



Minutes

Community Safety Committee

Date: 26 October 2018

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Birkenshaw

Present: Councillor D O'Donovan (in the Chair), G Almas, P Harrand, L Holmes (as substitute for Councillor R Hunt and for items 1 – 8 and 11 only Min nos. 11 - 19 refer), J Hughes, J Lennox, M Pervaiz, M Pollard, A Tait and A Wenham

In Attendance: None

Apologies: Councillors R Hunt and C Pillai

11 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 20 July 2018 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

12 Urgent items

None.

13 Admission of the public

There were no items which required the exclusion of the public and press.

14 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest made in any matter under consideration at the meeting.

15 Accidental Dwelling Fire Fatalities Review

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer which set out a summary and introduced a presentation of a review of accidental dwelling fire fatalities across West Yorkshire 2012 – 2017.

Whilst continuing on an overall downward trend, it was reported that 53 accidental dwelling fire fatalities had occurred during the relevant period and research into these incidents had identified common trends and factors that were present. Members were advised that the highest number of fatalities were in households where the occupant was living alone (66+%) and 51% of fatal fires had been caused by smoking materials.

Of the 53 victims, 24 had been known to other agencies and 9 had received from intervention work from West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service whilst another 5 of these had refused any interventions. The review also highlighted that there was a correlation between accidental fire fatalities and increased levels of deprivation.

The results had provided an opportunity to review activities as part of the Prevention Strategy to ensure that prevention work continued to adapt to prioritise those most vulnerable.

Members raised the following relevant issues;

- Partnership working with Adult Social Care services
- Impact on lifestyle choices following the introduction of the Government's Universal Credit in Leeds
- Level of CO2 monitoring

RESOLVED

- a) That the report be noted; and
- b) That consideration be given to the introduction of CO2 checks into the Safe and Well visit programme.

16 Bonfire Plan 2018

Members were provided with a verbal update on the Bonfire Plan for 2018.

It was reported that the Service had invested heavily in prevention work in recent weeks including youth education settings and community groups. A large amount of work and planning had been undertaken with partner agencies (West Yorkshire Police and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service) and a fire car had been jointly staffed each weekend leading up to bonfire weekend. Additional appliances would be made available and more staff would be working in the Control Room between 2 – 5 November.

RESOLVED

- a) That the report be noted; and
- b) That an update report be submitted to the December 2018 meeting of the Full Authority.

17 District Risk Reduction Plans 2017 – 18

The Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer submitted a report which updated Members on the District Action Plans 2018 – 19.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

18 Quality of service surveys 2017 – 18

Members received an annual report of the Chief Legal and Governance Officer which advised of the feedback received with regard to service delivery during 2017 – 18 in respect of the following;

- Quality of service - 100% satisfaction from domestic properties and 95% from commercial premises
- Home Fire Safety checks (subsequently replaced by Safe and Well visits) – 99% satisfaction
- School Fire Safety visits – 97% satisfaction

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

19 Youth interventions team – annual report

The Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer submitted a report which detailed the progress made and work undertaken by the Youth Interventions Team during the 2017 – 18 academic year.

It was reported that interventions had been delivered to 1,034 young people during the year, including 119 high risk firesetters. Work in partnership with the Prince's Trust had continued and two new programmes had been commissioned during the year targeted at 16 – 25 year olds who faced multiple barriers to progression. The team had also collaborated with other partners in the delivery of personal and employability programmes. A Prince's Trust team programme would be run in 2018 – 19 by the team at Dewsbury in conjunction with Kirklees College and the Trust.

Members were advised of the priorities that had been set for the current academic year as follows;

- improved coordination (work to be undertaken by externally funded Youth Intervention Coordinator)
- continued quality of intervention work
- development of delivery team
- expansion of Prince's Trust partnership work

Funding had been secured for two additional members of the team and it was noted that increased reliance had now been placed on external funding as a cost recovery model had become less viable.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

20 Local Resilience Forum

The Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised Members that, due to circumstances beyond his control, the annual report of the Local Resilience Forum had not yet been made available. Members were reassured however that the Forum continued to meet and undertake all its delegated responsibilities.

RESOLVED

That the current position with regard to the Local Resilience Forum Annual report be noted.

21 Flying High challenge

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer which updated Members on participation in the Nesta Flying High challenge (a national technology led project).

It was reported that the project had been developed to influence the future use of drone technology and West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue had been requested by Bradford MDC to explore its use in a disaster response scenario. This work had led to consideration of how drones might be used to improve service outcomes.

Whilst drone technology faced a number of challenges in terms of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regulations there would be clear benefits of developing drones on a national basis. Future developments, including improved firefighter and public safety outcomes from a Fire Service perspective, would have to be set nationally against a backdrop of public perception around reconnaissance, privacy and data security. Continued involvement with the project, however, enabled the exploration of future ways of working for the fire service.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

22 Performance against PMI targets

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer which advised of performance against the 2018 – 19 performance outcome targets.

It was reported that current mid-year projections had indicated that the following incident types would not be within target at the year end and explanations for each was given to the Committee;

- Arson (+55.9%)
- Total activity (+32.9%)
- Primary arson (+9.8% - small reduction over 2017 figures)
- Actual rescues (+3.8%)
- Malicious false alarms (+1.4%)

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

23 Service Delivery “Spotlight On” case studies

The Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer submitted a report which provided examples of the following areas of work which were being undertaken to meet the needs of the communities of West Yorkshire in the delivery of prevention, protection and response activity;

- Fire Cadets at Wetherby HM Youth Offenders’ Institution
- Know Your Numbers blood pressure national awareness campaign

RESOLVED

- a) That the report be noted; and
- b) That the Committee record its thanks to Watch Manager Craig Bedford for the work he had done at Wetherby YOI which had received national recognition.

24 Secondment opportunity – Kirklees MC and Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing team

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire officer which sought approval for a two-year extension of a Watch Manager (A) Safer Kirklees Fire Liaison Officer secondment post into the Kirklees Community Safety Partnership.

It was reported that the initial 12-month secondment into the Neighbourhood Housing Team had been successful in focussing on the reduction in anti-social behaviour and arson set against the primary outcomes of a reduction in the number of fatalities, dwelling fires / arsons and attributed injuries.

Members were advised that a change to the funding arrangements had been requested by Kirklees Council which would now be shared on a 50/50 basis with an annual cost to the Authority of £25,313.51.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to a two-year extension to the Watch Manager (A) Safer Kirklees Fire Liaison Officer secondment post.

Chair