



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

West Lothian Area

2014-17 Local Fire Plan

Review Report 2017

(Conducted May 2017)

Introduction

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is required under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 as amended to prepare Local Fire and Rescue Plans for each local authority area in Scotland. Following the publication of the SFRS Strategic Plan in the inaugural year of the Service, the first Local Fire 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.

West Lothian Local Fire Plan Priorities Review

The section below outlines the priorities in the 2014-17 West Lothian Local Fire Plan and an analysis how we have performed against the targets that were set for the priorities.

Priority 1.

Local Risk Management and Preparedness

The SFRS has a statutory duty to reduce the risks to our communities and 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 scope of responsibility of the SFRS.
- Undertaking a process to prioritise these risks.
- Ensuring that appropriate Local and National resource capability and trained Fire Service personnel are in place to address them.

The SFRS monitors existing risks and emerging threats in terms of the natural and built environment, as per the Lothian and Borders Community Risk Register, to identify areas that require risk management and preparation initiatives. Examples of such risks identified in West Lothian are:

- Forest or moorland fires.
- Local accidents on motorways and major trunk roads.
- Localised flash flooding of up to 200 properties.
- Fire or explosion at a gas terminal or involving a gas pipeline.

The SFRS is committed to working in partnership with all relevant stakeholders to ensure emergency planning and preparedness arrangements are in place and tested. An element of our partnership working 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:

- Ensuring our training, staff development and equipment is fit for purpose to meet our current risk profile and adaptable to changing circumstances.
- Ensure all known risk information is obtained, communicated and tested.
- Working locally with partner organisations and agencies to ensure effective response plans are developed for identified risks.
- Fulfilling our statutory duties in relation to the Civil Contingencies Act.

In doing so we will also add value by:

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

Target

Due to the nature of this priority no targets were set. However internal monitoring and measuring processes are in place within SFRS and within the local area to monitor progress and performance.

Contextual Overview

In tandem with delivering the priorities within the current 2014-17 Local Fire Plan the SFRS and the Falkirk and West Lothian area has been moving through a national transition and harmonisation process of aligning 8 legacy fire and rescue service processes and systems of work into single SFRS systems. This has had a significant impact on this priority and presented some challenges. However, from a local perspective the area has harmonised well and all of the processes that have been developed at a national/organisational level have been implemented within the area. Highlighted below are examples of national/organisational systems and processes that have been implemented or supported locally.

- Consistent with the SFRS Operational Intelligence Model, local risks within the area have been identified, and recorded. Visits to premises have been undertaken to ensure operational staff are familiar with the hazards and risks in premises and how to control and mitigate them,
- The area implemented the SFRS Special Appliance Review which has seen the Incident Support Unit at Bathgate Fire Station replaced with a bespoke water rescue boat/trailer and prime mover,
- A revised Resource Based Crewing Model and 5 Watch/Shift Pattern has been implemented,
- All operational staff within the area maintain competence (training and exercising) through the SFRS Maintenance Phase Development Planner toolkit,
- We continue to support and contribute to the West Lothian (Lothian and Borders Local Resilience Partnership (LRP)).

The new Local Fire Plan will continue to make a commitment to ensuring the SFRS mitigates risk and is prepared to deal with emergency events. However, it is noted that the current plan has limited reference

to community resilience and the principle that citizens can do much to support themselves and can build resilience within their own community.

Priority 2.

Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires

Throughout West Lothian, accidental dwelling fires have occurred within a wide variety of locations. There are direct links to areas of social deprivation and those who are most vulnerable to fire within the community.

Alcohol consumption and/or drugs misuse continue to be identified as a contributory factor in a number of serious injury/fatal fires, due to the affect that they have upon the occupant's ability to react appropriately in a fire situation.

In addition, cigarettes and smoking materials continue to be identified as the primary ignition source in a number of serious injury/fatal fires.

House fires can have a significant negative impact on both individuals and the community, in relation to the human, social and economic cost of fire.

Through our Home Fire Safety Visit programme, Community Engagement and Education activities, we aim to reduce the risk and impact of fire and the associated losses.

We will achieve it 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 risk groups.
- Identifying opportunities for engagement with all members of our community to promote fire safety and good citizenship.
- Delivery of fire safety related educational programmes and community engagement activities.

In doing so we will also add value by:

- Promoting confident and safe communities where residents feel positive about where they live.
- Our citizens will be protected.
- Our communities will be safer.
- Reducing the potential financial burden on society through the education of residents.

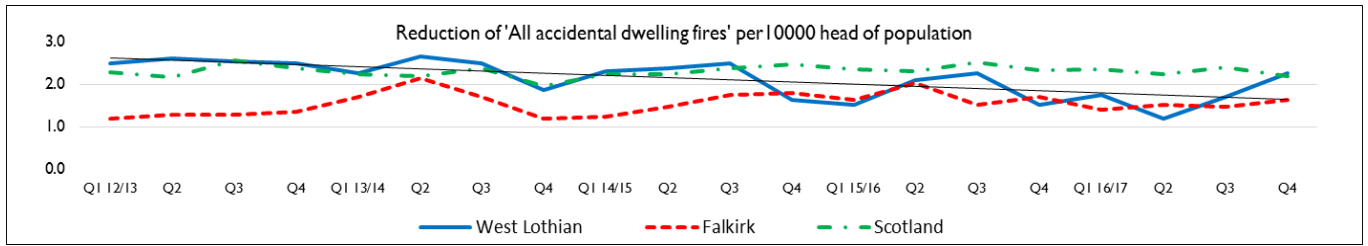
Target

To measure performance a local target was set;

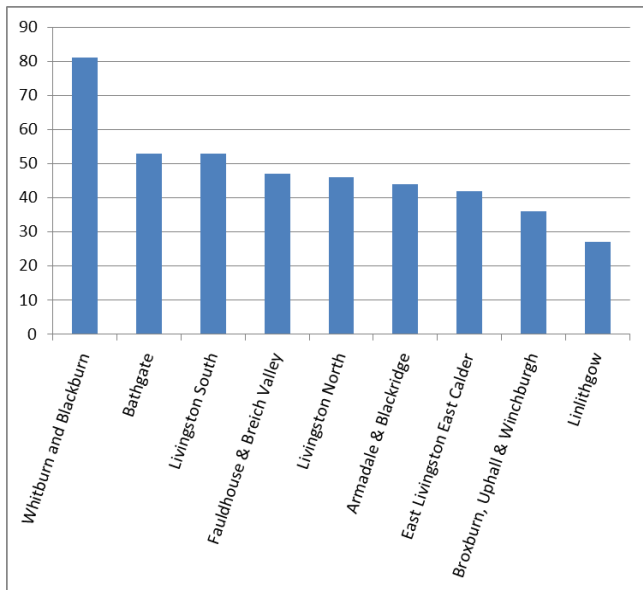
We aim to reduce Accidental Dwelling Fires in West Lothian by 2% per year, which contributes towards the SFRS target of reducing Accidental Dwelling Fires by 10% per year, over a three-year rolling period.

Performance Data – what the figures told us

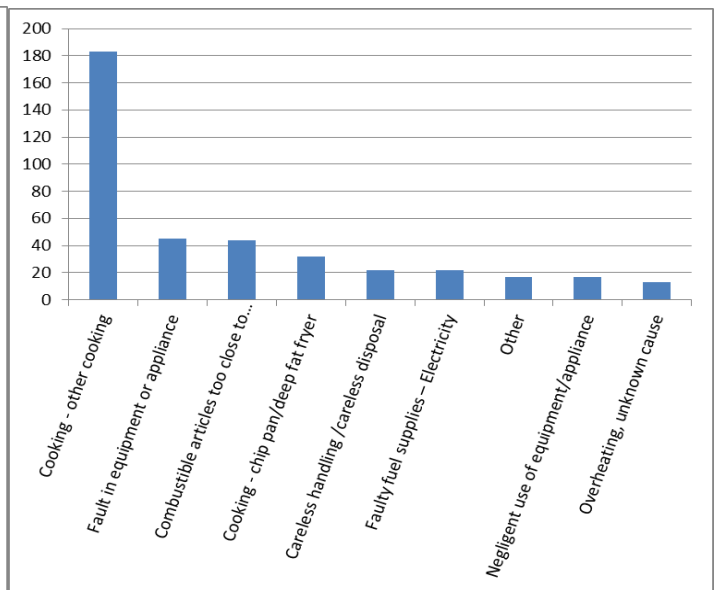
(All Charts and Graphs depict Local Fire Plan life span data (2014-17) with the exception of benchmark graphs which are 5 year trends)



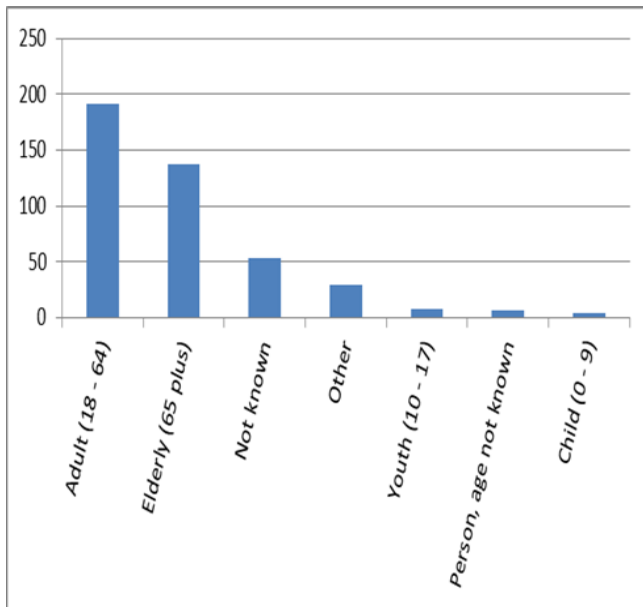
Accidental Fire Trend Lines



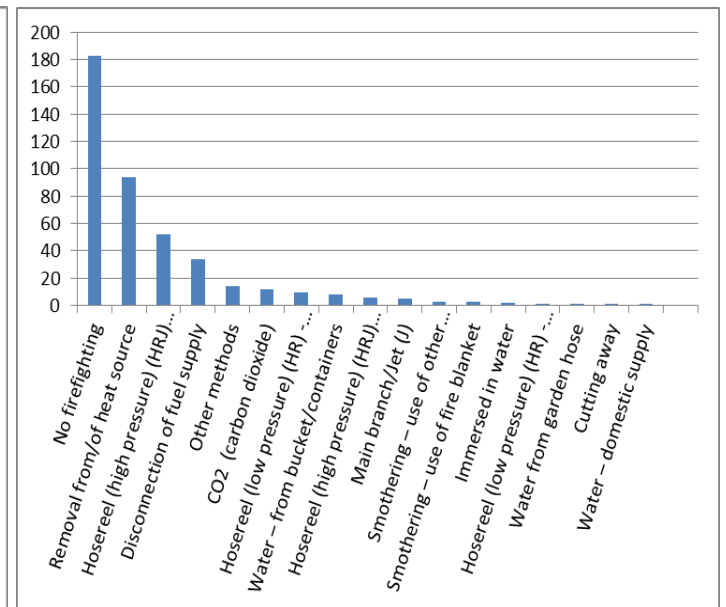
Incident/Ward Distribution



Cause of Fire Distribution



Incident/Age Distribution



Firefighting Medium Distribution

Contextual Overview

Over the lifetime of the 2014-17 Local Fire Plan there has been a decrease in the trend line for Accidental Dwelling Fires. When comparing incidents (per 10000 population) with a comparable Local Authority and Scotland, the trend is similar to the comparable Local Authority and slightly better than Scotland as a whole.

From a ward perspective Whitburn and Blackburn stand out as having the highest number of incidents. Other wards whilst having varying number of incidents do not portray any specific trends.

The highest proportion of Accidental Dwelling Fire incidents are related to cooking (and the use of chip pans and deep fat fryers) and the next 2 highest being faulty equipment and combustible materials being placed too close to a heat source.

Whilst the adults age category 18-64 is attributed to the highest number of incidents, it is recognised that this is a broad age spectrum and the elderly category (65+), which is arguably a smaller age spectrum has a high proportion of all incidents.

A high proportion of incidents required no firefighting interventions by SFRS or item removed from heat source, this can mean, that in the case of cooking, the material was no longer on fire when SFRS arrived or the burnt foodstuff was removed from the cooker by SFRS. No firefighting interventions can also mean that the SFRS attended the incident as a precautionary check.

Priority 3.

Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties

Fire casualties tend to occur in accidental dwelling fires. Evidence suggests that where occupants of a dwelling misuse alcohol and/or drugs or are elderly or infirm, there is an increased likelihood of becoming a fire casualty/ fatality. The absence of a working smoke detector can greatly increase the vulnerability of these individuals.

The human and financial costs associated with fire casualties/fatalities are high due to potentially significant trauma/ loss of life to individuals, and societal costs.

The SFRS in West Lothian aims to target a reduction in these casualties by adopting a partnership approach to reduce the risk to individuals, particularly those that are most vulnerable.

We will achieve it by:

- Active participation in West Lothian Council Community Planning arrangements and adopting a partnership approach to risk reduction.
- Continued delivery of the Home Fire Safety Visit programme to households within West Lothian, with particular emphasis on the most vulnerable in our community.
- Targeted Home Fire Safety Visit referrals from partner agencies.
- Promoting healthier lifestyles through encouraging a reduction in alcohol, drugs and cigarette use.
- Ensuring our community safety strategy considers all persons at risk from fire.

In doing so we will also add value by:

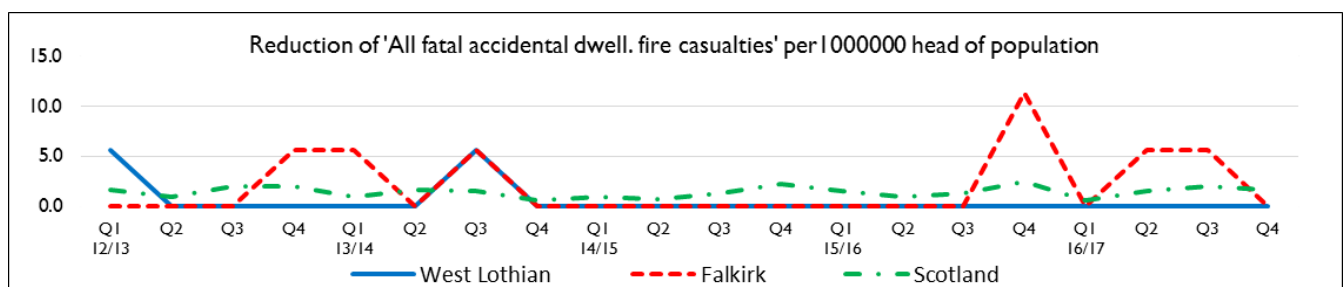
- Our citizens will be protected.
- Our communities will be safer.
- Reducing demand on other partner services such as local health care and social work partners.
- Reducing fire casualty hospitalisation times.

Target

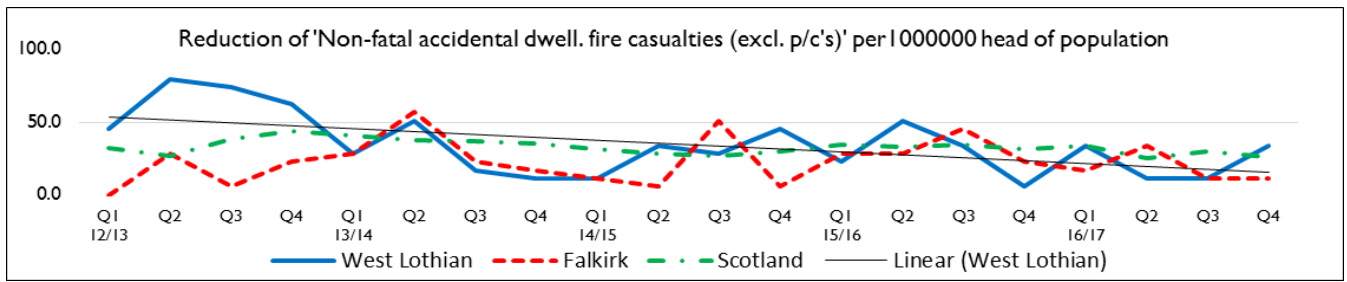
To measure performance a local target was set;

We aim to reduce Fire Casualties in West Lothian by 5% per year, which contributes towards the SFRS target of reducing Fire Casualties by 5% per year, over a three-year rolling period.

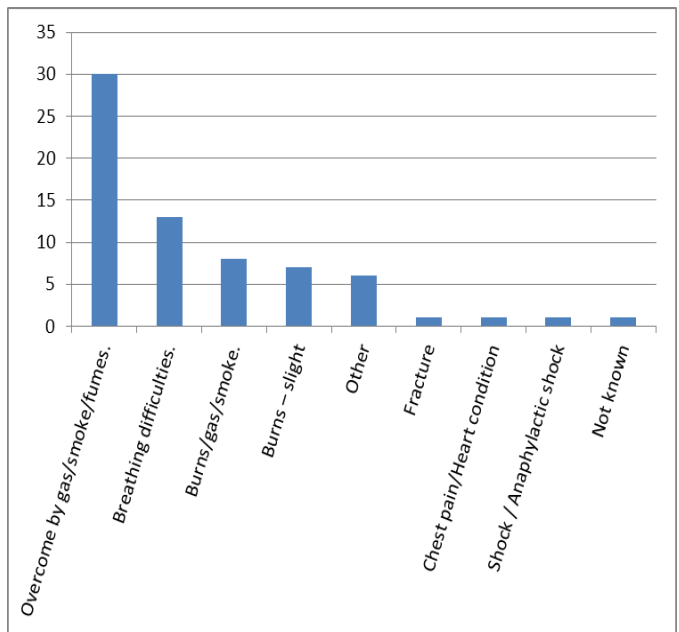
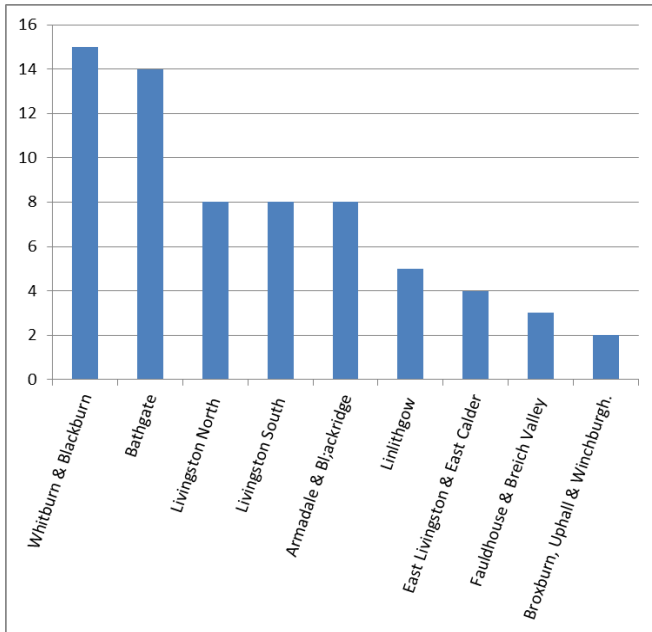
Performance Data – what the figures told us



Fatal Accidental Fire Trend Lines

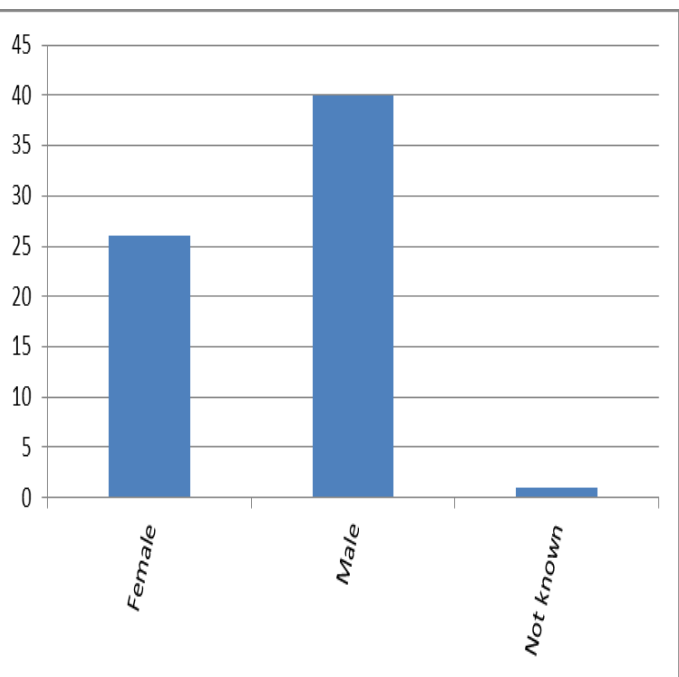
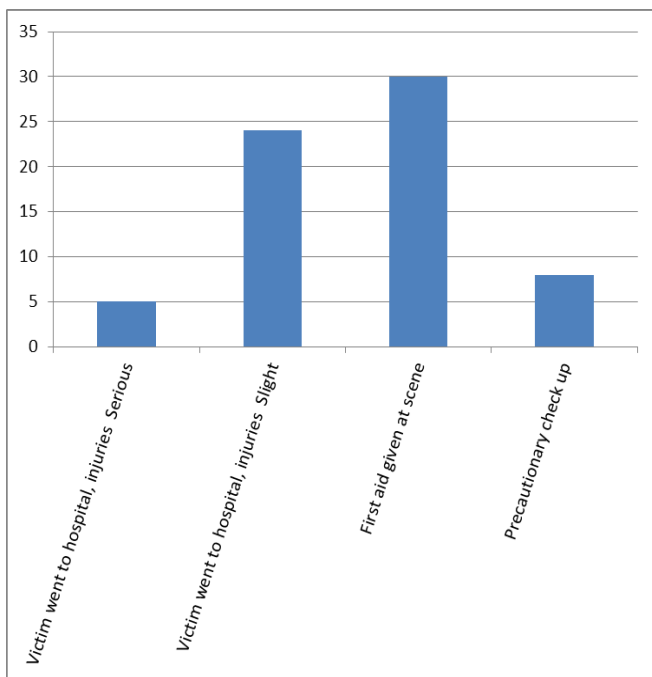


Non-Fatal Accidental Fire Trend Lines



Non-Fatal Incident/Ward Distribution

Injury Distribution



Extent of Harm Distribution

Gender Distribution

Contextual Overview

Over the lifetime of the 2014-17 Local Plan there has been 1 fatality relating to Accidental Dwelling Fires, which is a positive picture compared to a comparative Local Authority and Scotland. There has been a reduction in the trend for all Casualties and Fatalities (Including Precautionary Check-ups), this reducing trend is similar to a comparator Local Authority and slightly better than to that of Scotland.

From a ward perspective Whitburn and Blackburn stand out as having the highest number of injury events, with Bathgate ward following closely behind. Livingston North and South and Armadale and Blackridge wards all have a relatively high number of injury events whilst having all other wards do not portray any specific trends.

The highest proportion of injuries sustained at incidents were being overcome by gas or smoke and breathing difficulties. Burns factored relatively lowly in the injuries table. It is understood that none of the injuries sustained were life changing.

In terms of injury severity, a relatively low proportion of those injured at Accidental Dwelling Fires had serious injuries. The two other main types of injuries, that are roughly equal, were slight injury that required the victim to go to hospital and minimal where first aid was given at the scene.

There is a slightly higher propensity for males to have suffered injuries in Accidental Dwelling Fires than females.

Priority 4.

Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting

Deliberate fire setting is a significant problem for the SFRS and is responsible for a significant number of secondary fires that are attended across West Lothian. In the main, secondary fire categories are refuse, grassland and derelict buildings incidents. In addition deliberate fire setting is responsible for a number of primary fires that involve property loss and potential injury/loss of life.

There is a close link between deliberate secondary fires and other forms of anti-social behaviour. By continuing to focus our attention on deliberate fires this will reduce the demand on the SFRS and the burden upon partners and in turn enhance community wellbeing and the environmental impact.

We will achieve it 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.
- Deliver youth engagement programmes to reduce anti-social behaviour through diversionary activities and education.
- Identify and develop partnerships with organisations who engage with young people.
- Providing an enhanced level of Fire Investigation within West Lothian.

In doing so we will also add value by:

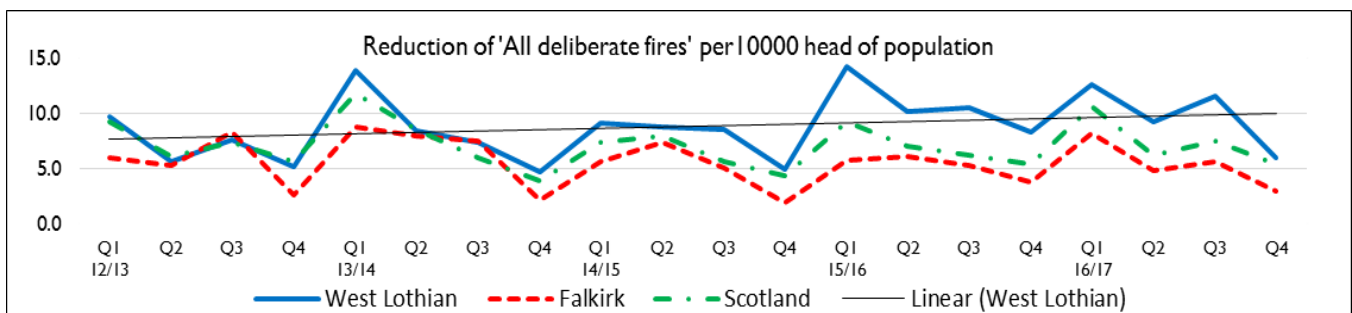
- Promoting safe and attractive communities in which people want to live.
- Diverting those persons away from anti-social behaviour by encouraging them to be good citizens.
- Reducing the adverse effects that deliberate fire setting has on peoples' lives within West Lothian.
- Supporting the national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

Target

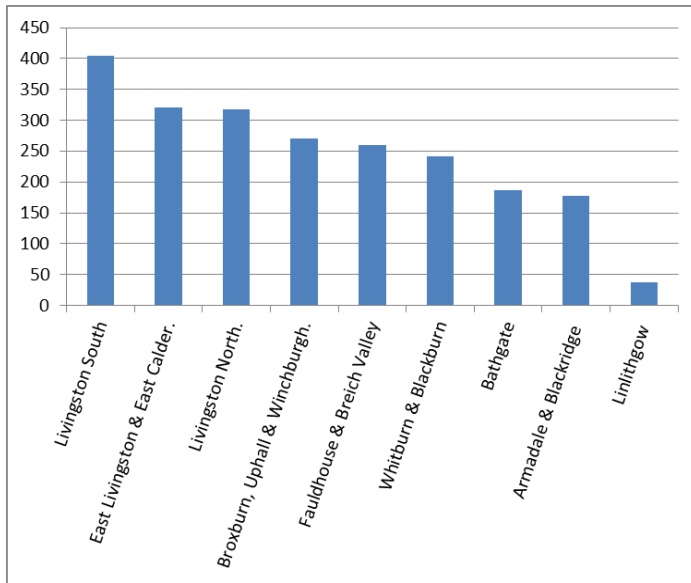
To measure performance a local target was set;

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

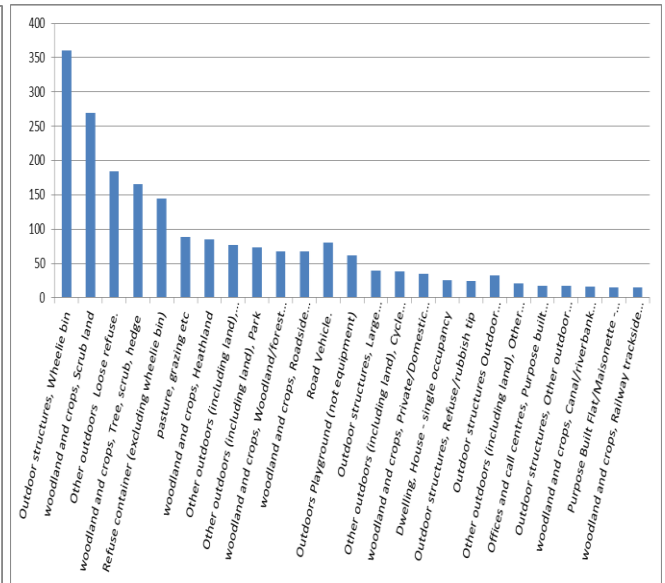
Performance Data – what the figures told us



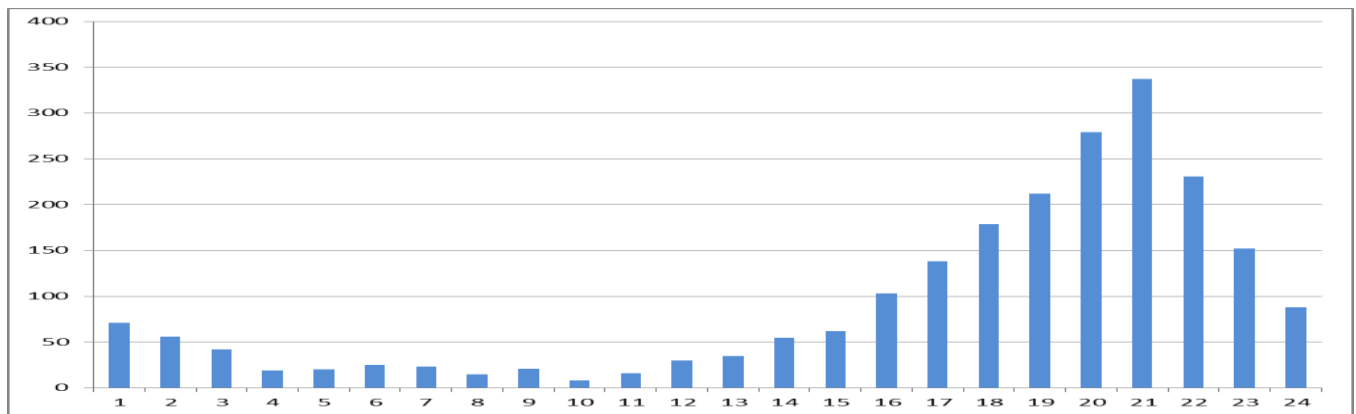
Deliberate Fire Trend Lines



Deliberate Fire Incident/Ward Distribution



Property Type Distribution



Time of Day Distribution

Contextual Overview

Over the lifetime of the Plan there has been an increase in the trend line for Deliberate Fires. When comparing incidents (per 10000 population) with a comparable Local Authority and Scotland this upward trend is replicated. However, the incident trend is higher in the West Lothian area than that of both a comparable Local Authority and Scotland as a whole.

From a ward perspective Livingston South and East Livingston & East Calder and Livingston North are the three wards that have the highest instances of Deliberate Fire setting.

The highest proportion incidents are related to wheelie bins being set on fire, with woodland, grassland, shrubs and bushes etc, following closely behind.

The vast majority of Deliberate Fires occur between the hours of 4 PM and 11PM with a peak being reached at 9 PM.

Priority 5.

Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Property

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.

In addition to the costs associated with fires in commercial properties, many businesses that experience a significant fire do not reopen afterwards.

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.

We will achieve it by:

- The audit of business and commercial premises by Fire Safety Enforcement Officers using a risk based approach.
- Work with the West Lothian Council licensing department to ensure all multiple occupation houses comply with the required standards in relation to Fire Safety.
- Carrying out Post Fire Audits following any fire within relevant premises.
- Consultation with West Lothian Council Building Standards Officers and architects.
- Participation in major incident preparedness and exercising

In doing so we will also add value by:

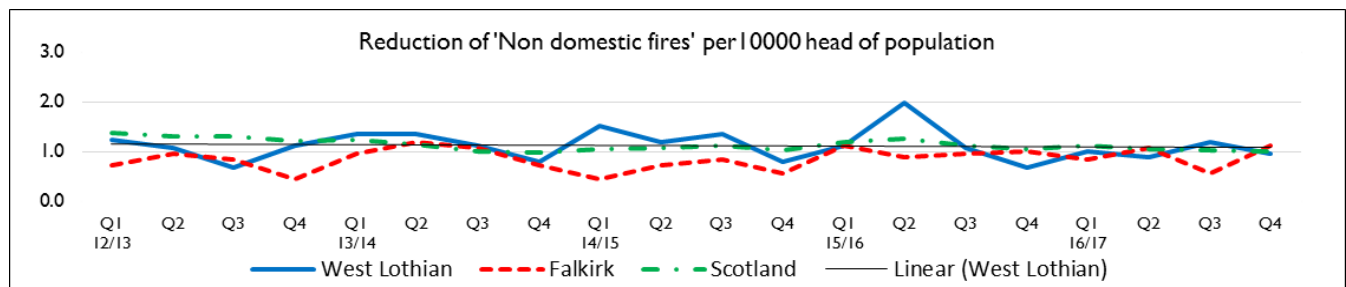
- The wealth and prosperity in our area will increase.
- The quality of our infrastructure will help promote growth of the local economy.
- Safeguarding the wellbeing of residents and employees within relevant premises.
- Supporting business continuity and employment within West Lothian.
- Our citizens will be protected.
- Our communities will be safer

Target

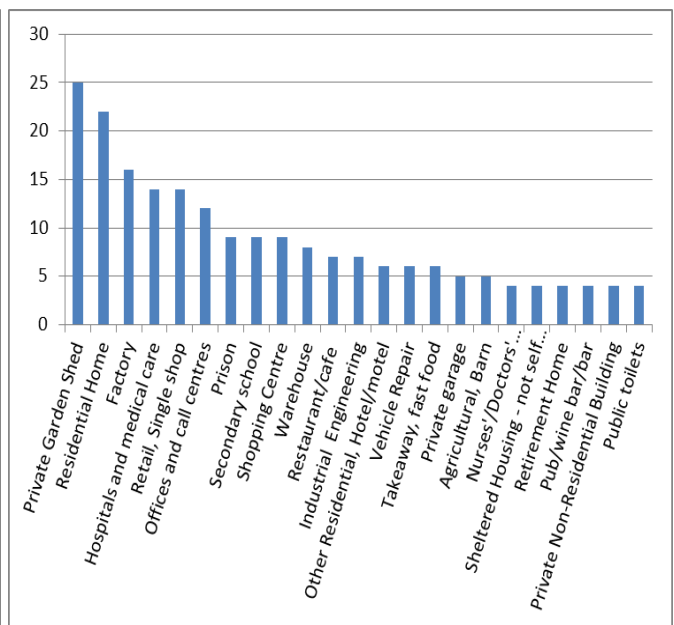
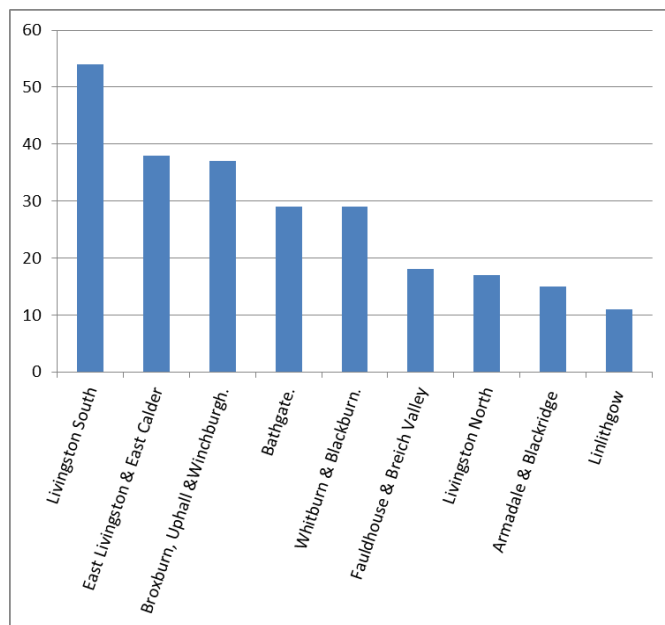
To measure performance a local target was set;

We aim to reduce Non-Domestic Premises Fires in West Lothian by 3% per year, which contributes to the SFRS target of continually reducing Non-Domestic Premises Fires.

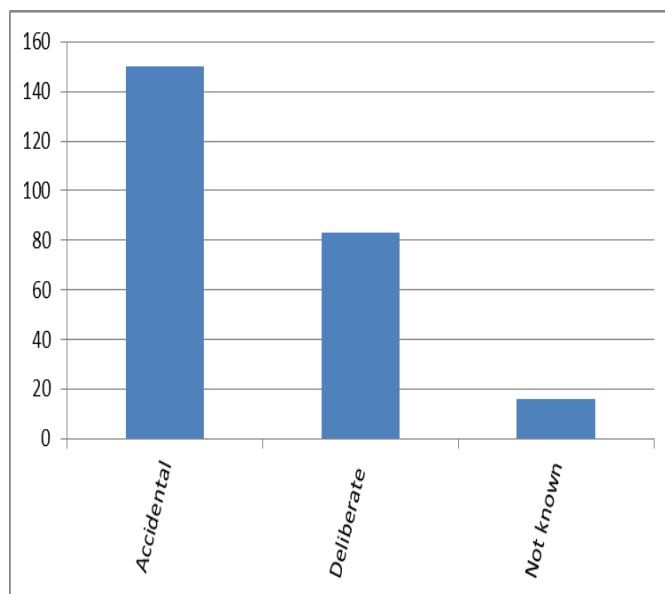
Performance Data – what the figures told us



Non domestic Fires Trend Lines

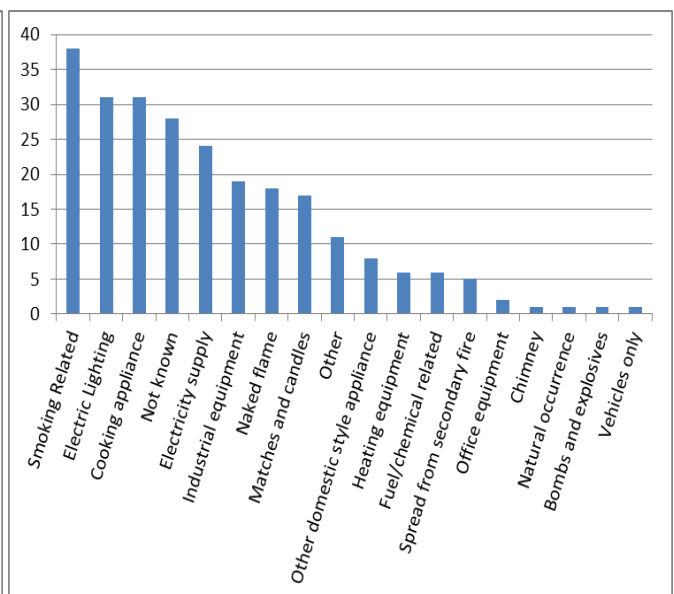


Non Domestic Fire Incident/Ward Distribution



Cause of Fire Distribution

Property Type Distribution



Source of Ignition Distribution

Contextual Overview

Over the lifetime of the Plan there has been little deviation in the trend line for Non Domestic Fires, in West Lothian, a comparable Local Authority and Scotland. In terms of geographical areas Livingston South ward has the highest proportion of Non Domestic Fires with other wards whilst having differing proportions of incident activity do not depict specific patterns or trends.

Whilst Non Domestic Fires tend to be associated with business or commercial premises analysis of the data provides an indication that a high proportion of these types of fires are associated with garden sheds and huts. Residential homes (the sum of all types) also accounts for a high proportion of these types of incident.

A significant number of Non Domestic Fires are started accidentally, however deliberate fire raising linked to these premises types is considerable.

The main cause of Non Domestic Fires is smoking materials with electricity supplies/lighting and cooking appliances featuring highly.

Priority 6.

Reduction in Fatalities and 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) and other rescue situations such as; rescue from water, from height or from entrapment. Operational fire fighters 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.

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 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 RTCs and dangerous driving. National statistics identify that the most at risk group is young drivers who are targeted through the multi-agency initiative "Westdrive", which is aimed at 4th year school pupils and supports Go Safe, Scotland's Road Safety Framework for 2020.

The educational road safety activities that we deliver are designed to increase driver awareness in relation to the consequences of dangerous driving. Particular focus continues to be on young and new drivers.

We will achieve it by:

- Continuing our educational programmes, such as Westdrive, 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.

In doing so we will also add value by:

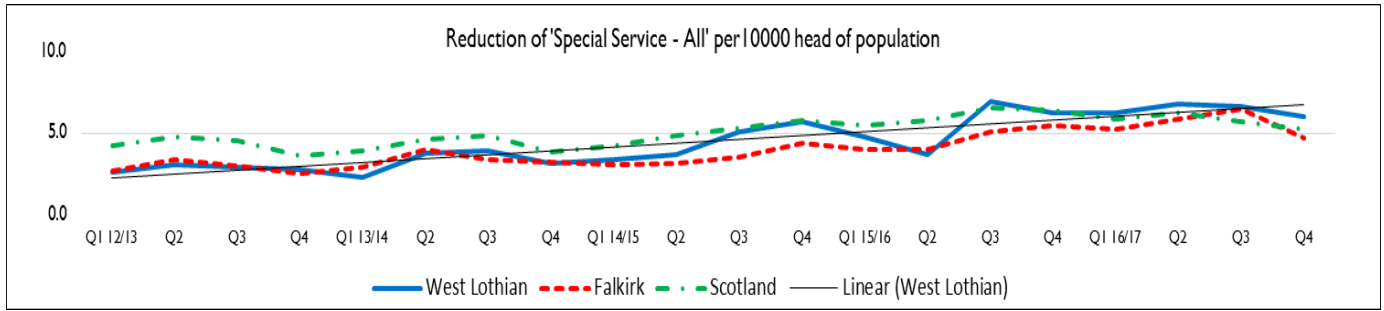
- Our citizens will be protected.
- Our communities will be safer.
- Reducing the number of hospital admissions, and the associated costs to the NHS and other organisations due to RTC related injuries.
- Encouraging young drivers and other groups to be responsible road users through active engagement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

Target

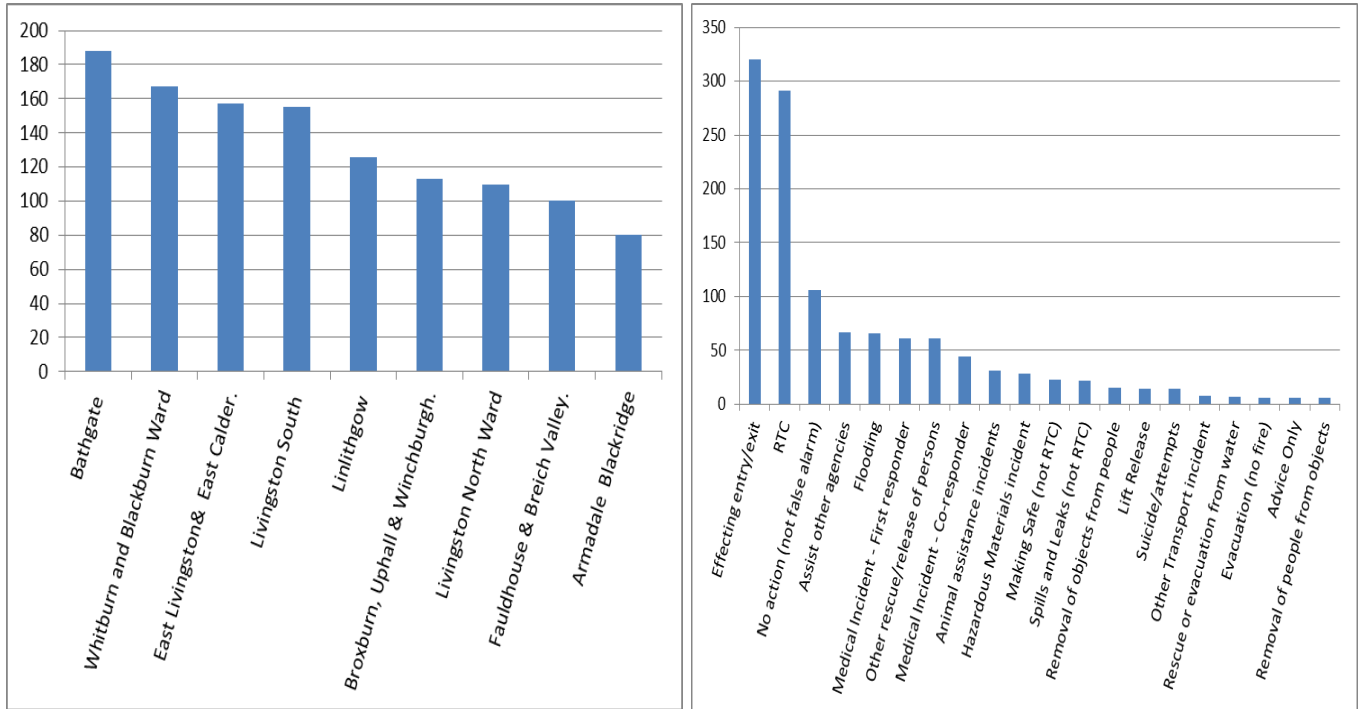
To measure performance a local target was set;

We aim to reduce Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies in West Lothian by 4% per year, which contributes to the SFRS target of reducing Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies per year, over a three year rolling period.

Performance Data – what the figures told us

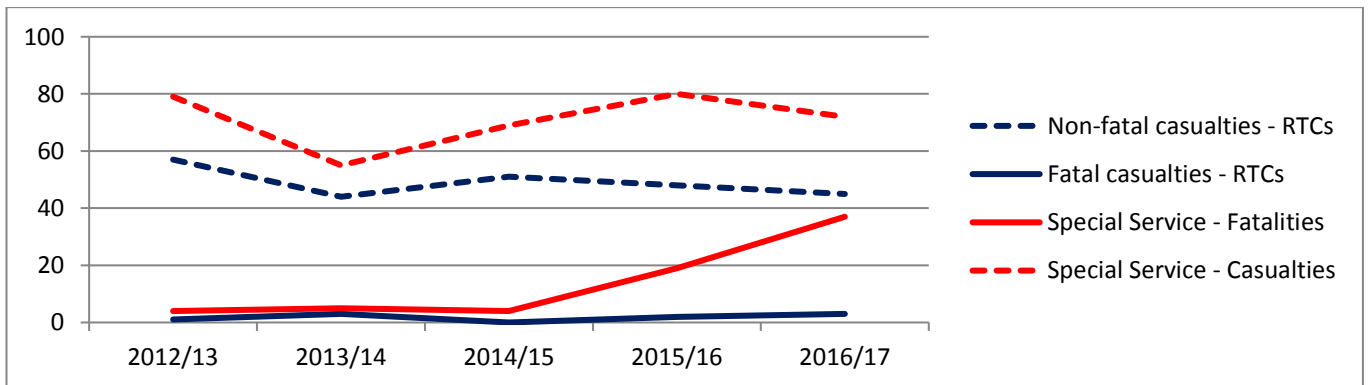


Special Service Incident Trend Lines



Special Service Incident/Ward Distribution

Special Service Incident Type Distribution



Special Service Fatality/Casualty Trend Line

Contextual Overview

Special Services Fatalities and Casualties traditionally included fatalities and casualties as a result of incidents where SFRS were required to deal with an incident that was not fire related. These types of incidents include road traffic collisions, industrial accidents, persons trapped in water etc.

Over the lifetime of the Plan there has been an increase in the trend line for Special Services Fatalities and Casualties. When comparing incidents (per 10000 population) with a comparable Local Authority and Scotland this upward trend is replicated. The increase in this trend is due the commencement of the Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest project (OHCA) whereby SFRS resources are deployed to assist other agencies to deal persons who have suffered a heart attack.

From a ward perspective Bathgate and Whitburn and Blackburn wards have the highest proportion of incidents, but it is noted that these ward area are ones that was involved in the OHCA project pilot.

Analysis of incident types depicts that Road Traffic Accidents (RTCs) feature highly in the incident type chart however, Effecting Entry, Medical Incident/First Aid and Assist Other Agency also feature prominently and these activities are associated with the OHCA project.

With specific reference to Road Traffic Collisions it is evident that the trend for fatalities is relatively static whilst casualties are on the decline. However as described above, the overall special service fatality trend depicts a sharp increase which is again relayed to OHCA.

Priority 7.

Reduction of 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 emergency.

UFAS are categorised into three main categories: False Alarm with Good Intent, False Alarm Malicious or False Alarms Equipment Failure.

Within West Lothian UFAS incidents in non-domestic properties account for a significant amount of the total calls attended.

UFAS has a negative impact on the SFRS through the deployment of resources to incidents where their life saving 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 it by:

- Working with the business and commercial sector to provide advice and guidance in relation to the management of unwanted fire alarm signals.
- Ensure premises with unwanted fire alarm signal occurrences comply with the British Standard 5839 Part 1 & 6: current editions.
- Implementation of SFRS UFAS policy

In doing so we will also add value by:

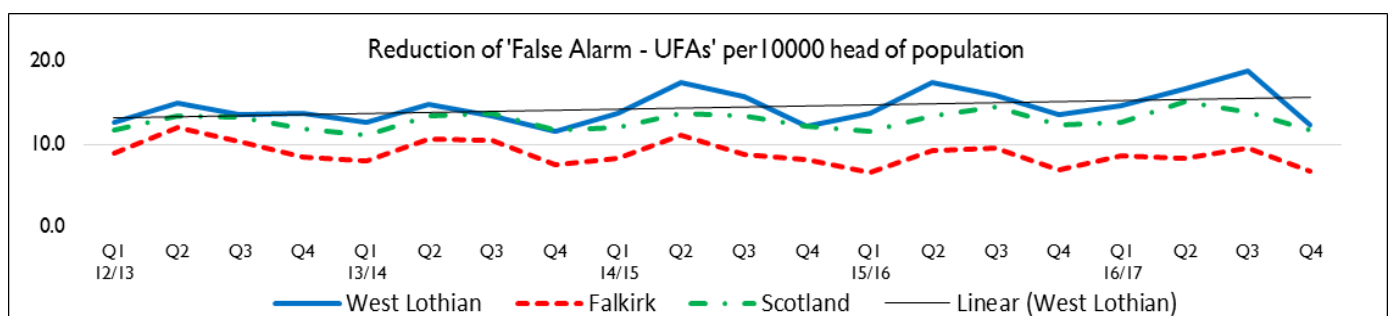
- The wealth and prosperity in our area will increase.
- The negative impact of UFAS on local business will reduce.

Target

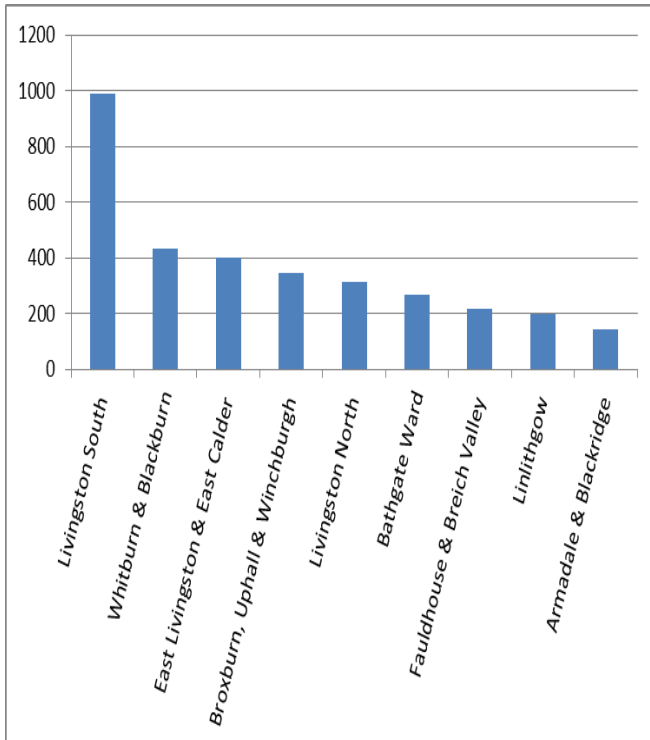
To measure performance a local target was set;

We aim to reduce false alarms in West Lothian by 5% per year.

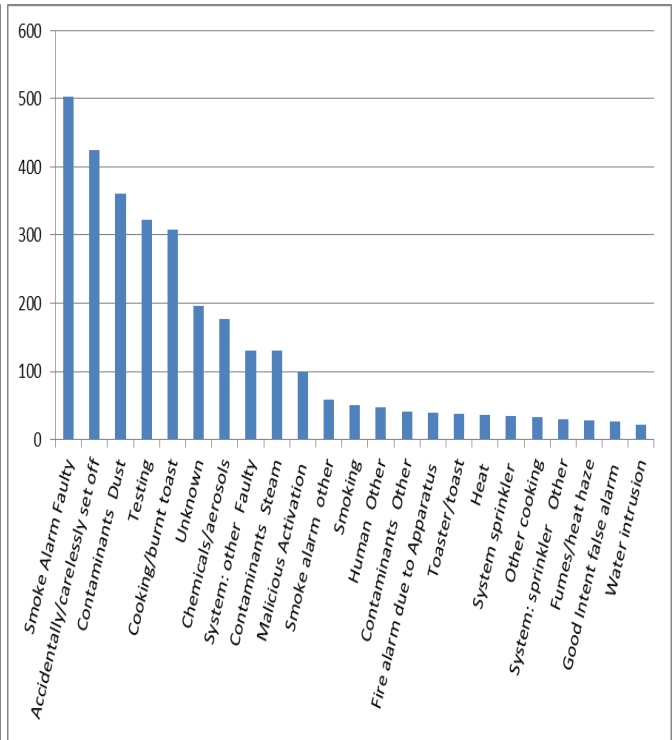
Performance Data – what the figures told us



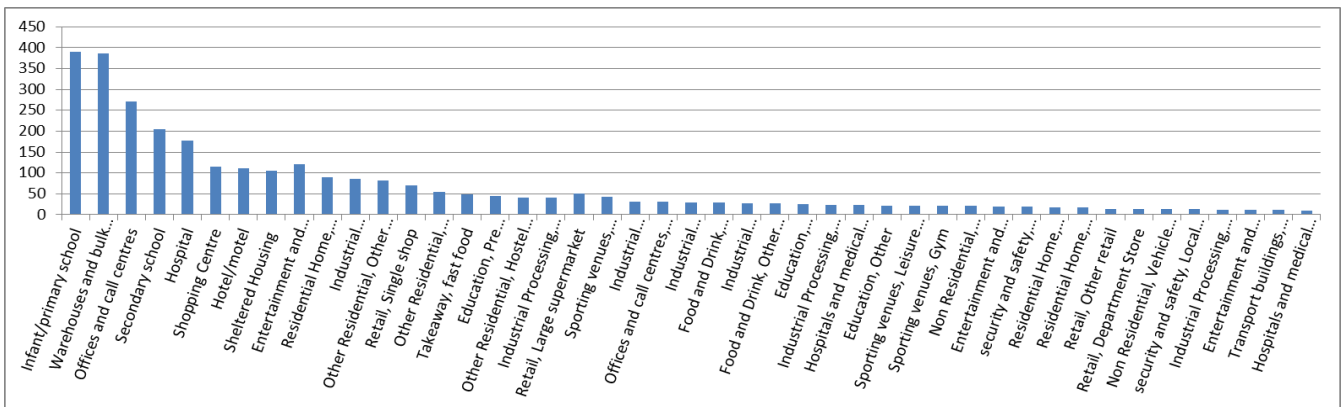
UFAS Incident Trend Lines



UFAS Incident/Ward Distribution



UFAS Cause Distribution



UFAS Premises Type Distribution

Contextual Overview

Over the lifetime of the Plan there has been a slight increase in the trend line for Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. This upward trend is similar in a comparable Local Authority and Scotland as a whole.

In terms of geographical areas Livingston South ward has the highest proportion of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. There is a correlation between the types of premises located in this area, e.g. educational establishments, the shopping centre and St Johns Hospital and the number of calls.

The premises type graphs highlights that schools (both primary and secondary) and warehouses are high contributors to UFAS activity.

With reference to methods of activation of alarm system, faulty smoke alarms feature high in the list of causes, however cooking adjacent to a detector, system tests and steam actuating detector heads all feature predominantly. It also is worthy of note the limited activations caused by malicious activation.

It should be noted that Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals account for approximately 60% of all incidents the SFRS attends in the West Lothian area.

Engagement – what our stakeholders told us

In the winter of 2016 the West Lothian Community Planning, Community Safety Partnership conducted a community engagement exercise which was aimed at seeking citizens in West Lothians views on community safety within the area. Included within the survey were a range of questions that sought to specifically seek the views of citizens on priorities and outcomes in relation to fire and the services the SFRS delivers.

The following information provides detail on the feedback received from the survey.

Question

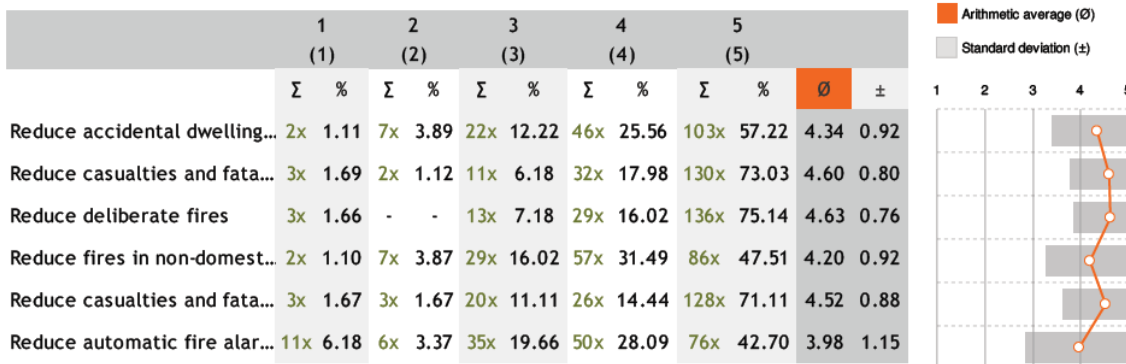
9. The current West Lothian Local Fire Plan Priorities are outlined below:

Please score each in a level of importance from 1-5 with 1 being the least important and 5 being the most important

	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce accidental dwelling fires	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce casualties and fatalities from accidental dwelling fires	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce deliberate fires	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce fires in non- domestic property	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce casualties and fatalities from non-fire emergencies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce automatic fire alarm calls	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Response

Number of participants: 182



Analysis

Of the 6 measurable priorities in the current 2014-17 Local Fire Plan all priorities with the exception of Reducing Automation Fire Alarm Calls received a priority rating average of 4.2 or above. Whilst still achieving a relatively high score the average priority rating for Reducing Automatic Fire Alarm Calls was 3.98.

In ranked priority order the responses for the priorities were;

Priority	Average Score
Reduce deliberate fires	4.63
Reduce casualties and fatalities	4.6
Reduce casualties and fatalities from non-fire emergencies	4.52
Reduce accidental dwelling fires	4.34
Reduce fires in non- domestic property	4.2
Reduce automatic fire alarm calls	3.98

Based on the high average priority scores that each priority within the current Local Plan received, it is indicative that the priorities are important to citizens and that they are valid and fit for purpose.

