

**Stirling**

**Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17 Review Report**

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**Introduction**

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is 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 our Strategic Plan in our inaugural year, our first Local Plans were published in April 2014.

These plans were developed to direct the Service through its initial transformation journey and have helped to forge our 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 our new Strategic Plan 2016-19 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 us with information on how well we are performing against our existing priorities as well as highlighting areas for continued improvement and opportunities for change against the growing needs of our communities.

**Performance – what the figures told us**

Over the past five years within Stirling, the SFRS responded to an average of 1432 incidents each year. Review of operational demand has indicated a downward trend overall, with activity levels decreasing by 9% between 2012 and 2015. The rise in 2015/16 is in the main due to the increase in secondary fires and attendance at road traffic collisions and the rise in 2016/17 has mostly been due to rise in False Alarms.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2012/13** | **2013/14** | **2014/15** | **2015/16** | **2016/17** |
| Fires | 292 | 317 | 325 | 464 | 403 |
| Non-Fire Emergencies | 222 | 186 | 187 | 240 | 231 |
| False Alarms | 917 | 865 | 800 | 775 | 935 |
| Total Incidents | 1431 | 1368 | 1312 | 1479 | 1569 |

The review of operational demand has identified False Alarms being the most common type of incidents attended within Stirling and have accounted for 60% of mobilisations with Fires and Non-Fire Emergencies (Special Services) accounting for 25% and 15% respectively.

As part of the process of scrutiny the SFRS are responsible for the submission of performance reports to Public Safety. The basis of these reports is to report on the progress the SFRS is making against the priorities contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17 for Stirling. The first two targets set in the table below followed the High Level Performance Indictors set within the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013, with the remaining four targets defined at a local level.

The current year’s (2016/17) progress against the rolling three-year average indicates two priorities above the three-year average and four priorities currently below the three-year average. We assess each of the targets that follow using a Red, Amber or Green indication of our performance. Green means we have achieved or exceeded the target; Amber means we did not achieve the target but achieved a reduction in the three-year average figure and Red means we have not achieved the target and have seen an increase in the three-year average figure.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Current Local Fire and Rescue Plan Priorities for Stirling** | **2013/14** | **2014/15** | **2015/16** | **Target\*** | **2016/17** | | **RAG** |
| Reducing Accidental Dwelling Fires by 10% each year | **66** | **83** | **107** | **77** | | **75** |  |
| Reducing Fire Casualties and Fire Fatalities by 5% each year | **13** | **10** | **15** | **12** | | **13** |  |
| Reducing Casualties From Non-Fire Emergencies by 5% each year | **67** | **59** | **116** | **77** | | **90** |  |
| Reducing Deliberate Fire Setting by 5% each year | **114** | **99** | **199** | **130** | | **183** |  |
| Reducing Fires in Non-Domestic Property by 5% each year | **45** | **40** | **72** | **50** | | **44** |  |
| Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals by 5% each year | **865** | **800** | **775** | **773** | | **935** |  |

\*2016/17 target based on rolling three-year average\*\*Current progress this year against three-year average

**Reduction in Accidental Dwelling Fires**

**Performance Explained**

Current performance when compared to the three year average target for 2016/17 is classed as **Green** following a rise in the number of accidental dwelling fires last year, this year has returned to below target. In reviewing data over the last 5 years, the rate of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 population within Stirling is 8.21, which is 19th lowest when compared against all local authorities.

The annual trend line for accidental dwelling fires is currently rising, however 2016/17 projecting significant improvement and is below target. Analysis of accidental dwelling fires over the past five years have determined the most common cause being attributed to cooking, accounting for 50% of all incidents. The severity of fires within the home can vary from the incident being dealt with by the occupier with little or no damage occurring to incidents where direct firefighting is undertaken by the SFRS. Approximately 31% incidents require the SFRS to undertake direct firefighting. Early warning is key to alerting occupants and over the last five years, 75% of properties affected by fire had smoke or heat detection present which, when present, has raised the alarm on 68% of occasions with 36% originating from domestic linked alarm systems. On average 47% of incidents resulted in heat or smoke damage only.

**Reduction of Fire Casualties**

**Performance Explained**

Current performance when compared to the three year average target for 2016/17 is classed as **Red**, with there being 13 casualties in the year compared to a target of 12. On average 58% of all fire fatalities and casualties within Stirling arose from accidental dwelling fires when the last five years are analysed. In reviewing data over the last 5 years, the rate of accidental dwelling fire casualties per 10,000 population within Stirling is 0.88, which is the 4th lowest rate compared against all local authorities.

There has been a recent increase in the number of casualties from fires. This trend continues in 2016/17 but the number requiring hospital attendance remains the same as the previous year with a slight reduction in the number of casualties overall.

Analysis of accidental fire fatalities and casualties has identified a link to fires within the kitchen accounting on average for 71% of incidents where injuries arise. Most common human contributory factors has been identified as “falling asleep” and “distraction”. Whilst the number of persons recorded as accidental dwelling fire casualties has seen an increase in the previous year, review of the nature of injuries has determined over 50% of recorded casualties were treated at the scene and did not require to attend hospital for treatment. Of the 36 casualties recorded at accidental fires, 3 have attended hospital having sustained serious injuries. Smoke inhalation has been identified as the most common cause of injury. The most common age range of all accidental fire casualties are 30 to 39 and 70 to 79 years of age with males accounting for the majority of all accidental dwelling fire casualties.

**Reduction in Deliberate Fires**

**Performance Explained**

Current performance when compared to the three year average target for 2016/17 is classed as **Red**. On average deliberate fire raising accounts for 45% of all fire related activity within Stirling. In reviewing data over the last 5 years, the rate of deliberate secondary fire raising has identified Stirling as having an average prevalence of activity when compared against all local authorities, in particular deliberate refuse fires which at the rate of 5.03 incidents per 10,000 population, is the 12th lowest rate in Scotland.

In terms of total activity the number of deliberate fires continued to reduce up to last year and the trend line is rising slightly. The current year is above the target but it is 8% down on the previous year. Deliberate fires have accounted for 10% of all operational incidents within Stirling, with 7% of all mobilisations being to secondary fire incidents. Deliberate refuse fires account for 40% of all secondary fire activity within Stirling with other outdoor fires involving woodland, trees and crops being the second most common secondary fire types.

**Reduction in Non-Domestic Fires**

Current performance when compared to the three year average target for 2016/17 is classed as **Green**. Whilst overall the number of non-domestic fires account for only 4% of all operational mobilisations, just over 25% of all non-domestic fires involve prisons, with 58% of all of these fires being classed as accidental fires. In reviewing data over the last 5 years, the rate of non-domestic premises involving the business or service sector per 10,000 population within Stirling is **4.58**, which is 29th lowest when compared against all local authorities.

The trend line demonstrated an increasing issue. However, 4 of the 5 years remain constant with 2015/16 showing a significant increase. Business and Service sector premises normally fall within the scope of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) act 2005 as amended and are classed as ‘Relevant Premises’. Given the importance of the protection of the local economy, monitoring of activity within Relevant Premises is ongoing in conjunction with a programme of fire safety enforcement audits.

**Reduction in Casualties from Special Services**

Current performance when compared to the three year average target for 2016/17 is classed as **Red**. Whilst overall the number of Non-Fire Emergency (Special Service) incidents is low compared to Fire and Unwanted Fire Alarm incidents, fatal and non-fatal casualties arising from Special Service incidents exceed those from accidental dwelling fires. In reviewing data over the last 5 years, the rate of special service fatal and non-fatal casualties per 10,000 population within Stirling is 8.19, which is above the national average.

The number of casualties from special services shows an increasing trend. In reviewing the previous special service activity, attendances at Road Traffic Collisions accounted for 75% of all special service casualties within Stirling. An additional 17% of casualties have been recorded over the last five years as a result of attending incidents to either assist other agencies, forcing entry into premises to render assistance to occupants or the provision of medical response. The majority of special service casualties attend hospital with 48% of all casualties being deemed to have sustained slight injuries. Of all recorded injuries, both fatal and non-fatal, males accounted for 57% of all recorded.

**Reduction in Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals**

**Performance Explained**

Current performance when compared to the three year average target for 2016/17 is classed as **Red.** In total, all false alarms account for 60% of all operational mobilisations. Various types of false alarms fall into this category with Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) having been identified as the cause of 55% of all false alarms. In reviewing data over the last 5 years, the rate of UFAS incidents per 10,000 population within Stirling is **53.08**, which is 24st highest when compared against all local authorities.

The number of unwanted fire signals is reducing over the last five years. However, in 2016/17 it has returned to the levels witnessed in 2012/13. In reviewing the previous 5 years activity for UFAS incidents, weekdays indicate the greatest prevalence of UFAS incidents with the period between 0800 hours and 1600 hours being the most common time period for UFAS incidents. Review of the data suggests these instances, on a general basis may be related to the most frequent periods of when buildings are occupied. In examining the cause of alarms, a number of factors may be attributed to the building occupants contributing to the alarm operating such as cooking, testing of the system, or accidently/carelessly setting off the alarm, which over the previous 5 years has accounted for 42% of all alarm activations. Review of the property types responsible for UFAS incidents has identified prisons, hospitals, shopping centres, residential homes, offices and schools as the most common property types which the SFRS attend, which collectively over the past 5 years has been responsible for 72% of all UFAS incidents.

**Engagement – what our stakeholders told us**

Building on the intelligence we gathered during the engagement and consultation of our Strategic Plan 2016-19 we re-engaged with our key stakeholders to seek further views on our local service delivery.

Feedback identified the SFRS’s engagement with young people and our communities as a strength and whilst the SFRS is a national organisation it is seen as having the ability to deliver its services on a local basis. Comments also suggested the SFRS should consider how it can develop further opportunities to share resources and further strengthen its partnership links including those within the Third Sector.

It was recognised that persons at risk are often known to other organisations therefore areas such as information sharing; joint training and an integrated joint response within a partnership environment could enhance the safety and well-being of those at risk within our communities. Feedback also highlighted the need to consider the provision of services and support to persons who are sensory impaired and this was highlighted as a common challenge across organisations. Overall an underlying theme was one where the SFRS should continue to promote the safety and well-being within the home environment.

**Scrutiny – what we learned from the Inspectorate**

To support this formal review the outcomes from HM Fire Service Inspectorate’s Local Area Inspections, that examine the development and delivery of Local Fire and Rescue Plans, have also been considered.

By undertaken inspections of our service delivery within local authority areas, HMFSI can provide independent assurance to Scottish Ministers and the public that adequate provision for local service delivery is being made, there is equal access to specialist resources, service provision and partnership working is of sound quality and strong scrutiny arrangements are in place. This allows them to maintain a good awareness of how well we are functioning and build intelligence to inform future inspections.

By the end of the period 2016/17 it is planned that SFRS service provision will have been examined in nine local authority areas. These areas were Aberdeen City, East Renfrewshire, Western Isles, West Lothian, Dundee, South Ayrshire, Scottish Borders, Moray and Glasgow City. Once prepared, these inspection reports are published by HMFSI on their [website](http://www.gov.scot/about/public-bodies/HMFSI/Reports-Publications).

On examining the published Local Area Inspection Reports, we noted that HMFSI generally felt there was a need to identify unique characteristics for each local area and provide clearer use of risk-based evidence to identify and shape priorities across our Local Plans. They would also like to see a stronger emphasis made on specific local priorities and contribution supported by appropriate level of local performance measures. Local priorities and measures should be balanced against our national needs as well as aligned to the collaborative partnership working requirements of Local Outcome Improvement Plan delivery.

**Conclusion**

In reviewing the progress against the priorities within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Stirling (2014 – 2017), it has been identified that operational demand in the longer term has been reducing, however review of activity during the previous and current fiscal year indicates fluctuations in operational demand has been occurring.

A key approach to reducing demand is through effective engagement and by working in partnership to support our more vulnerable members within our communities. As a national organisation the SFRS is also progressing with its transformational agenda to develop the organisation in an environment of continuous financial challenges. This presents opportunities for the SFRS to develop its role at a local level in the protection of our communities across Stirling through the strengthening of existing partnerships, whilst seeking new partnership approaches to manage, mitigate and reduce risk.

To support the pursuance of transformational efficiencies, reducing service demand is essential to provide the means to utilise the totality of SFRS resources to maximum benefit. It is recognised however, regardless of how active the SFRS is in its prevention agenda, operational demand will still be present. It is therefore vital to ensure the SFRS is able to respond as and when such demand arises. The process of identifying and reviewing the range of risks within our communities will provide the basis as to how we will manage and respond to such risks to safeguard the safety of our firefighters and our communities.

The review of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Stirling over the period 2014 – 2017 has considered the progress that has been made to date and supported the development of key priorities for the next plan. Meeting the challenges in the new plan will not be achieved in isolation but through effective partnership working and as such, the new Local Fire and Rescue Plan will seek to compliment and contribute to the integrated approach to Community Planning within Stirling.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the following priorities are taken forward in the new Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Stirling area:

Priority 1: Domestic Safety

Priority 2: Building and Environment Risks

Priority 3: Transport, Environment and Road Risk

Priority 4: Community Risk

Priority 5: Local Risk Management and Preparedness

Priority 6: Unintentional Harm and Injury

Priority 7: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals