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**SCOTTISH  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Working together for a safer Scotland

# LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN FOR WEST LoTHIAN

2017



DRAFT PLAN FOR CONSULTATION



**West Lothian  
Council**

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## Introduction

Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) Local Fire and Rescue Plan [the plan] for the West Lothian Council area. This plan has been created with a focus on placing our communities at the heart of everything we do, and to improve local outcomes for the people of West Lothian. This plan is the mechanism through which the aims of the Scottish Government's Fire and Rescue Framework 2016-19, the SFRS's Strategic Plan 2016-19 and the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Local Outcome Improvement (LOIP) Plan 2013-23 are delivered locally to meet the agreed needs of the West Lothian communities.

This plan has been developed to support the delivery of agreed local outcomes for West Lothian communities, working in partnership with community planning partners to improve community safety, to enhance the well-being of those who live, work in, and visit West Lothian, whilst tackling issues of social inequality.

This Plan sets out my priorities and objectives for the SFRS within West Lothian for 2018 and beyond, and allows Local Authority partners to scrutinise the performance outcomes of these priorities. SFRS will continue to work closely with partners in West Lothian to ensure we are all "Working together for a safer Scotland" through targeting the risks to our communities at a local level.

As a public service organisation and as a member of the CPP, SFRS recognises that the demographics of our society are changing which will challenge us to continually improve on how we deliver our services to our communities. This Plan will therefore seek to focus on those areas of risk and demand to maximise the potential to work in partnership and by using our capacity flexibly, more effectively and innovatively to ensure we direct our resources to the point of need within our communities to protect those most at risk and harm.

Through our on-going involvement with local community safety groups in West Lothian, we will continue to develop our understanding of local needs and proactively seek out consultation opportunities with all sections of the community. Using this approach we will ensure that the services we deliver are driven by consultation, in line with public expectations and helps to build strong, safe and resilient communities.

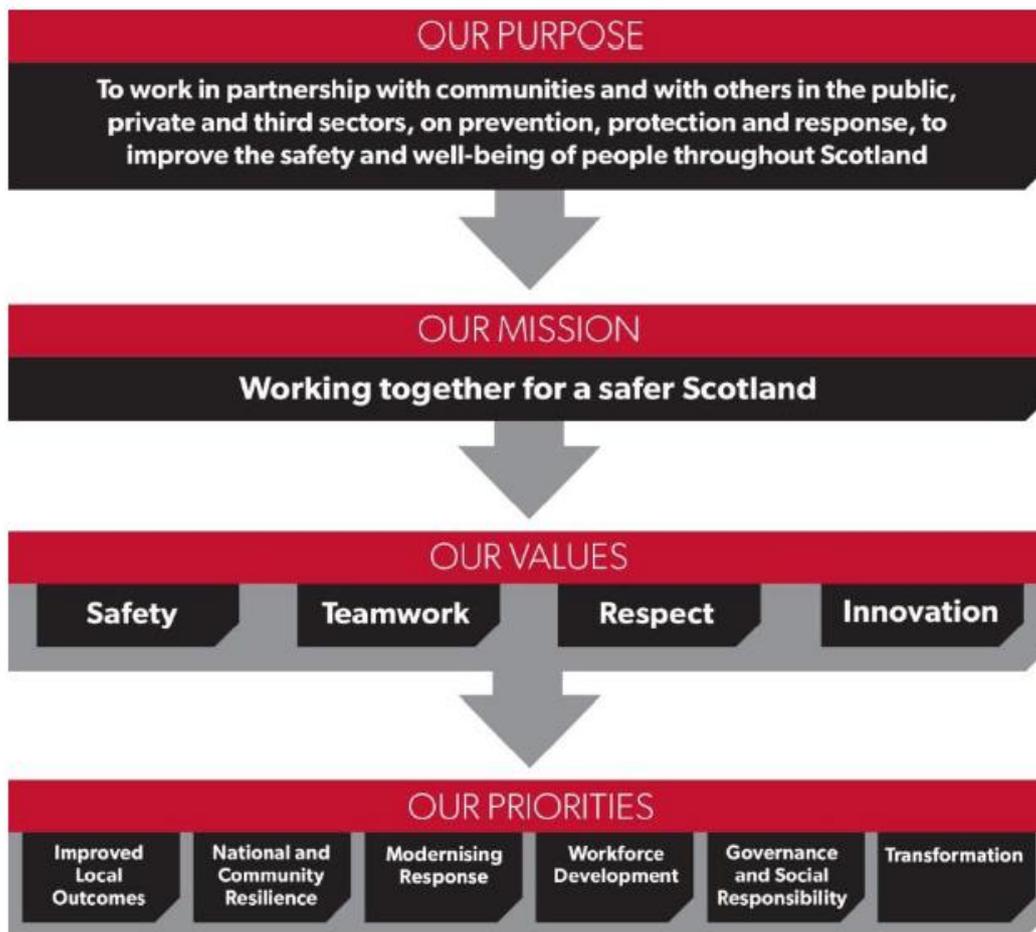
This Plan also takes cognisance of the strategic direction of the SFRS Board insofar that the Service needs to transform to meet the changing world around us in terms of threats from terrorism, severe weather events and the need to care for an ageing population in their homes. This changing environment is set against intense budgetary pressures being experienced across the public sector and the ambition to do more to reduce demand on services. Therefore this Plan has been developed using a flexible approach that permits change and adaptation as required