Question

10. Do you think there are any other fire related priorities the SFRS should consider for the West Lothian area?

Response

Number of participants: 18

- Individuals that have history relating to the subject, follow up and monitoring systems are robust. Skilled workers at all levels of support are fully trained. Prevention teams; with panel members for the offending individuals.
- Education - continued involvement in programmes such as Cool Down Crew
- Making people more aware of the accessibility of 101 to alert the fire brigade in advance that you are having a fire
- Not sure
- EXPAND CAMPAIGN TO FIT /MAINTAIN DOMESTIC SMOKE ALARMS
- DOMESTIC SMOKE ALARMS - MORE AGGRESIVE MARKETING
- Not that I can think of.
- NO
- Higher risk areas warrant higher priority
- Education on fire sfaety
- No
- Perhaps increase awareness of the dangers of deliberately setting off fire alarms. start from primary school. Also chatting with children may lead to more respect for the fire service.
- Appreciation for the service
- No
- Too many false alarms in the community centres are the devices getting maintained correctly
- Increased fire drills for different groups using community centres.
- SMALL TRAINING COURSES IN SCHOOLS
TO PRODUCE KNOWLEDGE OF PRUITY FINES
AND HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ETC
- MORE PUBLICITY ABOUT CARBON MINOXIDE ALARM FITTING, HAVE HEARD PEOPLE SAYING HOW UPSETTING IT IS WHEN THEY MALFUNCTION, YOUR UNABLE TO REMOVE THE BATTERY

Analysis

An overview of the responses received indicates that the main areas the SFRS could focus attention on are;

Prevention Initiatives, Smoke/Carbon Monoxide provision/publicity, targeted prevention activities.

Education Initiatives, Fire related school input, fire related input to community groups, deliberate fire reduction.

Diversionsary Initiatives, Multi- agency working to support/deter repeat fire starters.

Question

11. Do you agree that the SFRS should put their resources to those individuals most at risk and most in need?

yes

no

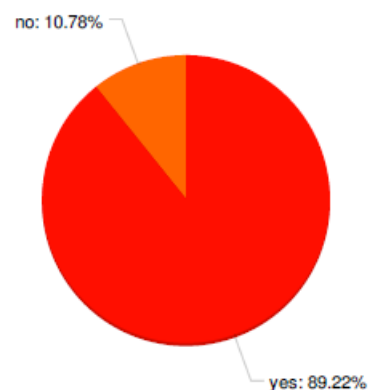
Response

Number of participants:

167

149 (89.2%): yes

18 (10.8%): no



Analysis

A high proportion of respondents (89.2%) are of the opinion that SFRS should target its resources to those most at risk and most in need.

Question

12. Who do you think are the most vulnerable members of the community in West Lothian?

Response

Number of participants: 109

[View all 74 previous answers](#)

- single men in there 20s & 30s (A forgotten group)
- children and older people
- elderly
- Elderly and those with mental health , physical and loss of hearing, additional needs.
- Young people, ex offenders, homeless older people.
- elderly and children
- People with mental health problems or older people who live alone
- children
- OAP, disables , mental health
- older people, disabled
- Teenagers & Elderly
- OLD, CHILDREN
- old unintelligent
- ELDERLY AND VERY YOUNG
- children , elderly
- Elderly
- People with disabilities, the elderly and the young
- elderly
- the old and mental health sufferers
- very young and old and infirm.
- elderly
- disable people, elderly, children
- COUNCILLORS
- ELDERLY/UNEMPLOYED/LOW INCOME
- ELDERLY
- DISABLED PERSONS
- KIDS FRIM TROUBLED BACKGROUNDS
- SEXUAL OFFENCES
- CHILDREN
- ELDERLY PEOPLE
- DISABLED AND ELDERLY ALSO PEOPLE WITH SOME MEASURE OF MENTAL HEALTH
- ELDERLY/CHILDREN
- Vulnerable adults: mental/ physical health issues, elderly, alcohol & drug users.
- OAP/ children
- OAP/ children
- Everyone should be treated the same.
- Elderly & people affected by substance misuse
- Vulnerable adults + children + people with disability, elderly

Analysis

Analysis of the responses indicate that there is a strong view that those most vulnerable members of the community are the elderly. Children are also highlighted within the responses. Peoples with disabilities also receive mention in a number of responses with mental health receiving particular attention. People with substance abuse issues also feature in the responses.

Question

13. Do you agree that the role SFRS plays in keeping the community safe should expand to include non-fire safety specific initiatives?

yes

no

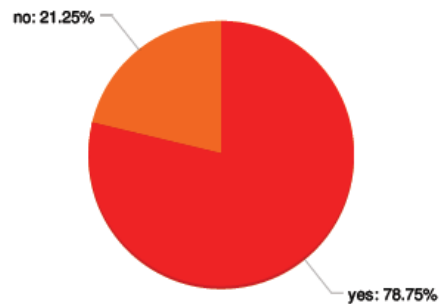
Response

Number of participants:

160

126 (78.8%): **yes**

34 (21.3%): **no**



Analysis

A high proportion of respondents (78.8%) indicated that they believe the SFRS should expand its role to include non-fire related community safety initiatives.

Question

14. Are there any examples of non-fire related initiatives SFRS should become involved in?

Response

Number of participants: 23

- not sure
- dumping
awareness of hazards on building sites...railways....cliffs..
storing of materials in home garages and lockups
awareness of parking in estates when heavy snow, how to clear snow safely
- Unsure of above - I've selected no, but mainly because of funding issues and resources....
- Smoke alarms for houses
- Flooding incidents, water rescue (Lomond)
- ACCIDENT ROAD
- Old, disabled, unemployed -poor
- WIDER RESCUE REMIT
- involving younger people
- Why stretch an excising organizations further?
- FLOODING.
- Carbon monoxide education
- Electrical safety
- Car driving behaviour, theft and joy riding. Freeing people from situations where the expertise and specialist equipment from the Fire Safety & Rescue side is important.
- Education around fire safety in schools
- SAFETY IN SECURITY FENCES, I.E. SECURE AND UNABLE TO CLIMB.
SECURE ELECTRIC BOXES - SITE SO CHILDREN CANT ENTER.
- More risk assessments on building instead of playing pool and watch TV daytime TV.
- No. They should deal primarily with fires unless it is assisting with serious car crashes
- See point 10
- SCHOOL CHILDREN INFORMATION, OPEN DAYS
- DEFIB TRAINING
- COMMUNITY EVENTS.
SCHOOL EVENTS.
- EDUCATION - OF PARENTS AS WELL AS PUPILS

Analysis

An overview of the responses received indicates that the SFRS should consider becoming involved in the following non fire related activities;

Health Initiatives, Defibrillator Training,

Education Initiatives, Road/driving safety, electrical safety, carbon monoxide safety, storage of materials in garages/sheds, community/school events.

Environmental Initiatives, Dumping/fly tipping reduction, flooding

Scrutiny – what we learned from the Inspectorate

Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate in Scotland (HMFSI)

The role and purpose of Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate in Scotland is defined by the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, which was substantially amended by the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 on 1 April 2013.

The Fire Service Inspectorate in Scotland is independent of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Scottish Government. It exists to provide independent, risk based and proportionate professional inspection of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Inspections of SFRS service delivery within local authority areas by HMFSI examine the development and delivery of Local Fire and Rescue Plans, and help to provide assurance in the way in which the SFRS is meeting its planned objectives. By undertaking inspections of SFRS service delivery within local authority areas, HM Fire Service Inspectorate;

- Can provide assurance to Scottish Ministers and the public that the SFRS is making adequate provision for local service delivery and that local areas have access to specialist national resources, and make suggestions for improvement if necessary,
- Can take a detailed look at the nature and quality of service provision, including working with partner organisations, within local areas and can draw attention to significant matters and areas of good practice,
- Can co-operate with other scrutiny bodies to provide collaborative, 'place-based' scrutiny of service provision,
- Maintains a good level of awareness of the Service's functions and builds a record of how the Service is functioning,
- Can gather intelligence that may inform, or cause to be undertaken, more strategic, thematic inspections of the SFRS.

In November 2015 HMFSI conducted a local inspection of the West Lothian area. At the conclusion of the inspection a full report was published at is available at:-

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00500213.pdf> .

With specific reference to the current Local Fire Plan the HMFSI made the following observations;

- There are similarities in the way the 32 local plans of SFRS are structured, with the content being similar in many of them. Whilst easing the burden of plan production for the service, if the framework is not appropriately customised then there is a danger that the plan becomes inappropriate at the local level. The West Lothian Plan follows the general format that the Service has established for these plans, but does contain local and national benchmarking data and targets within it, we welcome this development as it makes the plan more relevant to the local service and partner delivery.
- Our impression of the West Lothian Local Plan is that it contains useful background information about the area and the incident activity of SFRS, but does not in itself contain conclusions on how best to address the issues.
- Whilst there is incident activity for the three years preceding the Plan and trend comparisons with the Falkirk Council area and Scotland-wide totals, there is little in-depth analysis of these incident types and statistics, nor evidence of a risk-based approach to prioritisation of mitigation activity.
- As mentioned above, the West Lothian plan does however contain numerical targets for key indicators. For example, the aim to reduce accidental dwelling fires in West Lothian by 2% per

year, which contributes towards the SFRS target of reducing Accidental Dwelling Fires by 10% per year, over a three-year rolling period. The inclusion of targets within the Local Plan is a direct result of a consultation response on the draft plan from West Lothian Council. Targets were thought necessary to assist scrutiny panel members to exercise their scrutiny function. By developing specific local targets that contribute to national targets, rather than simply replicating national ones at a local level, these goals can therefore more accurately reflect local circumstances. We welcome this approach to partnership working and the organisational activity that should follow.

