-up and no further treatment. Many non-fatal casualties suffered minor injuries such as slight smoke inhalation, very few required hospitalisation.

| Reduction in fire casualties and fatalities | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| East Lothian Wards                          | 17      | 15      | 12      | 10      | 8       |
| Musselburgh West                            | 2       | 0       | 3       | 4       | 1       |
| Musselburgh East and Carberry               | 4       | 1       | 1       | 0       | 1       |
| Preston/Seton/Gosford                       | 4       | 2       | 1       | 0       | 1       |
| Fa'side                                     | 4       | 3       | 0       | 2       | 0       |
| North Berwick Coastal                       | 0       | 0       | 2       | 2       | 3       |
| Haddington and Lammermuir                   | 0       | 4       | 3       | 1       | 1       |
| Dunbar and East Linton                      | 3       | 5       | 2       | 1       | 1       |

### What are we doing to reduce Fire Casualties and Fatalities?

During home safety visits, SFRS personnel discuss fire safety measures with occupants and fit smoke detectors if required. Knowing what to do in the event of a fire is crucial to maintaining your safety and others within the home. Smoke detection gives early warning of fire and it is this warning that not only allows quicker intervention but also gives occupants the opportunity to leave the affected premises earlier thus reducing the chances of serious and life threatening injuries.

SFRS also work in partnership with other public services such as Police Scotland, East Lothian Council and Health and Social Care in order to identify, and reach, those most at risk from fire in our communities.

## 6. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting (not including Dwellings)

*Our target against the 3-year average is to continually reduce the number of deliberately set fires.*

### What the figures told us

Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting continues to be a priority for the SFRS in East Lothian. Deliberate fires of this nature typically involve grassland, refuse or derelict buildings. Evidence shows that there is often a close link between deliberate secondary fires and anti-social behaviour.

Deliberate fires can often be of a sporadic nature although increases in operational response activity generally coincide with the spring and summer months.

There have been 688 deliberate fires in East Lothian over the last five years. Musselburgh has consistently seen the greatest incidence of deliberate fires accounting for 49% of the five-year East Lothian total. Preston/Seton/Gosford and Fa'side have the next highest fire incidence levels.

| Reduction in deliberate fires excl. dwellings | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| East Lothian Wards                            | 143     | 189     | 138     | 195     | 230     |
| Musselburgh West                              | 32      | 26      | 22      | 26      | 16      |
| Musselburgh East and Carberry                 | 39      | 52      | 35      | 51      | 43      |
| Preston/Seton/Gosford                         | 32      | 40      | 23      | 40      | 72      |
| Fa'side                                       | 20      | 43      | 40      | 39      | 65      |
| North Berwick Coastal                         | 6       | 2       | 3       | 7       | 8       |
| Haddington and Lammermuir                     | 4       | 11      | 9       | 17      | 15      |
| Dunbar and East Linton                        | 10      | 15      | 6       | 15      | 11      |

### What are we doing to reduce Deliberate Fire Setting?

Due to the sporadic and random nature of many deliberately started fires, prevention activities are often reactive. Recent years has seen a more focused multi agency approach to this anti-social behaviour, which has led to a range of diversionary programmes and youth interventions in an attempt to reduce incidence.

The SFRS also offer a range of diversionary and educational programmes for younger people such as Cooldown Crew and Crucial Crew that highlight the consequences of starting fires deliberately. Cooldown crew has been delivered to a number of secondary schools over the last 5 years.



## 7. Reduction of Road Traffic Collisions

***Our target against the three-year average is to continually reduce the number of Road Traffic Collisions on the roads in East Lothian.***

### What the figures told us

Responding to Road Traffic Collisions is a key part of our intervention activities within East Lothian. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders in order to reduce the amount of RTC's that occur. It is worth highlighting that Police Scotland is responsible for investigating the cause of RTC, because of this the SFRS retain only general information relating to the figures below.

SFRS intervention at RTC's can include extricating persons using Hydraulic Rescue Equipment (HRE), rendering medical assistance, or making the vehicle or scene safe. In total, we attended 230 RTC's within the five-year period.

| Reduction in road traffic collisions | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| East Lothian Wards                   | 29      | 48      | 47      | 57      | 50      |
| Musselburgh West                     | 4       | 4       | 8       | 12      | 5       |
| Musselburgh East and Carberry        | 2       | 5       | 9       | 5       | 11      |
| Preston/Seton/Gosford                | 5       | 7       | 6       | 8       | 2       |
| Fa'side                              | 4       | 6       | 12      | 11      | 7       |
| North Berwick Coastal                | 3       | 9       | 1       | 4       | 11      |
| Haddington and Lammermuir            | 5       | 7       | 2       | 2       | 6       |
| Dunbar and East Linton               | 6       | 10      | 9       | 15      | 8       |

### What are we doing to reduce Road Traffic Collisions?

The SFRS are a member of the East Lothian Road Safety Group. Community Action Teams (CAT) and operational staff attend schools and to deliver inputs to young drivers regarding the consequences of RTC's. The SFRS has been regularly involved in the Tomorrows driver event, held annually at the Brunton Theatre, where 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year pupils from across East Lothian receive a safe drive message.

## 8. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

*Our target against the three-year average is to contribute towards a continued reduction in UFAS within East Lothian.*

### What the figures told us

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are defined as incidents where an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources, when the reason for that alarm turns out to be something other than a fire emergency.

UFAS is categorised into Equipment Failure, Good Intent and Malicious Intent. The figure below relates to all three categories however, our quarterly performance report presented to the Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee focuses on Equipment Failure. Equipment Failure accounted for around 78% of all UFAS calls and around 60% of our total operational response activity.

| Reduction in Unwanted fire alarm signals | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| East Lothian Wards                       | 808     | 790     | 788     | 838     | 815     |
| Musselburgh West                         | 147     | 125     | 102     | 118     | 108     |
| Musselburgh East and Carberry            | 149     | 141     | 149     | 147     | 128     |
| Preston/Seton/Gosford                    | 97      | 88      | 89      | 86      | 76      |
| Fa'side                                  | 91      | 100     | 118     | 123     | 128     |
| North Berwick Coastal                    | 127     | 120     | 99      | 148     | 160     |
| Haddington and Lammermuir                | 132     | 117     | 141     | 136     | 119     |
| Dunbar and East Linton                   | 65      | 99      | 90      | 80      | 96      |

### What are we doing to reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals?

We continue to monitor UFAS calls and our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers work closely with premises to reduce further UFAS incidents. This includes discussing technological, procedural and management solutions in order to prevent future UFAS incidents. This forms part of an incremental approach with the ultimate aim of educating duty holders whilst reducing UFAS calls.

## 9. Emerging Priorities

Last year the SFRS published its 2016-2019 Strategic Plan. Six Strategic Priorities were identified including “Improving Local Outcomes” and “Modernising our Response”, the full plan can be accessed here,

[http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/media/1005163/scottish\\_fire\\_and\\_rescue\\_service\\_strategic\\_plan\\_2016\\_19.pdf](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/media/1005163/scottish_fire_and_rescue_service_strategic_plan_2016_19.pdf)

Both of the aforementioned priorities will form key parts of our 2017-20 Local Fire and Rescue Plan for East Lothian. Indeed, whilst not included in our 2014-17 Local Plan, over the last 18 months we have contributed to both priorities through pilot projects in East Lothian.

In terms of “Improving Local Outcomes”, the SFRS lead a multi-agency initiative that targets those most at risk from Unintentional Harm and Injury in the home. The project has seen the role of a local Firefighter expand beyond traditional activities and include holistic home safety such as assessing risk from slips, trips and falls in the home and referring to partner agencies when cases of fuel poverty are identified.

