



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE THEMATIC REPORT

Monitoring and Tracking of Initiatives

Report Ref SFR/23/029

1 RECOMMENDATION

The Aberdeen Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Consider and note the information provided in this report in relation to prevention and protection.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is committed to Working together for a Safer Scotland. This is the core of everything we do. Incorporating our values of safety, teamwork, respect and innovation, we work alongside communities and in partnership with others in the public, private and third sectors to keep Scotland safe.

3 ENGAGEMENT

- 3.1 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV's) and the supply and fitting of appropriate detection to high risk households is the most effective tool available for SFRS to decrease the risk of harm from fire.
- 3.2 From 01 April 2022 to 30 November, SFRS personnel have delivered 1256 HFSV's in Aberdeen City and work hard to ensure pending lists are managed and controlled appropriately. A COVID recovery plan supported and prioritised the workload following the lifting of restrictions.

April – Nov 2022	April – Nov 2021	April – Nov 2020	April – Nov 2019
1256	1046	379	1866

- 3.3 Community Action Teams and Operational personnel complete a home safety pre-visit questionnaire for all contacts and schedule a physical visit for any members of the public identified as at risk. All properties without detection are classed as high risk and visited as a priority.
- 3.4 Partnership referrals continue to be received when an SFRS intervention would be beneficial to the safety and wellbeing of an individual. This includes the issuing of fire-

retardant bedding/textiles or letterbox guards, when the occupier may be at risk of fire-related crime.

- 3.5 Community Action Teams continue to work closely with key-partners through the Community Safety Partnership Hub and facilitate or support case conferences and professional discussions.
- 3.6 The SFRS continues to support and contribute towards Community Planning Aberdeen to achieve successful outcomes towards Improvement Projects. In addition to this, we support the Community Safety Partnership, Corporate Parenting, Community Justice, Adult Protection and the North East Road Safety Forum along with legislative and community fire safety forums.
- 3.7 Engagement opportunities within schools across Aberdeen is actively supported at both primary and secondary levels. Most recently through the Autumn Thematic Action Plan prior to Bonfire night (see 4.2).
- 3.9 Fire Safety Support and Education (FSSE) is a service for Children and Young people under the age of 18 who have demonstrated an interest in fire, involved in fire-related anti-social behaviour or deliberately set fires. FSSE interventions are undertaken by specially trained advisors within the SFRS.

FSSE Interventions by SFRS Advisors;

2022	2021	2020	2019
4	5	1	0

4 THEMATIC ACTION PLANS (TAP)

4.1 Spring/Summer TAP Initiative: Gramps Walks and Talks

Gramps Walks and Talks is a fire safety initiative that has been running annually since 2004, focusing on the dangers, effects and consequences of deliberately setting wildfires. The initiative involves interaction with Primary 6 and 7 pupils at schools within targeted areas.

The initiative involves a two-stage approach. The first part is a joint visit to schools by partner agencies to deliver a fire safety presentation to the pupils. This is followed by a walk in the Gramps or Howes Road areas, led by the Countryside Rangers, to help the pupils appreciate the local areas of nature and natural beauty and how they can be affected and destroyed by fire.

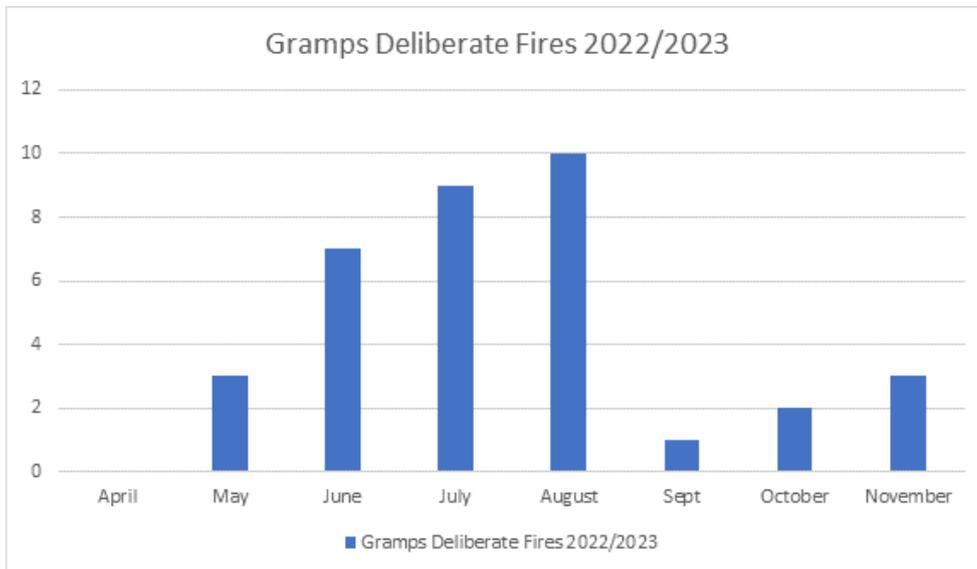
This is a partnership approach involving SFRS, Police Scotland, Countryside Rangers, Scottish Ambulance Service and Station House Media Unit. The partnership produced an updated Gramps Walks and Talks presentation including partners video links with interactive footage for 2022.

In 2022, the partnership engaged with 14 Primary Schools within Aberdeen City, totalling approximately 962 P6 and P7 pupils.

In 2021, the presentation was sent to schools directly (due to COVID19) and was shown to approximately 480 pupils. In 2020, the talks were cancelled due to COVID19 lockdown.

Areas are selected based on the largest numbers of deliberate wildfires within the city. Since inception, the initiative has shown a large and sustained reduction in deliberate

fires in these areas, albeit the COVID19 period has impacted stats from the last few years. Before the initiative (pre-2006), there were regularly 70 to 90 deliberate fires annually within the Gramps area of Aberdeen.



Gramps only stats show: 2019-2020 (17), 2020-2021 (1), 2021-2022 (15) and 2022-2023* (35).

Howes Road stats show 2019-2020 (5), 2020-2021 (5), 2021-2022 (3) and 2022-2023* (1)

*2022-2023 stats show 1st April to 11th November 2022 only

NB. stats above cover deliberate fires involving grassland, woodland and crops, refuse and other outdoor only.

4.2 Autumn TAP Initiative: Bonfire and Firework Safety

Bonfire and fireworks safety partnership work led by SFRS produced;

- An operational plan (Ops Fawkes) for the City of Aberdeen
- Social media safety posts
- Partnership presentations for schools
- Media campaign and press release
- All SFRS bonfire/firework safety literature, presentations, YouTube videos shared with schools
- Evening meetings via Microsoft Teams with Ops Fawkes partners and subsequent evening meetings via Microsoft Teams with on- duty watches, CSE staff and partners from across Aberdeen City including City Wardens, Police, Compliance Officers and Environmental Waste Teams.

On the lead up to Bonfire night, 31 schools were contacted and information shared to highlight the dangers associated with deliberate fire-setting and setting off fireworks.

Incident Activity for the October and November period for deliberate secondary fires;

2022	2021	2020	2019
27	34	36	48

On analysis of the incidents for 2022, 5 of these incidents were Bonfires under the supervision of a competent person or the remains of smouldering Bonfires. 3 were classed as small fires in the open or refuse bins lit by persons unknown, with 1 Bonfire having to be extinguished due to being unattended.

Incident locations were predominately in the Northfield & Mastrick North and Tillydrone & Seaton areas. No reports of violence toward fire crews across Aberdeen.

4.3 Winter TAP Initiative: Warm Spaces & Electrical Safety

Central and North Anderson Drive Community Fire Stations opened up as 'Warm Spaces', working with the Finance Inclusion Team from Aberdeen City Council, Community Groups and Charities to help those in need of support.

There are a number of benefits to this initiative, which includes an opportunity for the community to meet their local crews, receive some safety advice and to provide them with a warm space, even for a short period, that will offer a friendly welcome and comfortable environment to socialise with a hot refreshment.

SFRS received a £1500 grant from Electrical Safety First to support electrical safety in the home initiatives. This will include an exchange program for out of date / faulty electric blankets, exchanging chip pans / deep fat fryers for air fryers and replacing old style 'block adaptors' for strip adaptors.

The tracking and evaluation of the Winter TAP initiatives will be available early 2023.

5 FUTURE INITIATIVES

5.1 Work is underway in Aberdeen City to set up a 'Safer Aberdeen' Initiative, targeting secondary school pupils. SFRS will facilitate sessions on CPR and Fire Safety, while Charity Groups, Police Scotland and NHS will run workshops on Drug, Vaping and Anti-Social behaviour. This is being trialled at Northfield Academy in December 2022, with the intention of bringing onboard further partners and developing a 'road show' which will be available to every secondary school across Aberdeen City.

5.2 Refugee settlement group engagements are now being set up across the hotels and accommodations in Aberdeen City between SFRS and Police Scotland. SFRS are also setting up referral pathways for those moving out of temporary and into more permanent accommodation. Continual work progresses between Community Action Teams and Legislative Fire Safety Officers with those hotels identified having small fires or ongoing Anti-Social / Hazardous behaviours.

SFRS are also currently developing a partner approach with Police Scotland to engage with the Ukraine and Afghan refugees who are currently residing within the multiple hotels across Aberdeen City to combat Anti-Social Behaviour and some hazardous behaviours involving electrics and cooking.

5.3 SFRS successfully delivered its first FireSkills course in Aberdeen City for St Machar Academy in October 2022. The course saw 7 students aged 12-13 attend North Anderson Drive Community Fire Station. The course received great feedback from carers, guardians and school staff. Work is underway to conduct further FireSkills

courses at Northfield Academy and Lochside, and we are working towards a SVQ level 4 employability award in the new school term.

- 5.4 A Road Safety initiative is being developed in partnership with NESCOL and Secondary Schools, as well as with the Driving Instructors Institution for Aberdeen City. New Virtual Reality headsets are being used along with a new young driver's initiative video, utilising Go Pro camera footage from a real RTC Scenario. This is being carried out in partnership with Police Scotland.

RTCs In Aberdeen City requiring SFRS Response.

2022	2021	2020	2019
45	34	38	40

Stats show 1st April to 30th November only