

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN

2026 - 2029

INVERCLYDE

Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

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Foreword

To follow in final draft.

Introduction

Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Inverclyde. This Plan builds on the strong foundations already in place across Inverclyde 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 poverty, health inequalities, demographic change and the impact of climate change. These challenges are reflected in the Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023–33, which highlights the need for partnership working to improve long-term outcomes, tackle inequalities and ensure that communities are supported to thrive.

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 prioritise those most at risk across Inverclyde, 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 Inverclyde Alliance. These partnerships will remain vital in delivering shared outcomes and improving safety across Inverclyde.

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

Inverclyde is a 61-square-mile council area in West Central Scotland stretching along the south bank of the Firth of Clyde. It features a heavily industrialised coastline with the main towns of Greenock (administrative centre), Port Glasgow, and Gourock, contrasted by inland hills, valleys, and villages like Kilmacolm. Inverclyde is home to a cruise ship terminal and major container terminal at Port of Greenock as well as ferry terminals located at Gourock and Wemyss Bay.

Inverclyde has a population of 78,800 this is approximately 1.4% of the total population of Scotland, it is projected that this population will decrease by 5.4% by 2032 (compared to 4.4% for Scotland as a whole). The projected demographic shifts suggest the working age population will shrink over the next two decades, the number of children is expected to fall to 8,000 by 2047, with the only demographic projected to rise being retirement age residents.

Inverclyde has high levels of deprivation, with 50.7% of its population living in the 30% most deprived areas in Scotland 42 of Inverclyde's 114 data zones (roughly 37%) fall within the 15% most deprived in Scotland. A portion of Greenock town centre is ranked as the single most deprived data zone in Scotland, while areas like Kilmacolm show lower deprivation. Child poverty in Inverclyde remains among the highest in Scotland, with 26.1% of children living in relative poverty after housing costs. Additionally, 19.1% of children are experiencing absolute poverty, compared to the Scottish average of 17.1%. A significant proportion of families are reliant on financial support. In Inverclyde, 78.8% of primary school children are eligible for free school meals and school clothing grants. Furthermore, 1,825 families receive Council Tax Reduction, 80% of whom are single-parent households. Of these households, 70% have no income from employment.

As a local authority area Inverclyde consists of seven multi-member electoral wards covering a range of diverse urban and rural communities. Inverclyde sits within the West Local Resilience Partnership, part of the West of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership.

Within Inverclyde SFRS has three stations they are located at Greenock (Wholetime & On Call), Port Glasgow (Wholetime & On Call) and Gourock (On Call), based across these three stations are a fleet consisting of 5 rescue pumps, 1 high reach appliance and 1 Rapid Response Unit (RRU).

Operational activity across Inverclyde has shown a general downward trend over the past five years. In terms of fire-related activity, incidents linked to antisocial behaviour have fluctuated annually, although the current trajectory is downward. Fire fatalities in Inverclyde remain exceptionally low, while the number of casualties resulting from accidental dwelling fires has varied over the same period.

The volume of special service incidents has increased gradually over the last five years, reflecting a broader national trend. This rise is largely attributable to an increase in requests to support partner agencies, particularly in gaining entry to properties to assist casualties. In contrast, the number of Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) has remained relatively stable.

False alarms attended by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in Inverclyde have decreased over the same period, due in part to a reduction in Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) following changes in SFRS policy and procedures.

Despite this overall reduction in operational activity, SFRS remains committed to prevention efforts across Inverclyde. These activities are essential to sustaining the downward trend and continuing to enhance the safety and wellbeing of the community.

Within Inverclyde SFRS is a key partner in:

Inverclyde Alliance Board (CPP Board)

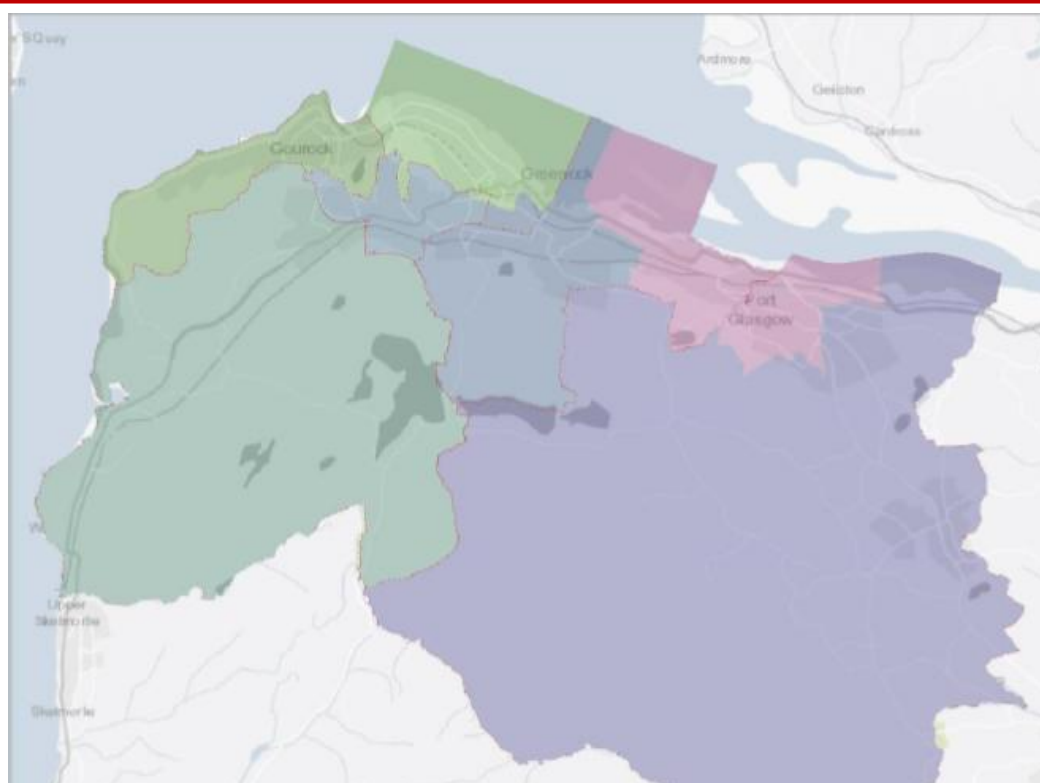
Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership (CJP)

Inverclyde Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP)

Inverclyde Adult Support and Protection Committee (ASP)

Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

Inverclyde Promise Board



- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 01: Inverclyde East | 02: Inverclyde East Central |
| 03: Inverclyde Central | 04: Inverclyde North |
| 05: Inverclyde West | 06: Inverclyde South West |
| 07: Inverclyde South | |

Performance Scrutiny

Performance against the Inverclyde 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 panels, comprising elected members, are responsible for examining the delivery of SFRS services. In Inverclyde, this scrutiny is undertaken through panel meetings held five 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 Inverclyde sector, who present the report and respond to questions from panel members regarding the performance data and service delivery.

Local Priorities

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

	SFRS Local Area Plan Priorities					
Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan Themes	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
Theme 1 Empowered people	✓					
Theme 2 Working people				✓	✓	
Theme 3 Healthy people and places		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Theme 4 A supportive place	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Theme 5 A thriving place		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Local Priorities

1. Domestic Fire Safety

Background:

The number of accidental dwelling fires in Inverclyde 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 Inverclyde 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 a significant area of operational demand within Inverclyde despite an improving trend.
- Cooking-related fires account for the largest proportion of incidents, with distraction a primary contributory factor.
- Higher levels of socio-economic deprivation in parts of Inverclyde are associated with increased fire risk and vulnerability.
- Those most affected include older adults, individuals with long-term health conditions, and those with reduced mobility or cognitive impairment.
- A continued challenge exists in identifying individuals known to partners but not referred to SFRS, limiting early intervention opportunities.
- The demographic profile and health inequalities within Inverclyde are likely to sustain demand without targeted prevention.

We will achieve it by:

- Delivering a targeted, intelligence-led Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) programme focused on vulnerable and high-risk households.
- Strengthening partnership working and referral pathways with health, social care, housing, and third-sector organisations.
- Enhancing data sharing and risk identification processes to improve early intervention.
- Embedding Safer Homes principles across Service Delivery and Community Action Team activity.
- Promoting early detection systems, including smoke, heat, and CO alarms.
- Encouraging behaviour change through consistent, person-centred engagement.

Performance Indicators:

- Increase delivery of targeted HFSVs to those at highest risk.
- Improve the volume and quality of partner referrals into SFRS.
- Reduce the number of accidental dwelling fires, particularly those caused by cooking.
- Reduce fire-related injuries and fatalities.
- Increase the proportion of homes with working smoke detection systems.
- Strengthen multi-agency identification and support of vulnerable individuals.

Local Prevention Activity:

- Delivery of targeted HFSVs using risk-based profiling
- Installation of smoke, heat, and CO alarms where required
- Identification and escalation of unmet need through partner referral pathways
- Delivery of seasonal safety campaigns (e.g., winter safety, cooking awareness)
- Joint visits with health, housing, and social care partners
- Follow-up interventions for high-risk individuals

Community Safety Engagement:

- Engagement with vulnerable groups, older people, and carers
- Awareness sessions on safe cooking practices and reducing distraction risks
- Targeted campaigns within areas of higher deprivation and vulnerability
- Promotion of self-referral and community referral pathways
- Engagement with community groups and third-sector organisations

Protection:

- Support social landlords and housing providers to improve fire safety standards
- Support Care and supported accommodation providers to ensure appropriate fire safety arrangements
- Provision of advice and guidance where statutory responsibilities apply
- Supporting improvements in fire safety within high-risk residential settings

Preparedness:

- Maintaining high levels of operational readiness and response capability
- Ongoing training and exercising of crews in domestic incident response
- Feeding post-incident learning into prevention and protection activity

Expected Outcomes:

- Continued reduction in accidental dwelling fires in Inverclyde
- Reduction in fire-related injuries and fatalities
- Increased identification and protection of vulnerable individuals
- Improved partnership working and referral processes
- Increased number of households with effective early warning systems
- Improved community awareness of fire risks and safer behaviours
- Contribution to reducing inequalities and improving community wellbeing

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 injury and harm within Inverclyde remains a significant concern, with clear implications for individuals, families, and support services. While fire-related incidents continue to reduce, it is recognised that individuals may be impacted by a range of other risk factors within the home environment. These risks can adversely affect health outcomes and, in some cases, represent the beginning of a pathway that may ultimately increase vulnerability to fire. Injury within the home can reduce an individual's mobility, independence, and resilience, thereby heighten overall risk and potentially contribute to future fire-related harm.

Injuries such as slips, trips, and falls are among the most prevalent hazards in domestic settings and represent a key risk factor in this continuum. These incidents can significantly impact an individual's physical and mental wellbeing and are often the initial trigger in a cycle of declining health and increasing vulnerability. It is therefore essential that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), in collaboration with partner organisations, positively influences the wider Home Safety agenda to address these risks holistically and proactively.

Analysis of available data indicates that falls are a leading cause of accidental injury and death and account for a substantial proportion of hospital admissions within Inverclyde. Individuals who experience falls are frequently affected by additional medical conditions, such as dementia or other age-related illnesses, which can further increase their susceptibility to injury and reduce their capacity to recover. These intersecting vulnerabilities highlight the need for a coordinated and preventative approach to risk management within the home.

The SFRS has an important role to play in contributing to the protection of those at risk from injury and harm. By strengthening relationships with health, social care, and third-sector partners, the Service can support the identification of the most vulnerable individuals through effective information sharing, referral pathways, and early intervention strategies. This collaborative approach ensures that risks are addressed at the earliest opportunity, helping to prevent escalation and improve overall safety outcomes.

Beyond the domestic environment, the SFRS also responds to a range of non-fire related emergencies across Inverclyde. 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 Inverclyde. 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 injury remains a significant and complex risk within Inverclyde, closely aligned to wider health inequalities.
- Falls are the leading cause of injury and hospital admission in Inverclyde within the domestic setting.
- Strong links exist between injury and age-related frailty, long-term health conditions, and cognitive impairment.
- Injury can act as a pathway to increased vulnerability, reducing independence and increasing fire risk.
- Inverclyde's profile of higher deprivation and poorer health outcomes increases exposure to risk.
- Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) represent a common non-fire emergency incident type attended by SFRS locally.
- A key gap remains where vulnerable individuals are known to partners but not to SFRS, limiting preventative engagement.

We will achieve it by:

- Delivering a person-centred approach that addresses wider home safety risks.
- Strengthening multi-agency partnerships with HSCP, local authority, Police Scotland, and third-sector organisations.
- Enhancing information sharing and referral pathways to support early identification of vulnerability.
- Targeting prevention toward high-risk individuals and communities, informed by data and partner intelligence.
- Supporting road safety initiatives and RTC reduction activity in partnership with community planning partners.
- Promoting safer behaviours and environments through consistent engagement and education.

Performance Indicators:

- Delivery of targeted Home Fire Safety Visits, incorporating broader home safety advice
- Inclusion of falls prevention, burns awareness, and general injury reduction advice
- Identification and escalation of environmental and behavioural risks
- Referral and signposting to health, social care, and community support services
- Participation in road safety and RTC prevention campaigns
- Collaboration in multi-agency prevention programmes

Local Prevention Activity:

- Inclusion of falls prevention, burns awareness, and general injury reduction advice
- Identification and escalation of environmental and behavioural risks
- Referral and signposting to health, social care, and community support services
- Participation in road safety and RTC prevention campaigns
- Collaboration in multi-agency prevention programmes

Community Safety Engagement:

- Engagement with older people, carers, and vulnerable groups
- Awareness sessions on falls prevention, home safety, and injury avoidance
- Joint initiatives with partners focusing on health improvement and harm reduction
- Delivery of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and defibrillator training
- Targeted engagement in areas of higher deprivation and vulnerability
- Promotion of community and self-referral pathways

Protection:

- Engagement with care providers, housing services, and supported accommodation providers
- Supporting safer living conditions for high-risk individuals in residential settings

Preparedness:

- Training operational crews to identify vulnerability and unintentional harm risks
- Integration of risk information into prevention and operational planning
- Participation in multi-agency planning and information sharing processes
- Capturing and sharing learning from incidents to inform prevention activity

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduction in the incidence and severity of unintentional injury and harm
- Increased identification and protection of vulnerable individuals
- Improved partnership working and coordinated early intervention
- Reduction in repeat incidents and escalation of vulnerability
- Increased public awareness of risks and safer behaviours
- Contribution to improved health outcomes, independence, and wellbeing
- Alignment with community planning and public health priorities in Inverclyde

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

3. Deliberate Fire Setting

Background:

Deliberate fire setting continues to account for a significant proportion of operational incidents within Inverclyde. Notwithstanding a reduction in overall activity in recent years, it remains a persistent risk that requires ongoing attention. These incidents take a variety of forms. While a smaller proportion involves primary fires such as those affecting occupied buildings, vehicles, and outdoor structures the majority are categorised as secondary fires, typically involving refuse, grassland, or other materials in open, outdoor environments. Deliberate fires can have significant and far-reaching consequences, posing a risk to life, damaging property and the environment, and impacting communities.

Analysis of incident data demonstrates that deliberate secondary fires occur throughout the year; however, distinct peaks in activity are evident. Increased levels of fire setting are commonly observed during the spring period, the bonfire season, and during prolonged spells of dry weather, when environmental conditions can facilitate fire ignition and rapid spread. In this context, the effects of climate change are becoming increasingly relevant. More frequent periods of warmer, drier weather create conditions that heighten the risk of outdoor fires, increase fire intensity, and extend the duration of higher-risk periods. These changing environmental factors reinforce the need for a proactive, adaptive, and seasonal approach to prevention and intervention.

Deliberate fire setting is widely recognised as a form of anti-social behaviour and is criminal in nature. Such actions can have serious and far-reaching consequences, including the risk of personal injury, damage to property, and harm to the natural environment. The environmental impact is further exacerbated during dry conditions, where fires can spread more easily across vegetation and open land. In addition, these incidents place a significant demand on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) resources, diverting crews from other essential duties and community safety activities.

Addressing deliberate fire setting requires a coordinated and partnership-led approach. By working collaboratively, the SFRS and partner agencies can combine intelligence and data to identify geographic areas and communities most affected by anti-social behaviour. This joint approach supports targeted interventions aimed not only at reducing the frequency of incidents but also at addressing the underlying causes, which may include social, behavioural, and environmental factors, including those influenced by climate trends.

In some instances, the SFRS works alongside Police Scotland to investigate deliberate fires, with the aim of determining the cause and, where possible, identifying those responsible. This collaborative enforcement approach is complemented by preventative strategies, including diversionary activities and community engagement initiatives, particularly targeted at young people and vulnerable groups.

Diversiónary and educational programmes remain a key element in reducing deliberate fire setting. By raising awareness of the risks and consequences associated with this behaviour particularly in the context of increasingly dry and fire-prone conditions and by providing positive alternatives, the SFRS and its partners aim to influence behavioural change and reduce the incidence of such activity. Through sustained partnership working, targeted prevention, and community engagement, the SFRS will continue to address deliberate fire setting and contribute to safer, more resilient communities within Inverclyde, particularly in the face of evolving environmental challenges.

Risk Profile

- Deliberate fire setting remains a significant and persistent demand despite a reduction in overall incidents.
- The majority of incidents are secondary fires, particularly involving refuse, grassland, and open land.
- Activity shows distinct seasonal peaks, including:
 - Spring months
 - Bonfire period
 - Prolonged dry weather
- Climate change and environmental conditions are increasing both likelihood and severity of outdoor fires.
- Strong links to anti-social behaviour, youth disengagement, and social factors.
- Risk of escalation from secondary fires to primary fires impacting life and property.
- Significant environmental impact, particularly during dry conditions.
- Environmental factors such as poor waste management and accessible combustibles increase opportunity.
- A key gap exists where individuals at risk of fire-setting behaviour are known to partners but not referred to SFRS.

We will achieve it by:

- Delivering targeted, intelligence-led prevention activity focused on hotspot areas and peak periods.
- Strengthening multi-agency partnership working with Police Scotland, local authority, and youth services.
- Expanding diversionary and educational programmes, particularly for young people.
- Adopting a seasonal and climate-aware approach to prevention and intervention.
- Enhancing information sharing and early intervention pathways.
- Reducing opportunities for fire setting through environmental and community safety measures.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of deliberate fire incidents (primary and secondary)
- Number of secondary fires in hotspot locations
- Seasonal trend analysis (spring, bonfire period, dry weather activity)
- Number of youth engagement and diversionary interventions delivered
- Reduction in repeat incidents and locations
- Number of multi-agency initiatives and problem-solving activities

Local Prevention Activity:

- Delivery of targeted fire-setting intervention programmes
- Intelligence-led activity in high-risk locations and communities
- Seasonal campaigns aligned to bonfire period and dry weather risks
- Participation in multi-agency problem-solving approaches
- Identification and referral of individuals at risk of fire-setting behaviour

Community Safety Engagement:

- Engagement with schools, youth groups, and community organisations
- Education on the consequences and risks of fire setting
- Support for diversionary activities and youth programmes, including FireSkills
- Targeted campaigns in areas of higher demand and vulnerability
- Promoting awareness of environmental risks linked to fire setting

Protection:

- Engagement with local authority and housing providers to reduce environmental risks
- Supporting measures to improve waste management and reduce available fuel sources
- Working with partners to address anti-social behaviour through enforcement where required
- Providing advice to partners on site security and risk reduction

Preparedness:

- Monitoring and analysing incident trends, hotspots, and seasonal risks
- Maintaining operational readiness during peak activity periods
- Training crews to identify and report patterns of deliberate fire setting
- Feeding operational intelligence into prevention and partnership activity

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduction in deliberate fire setting incidents, particularly secondary fires
- Improved management of seasonal and environmental risks
- Reduced anti-social behaviour linked to fire setting
- Increased engagement with young people and at-risk individuals
- Stronger multi-agency collaboration and early intervention
- Reduced environmental impact and damage from fires
- Improved community safety, wellbeing, confidence and resilience

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

4. Non-Domestic Fire Safety

Background:

Non-domestic fire safety within Inverclyde remains a critical area of focus, reflecting the diverse range of workplaces, businesses, and public premises across the area. All such properties are generally classed 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, enforce compliance with these legislative requirements.

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 Inverclyde's 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 Inverclyde, protecting lives, supporting economic resilience, and preserving the community's assets and infrastructure.

Risk Profile

- Non-domestic fire risk remains significant due to the diversity of premises types, including commercial, industrial, public sector, and heritage buildings.
- Fire incidents, while relatively stable, can have high-impact consequences, including loss of life, economic disruption, and service interruption.
- Common risk factors include poor fire safety management, human error, and non-compliance with legal duties.
- Higher-risk occupancy types include care premises, licensed venues, large public buildings, and complex industrial sites.
- A proportion of duty holders lack full awareness or understanding of their legal responsibilities under fire safety legislation.
- Businesses affected by serious fires face a significant risk of long-term closure or financial hardship.
- A key risk gap exists where fire safety deficiencies are not identified until audit or post-incident investigation.

We will achieve it by:

- Delivering a risk-based Fire Safety Audit programme, prioritising high-risk premises.
- Providing advice, education, and engagement to support duty holders in meeting their responsibilities.
- Applying proportionate enforcement action where significant risks or non-compliance are identified.
- Undertaking post-incident investigations to identify trends and inform prevention strategies.
- Strengthening partnership working with enforcement agencies and regulatory partners.
- Using data and intelligence-led approaches to target activity effectively.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of fire safety audits completed against target
- Percentage of audits conducted on high-risk premises
- Number of enforcement actions issued (e.g. alteration, enforcement, prohibition notices)
- Levels of compliance at follow-up inspection
- Number of non-domestic fire incidents
- Number of post-incident investigations completed
- Reduction in repeat non-compliance cases

Local Prevention Activity:

- Provision of fire safety advice and guidance to duty holders

- Promotion of risk assessment, fire safety management systems, and good housekeeping
- Targeted engagement with high-risk sectors and occupancy types
- Support for business continuity planning and resilience

Protection:

- Engagement with local businesses, employers, and duty holders
- Participation in business forums and community planning partnerships
- Delivery of fire safety awareness campaigns aimed at non-domestic premises
- Promoting awareness of legal responsibilities and best practice standards
- Delivering risk-based audits and inspections
- Applying proportionate enforcement measures where required
- Supporting duty holders to achieve and sustain compliance
- Monitoring and managing high-risk premises and repeat non-compliance
- Working in collaboration with partner enforcement agencies

Preparedness:

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

Expected Outcomes:

- Improved compliance with fire safety legislation across Inverclyde
- Reduction in the number and severity of non-domestic fires
- Enhanced fire safety management practices among duty holders
- Reduced risk to life, property, and critical services
- Improved business continuity and economic resilience
- Stronger partnership working and regulatory consistency
- Increased protection of community assets, infrastructure, and heritage sites

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 Inverclyde, 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, whether malicious or made in good faith.

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 Inverclyde. 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 Inverclyde remain safe.

Risk Profile

- UFAS represents a significant and ongoing demand on SFRS operational resources within Inverclyde.
- The majority of activations occur without fire conditions, driven largely by human factors and system management issues.
- Key causes include poor maintenance, environmental triggers (steam, fumes), 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 occupant complacency due to repeated false alarms, potentially impacting evacuation response.
- A key gap exists where duty holders do not fully understand or effectively manage alarm systems.

We will achieve it by:

- Delivering targeted engagement with high-demand UFAS premises, particularly within priority sectors.
- Supporting the implementation of the SFRS UFAS policy and risk-based response model.
- Strengthening partnership working with duty holders and sector leads.
- Promoting best practice in system design, maintenance, and management.
- Enhancing education and behavioural change initiatives focused on staff and system users.
- Using data-led approaches to identify trends and target repeat offenders.

Performance Indicators:

- Total number of UFAS incidents attended
- Number of repeat activations from individual premises
- Number of engagements with high-demand premises/sectors
- Reduction in UFAS-related appliance mobilisations
- Evidence of improved performance following intervention
- Trend analysis within priority sectors (healthcare, education, care settings)

Local Prevention Activity:

- Identification and targeting of premises with high UFAS demand
- Delivery of advice on alarm system management, maintenance, and review processes
- Supporting duty holders to investigate causes and implement corrective actions
- Promoting ownership and accountability for alarm systems
- Participation in multi-agency initiatives to reduce false alarms

Operational Crews:

- Provide consistent advice at point of attendance
- Engagement with duty holders, facilities managers, and sector representatives
- Promotion of best practice guidance and behavioural change messaging
- Escalating intervention where necessary to address persistent or high-risk issues

Protection:

- Monitoring and analysing UFAS trends, repeat locations, and sector-specific demand
- Engaging with duty holders to improve compliance and alarm system management
- Delivery of awareness sessions on correct system use and staff responsibilities
- Promotion of best practice guidance and behavioural change messaging
- Providing guidance and support to reduce unwanted activations
- Supporting duty holders to ensure systems remain effective and fit for purpose
- Targeted campaigns within high-frequency sectors such as healthcare and education

Preparedness:

- Maintaining operational readiness through reduced unnecessary mobilisation
- Feeding incident learning into prevention and protection strategies

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduction in UFAS incidents and repeat activations across Inverclyde
- Improved management and maintenance of fire alarm systems
- Increased awareness and accountability among duty holders and occupants
- Improved operational availability for genuine emergencies
- Reduced disruption to services, businesses, and communities
- Lower risk to firefighters and the public associated with unnecessary mobilisations
- Contribution to environmental sustainability through reduced emissions
- Enhanced community safety and resilience

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 Inverclyde. 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.

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 can deliver targeted training and maintain operational readiness, ensuring that responses are both safe for personnel and effective in protecting the public. This approach supports the efficient deployment of resources 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 this process, agencies are better prepared to respond collectively, minimise disruption, and support communities in returning to normality following significant incidents.

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.

Through day-to-day activities, the SFRS makes a significant contribution to the overall safety, health, and wellbeing of communities in Inverclyde. Routine operational duties, community safety visits, fire safety enforcement, and partnership engagement all support the identification and reduction of risk. By delivering prevention and protection activities, promoting safer behaviours within the home and wider environment, and supporting vulnerable individuals, the Service helps to create safer, more resilient communities.

In summary, through a combination of skilled operational response, robust preparedness arrangements, and strong partnership working, the SFRS plays a vital role in enhancing local resilience in Inverclyde. By continuing to adapt to emerging risks and expanding its contribution to

community wellbeing, the Service remains central to protecting the public and supporting communities before, during, and after emergencies.

Risk Profile

- Community risk within Inverclyde is diverse and evolving, encompassing environmental, technological, and societal threats.
- Exposure to major incidents, including severe weather, industrial risks, and transport incidents.
- Requirement for multi-agency coordination in complex and large-scale emergencies.
- Vulnerable groups may face disproportionate impacts due to health inequalities, deprivation, and social isolation.
- Need for continuous risk identification, operational preparedness, and workforce competency.

We will achieve it by:

- Maintaining high standards of operational preparedness, training, and competence.
- Strengthening multi-agency partnership working through Local Resilience Partnerships and planning structures.
- Enhancing risk identification, information sharing, and intelligence gathering.
- Contribute to the Inverclyde Alliance Board (CPP) and multi-agency initiatives addressing local priorities
- Supporting community resilience and preparedness initiatives through engagement and education.
- Ensuring effective planning, exercising, and testing of emergency response arrangements.
- Promoting public awareness and personal preparedness in relation to emergencies.
- Identify wider vulnerabilities (e.g. fuel poverty, hoarding, social isolation) and signpost individuals to relevant support services.

Performance Indicators:

- Participation in multi-agency exercises and planning groups
- Number of referrals received and made through partner agencies
- Number of training exercises and preparedness activities completed
- Number of community resilience engagement activities delivered
- Evidence of effective partnership working and information sharing
- Operational readiness and competency metrics

Local Prevention Activity:

- Promoting awareness of emergency risks and preparedness measures
- Supporting community resilience initiatives and local planning
- Identifying and supporting vulnerable individuals through partnership referrals
- School and youth engagement programmes (FireSkills etc.)
- Contributing to multi-agency prevention and resilience strategies

Community Safety Engagement:

- Engagement with community groups, volunteers, and resilience networks to build trust and awareness

- Awareness sessions on preparedness and personal resilience
- Supporting community-led resilience activity
- Promoting self-reliance and awareness of available support networks

Protection:

- Engagement with duty holders to ensure effective evacuation and emergency arrangements
- Working with partners to strengthen resilience within critical infrastructure and high-risk premises
- Supporting organisations with business continuity and resilience planning

Preparedness:

- Maintaining high levels of operational training, exercising, and readiness
- Work with local resilience partnership to assess community risks and coordinate joint planning and response activities
- Participation in multi-agency planning, exercising, and response frameworks
- Development and maintenance of Operational Intelligence (OI)
- Continuous learning from incidents to inform planning, training, and response improvement

Expected Outcomes:

- Enhanced local resilience and preparedness across Inverclyde
- Improved multi-agency coordination and emergency response capability
- Increased community awareness and ability to respond to emergencies
- Better identification and support for vulnerable individuals
- Reduced impact of major incidents and disruptive events
- Improved 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.

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 East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Headquarters 5 Thornhill Johnstone PA5 8JH
Phone:	01505 356622
Visit our website:	www.firescotland.gov.uk
Follow us on X	@scotfire_ERRI
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