David Lockhart  
Local Senior Officer  
Falkirk and West Lothian

## National Context

Scottish Ministers set out their specific expectations for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service 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.



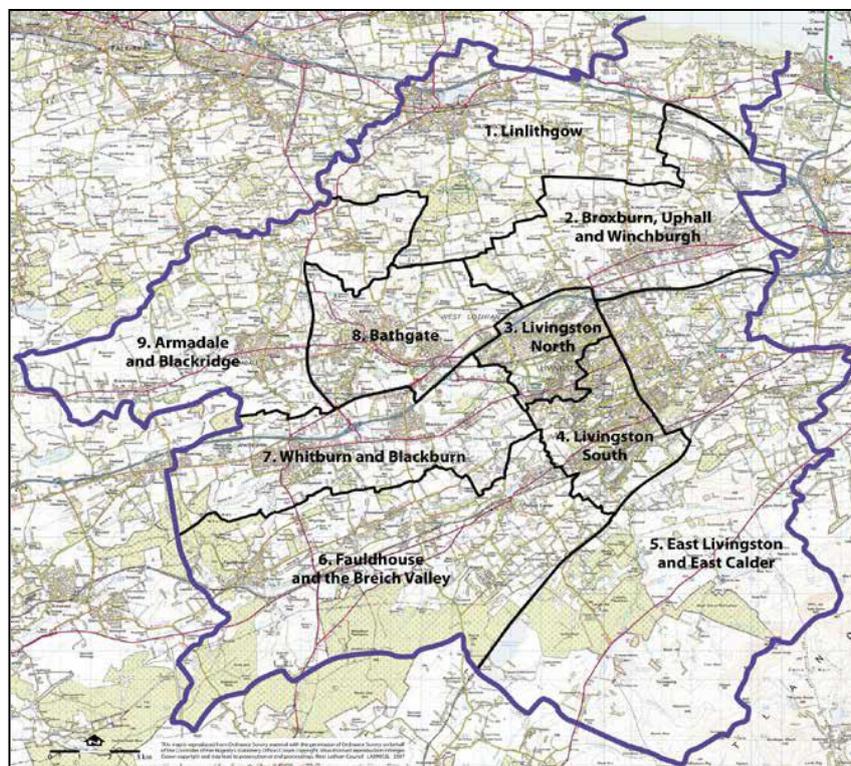
These have been shaped with due regard to the challenges we face and to what we need to achieve to be a highly effective, sustainable public service. Operating within a climate of significant financial uncertainty and public service reform means we need to transform how we operate. This will particularly include how we prepare for and respond to changing societal needs, the impact of climate change and the threat of terrorism.

Strong leadership, supported by sound governance and management arrangements are at the very core of our foundations. These arrangements will direct and provide assurance that we comply with our statutory responsibilities. In addition, they provide the Local Senior Officer with supporting mechanisms to deliver services specifically tailored to local needs.

## Local Context

Understanding West Lothian and the profile of the community is of vital importance in helping the SFRS to develop this Plan and to identify priorities and objectives to ensure everyone has the opportunity to access our service and reduce their risk from fire and other hazards.

West Lothian covers a geographical area of approximately 428 square kilometres and is situated between the two main cities in Scotland, Edinburgh and Glasgow. West Lothian has a population of about 177,150, accounting for 3.3% of Scotland's total population. This Plan has been prepared within the wider context of the West Lothian CPP and sets out the local priorities for delivering local fire and rescue service priorities for West Lothian. Underpinning this Plan are the key principles of community planning namely; prevention and early intervention; integration of public services around the whole systems approach; transparency, accountability and innovation in our approaches to fire and rescue service provision.



Ward Area	Community Fire Station Locations
Ward 1 – Linlithgow	Linlithgow
Ward 2 – Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	Broxburn
Ward 3 – Livingston North	Livingston
Ward 4 – Livingston South	
Ward 5 – East Livingston and East Calder	West Calder (Polbeth)
Ward 6 – Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	
Ward 7 – Whitburn and Blackburn	Whitburn
Ward 8 – Bathgate	Bathgate
Ward 9 – Armadale and Blackridge.	

The area has one of the fastest growing and youngest population in the country, with an average age of 39 compared with 41 across Scotland. West Lothian rate of increase in population from 1991 to 2011 is at 21.55%, the highest of all Scottish local authority areas.

According to the 2011 census 12.2% of the population of the area are Non White/Scottish. Since the 2001 census there has been an increase in the minority ethnic population with an emphasis on people coming into the area from Eastern European countries. People from minority or ethnic backgrounds can be more vulnerable due to feeling isolated within communities due to a number of reasons, including language barriers and cultural differences.

By 2035 the population of West Lothian is projected to be 205,345, an increase of 19.3% compared to the 2010 population. The population aged under 16 is projected to increase by 13.3% over the 25 year period, however the biggest area of growth is in the older population, with growth in people of pensionable age anticipated to be 52% with particular increases in the over 75s.

Risk to people is increased when age is combined with other factors, such as living alone and / or in poverty and isolation. Physical and mental health issues associated with aging can also contribute to an increase in risk.

West Lothian's projected population change is different to most other comparator local authorities, and the Scottish average, in that most of this projected change is estimated to be through natural change e.g. the birth rate being higher than the mortality rate.

Community Planning Partners put significant emphasis on reducing health inequalities across West Lothian and recognise that inequalities can lead to poorer health and earlier death. There is a correlation between health inequalities such as smoking and alcohol/drugs misuse and the increased vulnerability to the risks of fire.

The number of households in West Lothian is predicted to grow significantly. In 2010, there were around 72,500 households in West Lothian and around 74,500 houses. By 2033 there are expected to be 97,100 households in West Lothian, an increase of around 34%.

The 2016 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) shows that West Lothian is ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the share of local authority deprived data zones, with 16 data zones in the most deprived 15%. This equated to 7% of all data zones in West Lothian. Historically it is recognised that there will be an increase in fire related activity in areas of deprivation.

Our six Community Fire Stations include two stations at Livingston and Bathgate which are staffed by Wholetime Duty System (WDS) and Retained Duty System (RDS) personnel with four stations at Broxburn, West Calder, Whitburn and Linlithgow staffed by RDS personnel. Wholetime stations are permanently staffed 24/7 throughout the year whilst our RDS personnel operate on an "on call" basis and are alerted by pager for emergency calls. Across the six stations we have 12 Fire appliances and one specialist Water Rescue vehicle.

Frontline personnel are supported by a team of local instructors from the Training and Employee Development (TED) Function. The local TED instructors provide dedicated support to operational personnel in terms of acquiring new skills, maintaining existing skills and ensuring role competency.

Our local Prevention and Protection (P&P) team consist of Fire Safety Enforcement officers, who deal with legislative matters including the auditing of relevant premises and a Community Action Team, who carry out a community engagement role through a diverse and wide reaching range of preventative activities. In addition to this, a SFRS Local Authority Liaison Officer acts as a coordinator for engagement activities and liaison with external partners.

An Area Manager, or Local Senior Officer (LSO), has overall responsibility for discharging the functions of the SFRS within West Lothian. Day to day management is devolved to a team of two Group Managers (GM) and two Station Manager (SM) responsible for Service Delivery. The Senior Management team also consists of a further two SM's who have responsibility for P&P and TED across the LSO area of Falkirk and West Lothian.

## Local Priorities, Actions and Outcomes

In identifying the priorities for this Plan [listed below] we previously engaged with communities in the West Lothian area. The engagement process involved asking the views of citizens in relation to what the SFRS priorities should be in the local area, what additional work should SFRS undertake and should the SFRS target those most at risk. This proved valuable in ensuring that the services the SFRS delivers meets the needs and expectations of the local community.

- Priority i: Local Risk Management and Preparedness
- Priority ii: Domestic Fire Safety
- Priority iii: Deliberate Fire Setting
- Priority iv: Non Domestic Fire Safety
- Priority v: Road Safety
- Priority vi: Unintentional Harm and Injury
- Priority vii: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Through analysis of our Community Planning Partners priorities that are detailed in the West Lothian Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2013-23 (rev 2017) it is possible to identify where the priorities within this Plan compliment and support the LOIP priorities. The table below depicts the identified links:

West Lothian LOIP Outcomes	Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian Priorities						
	i	ii	iii	iv	v	vi	vii
1) Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed	√	√	√		√	√	
2) We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities	√	√	√			√	
3) Our economy is diverse and dynamic, and West Lothian is an attractive place for doing Business	√		√	√			√
4) We live in resilient, cohesive and safe Communities	√	√	√		√	√	√
5) People most at risk are protected and supported to achieve improved life chances.	√	√	√	√	√	√	
6) Older people are able to live independently in the community with an improved quality of life		√	√			√	
7) We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities.	√	√				√	
8) We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.	√	√	√	√		√	√

In addition, the priorities within this Plan align to the Scottish Government National Outcome, SFRS Strategic Priorities and Outcomes and CPP key documents that support the LOIP, these being:

- The West Lothian Community Engagement Plan 2013-23
- The West Lothian Prevention Plan 2013-23
- The West Lothian Anti-Poverty Strategy 2014-17
- The West Lothian Regeneration Framework 2013-34
- West Lothian Community Safety Strategy 2015-18.

## **Priority i: Local Risk Management and Preparedness**

The SFRS is a key partner within the Resilience Partnership structure in Scotland as a Category 1 Responder, as set out in the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) and Civil Contingencies Act (2004) (Contingency Planning) Regulations (2005). The West Lothian area forms part of the Lothian and Borders Local Resilience Partnership (LBLRP) which supports the East of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership (EoSRRP). The SFRS works closely with partners including Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, NHS Lothian, MET Office, Maritime and Coastguard Agency and West Lothian Council, to develop and maintain plans based on identified risks across the LBLRP and EoSRRP area.

The SFRS has a statutory duty to reduce the risks to our communities to make certain that they receive the best possible service. The management of risk within our community means:

- Identifying the risks to the community that fall within the specific scope of responsibility of the SFRS
- Undertaking a process to prioritise these risks
- Ensuring that appropriate local and national resource capability are available and trained personnel are in place.

The SFRS is committed to working in partnership with communities, which includes empowering and supporting communities to build community resilience and cohesion. Through this work, we will work with communities to harness their resources and expertise. Examples of this work includes; making communities aware of the risks that they face, simple steps to improve their own safety.

### **We will achieve it by:**

- *Fulfilling our statutory duties in relation to the Civil Contingencies Act*
- *Ensure 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 is fit for purpose to meet our current risk profile and adaptable to changing circumstances*
- *Continually reviewing our response arrangements*
- *Adapt and evolve our response and service delivery models to meet future emerging risks.*

### **We will monitor progress against the following targets:**

- *We will visit high risk premises on a regular basis to ensure our staff are aware of the hazards and risks posed by these premises*
- *We will participate fully in all multi agency training and exercising events*
- *We will use internal SFRS reporting systems to monitor the operational competence of our personnel.*

### **In doing so we will add value by:**

- *Keeping members of the public and our staff safe, should any incident occur*
- *Reducing the financial burden and disruption caused to our communities when emergencies occur*
- *Improving the wealth and prosperity of our area*
- *Proactively helping the wider community by preventing emergencies and planning to mitigate their effects when they occur.*

## Priority ii: Domestic Fire Safety

Accidental dwelling fires and associated fire casualties and fatalities resulting from them, have a significant impact on the families affected, as well as the wider community.

Analysis of accidental dwelling fire data identifies cooking as the most common cause of fires within the home, with the most common contributory factor being distracted whilst cooking.

Cigarettes and smoking materials are identified as the primary ignition source in a number of serious injury/fatal fires with alcohol consumption and/or drugs misuse being identified as a contributory factor, which affects the occupant's ability to react appropriately in a fire situation.

In addition, there are direct links to social deprivation, age and mobility with evidence suggesting that elderly members of the community and young people are more likely to be exposed to the risk of fire in the home.

Through our Home Safety Visit programme, community engagement and education activities, we aim to reduce the risk and impact of fire and the associated losses and improve fire safety in domestic premises.

### **We will achieve reductions by:**

- *Active participation in West Lothian Community Planning arrangements and adopting a partnership approach to risk reduction*
- *Sharing information with Health Care, Social Work and relevant partners to help protect the most vulnerable*
- *Developing new partnerships to identify and support at those at most risk groups*
- *Identifying opportunities for engagement with vulnerable members of our community to promote fire safety and good citizenship*
- *Delivery of targeted fire safety related educational programmes and community engagement activities*
- *Carrying out Post Domestic Incident Response following any accidental dwelling fire.*

### **We will monitor progress against the following targets:**

- *We aim to reduce Accidental Dwelling Fires in West Lothian by 3% per year*
- *We aim to reduce Accidental Dwelling Fires Fatalities in West Lothian to a level that is as low as reasonably practicable*
- *We aim to reduce Accidental Dwelling Fires Casualties in West Lothian by 2% per year.*

### **In doing so we will also add value by:**

- *Promoting confident and safe communities where residents feel positive about where they live*
- *Protecting our citizens*
- *Making our communities safer*
- *Reducing the potential financial burden on society through the education of residents.*

### **Priority iii: Deliberate Fire Setting**

Deliberate fire setting is a significant problem for the SFRS and is responsible for a large number of fires that are attended across West Lothian. Whilst some of these incidents occur in buildings, or involve vehicles, the vast majority can be identified as fires involving outdoor refuse/grass/shrub land fires and wheelie bins. SFRS classifies these as 'secondary fires'.

Deliberate secondary fires is a form of anti-social behaviour and by focusing our attention on deliberate fires, this will reduce the demand on the SFRS, the burden upon partners and in turn enhance community wellbeing and reduce negative environmental impact.

Analysis shows that the greatest amount of deliberate fire setting activity takes place in Livingston South and East Livingston and East Calder wards and activity increases significantly each year in April and May, and is at its lowest in December and January.

#### **We will achieve reductions by:**

- *Engaging in a multi-agency approach to tackle deliberate fire setting and fire related anti-social behaviour by the targeting resources to areas of demand and high activity*
- *Work with partners to develop new strategies to reduce deliberate fire setting*
- *Deliver youth engagement programmes to reduce anti-social behaviour through diversionary activities and education*
- *Deliver school based programmes to reduce deliberate fire setting*
- *Identify and develop partnerships with organisations who engage with young people.*

#### **We will monitor progress against the following target:**

- *We aim to reduce Deliberate Fire Setting in West Lothian by 5% per year.*

#### **In doing so we will also add value by:**

- *Promoting safe and attractive communities in which people want to live*
- *Diverting those persons away from anti-social behaviour by encouraging them to be good citizens*
- *Reducing the adverse effects that deliberate fire setting has on peoples' lives*
- *Supporting the national focus towards early and effective intervention.*

## **Priority iv: Non Domestic Fire Safety**

All fires in workplaces and business premises are classed as Non-Domestic Fires and come under the scope of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005.

Fire Safety Enforcement Officers carry out audits to ensure statutory responsibilities are met and provide advice to businesses on fire safety. The types of premises encompassed by the Act can be wide-ranging and include industrial, commercial and those premises providing sleeping accommodation, such as residential care premises.

We proactively work as part of a partnership, with local industry to ensure that Businesses Continuity Planning and Emergency Preparedness Arrangements are appropriate, to ensure we can mitigate the impact of fires and other emergencies on business and that we are prepared to respond to adverse safety events.

In addition to industrial, commercial and sleeping/care premises a number non domestic premises types linked to domestic premises (e.g. garages, sheds and huts) can be at risk from fire. During our engagement with home owners we can raise awareness of this type of incident and offer fire safety information to mitigate risk in there types of property.

### **We will achieve reductions by:**

- *Using a risk based approach to audit business and commercial premises by Fire Safety Enforcement Officers*
- *Work with the West Lothian Council licensing department to ensure all multiple occupation houses comply with the required standards in relation to Fire Safety*
- *Consultation with West Lothian Council Building Standards Officers and architects*
- *Carrying out Post Fire Audits following any fire within relevant premises*
- *Engaging in a multi-agency approach to tackle Non Domestic Fires*
- *Deliver youth engagement programmes to reduce anti-social behaviour through diversionary activities and education*
- *Deliver school based programmes to reduce deliberate fire setting*
- *Identify and develop partnerships with organisations who engage with young people.*

### **We will monitor progress against the following target:**

- *We aim to reduce fires in Non-Domestic Premises in West Lothian by 3% per year.*

### **In doing so we will also add value by:**

- *Improving the wealth and prosperity in our area*
- *Improving the quality of our infrastructure and promote growth of the local economy*
- *Safeguarding the wellbeing of residents and employees within relevant premises*
- *Supporting business continuity and employment within our area.*

## Priority v: Road Safety

A core part of the SFRS's role is responding to Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs). Firefighters are trained to a high standard and have at their disposal the most modern equipment for extricating people from vehicles involved in a collision and administering first aid to casualties.

Whilst attendance at RTCs is a core role for the SFRS, primary responsibility for road safety lies with Transport Scotland, Police Scotland and local authorities. The SFRS has a crucial role in support of these 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 dangerous driving and RTCs. National statistics identify that the most at risk group is young drivers who are targeted through the multi-agency educational programme, which is aimed at 4th year secondary school pupils and supports Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020 'Go Safe'.

### We will achieve reductions by:

- *Continuing our involvement in multi-agency educational programmes, particularly aimed at high risk groups within our communities*
- *Develop innovative ways of delivering the road safety agenda in collaboration with partners*
- *Working with our partners within West Lothian to ensure that all agencies can map road incident hotspots.*

### We will monitor progress against the following target:

- *We aim to reduce fatalities and casualties from Road Traffic Collisions in West Lothian by 2% per year.*

### In doing so we will also add value by:

- *Protecting our citizens*
- *Making our communities safer*
- *Reducing the number of hospital admissions, and the associated costs to the NHS and other organisations due to RTC related injuries*
- *Encouraging young drivers and other groups to be responsible road users through active engagement and education.*

## **Priority vi: Unintentional Harm and Injury**

Unintentional harm in the home environment, for example, slips, trips, falls and scalds to the very young and old, is now widely recognised as presenting significant issues to the health of the public, as well as the impact these injuries have on our public services.

Analysis shows that our very young and elderly, particularly in more deprived communities, are most at risk of suffering from an unintentional injury. Analysis also shows that a number of agencies are often involved with those most vulnerable to these injuries.

Working with our community safety partners, both within West Lothian and across Scotland, SFRS has a significant role to play in contributing towards identifying those at risk, and the risks they are exposed to, and reducing or eliminating those risks, either directly through SFRS intervention, or indirectly through partner interventions.

### **We will achieve reductions in accidental harm by:**

- *Work with our partners to understand the signs and causes of unintentional harm in the home, and educate Fire and Rescue Service personnel to identify these and deliver appropriate interventions*
- *Utilising our Home Safety Visit programme to assess for risk in the home, with a focus on the young and elderly, referring those deemed at risk from harm or injury to partners to provide additional support*
- *Focus resources where demand has been identified and deliver key community safety messages*
- *Work with partners to mitigate the negative outcomes of adverse health issues.*

### **We will monitor progress by:**

- *Reviewing and reporting upon the number of Special Service casualties (excluding RTCs).*

### **In doing so we will also add value by:**

- *Promoting confident and safe communities where citizens feel positive about where they live*
- *Protecting our citizens*
- *Making our communities will be safer*
- *Reducing the potential financial burden on society through the education of citizens.*

## **Priority vii: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals**

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are those occasions when an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources, when the reason for that alarm turns out to be something other than a fire. UFAS are categorised into three categories: False Alarm Good Intent, False Alarm Malicious or False Alarm Equipment Failure.

Within West Lothian, UFAS incidents in non-domestic properties account for a large number of the total incidents attended. UFAS has a negative impact on the SFRS through the deployment of resources to incidents where lifesaving services are not required. This negative impact is also experienced by businesses through loss of production, business continuity or service delivery. Attendance at UFAS creates a negative financial burden upon SFRS as well as increasing the road risk and environmental impact within West Lothian.

### **We will achieve reductions in Unwanted Fire Alarm Systems by:**

- *Working with Duty Holders to reduce occurrences of UFAS*
- *Implement intervention systems such as staff alarm response or technical interventions including changes to the detector type, or double activation systems where required*
- *Where required, implement the SFRS policy on UFAS, and reduce the operational response to premises which continue have UFAS incidents*
- *Identify premises which attract a significant operational response, and re-assess the response required.*

### **We will monitor progress against the following target:**

- *We aim to reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in West Lothian by 5% per year.*

### **In doing so we will also add value by:**

- *Protecting our citizens*
- *Making our communities safer*
- *Improving the wealth and prosperity in our area*
- *Reducing the negative impact of UFAS on local business.*

## Review

To ensure this 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 which, the Local Senior Officer may revise the Plan.

## Tell us what you think

This draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan 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 31 October 2017 and will run until 22 December 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/planning-and-performance/west-lothian-draft-local-fire-plan>. 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:

Write to:                      Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Falkirk and West Lothian LSO Area HQ  
Westfield,  
Falkirk  
FK2 9AH

Phone:                         01324 629121

Visit our website:        [www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk)

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SCOTTISH  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

[www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk)