



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

Falkirk Area

Local Fire and Rescue Plan Review 2017 (Conducted September 2017)

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 now instigates 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 growing needs of our communities.

Priority 1.

Local Risk Management and Preparedness

The SFRS has a statutory duty to reduce the risks to our communities and to make certain that they receive the best possible service.

The Grangemouth petrochemical industry and the strategically important port of Grangemouth are situated on the Firth of Forth within the Falkirk Council area. The large number of petrochemical sites located within the Grangemouth area, store, process and transport a wide variety of petroleum based products and chemicals for the UK and the International market. This Fire and Rescue Local Plan 2014 -17 recognises the large number of petrochemical sites with-in the area of Grangemouth which comes with-in the Control of Major Accident & Hazardous sites (COMAH Regulations 1999 as amended 2005). The SFRS working in partnership with the Major Incident Control Committee, (MICC) and the Forth Valley Local Resilience Partnership (LRP) allows us to meet our statutory duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and the Contingency Planning (Scotland) Regulations 2005 with regards to emergency planning arrangements and exercising regimes.

Whilst safety is of primary concern to all stakeholders involved in the storage, production and transportation of petrochemical products, all partners are committed to working together to ensure that industrial and commercial sites operate as safely as possible. Pre-planning and preparedness for adverse safety events is an essential element of safeguarding the community in the Falkirk Council area.

The Fire and Rescue Local Plan recognises the strategic importance of maintaining industry business continuity during periods of inclement weather, in particular the threat of flooding from the Forth estuary. The SFRS in conjunction with the local authority, the Scottish Environmental Agency (SEPA) and the petrochemical industrial partners under the (MICC) review emergency procedures to mitigate the risk of flooding to the areas at risk.

The SFRS monitors existing risks and emerging threats in terms of the natural and built environment, through the Forth Valley LRP Community Risk Register. The Community Risk Register identifies risks that require risk management and mitigation initiatives. Examples of such risks identified in Falkirk Council area are:

- Inclement weather,
- Fire or explosion at a gas terminal or involving a gas pipeline,
- Industrial & Environmental pollution,
- Local accident involving transport of hazardous chemicals,
- Industrial explosions and major fires

The SFRS is committed to working in partnership with all relevant stakeholders to ensure emergency planning and preparedness arrangements are in place and tested. An element of our partnership working includes empowering and supporting communities to build community resilience and cohesion. Through this work, we will work with communities to harness their resources and expertise. Examples of this work includes; making communities aware of the risks that they face and advising on simple steps that can be taken to improve their own safety

The management of risk within our community means:

- Identifying the risks to the community that fall within the scope of responsibility of the SFRS,
- Undertaking a process to prioritise and mitigate these risks.

- Ensuring appropriate local and national resource capability and trained fire service personnel are in place to address them.

We will achieve it by:

- Ensuring our training, staff development and equipment is fit for purpose to meet our current risk profile and adaptable to changing circumstances,
- Ensure all known risk information is obtained, communicated and tested,
- Working locally with partner organisations and agencies to ensure effective response plans are developed for identified risks,
- Fulfilling our statutory duties in relation to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

In doing so we will also add value by:

- Keeping our staff and members of the public safe should any incident occur,
- Reducing the financial burden and disruption caused to our communities when emergencies occur,
- The wealth and prosperity of our area will increase,
- Proactively helping the wider community by preventing emergencies and planning to mitigate their effects when they occur

Target

Due to the nature of this priority no targets were set. However internal monitoring and measuring processes are in place within SFRS and within the local area to monitor progress and performance.

Contextual Overview

In tandem with delivering the priorities within the current 2014-17 Local Plan the SFRS and the Falkirk and West Lothian area has been moving through a national transition and harmonisation process of aligning 8 legacy fire and rescue service processes and systems of work into single SFRS systems. This has had a significant impact on this priority and presented some challenges. However, from a local perspective the area has harmonised well and all of the processes that have been developed at a national/organisational level have been implemented within the area. Highlighted below are examples of national/organisational systems and processes that have been implemented or supported locally.

- Consistent with the SFRS Operational Intelligence Model, local risks within the area have been identified, and recorded. Visits to premises, including the Grangemouth complex, have been undertaken to ensure operational staff are familiar with the hazards and risks in premises and how to control and mitigate them,
- The area implemented the SFRS Special Appliance Review which has seen the Line Rescue Capability, Mass Decontamination pod and ,Hazmats pod being removed from Falkirk Fire Station. These capabilities have been relocated to other more centralised locations within the East Service Delivery area,
- A revised Resource Based Crewing Model and Watch/Shift Pattern has been implemented,
- All operational staff within the area maintain competence (training and exercising) through the SFRS Maintenance Phase Development Planner toolkit,
- We continue to support and contribute to the Forth Valley Local Resilience Partnership (LRP) and the Grangemouth Complex Major Incident Command Centre (MICC).

The new Local Plan will continue to make a commitment to ensuring the SFRS mitigates risk and is prepared to deal with emergency events. However, it is noted that the current plan has limited reference to community resilience and the principle that citizens can do much to support themselves and can build resilience within their own community.

Priority 2.

Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires

Throughout the Falkirk Council area, accidental dwelling fires have occurred within a wide variety of dwelling places. There are direct links to areas of social deprivation and those who are most vulnerable to fire within the community. Alcohol consumption and/or drugs misuse continues to be identified as a contributory factor in a number of serious injury/fatal fires, due to the effect that they have upon the occupant's ability to react appropriately in a fire situation. In addition, cigarettes and smoking materials remain the primary ignition source in a number of serious injury/fatal fires.

House fires can have a significant negative impact on both individuals and the community, in relation to the human, social and economic cost of fire.

Through our Home Fire Safety Visit Programme, and Community Engagement and Education activities, we aim to reduce the risk and impact of fire and the associated losses.

We will achieve it by:

- Active participation in Falkirk Community Planning arrangements and adopting a partnership approach to risk reduction,
- Leading the Safety Workstream of the Falkirk Community Safety Partnership,
- Contributing to the monthly/fortnightly Tasking and Coordinating process,
- Sharing information with Health Care, Social Work and relevant partners to help protect the most vulnerable, young and elderly,
- Developing new partnerships to identify and support at risk groups,
- Identifying opportunities for engagement with all members of our community to promote fire safety and good citizenship,
- Delivery of fire safety related educational programmes and community engagement activities

In doing so we will also add value by;

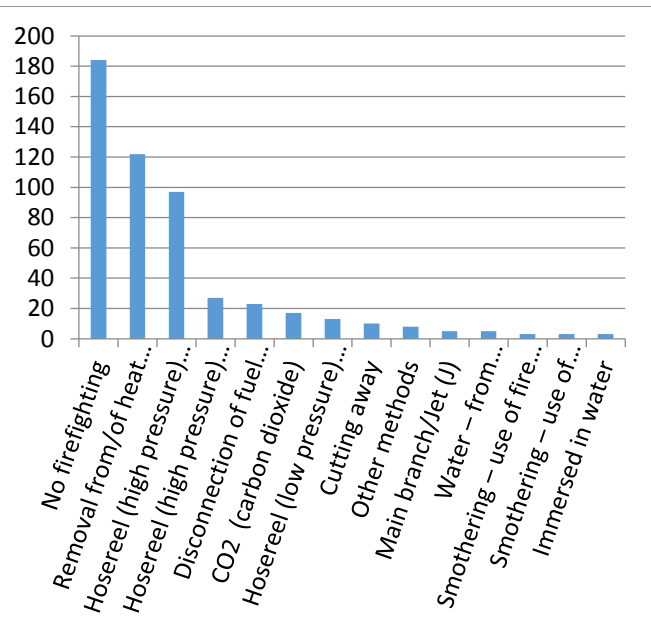
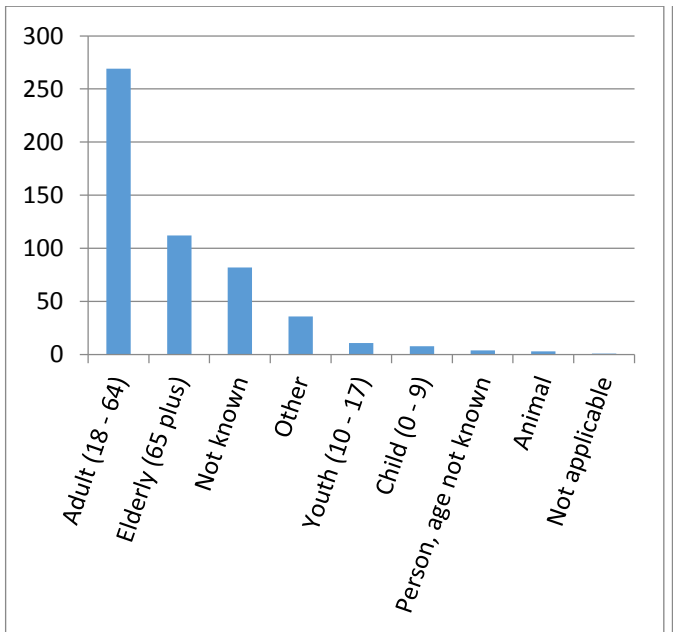
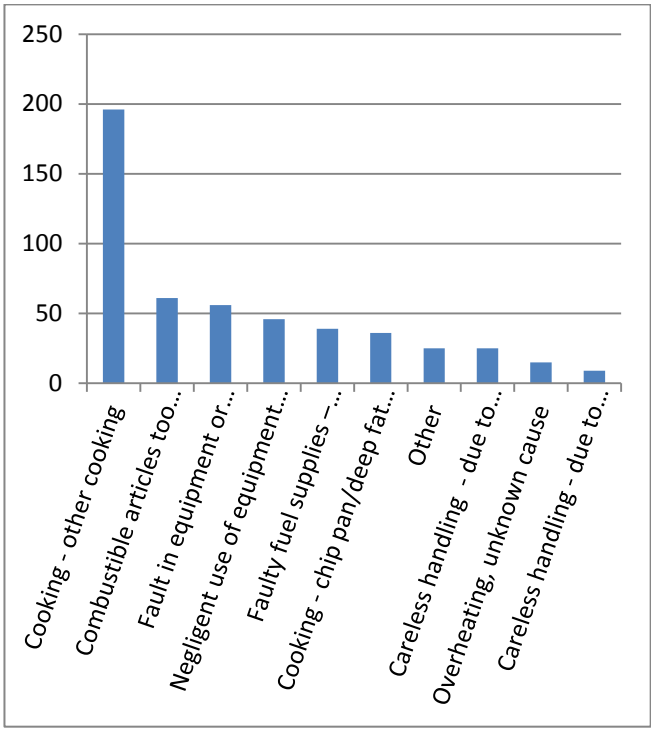
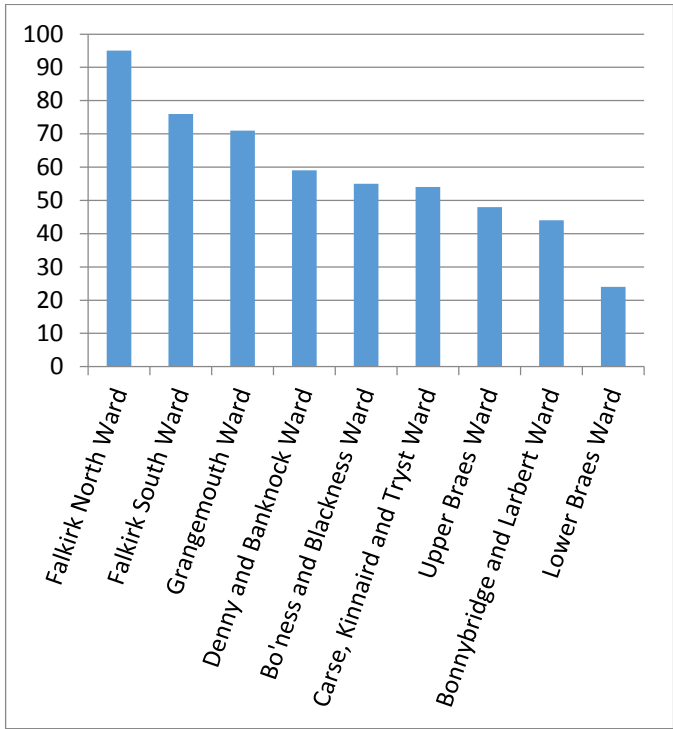
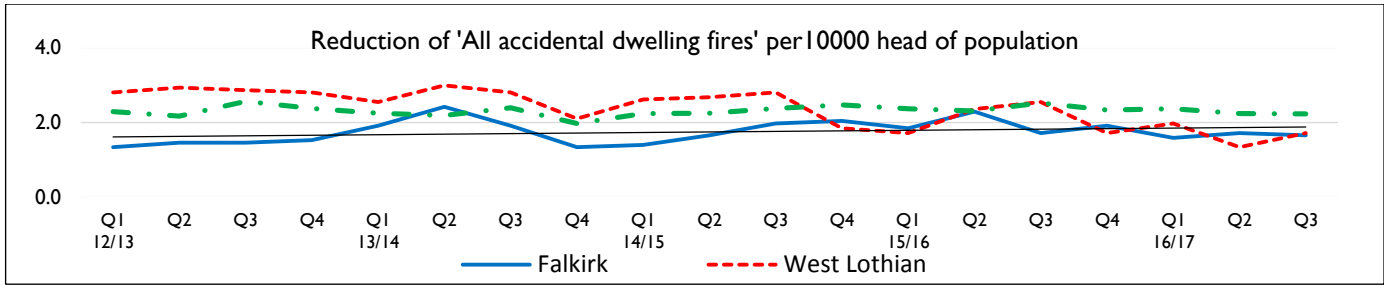
- Promoting confident and safe communities where residents feel positive about where they live,
- Protecting our citizens,
- Encouraging our citizens and communities to take responsibilities for their own health and well-being,
- Making our communities safer,
- Reducing the potential financial burden on society through the education of residents.

Target

To measure performance a local target was set;

We aim to reduce Accidental Dwelling Fires in the Falkirk Council area on a year on year basis that contributes towards the SFRS target of a 10 % reduction, over a three-year rolling period.

Performance Data– what the figures told us



Contextual Overview

Over the lifetime of the 2014-17 Local Plan the trend line for Accidental Dwelling Fires is relatively static. When comparing incidents (per 10000 population) with a comparable Local Authority and Scotland the trend is lower than a comparable Local Authority (West Lothian) and slightly better than Scotland as a whole.

From a ward perspective Falkirk North ward stands out as having the highest number of incidents, whilst Lower Braes exhibits relatively low incident activity. Other wards whilst having varying number of incidents do not portray any specific trends.

The highest proportion of Accidental Dwelling Fire incidents are related to cooking.

Adults age category 18-64 is attributed to the highest number of incidents, but it is recognised that this is a broad age spectrum and the elderly category (65+), which is arguably a smaller age spectrum has a relatively high proportion of all incidents.

A high proportion of incidents required no firefighting interventions by SFRS or item removed from heat source, this can mean, that in the case of cooking, the material was no longer on fire when SFRS arrived or the burnt foodstuff was removed from the cooker by SFRS. No firefighting interventions can also mean that the SFRS attended the incident as a precautionary check.

Priority 3.

Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties

Fire casualties tend to occur in accidental dwelling fires. Evidence suggests that where occupants of a dwelling misuse alcohol and/or drugs or are elderly or infirm, there is an increased likelihood of becoming a fire casualty/ fatality. The absence of a working smoke detector can greatly increase the vulnerability of these individuals.

The human and financial costs associated with fire casualties/fatalities are high due to potentially significant trauma/ loss of life to individuals, and societal costs.

The SFRS in the Falkirk Council area aims to target a reduction in these casualties by adopting a partnership approach to reduce the risk to individuals, particularly those that are most vulnerable.

We will achieve it by:

- Active participation in Falkirk Council Community Planning arrangements and adopting a partnership approach to risk reduction,
- Continued delivery of the Home Fire Safety Visit programme to households within the Falkirk Council area, with particular emphasis on the most vulnerable in our community,
- Targeted Home Fire Safety Visit referrals from partner agencies,
- Promoting healthier lifestyles through encouraging a reduction in alcohol, drugs and cigarette use,
- Ensuring our Community Safety Strategy considers all persons at risk from fire,
- Our citizens and communities shall be encouraged to take responsibilities for their own health and well-being.

In doing so we will also add value by:

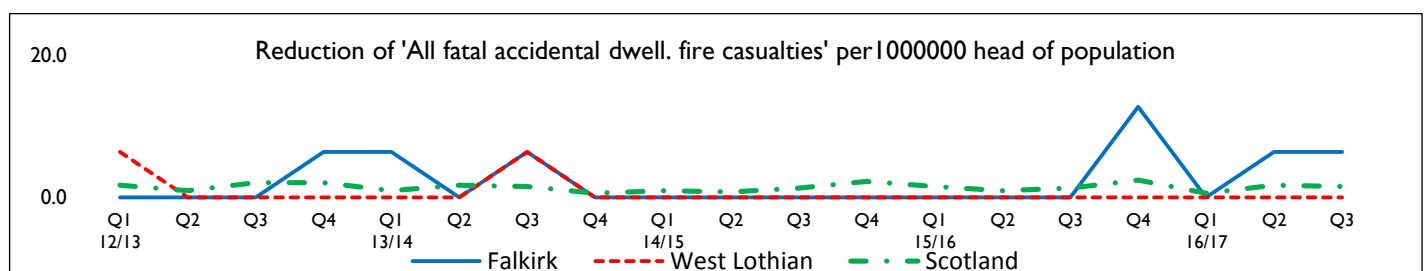
- Our citizens will be protected,
- Our communities will be safer,
- Reducing demand on other partner services such as local health care and social work partners,
- Reducing fire casualty hospitalisation times.

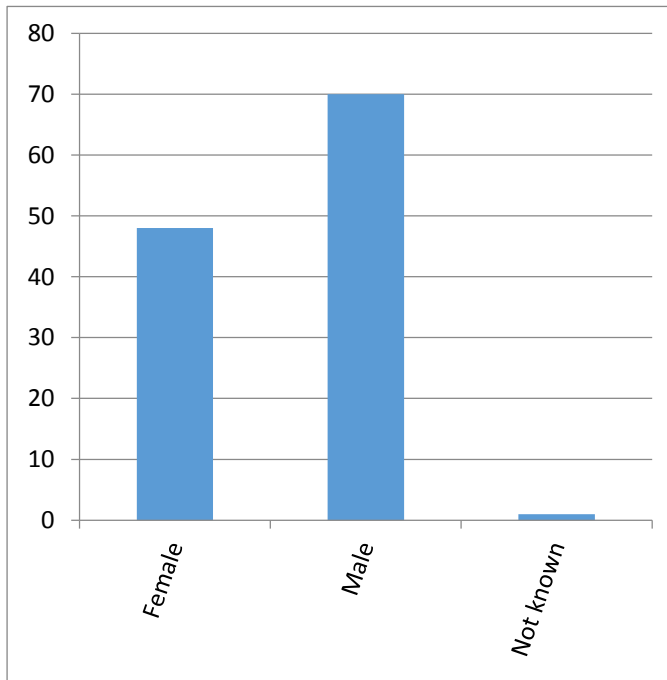
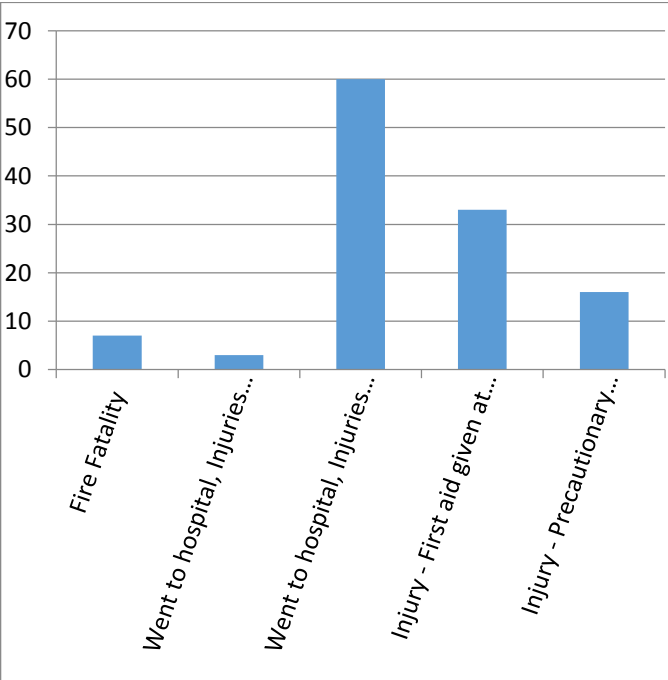
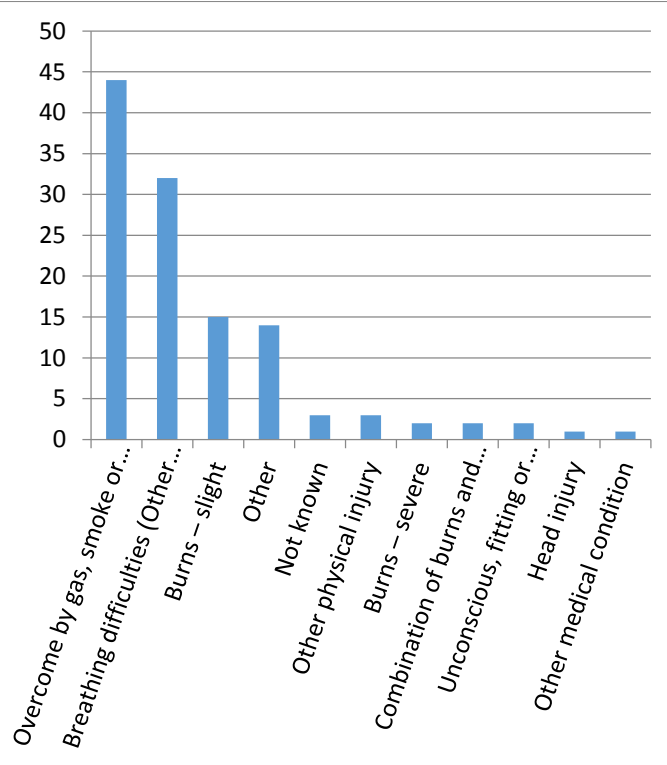
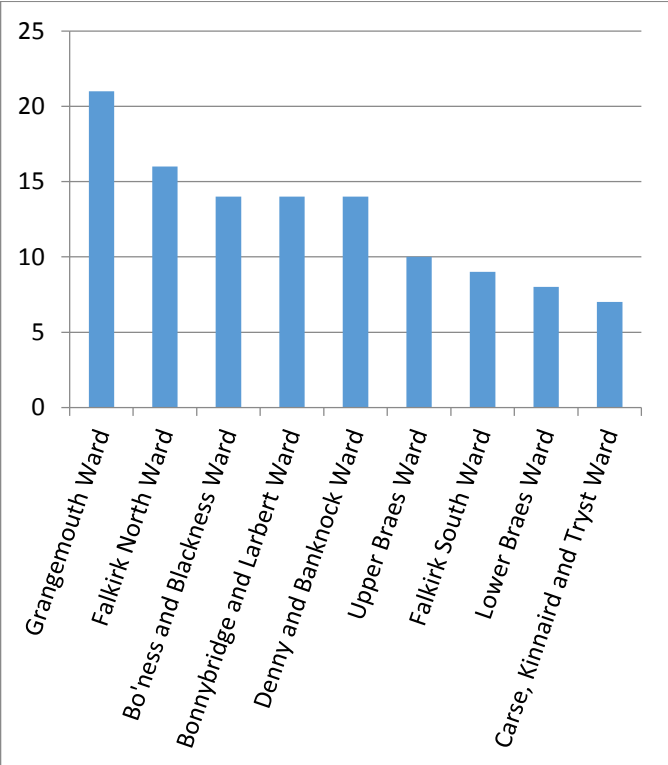
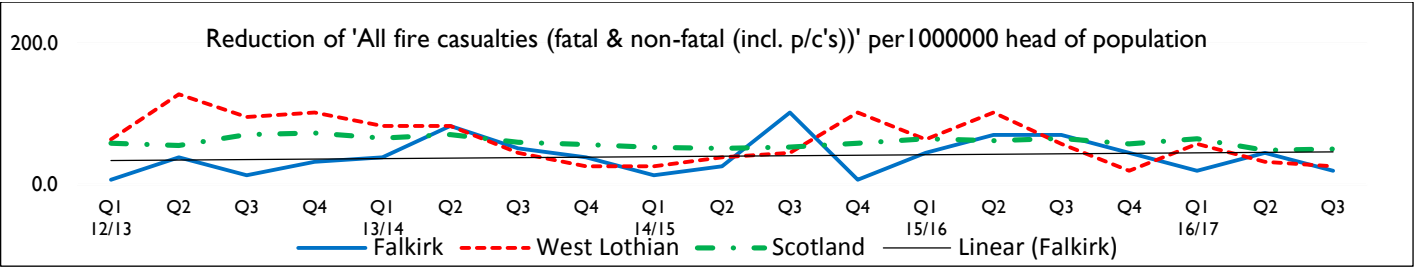
Target

To measure performance a local target was set;

We aim to reduce Fire Fatalities and Casualties on a year on year basis in the Falkirk Council area that contributes towards the SFRS target of reducing Fire Casualties by a 5% reduction, per year over a three-year rolling period.

Performance Data – what the figures told us





Contextual Overview

Over the lifetime of the 2014-17 Local Plan there has been 6 fatalities relating to Accidental Dwelling Fires. When comparing this to a comparative Local Authority and Scotland as a whole using 1000000/per head of population Falkirk exhibits a negative trend. Of the 6 fatalities 66% were over the age of 60 and alcohol was recognised as a contributory factor to the cause of the fire. There has been a slight reduction in the trend for all Casualties and Fatalities (Including Precautionary Check-ups), this reducing trend is better than a comparator Local Authority to that of Scotland as a whole.

From a ward perspective Grangemouth stands out as have the highest number of injury events. The other wards whilst having varying number of injury events do not portray any specific trends.

The highest proportion of injuries sustained at incidents were being overcome by gas or smoke and breathing difficulties. Slight burns were incurred at reactively small number of incidents and it is indicative that severe burns were incurred by only 2 individuals. It is understood that none of the injuries sustained were life changing.

In terms of injury severity, a relatively low proportion of those injured at Accidental Dwelling Fires had serious injuries that required them to go to hospital. The two other main types of injuries, were slight injury that required the victim to go to hospital and minimal where first aid was given at the scene. Slight injury that required the victim to go to hospital exhibited the highest proportion of injury severity.

There is a higher propensity for males to have suffered injuries in Accidental Dwelling Fires than females.

Priority 4.

Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting

Deliberate fire setting is a significant problem for the SFRS and is responsible for a significant number of secondary fires that are attended across the Falkirk Council area. In the main, secondary fire categories are refuse, grassland and derelict buildings incidents. In addition, deliberate fire setting is responsible for a number of primary fires that involve property loss and potential injury/loss of life.

There is a close link between deliberate secondary fires and other forms of anti-social behaviour. By continuing to focus our attention on deliberate fires this will reduce the demand on the SFRS and the burden upon partners and in turn enhance community wellbeing and reduce the environmental impact.

We will achieve it by:

- **Engaging in a multi-agency approach to tackle deliberate fire setting and fire related anti-social behaviour by the targeting resources to areas of demand,**
- **Leading the Safety Workstream of the Falkirk Community Safety Partnership,**
- **Contributing to the monthly/fortnightly Tasking and Coordinating process,**
- **Deliver youth engagement programmers to reduce anti-social behaviour through diversionary activities and education,**
- **Identify and develop partnerships with organisations who engage with young people,**
- **Providing an enhanced level of Fire Investigation within the Falkirk area**

In doing so we will also add value by:

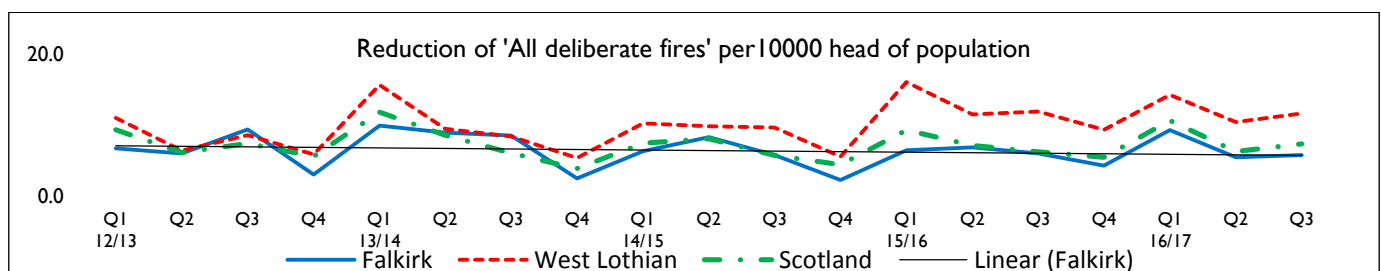
- Promoting safe and attractive communities in which people want to live,
- Diverting those persons away from anti-social behaviour by encouraging them to be good citizens,
- Reducing the adverse effects that deliberate fire setting has on peoples' lives within the Falkirk Council area,
- Supporting the national focus towards early and effective intervention.

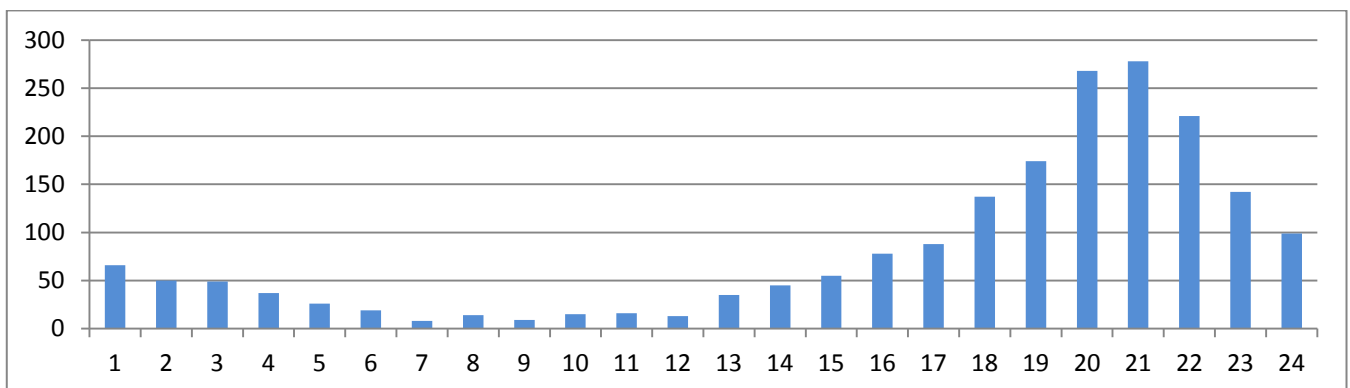
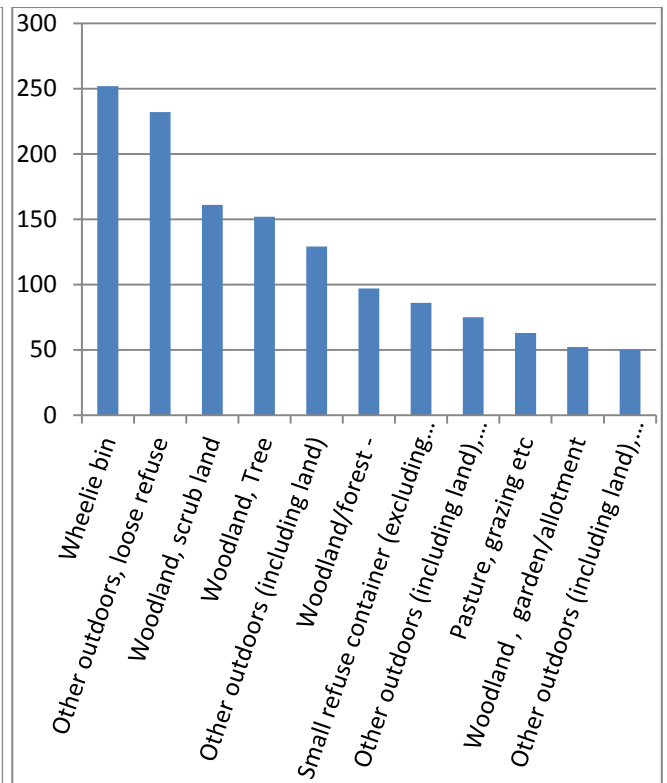
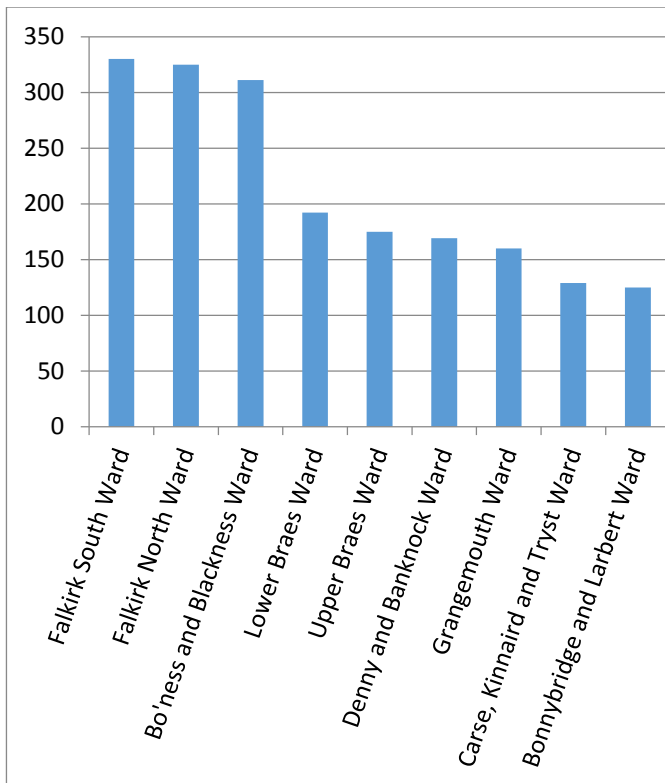
Target

To measure performance a local target was set;

We aim to reduce Deliberate Fire Setting on a year on year basis in the Falkirk Council area.

Performance Data – what the figures told us





Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting

Contextual Overview

Over the lifetime of the Plan the trend-line for Deliberate Fires depicts a slight decline . When comparing incidents (per 10000 population) with a comparable Local Authority the trend-line for the Falkirk area is positive and is similar to Scotland as a whole.

From a ward perspective Falkirk North, Falkirk South and Bo'ness and Blackness wards have the highest instances of Deliberate Fire setting.

The highest proportion incidents are related to wheelie bins or refuse being set on fire. Due to the geographical nature of the area woodland (trees, shrubs and bushes etc) all feature predominantly in the types of locations where deliberate fires occur. The vast majority of Deliberate Fires occur between the hours of 4 PM and 11PM with peaks being reached between 8PM and 10PM .

Priority 5.

Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Property

All fires in workplaces and business premises are classed as Non-Domestic Fires and come under the scope of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005. Fire Safety Enforcement Officers carry out audits to ensure statutory responsibilities are met and provide advice to businesses on fire safety. The types of premises encompassed by the Act can be wide-ranging and include industrial, commercial and those premises providing sleeping accommodation such as residential care premises.

In addition to the costs associated with fires in commercial properties, many businesses that experience a significant fire do not reopen afterwards.

We proactively work as part of a partnership, with local industry to ensure that Businesses Continuity Planning and Emergency Preparedness Arrangements are appropriate, to ensure we can mitigate the impact of fires and other emergencies on business and that we are prepared to respond to adverse safety events.

We will achieve it by:

- The audit of business and commercial premises by Fire Safety Enforcement Officers using a risk based approach,
- Work with the Falkirk Council Licensing department to ensure all multiple occupation houses comply with the required standards in relation to Fire Safety,
- Carrying out Post Fire Audits following any fire within a relevant premise,
- Work in partnership with the Falkirk Business Panel, through the Falkirk Council Economic Development Service,
- Consultation with Falkirk Council Building Standards Officers and architects,
- Participation in major incident preparedness and exercising.

