

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN

2026 - 2029

EAST RENFREWSHIRE

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Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

Foreword

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is a valued partner in East Renfrewshire and, through its role within our Community Planning Partnership, it continues to make a vital contribution to improving outcome for our communities.

This collaborative approach, bringing together public and third sector partners, is essential to delivering joined-up services that support people across East Renfrewshire to live well and achieve their full potential.

The Local Fire Plan sets out clear priorities for the Service and demonstrates how these align with our wider community planning ambitions to improve safety and wellbeing. It supports our vision of A Place to Grow – creating a place where people can flourish, thrive and live well.

As elected members, alongside our public and third sector partners, we all have a role to play in supporting the dedicated crews at Barrhead and Clarkston Community Fire Stations. By working together, we can help strengthen community safety and enhance wellbeing of everyone who lives, works and visits East Renfrewshire.

On behalf of East Renfrewshire Council, I warmly welcome this Local Fire and Rescue Plan and look forward to continuing our strong partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the years ahead.

Owen O'Donnell

Council Leader

East Renfrewshire Council

Introduction

East Renfrewshire:

Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Local Fire and Rescue Plan for East Renfrewshire. This Plan builds on the strong foundations already in place across East Renfrewshire and sets out our priorities, the context behind them, and how SFRS will contribute to improving the safety, wellbeing and resilience of everyone who lives in, works in, or visits the area.

Our communities continue to experience a period of change, with increasing pressures associated with inequalities, demographic change, service demand and the ongoing impact of climate change. These challenges are reflected in the East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership vision, A Place to Grow, which sets out a long-term ambition for the area to be a place where people can flourish, thrive and live well.

In response to this evolving landscape, SFRS continues to adapt how it delivers services locally. Guided by the SFRS Strategy 2025–2028, we are committed to evolving as a modern, flexible and sustainable fire and rescue service that works in partnership to improve safety and wellbeing across Scotland. Central to this is our focus on prevention, ensuring that we use data, innovation and collaboration to reduce risk and prevent harm before it occurs.

The SFRS Prevention Strategy 2025–2028 reinforces this approach, placing a strong emphasis on targeted, evidence-based activity and supporting communities to live safely and independently. Locally, this means we will continue to focus our efforts on those most at risk, ensuring that our resources are directed where they can have the greatest impact.

As with previous plans, we recognise that the environment in which we operate is dynamic and continues to evolve. It is therefore important that this Plan remains flexible and responsive to emerging risks and opportunities. We will keep our priorities under regular review to ensure they remain relevant and aligned with both local needs and national direction.

One of the key strengths of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is our ability to adapt to change while continuing to provide an effective emergency response. We have also strengthened our relationships with partners across local government, health and social care, Police Scotland and the third sector through the East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership. These partnerships will remain vital in delivering shared outcomes and improving safety across East Renfrewshire.

I remain committed to ensuring that we continue to provide a high-quality service and will seek new and innovative ways to work with our partners to reduce risk, support communities and improve the lives of the people we serve.

Edward Kenna
Local Senior Officer
East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde
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

East Renfrewshire is a 67-square-mile (174 km²) council area in west-central Scotland, located immediately southwest of Glasgow. Roughly 71% of the land is dedicated to agriculture (mostly improved grassland), with about one-sixth developed. It features a distinct split between a highly urbanised northern area (Newton Mearns, Giffnock, Barrhead) functioning as a suburban commuter belt, and a rural southern area characterised by agricultural land, moorlands, and small lochs.

East Renfrewshire is one of Scotland's least deprived local authorities, with 69.6% of its population living in the 30% least deprived data zones. East Renfrewshire has a population of 98,600, approximately 38% of the population lives in the least deprived SIMD decile (mid-2021), the highest percentage in Scotland. Almost all the council's most deprived data zones are in Barrhead. The area has 122 data zones, with 84 zones in the three least-deprived deciles and 10 zones in the three most-deprived deciles. The area is known for high-performing schools and has the lowest crime rates in mainland Scotland. East Renfrewshire is the location of a major onshore wind farm and a major roadway, the M77, passes through the local authority's area.

East Renfrewshire sits within the West Local Resilience Partnership, part of the West of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership.

The population of East Renfrewshire is projected to grow significantly, potentially reaching 105,923 by 2032 if current trends continue. This represents an estimated increase of 7.4%, compared with a projected growth of 4.4% across Scotland as a whole. Over the same period (2022 to 2032), the number of households within the area is expected to rise by 10.5%.

Demographic trends indicate a notably ageing population, with projections suggesting that nearly one quarter of residents will be aged 65 or over. Despite this shift, the area is also experiencing growth among children and young people. East Renfrewshire consistently ranks among the highest in Scotland for its proportion of children and teenagers, which will sustain demand for schools and family-oriented services.

Despite overall affluence, certain areas within the authority experience significant levels of deprivation, with more than one in three children living in low-income families. It is important to recognise that poverty is not confined to less affluent communities; families and children in more prosperous areas can also face financial hardship.

Many households struggle to meet everyday living costs due to factors such as low wages, underemployment, and the rising cost of essential expenses. Housing costs in East Renfrewshire, in particular, present a considerable financial burden for many families.

In areas like East Renfrewshire, child poverty may be less visible. Families experiencing financial difficulties may be less likely to be identified due to the stigma associated with poverty or a desire to maintain appearances. This form of "hidden poverty" can make it more challenging to recognise and respond to the needs of vulnerable children and families.

East Renfrewshire, as a local authority area, is divided into five multi-member electoral wards, encompassing a diverse mix of urban and rural communities.

Within East Renfrewshire, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) operate two wholetime fire stations located at Barrhead and Clarkston. Across these two stations, a fleet is maintained consisting of a rescue appliance in each station. In addition, there is a co-located Scottish Ambulance Service response vehicle, along with a training facility located within Clarkston Community Fire Station that supports operational readiness and inter-agency collaboration.

Over the last five years, SFRS activity in East Renfrewshire has remained stable at a moderate level and follows the national pattern of declining long-term fire demand but more diverse incident types. The majority of incidents are false alarms, followed by fires and a smaller proportion of non-fire emergencies. Fire activity shows a gradual long-term reduction, particularly in accidental dwelling fires and deliberate fires, although seasonal spikes (e.g. summer outdoor fires) still occur. Overall, the area is low in terms of casualties and severity, with very few fatalities, and operational demand is increasingly focused on prevention, community safety, and managing false alarms rather than high-risk incidents.

Within East Renfrewshire the SFRS is a key partner in:

- East Renfrewshire CPP Board (CPP)
- East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)
- East Renfrewshire Adult Support and Protection Committee (ASPC)
- East Renfrewshire Community Justice Partnership (CJP)
- East Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP)
- East Renfrewshire Homelessness Strategic Group
- East Renfrewshire Violence Against Women & Girls Partnership (VAWG)
- Greater Results in Partnership (GRIP)
- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

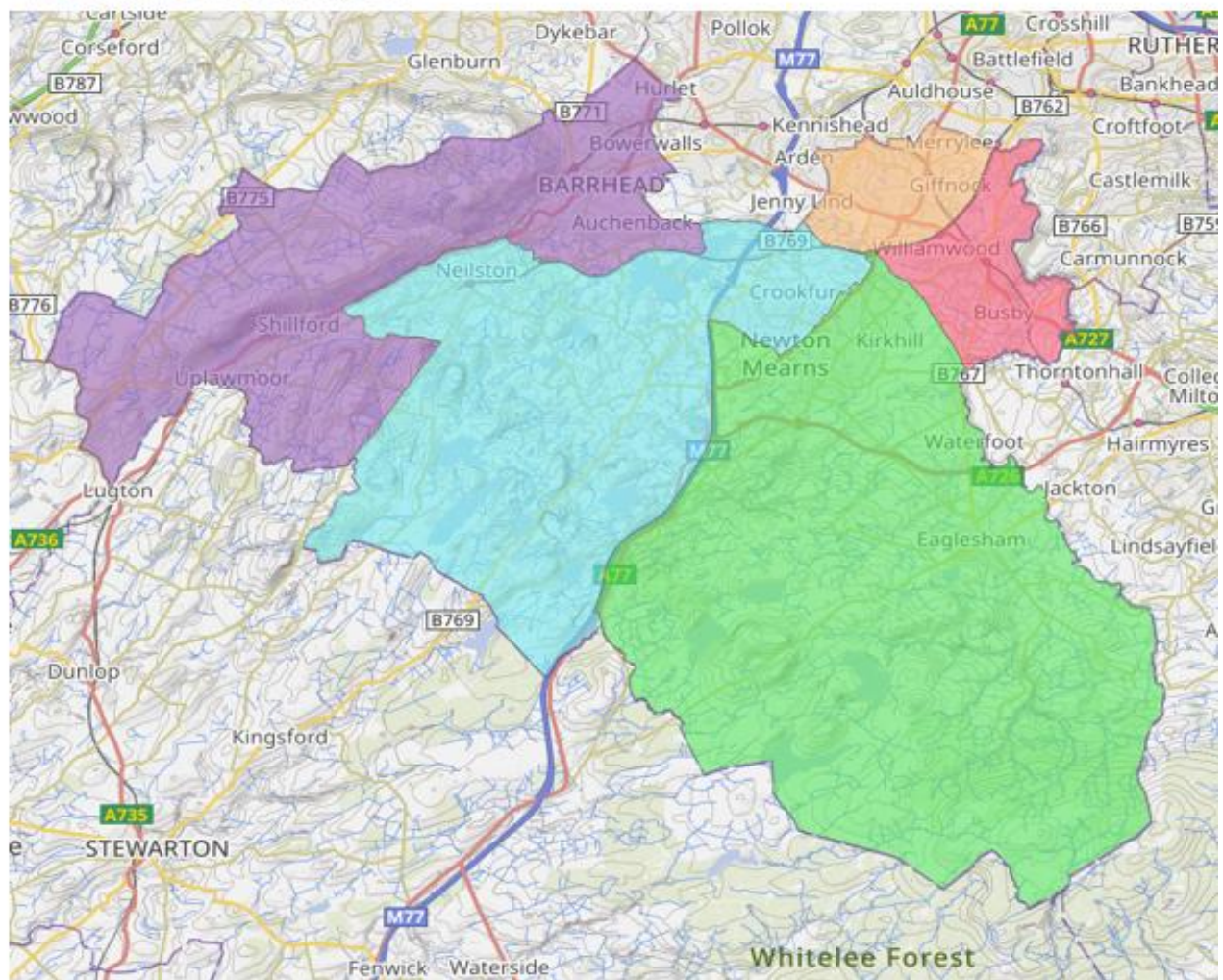
The SFRS is committed to strong partnership working with key partners, recognising collaboration as essential to delivering effective services. We promote trust, openness, and clear communication, aligning efforts and sharing information to achieve common goals. Through ongoing collaboration, we aim to improve outcomes, manage risk, and deliver a coordinated and resilient service to the communities of East Renfrewshire.

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Ward Boundaries

Ward Name

- Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor
- Clarkston, Netherlee and Williamwood
- Giffnock and Thornliebank
- Newton Mearns North and Neilston
- Newton Mearns South and Eaglesham



Performance Scrutiny

Performance against the East Renfrewshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan is monitored and scrutinised at several levels. Within the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), progress against local plans is regularly reviewed at Service Delivery Area Senior Management Team meetings, where the Local Senior Officer (LSO) provides updates on delivery. In addition, LSO Area Management Teams assess performance across the local authority areas they serve through both Area Management Team meetings and dedicated local performance meetings. These forums enable detailed review of performance and analysis of emerging trends that may influence service demand at a local level.

Alongside these internal processes, LSO areas also report on specific elements of their local plans through wider organisational reporting structures, including forums such as the National Prevention Managers' Quarterly Meetings, the Safety and Assurance Improvement Group, and the National Training Meeting. Ultimately, local plan performance is also subject to overarching scrutiny through the SFRS Board as part of the Service's national performance management framework.

Externally, performance against the Local Fire and Rescue Plan is scrutinised through local Police and Fire scrutiny arrangements within each local authority area. In Scotland, these arrangements are governed by the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, which requires all 32 local authorities to maintain robust oversight mechanisms. This devolved approach ensures that national services remain accountable to local communities through tailored planning and reporting.

Local scrutiny, comprising of elected members, are responsible for examining the delivery of SFRS services. In East Renfrewshire, this scrutiny is undertaken through cabinet meetings held four times per year. Prior to each meeting, SFRS submits a detailed report outlining performance against key local priorities over the previous quarter, including comparisons with the corresponding period in the previous year. These meetings are attended by the LSO and the Group Commander for the East Renfrewshire sector, who present the report and respond to questions from cabinet members regarding the performance data and service delivery.

Local Priorities

Local Priority 1	Domestic Fire Safety
Local Priority 2	Unintentional Injury and Harm
Local Priority 3	Deliberate Fire Setting
Local Priority 4	Non-Domestic Fire Safety
Local Priority 5	Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
Local Priority 6	Local Resilience, Preparedness and Community Wellbeing

	SFRS Local Area Plan Priorities					
LOIP Outcomes	Priority 1 Domestic Fire Safety	Priority 2 Unintentional Injury and Harm	Priority 3 Deliberate Fire Setting	Priority 4 Non-Domestic Fire Safety	Priority 5 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	Priority 6 Local Resilience, Preparedness and Community Wellbeing
Outcome 1 Reduce child poverty	✓	✓	✓			✓
Outcome 2 Improve employability and skills			✓			✓
Outcome 3 Improve transport and connectivity		✓				✓
Outcome 4 Health and wellbeing	✓	✓	✓			✓
Outcome 5 Safer, connected communities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Local Priorities

1. Domestic Fire Safety

Background:

The number of accidental dwelling fires in East Renfrewshire is showing a downward trend; however, fire safety within the home remains a key prevention priority for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). Fires in domestic settings have significant and far-reaching consequences, impacting individuals, social landlords, and communities, as well as placing demands on responding agencies and partner organisations involved in the aftermath of such incidents.

Analysis of accidental dwelling fire data in East Renfrewshire indicates that cooking continues to be the most common cause of domestic fires. Where contributory factors have been identified, distraction is most frequently noted. Those most at risk within our communities often present with additional vulnerabilities, including age-related issues, health conditions, or mobility impairments. While many of these individuals may already receive support from partner organisations, they are not always known to SFRS. This gap, where vulnerable individuals at increased risk of fire are known to partners but not to SFRS, is a key driver for strengthening partnership working. Improved information sharing and referral pathways are essential to ensuring that those most at risk are identified and protected effectively.

Through targeted prevention activities and ongoing fire safety awareness initiatives, SFRS can help influence positive behavioural change among residents. When combined with early detection measures, such as the promotion and installation of smoke alarms, these efforts will continue to reduce the incidence of accidental dwelling fires, minimise associated casualties, and enhance the overall safety and wellbeing of our communities.

Risk Profile:

- Accidental dwelling fires remain one of the highest demand incident types for SFRS locally, despite a gradual reduction in overall numbers.
- Cooking-related fires continue to account for the largest proportion of incidents.
- Distraction, human behaviour, and lifestyle factors are the most significant contributors.
- Older adults and vulnerable individuals (including those with mobility issues, cognitive impairment, or substance use) are disproportionately represented in fire-related casualties.
- The ageing population profile in East Renfrewshire is likely to increase future risk.
- A key risk gap exists where vulnerable individuals are known to partners but not referred to SFRS, limiting preventative intervention opportunities.

We will achieve it by:

- Delivering a targeted, intelligence-led Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) programme focused on those at greatest risk.
- Strengthening partnership referral pathways with health, social care, housing, and third-sector partners.
- Enhancing data sharing and risk profiling to identify previously unknown vulnerable individuals.
- Embedding safer home principles across all Service Delivery and Community Action Team activities.

- Promoting early detection and protection measures, including smoke, heat, and CO alarms.
- Supporting behavioural change through consistent safety messaging and community engagement.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of accidental dwelling fires (overall and per 10,000 population)
- Number and percentage of fires attributed to cooking
- Number of fire casualties and fatalities
- Number of Home Fire Safety Visits completed
- Number of partner referrals received and actioned
- Percentage of households with working smoke detection where fire has occurred
- Repeat incidents involving known high-risk individuals or premises

Local Prevention Activity:

- Delivery of targeted HFSVs based on risk, vulnerability, and data intelligence
- Use of SFRS prevention tools and risk scoring models to prioritise interventions
- Installation of smoke, heat, and CO alarms where required
- Delivery of seasonal campaigns (e.g., winter safety, festive cooking safety)
- Joint visits with health and social care partners for high-risk individuals
- Follow up support for individuals identified as requiring additional intervention

Community Safety Engagement

- Fire safety awareness sessions within local communities
- Engagement with older persons groups, carers, and support networks
- Education on safe cooking practices and reducing distraction risks
- School and youth engagement where appropriate (linking to wider safety messages)
- Targeted campaigns in areas of higher deprivation or increased risk
- Promotion of self-referral pathways to encourage community uptake

Protection

- Support Social landlords and housing providers to promote compliance and safe housing standards
- Support care and supported living providers to ensure appropriate fire safety arrangements are in place
- Provision of advice and guidance to duty holders on domestic fire safety responsibilities where applicable
- Supporting improvements in fire safety standards in high-risk residential premises

Preparedness

- Operational crews maintaining high levels of readiness and response capability to domestic incidents
- Ongoing training and development in responding to dwelling fires and supporting vulnerable persons
- Post-incident learning and feedback loops into prevention activity

Expected Outcomes:

- Continued reduction in accidental dwelling fires across East Renfrewshire
- Reduction in fire-related injuries and fatalities
- Increased identification and protection of vulnerable individuals
- Improved partnership working and referral pathways
- Increased proportion of homes with working smoke detection systems
- Greater community awareness of fire risks, particularly around cooking and distraction
- Stronger alignment with health, wellbeing, and inequality reduction outcomes

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

2. Unintentional Injury and Harm

Background:

The incidence of unintentional harm within East Renfrewshire shows a generally improving trend; however, reducing harm and injury within the home and wider community remains a key prevention priority for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and partner agencies. Incidents of unintentional harm can have significant and far-reaching consequences, affecting individuals, their families, and communities, while also placing increased demand on emergency responders, health services, and partner organisations responsible for care and recovery.

Analysis of unintentional harm data indicates that incidents often occur within domestic settings, with common causes including falls, burns, and accidental injuries linked to everyday activities. Where contributory factors are identified, distraction, reduced mobility, and environmental hazards within the home are frequently noted. Those most at risk within our communities often present with additional vulnerabilities, such as age-related frailty, underlying health conditions, or cognitive impairment. While many individuals may already be supported by health and social care services or other partner organisations, they are not always known to SFRS. This gap, where vulnerable individuals at higher risk of unintentional harm are known to partners but not to SFRS, highlights the need to further strengthen partnership working. Effective information sharing and clear referral pathways are essential to ensure that those most at risk are identified early and provided with appropriate support and interventions.

Beyond the domestic environment, the SFRS also responds to a range of non-fire related emergencies across East Renfrewshire. The most common of these are Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), which account for many non-fire related injuries attended by the Service. While responding to RTCs is a statutory duty for the SFRS, reducing their occurrence and impact requires a coordinated effort across community planning partners. As an active partner, the SFRS contributes to preventative initiatives by supporting education and awareness programmes aimed at drivers identified as being at greater risk, as well as broader campaigns designed to reduce the frequency and severity of RTCs.

Through a combination of partnership working, targeted prevention activity, and community engagement, the SFRS will continue to play a key role in addressing unintentional injury and harm within East Renfrewshire. These efforts support a broader commitment to safeguarding vulnerable individuals, improving health outcomes, and enhancing the overall safety and wellbeing of communities.

Risk Profile:

- Unintentional harm continues to represent a significant demand on health and emergency services, despite an improving overall trend.
- The majority of incidents occur within the home environment, particularly among older adults.
- Falls are the leading cause of injury and hospital admission in East Renfrewshire within the domestic setting, followed by burns and other domestic accidents.
- Key contributory factors include reduced mobility, frailty, cognitive impairment, environmental hazards, and distraction.
- East Renfrewshire's ageing population profile is likely to increase future risk and demand.
- Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) represent a common non-fire emergency incident type attended by SFRS locally.
- A key gap exists where vulnerable individuals are known to partners but not to SFRS, limiting early intervention opportunities.

We will achieve it by:

- Delivering a person-centred, prevention-focused approach within all community activity.
- Strengthening multi-agency partnerships with Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), local authority, and third-sector organisations.
- Enhancing information sharing and referral pathways to identify vulnerable individuals earlier.
- Targeting prevention activity toward those most at risk, using data and partner intelligence.
- Promoting safer living environments and behavioural change through consistent engagement.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of Home Fire Safety visits delivered (including targeted interventions)
- Number of partner referrals received and completed
- Evidence of joint working activity (e.g., shared visits, initiatives)
- Reduction in incidents linked to preventable harm within target groups
- Number of individuals identified as high-risk and supported through intervention

Local Prevention Activity:

- Delivery of targeted Home Fire Safety visits focusing on high-risk individuals
- Inclusion of falls prevention, burns awareness, and general home safety advice within all visits
- Identification and escalation of environmental risks within the home
- Signposting and referral into partner support services (health, social care, third sector)
- Participation in multi-agency prevention initiatives and campaigns

Community Safety Engagement:

- Engagement with older people's groups, carers, and vulnerable populations
- Awareness sessions on falls prevention, home safety, and risk reduction
- Joint campaigns with partners focusing on health, wellbeing, and injury prevention
- Targeted engagement in areas with higher vulnerability or demand
- Promotion of referral pathways and self-referral opportunities
- Provision of CPR and Defibrillator training

Protection:

- Engagement with care providers, supported accommodation, and housing partners to promote safer living environments
- Providing advice and guidance on reducing environmental risks within premises
- Supporting improvements in safety standards within residential care settings

Preparedness:

- Training operational personnel to identify signs of vulnerability and unintentional harm risk
- Integration of risk information into operational activity and prevention planning
- Strengthening links with partners to ensure coordinated response and early intervention
- Capturing and sharing learning from incidents to inform future prevention work

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduction in the incidence and severity of unintentional harm, particularly within the home
- Increased identification and support of vulnerable individuals
- Improved partnership working and information sharing across agencies
- Enhanced public awareness of risks and safer behaviours
- Improved health, independence, and wellbeing outcomes for residents
- Stronger alignment with public health priorities and LOIP outcomes

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

3. Deliberate Fire Setting

Background:

The number of deliberate fire-setting incidents in East Renfrewshire has shown a generally stable or gradually declining trend. However, reducing both the occurrence and impact of such incidents remains a key prevention priority for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS).

Deliberate fires can have significant and far-reaching consequences. They pose a risk to life, cause damage to property and the environment, and negatively impact local communities. In addition, these incidents place considerable demand on SFRS and partner agencies, diverting resources away from other essential duties and vital community safety activities.

Analysis of deliberate fire setting data in East Renfrewshire indicates that these incidents often occur in outdoor environments, including refuse, secondary fires, and areas of open ground. However, there remains a risk of escalation to more serious incidents involving property or life. Where contributory factors have been identified, anti-social behaviour, fire-setting behaviour among young people, and misuse of ignition sources are commonly noted. Those involved in or affected by deliberate fire setting may present with additional vulnerabilities or social factors, including disengagement from education, substance misuse, or wider community safety issues. While individuals or groups at risk may already be known to partner organisations such as local authorities, Police Scotland, or youth services, they are not always known to SFRS. This gap where individuals at risk of involvement in deliberate fire setting are known to partners but not to SFRS highlights the importance of strengthened partnership working. Effective information sharing and early intervention pathways are essential to identify and address risks at the earliest opportunity.

Through targeted prevention and education initiatives, including youth engagement programmes and community safety activities, SFRS and partners can help reduce the incidence of deliberate fire setting. By promoting awareness of the consequences of fire-setting behaviour and encouraging positive alternatives, these interventions can support behavioural change. When combined with partnership led enforcement and environmental measures, such as reducing opportunities for fire setting, these efforts will contribute to a continued reduction in deliberate fires, minimise associated harm, and enhance the overall safety and wellbeing of our communities.

Risk Profile:

- Deliberate fire setting remains a persistent risk, despite a generally stable or declining trend.
- Incidents are predominantly secondary fires, including refuse, bins, and open land.
- Risk is often concentrated in specific localities and peak seasonal periods.
- Strong links to anti-social behaviour, youth disengagement, and social vulnerability.
- Potential for escalation to more serious incidents involving property or life.
- A key gap exists where individuals at risk of fire-setting behaviour are known to partners but not referred to SFRS.
- Environmental factors such as poor waste management and accessible combustibles increase opportunity.

We will achieve it by:

- Delivering targeted, intelligence-led prevention activity focused on high-risk areas and groups.
- Strengthening multi-agency partnership working with Police Scotland, local authority, youth services, and third-sector organisations.
- Expanding early intervention and diversionary programmes aimed at young people and those at risk.
- Enhancing information sharing and referral pathways to identify emerging risks.
- Reducing opportunities for fire-setting through environmental and community safety measures.
- Promoting awareness of the consequences of fire setting and encouraging positive behavioural change.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of deliberate fire incidents (including secondary fires)
- Number of incidents in identified hotspot areas
- Number of youth engagement and intervention programmes delivered
- Reduction in repeat incidents and locations
- Number of multi-agency initiatives and referrals
- Seasonal trend analysis (e.g. bonfire period activity)

Local Prevention Activity:

- Delivery of targeted fire-setting intervention programmes, particularly for young people
- Identification and engagement with high-risk individuals through partner referrals
- Intelligence-led activity in areas experiencing higher levels of deliberate fires
- Participation in multi-agency problem-solving approaches
- Seasonal planning and delivery of bonfire and anti-social behaviour campaigns

Community Safety Engagement:

- Engagement with schools, youth groups, and local communities
- Education programmes on the risks and consequences of fire setting
- Support for diversionary activities and partnership youth initiatives
- Targeted campaigns in identified hotspots and at peak times
- Engagement with communities to promote collective responsibility and reporting

Protection:

- Engagement with local authority and housing providers to reduce environmental risks
- Supporting measures to improve waste management and reduce combustible materials
- Providing advice to partners on site security and risk reduction
- Supporting enforcement activity through multi-agency collaboration where required

Preparedness:

- Monitoring and sharing intelligence on emerging trends and hotspots
- Maintaining operational readiness during peak periods of demand
- Training crews to recognise and report patterns of deliberate fire setting
- Feeding operational learning into prevention and partnership activity

Expected Outcomes:

- Continued reduction in deliberate fire setting incidents
- Reduction in anti-social behaviour linked to fire setting
- Improved engagement with young people and at-risk individuals
- Stronger multi-agency working and early intervention pathways
- Reduced environmental risk factors contributing to fire setting
- Enhanced community safety, confidence, and wellbeing

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

4. Non-Domestic Fire Safety

Background:

Whilst non-domestic fire incidents in East Renfrewshire remain low, non-domestic fire safety continues to be a critical area of focus, reflecting the diverse range of workplaces, businesses, and public premises across the area. All such properties are generally classified as non-domestic and are therefore subject to the requirements set out in Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005.

This legislation places legal responsibilities on those in control of such premises to ensure compliance with fire safety duties and associated regulations. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has a statutory duty to promote fire safety and, where necessary, to enforce compliance with these legislative requirements, supporting the ongoing protection of employees, the public, and property.

To effectively discharge this responsibility, the SFRS adopts a proportionate approach centred on advice, education, and engagement, supported by the use of formal enforcement powers where required. This balanced approach is designed to support duty holders in understanding and meeting their obligations, while also ensuring that appropriate action is taken where significant risks or non-compliance are identified.

Given the diverse range of non-domestic premises including commercial, industrial, public sector, and heritage buildings the SFRS operates a structured fire safety enforcement framework. This framework is underpinned by the principle of risk, combined with analysis of historical fire data across different occupancy types, to inform the development of a targeted fire safety audit programme. Premises identified as presenting a higher risk from fire are prioritised for regular audit activity, enabling the SFRS to verify compliance and promote continual improvement in fire safety standards.

The consequences of fire within non-domestic premises can be profound and far-reaching. In addition to the immediate risks to life, fire can have a devastating impact on businesses, leading to financial loss, business interruption, and, in many cases, permanent closure. Evidence indicates that businesses affected by serious fire incidents experience a high rate of failure. Beyond economic considerations, fire can also disrupt the delivery of essential public services and result in the loss of culturally significant or heritage assets. In this context, the SFRS plays an important role in supporting East Renfrewshire wider ambition to sustain economic growth, particularly during periods of economic recovery, by helping to safeguard businesses, employment opportunities, and community infrastructure.

As part of its enforcement role, the SFRS delivers a comprehensive fire safety audit programme in accordance with its Enforcement Framework. This programme is complemented by robust post-incident activity, ensuring that fires and their causes are thoroughly investigated. By identifying contributory factors and monitoring emerging trends, the SFRS can inform future prevention strategies and adapt its approach to address evolving risks.

Effective partnership working is also central to improving non-domestic fire safety outcomes. SFRS works closely with a range of enforcement agencies and partner organisations to support compliance with fire safety legislation and promote a consistent and coordinated regulatory approach. Through joint working, information sharing, and collaborative initiatives, the Service contributes to a safer built environment, ensuring that those responsible for premises are supported and held accountable in equal measure.

Through a combination of risk-based auditing, enforcement activity, investigation, and partnership engagement, the SFRS will continue to enhance fire safety standards across non-domestic premises in East Renfrewshire, protecting lives, supporting economic resilience, and preserving the community's assets and infrastructure.

Risk Profile:

- Non-domestic fires remain a significant risk, despite a stable or declining incident trend.
- Common causes include electrical faults, poor housekeeping, and unsafe practices.
- Key contributory factors include human error, inadequate fire safety management, and non-compliance with legislation.
- Increased risk exists in high-occupancy and high-risk premises (e.g. care homes, licensed premises, public buildings).
- Many risks arise from lack of awareness or poor understanding of responsibilities by duty holders.
- Potential for significant life risk, business disruption, and economic impact if fires occur.
- A gap remains where risks are not identified or effectively managed prior to SFRS intervention.

We will achieve it by:

- Delivering a risk-based Fire Safety Audit programme, prioritising high-risk premises.
- Strengthening engagement with duty holders to improve awareness and compliance.
- Applying proportionate enforcement activity where significant risks are identified.
- Supporting businesses through education, guidance, and partnership working.
- Enhancing data and risk profiling to target activity effectively.
- Promoting a positive fire safety culture across non-domestic sectors.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of fire safety audits completed
- Number of high-risk premises audited
- Number of enforcement actions issued (e.g. notices)
- Levels of compliance at re-inspection
- Number of non-domestic fire incidents
- Reduction in repeat non-compliance or enforcement cases

Local Prevention Activity:

- Provision of fire safety advice and guidance to duty holders
- Targeted engagement with high-risk premises and sectors
- Promotion of good housekeeping, safe systems of work, and risk assessment
- Supporting businesses in developing robust fire safety arrangements

Protection:

- Engagement with local businesses and employer groups
- Delivery of fire safety awareness campaigns for duty holders
- Participation in business forums and community planning activity
- Raising awareness of legal responsibilities and fire safety best practice
- Conducting audits and inspections in accordance with risk-based programmes
- Taking proportionate enforcement action where required
- Working with responsible persons to achieve and maintain compliance
- Ongoing monitoring of high-risk and non-compliant premises

Preparedness:

- Operational crews undertaking familiarisation visits to high-risk premises
- Development and maintenance of Operational Intelligence (OI)
- Ongoing training and exercising to ensure effective response to non-domestic incidents
- Integration of audit findings into operational planning

Expected Outcomes:

- Improved compliance with fire safety legislation across non-domestic premises
- Reduction in the number and severity of non-domestic fires
- Enhanced fire safety management and awareness among duty holders
- Reduced risk to life, property, and critical services
- Improved business continuity and community resilience
- Stronger partnership working and regulatory effectiveness

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

5. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Background:

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) continue to represent a significant area of activity for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) within East Renfrewshire, placing considerable demand on operational resources. In July 2023, the SFRS implemented a national change in policy and procedures relating to UFAS, aimed at reducing unnecessary operational attendances while maintaining public safety. This revised approach reinforces the importance of shared responsibility, placing greater emphasis on duty holders to effectively manage fire alarm systems within their premises.

The design, layout, and use of a building will influence the level and type of fire protection measures required. A key component of any effective fire protection strategy is the provision of early warning through automatic fire detection and alarm systems. These systems are critical in providing occupants with sufficient time to safely evacuate in the event of a genuine fire.

However, while a small proportion of fire alarm activations are associated with confirmed fire conditions, a significantly larger number occur where no fire is present. These incidents are defined as Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) events which result in an operational response by the SFRS due to the unnecessary actuation of a fire alarm system. Such activations may arise from automatic system faults, environmental factors, or human actions, including accidental or inappropriate use.

Analysis indicates that a large proportion of UFAS incidents are attributable to human factors, highlighting the need for a continued focus on education and behavioural change as part of the SFRS strategy. Improving awareness among duty holders and building occupants around the correct management, maintenance, and use of fire alarm systems is essential in reducing the frequency of these incidents.

UFAS activity remains a significant draw on SFRS resources, impacting the Service's ability to maintain operational availability for genuine emergencies. Additionally, repeated UFAS incidents can cause disruption within the affected premises, affecting service delivery, business continuity, and the wellbeing of occupants. Unnecessary emergency responses also introduce avoidable risks to firefighters and the wider public through blue light journeys, while contributing to increased carbon emissions and environmental impact.

Certain sectors including healthcare, education, and the care sector are identified as the highest generators of UFAS incidents within East Renfrewshire. In response, the SFRS will continue to work collaboratively with partners across these areas to explore and implement effective solutions. This includes active and sustained engagement with duty holders which is fundamental to addressing UFAS. By encouraging a proactive approach to system maintenance, staff training, and incident review, the SFRS aims to support organisations in reducing false alarms while maintaining appropriate levels of fire safety. Through partnership working, education, and targeted intervention aligned with the revised UFAS policy, the SFRS will seek to reduce the frequency and impact of these incidents, ensuring operational resources are utilised effectively and communities across East Renfrewshire remain safe.

Risk Profile:

- UFAS represents a significant and ongoing demand on SFRS operational resources within East Renfrewshire.
- The majority of activations occur without fire conditions, driven largely by human factors and system management issues.
- Key causes include poor maintenance, environmental triggers and inappropriate system use.
- High-frequency sectors include healthcare, education, and care settings.
- Repeated incidents create operational strain, reduced appliance availability, and potential delays to genuine emergencies.
- Risk of complacency among occupants due to repeated false alarms, potentially delaying response to genuine fires.
- A key gap exists where systems are installed but not properly maintained, understood, or managed.

We will achieve it by:

- Delivering targeted engagement with premises experiencing high levels of UFAS.
- Strengthening partnership working with duty holders and responsible persons.
- Promoting best practice in alarm system management, maintenance, and staff training.
- Applying a risk-based approach to response, aligned with SFRS policy.
- Enhancing data analysis to identify repeat and high-demand premises.
- Providing clear guidance and education to support behavioural change.

Performance Indicators:

- Total number of UFAS incidents attended
- Number of repeat UFAS incidents from the same premises
- Number of engagements with high-demand premises
- Reduction in UFAS-related appliance mobilisations
- Number of premises showing improved performance following intervention

Local Prevention Activity:

- Identification and targeting of high-frequency UFAS premises
- Provision of advice on alarm management, maintenance, and investigation procedures
- Supporting duty holders in understanding causes of activations and implementing solutions
- Monitoring trends and targeting activity through data-led approaches

Operational Crews:

- Engagement with businesses, care providers, and public sector organisations
- Promotion of best practice guidance for reducing false alarms
- Escalating intervention where necessary to address persistent issues
- Provide consistent advice at point of attendance

Protection:

- Delivery of awareness sessions on correct alarm use and staff responsibilities
- Targeted communication campaigns aimed at high-frequency sectors
- Engaging with duty holders to improve compliance and system management
- Supporting premises to meet fire safety responsibilities
- Working with responsible persons to ensure effective fire detection systems are fit for purpose
- Monitoring and analysing UFAS trends and repeat demand locations

Preparedness:

- Maintaining operational readiness by reducing unnecessary mobilisation
- Feeding learning from incidents into prevention and protection activity

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduction in UFAS incidents and repeat activations
- Improved alarm system management and staff awareness within premises
- Increased operational availability for real emergencies
- Reduced disruption to businesses and communities
- Improved confidence in fire alarm systems and response procedures
- Enhanced collaboration between SFRS and duty holders
- Contribution to safer, more resilient communities

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

6. Local Resilience, Preparedness and Community Wellbeing

Background:

Local resilience, preparedness, and community wellbeing are fundamental to the role of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) within East Renfrewshire. The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Fire (Additional Function) (Scotland) Order 2005 define the duties and responsibilities of the Service in responding to a wide range of emergencies. To fulfil these obligations, it is essential that firefighters possess the necessary skills, knowledge, and expertise to manage incidents which can vary significantly in both type and complexity. In doing so, the Service contributes not only to emergency response but also to wider public safety outcomes, including the reduction of inequalities and the promotion of community wellbeing across East Renfrewshire.

A critical element of preparedness is ensuring that firefighters have a comprehensive understanding of the risks present within their local communities. This risk awareness allows the SFRS to align the level of operational response with the nature and scale of the threat. Through the continuous gathering and assessment of local risk information, the Service is able to deliver targeted training and maintain operational readiness, ensuring that responses are both safe for personnel and effective in protecting the public. This risk-based approach supports the efficient deployment of resources, reduces unequal exposure to fire and related risks, and enhances outcomes across a broad spectrum of emergency situations.

There are occasions where the scale or complexity of an incident necessitates a coordinated, multi-agency response. Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, SFRS has additional responsibilities to plan, prepare for, and respond to major emergencies in partnership with other Category 1 and 2 responders. These events may include severe weather incidents, natural disasters, pandemics, hazardous material releases, or major transport incidents. In addition, the ongoing threat of terrorism requires the SFRS to maintain a state of readiness to respond alongside national and local partners in the event of such an occurrence. Through integrated planning and partnership working, agencies are better prepared to respond collectively, minimise disruption, and support communities in returning to normality following significant incidents, particularly those communities most vulnerable to adverse impacts.

The evolving role of the SFRS also provides opportunities to further enhance community safety and wellbeing beyond traditional emergency response functions. SFRS plays a proactive role in building community resilience through public education, awareness campaigns, and engagement activities aimed at increasing knowledge and confidence in responding to such incidents. These interventions are often delivered in partnership with health, social care, local authorities, and third-sector organisations, enabling the identification of wider vulnerabilities and facilitating access to additional support services.

Through day-to-day activities, the SFRS makes a significant contribution to the overall safety, health, and wellbeing of communities in East Renfrewshire. Routine operational duties, community safety visits, fire safety enforcement, and partnership engagement all support the identification and reduction of risk.

By preventing incidents that can lead to financial hardship, displacement, or long-term disadvantage, and by promoting safer behaviours within the home and wider environment, the Service acts as a protective factor for vulnerable individuals and communities.

This approach not only enhances public safety but also contributes to broader outcomes associated with resilience, inclusion, and social wellbeing.

In summary, through a combination of skilled operational response, robust preparedness arrangements, and strong partnership working, the SFRS plays a vital role in enhancing East Renfrewshire. By continuing to adapt to emerging risks and contributing to wider public service objectives including reducing inequalities and improving community wellbeing the Service remains central to protecting the public and supporting communities before, during, and after emergencies.

Risk Profile:

- Community risk in East Renfrewshire is dynamic and evolving, influenced by environmental, social, and demographic factors.
- Increasing exposure to severe weather events, flooding, and wider climate-related risks.
- Ageing population and social vulnerability increase potential impacts of emergencies.
- Limited awareness and preparedness among some communities reduces ability to respond and recover effectively.
- Requirement for multi-agency coordination in complex and large-scale emergencies

We will achieve it by:

- Strengthening multi-agency collaboration through Local Resilience Partnerships and community planning structures.
- Delivering community-focused engagement and resilience-building initiatives.
- Improving information sharing and identification of vulnerable individuals and groups.
- Promoting preparedness, awareness, and personal responsibility within communities.
- Supporting the development of community-led resilience plans and local capacity.
- Maintaining high levels of operational preparedness and response capability.
- Contributing to the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and multi-agency initiatives addressing local priorities.
- Identifying wider vulnerabilities (e.g. fuel poverty, hoarding, social isolation) and signposting individuals to relevant support services.

Performance Indicators:

- Participation in multi-agency planning, exercises, and resilience forums
- Number of community resilience engagements and initiatives delivered
- Number of community groups supported in resilience planning
- Evidence of joint working and information sharing across partners
- Operational training, exercising, and preparedness metrics

Local Prevention Activity:

- Promoting awareness of risks such as severe weather, fire, and environmental hazards
- Supporting community resilience planning and preparedness initiatives
- Identifying vulnerable individuals and linking them to appropriate support services
- Contributing to multi-agency prevention strategies and early intervention approaches

Community Safety Engagement:

- Engagement with community groups, volunteers, and local organisations
- Awareness sessions on preparedness and personal resilience
- Promoting preparedness messaging and available support networks

- Encouraging community ownership of resilience and response capability

Protection:

- Supporting businesses and organisations with business continuity and resilience planning
- Engagement with duty holders to ensure appropriate emergency and evacuation arrangements
- Working with partners to enhance resilience within high-risk premises and sectors

Preparedness:

- Maintaining high levels of operational training, exercising, and readiness
- Participation in multi-agency exercises and incident planning
- Development and use of Operational Intelligence (OI)
- Continuous learning from incidents to inform future planning and response

Expected Outcomes:

- Improved community awareness and preparedness for emergencies
- Increased resilience among individuals, communities, and local organisations
- Enhanced multi-agency coordination and response capability
- Better identification and support for vulnerable individuals
- Reduced impact of emergencies and disruptive events
- Improved overall community safety, wellbeing, and resilience

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

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.

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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
5 Thornhill

Johnstone
Renfrewshire
PA5 8JH
Phone: 01505 331661

Visit our website: www.firescotland.gov.uk

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