

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN

2026 - 2029

Renfrewshire

Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

Contents

Foreword	2
Introduction	3
National Context and Challenges	4
Local Context	6
Performance Scrutiny	8
Local Priorities	9
Local Priority 1 Domestic Fire Safety	10
Local Priority 2 Deliberate Fire Setting	12
Local Priority 3 Unintentional Harm and Injury	14
Local Priority 4 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	17
Local Priority 5 Non-Domestic Fire Safety	19
Local Priority 6 Local Resilience, Preparedness and Community Wellbeing	22
Review	25
Contact Us	25

Foreword

To follow in final draft.

Introduction

Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Renfrewshire. This Plan builds on the strong foundations already in place across 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 the cost-of-living crisis, persistent inequalities, an ageing population and the growing impact of climate change. These challenges are reflected in the Renfrewshire Community Plan 2022–2027, which highlights the importance of partnership working to protect vulnerable people, tackle inequalities and build more resilient communities.

In response to this evolving landscape, SFRS continues to adapt how it delivers services. 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. These partnerships will remain vital in delivering shared outcomes and improving safety across 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

Renfrewshire is a council area in Scotland's west central Lowlands, bordering the River Clyde to the north and Glasgow to the east. The area covers 101 square miles (261km²) and includes a mix of urban centres such as Paisley and Renfrew, alongside suburban and semi-rural communities.

It contains strategic infrastructure including Glasgow Airport, the M8 motorway corridor and key retail and commercial centres, such as Braehead.

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

Renfrewshire has a population of 189,170 (mid-2024 estimate), making it the ninth most populous council area in Scotland. The population has increased steadily over the past two decades, growing by 9.4% since 2001, broadly in line with the national Scottish increase of 9.5%. The demographic profile reflects wider national trends, particularly an ageing population. Females account for 51.6% of residents and males 48.4%. Adults aged 25-44 form the largest age group, while the population aged 75 and over has increased significantly – rising by 52.5% since 2001. In contrast, the number of children and young people aged 0-15 has declined by 8.4%.

Renfrewshire remains predominantly white Scottish/British in ethnicity, although the area has become increasingly diverse. Census-related estimates indicate that minority ethnic communities account for around 5.5% of the population.

Around one quarter of Renfrewshire's population lives within the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland. Two data zones within the authority are ranked among the 10 most deprived areas nationally. Renfrewshire also ranks comparatively poorly for deprivation linked to income, employment, crime and health inequalities.

Child poverty is a significant issue within the area. Estimates suggest that around 23% of children live in poverty after housing costs, equating to almost one in four children. Health inequalities also remain pronounced, with poorer physical and mental health outcomes concentrated in more deprived communities.

For SFRS, this demographic profile shapes operational demand, with particular attention required for:

- Ageing population and vulnerability to accidental dwelling fires and unintentional harm.
- Areas of socio-economic inequality.
- Diverse housing stock.

SFRS delivers services locally in Renfrewshire through 3 community fire stations:

- Renfrew - Wholetime personnel.
- Paisley - Wholetime personnel.
- Johnstone - Wholetime and On-Call personnel.

Operational activity across Renfrewshire 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 Renfrewshire remain

exceptionally low, while the number of casualties resulting from accidental dwelling fires has varied over the same period.

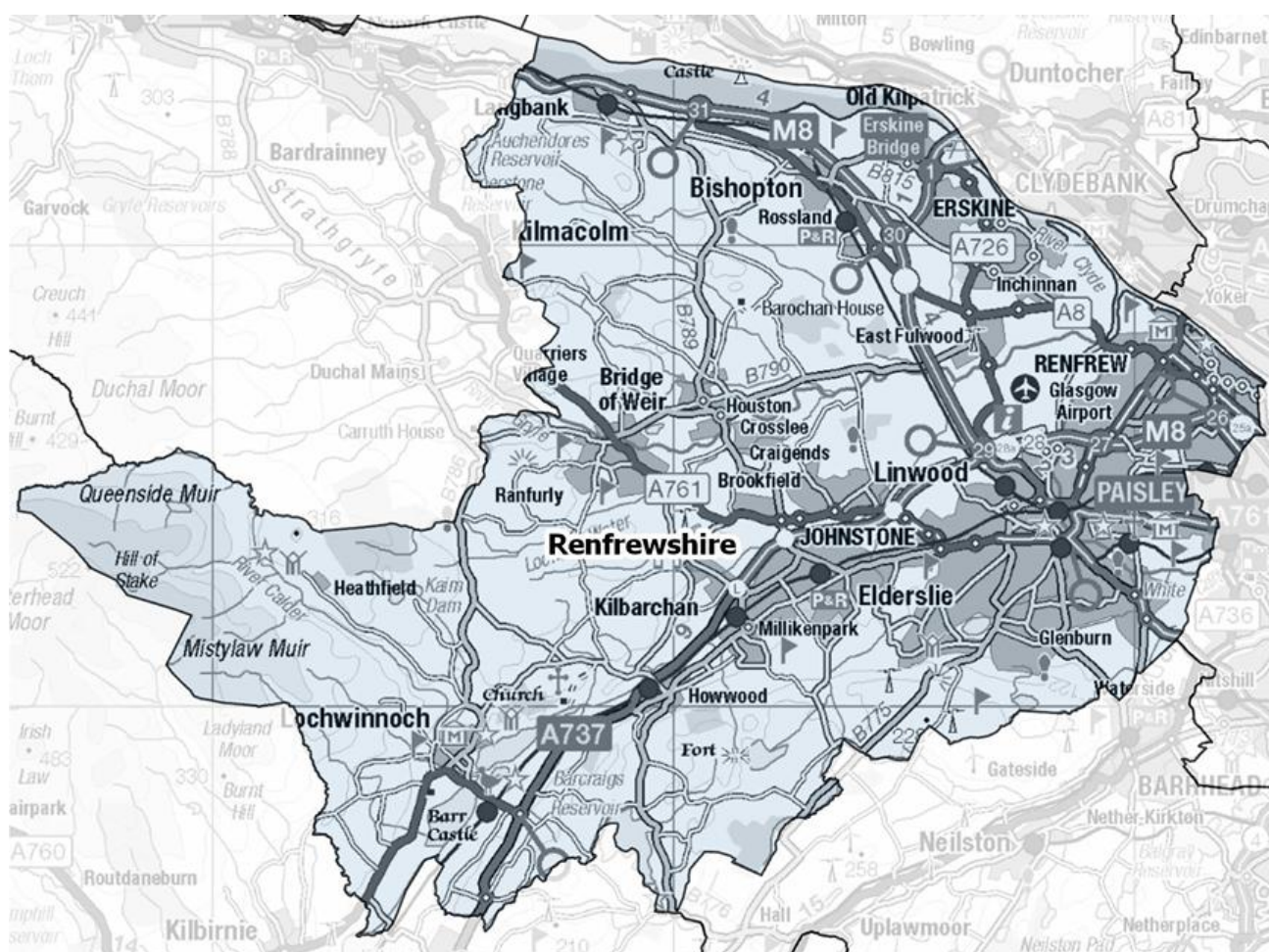
The majority of Special Service incidents are attributable to supporting partner agencies, primarily providing forcing-entry assistance to medical/social care casualties. The number of Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) has remained relatively stable.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incidents have decreased as a result of changes to SFRS Policy and Procedure but consistently remain one of the highest areas of operational demand.

A strong emphasis is placed on early intervention and demand reduction, consistent with national expectations for SFRS to prioritise prevention and partnership working.

SFRS works alongside Police Scotland, NHS, local authorities, and other partners and is committed to ensure integrated and effective response arrangements and to deliver Renfrewshire's shared vision of **a fairer, more inclusive place where communities thrive**.

Overall, Renfrewshire is an area of both opportunity and challenge. While population growth, regeneration and connectivity provide strong foundations for development, levels of deprivation and health inequality continue to present major risks to community wellbeing. SFRS therefore plays an important role not only in emergency response, but also as a key partner in prevention, resilience and public protection across the local authority area.



Performance Scrutiny

Performance against the 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 reviews 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.

At a local level, scrutiny of SFRS performance is undertaken by the Local Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee monitors progress against the priorities set out within the Renfrewshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan and engages with the Local Senior Officer on matters of local, regional and national significance.

The Sub-Committee meets several times each year, providing SFRS with the opportunity to present performance information that supports delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan. This also highlights ongoing partnership activity across the local authority area aimed at reducing demand and improving the safety of those who are living within, working within, or visiting Renfrewshire.

Local Priorities

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

	SFRS Local Area Plan Priorities					
Renfrewshire's Community Plan Themes	Priority 1 Domestic Fire Safety	Priority 2 Deliberate Fire Setting	Priority 3 Unintentional Harm and Injury	Priority 4 UFAS	Priority 5 Non-Domestic Fire Safety	Priority 6 Local Resilience, Preparedness and Community Wellbeing
Theme 1 Our Renfrewshire is Thriving	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Theme 2 Our Renfrewshire is Well	✓	✓	✓			✓
Theme 3 Our Renfrewshire is Fair	✓	✓	✓			✓
Theme 4 Our Renfrewshire is Safe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Alignment is based on the contribution each SFRS priority makes to Renfrewshire's Community Plan outcomes, particularly in relation to vulnerability, inequality, prevention and resilience. Not all priorities align equally across all themes; this table reflects strongest areas of impact.

Local Priorities

1. Domestic Fire Safety

Background:

Accidental dwelling fires continue to present a significant risk within Renfrewshire, particularly amongst vulnerable people, older adults and those experiencing health and social inequalities. From an organisational perspective, responding to incidents, carrying out interventions, and managing the aftermath of house fires places considerable pressure on available resources. Reducing this pressure requires prevention activity to be grounded in evidence so that resources can be directed effectively, achieving the greatest possible impact while protecting those most vulnerable to fire risk.

In line with Scottish Government legislation introduced in February 2022, all homes are required to have interlinked smoke and heat alarms that meet the national standard for linked detection, providing enhanced early warning throughout the property. In addition, the use of assistive technologies such as Telecare and sensory impairment alarms can further strengthen safety measures for individuals who are more vulnerable to fire.

Targeted prevention activity remains essential to reducing fire-related harm, improving community resilience and supporting wider Community Planning Partnership priorities associated with health inequalities and safer communities

Risk Profile:

- Accidental dwelling fires (ADFs) remain a significant risk across Renfrewshire, particularly within domestic settings.
- Cooking is the leading cause of dwelling fires and the main source of fire-related injuries.
- Distraction during cooking is the dominant contributing factor to these incidents.
- Higher risk is concentrated among:
 - Older adults, particularly those living alone.
 - Individuals with chronic health conditions (e.g. dementia, Parkinson's, diabetes).
 - People with mobility or sensory impairments.
 - Those experiencing social and economic inequalities.

We will achieve it by:

- Delivering targeted Home Fire Safety Visits to vulnerable households and those considered at risk from fire.
- Using local risk data and partner referrals to identify individuals at increased risk.
- Working collaboratively with health, social care, housing and third-sector partners within Renfrewshire.
- Delivering community safety education and awareness campaigns.
- Reducing incidents associated with cooking, smoking, alcohol, mobility impairment and emerging technologies.
- Focusing engagement activities in areas where service demand has been identified.

Performance Indicators:

- Reducing the number of accidental dwelling fires.
- Reducing the number of fire casualties and fatalities.
- Increasing the presence of working interlinked smoke and heat detection systems in homes deemed to be at higher risk.
- Increasing the number of partner referrals received and completed.
- Increasing the number of community safety engagements delivered.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Delivery of targeted Home Fire Safety Visits.
- Community safety campaigns within identified high-risk areas.
- Partnership engagement with community groups, schools and local organisations throughout Renfrewshire.
- Seasonal safety campaigns relating to winter safety, cooking and electrical safety.
- Supporting vulnerable persons through partnership referral pathways.

Protection:

- Engagement with housing providers regarding fire safety measures within domestic properties.
- Promotion of fire safety legislation and guidance.
- Care and supported accommodation providers to ensure appropriate fire safety arrangements.
- Provision of advice and guidance where statutory responsibilities apply.

Preparedness:

- Maintaining operational preparedness for dwelling fire incidents.
- Enhancing firefighter awareness of emerging domestic fire risks.
- Reviewing operational learning from accidental dwelling fire incidents.

Expected Outcomes:

- Continued reduction in accidental dwelling fires, casualties and fatalities in Renfrewshire.
- Increased safety and resilience within vulnerable communities.
- Improved partnership working to address inequality and vulnerability.
- Contribution towards Renfrewshire's Community Plan.

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

2. Deliberate Fire Setting

Background:

Deliberate fire setting and anti-social behaviour continue to impact several communities across Renfrewshire, particularly during seasonal peaks and within areas experiencing increased deprivation and youth-related disorder.

Deliberate fire setting accounts for a significant proportion of operational incidents within Renfrewshire and presents in a variety of forms. While a small number involve occupied buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures, classified as primary fires, the majority are secondary fires which typically occur in outdoor locations.

Analysis of incident data shows that deliberate secondary fires occur throughout the year. However, increased activity is often observed during the spring months, the bonfire season and periods of prolonged dry weather. Deliberate fire setting is considered both anti-social behaviour and a criminal offence. Such actions can result in serious consequences, including injury to individuals, damage to property and harm to the environment. In addition, these incidents place unnecessary demand on fire and rescue resources, diverting them from other essential activities.

Through partnership working, efforts will focus on sharing information to identify areas and communities most affected by anti-social behaviour, with the aim of reducing incidents and addressing the root causes. Where appropriate, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will work alongside Police Scotland to investigate deliberate fire setting, establish causes and, where possible, identify those responsible. Diversionary activity and community engagement are key elements in addressing this issue and will continue to play an important role in raising awareness of the risks and impacts associated with deliberate fire setting.

Risk Profile:

- Deliberate fire setting remains a significant and recurring risk across several communities in Renfrewshire and is closely linked to anti-social behaviour (ASB), particularly youth-related disorder
- Deliberate fire setting occurs year-round, but with clear seasonal peaks:
 - Spring months
 - Bonfire season (autumn)
 - Periods of prolonged dry weather
- Increased activity during these periods leads to higher call volumes and a greater strain on response capability
- Climate change and environmental conditions are increasing both likelihood and severity of outdoor fires.

We will achieve it by:

- Working collaboratively with Police Scotland, education services and community planning partners.
- Delivering targeted youth engagement and diversionary activity.
- Identifying and monitoring deliberate fire hotspots.

- Supporting seasonal operational and engagement plans.
- Enhancing community awareness and reporting.

Performance Indicators:

- Reduction in the number of deliberate secondary fires across Renfrewshire.
- Improved community safety and reduced incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- Increased awareness of the risks and consequences of deliberate fire setting.
- Enhanced partnership working to address and prevent fire setting behaviour.
- Reduced demand on fire and rescue resources, allowing greater focus on prevention and protection activity.
- Improved identification and support for individuals at risk of engaging in fire setting behaviour.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Delivering educational inputs within schools and youth groups focusing on the risks and consequences of deliberate fire setting.
- Seasonal campaigns linked to known peak periods, such as spring and bonfire season, to raise awareness of the risks of deliberate fire setting.
- Supporting diversionary programmes during high-demand periods.
- Partnership campaigns aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour.

Protection:

- Fire Safety Enforcement Officers undertaking audits in non-domestic premises at risk of deliberate fire setting.
- Providing advice on security, waste control and site management to reduce opportunities for deliberate fire setting.
- Working with partners to address premises vulnerable to deliberate fire setting and support enforcement action where required.

Preparedness:

- Planning and resourcing for seasonal increases in deliberate fire activity.
- Enhancing joint operational preparedness with partner agencies.
- Training crews to identify and report patterns of deliberate fire setting.
- Reviewing incident trends to support deployment and resource planning.

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduction in deliberate fire setting incidents.
- Improved community wellbeing, confidence and safety.
- Reduced anti-social behaviour and associated demand.

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

3. Unintentional Harm and Injury

Background:

Effective partnership working remains essential to improving outcomes for vulnerable people and addressing wider inequalities across Renfrewshire.

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, particularly those resulting in injury from slips, trips and falls. These risks can adversely affect health outcomes and may ultimately increase vulnerability to fire.

Analysis of incident data highlights that falls are a leading cause of accidental death and injury, accounting for a significant proportion of hospital admissions. Those affected are frequently living with additional health conditions, including dementia. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service therefore has a key role in helping to protect individuals from injury and harm within the home. Through operational attendances and the delivery of home fire safety visits, there are clear opportunities to identify vulnerable individuals and, following appropriate risk assessment, refer them to partner organisations for further support.

Ongoing development of staff ensures that local risks are effectively addressed, including the delivery of preventative initiatives such as water safety education for young people, alongside close collaboration with Local Resilience Partners and other organisations to reduce risk. To maximise community safety and operational effectiveness, resources are subject to continuous review to ensure they are appropriately located.

Each year, between 3,200 and 3,700 people in Scotland receive attempted resuscitation following an Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest. SFRS can make a significant contribution to improving survival outcomes for individuals experiencing cardiac arrest.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service education programmes are focused on two principal areas, the delivery of the Curriculum for Excellence by teachers, and targeted school programmes delivered by trained Community Action Team staff and operational crews in partnership with other agencies. Engagement activity includes awareness sessions on bonfire safety, road and water safety, FireSkills, and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and trauma awareness.

SFRS also responds to 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

Local scrutiny reporting highlights the value of collaborative working arrangements with health, housing, social care, Police Scotland and third-sector organisations in identifying and supporting individuals most at risk.

Risk Profile:

- Unintentional harm within the home remains a significant and complex risk, particularly for vulnerable individuals.
- Although fire-related incidents are reducing, other forms of harm - especially slips, trips, and falls - continue to present substantial risk.
- These risks contribute to poor health outcomes and can increase overall vulnerability, including risk of fire.
- Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) form a significant part of SFRS operational activity.

We will achieve it by:

- Supporting Community Planning Partnership priorities.
- Enhancing information sharing and referral pathways.
- Working collaboratively to identify vulnerable individuals.
- Supporting multi-agency intervention and prevention activity.
- Engaging with communities to better understand local risks and concerns.
- Working with partners across Renfrewshire to share information where RTC trends have been identified.

Performance Indicators:

- Reduction in the number of accidental injuries and incidents within the community.
- Increased number of partnership referrals and joint initiatives delivered.
- Increased number of vulnerable persons supported.
- Increased community engagement activity undertaken.
- Partnership attendance and participation.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Joint engagement activity with partner agencies.
- Attendance at community planning and locality forums.
- Supporting community resilience and wellbeing initiatives.
- Targeted engagement within vulnerable communities, older people and carers.
- Water safety education.

Protection:

- Engagement with care providers, housing services, and supported accommodation providers.
- Advice and support to improve home safety environments and risk management.
- Supporting safer living conditions for high-risk individuals in residential settings.

Preparedness:

- Participation in local resilience partnership arrangements.
- Joint planning for emergencies affecting vulnerable communities.
- Supporting integrated multi-agency response arrangements.

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduction in the incidence and severity of unintentional injury and harm.
- Improved support for vulnerable individuals and communities within Renfrewshire.
- Stronger partnership arrangements.
- Reduced inequalities and improved community wellbeing.
- Reduction in repeat incidents and escalation of vulnerability.
- Contribution towards Renfrewshire's Community Plan.

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

4. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)

Background:

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) continue to present a significant and sustained demand on SFRS operational resources across Renfrewshire. High levels of avoidable mobilisations reduce appliance availability and impact operational efficiency.

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. SFRS no longer attends automatic fire alarm signals from commercial/non-sleeping risk premises unless a fire is confirmed. This revised approach reinforces the importance of shared responsibility, placing greater emphasis on duty holders to effectively manage fire alarm systems within their premises.

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 reduction is a key operational and performance priority to ensure resources remain available for genuine emergencies.

Risk Profile

- Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) represent a significant and sustained demand on SFRS operational resources.
- High volumes of false alarm mobilisations reduce appliance availability and impact the ability to respond to genuine emergencies.
- UFAS reduction is a key operational and performance priority.
- A large proportion of UFAS incidents are linked to human factors.

We will achieve it by:

- Working with duty holders and businesses to reduce avoidable alarm actuations.
- Promoting awareness of fire safety responsibilities.
- Monitoring repeat premises and targeted interventions.
- Supporting implementation of national UFAS reduction approaches.
- Engaging partner organisations and commercial premises.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of UFAS incidents.
- Number of repeat UFAS premises.
- Reduction in operational mobilisations to false alarms.
- Number of business engagement activities completed.
- Improvement in operational availability.

Local Prevention Activity:

Operational Crews:

- Engagement with local businesses and organisations.
- Delivery of targeted fire safety advice.
- Awareness campaigns promoting responsible alarm management.

Protection:

- Supporting compliance with fire safety legislation.
- Engagement with premises demonstrating high levels of repeat alarm actuation.
- Utilisation of enforcement and advisory activities where appropriate.

Preparedness:

- Maintaining appliance availability for emergency response.
- Monitoring incident trends and deployment impacts.
- Reviewing operational learning associated with UFAS incidents.

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduction in Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.
- Improved operational efficiency and availability.
- Enhanced business awareness and compliance.
- Increased capacity to respond to genuine emergencies.
- Contribution to environmental sustainability by eliminating unnecessary blue light journeys.

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

5. Non-Domestic Fire Safety

Background:

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has a statutory duty to promote fire safety and, where necessary, enforce compliance with fire safety legislation. To fulfil this duty and secure compliance, SFRS adopts an approach that combines advice, education and, where required, the use of formal enforcement powers.

In general, all workplaces and businesses are classified as non-domestic premises and therefore fall within the scope of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005. This legislation places duties on those responsible for such premises to comply with the Act and its associated regulations.

Given the wide range of premises covered by the Act, SFRS has developed a Fire Safety Enforcement Framework. This framework is based on risk and supported by historical fire data across different occupancy types, forming the Fire Safety Audit Programme. Premises identified as presenting a higher fire risk are subject to regular fire safety audits to verify compliance.

Fire in non-domestic premises can have a severe impact on businesses, employment, the delivery of essential services and the preservation of cultural heritage. Evidence shows that premises affected by serious fire incidents often face a high rate of closure. Through its audit programme, SFRS seeks to support Renfrewshire's economic growth, while helping to protect its culture, heritage and employment opportunities.

Risk Profile:

- Non-domestic fire safety remains a critical risk area due to the potential impact on life, business continuity, and essential services.
- SFRS has a statutory duty to:
 - Promote fire safety.
 - Ensure compliance with fire safety legislation.
- A balanced approach is used, combining:
 - Education and advice.
 - Risk-based auditing.
 - Formal enforcement where required.
- Non-domestic premises include a wide range of occupancies, such as:
 - Commercial and retail buildings.
 - Industrial premises.
 - Care and residential establishments.
 - Public buildings and heritage sites.
- Risk varies significantly depending on:
 - Building design and use.
 - Occupancy type and vulnerability.
 - Nature of activities undertaken within the premises.

We will achieve it by:

- Undertaking our Fire Safety Audit Programme in accordance with the SFRS Fire Safety Enforcement Framework.
- Engaging with duty holders to promote responsible fire safety management of premises that fall under the scope of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005.
- Working in partnership to ensure the appropriate provision of fire safety standards is incorporated in new premises under construction or in premises undergoing material alterations.
- Working in partnership with other enforcement agencies and organisations to support legislative compliance.
- Undertaking post-incident investigations to identify trends and inform prevention strategies.

Performance Indicators:

- Reduce the number of fires in non-domestic premises and the types of premises affected.
- Number and types of fire safety audits carried out across Renfrewshire.
- Review the outcomes of fire safety audits carried out in non-domestic premises.
- Number of post-incident investigations completed.
- Reduction in repeat non-compliance cases.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement

- 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.

Protection:

- 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.
- Provision of fire safety advice and guidance to duty holders.
- Promotion of risk assessment, fire safety management systems, and good housekeeping.

Preparedness:

- Development and maintenance of Operational Intelligence.
- Familiarisation visits by operational crews to high-risk premises.
- 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 Renfrewshire.
- 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 Objectives: Safer Communities through Prevention and 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 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.

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 Renfrewshire. 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 Renfrewshire. 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:

- Local resilience and preparedness are core functions of SFRS, underpinning the ability to respond to a wide range of emergencies throughout Renfrewshire.
- Risks are diverse, unpredictable, and potentially high impact, requiring:
 - Strong operational capability.
 - Effective multi-agency coordination.
- Community wellbeing is closely linked to:
 - Preparedness before incidents.
 - Effective response during incidents.
 - Recovery and resilience after incidents.

We will achieve it by:

- Fulfilling our statutory duties in relation to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
- Ensuring all known risk information is obtained, communicated, and exercised.
- Working locally with partner organisations and agencies to ensure effective response plans are developed for identified risks.
- Ensuring our training, staff development, and equipment are fit for purpose to meet our current risk profile and are adaptable to changing circumstances.
- Continuously reviewing our response arrangements.
- Adapting and evolving our response and service delivery models to meet future emerging risks.

Performance Indicators:

- We will use internal SFRS reporting systems to monitor the operational competence of our personnel.
- Attendance at multi-agency exercises.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Engagement with community groups, volunteers, and resilience networks.
- Awareness sessions on preparedness and personal resilience.
- Supporting community-led resilience activity.
- Promoting self-reliance and awareness of available support networks to improve community wellbeing.

Protection:

- Work with partners to support the identification and reduction of risk.

Preparedness:

- Work with Local Resilience Partnerships to assess community risks and coordinate joint prevention and preparedness activities.
- Deliver tabletop exercises to test multi-agency response plans and improve readiness for identified risks.

- Engage Civil Contingencies Officers to support planning, training, and compliance with national resilience duties.
- Use local risk information to target prevention activity, including home fire safety visits and community safety campaigns.
- Maintain workforce competence through regular training and exercises aligned to local and emerging risks.

Expected Outcomes:

- Enhanced local resilience and preparedness across Renfrewshire.
- 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 and 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:	01505356622
Visit our website:	www.firescotland.gov.uk
Follow us on X:	@scotfire_erri
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