In doing so we will also add value by:

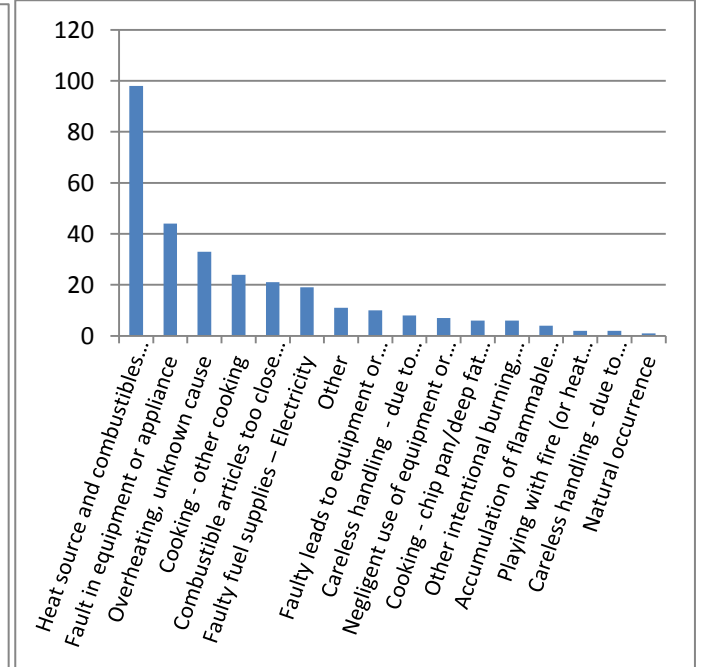
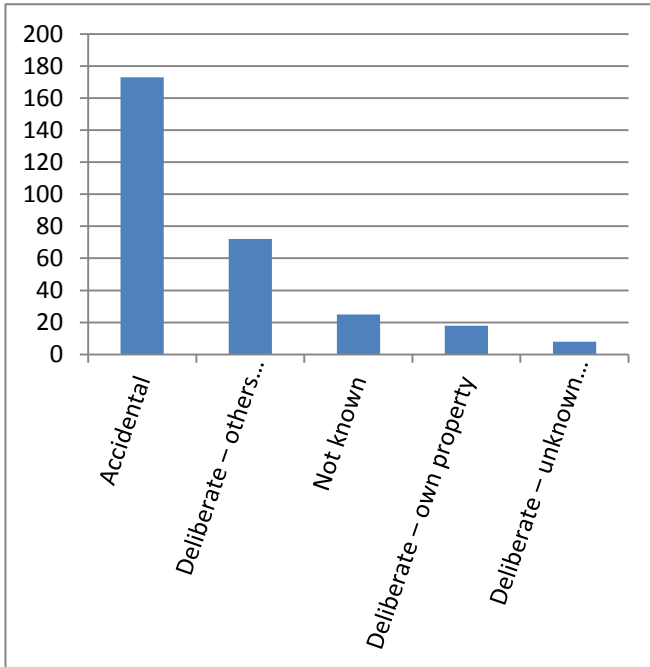
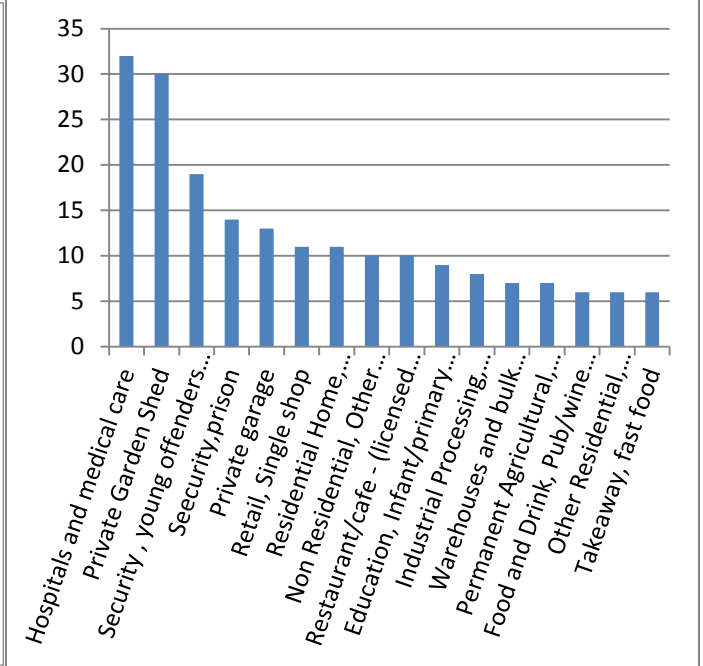
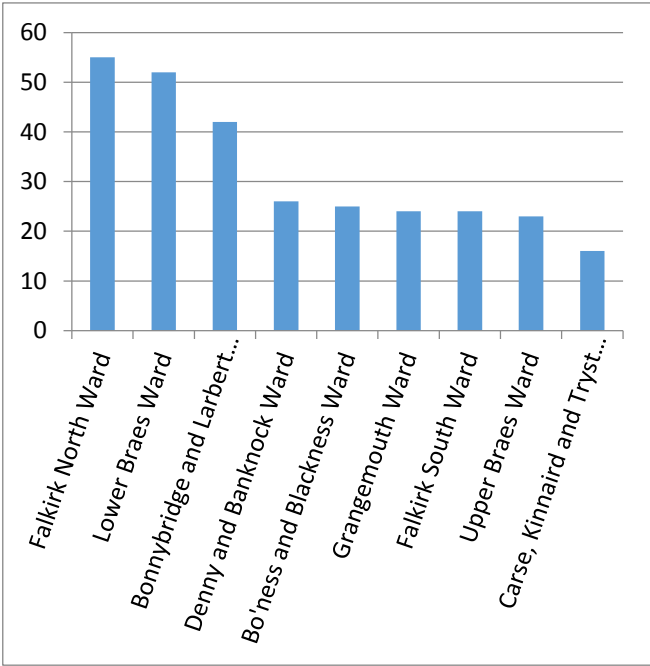
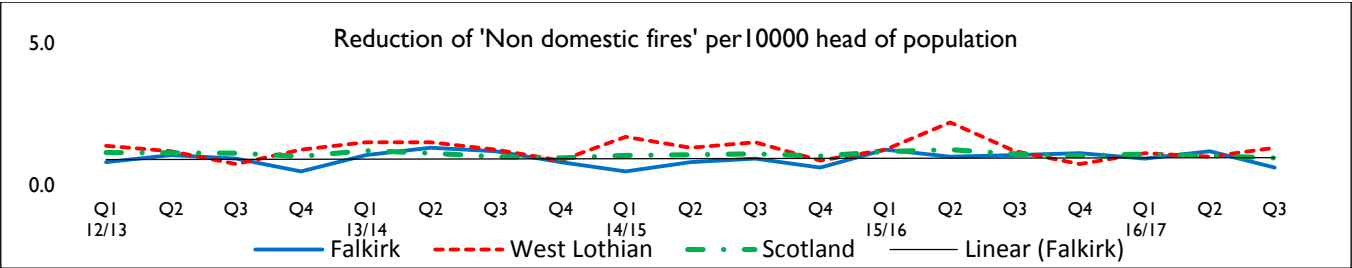
- The wealth and prosperity in our area will increase,
- The quality of our infrastructure will help promote growth of the local economy,
- Safeguarding the wellbeing of residents and employees within relevant premises,
- Supporting business continuity and employment within the Falkirk Council area,
- Our citizens will be protected,
- Our communities will be safer.

Target

To measure performance a local target was set;

We aim to reduce the number of Fires in Non-Domestic Premises in the Falkirk Council area year on a year basis that will contribute to the SFRS target of continually reducing the number of fires in Non Domestic premises.

Performance Data – what the figures told us



Contextual Overview

Over the lifetime of the Plan there has been little deviation in the trend line for Non Domestic Fires. It is indicative that Non Domestic Fire trends are similar to Scotland but slightly lower than a comparator local authority area. In terms of geographical areas Falkirk North, Lower Braes and Bonnybridge and Larbert Wards have the highest proportion of Non Domestic Fires with other wards having similar proportions of incident activity.

Whilst Non Domestic Fires tend to be associated with business or commercial premises analysis of the data provides an indication that a high proportion of these types of fires are associated with hospital and medical care type premises followed closely by garden sheds and huts. Secure accommodation (the sum of all types) also accounts for a high proportion of these types of incident.

A high proportion of Non Domestic Fires are started accidentally, however the sum of deliberate fire raising linked to these premises types requires to be taken into consideration.

The main cause of Non Domestic Fires are heat sources coming into contact with combustible materials.

Priority 6.

Reduction in Fatalities and Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies

A central part of the SFRS's role is responding to non-fire emergencies such as Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), other rescue situations such as rescues from water, from height, or from entrapment. Operational firefighters are trained to a high standard and have at their disposal the most modern equipment for extricating people in rescue situations and administering first aid to casualties.

Attendance at RTCs has become a core role for the SFRS however primary responsibility for road safety lies with Transport Scotland, Police Scotland and local authorities. The SFRS has a crucial role in supporting these organisations at a local level and can provide access to hard-hitting education programmes aimed at the most at risk groups to highlight the consequences of RTCs and dangerous driving. National statistics identify that the most at risk group is young drivers. Our "Safe Drive Stay Alive" campaign is aimed at 4th, 5th and 6th year school pupils, which supports the national Go Safe, Scotland's Road Safety Framework for 2020.

The educational road safety activities that we deliver are designed to increase driver awareness in relation to the consequences of dangerous driving. Particular focus continues to be on young and new drivers.

We will achieve it by:

- Continuing our educational programmes, such as Safe Drive Stay Alive, particularly aimed at high risk groups within our communities,
- Develop innovative ways of reducing accidents in collaboration with partners,
- Working with our partners within the Falkirk Council area to ensure that all agencies are aware of road incident hotspots.

In doing so we will also add value by:

