



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
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LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN REVIEW FOR NORTH LANARKSHIRE

2014-2017



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Introduction

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) are required under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 as amended, to prepare Local Fire and Rescue Plans for each local authority in Scotland. Following the publication of the Service's Strategic Plan in 2013, the first Local Plans were published in April 2014.

These plans were developed to direct the Service through the initial consolidation journey and have helped to forge the Service's place as a national organisation with a strong sense of local accountability. Against the drive of public sector reform, the local planning landscape continues to evolve to provide a greater focus on protecting the most vulnerable and improving community outcomes through collaborative working.

The publication of the new three-year Strategic Plan in October 2016 now instigates a timely requirement to carry out a mandatory review of all Local Fire and Rescue Plans. This review will provide information on how well the Service is performing against existing priorities as well as highlighting areas for continued improvement and opportunities for change against the growing needs of our communities.

This review has been carried out with a view not only on the performance over the last three years but with a clear focus on taking the lessons learnt into the next three year delivery plan for North Lanarkshire. The new plan will come into effect from December 2017 and will take cognizance of the changes that have taken place over the last few years.

These changes have been considerable within the community planning arena and a number of new areas of legislation have changed the focus for all organisations who work within the context of improving community planning and safety. These include the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016. The integration of health and social care has also had an impact on the partners across the community safety arena.

It is noted that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service cannot make a difference across our communities without working in partnership with other agencies and also the communities themselves. The North Lanarkshire Partnership is a key delivery mechanism for community safety and the Service has worked closely with North Lanarkshire Council and the other agencies that make up that partnership. The changes to the North Lanarkshire Partnership will be covered in a separate section of this review.

2. Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires

Throughout North Lanarkshire, dwelling fires occur within a wide variety of home types. Statistical analysis has shown that the majority of dwelling house fires occur in the social rented sector. A high percentage of these fires start in the kitchen when the occupier was cooking or had cooked food.

In North Lanarkshire, dwelling house fires are more prominent in several ward areas. Additional significant contributory risk factors are the consumption of alcohol and/or drugs allied to the use of smoking materials in the fires that occur.

There has been a continued increase of accidental dwelling fire incidents attended by SFRS over the past couple of years; this increase is attributed in part to the increased number of smoke alarms which are providing early warning to occupiers who then contact SFRS. The severity of domestic fires is greatly reduced which again is attributed to the early warning provided by fitted smoke alarms.


Due to the level of automatic smoke detection within domestic dwellings, the SFRS is being mobilised to a significant number (51%) of domestic dwelling fires which have been extinguished by the occupants before the arrival of SFRS operational resources. These are known as Code 4 fires; which are minor in nature due to the early detection and intervention by the occupier.

Of the 2015 – 2016 incidents; SFRS have had to undertake firefighting action on a total of 62 (21%) occasions. The remaining 92 incidents SFRS carried out basic actions such as removing items from heat source without any further firefighting action required. In terms of fire damage there were 176 incidents where no fire damage occurred (60%).

Dwelling fires can have a significant negative impact upon both individuals and the community and are financially costly to house holders and housing providers in terms of repair and the reinstatement of homes. By giving safety advice and fitting smoke detectors, the SFRS can reduce the risk of fire and its associated human and financial costs as well as enhancing community safety.

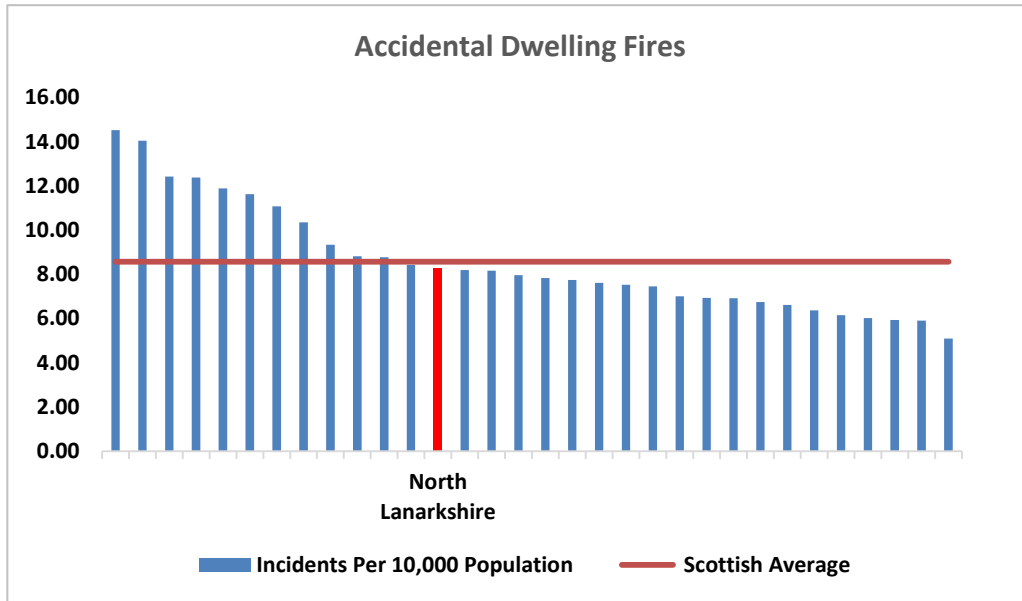
The table below gives the number of dwelling fire incidents in North Lanarkshire in relation to the target of a 10% reduction over an average of three years.

Table 1: Accidental Dwelling Fire by Financial Year

	Financial Year 13 - 14	Financial Year 14 - 15	Financial Year 15 - 16	Target	RAG
Accidental Dwelling Fires	259	286	294	280	

When compared to the rest of Scotland on a per 10,000 head of population basis North Lanarkshire at 8.29 sit just below the Scottish average of 8.58 and slightly above the midpoint when compared to other Local Authority areas. This can be seen in graph 1 shown below which highlights the North Lanarkshire performance in the red column.

Graph 1: Accidental Dwelling Fires per 10,000 head of population



Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities

The reduction of fire casualties and fatalities is directly linked to the reduction in dwelling house fires. The reduction of fire fatalities and casualties, for which the biggest contributory factors are cooking and alcohol/drugs, is at the core of preventative activities carried out by SFRS in the North Lanarkshire Area.

Vulnerable people within our communities continue to be those most at risk from fire. Older people, those with disabilities, those who live alone and those with alcohol and drugs dependencies provide the SFRS with serious challenges in relation to engagement and reduction strategies. Closer working with partner organisations with regards to single shared assessments and signposting of vulnerable persons proves an effective method of identification and engagement. Fire casualties are more likely to occur in the areas with highest operational demand.

Within the North Lanarkshire area Home Fire Safety Visits are carried out by operational crews based at the stations and specialist Community Action Team members. During the visits smoke detectors are fitted to every level of the accommodation to ensure that early warning is given in the event of fire. Whilst there has been a drive to increase the number of visits there has also been a focus on trying to reach the most vulnerable in our communities. This has been done by working in partnership with other organisations and there have been an increasing number of referrals from partners over the three year period.

The SFRS have delivered training to personnel in our partner agencies to ensure that they have the relevant skills to identify and refer those most at risk. Table 2, below shows the range of partners that have referred people to the SFRS who they believe to be at risk of fire in their homes.

Table 2: List of Partner Agencies That Carry out Referrals

Referral Agencies	
Addiction	Deafblind
Alzheimer's Scotland	GHA
ADP	Homegroup
Bield Housing	Homeless Service
British Red Cross	Housing
Cornerstone Care Services	Integrated Addiction Services
Cumbernauld Action Care for Elderly	KEY Community Support
Motherwell Dementia Project	Kildrum
Motherwell Dementia Project	Police Scotland
NHS Lanarkshire	Richmond Fellowship
NL Northern Corridor Initiative	Scottish Ambulance Service
NLC Homecare	Safer Homes
Salvation Army	Social Services
SCRS	Victim Support
Women's Aid	WLC Housing

Table 3 shows the number of Home Fire Safety (HFSVs) carried out in the North Lanarkshire area over the three year period and the number of partner referrals that were made which resulted in a HFSV being carried out for the identified individual or family at risk.

Table 3: Number of HFSVs and Referrals Carried out per year

Financial Year	13 - 14	14 - 15	Year 15 - 16
HFSVs	2833	3495	4159
Partnership Referrals	251	611	801

The early warning of a fire in a household allows the occupants to evacuate the premises and minimize the harm from fire. The number of casualties within the North Lanarkshire area has been above the reduction target of 5% reduction over an average of three years. The number of casualties that only required a precautionary check up on scene was 35% of all casualties across the three years.

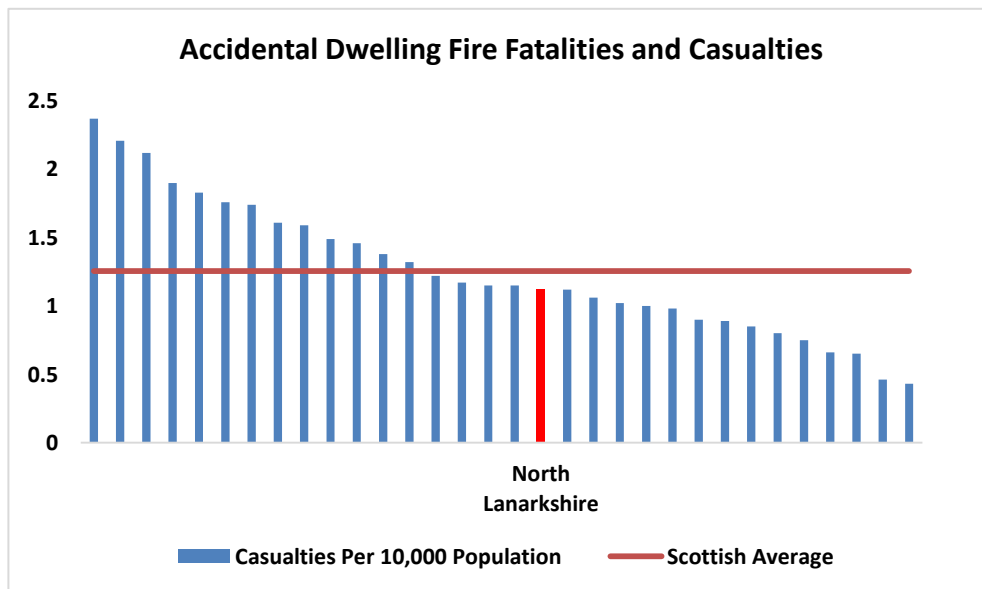
Table 4 below shows the figures for fire casualties across the three year period against the target reduction. This has been a reduction over the three years but has failed to reach the full 5% reduction target.

Table 4: Number of Fire Casualties by Financial Year

	Financial Year 13 - 14	Financial Year 14 - 15	Financial Year 15 - 16	Target	RAG
Fire Casualties	105	78	89	86	✘

When compared to the rest of Scotland on a per 10,000 head of population basis North Lanarkshire at 1.12 sit below the Scottish average of 1.26 and slightly below the midpoint when compared to other Local Authority areas. This can be seen in graph 2 shown below which highlights the North Lanarkshire performance in the red column.

Graph 2: Accidental Dwelling Fire Fatalities and Casualties per 10,000 head of population



4. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting


In the North Lanarkshire Area, deliberate fire setting has historically been a significant problem that can be closely linked to antisocial behavior. Secondary fires (refuse and grass) are on a downward trajectory; however they still account for a high percentage of our operational activity and place a huge strain on the SFRS ability to effectively provide its operational response to real emergencies.

The SFRS work with partners to identify areas of high operational demand and put in place measures to reduce demand, and where possible, hold those responsible to account. Police Scotland provides key support in identifying those responsible for deliberate fire setting. The use of Close Circuit TV (CCTV) cameras has been utilized to assist in identifying where and who set deliberate fires. A direct link between the Fire Control Room in Johnstone and the control room for the CCTV network in North Lanarkshire has been established and the SFRS alert the CCTV control room as soon as a call comes into the Service which is suspected to be a deliberate fire incident.

The North Lanarkshire area runs a Firesetter program which is delivered by specially trained officers. This has been utilised to great effect. Reports from the North Lanarkshire Social Work's Early and Effective Intervention team in respect of their referrals to Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, is that no one that has been referred has reoffended since their attendance on the fire-setter intervention programme.

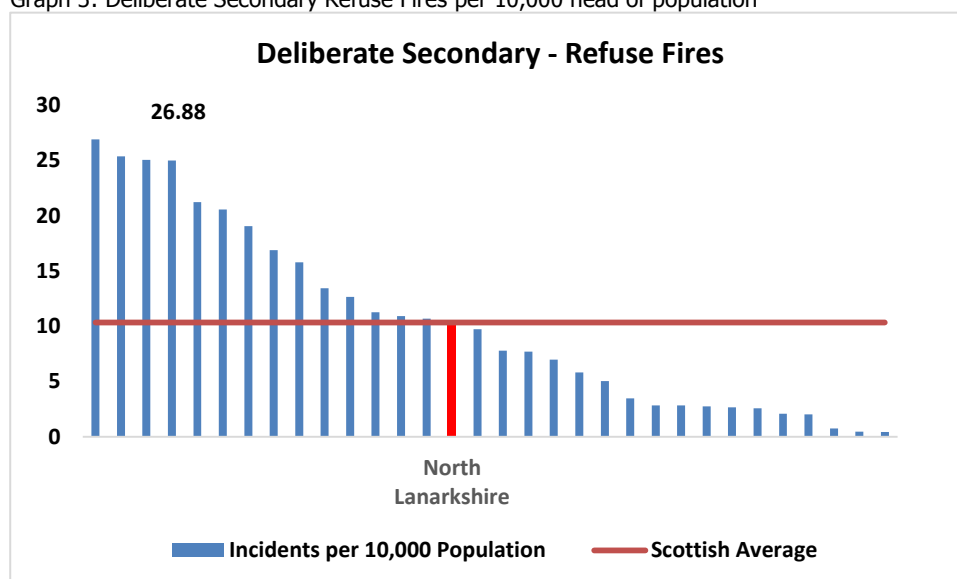
Table 5 below shows the number of deliberate fires in the North Lanarkshire area over the three year period. Whilst the general trend is downwards, the target of a 10% reduction over an average of three years has not been reached.

Table 5: Deliberate Fire Setting by Financial Year

	Financial Year 13 - 14	Financial Year 14 - 15	Financial Year 15 - 16	Target	RAG
Deliberate Fire setting	1980	1588	1721	1585	

When compared to the rest of Scotland on a per 10,000 head of population basis North Lanarkshire at 10.39 sit very slightly above the Scottish average of 10.34 and slightly above the midpoint when compared to other Local Authority areas. This can be seen in graph 3 shown below which highlights the North Lanarkshire performance in the red column.

Graph 3: Deliberate Secondary Refuse Fires per 10,000 head of population



5. Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Properties


Fires in workplaces and business premises are classed as Non-Domestic Fires and come under the scope of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005. Sleeping risks are seen as a particularly high fire risk since most fatal fires occur at night when people are less vigilant and at their most vulnerable. Residential care homes, student accommodation and self-contained sheltered housing make up the greatest proportion of these incidents within the North Lanarkshire area.

High risk properties are audited on a yearly basis to ensure that the fire safety arrangements within the property are to a suitable standard. For some buildings, joint inspections are carried out with other organisations e.g. Health and Safety Executive, Police Scotland, Trading Standards and Environmental Health.

These audits are carried out by either a legislative Fire Safety Enforcement Officer or an Auditing Officer. These officers are specially trained in relation to the implementation of the legislation within the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Any fire within a relevant premise is defined as a risk failure and will result in a Post Fire Audit to fully identify the exact risk assessment failure and issue the appropriate level of Notice under the Act.

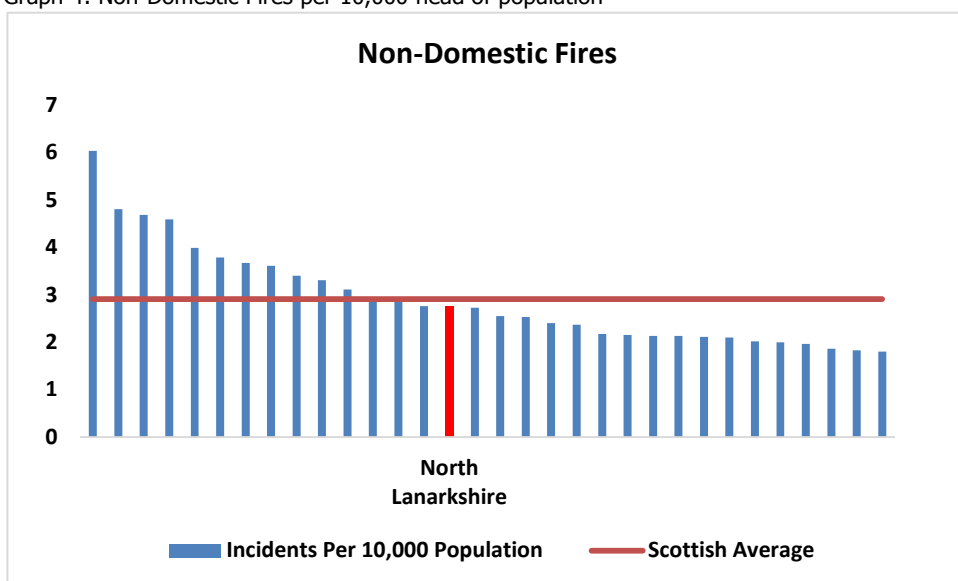
Table 6 below shows the number of Non-Domestic property fires in the North Lanarkshire area for the three year period. The general trend has remained static and is not in line with the 5% reduction over an average of three years.

Table 6: Fires in Non-Domestic Property by Financial Year

	Financial Year 13 - 14	Financial Year 14 - 15	Financial Year 15 - 16	Target	RAG
Deliberate Fire setting	135	126	138	126	

When compared to the rest of Scotland on a per 10,000 head of population basis North Lanarkshire at 2.75 sits slightly below the Scottish average of 2.91 and slightly above the midpoint when compared to other Local Authority areas. This can be seen in graph 4 shown below which highlights the North Lanarkshire performance in the red column.

Graph 4: Non-Domestic Fires per 10,000 head of population



6. Reduction in Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies


A central part of the SFRS's role is responding to Non-Fire Emergencies such as Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), building collapse, water rescue incidents and flooding. Operational Firefighters are trained to a high standard and have at their disposal the most modern equipment for extricating people in rescue situations and administering first aid to casualties. The SFRS also work closely with other emergency responders such as the Scottish Ambulance Service Special Operations Response Team (SORT), to ensure that medical interventions are provided with minimum delay.

Attendance at RTCs is a core role for the SFRS but primary responsibility for road safety lies with Transport Scotland, Police Scotland and Local Authorities. The SFRS has a crucial role in supporting those organisations activities at a local level and can provide access to hard hitting education programmes aimed at the most at risk groups to highlight the consequences of RTCs and dangerous driving. National statistics identify that the most at risk group are young male drivers who we include in our "Cut it out" programme which is aimed at 5th and 6th year school pupils.

The SFRS have in recent years has been increasing working with the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) in a number of areas. This has included attendance at incidents where there is a medical emergency and the premise is locked and the SAS cannot gain entry. The SFRS will attend the incident to gain entry and to assist the SAS when any casualty is located in the premise. In more recent times the SFRS has been co responding to out of hospital cardiac arrests. This additional activity will inevitably cause a rise in casualty numbers as the SFRS strives to ensure that the local communities have the most efficient emergency response possible.

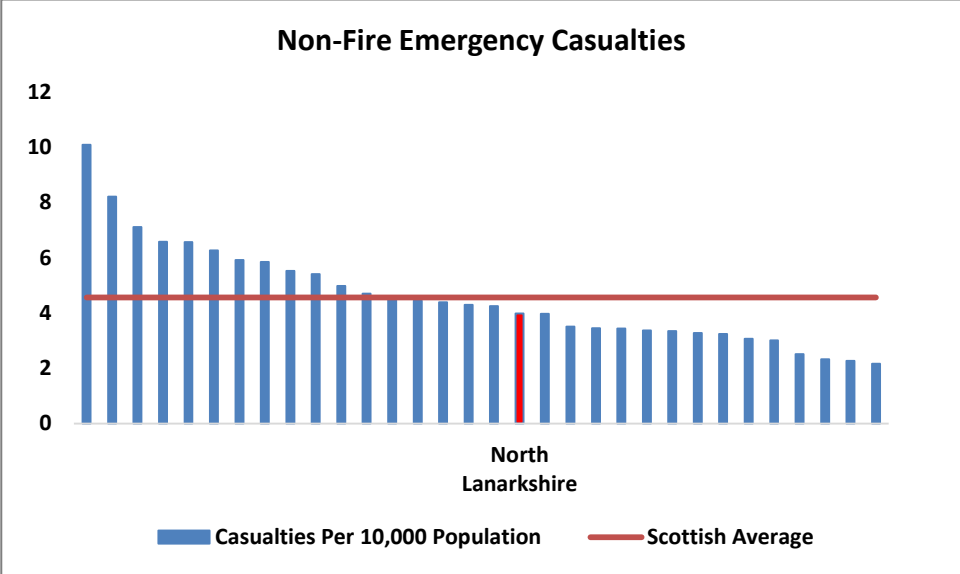
Table 7 shows the number of casualties from Non-Fire emergencies over the three year period. This shows an increase in the number of casualties and reflects the increased number of emergencies that the SFRS are attending. This upward trend is likely to continue as the Service increases the number attendances to medical related emergencies in the future.

Table 7: Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies by Financial Year

	Financial Year 13 - 14	Financial Year 14 - 15	Financial Year 15 - 16	Target	RAG
Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies	151	135	197	153	

When compared to the rest of Scotland on a per 10,000 head of population basis North Lanarkshire at 3.98 sit below the Scottish average of 4.56 and below the midpoint when compared to other Local Authority areas. This can be seen in graph 5 shown below which highlights the North Lanarkshire performance in the red column.

Graph 5: Non-Fire Emergency Casualties per 10,000 head of population



7. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are those occasions when an automated fire alarm activates and results in a mobilisation of SFRS resources, when the reason for that alarm turns out to be something other than a fire emergency. These can be categorised as either UFAS incidents from relevant premises under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 or from dwellings. In terms of relevant premises, the SFRS has statutory powers and bespoke policies to ensure reductions from poorly maintained, managed or installed fire alarm systems are achieved. Commercial premises that have repeated UFAS are subject to preventative measures that are designed to drive down false alarms.


Every unnecessary blue light journey increases the risk of road accidents within North Lanarkshire and has the potential to make members of our communities feel less safe. In regards to dwellings, the SFRS employs an engagement strategy to try and reduce the impact from UFAS.

Other types of false alarm include malicious 999 calls and emergency calls made when a person genuinely believes that an emergency has occurred which requires the attendance of the SFRS, and that belief subsequently turns out to be unfounded.

A high number of UFAS can be attributed to residential accommodation which is inclusive of sheltered housing. The SFRS continued focus on prevention and demand reduction has identified areas of action and strategic partnership groups have been formed over the reporting years to jointly analyse and take appropriate actions to reduce UFAS activity across North Lanarkshire.

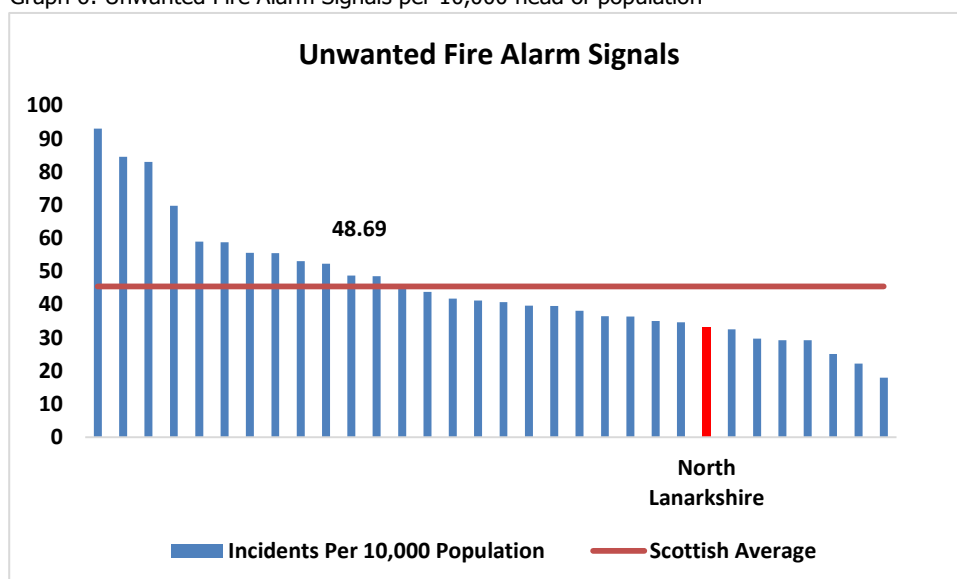
Table 8 below shows the Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in the North Lanarkshire for the three year reporting period. The trend has very much remained static and has not reached the target of a 5% reduction over an average of three years.

Table 8: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals by Financial Year

	Financial Year 13 - 14	Financial Year 14 - 15	Financial Year 15 - 16	Target	RAG
Unwanted Fire alarm Signals	1091	1201	1187	1102	

When compared to the rest of Scotland on a per 10,000 head of population basis North Lanarkshire at 32.97 sit below the Scottish average of 45.41 and well below the midpoint when compared to other Local Authority areas. This can be seen in graph 6 shown below which highlights the North Lanarkshire performance in the red column.

Graph 6: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals per 10,000 head of population



The Way Forward

The review of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan will ensure that the new Service Delivery Plan which will come into force in December 2017 will learn from relevant lessons and areas of good practice. The future plan will align with the Community Safety Planning agenda through the North Lanarkshire Partnership as the partnership moves away from the Local Outcome agreement to the development of Local Outcome Improvement Plans.

The Local Outcome Improvement Plan for North Lanarkshire Partnership identifies shared partnership priorities along with actions and measures of success. These priorities reflect the partnership's commitment to targeting shared resource to reducing inequalities within the communities of North Lanarkshire. It is recognised within the partnership that no organisation can address these priorities in isolation. There is added value in the collective efforts of the whole partnership in working with communities to plan, design and deliver public services to achieve positive outcomes for North Lanarkshire residents.

In recognition of this, the key area of reflection and focus for the SFRS in North Lanarkshire is the striking of a balance between fulfilling the statutory and relevant duties of the Service whilst aligning effectively with the priorities of the partnership.

The four partnership priorities are as follows:

- Community Resilience
- Reducing inequalities in relation to:
 - Poverty
 - Homelessness
 - Looked After Children and Young People (LACAYP)

The existing SFRS Local Fire and Rescue Plan for North Lanarkshire can fairly effectively and comfortably be aligned with the goal of building community resilience. Examples include a focus on reducing death and injuries in relation to Accidental Dwelling Fires, Road Traffic Collisions, Water incidents and other non-fire emergencies and Special Services.

As the local plan evolves and develops into a Local Delivery Plan for 2017-2020, consideration and focus will move to developing initiatives, goals and relevant performance measures in the areas identified in the NLP Local Outcome Improvement Plans.

In support of this the SFRS local Management Team, on behalf of the Local Senior Officer, have engaged in consultation with key partners in local stakeholder organisations within the Partnership (and the wider community) to establish perceived and, where possible, measurable performance by the Service in the areas of these identified key priorities. This feedback will be factored into the development of the new Local Delivery Plan.

Glossary of Terms

- Accidental:** Caused by accident or carelessness. Includes fires which accidentally get out of control.
- Casualty:** Consists of persons requiring medical treatment beyond first aid given at the scene of the incident, those sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor for a checkup or observation (whether or not they actually do). People sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor as a precaution, having no obvious injury, are recorded as 'precautionary check-ups'. Casualty figures do not include fatalities.
- Deliberate:** Covers fires where deliberate ignition is suspected
- False Automatic Fire Alarm:** Is defined as an event in which the Fire and Rescue Service believes they are called to a reportable fire and then find there is no such incident. These can be Malicious, of Good Intent or caused by Apparatus. The False Fire Alarms recorded for our indicator are those caused by Apparatus, as these constitute a significant majority of False Fire Alarm incidents.
- Fatality:** A casualty whose death is attributed to a fire is counted as a fatality even if the death occurred later. Fatalities associated with Other Incidents can include attendance to assist Police or Ambulance colleagues when a person has been found who has committed suicide, for example. Often there is little we can do as a Service to **influence this particular figure.**
- Primary Fires:** Includes all fires in buildings, vehicles and most outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fire attended by five or more pumping appliances.
- Secondary Fires:** These cover the majority of outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, property loss or if five or more appliances attend. They include fires in derelict buildings but not chimney fires.



Fact.
Every hour of every day there's
a house fire in Scotland.



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