

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN

2026 - 2029

ABERDEENSHIRE

Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

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Foreword

As Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, I am pleased to introduce this Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeenshire for 2026. This document sets out the priorities, commitments and expectations that will guide the delivery of fire and rescue services across our communities in the years ahead.

Aberdeenshire is a diverse area, encompassing rural communities, coastal towns and growing urban centres. This presents a unique range of risks and challenges — from domestic fire safety and Road Traffic Collisions to flooding, wildfires and the impacts of severe weather. It is therefore essential that our Fire and Rescue Service operates with a clear focus, underpinned by strong local knowledge and effective partnership working.

This Plan reflects a shared commitment to prevention, protection and response. It recognises that keeping our communities safe is not only about responding effectively to incidents, but also about reducing risk, educating the public and working collaboratively with partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors. Through the Scrutiny Committee, we will provide robust oversight and constructive challenge to ensure that the priorities outlined in this Plan are delivered effectively and transparently. We are committed to monitoring performance, supporting continuous improvement and ensuring that resources are used efficiently to achieve the best possible outcomes for the people of Aberdeenshire.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of the firefighters, staff and volunteers who serve our communities with commitment and courage. Their work, often carried out in challenging circumstances, is fundamental to the safety and resilience of Aberdeenshire.

Finally, this Plan is not static. It will evolve as risks change and as we learn from experience, innovation and engagement with our communities. I encourage residents, businesses and partners to play an active role in supporting its delivery — because community safety is a shared responsibility. On behalf of the Scrutiny Committee, I commend this Plan to you and look forward to seeing its positive impact across Aberdeenshire.



Councillor Anne Stirling
Chair, Scrutiny Committee
Aberdeenshire Council

Introduction

As the Local Senior Officer for Aberdeenshire, it is my responsibility to ensure that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) continues to deliver a professional, effective and community-focused service that meets the needs of the people, businesses and visitors across our area.

Aberdeenshire is a diverse region, encompassing rural communities, coastal settlements, and growing towns. This presents a unique and varied risk profile, including challenges associated with remoteness, severe weather, transport networks, agricultural activity and an ageing population. Our Local Fire and Rescue Plan reflects these risks and sets out how we will work in partnership to prevent harm, protect communities and respond effectively to emergencies.

This Plan aligns with the strategic priorities of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and has been developed in consultation with our partners and stakeholders, ensuring it reflects local needs and priorities. Prevention, protection and response remain at the heart of everything we do. By working collaboratively with community planning partners, local authorities, emergency services and the third sector, we aim to build safer and more resilient communities.

Our firefighters and staff, both wholetime and On Call, remain committed to delivering a high standard of service across Aberdeenshire. Through continuous improvement, training and engagement, we will ensure we are well prepared to meet current and emerging risks.

This Plan outlines our local priorities and the actions we will take to deliver them. I am confident that, through strong partnership working and community engagement, we will continue to make Aberdeenshire a safer place to live, work and visit.

Serge Kabamba

Local Senior Officer

Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

National Context and Challenges

Scottish Ministers set out their specific expectations for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in the [Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2022](#). This Framework provides SFRS with seven strategic priorities and objectives, together with guidance on how the delivery of our functions should contribute to the Scottish Government's Purpose.

The Framework also defines the SFRS purpose as:

'To work in partnership with communities and with others in the public, private and third sectors on prevention, protection and response to improve the safety and wellbeing of people throughout Scotland.'

The SFRS Strategy 2025-28 has been designed to have regard to these national expectations. Set against a complex and evolving backdrop, our Strategy supports delivery of our Purpose, Mission and Vision.

To achieve our ambitions, we have identified five strategic objectives and outcomes. Each objective holds equal value in driving our Strategy forward. As a collective, they define our overall direction and will be central to how we plan our activities and our budget over the next three years.

OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME
Safer Communities through Prevention	Through our work with communities and other organisations, the safety and wellbeing of the people of Scotland improves.
Safe and Effective Response	We are an effective and trusted Fire and Rescue Service where our communities and people are safe.
Investing in our People	Our people feel valued and are supported by a culture that embraces diversity and inclusion, empowerment and accountability.
Improving Performance	Our organisational performance, productivity and resilience continually improves.
Innovation and Investment	We are more innovative and achieve sustained investment in our technology, equipment, estate and fleet, making us more effective and efficient.

This Plan is a statutory Local Fire and Rescue Plan. It sets local direction to meet the strategic objectives and outcomes outlined above; and supports delivery of the SFRS Prevention Strategy. It demonstrates how we will contribute to Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) within the Local Authority area.

National Challenges

Over the next three years, the SFRS will operate within a challenging and rapidly evolving national context. This Local Fire and Rescue Plan is developed against a backdrop of sustained financial pressure, changing community risk, and the need for organisational change to ensure services remain effective, sustainable and focused on prevention.

SFRS continues to face real-terms financial constraints despite funding uplifts, with rising costs, inflationary pressures and a substantial backlog in capital investment. Ageing fire stations, fleet and operational systems require modernisation, while the Service must also deliver recurring savings. This national financial environment directly shapes decisions about service delivery models, asset rationalisation and the prioritisation of resources at local level.

Workforce capacity remains a critical national challenge. Recruitment, retention and availability, particularly within the retained duty system are under increasing pressure, especially in rural and remote communities. Supporting staff wellbeing, skills, training and leadership capacity is essential to maintaining safe and reliable emergency response while adapting to new and emerging risks.

The risk profile across Scotland is changing. While accidental dwelling fires continue to decline, demand is increasing from climate-related incidents such as flooding, wildfires and extreme weather events. These incidents are often prolonged, complex and resource-intensive, requiring increased resilience, specialist capability and effective multi-agency coordination. At the same time, demographic change, health inequalities and housing conditions continue to drive vulnerability and risk within communities.

Prevention remains at the core of SFRS's national and local approach. Reducing harm, protecting vulnerable people and building community resilience are central to managing demand and delivering long-term public value. This requires strong collaboration with partners across health, social care, local government and the third sector.

The SFRS Prevention Strategy 2025–2028 sets out a clear ambition to reduce harm, protect firefighters and communities, and manage demand through a universal prevention offer delivered proportionately according to risk, vulnerability and inequality. Local Fire and Rescue Plans are a key mechanism for delivering the Prevention Strategy at local level. They translate national prevention priorities into locally tailored actions, ensuring that community safety engagement, protection and preparedness activity is informed by local risk profiles, partnership intelligence and community need.

In response to some of the challenges we face, SFRS is progressing its Strategic Service Review Programme (SSRP). A priority for the next three-years, SSRP will focus on providing firefighters with modern facilities, fleet and equipment to enhance community and firefighter safety, how and where we deliver our services from, and ensuring our corporate services are as efficient and effective as possible. These changes are necessary to ensure resources are targeted where risk is greatest, while maintaining public confidence and local accountability.

This Local Fire and Rescue Plan translates this national context into local priorities, reflecting the specific risks, needs and characteristics of communities. It sets out how SFRS will work with partners to deliver prevention, protection and response activities in a way that supports safer communities while contributing to the Service's wider strategic aims for Scotland.

By focusing on prevention, collaboration and early intervention, this Plan supports public service reform and delivers better outcomes for our local communities.

Local Context

1. Overview

Aberdeenshire is a large and diverse local authority area in the North East of Scotland, covering approximately 6,313 square kilometres. It surrounds the city of Aberdeen and includes a wide mix of urban, rural and remote communities. The area has a population of around 260,000 residents, with key settlements including Peterhead, Fraserburgh, Inverurie, Stonehaven and Ellon. The geography ranges from coastal communities along the North Sea to remote upland and mountainous terrain within the Cairngorms National Park. This diversity presents a broad range of risks and demands for the fire and rescue service.

2. Demographics

Aberdeenshire has:

- A relatively **high proportion of older residents**, particularly in rural and coastal communities
- Areas of **population growth** in commuter towns (e.g. Inverurie, Westhill)
- Pockets of **deprivation**, notably in parts of Fraserburgh and Peterhead
- A dispersed rural population, with many living in **isolated or remote locations**

These factors influence risk, particularly in relation to:

- Fire vulnerability among older people
- Social isolation and delayed emergency response times
- Inequalities in health and safety outcomes

3. Geography and Infrastructure

The area is characterised by:

- Extensive **rural road networks**, including single-track roads
- Key transport routes such as the **A90 corridor** linking Aberdeen to the north and south
- Significant **coastal infrastructure**, including fishing harbours at Peterhead and Fraserburgh
- Remote and challenging terrain in upland areas, particularly in winter

This creates challenges relating to:

- Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) on both high-speed trunk roads and rural routes
- Extended travel times for emergency response
- Accessibility issues during severe weather events

4. Economy and Industry

Aberdeenshire has a strong and varied economic base:

- **Energy sector** (oil, gas and renewables), including onshore support facilities
- **Agriculture and farming**, with associated risks such as machinery incidents and fires
- **Fishing industry**, particularly in Fraserburgh and Peterhead (two of Europe's largest ports)
- **Tourism**, including outdoor recreation and seasonal population increases

Relevant fire and rescue risks include:

- Industrial incidents (including hazardous materials)
- Agricultural fires and large property fires in remote locations
- Marine-related emergencies
- Seasonal pressures and unfamiliar visitors in rural environments

5. Risk Profile

Community Risk

- Higher risk of **accidental dwelling fires** in rural and older populations
- **Fuel poverty** and reliance on solid fuel heating in some areas
- Increased vulnerability due to **isolation and limited access to services**

Operational Risk

- Significant **Road Traffic Collision risk**, especially on major trunk roads and rural routes
- **Wildfire risk**, particularly during prolonged dry periods in rural and upland areas
- **Flooding risk** in coastal and river catchment areas
- Large geographic area impacting **response times and resource deployment**

Built Environment

- Mix of **modern housing developments** and **older traditional buildings**
- Remote farm buildings and large agricultural premises
- Key infrastructure including energy facilities and harbours

6. Community Planning and Partnerships

Aberdeenshire benefits from an established Community Planning Partnership, focused on improving outcomes across:

- Health and wellbeing
- Safer communities
- Economic resilience

Fire and rescue services play a key role in:

- Supporting **prevention and protection activities**
- Working with partners to address **inequalities and vulnerability**
- Contributing to **resilience planning and emergency preparedness**

7. Key Challenges for Fire and Rescue Services

- Delivering equitable services across a **large and diverse geographic area**
- Responding to incidents in **remote and hard-to-reach locations**
- Addressing **risk associated with an ageing population**
- Managing **seasonal and industrial risk variations**
- Maintaining community safety amid **changing economic and environmental conditions**

8. Key Opportunities

- Strong partnership working through community planning structures
- Use of **targeted prevention and data-led approaches**
- Development of **On Call firefighter capacity in rural areas**
- Enhancing resilience to **climate-related risks** such as flooding and wildfire

Performance Scrutiny

The Aberdeenshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan is scrutinised and approved via the Council's administration and governance route of the Communities Committee.

The responsibilities of the Communities Committee include adult social work services (except those delegated to the Integration Joint Board), community planning, housing, leisure and sport, matters relating to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Police Service of Scotland and monitoring the Integration Joint Board for Health and Social Care.

To ensure performance monitoring is consistent with the SFRS Performance Management Framework we will work with our managers, staff representatives and wider partners to develop a comprehensive set of performance measures against the outcomes, priorities and objectives outlined in this Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

These measures will form the basis of our future performance reports, which will enable us to continue to provide relevant, accurate, timely and consistent data and information to maintain effective scrutiny and challenge both at national and local levels.

In support of this Local Fire and Rescue Plan, there are 24 individual station plans which detail more localised activities and give ownership to our community fire and rescue stations across the area.

The Local Senior Officer, and/or their deputy will attend and provide an update on progress against this Plan, overall performance, and any other matters deemed relevant to the delivery of fire and rescue matters in Aberdeenshire.

Local Group and Station Managers, and/or their deputies, will continue to attend Area Committee Meetings.

Local Station Managers, and/or their deputies, will engage with elected members, communities and other key stakeholders.

Local Priorities

The following priorities have been identified through:

- Local risk analysis
- Operational incident data
- Aberdeenshire Community Planning Board priorities
- Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) outcomes
- National SFRS strategic direction

Priority 1.	Risk Management and Safe and Effective Response
Priority 2.	Domestic Fire Safety and Unintentional Harm in the Home
Priority 3.	Deliberate Fire Setting and Anti-Social Behaviour
Priority 4.	Non-Domestic Fire Safety
Priority 5.	Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
Priority 6.	Non-Fire Emergencies and Responding to Climate Change
Priority 7.	Community Resilience

	SFRS Local Area Plan Priorities						
LOIP Outcomes	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5	Priority 6	Priority 7
Outcome 1 Reducing Poverty	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Outcome 2 Place Based Community Planning	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Local Priorities

1. Risk Management and Safe and Effective Response

Background:

The SFRS has a statutory duty to reduce the risks to our communities and to make certain that they receive the best possible service. It is essential our firefighters possess the skills, knowledge and expertise to respond to incidents which, by their nature, can be varied in both their type and complexity.

The SFRS has a duty to prepare for and respond to major emergencies. The scope of such preparations may include responding to adverse weather events, natural disasters, pandemics, chemical incidents or major transport incidents. The threat of terrorism also compels the SFRS to ensure it can also respond alongside other partner agencies should such an event occur.

It is essential that we have enough staff with the right skills in the right place at the right time to deliver our services when communities need them.

We will achieve it by:

- Ensuring our staff are developed and equipment is fit for purpose to meet our current and future risk profile and adaptable to changing circumstances.
- Ensuring all known local risk information is obtained, communicated and tested.
- Working locally with partner organisations to ensure effective emergency response plans are developed for identified local risks including our own local business continuity plans.
- Fulfilling our statutory duties in relation to the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) by way of our contribution to Grampian Local Resilience Partnership and North of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership.
- Maintaining risk-based crewing and resource models.
- Enhancing training and exercising programmes.
- Improving availability across wholetime and On Call duty systems.

Performance Indicators:

- % of personnel in currency against Training for Operational Competence Programme
- % of personnel in currency against National Training Standards
- Appliance Availability
- Station Establishment Levels
- Response times to incidents
- Operational Assurance Outcomes.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Site Specific Risk Planning.
- Multi-Agency Exercising.

Protection:

- Fire Investigation involvement for fire incidents to ensure essential learning is captured and cascaded to crews.

Preparedness:

- Robust programme of hydrant planning, maintenance and inspections
- Effective business continuity plans
- Identify opportunities to build community resilience

Expected Outcomes:

- Safe and effective emergency response
- Reduced impact of emergencies on communities

Delivering Against Strategic Objective: Safer Communities through Prevention, Safe and Effective Response, Investing in our People, Improving Performance, Innovation and Investment.

2. Domestic Fire Safety and Unintentional Harm in the Home

Background:

Although accidental dwelling fires have reduced nationally by 26% over the last 10 years, local analysis of accidental dwelling fire data across the local authority area shows only minor year-on-year variation with no sustained downward trend. Despite ongoing prevention activity, cooking-related fires continue to represent the single largest cause of accidental dwelling fires, consistently accounting for above 50% of incidents. Risk is disproportionately higher among vulnerable groups, including older adults, single occupants, those affected by smoking, mobility issues, alcohol dependency and the use of medication.

Given many of these individuals are known to partner agencies, there is a clear strategic need to strengthen referral pathways and improve data sharing. In response, a more targeted prevention approach will be prioritised, focusing on high-risk individuals and locations through enhanced safe and well activity, strengthened partnership working, and behavioural change campaigns addressing unattended cooking and lifestyle factors. This coordinated approach aims to deliver a sustained reduction in cooking-related fires and improve community safety outcomes across the area.

Accidental dwelling fires remain a key risk, with cooking continuing to be the leading cause. Vulnerability is linked to age, health inequalities and living conditions

We will achieve it by:

- Targeted Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV's), focusing on high-risk behaviours (e.g. cooking, smoking and alcohol and drugs use).
- Working with partners to refine our referral process and increase the number of vulnerable people identified.
- Targeted media messages using both traditional and social media to tailor messages to identified risk.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of Accidental Dwelling Fires
- Number of Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties and Fatalities
- % of Accidental Dwelling Fires attributed to Cooking
- Number of Home Fire Safety Visits Completed
- Number of initiatives targeting accidental dwelling fires.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits.
- Train and support staff and volunteers to ensure SFRS fulfil its safeguarding duties, engaging with partners to ensure those most at risk are identified and support is provided.
- Provide resources, training and invest in our staff to deliver interventions in relation to accidental dwelling fires. This includes using online platforms and new technologies to deliver impactful messages and affect behavioural change.
- Utilise incident data, knowledge and partner intelligence to identify those most at risk to direct resources and evaluate resulting outputs and outcomes.
- Targeted campaigns in High-Risk Areas.

Protection:

- Fire Investigation support for fire related incidents ensuring essential learning is captured and cascaded to crews.
- Advice to housing providers, care settings, owners and occupiers.

Expected Outcomes:

- Ongoing reduction in the number of accidental dwelling fires compared to the three-year rolling average.
- Ongoing reduction in the number of accidental dwelling fire casualties and fatalities compared to the three-year rolling average.
- Improved safety for vulnerable households.
- Strong partnership approach to reducing harm in the home.

Delivering Against Strategic Objective: Safer Communities through Prevention, Safe and Effective Response, Improving Performance, Innovation and Performance.

3. Deliberate Fire Setting and Anti-Social Behaviour

Background:

Deliberate fire setting accounts for a significant number of operational incidents within Aberdeenshire and takes various forms. Whilst a small proportion involves occupied buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures (primary fires), the majority of deliberate fires are classed as secondary fires (grass, bushes, refuse etc.) and on most occasions, occur in outdoor locations.

In Aberdeenshire evidence reflects that deliberate fires can be closely linked to antisocial behaviour. Youth engagement is a key area of work in relation to this priority and we will continue to run our youth engagement initiatives and develop these further to create maximum impact. Dealing with instances of deliberate fire setting can divert fire and rescue resources from other meaningful activities

We will achieve it by:

- Delivery of thematic and multi-agency action plans tailored to meet local need.
- Using SFRS programmes such as the Youth Volunteer Scheme (YVS), FireSkills, and Fire Safety Support and Education (FSSE), to raise awareness of risk and foster a culture of safety within young people.
- Ensuring that our staff and volunteers are appropriately trained to positively engage with children and young people to improve their awareness of risk and build their resilience.
- Delivering targeted interventions that enhance young people's understanding of hazards and risks associated with deliberate fire setting. Engagements should be meaningful and support behavioural change.
- Increasing community fire safety education in targeted areas where most deliberate fires occur.
- Continuing work with our partners to develop joint risk reduction strategies to further mitigate the impact of deliberate fires and the economic and social cost to the community.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of Deliberate Primary and Secondary Fires.
- Number of FireSkills Courses delivered.
- Number of Fire Safety Support and Education interventions delivered.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Delivery of FireSkills programme.
- Delivery of Fire Safety Support and Education Interventions.
- School Engagement Sessions.
- Media messaging highlighting the hazards and consequences of deliberate fire setting.

Protection:

- We will use incident data, partner and open data, and utilise technological solutions to target resources. This includes creating risk profiles utilising factors that are known to increase the risk of harm from fire and a Risk Based Inspection Programme to predict the most influential factors that increase the risk of fire and the consequential impact.

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduction in the number of deliberate fires
- Reduction in anti-social behaviour
- Communities that feel safer
- Reducing the negative impact on local communities
- Diverting young people away from anti-social behaviour to positive destinations by encouraging them to be good citizens, through initiatives such as FireSkills.

Delivering Against Strategic Objective: Safer Communities through Prevention, Safe and Effective Response, Improving Performance, Innovation and Investment.

4. Non-Domestic Fire Safety

Background:

The SFRS has a statutory duty to promote fire safety under Part 2 (Section 8) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (as amended) to include provision of information aimed at preventing fire and reducing fire deaths and injuries, restricting fire spread and advising on means of escape from buildings. All such workplaces and business premises involved in fire are classed as Non-Domestic Fires.

Sleeping risks are seen as a particularly high fire risk since most fatal fires occur at night when people are less vigilant and at their most vulnerable. Residential care homes and Houses in Multiple Occupation make up the greatest proportion of these risks within the Aberdeenshire area.

Accidental primary and secondary fires include fires involving agricultural land, forestry and moorland also present a unique risk to the Aberdeenshire area as it contributes substantially to the local environment by providing economic benefit through tourism, employment and industry. It is a key role for the SFRS locally to promote fire safety to landowners and the farming community and in doing so contribute to making Aberdeenshire a safe place to live, work and visit.

We will achieve it by:

- Continuing the fire safety audit programme for high-risk premises.
- Engaging with the business community to highlight their responsibilities for compliance with fire legislation.
- Identifying trends in building types and conducting thematic fire safety audits.
- Collaboration and engagement with recognised national and local wildfire groups.

Performance Indicators:

- All Non-Domestic fires (Relevant Premises).
- Extent of Damage in Non-Domestic Fires.
- All Accidental primary and secondary fires.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Thematic action plans to target Accidental Primary and Secondary Fires, aligned to the needs of Aberdeenshire.
- Engagement sessions for Owners and Occupiers of Relevant Premises to promote Fire Safety and Best Practices.

Protection:

- Delivery of Fire Safety Audit Programme aligned to risk within Aberdeenshire.
- Thematic Audits in line with any identified local or national trends.

Expected Outcomes:

- Assisting the private and business sector in understanding their fire safety responsibilities.
- Ensuring that buildings are safer, people feel protected and the opportunities for acts of deliberate or wilful fire raising are reduced.
- Supporting and protecting business continuity and employment within Aberdeenshire.
- Contribute to protecting our natural heritage, biodiversity and environment.

Delivering Against Strategic Objective: Safer Communities through Prevention, Safe and Effective Response, Investing in our People, Improving Performance.

5. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Background:

The SFRS aim is to continue to reduce the impact of unwanted fire signals generated by automatic detection systems on service delivery, business and commerce. By doing this we aim to improve the safety of Aberdeenshire communities and businesses by ensuring that our service is more readily available for genuine emergencies. An Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS) is defined as a signal transmitted by an Automatic Fire Detection (AFD) system reporting a fire where, upon arrival of the fire service, it is found that a fire has not occurred. UFAS are entirely avoidable through good system design, management practice, procedure, maintenance and the appropriate use of space within buildings.

Key building types will be identified and monitored closely by our Fire Safety Enforcement staff with supportive interventions offered to duty holders and responsible persons.

The incidents attended by local staff not only impact on local business but also on our part-time retained duty system firefighter's primary employment.

All operational response crews provide advice to occupiers on every occasion that we attend a UFAS incident. Our Fire Safety Enforcement Staff monitor UFAS calls and take appropriate action at the various stages as stipulated in SFRS policy.

We will achieve it by:

- Identifying premises with high UFAS activity levels to determine if they comply with the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and have appropriate fire safety management procedures in place.
- Engaging with owners and occupiers to provide necessary support, advice and guidance for developing suitable action plans for UFAS reduction.
- Robust call management and implementation of service policy for UFAS.
- Educating our frontline emergency response staff to identify problems, support responsible persons and provide feedback to our fire safety enforcement department.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of UFAS Incidents.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Engagement with owners and occupiers of relevant premises on how to reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

Preparedness:

- Crews will undertake operational risk information gathering and familiarisation on identified risks

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduce the unnecessary demand and impact on the public and business sector through lost working time including employers releasing retained duty system staff to respond to such calls.
- Reduce the road risk to staff and wider community.
- Reduce SFRS' carbon footprint through less vehicle movements.
- Reduce the unnecessary cost of fire and rescue service response.

Delivering Against Strategic Objective: Safer Communities through Prevention, Safe and Effective Response, Improving Performance, Innovation and Investment.

6. Non-Fire Emergencies and Responding to Climate Change

Background:

A core part of SFRS's activity locally is responding to emergencies such as Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), co-response to medical emergencies and flooding, as examples. Firefighters are trained to a high standard and have at their disposal the most modern equipment for the rescue of persons in traumatic situations.

The SFRS has a crucial role at a local level in contributing to the wider road safety agenda, as statistically fire and rescue operational activity continues to be an area of concern within Aberdeenshire for the SFRS, local and national statistics identify that the most at risk group is young male drivers.

Aberdeenshire has experienced significant wildfires and flooding events in recent years. The SFRS has a duty to respond to and support communities in recovering from these incidents. We have implemented an improvement of strategically placed wildfire assets across Scotland including a dedicated unit in Aberdeenshire. The development of our local water rescue teams strategically located across the area has significantly improved emergency response and public safety. Demand for SFRS response to RTCs, wildfires, flooding and severe weather is increasing. Climate change is expected to further increase frequency and severity of such events.

We will achieve it by:

- Continuing to contribute to Aberdeenshire Community Planning Initiatives
- Supporting the priorities of the Road Safety North East Strategic Partnership Group, the SFRS locally will contribute to evidence based and partnership initiatives.
- Contributing to resilience with the Grampian Local Resilience Partnership.
- Staff development and allocation of resource to meet local and national need.
- Supporting the South Grampian Wildfire Group.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of all Non-Fire Emergencies.
- Number of Road Traffic Collisions.
- Number of Road Traffic Collision Casualties (Fatal and Non-Fatal).
- Number of Water and Flood-related incidents.
- Number of Effecting Entry incidents.
- Number of Assisting other agency incidents.
- Number of Wildfire Incidents (Reported under deliberate fire-setting)

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Road Safety education targeting at risk groups using evidence led approach.
- Water Safety initiatives.
- Representation on Partnership Approach to Water Safety Group.
- Representation on South Grampian Wildfire group.

Preparedness:

- Flood response training and capability development.
- Wildfire Strategy and assets implementation.

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduction in the number of Road Traffic Collisions.
- Reduction in the number of casualties resulting from Road Traffic Collisions (Fatal and Non-Fatal).
- Contributing to reducing the impact of large-scale flood events for business community and people.
- Improved resilience to climate-related incidents.

Delivering Against Strategic Objective: Safer Communities through Prevention, Safe and Effective Response, Investing in our People, Improving Performance, Innovation and Investment.

7. Community Resilience

Background:

We will work even more closely with communities and build on our success of preventing wider harm, improving wellbeing and helping communities increase their resilience by working with the Local Authority and a wide range of public and third sector partners. Critical to this is listening to and responding to communities' needs as we develop the services we provide. We will continue our commitment to Community Planning and partnership working, Nationally and Locally to improve community safety and wellbeing.

We will achieve it by:

- Strong representation at all levels within Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership.
- Being an active member of the Grampian Local Resilience Partnership and contributing to both Operational Response and Preparedness through the partnership.
- Strong representation and contribution at Aberdeenshire Public Protection Chief Officers Group.
- Supporting the development of event plans for significant events within the Aberdeenshire area.

Performance Indicators:

- Meeting attendance and contribution at Community Planning Partnership Meetings.
- Meeting attendance and contribution at Grampian Local Resilience Partnership Groups.
- Number of referrals to partner agencies.
- Number of event plans created.
- Number of Operational Risk Visits undertaken.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Adult and Child Safeguarding.
- Community Education.
- Youth Engagement.

Preparedness:

- Effective business continuity planning.
- Identify opportunities to build community resilience.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increased resilience within Communities.
- Supporting the Health and Wellbeing of Communities.
- Continuous improvement in developing our partnerships.

Delivering Against Strategic Objective: Safer Communities through Prevention, Safe and Effective Response, Investing in our People, Improving Performance, Innovation and Investment.

Review

To ensure this Local Fire and Rescue Plan remains flexible to emerging local or national priorities a review may be carried out at any time but will be reviewed at least once every three years.

A review may also be carried out if the Scottish Minister directs it or if a new Strategic Plan is approved. Following a review, the Local Senior Officer may revise the Plan.

Contact Us

We are fully committed to continually improving the service we provide to our communities and recognise that to achieve this goal we must listen and respond to the views of the public and our partners.

We use all feedback we receive to monitor our performance and incorporate this information into our planning and governance processes in order to continually improve our service. We are proud that the majority of feedback we receive is positive and we are keen to hear examples of good practice and quality service delivery that exemplifies the standards of service that we strive to provide for the communities of Scotland.

If you have something you would like to share with us or you require additional information, you can get in touch in a number of ways:

Write to: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
 Pitmedden Road
 Dyce
 Aberdeen
 AB21 0DP

Phone: 01224 728600

Visit our website: www.firescotland.gov.uk

Follow us on Twitter @fire_scot

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