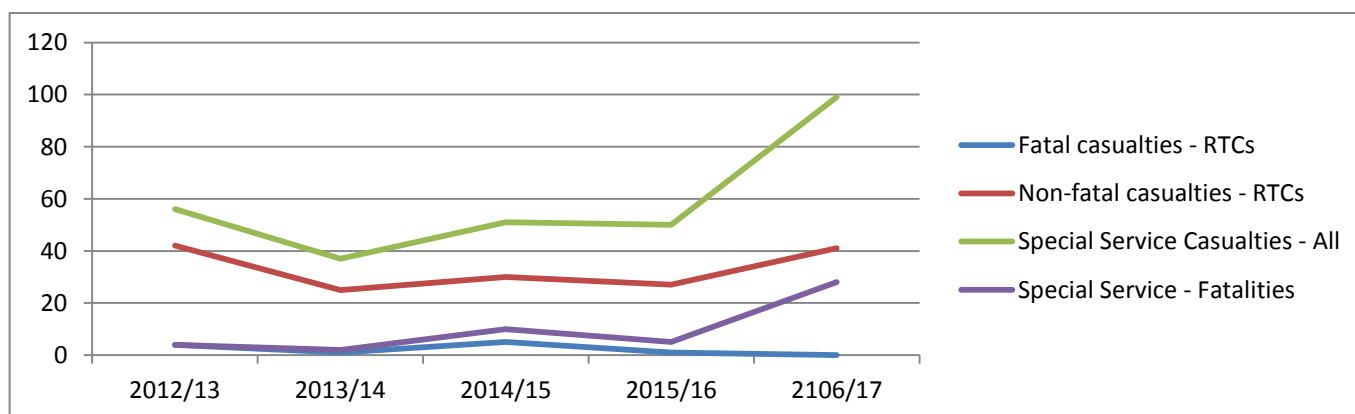
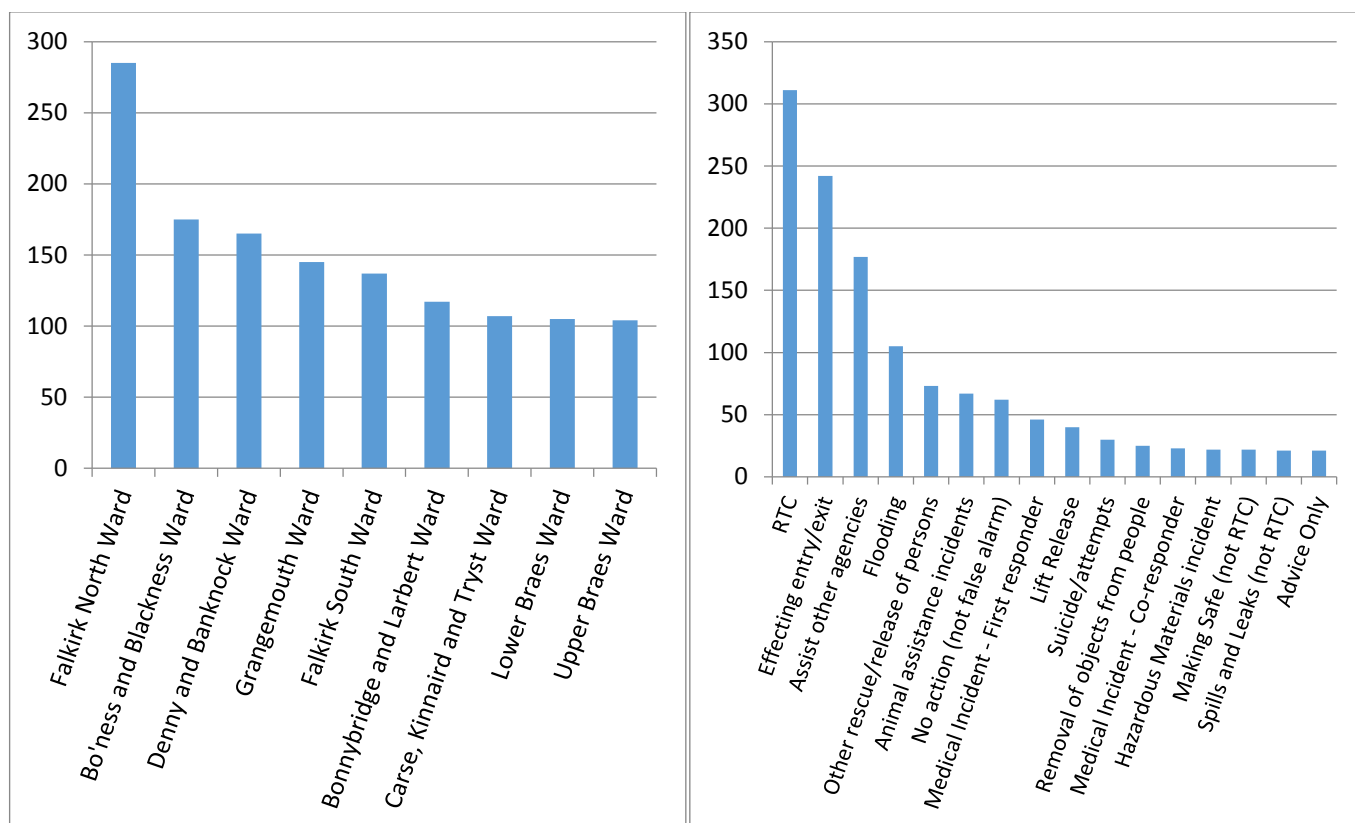
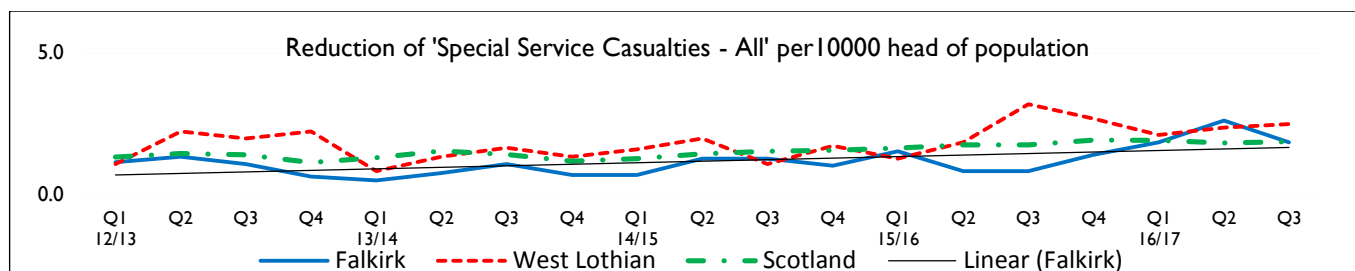
- Protecting our citizens,
- Promoting safety of our communities,
- Our citizens and communities shall be encouraged to take responsibilities for their own health and well-being,
- Reducing the number of hospital admissions, and the associated costs to the NHS and other organisations due to RTC related injuries,
- Encouraging young drivers and other groups to be responsible road users through active engagement and education.

Target

To measure performance a local target was set;

We aim to reduce the number of Fatalities and Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies in the Falkirk Council area on a year on year basis, which will contribute to the SFRS target of continually reducing the number of Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies over a three-year rolling period.

Performance Data – what the figures told us



Contextual Overview

Special Services Fatalities and Casualties traditionally included fatalities and casualties as a result of incidents where SFRS were required to deal with an incident that was not fire related. These types of incidents include road traffic collisions, industrial accidents, persons in difficulty in water etc.

Over the lifetime of the Plan there has been an increase in the trend line for Special Services Fatalities and Casualties. When comparing incidents (per 10000 population) with a comparable Local Authority and Scotland this upward trend is replicated.

The increase in this trend is due the commencement of the Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest project (OHCA) whereby SFRS resources are deployed to assist other agencies to deal persons who have suffered a heart attack.

From a ward perspective Falkirk North ward has the highest proportion of incidents, but it is noted that this ward area is one of the areas that is involved in the OHCA project pilot.

Analysis of incident types depicts that Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) feature highly in the incident type chart however, Effecting Entry and Assist Other Agency features prominently and these activities are associated with the OHCA project.

With specific reference to RTC fatalities and casualties it is evident that the trend for fatalities is relatively static whilst casualties having seen a decline are on the increase. However as described above, the overall special service fatality trend depicts a sharp increase which is again related to OHCA.

Priority 7.

Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are those occasions when 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 are categorised into three main categories; False Alarm with Good Intent, False Alarm Malicious or Equipment Failure.

Within the Falkirk Council area, UFAS incidents in non-domestic properties account for a significant amount of the total calls attended. UFAS has a negative impact on the SFRS through the deployment of resources to incidents where their life saving services are not required. This negative impact is also experienced by businesses through loss of production, business continuity or service delivery. Attendance at UFAS creates a negative financial burden upon the SFRS as well as increasing the road risk and environmental impact within the Falkirk Council area.

We will achieve it by:

- Working with the business and commercial sector to provide advice and guidance in relation to the management of unwanted fire alarm signals,
- Ensure premises with unwanted fire alarm signal occurrences comply with the British Standard 5839 Part 1 & 6 current edition

In doing so we will also add value by:

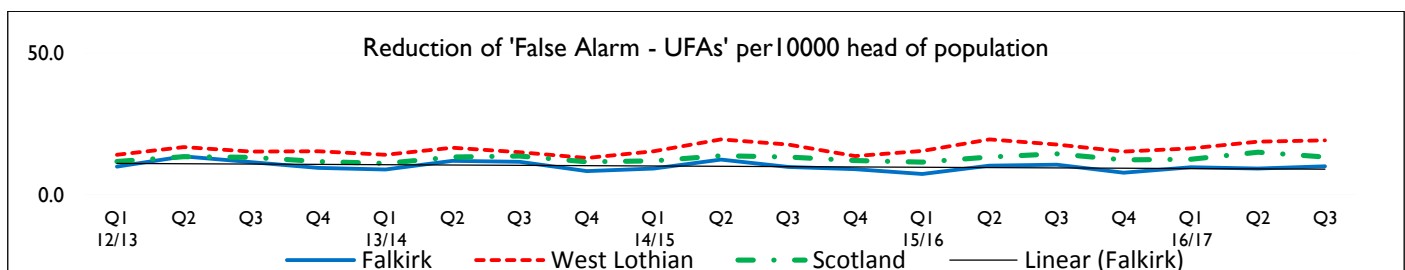
- The wealth and prosperity in our area will increase,
- The negative impact of UFAS on local business will reduce,
- Reducing road risk for our emergency services,
- Reduction of our carbon footprint,
- Enabling SFRS resources to be available for life saving incidents

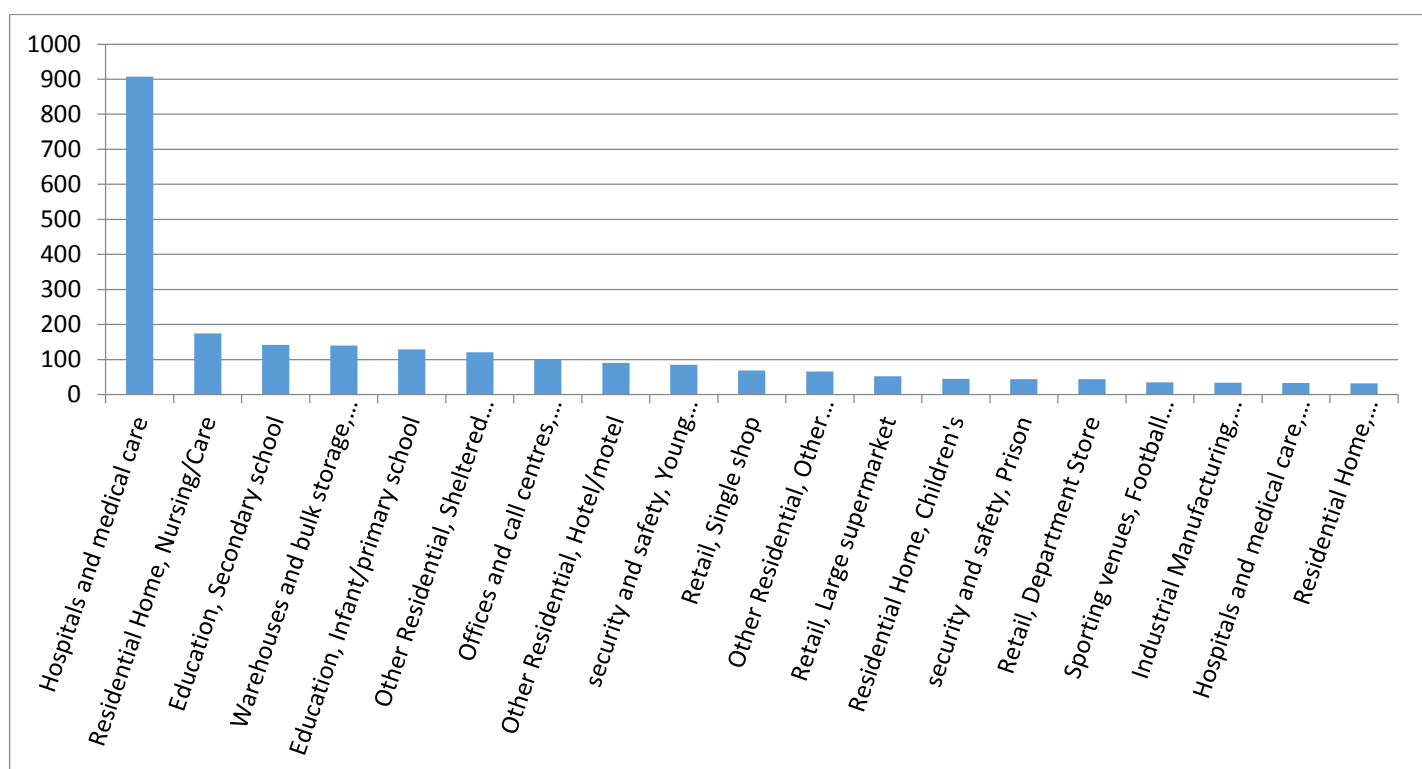
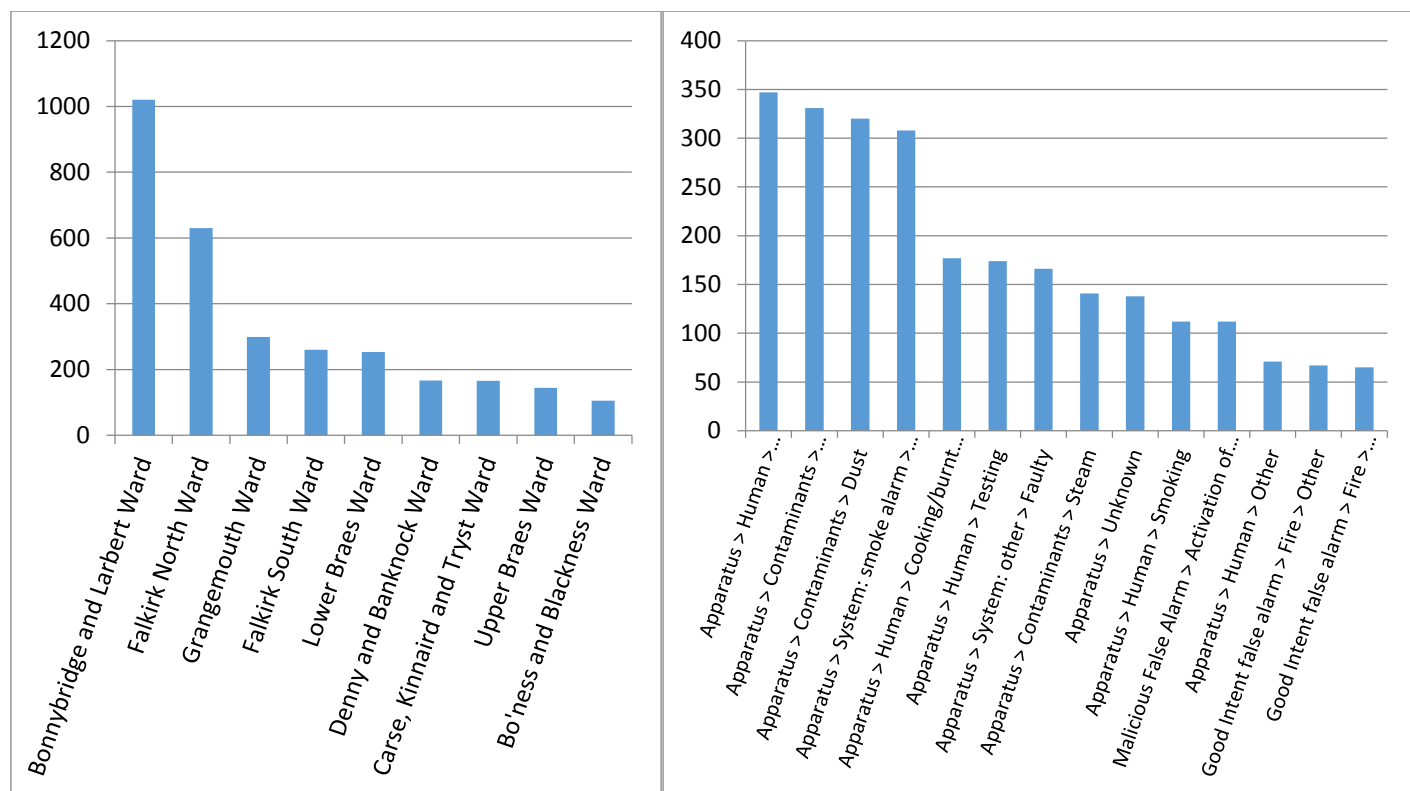
Target

To measure performance a local target was set;

We aim to achieve a year on year reduction of UFAS in the Falkirk Council area on a year on year basis.

Performance Data – what the figures told us





Contextual Overview

Over the lifetime of the Plan there has been a slight decrease in the trend line for Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. The downward trend is positive when compared against a comparable Local Authority and Scotland

as a whole. The occurrences of incidents in the Falkirk area is lower than a comparable Local Authority and Scotland as a whole.

In terms of geographical areas Bonnybridge and Larbert ward has the highest proportion of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. There is a correlation between the types of premises located in this area, e.g. hospital and medical care premises and the number of incidents.

With reference to methods of activation of alarm systems human factors such as careless actuation of system, cooking adjacent to a detector and system tests all feature predominantly. However system defect or fault also contribute to a high number of incidents.

It should be noted that Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals account for approximately 60% of all incidents the SFRS attends in the Falkirk area.

Engagement – what our stakeholders told us

In the Summer of 2017 Falkirk Council undertook a survey of citizens views in the form of a Citizens Panel Survey. Included within the survey were a range of questions that sought to specifically seek the views of citizens on priorities and outcomes in relation to fire and the services the SFRS delivers.

The following information provides detail on the feedback received from the survey.

Question : The current local priorities of the Falkirk Local Fire Plan are listed below. Please rank these in order of importance with 1 being the most important ?

Response

Ranking order of importance

1	4.38	Reduce casualties and fatalities from accidental dwelling fires
2	3.74	Reduce accidental dwelling fires
3	2.97	Reduce casualties and fatalities from non fire emergencies
4	2.89	Reduce deliberate fires
5	2.08	Reduce fires in non domestic properties
6	1.21	Reduce automatic fire alarm calls

Analysis

Of the 6 measurable priorities in the current 2014-17 Local Fire Plan reducing casualties and fatalities from accidental dwelling fires and reduce accidental dwelling fires received the highest priority ratings.

Reducing casualties and fatalities from non fire emergencies, reducing deliberate fires and reduce fires in non domestic properties all received priority scores in the high to low 2 rating band

Reducing Automatic Fire Alarm Calls received the lowest rating of 1.21.

Question : Do you think there are any other fire related local priorities the SFRS should consider for the Falkirk Area ?

Responses

Yes - all properties that are three floors or higher, all properties that have cladding, all residential homes.

More literature through the letter box on how residents should:

- 1) Call the fire brigade in case of emergencies.
- 2) More advice on how to keep the home safe from fire.
- 3) How to prevent against carbon monoxide/gas poisoning.
- 4) How to call the fire brigade for advice in non emergency case."

Whilst reducing deliberate fires is important, isn't that partly the police's job as someone would usually be committing a crime?

Cladding on all residential buildings not just high rise flats

Sprinklers in high rise blocks seems quite topical

Making sure that the high flats are safe

Remind people not to have big bonfires in their back gardens

I would rank the second and fifth as equally important. Reducing casualties and fatalities in any context are equally important. In schools, hospitals and care homes for example. Empty business premises not such a big issue but still important. Achieving the targets at 2 and 5 however demands that all other targets are also addressed presumably? Suggest rethinking the categories. Tower block fires? Tenement fires? Very relevant in Falkirk.

Are there any high rise public buildings? If so an inspection of any cladding

Include upstream preventative actions as part of prioritisation

Yes. Regular fire audits and exercises for the emergency services involved with Grangemouth chemical complex.

Limit car parking at some flats in order for a Fire Engine to attend if required.

Not till sufficient resources are available.

People in high flats should be made aware of fire engine capabilities (ie) maximum height of ladders and other equipment carried on fire engines.

Preventative work is vital and in particular raising awareness of the causes of fires.

One policeman on calls to get trouble makers and able to charge persons breaking the law

Public gatherings, stadiums, pubs and clubs.

Policing parking at fire hydrants i.e. where inconsiderate car parking is obstructing access.

Try and reduce the number of deliberate fires on the run up to bonfire night.

Practical advice for small businesses

More information required regarding evacuation procedures for residents with impaired mobility in the top flats in the high rise flats, Is there a plan in place for evacuation via Stairwell, lifts, windows,? There seem s to be a lot of speculation and not much practical reassurance in this matter.

Encourage people to install and check fire alarms in homes, businesses, etc. Think can forget they are there.

Extra fire prevention and rescue for tower blocks while use piped gas!

Inform people of which household appliances have fire risk problems

Practice exercises in areas such as hospitals and exercises

Campaign for stiffer penalties for those who start deliberate fires

In line of the tower block fire in London review how people could be evacuated if a similar fire in our tower blocks.

Advertise fire alarms more

Vandalism caused by another's on empty properties

Design of public buildings to withstand fire spread

landlords/residents dumping furniture etc. At sides of buildings fire hazard.

Priority Traffic Lanes

Compliance in shops to fire regulations and means of escape reduce obstructions to escape routes

More integration with fire services at Ineos and other firms in Grangemouth. Make them more transparent in their fire prevention.

Heavier sentencing for false calls

Make sure fire points and water sprayers are regularly inspected

Training for nurses / carers in old peoples homes and people in high rise flats

Advising householders on fire safety measures

Spend the money that you get wisely

More teaching about fires in local schools

Analysis

An overview of the responses received indicates that the main areas the SFRS could focus attention on are;

Prevention Initiatives, Auditing and inspecting premises, fire safety in high rise premises and building on existing pre-planning arrangement for incidents at the Grangemouth petro-chemical complex.

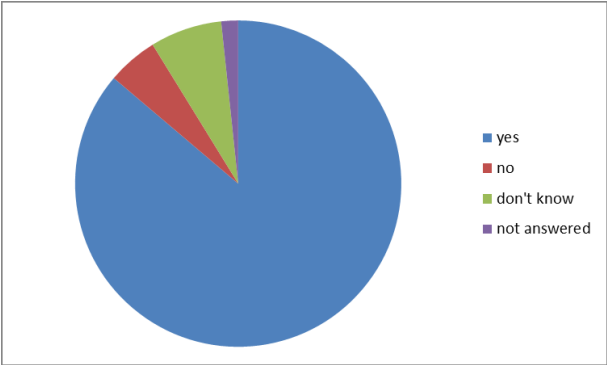
Education Initiatives, Fire safety related school input, fire safety related input to community groups, deliberate fire reduction.

Diversionary Initiatives, Multi- agency working to support/deter repeat fire starters.

Question : Should prevention resources target those vulnerable members of the community who are most in need ?

Response

Yes	206
No	12
Don't know	17
Not answered	4



Analysis

A high proportion of respondents (94%) are of the opinion that SFRS should target its resources to those most at risk and most in need.

Question : Who do you think we should target our resources to ?

Responses

Hospitals and care homes followed by residential homes.

Special housing and nursing homes

Again, surely there should be some crossover with police here if fires are being caused deliberately? Innocent, vulnerable people should be protected, idiots should not...

How effective are prevention resources? By this do you mean fire risk assessments or educating the public about how to minimise risk or both ? Important that everyone is aware but appropriately target the vulnerable such as children and young people, those with disability in a way that they can understand and the elderly.

Sometimes vulnerability type is not geographically based,

Everyone

Organise fire audits in targeted homes where disabled people live independently

I think you need to inform the panel members of the statistics before asking the questions - how can I answer if I don't know what the current link actually is between social and economic inequalities and high incident levels.....it's the same for the priorities in the first question, if I don't know the current statistics how can I judge what the priorities should be?

Surely they should be targeted where they will have the biggest impact, if that is where there are vulnerable people then that would be the place.

Would need to know who, what and why to give a considered answer.

Tax payers

Why not put sprinklers in all new houses and any block of flats

Priority calls where there is likely injury or fatality if not addressed as a priority, irrespective of whether vulnerable or otherwise.

Should be for all equally

keeping beggars and drug takers off our High Street.

Households with children and/or very elderly

Surely everyone is equally important though perhaps OAP's and disabled may need more help

independent senior citizens should get periodical checks

Big business, shops, local councils, etc, who ignore safety compliance in order to save money

Priority to severity then vulnerability all should be equal

It should be equal for all. If you focus on one group you are in danger of excluding others.

OAP

Analysis

Analysis of the responses indicate that there is a view that those most vulnerable members of the community are the elderly. Children are also highlighted within the responses. Whilst some responses indicate that everyone should be treated equally there were views that a targeted approach aimed at those at the highest risk is appropriate.

Question : Who do you think are the most vulnerable members of the community in Falkirk?

Responses

Elderly and those living in sheltered or aid-assisted accommodation (including those with mental health problems or learning difficulties)

The elderly

low income, disabled, OAPs.

People with mental health problems.

Elderly & infirm

Children

Housebound

Children, old people living alone

Elderly

Pensioners and children

Elderly and disabled people.

Those with low incomes

Elderly, mental and/or physical disability, those with severe alcohol or drug dependency

Children.

People with mental health problems.

People with a disability.

Older people

Elderly and disabled, also to a degree teenage mums

Elderly and young families

The elderly

Older people and people with additional support needs

Older people, disabled people, young children

Mentally ill

Older people

People with a physical disability

Children

People with a learning disability or mental health issue

People who have no regard for others safety "

Elderly. single parents. young people living alone, those with learning difficulties living on their own

Elderly

People with long term illnesses

Infirm

Disabled

Mentally Ill

Alcoholics

Drug Addicts

Children

Young People

Babies

Pregnant Women.

Hospital patients; care home residents; school children in educational establishments (all ages); those in high rise blocks; elderly people including those living alone; those with substance misuse and addiction problems.

Elderly, young and vulnerable

Elderly people, and those on low incomes. Also disabled people

Those with communication, visual, hearing and mobility issues, those with mental ill health including dementia and substance misuse, those with no fire prevention/mitigation resources across public/private housing sectors, homeless/tough sleepers

Elderly, disabled, those on low income

People who are in private lets.

Homeless and people with mental and physical disabilities

Hospital patients, care homes, people in high rise apartments. Children and the elderly living in poor social conditions.

Elderly and disabled.

Single adult older households, those known to drink and live alone, , those living in properties without fire and carbon monoxide monitors

All elderly people considering their lower abilities for free movement.

Obviously small children.

People in old folks residential homes.

Drunks and drug addicts must also be considered."

Disabled

Elderly, disabled, those with mental health issues.

High rise social housing

Mentally handicapped living alone

Elderly people on their own

The elderly

Elderly and those with lesser abilities

From a fire incident perspective, I would think that anybody who is mentally incapacitated are the most likely to be vulnerable - mentally incapacitated could be anything from elderly with Alzheimer's disease to drug addicts or alcoholics.

Older people

Those with mental impairment and others living in real poverty with no or little support from areas of Falkirk Council, Professional and charitable organisations who are there supposedly to give support.
Pensioners living in flats who smoke - particularly smoke in bed.

Young / Elderly

Elderly

Old people and people with disabilities

Elderly with no relatives. those who suffer from dementia

The elderly and housebound

The elderly, disabled and those individuals with mental health issues.

Elderly and disabled, young children.

The elderly and the vulnerable due to mental capacity and financial restraints

The elderly

Elderly living alone and those with 'Additional Support needs' that are trying to live independent lives.
high flats

Dementia and Alzheimer members of the community, elderly and housebound members of the community.
Elderly and infirm

Old and infirm, disabled, children.

People with Mental health problems and with substance and alcohol abuse

Special needs adults

Hospitals, old people, people with carers,

Very young and elderly

The elderly and those with additional support needs who live independently.

Those who may not be able to afford smoke alarms.

Elderly, children and disabled people

Elderly and care in community sector

The vulnerable members of the community would include a proportion of the elderly population and those with physical or mental disabilities.

Pensioners living alone

Those living in deprived social housing areas with high benefits reliance - e.g. Dean field in Bo'ness

Disabled, >70 years old.

Elderly and people with special needs.

Elderly and Disabled people
The elderly and very young

Learning disabled

Elderly and disabled"

Teenagers and the elderly

The elderly and disabled particularly those living alone

Elderly

Elderly, Disabled, long term illness

Elderly. single parent

People with mental ill health, and/or substance misuse issues.

The Elderly,
The elderly, handicapped and disabled people and those with learning disabilities.
older. smokers.

Disabled and elderly, also economically disadvantaged

Older people, those with learning disabilities, disabled members of the community, young parents.

Residents of heavily populated areas leading to overcrowding and living in old or poor housing stock

Members of the community with chronic ill health, physical or mental dis abilities

Older people, members with health problems such as mobility, alcoholism & disabilities.

Tenant property - more checks on landlords required
definitely the elderly.

Anyone living alone especially those with a disability either learning ,physical or both.
older people alone and those young people in their first independent living accommodation."

Those with mental health issues and the elderly who are on their own
Social work department - info

Elderly, disabled and those with specific social/emotional/learning needs

Senior citizens

Elderly

People that have to go about their business without hassle

Children and the very elderly

Old people

Elderly - disabled

Senior citizens

Old people, people with dementia, people with learning difficulties, physically handicapped people and blind or deaf people.

Elderly and disabled

Senior citizens, those with mental health issues, drug and alcohol addicts

Elderly

Mentally ill, disabled, elderly, at risk children

Aged, infirmed, children

The elderly

Every person is vulnerable

Older people

Elderly, people with drink or drug problems

Elderly

Disabled

The elderly and disabled and the very young

Disabled and pensioners

Children & Old people

Elderly People

OAPs and disabled

Handicapped, blind, deaf, homeless excluding drug addicts

Older people, less well off and those with health issues.

People who live in flats or poorer areas

Older people.

Drug users, people with mental health issues, alcohol dependants and the elderly

The Elderly

Elderly living alone

Older people

Grangemouth and Denny

Good decent working people who cannot afford to replace worn out electrical equipment

Pensioners, junkies, alkie

Pensioners and disabled children

Elderly

OAP, Mental Health, Disabled

The mentally challenged & aged generations.

Any disabled and infirm health.

Any medical for mobility balance, reasons elderly"

Mentally or physically handicapped

Aged and Families

Elderly

Elderly

O.A.P's

The elderly and very young

Older people/single parents/people with disabilities.

Children and old people

Elderly, disabled, children

Disabled, children and senior citizens

Elderly, children

The Elderly who live alone, the disabled, and the mentally ill.

Elderly in social housing

Disabled and mental health people

Children and OAP's

OAP

Those already who have shown significant needs but also those who are often just under the radar

Elderly, hospitals, nursing homes

Disabled people and OAP's. People living in care

Elderly

Everyone is vulnerable where fire is concerned.

Old People

The elderly

Homeless - pensioners

Disabled

Special needs, elderly & infirm

The elderly

The old and firm

OAP's

OAP

Elderly, children, disabled and homeless

People who have mental or physical problems regardless of age

Elderly

Young Families

Elderly, Physically & Mentally Challenged & Children

Invalids, Old People

The Elderly

Mental issues, Health, Elderly, People on Benefits, Families (Big), Children

The members living in old peoples homes and high rise flats

People living in deprived areas

Disabled people

Elderly, disabled, those with health issues, mentally ill and children (not necessarily in that order)

The elderly tenants

Elderly people

Those without employment. poor education

Elderly in high flats (multi)

Elderly

Old people

Older people who live alone, anyone who lives on their own with support packages, mental health issues

Sick, elderly

Old and disabled people

Elderly, mentally ill and disabled wheelchair users

Old people

People with mental and physical problems and old age

Over 70s

Elderly people

Young children, elderly, people with mental health problems

Elderly, disabled and people with mental health issues

Elderly

Frail elderly and mentally impaired

Single people who are homeless and unemployed

Elderly, people with lower IQs, people with young children

Elderly

Old and disabled

Mentally ill, elderly

Old people

Elderly and very young (under 10)

The elderly, those with learning difficulties, young children

Older people

Householders - possibly a person living on their own and in old age.

Young families, elderly. Keeping away from fire, not leaving cookers when in use.

Elderly/infirm

Elderly

Homeless people

The old and infirmed

Analysis

Analysis of the responses indicate that there is a strong view that those most vulnerable members of the community are the elderly. Children and young people are also highlighted within the responses. Peoples with

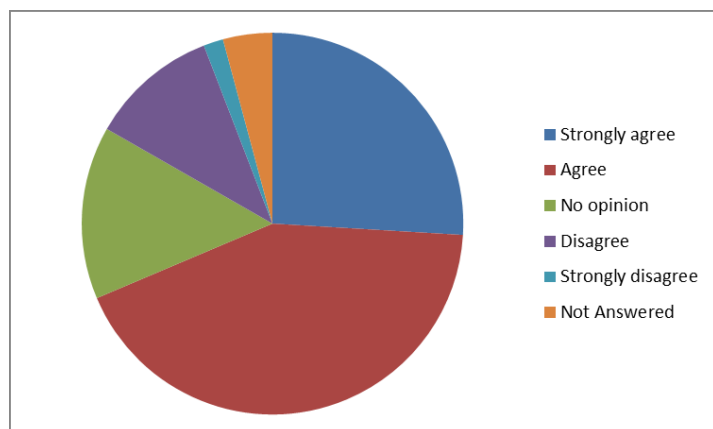
disabilities also receive mention in a number of responses with mental health receiving particular attention. People with substance abuse issues also feature in the responses.

Question : The role SFRS plays in traditional incident response and fire prevention is well recognised. SFRS believe that to enhance community safety in Falkirk we should adapt and move towards a more holistic approach, by working with partners to prevent accidental/unintentional harm in the home and workplace.

Do you agree the role SFRS plays in keep the community safe should expand to include non-fire safety specific initiatives?

Responses

Strongly agree	62
Agree	102
No Opinion	35
Disagree	26
Strongly disagree	4
Not Answered	10



Analysis

A high proportion of respondents (68.5%) indicated that they agreed (or strongly agreed) the SFRS should expand its role to include non-fire related community safety initiatives.

Question : Do you think there are any examples of non-fire related initiatives SFRS should become involved in ?

Responses

Rescue from road accidents, from heights and from below ground.

Safe use of ladders, in and outside the home.

More homes are now using gas. SFRS should offer advice on the supply of gas detecting alarms for domestic use.

Education of fire risk and safety in schools

Road safety, first aid

Overall safety within the home, maintenance of your home

Keeping home wind and water proof "

Road safety,(fire services deal with these incidents).

Community awareness, keeping our communities safe by being observant of our surroundings"

If the Fire Service is already over-stretched, taking on non-fire incidents will be challenging. If not then see no harm in becoming involved in arms' length type issues which may lead to fires. Targeting any surplus resources towards early intervention/prevention approaches makes absolute sense ie educating to prevent fires in the first instance. I would be concerned however that targeting prevention and education support where for example alcohol or substance misuse exists, would be a potential waste of resource which could be better and more effectively deployed elsewhere. Obviously the fire service will have an advisory role in terms of construction materials and minimising, mitigating and managing risk.

Planning and Community Safety

Suicide prevention especially at identified hot spots

Water safety, car road accidents

School talks making youngsters aware of pitfalls.

Liaise with council 'hit squads' regarding, broken / missing lighting in shared common areas in housing;

Piles of rubbish which could become target for deliberate fires"

Disseminating information on available resources

Education of fire hazards e.g. Allowing litter & rubbish to build up

I think there should be more publication of SFRS so people actually know what there is before asking for more examples

I agree prevention in any guise is better than the cure, but the prevention can be implemented by anyone , not necessarily SFRS.

No. If they have the budget by all means. However, if they don't have the budget, then they should only concentrate on fire safety

Should only deal with what they are trained and fully resourced to do.

Holistic approaches are essential in many areas to make a real difference, however this may not mean SFRS specifically delivering types of work outside their remit, it might instead involve being able to recognise the 'whole picture' and engaging and collaborating effectively with a whole range of partners.

Visit the schools , primary and high school plus colleges .

SFRS do a good job , safety in the home is the holders responsibility , FC or a charity should be available to train and guide where required.

A special group of trained people who do this but don't attend fire call outs

Road safety initiatives. Responsible citizen education in schools.
please give me a job please

Biker down, is an excellent example. This free course does more than help bikers and pillions deal with an

RTA. It shows the service in good light and the officers as a very able and committed in their role. So if you talk and make people and school children aware of fire and RTA dangers. Again you may reduce fires etc and gain public support for the service you provide.

Liaison or direct involvement in community/schools accident prevention advice.
helping the elderly. when fire safety checks are carried out as well as advising on fire issues it would be usefull to identify health and safety issues in particular in relation to slips trips and falls which is a real concern for the elderly.

Electric Kettle leads to ensure they are short to avoid young children pulling them over.

Highlight danger of sharp knives being close to hand for the above reasons as well , also personally I believe that knife blocks should be banned they leave dangerous weapons easy to find in kitchens.

Higher profile awareness/prevention sessions at appropriate venues - eg local hospitals, etc
chemical spills, structural issues with unsafe buildings etc.

The monitoring of all access and egress routes to all potential hazard areas.

Would need to research this further before I can give an informed answer

Building positive relationships with the local community - to ensure links are made, mutual understanding is developed and therefore tackle/counteract any issues between people and the fire service .

Prevention

The Fire Service should deal mainly with fires/car accidents - and advice on prevention of fires

Can't think of any but if skills match and does not detract from fire related duties yes if workers comfortable with it

Prevention is better than cure and I think a little help goes a long way.
only problem is lack of focus on the core role of the fire service

Going round schools and such like

Programs in reducing offending by youngsters

Meetings for safety in the home

Scrap yards and tyre garages
Safety checks on electrical and gas domestic systems for safe compliance and insurance discounts for fire safe systems.

Driving vehicles also cycles

Education in schools

Outdoor water related activities

Induction safety training by employers for their staff

Assess call outs and inquire about incidents non fire related in which their services could have and should benefit those involved.
Liaise with police and social services to integrate awareness of difficult social communications.

Advise small businesses on the dangers of small fires and the burning of tyres

SFRS should not be requested to attend other than fire or accident

Accident prevention input

Poverty and deprivation - link to safety

Don't know

Kids play areas, mountain bike play areas

Homes for the disabled and homes for the mentally ill

I think they should deal with their specialised area of expertise , education preventative measure yes but not as a stand in for other services (due to cuts etc)

Cardiac arrest teaching CPR also awareness of safety in terrorist attacks etc

Perhaps talks to children and schools

I do not have any knowledge for more decision on the subject

I think they should be consulted on areas for new housing as there are so many old mine workings in this area and also swampy ground

Do not have sufficient knowledge to express an opinion
people stuck in high places

No - you are in danger of spreading resources over too wide a field - unless you can increase resources available to cover a wider role.

Checking safety in buildings if they have enough staff.

Gas escapes (BP) and warning public. Last incident I never heard sirens or warnings (phone call from daughter)

Analysis

Analysis of the responses indicate the SFRS should continue and enhance its role in preventing accidents and injury through preventative and educational initiatives. In addition to the role the Service traditionally plays in Home Fire safety and Road safety there are views that the Service should become more involved in additional community safety initiatives such as water safety, dealing with medical emergencies and home safety.

These new initiatives can come under the broad headings of;

Prevention Initiatives, Home safety, accidental harm in the home, accident prevention.

Education Initiatives, Road/driving safety, electrical safety, carbon monoxide safety, community/school events.

Environmental Initiatives, Dumping/fly tipping reduction,

Scrutiny – what we learned from the Inspectorate

Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate in Scotland (HMFSI)

The role and purpose of Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate in Scotland is defined by the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, which was substantially amended by the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 on 1 April 2013.

The Fire Service Inspectorate in Scotland is independent of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Scottish Government. It exists to provide independent, risk based and proportionate professional inspection of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Inspections of SFRS service delivery within local authority areas by HMFSI examine the development and delivery of Local Fire and Rescue Plans, and help to provide assurance in the way in which the SFRS is meeting its planned objectives. By undertaking inspections of SFRS service delivery within local authority areas, HM Fire Service Inspectorate;

- Can provide assurance to Scottish Ministers and the public that the SFRS is making adequate provision for local service delivery and that local areas have access to specialist national resources, and make suggestions for improvement if necessary,
- Can take a detailed look at the nature and quality of service provision, including working with partner organisations, within local areas and can draw attention to significant matters and areas of good practice,
- Can co-operate with other scrutiny bodies to provide collaborative, 'place-based' scrutiny of service provision,
- Maintains a good level of awareness of the Service's functions and builds a record of how the Service is functioning,
- Can gather intelligence that may inform, or cause to be undertaken, more strategic, thematic inspections of the SFRS.

Over a period of two years since early 2015 HMFSI has conducted number of Local Area Inspections of local areas. Whilst the Falkirk area has not been inspected to date, the themes contained in Local Inspection Reports from previously inspected areas can be used to inform development of the next integration of the Falkirk area Local Fire Plan.

The themes contained in the various Local Inspection Reports, which can be accessed at <http://www.gov.scot/about/public-bodies/HMFSI/Reports-Publications> are:

- There are similarities in the way the 32 local plans of SFRS are structured, with the content being similar in many of them. Whilst easing the burden of plan production for the service, if the framework is not appropriately customised then there is a danger that the plan becomes inappropriate at the local level. Where Local Plans follows the general format that the Service has established but does contain local and national benchmarking data and targets within them is welcomed as this development makes the plan more relevant to the local service and partner delivery.
- Our impression is that some Plans contains useful background information about the area and the incident activity of SFRS, but do not in themselves contain conclusions on how best to address the issues.
- Whilst there is incident activity from preceding years in some Plans the Plan and trend comparisons with other council areas and Scotland-wide totals, there is little in-depth analysis of these incident types and statistics, nor evidence of a risk-based approach to prioritisation of mitigation activity.
- Some Plans aim to reduce incident types by setting targets. By developing specific local targets that contribute to national targets, rather than simply replicating national ones at a local level, these goals

can therefore more accurately reflect local circumstances. We welcome this approach to partnership working and the organisational activity that should follow.

- In some areas in addition to the LSO area Local Plan a further sub-set of Ward Operational Plans for Council Ward areas have been developed. These ward plans, which can form part of station plans, are supported by ward level periodic performance reports. This sub-set of information contains a breakdown of SFRS activity providing a greater depth of activity trends which are presented to the Council's Ward Local scrutiny groups.
- Local Plans are strengthened if they contain links to local Community Planning Partnership plans (E.G Local Outcome Improvement Plans, Locality Plans etc)

Strategic Planning

In September 2016 the Scottish Government published a new Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016 which sets out Scottish Ministers' strategic priorities and ambitions for the SFRS. In October 2016 the SFRS published its 2016-19 Strategic Plan. This plan focusses firmly on shaping a fire and rescue service that meets the expectations the Framework and meet Scotland's future challenges.

In June 2015 the Scottish Government published the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. This Act gives community planning a statutory footing for the first time. Amongst the range of requirements contained within the Act are the requirements for Community Planning Partnerships to publish Local Improvement Plans and Locality Plans (LOIPs). In the case of the Falkirk area the Strategic Outcome Local Delivery Plan (SOLD) has been developed to meet the requirements of a LOIP. In addition the Falkirk area is developing 3 Locality Plans to compliment the SOLD and to put a focus on local solutions for local issues

The 2014-17 Local Fire Plan fully embraced the advantages of public sector bodies working together collectively to secure improved outcomes for the community and it is fully anticipated that whilst taking cognisance of sector specific frameworks and strategic plans, the new Local Plan will fully embrace the aims and objectives of the Falkirk Community Planning Partnership plans.

Conclusion

The review of the current 2014-17 Falkirk Local Plan has proved to be a valuable exercise in terms of informing what the next iteration of the Local Plan will contain in terms of priorities, objectives and outcomes.

Analysis of performance information, citizen feedback, HMFSI inspection observations and a review of strategic planning processes allows the Local Senior Officer for Falkirk and West Lothian to draft a new Local Fire Plan that meets the local needs of the Falkirk area and ensures SFRS, and partners resources are used to the best effect and community safety within the area can be continually improved.

In terms of performance information, in general Accidental Domestic Dwelling Fires and Fatalities and Casualties associated with these are relatively static, but below the trends for a comparator Local authority area and Scotland as a whole. However there is little room for complacency and reductions in both these priorities will continue to be a focus. It is worthy of note that whilst it is recognised that accidental fires can be random events, patterns relating to some wards within the area and some age demographics are evident. It is anticipated that the next iteration of the Local Fire Plan will recognise these patterns and highlight the importance of targeting vulnerable groups in specific areas within the community in the Falkirk area.

Deliberate Fires, which are often associated with anti-social behaviour, are on the slight decline within the Falkirk area. Whilst much has been done in the past to reduce these types of incidents, it is recognised that reduction in Deliberate Fires must remain a priority with the new Local Fire Plan. Detailed analysis of Deliberate Fires gives an indication that within specific wards in the Falkirk area there is a higher concentration of these types of incidents than others. It is also noted that the highest proportion of Deliberate Fires involve wheelie bins and refuse outdoors. It is anticipated that the next iteration of the Local Fire Plan will have a focus on a targeted approach to reducing these types of incident.

Fires in Non Domestic Property in general related to commercial and industrial property and the SFRS has specific officers (Fire Safety Enforcement Officers) deployed to assist the duty holders minimising and mitigating the risk from fire. However analysis of these types of incident indicate that garden furniture (sheds/huts etc) are contributing to a high proportion of these types of incidents. Whilst it remains a priority of the SFRS moving forward to support and assist the business community in reducing incidents of fire, it is apparent that initiatives to protect the community as a whole from damage and loss associated with household Non Domestic Property fires are required in the new Local Fire Plan.

Analysis of Fatalities and Casualties from Non Fire Related Incidents has proved challenging. When the 2014-17 Local Fire Plan was introduced these types of injuries were predominantly associated with road traffic collisions. However, mid-way through the life span of the Plan the service embarked upon a series of trials in relation to using its resources to assist partners in dealing with members of the community who has suffered a cardiac arrest. Whilst this initiative has been a great success the performance measurements for Fatalities and Casualties from Non Fire Related Incidents has been skewed as a result. On face value it would be concerning that Fatalities and Casualties from Non Fire Related Incidents are on the significant rise, however drilling into this information shows that road traffic collisions are on the decline and the rise is attributed to the work being undertaken in relation to cardiac arrest treatment. Going forward it is recognised that reduction in Fatalities and Casualties from Non Fire Related Incidents should remain a priority with the new Local Plan, however, this priority needs to be refined and to ensure all aspects within the Fatalities and Casualties from Non Fire Related Incidents are captured appropriately.

UFAS present a significant challenge from a local and national perspective. Taking cognisance that approximately 60% of the incidents attended in the local area (and Scotland) are UFAS incidents there is an increasing debate gathering momentum within the SFRS and government regarding these types of incidents.

Whilst it is crucial the SFRS responds to incidents where there is a fire or persons may be harmed, the resources that are deployed on a daily basis to respond to UFAS incidents seem disproportionate to the risk. At the time of writing this review a number of pilots are underway in other areas of Scotland that look to modify or reduce the attendance SFRS makes to UFAS incidents based on known risks. The outcome of these trials is likely to shape SFRS policy, and local area priorities in the future.

The Citizens Panel engagement process undertaken by Falkirk Council proved invaluable in this review process, understanding the views of the citizens in the local area helps shape what the priorities in the new Local Plan may be.

Indicatively responses from the engagement survey supported the current Local Plan priorities, with Accidental Dwelling Fire and associated Fatality and casualty reduction receiving the highest priority ratings. All other priorities received mid range ratings with the exception of Reducing Automatic Fire Alarm calls (UFAS) which score 1.21. When asked if the Plan should have other additional fire related priorities the responses suggest that there should be an emphasis on Prevention, Education and Diversionary Initiatives. It is anticipated that these types of initiatives, which are contained in the current plan, can be built upon in the new Local Fire Plan priorities.

Citizens views of targeting resources to those most at risk and most in need and views on who are the most vulnerable in the community proved interesting. The analysis of activity undertaken in this review has highlighted geographical areas (wards) where there is high incident activity and a breakdown of age has given an indication of those most at risk. It is anticipated that the new Local Fire Plan will consider the correlation between risk/geography/vulnerability and intimate that preventative resources will be used through a targeted approach.

The engagement process elicited opinions that SFRS should consider becoming involved in more non fire related activities, such as Health Initiatives, Education Initiatives, and Environmental Initiatives, It is envisaged that the new Local Fire Plan can capture these types of initiatives through a revision to existing fire related priorities or amendment to the Special Service priority.

The HMFSI inspection process and subsequent report proved useful in undertaking this review. The report drew attention to areas of good practice in current Local Fire Plans but also highlighted a number of areas where improvements could be made. The suggestions for improvement will be taken into full consideration when the new Local Fire Plan is developed.

Changes, revisions and updates in the Scottish Governments expectations in terms of Community Planning and the Fire Framework, provide focus on some of the priorities and outcomes the new Local Fire Plan should contain. In addition the SFRS 2016-19 Strategic Plan provides specific direction on priorities for the SFRS. However, it is essential that whilst the new Local Fire Plan takes cognisance of the above, the Plan must fully reflect local communities' needs and expectations.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the following priorities and recommendations are taken forward in the new Local Fire Plan for the Falkirk Council area.

- Priority 1: Local Risk Management and Preparedness. A focus will be to maintain emphasis on known risks and threats whilst taking cognisance of emerging ones.
- Priority 2: Accidental Dwelling Fires. Whilst recognising that Accidental Dwelling Fires can occur anywhere due to their random nature, a focus will be made on geographical areas and demographics that indicate where there is the greatest risk.
- Priority 3: Fatalities and Casualties from Accidental Dwelling Fires. The reduction of death and Injury from fire remains a priority for SFRS. However, a targeted approach that is aimed at safeguarding the most vulnerable in our community will be adopted.
- Priority 4: Deliberate Fires. The reduction in Deliberate Fire will remain a priority with a focus being placed on evidence based targeted interventions aimed at reducing these types of incidents where they most frequently occur.
- Priority 5: Non Domestic Fires. Whilst continuing to assist duty holders in reducing the risk from fire in their premises, this priority will also focus on reducing the risk to non-commercial property that may be at risk from fire.
- Priority 6: Fatalities and Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies. Reducing deaths and injuries from non-fire related incidents and events will remain a priority. However, a sub-division of these types of events will allow greater focus on preventing some event types (e.g. Road Traffic Accidents) and assisting and supporting other agencies in improving the outcomes for those involved in an event (E.G Cardiac Arrest or Slip Trip or Fall in the home).
- Priority 7: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. Reducing unwanted signals will remain a priority. However, there will be a focus on ensuring duty holders do as much as possible to reduce these types of call and the priority in will incorporate any change in SFRS policy.

The citizens views elicited from the West Lothian Community Safety Partnership Survey will be incorporated into the new Local Fire Plan, either as part of revised priorities or within the aims and objectives of the Plan.

The observations contained within the HMFSI report will be incorporated into the new Local Fire Plan.

In developing the new Local Fire Plan revisions to the Falkirk Community Planning Partnership arrangements will be incorporated in the new Local Fire Plan.



Local Senior Officer

Falkirk and West Lothian

September 2017