With regard to “Modernising our Response”, East Lothian also features heavily in a national project with the aim of increasing survival rates when an individual suffers an “Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest” (OHCA). Initially seven Community Fire Stations were chosen across Scotland to take part the in pilot, this included Musselburgh. The pilot, which has been running for 18 months, has expanded and now involves 16 stations across Scotland providing a medical response to OHCA in conjunction with Scottish Ambulance colleagues when requested.

The SFRS has taken a lead role in the Scottish Government “Unintentional harm” work stream of the Building Safer Communities Programme. The Scottish wide Strategic Assessment has now been published and will be considered as part of the next Local Fire Plan. (<http://www.bsc.scot/publications.html>)

The SFRS will continually aim to develop, evolve and improve as we look to provide a service that is fit for purpose, effective, efficient and takes cognisance of changing risk profiles and associated community needs.

## **10. Engagement – what our stakeholders told us**

Building on the intelligence we gathered during engagement and consultation of the SFRS Strategic Plan 2016-19 we re-engaged with our key stakeholders to seek further views on our local service delivery.

Community partners have acknowledged the importance of maintaining our “core business” however also recognise our contributions to wider Community Planning Partnership (CPP) themes such as Reducing Inequalities. Comments suggest that our CPP partners view the SFRS as a committed member in terms of resource and prevention and they are keen to see us develop some of our innovative projects in relation to Community Justice, youth engagement and holistic community safety.

Opportunities have also been highlighted where we can improve our community engagement whilst making our community fire stations more accessible for the general public and community partners. These opportunities also include wider information sharing regarding persons at risk and strengthening ties with Third and voluntary sector organisations.

## 11. Conclusion

In reviewing the progress against the priorities within the East Lothian Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014 – 2017, it is pleasing to note the decrease in dwelling fires and associated casualties. We will continue to prioritise this type of incident whilst strengthening our links with community partners and the public to allow us to reach those most at risk from fire in our communities.

On a less positive note, Road Traffic Collisions, other Special Service incidents such as medical response and deliberate fires continue to rise. Improvements in these areas will only be achieved by innovative and concentrated collaborative working with key stakeholders. As a statutory partner within the CPP and having a statutory responsibility for attending RTC's, the SFRS will continue to prioritise the reduction of RTC's and associated casualties.

It is clear that opportunities exist to improve our engagement with the communities we serve. Only by listening to our communities will we accurately identify their needs, which will direct our prevention activities to the people and places that need them most. We will not do this in isolation and we will look to strengthen and improve our excellent relationships with Community Partners such as Police Scotland and the Local Authority whilst establishing links with other partners from the private and third sectors.

The SFRS has undergone significant change since its inception in 2013. Examples of this have been the expansion of the role of a Firefighter into holistic community safety whilst shaping a Fire and Rescue Service that meets the needs of modern day society and its associated risks. We are keen to ensure that the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2017-20 recognises and reflects some of the key Service transformational changes implemented and continuing to develop in East Lothian.

The review of the East Lothian Local Fire and Rescue Plan for 2014 – 2017 has considered the progress that has been made to date and supported the development of key priorities for the next plan. As mentioned previously, meeting the challenges in the new plan will not be achieved in isolation but through effective partnership working and as such, the new Local Fire and Rescue Plan will seek to compliment and contribute to the integrated approach to Community Planning within East Lothian.

## **12. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the following priorities are taken forward in the new Local Fire and Rescue Plan for East Lothian area:

Priority 1: Reduction of Dwelling Fires

Priority 2: Reduction of Fire Casualties and Fatalities

Priority 3: As part of a Community Partnership approach, contribute to the reduction of Unintentional Harm and Injury in the Home for those groups most at risk.

Priority 4: Reduction of Road Traffic Collisions

Priority 5: As part of a Community Partnership approach, contribute to the reduction of all Special Service Casualties

Priority 6: Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals