

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



**SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Working together for a safer Scotland

LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN FOR SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

2017



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Introduction

Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Local Fire and Rescue Plan for South Lanarkshire. This Plan has been developed to support the delivery of agreed local outcomes for South Lanarkshire's communities in conjunction with the national priorities contained within the SFRS Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019. Our mission is to work in partnership to enhance the safety and well-being of those living, working and visiting South Lanarkshire, whilst tackling issues of social inequality. This Plan will set out our priorities in working towards those ambitions.

The operational demands placed upon the SFRS in responding to a wide variety of incidents, challenges us to ensure our personnel acquire and maintain an extensive range of skills to respond to emergencies effectively. Through the identification and the management of risks within South Lanarkshire we will continue to prepare for these emergencies. We recognise however, that on many occasions demand can be reduced through effective engagement and intervention measures.

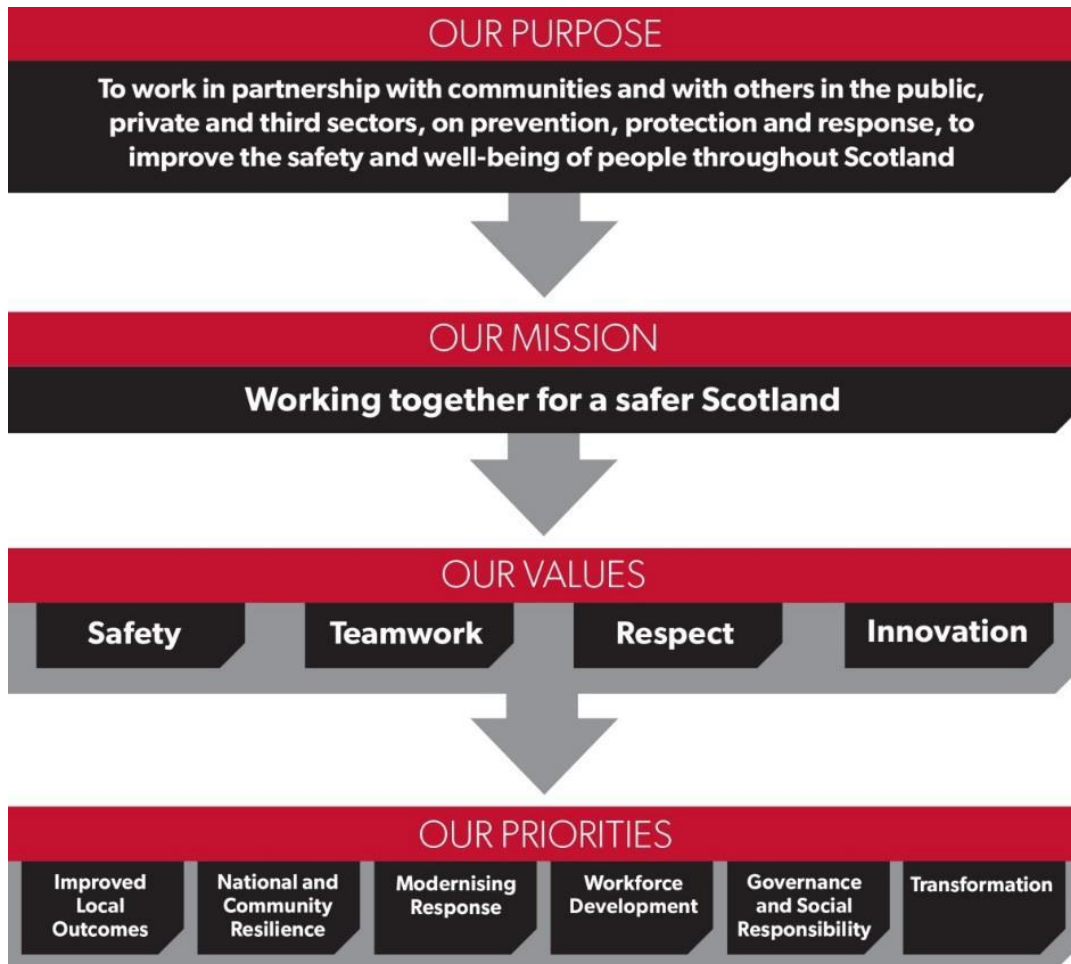
As the demographic of South Lanarkshire changes, we align our service delivery with the recognised priorities of the Community Planning Partnership. This Plan therefore focusses on early and effective intervention and prevention in addition to our core role of response. Through the effective use of data, information and intelligence we ensure that we understand all of our priorities, across all of our communities, all of the time.

As the SFRS continues to evolve we play a key part in public service reform and strive to identify new opportunities to broaden our role within society, to ensure that as a modern Fire and Rescue Service, we continue to protect South Lanarkshire's communities. This Plan in conjunction with the statutory responsibilities placed upon the SFRS will enable us to build upon our existing partnership arrangements in South Lanarkshire whilst seeking to foster new relationships to support the Service's mission of 'Working Together for a Safer Scotland'.

National Context

Scottish Ministers set out their specific expectations for the SFRS in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016. This provides the outline we should follow to ensure our resources and activities are aligned with the Scottish Government's Purpose and National outcomes.

Our Strategic Plan 2016-19 has been designed to meet these National expectations. Set against a complex and evolving backdrop, our Strategic Plan encapsulates our mission, values and strategic priorities.



Our priorities have been shaped to reflect the challenges we face in maintaining a highly effective, sustainable public service. Operating within a climate of significant financial uncertainty and public service reform means we need to transform how we operate.

Leadership, sound governance and strong management arrangements reflect our mission statement and priorities within this plan. These ensure that we comply with our statutory responsibilities whilst supporting the development of mechanisms to deliver services tailored to local needs.

Local Context

- Population 316,230 comprising 5.9% of Scottish population. Higher proportion of females versus males across 30+ age groups; most pronounced among 75+.
- Geographical area of 1,772km² covering 20 Multi Member Wards.
- Lower life expectancy compared with the Scottish average (17% versus 17.4% male; 19.1% versus 19.7% female).
- Higher life expectancy for females although rising more rapidly among males.
- Higher death rate among 65+ compared with the Scottish average (50 versus 48.2 per 1,000 population).
- In South Lanarkshire as at April 2016, 17,600 families are in receipt of working age income-related benefits. 34.1% of those receiving out-of-work benefits affecting 10,500 children and 47.2% receiving in work benefits affecting 13,600 children.
- 20.4% of children live in poverty with levels highest in Blantyre (27.29%) and lowest in East Kilbride West (8.56%). In effect, two-fifths (43.8%, 24,100) of all South Lanarkshire children aged 0-15 years reside in households in receipt of income-related benefits.
- 13.3% of South Lanarkshire's population is ranked among the 15% most deprived communities in Scotland.
- Employment and income are the two most influential variables on multiple deprivations. 81% and 81.7% respectively being within the 15% most deprived areas in South Lanarkshire.

1	Clydesdale West
2	Clydesdale North
3	Clydesdale East
4	Clydesdale South
5	Avondale and Stonehouse
6	East Kilbride South
7	East Kilbride Central South
8	East Kilbride Central North
9	East Kilbride West
10	East Kilbride East
11	Rutherglen South
12	Rutherglen Central and North
13	Cambuslang West
14	Cambuslang East
15	Blantyre
16	Bothwell and Uddingston
17	Hamilton North and East
18	Hamilton West and Earnock
19	Hamilton South
20	Larkhall



- All data taken from South Lanarkshire Community Safety Partnership Strategic Needs Assessment – Sep 16



Domestic Fire Safety

Fire safety within the home environment is a key prevention strategy for the SFRS as fires within the home can result in a range of impacts on individuals, families, landlords and communities. Domestic fires also place a large demand on the agencies who are required to respond, intervene and deal with these incidents. To reduce demand, it is essential that our prevention strategies are evidence based and outcome focussed in order for us to direct our resources to those most at risk of fire.

Analysis of accidental dwelling fire data identifies cooking as the most common cause of fire within the home in South Lanarkshire and also the most prevalent cause where fire related injuries are sustained by occupants. Distraction has been identified as the main contributory factor where accidental dwelling fires and/or injuries occur. Those who are deemed at risk from fire may also have multi-factoral issues such as age, health or mobility and may also be receiving support from other partner agencies. The scope therefore exists to work together to protect those most at risk from fire through effective information sharing, reciprocal training and relevant referral pathways.

In order to reduce the potential for fires from occurring, influencing positive change in occupant behaviours through raising fire safety awareness will be at the forefront of our preventative activities. By increasing the ownership of working smoke detection, the means of giving early warning of fire will also contribute to mitigating the severity of fires and fire related injuries within the home. By using assistive technology such as 'Telecare', the opportunity exists to further enhance the safety of those who are at risk from fire.

We will seek to reduce accidental dwelling fires and fire related injuries within the home by:

- Promoting and undertaking Home Safety Visits to those deemed at risk from fire.
- Training relevant partners in South Lanarkshire to assess fire risk and by maintaining a simple and robust referral pathway to support the delivery of Home Safety Visits.
- Focusing engagement activities in those areas where Service demand has been identified.
- Supporting the provision of assistive technology within the home to increase occupant safety.

We will monitor our progress in promoting our domestic safety strategy by:

- Reviewing the number of accidental dwelling fires and their severity.
- Reviewing the number of fatal and non-fatal fire related injuries.
- Increasing the presence of working smoke/heat detection within domestic dwellings.

By achieving a reduction in the frequency and severity of accidental dwelling fires and fire related injuries we will:

- Support the safety and well-being of South Lanarkshire residents.
- Support the independent living of members within our communities.
- Reduce the social and economic cost of fires and fire related injuries.
- Reduce demand on the SFRS and our partners.



Unintentional Injury in the home environment

It is not uncommon for those at risk from fire to also be at risk from injuries within the home environment, in particular from slips, trips and falls (over 65's and under 5's) and poisoning (under 5's). Unintentional injuries were identified as a risk priority by the South Lanarkshire Community Safety Partnership following a multi-partner Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA). These injuries account for a significant proportion of admissions to hospital.

Those persons injured through falls may often be affected by other medical conditions such as dementia, parkinsons disease, diabetes, high blood pressure etc. The SFRS has a role to play in contributing to the protection of those at risk from injury within the home environment. Through operational attendances and delivery of Home Safety Visits, we have the opportunity to identify those at risk and through an assessment of such risk, refer individuals to partner organisations for additional support.

We will seek to reduce the impact of unintentional injury and harm by:

- Utilising our Home Safety Visit programme to assess for non-fire related risk and refer those deemed at risk from injury to partners to provide additional support.
- Working with the Community Safety Partnership to attract budget allocation for the purchase of specific equipment which will reduce the impact of falls or poisoning within the home environment.
- Training fire and rescue service personnel in relation to the factors that increase the risk of unintentional injury in the home environment.
- Supporting Partners by carrying out level 1 falls assessments.

We will monitor the effectiveness of our intervention strategies by:

- Reviewing numbers of South Lanarkshire SFRS staff trained on Level 1 falls assessment.
- Reviewing the numbers of Level 1 falls assessments referred to NHS falls teams.
- Recording and reviewing the levels of equipment which are installed in homes to prevent falls or poisoning.
- Reviewing the numbers of A&E admissions through unintentional injury of those aged under 5 (falls or poisoning) or over 65 (falls at home).*

By achieving a reduction in the frequency and severity of unintentional harm and injuries we will:

- Reduce the social and economic cost of unintentional injury.
- Support members of our communities to live independently.
- Ensure the safety and well-being of those living in South Lanarkshire.

* Progress towards this priority outcome will be reviewed and reported against within the South Lanarkshire Local Outcome Improvement Plan.



Non Domestic Fire Safety

In general, all workplaces and business are classed as non-domestic premises and as such come within the scope of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (the Act) which places duties on persons responsible for those premises to comply with the Act and its associated regulations. The SFRS has a statutory duty to promote fire safety and where required enforce compliance with fire safety legislation. To discharge this duty and to secure compliance, the SFRS has adopted an approach utilising advice, education and where required formal enforcement powers.

Given the variety of premises which come within the scope of the Act, the SFRS has developed a fire safety enforcement framework which is based on the principal of risk combined with historical fire data across occupancy groups to create the fire safety audit programme. Those premises which present a higher degree of risk from fire are subject to regular fire safety audits to verify compliance.

The impact of fire can have a devastating impact on business, employment, the provision of critical services and also our heritage. Evidence suggests that premises affected by a serious fire experience a high business failure rate following a fire. The SFRS will undertake its audit programme to support South Lanarkshires ambition to grow its economy during this challenging period of economic recovery and seek to safeguard its culture, heritage and continuation of employment opportunities.

We will seek to reduce the instances of fires within non-domestic property by:

- Undertaking our fire safety audit programme in accordance with the SFRS Enforcement Framework.
- Engaging with duty holders to promote responsible fire safety management of premises that come under the auspices of Part 3 of the Act.
- Working in partnership to ensure the appropriate provision of fire safety standards are incorporated in new premises under construction or premises undergoing material changes.
- Working in partnership with other enforcement agencies and organisations to support legislative compliance.

We will monitor the effectiveness of reducing fires in non-domestic premises by:

- Reviewing the number of fires in non-domestic premises and the type of premises involved in fire.
- Reviewing the number and types of fire safety audits carried out across South Lanarkshire.
- Reviewing the outcome of fire safety audits carried out in non-domestic premises.

By achieving a reduction in fires within non-domestic premises we will:

- Enable the industrial, commercial and service sector to maintain business continuity and employment across South Lanarkshire.
- Reduce the potential for loss of life and injury.
- Protect South Lanarkshires culture and heritage.
- Protect the natural and built environment and reduce the impact of fire on our communities



Deliberate Fires

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

Analysis of incident data identifies deliberate secondary fires occurring throughout the year, however peak activity is noted in the spring time, during the bonfire season and when prolonged periods of dry weather occur. These acts can lead to serious consequences such as personal injury, damage to property and to the environment. Deliberate fire setting is regarded as anti-social behaviour and is also a criminal offence.

Working in partnership, we will seek to combine our information to identify those places in our communities that are being affected by anti-social behaviour in order to reduce such instances, whilst tackling the underlying causes of such behaviour. Where appropriate the SFRS will work with Police Scotland to investigate deliberate fire setting to determine the cause and if possible those responsible for such acts. Diversionary and engagement activity is regarded as an important approach in tackling anti-social behaviour and will continue to be part of our approach to raise awareness of the impact of these deliberate fires.

We will seek to reduce the instances of fire related anti-social behaviour by:

- Identifying those places in South Lanarkshire's communities affected by deliberate fire setting and sharing this information with our partners.
- Utilising our Fire Reach, Firesetters and school's education programmes to raise awareness of the impact of fire related anti-social behaviour.
- Engaging with partners to develop joint initiatives and strategies to reduce deliberate fire setting.

We will monitor the effectiveness of reducing fire related anti-social behaviour by:

- Reviewing the number and type of deliberate fire setting incidents within South Lanarkshire.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of our engagement and intervention programmes.

By achieving a reduction in fire related anti-social behaviour we will:

- Enable the SFRS to divert its resources towards other community based activities.
- Protect the natural and built environment.
- Support the promotion of active and responsible citizenship across South Lanarkshire's communities.
- Support our communities in feeling safe from crime, disorder and danger.



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Fire protection within premises can be viewed as a holistic approach to safeguarding life and/or property by inhibiting the growth and spread of fire. The design and use of premises will influence the extent of the fire protection required to be incorporated within them. In developing a fire protection strategy for various premises types and for strategies to be successful, a key component is the provision of fire alarm systems. The provision of these systems enables those within premises sufficient time to exit buildings to a place of safety in the event of fire.

Whilst a small number of fire alarm signals generated are due to confirmed fire conditions being present, there are an even greater number of signals generated which when investigated have occurred when no fire conditions have been present. On such occasions these are known as 'Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals' (UFAS) and are defined as *'an event which has required an operational attendance by the fire and rescue service due to the unwanted actuation of a fire alarm system'*.

The impact of responding to UFAS incidents causes disruption to the premises working environment and to the range of activities the SFRS undertake. Unnecessary blue light journeys to UFAS incidents also create additional risks and hazards to firefighters and to the public and also have a detrimental impact on the environment through additional vehicle carbon emissions. Active and positive engagement with occupiers to take responsibility in limiting the number of UFAS incidents within their premises is integral to reducing these impacts.

We will seek to reduce the instances of Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals by:

- Investigating the cause of alarm actuations and engaging with duty holders following an operational attendance at a UFAS incident.
- Analysing our attendances at those premises that frequently generate UFAS incidents to identify trends and support duty holders in developing demand reduction plans.
- Instigating where required, formal fire safety enforcement measures to ensure appropriate demand reduction action is taken by duty holders for premises generating unacceptable levels of UFAS incidents.

We will monitor the effectiveness of mobilising to Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals by:

- Reviewing the number of attendances at incidents and the types of premises generating UFAS in South Lanarkshire.
- Supporting and evaluating the outcomes of occupier's demand reduction plans to review progress.
- Reviewing our attendances at UFAS incidents to ensure our attendances are based on an assessment of risk and demand.

By achieving a reduction in Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals we will:

- Minimise the disruption to business and service continuity across South Lanarkshire.
- Increase the capacity of the fire and rescue service to carry out other activities.
- Reduce the risk to firefighters and public whilst responding to UFAS incidents.



Road Safety

Outwith the domestic environment, the SFRS respond to a range of non-fire related emergencies. The most common incident of this type within South Lanarkshire is attendances at Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) which results in the majority of non-fire related injuries. Responding to RTCs is a statutory duty for the SFRS, however a collective approach is required amongst Community Planning Partners to support risk reduction measures. As a partner, the SFRS will support the education of young drivers who are considered to be an 'at risk' group and support other initiatives intended to reduce the instances and impact of RTCs within South Lanarkshire. Road Safety in South Lanarkshire has been identified as one of it's top 5 priorities within the Community Safety Strategy which the Local Authority will lead with the SFRS as a key stakeholder.

We will seek to reduce the impact of Road Traffic Collisions by:

- Working in partnership to deliver targeted road safety programmes to young drivers.
- Focusing resources where demand has been identified and deliver key safety messages.

We will monitor the effectiveness of our intervention strategies by:

- Reviewing the number of attendances at RTCs and the frequency and severity of injuries arising from RTC's.

By achieving a reduction in the frequency and severity of Road Traffic Collisions we will:

- Reduce the social and economic impact of RTC's.
- Ensure the safety and well-being of those living, working and visiting South Lanarkshire.



Preparing to respond

The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Fire (Additional Function) (Scotland) Order 2005 defines the duties and responsibilities for the SFRS in relation to responding to emergencies. It is essential our firefighters possess the skills, knowledge and expertise to respond to incidents which, by their nature, can be varied in both type and complexity.

It is important that our firefighters understand the risks across their communities to ensure that the level of risk is matched with an appropriate level of Operational Intelligence and associated response. In gathering this knowledge, appropriate training can be carried out to safeguard firefighter safety and to ensure any such response results in an effective and efficient deployment of resources.

Emergency response across South Lanarkshire includes firefighters operating within the Retained Duty System (RDS). Working within this duty system, RDS firefighters respond from home and/or primary work locations as part of an 'On-Call' provision. Given the dynamic nature of this duty system and to support a balance between primary employment, personal and firefighting commitments, each RDS station requires a sufficient number of RDS firefighters to ensure this vital resource is available when required.

There will also be occasions whereby the nature of an emergency will require a combined response by emergency services and other organisations to deal with such a major event. To ensure a co-ordinated response, additional duties are placed upon the SFRS under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to prepare and be able to respond to major emergencies. The scope of such preparations may include responding to adverse weather events, natural disasters, pandemics, chemical incidents or major transport incidents. The threat of terrorism also compels the SFRS to ensure it can respond alongside other partner agencies should such an event occur.

We recognise the potential for the role of the SFRS to evolve, which provides scope to further protect those members of our communities from harm in the event of an emergency. Assisting other agencies in emergency situations, such as responding to 'Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests' is one example where resources can be combined to maximise the potential for positive outcomes for those requiring assistance. Out with emergency responses the opportunity also exists to promote and support community resilience to improve the survivability rates from cardiac arrests through active engagement and education across South Lanarkshires communities.

We will seek to ensure that we are preparing to respond within South Lanarkshire by:

- Identifying and assessing the risk to our communities through Operational Intelligence gathering.
- Undertaking planned training events to support the maintenance of core skills to provide the capability to respond to emergency incidents.
- Continuing with RDS firefighter recruitment campaigns to support operational response across South Lanarkshire.
- Reviewing our operational response to incidents, to ensure firefighter safety and the protection of our communities.
- Working in partnership to plan, prepare and test our responses to major emergencies.
- Continually reviewing our Service position in relation to Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest.

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.

Tell us what you think

This draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan for South Lanarkshire sets out what our broad ambitions will be on behalf of the people of our area. It sets our local direction for the SFRS and it will determine the details contained in all our other plans for that period.

We would like you to tell us what you think of our plan. The formal consultation for this draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan opens on 1st of June 2017 and will run until 31st of August 2017. To ensure we review and manage all responses consistently you are invited to provide comment in our online survey. This can be accessed at <https://firescotland.citizenspace.com/>

After the consultation is closed we will publish the results.

If you cannot access our online survey, or if you would like more information about the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in your area you can:

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