



Service Delivery Area – North

Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Plan

Local Performance Report (April 2014 to March 2015)

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Executive Summary

The Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Plan sets out the local priorities, actions and outcomes for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) to deliver within Aberdeen for the period 2014-2017.

This document reports on the local performance against the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeen City and covers the 12 months of the reporting year from April 2014 to March 2015 inclusively.

Our current performance has been reported via 6 high-level local performance indicators (LPI) aligned to the priorities detailed within the current Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan designed to deliver a meaningful positive difference to our local communities.

These priorities have provided a clear direction for setting our local activities in order to continuously reduce fire risk within Aberdeen and concurrently maintain an effective and efficient response model.

It is encouraging to report that following analysis of the LPI's that the overall trend over the previous 12 months is one of a reducing fire risk profile in Aberdeen.

There continues to be a welcome reduction in the number of fire casualties although tragically two people did lose their lives in dwelling fires in Aberdeen during this reporting period.

Our main risk reduction activity is our free Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) service and we have continued to refine our approach to identify and support those individuals who we deem to be a higher risk from having a fire in the home

We continue to believe that targeting our HFSV's to those individuals will deliver a positive outcome for two of our key priorities and we are pleased to report that emerging activity suggests that we are being successful in increasing the number of referrals from our partners.

Responses to, and attendance at Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals (UFAS) remain at a high level as a proportion of the incidents we attend. As reported previously, this is not unexpected and we are engaging and working with local partners, via our new policy, to reduce activity in this area.

Local firefighters continue to ensure they are effective, efficient and safe when carrying out their duties at emergency incidents. We align to national training programmes and are building enhanced knowledge capacity in key priority areas e.g. local dementia awareness training.

It is encouraging to report that we continue to experience relatively low number of H&S events comparable to the wide range of emergency and non-emergency activities we undertake.

Section 1 Introduction

This report provides detail on the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the Aberdeen City area. It outlines our progress in the delivery of local priorities as set out within the current Local Fire and Rescue Plan and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service framework document.

These priorities are underpinned by local risk factors as identified and defined within the Single Outcome Agreement, local community safety strategic risk assessments and the known fire risk profile within Aberdeen.

It supports the drive to deliver continuous improvement in reducing the risk from fire for the citizens of Aberdeen and aims to provide sufficient information to allow the Committee to gauge how the Service is achieving the aspirations set out within the current local Fire and Rescue Plan.

The outcomes and measures provided in this report details a blend of quantitative and qualitative information to support Committee members in their local scrutiny role.

The Service aspires to deliver very high standards to our communities and our current performance is testament to the commitment, professionalism and dedication of our staff and the positive local partnerships embedded within the Aberdeen Community Planning and Safety forums.

However, we recognise that wherever our performance falls short of expectations we will respond promptly to address the areas of concern.

The report contains a series of Local Performance Indicators (LPI) that provides an assessment of the current fire risk within Aberdeen by:

- Subdividing the various fire related incidents into meaningful categories
- Setting out our direction of travel in reducing that risk
- Contextualising the fire risk profile
- Confirming the continued proactive measures that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are implementing.

Section 2 Performance Criteria

Our focus remains on delivering long term sustainable positive outcomes by prioritising our activities to support continuous improvement.

Our current suite of performance indicators is not necessarily permanent and will be kept under continual review to reflect that risk reduction is a continual and dynamic process in a changing environment.

Local Performance Indicator Outcomes

LPI 1 - Local Risk Management and Preparedness

Our target is:

- To ensure our training, staff development and equipment continue to be fit for purpose to meet our current risk profile and is adaptable to changing circumstances
- To work locally with partner organisations and agencies to ensure effective wider consequence emergency response plans are developed for identified local risks including local business continuity plans.
- To fulfil our statutory duties in relation to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 by way of our contribution to Grampian Local Resilience Partnership and North of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership.

LPI 2 - Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires

 Our target is to deliver a long term continuous improvement in the outcomes from accidental dwelling fires

LPI 3 - Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities

• Our target is to deliver a long term continuous improvement in the outcomes of fire casualties and fatalities

LPI 4 - Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting

 Our target is to deliver a long term continuous improvement in the outcomes from deliberate fires

LPI 5 - Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Property

 Our target is to deliver a long term continuous improvement in the outcomes from fires in nondomestic properties

LPI 6 - Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

 Our target is to deliver a long term continuous improvement in the responses to Unwanted Fire Alarm signals We have employed a Red, Amber, and Green (RAG) performance status measure that is primarily based against the previous rolling average of five years' incident data.

This allows us to take into account seasonal and yearly fluctuations within each LPI by allowing for deviation from normal activity levels.

Detailed below is an explanation of the RAG rating:

Red: The level is greater than 10% on average over the five year period

Amber: The level is greater than 5% but less than 10% on average over the five year

period

Green: The level is less than 5% or better on average over the five year period

We would wish to highlight that a number of the LPI's already demonstrate a relatively low baseline in terms of number of incidents, e.g. a reduction from eight to four incidents within a limited timescale would show a 50% decrease and not necessarily provide a true reflection of the risk level.

We have therefore provided, in Section 3, further context within a situational assessment that provides further information for the committee to scrutinise the Service's current performance.

On some of the high level LPI's we have also provided further segmentation of the data to provide additional information to support Committee members in their scrutiny role.

Section 3 Performance Outcomes

Determining how successful the Service is in reducing the fire risk profile within Aberdeen is a complex task.

There are many factors that may impact on our ability to reduce fire risk. External environmental factors such as deprivation, substance dependency and lifestyle to name but a few can influence the fire risk profile within Aberdeen.

In recent years, positive progress has been delivered in reducing the fire risk profile in Aberdeen and our task remains to continuously improve these risk levels further.

We continually assess our incident activity to match our risk reduction activities so that we can seek to deliver a positive outcome.

We balance our approach to our risk reduction activities with a complimentary focus on neighbourhoods who statistically are at higher risk from fire *and* identifying & supporting individual vulnerable people within our communities

We recognise that working with a wide range of our local partners is a key element in delivering improved outcomes and place high value on these strong relationships.

The RAG assessment highlights the continual improvements that have been made during this reporting period and identifies areas where future work is required to be carried out.

The LPI summary table below provides Committee members with a visual overview of the current SFRS performance for Aberdeen City.

Aberdeen City - Local Performance Summary			
LPI	Risk	RAG status	
01	Local Risk Management and Preparedness		
02	Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires		
03	Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities		
04	Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting		
05	Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Property		
06	Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals		

LPI 1 - Local Risk Management and Preparedness

LPI Assessment:

The main areas of measurement of operational preparedness are:

- Staff competence
- Health and Safety
- Availability of Operational Intelligence
- Appliance and Equipment Serviceability
- Operational Assurance

Staff Competence – All operational staff follow a nationally defined 3 year development programme which aims to ensure that all firefighters are equipped with the necessary skills required to perform their duties.

It is pleasing to report that all operational personnel are 'on track' with regard to the agreed development programme. This includes significant amount of continuous realistic training. The first of a series of thematic training exercises took place earlier this year which concentrated on a marine type incident which took place under 'real fire' conditions at our training facility at Portlethen. A number of other simulations will continue to take place this year.

All our Incident Commanders are required to frequently refresh command skills and are formally assessed on their performance. We also took part in a number of combined training events at Aberdeen Airport with operational crews working closely with airport fire personnel simulating various emergency scenarios.

Health and Safety – During 2014/15 we saw a welcome reduction in the number of reported 'injury accidents' and an increase in the number of reported near-misses. We view the increased reporting of near-misses as a positive trend. This allows the Service to proactively respond to an event that didn't cause harm and consider any additional measures to prevent it reoccurring.

Over the last year there has been a decrease in the number of staff reporting 'Acts of Violence' from 8 to 5 events. With none of the reports resulting in physical harm. It continues to be a source of great encouragement that we continue to experience positive support from the public in Aberdeen. All operational personnel have now been trained on a national electronic health & safety accident reporting and recording platform called RIVO safeguard.

Availability of Operational Information – We gather, utilise and maintain Operational Information to support overall staff safety at incidents e.g. operational personnel carry out visits to all Council owned multi-storey premises to ensure they are familiar with key building safety features and providing our partners with feedback on the status of those features.

Appliance and Equipment Serviceability – We are currently developing a national platform to tracking the serviceability of all appliances and equipment. In the meantime we continue to ensure all appliances and equipment are tested and maintained to the required standards. Since the establishment of the new Service, our area has welcomed the delivery of new fire engines at North Anderson Drive and Central fire stations.

Operational Assurance – The Service has implemented a system of measuring operational readiness and provides assurance of the quality of service delivery. The system seeks to identify and confirm good performance with the potential of sharing across the service as well as identifying areas for improvement.

All stations in Aberdeen City will be internally audited using a prescribed process during 2015. The system also allows for the measurement of operational performance during emergency incidents and well as providing a process to reflect on performance following an incident.

LPI 02 - Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires

LPI Assessment:

Over the reporting period 2014/15, there has been a slight increase in the overall number of Accidental Dwelling Fires.

This has seen an overall rise comparable to the previous year of 29 incidents.

We have identified that a significant number (86%) of these fires did not spread beyond the item that was first ignited.

The number of incidents of this nature over the last 12 months when measured against the 5 year average remains very low (0.15%).

Situational Analysis:

Although there has been an increase in the past year, we would wish to highlight that the longer term trend in the numbers of Accidental Dwelling House fires continues to demonstrate a positive direction of travel.

We have noted the high proportion of dwelling fires that have resulted in little impact in terms of severity e.g. the number of fires that which are already self-extinguished prior to the arrival of firefighters.

We believe this is indicative that householders are getting early warning of fires in the home and most likely as a result of having a working smoke alarm.

We have however noted the slight overall increase in these types of fires we are actively exploring new opportunities in formalising and improving referral pathways from our local partners in identifying those most susceptible from having a fire in the home to allow preventative action and support to be given to our local communities.

All Accidental Dwelling Fires - Aberdeen City 360 310 260 210 160 110 2010/11 2011/12 2012/13 2013/14 2014/15

LPI 03 - Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities

LPI Assessment:

The 5 year average for fire fatalities in dwelling houses in the Aberdeen City area currently averages at 2 per year.

Sadly we can report that over the past twelve months there were two recorded fire fatalities in dwelling houses.

The number of fire fatalities experienced in Aberdeen City remains very low and therefore small changes can dramatically affect statistical data reporting.

The number of overall fire casualties continues to reduce and we can report that over the last 12 months we have seen a reduction of 23% comparable to the 5 year average.

Situational Analysis:

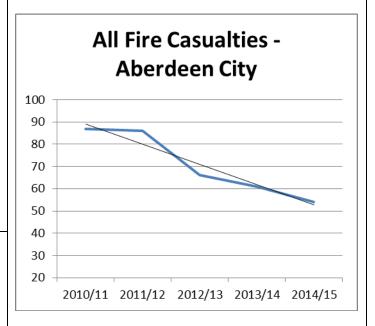
While the number of fire fatalities remains low the Service will continues to aspire for zero fire deaths. The SFRS considers the most appropriate way to achieve this is to work with our partners to identify and pro-actively support those most at risk from fire.

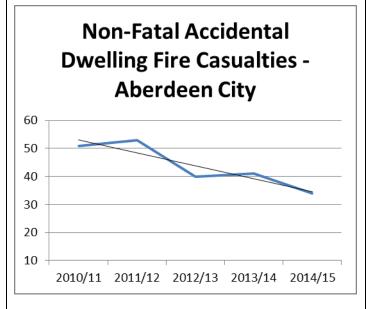
It is encouraging to note a continued reduction in fire casualties and that this has been achieved despite a slight increase in the overall number of Accidental Dwelling House fires.

Our analysis suggests that the continued delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV), including the provision of working smoke alarms, has had a positive impact on our local communities i.e. less severe fires in dwellings and reduced harm to the occupants.

We are in the final stages of agreeing a 12 month pilot initiative with one of our local partners to maximise the effectiveness of HFSV's to those most vulnerable from fire.

The SFRS lead on the Home & Fire Safety Partnership Group within the Aberdeen Community Safety Partnership and this will be a key forum to further develop local partnerships.





LPI 04 - Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting

LPI Assessment:

The number of fires started deliberately in Aberdeen continues to decrease.

This year a total of 405 fires have been started deliberately and this represents a 38% reduction over the last 5 years.

The number of deliberately started dwelling house fires has continued to decrease. Over the last 12 months a total of 46 dwelling house fires were started deliberately.

The number of deliberate secondary fires recorded this year has risen slightly from last year although is still significantly below the 5 year average.

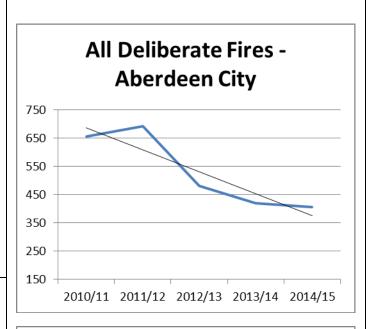
Situational Analysis:

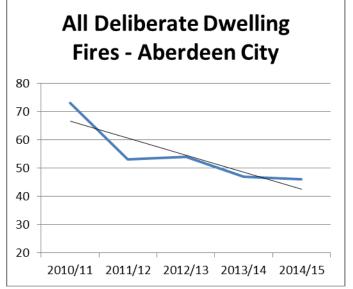
Deliberate dwelling house fires include fires started in refuse rooms in multi storey blocks of flats. This accounts for a significant number of all incidents although we would highlight that, incidents of this nature, also continue to reduce.

We believe this is as a result of a strong partnership approach to reducing these types of fires, in particular working with Aberdeen City Council and Police Scotland by improving security within premises of this type.

The Service continues to regularly inspect multistorey properties and work in partnership to identify any areas for improvement.

The Service regularly prioritises the reduction of deliberately started fires within our national and local Thematic Plans that support the overall reduction of fire risk in Aberdeen City.





LPI 04 – Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting

Situational Analysis:

It is encouraging to note there is a continued reduction in the number of vehicle fires with a reduction in number of deliberate fires reported from the previous year.

The Service continues to work very closely with Police Scotland and other partners through the Aberdeen City Community Safety Hub to identify ways in which the number of incidents can be further reduced.

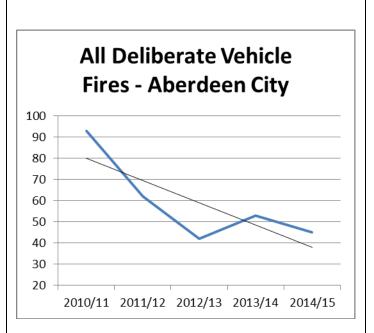
Specific initiatives that we have supported over the last 12 months include involvement in 'Operation Trinity' as well as investing in the production of a learning DVD called 'IMPACT' which further aims to reduce vehicle crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

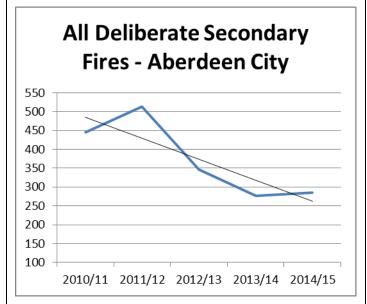
We have identified a slight increase in the number of deliberately set secondary fires but would highlight that this is still significantly below the 5 year average.

We will continue to target our work within schools in Aberdeen to engage with young people on the dangers and risks of deliberately starting fires.

At present we do not formally record the number of engagements with young persons that take place as our approach is now very specific to any emerging trends with identifiable areas of Aberdeen.

Over the last 12 months we have maintained our engagement with partners, notably with Park Rangers and Police Scotland colleagues, to limit the number of fires within areas of Aberdeen known to have a higher number of secondary fires.





LPI 05 – Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Property

LPI Assessment:

During 2014/15 we have seen a good reduction in the number of Non-Domestic Fires compared to the previous year.

Overall both accidental and deliberate fires of this incident type reduced in from 142 to 123 incidents.

The Service also pro-actively sets a risk based annual programme of Fire Safety (FS) audit visits and we have met our annual target for the number of audits carried out by our Enforcement Officers.

Situational Analysis:

This indicator covers the number of fires in all buildings excluding dwelling houses.

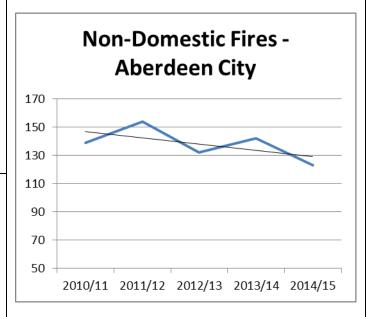
In particular, it includes 'void' (unoccupied) properties, as well as businesses duty-bound to adhere to specific fire safety measures required by legislation.

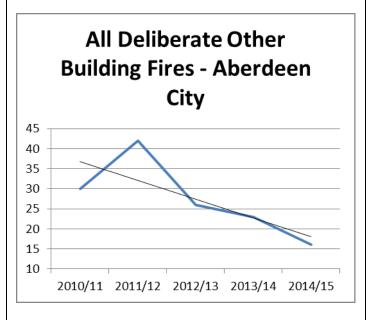
A holistic approach is taken by the Service to maintain focus on this incident type. We continue to work with our partners to ensure void properties are as 'secure' as possible to reduce the opportunity for wilful fireraising.

We have also maintained our approach of actively conducting an audit of every building covered by Fire Safety legislation following a recorded fire to assess its compliance.

In addition, we have widened our engagement with local businesses by offering goodwill reassurance visits to neighbouring buildings adjoining or nearby to the building affected by the fire

This approach and the subsequent engagements that have taken place has been positively welcomed by building owners, managers and responsible persons.





LPI 06 - Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

LPI Assessment:

Over the last 12 months we have recorded an overall rise in the number of Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals (UFAS).

Although this does not increase the risk within Aberdeen city it does result in increased activity for our local firefighters.

Whilst we have recorded a modest reduction in the number of False Alarm Good Intent calls this has been offset by the increase in False Alarm Equipment Failures.

Using our rating system, the average increase over a 5 year period has been determined as over 10% and subsequently we have designated this outcome as having a Red status.

Situational Analysis:

We believe it is important to highlight to Committee Members that not all of these types of calls are necessarily unwanted.

For example, increasing ownership of domestic smoke alarms does occasionally correlate in a subsequent increase in incidents being deemed as 'false alarm - good intent'.

We continue to target this performance outcome for improvement and fully implemented the SFRS policy on Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) on the 1st December 2014.

The adoption of the UFAS policy has formalised our engagement with local businesses to reduce the impact of this type of call.

As we have reported previously, we anticipate a short term rise in this activity as a result of the introduction of our new Service policy before expecting to record a longer term reduction.

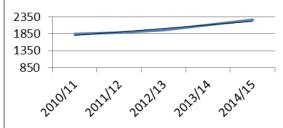
We have however already experienced some early successes with specific building which have resulted in significant reduced activity.

This has been achieved via local engagement and often with little or no cost to the building occupier.

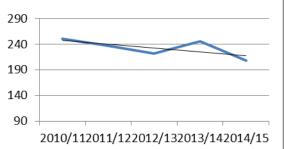
The UFAS policy does not apply to single private dwelling houses.

Status

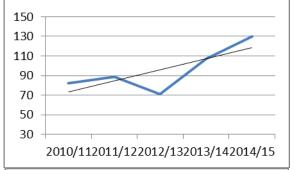
All False Alarms - Aberdeen City



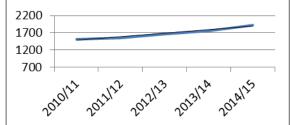
False Alarm Good Intent - Aberdeen City



False Alarm Malicious - Aberdeen City



False Alarm Equipment Failure Aberdeen City



Glossary of Terms

Risk	Definition
Accidental Dwelling Fires	Accidental: includes fires where the cause was not known or unspecified. Dwellings: buildings occupied by households, excluding hotels, hostels and residential institutions. Mobile homes are specifically included in the dwelling count.
Accidents and Near Misses	Accident: An unplanned uncontrolled occurrence that resulted in personal injury or property damage. Near Miss: Any accident or incident that did not result in property and or equipment damage but had the potential to do so.
Acts of Violence on Firefighters	An incident where there was an attack on SFRS personnel travelling to/from or at the incident. Any incident, in which an employee is abused, threatened or assaulted by a member of the public in circumstances arising out of the course of his/her employment.
Automatic Fire Alarms	A fire call was initiated by fire alarm, this includes any accidental alert.
Deliberate Dwelling Fires	Includes fires where deliberate ignition is merely suspected, and recorded by the SFRS as "doubtful".
Fatalities Dwelling Fires	Fire fatalities include any fatal casualty which is the direct or indirect result of injuries caused by a fire incident. Even if the fatal casualty dies subsequently, any fatality whose cause is attributed to a fire is included. There are also occasional cases where it transpires subsequently that fire was not the cause of death. For all of these reasons, fatalities data may therefore be subject to revision.

Glossary of Terms

Risk	Definition
Fire Casualties	Within a dwelling house people requiring medical treatment beyond first aid given at the scene of the fire, and those sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor for a check-up or observation (whether or not they actually do). People sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor as a precaution, having no obvious injury, is recorded as "precautionary check-ups".
Home Fire Safety Visits	The SFRS must have entered the householder premises to make a full home fire safety visit where during this visit or a follow up visit to the premises a smoke or heat alarm was installed or home fire safety advice was provided.
Other Building Fires	Non Domestic property including unoccupied, commercial and retail premises.
Secondary Fires	Outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, property loss or if five or more appliances attend. They include fires in derelict buildings but not chimney fires.
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS)	A UFAS incident may be defined as "an event which has required an operational attendance by the fire and rescue service due to the unwanted actuation of a fire alarm system". A UFAS incident will not have arisen from the occurrence of a genuine fire and as a result they can generally be divided into four categories: • UFAS, in which a system has responded to: A fire like phenomenon or environmental influence Accidental damage Inappropriate human action • Equipment false alarms • Malicious false alarms • False alarms with good intent
Vehicle Fires	Uncontrolled burning involving a motor vehicle.