- In addition to the LSO area Local Plan for West Lothian there is a further sub-set of Multi-Member Ward Operational Plans for the eight wards within West Lothian. These ward plans, which are themselves part of station plans, are supported by ward level quarterly performance reports. This sub-set of information contains a breakdown of SFRS activity providing a greater depth of activity trends which are presented to the Council's Ward Local Area Committees.
- We found when visiting stations in West Lothian that plans, whether national, local or ward based, were prominently displayed within stations so as to encourage ownership. In the case of Bathgate and Livingston stations individual watches were allocated to particular ward areas and provided with 'hot spot' mapping information of incident activity. These data are helping to provide a focus for locally developed intervention activity. We welcome this targeting and activity.
- The West Lothian Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) is a document created at local authority level which sets out that a number of agencies will work together in the area to deliver outcomes aligned to nationally agreed priorities, and the principles of public service reform. SOAs take into account the contributions of various local and national bodies in arriving at these outcomes.
- The West Lothian SOA 2013-2023 includes two fire-specific indicators, the number of accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population and the number of deliberate fires per 100,000 population. The SOA doesn't assign targets to these specific indicators, though it does for others, but seeks to achieve continuous improvement for each against the 2012-13 baseline rate.
- By inclusion in the SOA, these two indicators are for all the partners to achieve and not just for the SFRS. Equally, the SFRS would be expected to contribute to other targets (outcomes) within the SOA such as 'the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents'.
- A reduction in the number of accidental dwelling fires is a national target for SFRS imposed by the Fire Framework 2013; 10% each year over a three-year rolling average. The Framework doesn't contain a target for deliberate fires, however, the rate of deliberate fires in West Lothian, both secondary and primary is higher than the rate for Scotland. We consider the decision to include an outcome for deliberate fires within the SOA to be an appropriate response to a local issue.
- The SFRS Local Plan contains a matrix to indicate how its seven priorities align to the eight priorities of West Lothian's SOA. This demonstrates how SFRS activities contribute to the wider outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership.

Strategic Planning

In September 2016 the Scottish Government published a new Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016 which sets out Scottish Ministers' strategic priorities and ambitions for the SFRS. In October 2016 the SFRS published its 2016-19 Strategic Plan. This plan focusses firmly on shaping a fire and rescue service that meets the expectations the Framework and meet Scotland's future challenges.

In June 2015 the Scottish Government published the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. This Act gives community planning a statutory footing for the first time. Amongst the range of requirements contained within the Act are the requirements for Community Planning Partnerships to publish Local Improvement Plans (LOIPs) and Locality Plans. In the case of West Lothian the Single Outcome Agreement was revised and refreshed to reflect the requirements of a LOIP and Regeneration Plans reflect the requirements of Locality Plans.

In 2015 the West Lothian Community Safety Partnership published the West Lothian Community Safety Strategic Plan 2015-18. This plan set out the priorities of the partnership in terms of making West Lothian a better and safer place to live.

The 2014-17 Local Fire Plan fully embraced the advantages of public sector bodies collectively working together to secure improved outcomes for the community and it is anticipated that whilst taking cognisance of sector specific frameworks and strategic plans, the new Local Fire Plan will also fully embrace the priorities, aims and objectives of West Lothian Community Planning Partnership plans.

Conclusion

The review of the current 2014-17 West Lothian Local Plan has proved to be a valuable exercise in terms of informing what the next iteration of the Local Plan will contain in terms of priorities, objectives and outcomes.

Analysis of performance information, citizen feedback, HMFSI inspection observations and a review of strategic planning processes allows the Local Senior Officer for Falkirk and West Lothian to draft a new Local Fire Plan that meets the local needs of the West Lothian area and ensures SFRS, and partners resources are used to the best effect and community safety within the area can be continually improved.

In terms of performance information, in general Domestic Dwelling Fires and Fatalities and Casualties associated with these are on the decline. However there is little room for complacency and reductions in both these priorities will continue to be a focus. It is worthy of note that whilst it is recognised that accidental fire can be random events, patterns relating to some wards within the area and some age demographics are evident. It is anticipated that the next iteration of the Local Fire Plan will recognise these patterns and highlight the importance of targeting vulnerable groups in specific areas within the community in West Lothian.

Deliberate Fires, which are often associated with anti-social behaviour, are on the rise within West Lothian and across Scotland. Whilst much has been done in the past to reduce these types of incidents, it is recognised that reduction in Deliberate Fires must remain a priority with the new Local Fire Plan. Detailed analysis of Deliberate Fires gives an indication that within specific wards in West Lothian there is a higher concentration of these types of incidents than others. It is also noted that the highest proportion of Deliberate Fires involve wheelie bins and outdoor infrastructure (trees, grassland bushes etc). It is anticipated that the next iteration of the Local Fire Plan will have a focus on a targeted approach to reducing these types of incident.

Fires in Non Domestic Property in general related to commercial and industrial property and the SFRS has specific officers (Fire Safety Enforcement Officers) deployed to assist the duty holders minimising and mitigating the risk from fire. However analysis of these types of incident indicate that garden furniture (sheds/huts etc) are contributing to a high proportion of these types of incidents. Whilst it remains a priority of the SFRS moving forward to support and assist the business community in reducing incidents of fire, it is apparent that initiatives to protect the community as a whole from damage and loss associated with household Non Domestic Property fires are required in the new Local Fire Plan.

Analysis of Fatalities and Casualties from Non Fire Related Incidents has proved challenging. When the 2014-17 Local Fire Plan was introduced these types of injuries were predominantly associated with road traffic accidents. However, mid-way through the life span of the Plan the service embarked upon a series of trials in relation to using its resources to assist partners in dealing with members of the community who has suffered a cardiac arrest. Whilst this initiative has been a great success the performance measurements for Fatalities and Casualties from Non Fire Related Incidents has been skewed as a result. On face value it would be concerning that Fatalities and Casualties from Non Fire Related Incidents are on the significant rise, however drilling into this information shows that Road Traffic Accidents are on the decline and the rise is attributed to the work being undertaken in reaction to cardiac arrest treatment. Going forward it is recognised that reduction in Fatalities and Casualties from Non Fire Related Incidents should remain a priority with the new Local Plan, however, this priority needs to be refined and to ensure all aspects within the Fatalities and Casualties from Non Fire Related Incidents are captured appropriately.

UFAS present a significant challenge from a local and national perspective. Taking cognisance that approximately 60% of the incidents attended in the local area (and Scotland) are UFAS incidents there is an increasing debate gathering momentum within the SFRS and government regarding these types of

incidents. Whilst it is crucial the SFRS responds to incidents where there is a fire or persons may be harmed, the resources that are deployed on a daily basis to respond to UFAS incidents seem disproportionate to the risk. At the time of writing this review a number of pilots are underway in other areas of Scotland that look to modify or reduce the attendance SFRS makes to UFAS incidents based on known risks. The outcome of these trials is likely to shape SFRS policy, and local area priorities in the future.

The engagement process undertaken by West Lothian Community Safety Partnership proved invaluable in this review process, understanding the views of the citizens in the local area helps shape what the priorities in the new Local Plan may be.

Indicatively responses from the engagement survey supported the current Local Plan priorities, and with the exception of Reducing Automatic Fire Alarm calls (UFAS) all priorities achieved an average priority score of 4.2 or above. When asked if the Plan should have other additional fire related priorities the responses suggest that there should be an emphasis on Prevention, Education and Diversionary Initiatives. It is anticipated that these types of initiatives, which are contained in the current plan, can be built upon in the new Local Fire Plan priorities.

Citizens views of targeting resources to those most at risk and most in need and views on who are the most vulnerable in the community proved interesting. The analysis of activity undertaken in this review has highlighted geographical areas (wards) where there is high incident activity and a breakdown of age has given an indication of those most at risk. It is anticipated that the new Local Fire Plan will consider the correlation between risk/geography/vulnerability and intimate that preventative resources will be used through a targeted approach.

The engagement process elicited strong opinion that SFRS should consider becoming involved in more non fire related activities, such as Health Initiatives, Education Initiatives, (road safety, electrical /carbon monoxide safety, safe storage of materials and community/school events), and Environmental Initiatives, (dumping/fly tipping reduction, flooding). It is envisaged that the new Local Fire Plan can capture these types of initiatives through a revision to existing fire related priorities or amendment to the Special Service priority.

The HMFSI inspection process and subsequent report proved useful in undertaking this review. The report drew attention to areas of good practice in the current Local Fire Plan but also highlighted a number of areas where improvements could be made. The suggestions for improvement will be taken into full consideration when the new Local Fire Plan is developed.

Changes, revisions and updates in the Scottish Governments expectations in terms of Community Planning and the Fire Framework, provide focus on some of the priorities and outcomes the new Local Fire Plan should contain. In addition the SFRS 2016-19 Strategic Plan provides specific direction on priorities for the SFRS. However, it is essential that whilst the new Local Fire Plan takes cognisance of the above, the Plan must fully reflect local communities' needs and expectations.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the following priorities and recommendations are taken forward in the new Local Fire Plan for the West Lothian area.

- Priority 1: Local Risk Management and Preparedness. A focus will be to maintain emphasis on known risks and threats whilst taking cognisance of emerging ones.
- Priority 2: Accidental Dwelling Fires. Whilst recognising that Accidental Dwelling Fires can occur anywhere due to their random nature, a focus will be made on geographical areas and demographics that indicate where there is the greatest risk.
- Priority 3: Fatalities and Casualties from Accidental Dwelling Fires. The reduction of death and Injury from fire remains a priority for SFRS. However, a targeted approach that is aimed at safeguarding the most vulnerable in our community will be adopted.
- Priority 4: Deliberate Fires. The reduction in Deliberate Fire will remain a priority with a focus being placed on evidence based targeted interventions aimed at reducing these types of incidents where they most frequently occur.
- Priority 5: Non Domestic Fires. Whilst continuing to assist duty holders in reducing the risk from fire in their premises, this priority will also focus on reducing the risk to non-commercial property that may be at risk from fire.
- Priority 6: Fatalities and Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies. Reducing deaths and injuries from non-fire related incidents and events will remain a priority. However, a sub-division of these types of events will allow greater focus on preventing some event types (e.g. Road Traffic Accidents) and assisting and supporting other agencies in improving the outcomes for those involved in an event (E.G Cardiac Arrest or Slip Trip or Fall in the home).
- Priority 7: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. Reducing unwanted signals will remain a priority. However, there will be a focus on ensuring duty holders do as much as possible to reduce these types of call and the priority in will incorporate any change in SFRS policy.

The citizens views elicited from the West Lothian Community Safety Partnership Survey will be incorporated into the new Local Fire Plan, either as part of revised priorities or within the aims and objectives of the Plan.

The observations contained within the HMFSI report will be incorporated into the new Local Fire Plan.

In developing the new Local Fire Plan revisions to the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership arrangements will be incorporated in the new Local Fire Plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eugene King'.

Local Senior Officer

Falkirk and West Lothian

May 2017