



OFFICIAL

# Spotlight On Community Safety Committee

---

Date: 28 April 2023

Agenda Item:

**06**

Submitted By: Director of Service Delivery

---

<b>Purpose</b>	To provide Members with examples of how the service meets the needs of vulnerable people within the community in its service delivery functions of prevention, protection and response.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Members of the Community Safety Committee note the contents of this report.
<b>Summary</b>	The 'Spotlight On' case studies highlight just some of the excellent work that is being delivered across the communities of West Yorkshire.

---

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category: None

Contact Officer: AM Service Delivery - Scott Donegan  
[Scott.Donegan01@westyorksfire.gov.uk](mailto:Scott.Donegan01@westyorksfire.gov.uk)

Background papers open to inspection: None

Annexes: Spotlight On for Each District

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 WYFRS is committed to meeting the needs of West Yorkshire’s diverse communities. Members are aware that we direct our resources particularly towards the most vulnerable groups and individuals who are most at risk because of their lifestyles, behaviours or the way their protected characteristics, such as race, or religion or belief, influence their day-to-day life.
- 1.2 The Spotlight On case studies allow the Service to demonstrate to Members of the Community Safety Committee how we often go above and beyond in order to provide an excellent service to the people of West Yorkshire and keep vulnerable people safe

## 2 Information

- 2.1 The cases attached to this report showcase how our staff are working across districts in order to reduce risk and where required, respond to emergencies to provide a first class service to people in their time of need.

## 3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The activities carried out in the development of the work described come from existing revenue budgets and are supporting through collaboration with key partners.

## 4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority’s Constitution

## 5 Human Resource and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 The ‘Spotlight On’ Case studies illustrate how the Authority meets the needs of service users who share a protected characteristics and how it fosters good relations, two keys requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty.

## 6 Equality Impact Assessment

Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? ( <a href="#">EIA guidance and form 2020 form.docx (westyorksfire.gov.uk)</a> )	No
Date EIA Completed	DD/MM/YY
Date EIA Approved	DD/MM/YY

The EIA is available on request from the report author or from [diversity.inclusion@westyorksfire.gov.uk](mailto:diversity.inclusion@westyorksfire.gov.uk)

## 7 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

- 7.1 The activities described demonstrate our commitment to improving the health, safety and wellbeing of target groups across the respective districts. All such initiatives will have a focus around our key service priorities.

## **8 Environmental Implications**

- 8.1 Several the risks highlighted in these documents could potentially have a significant impact on the environment locally and service wide, the plans show we have considered these risks and the actions we will take to mitigate the impact.

## **9 Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities**

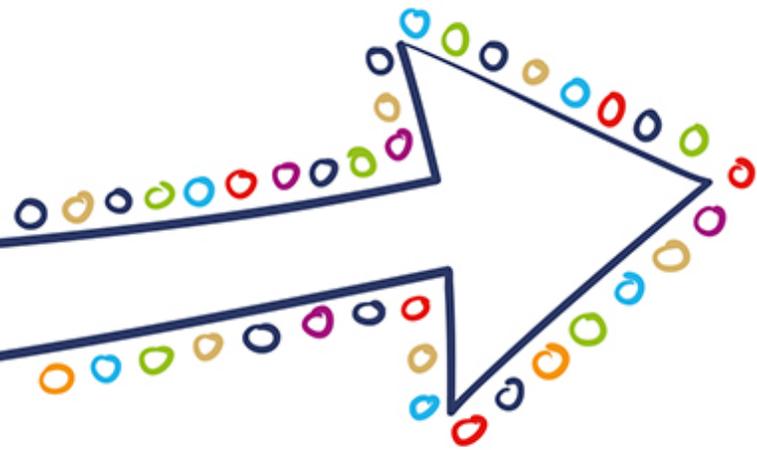
- 9.1 The Spotlight On case studies attached provide examples of how we deliver against the following key service priorities 2020 - 23:

- We will reduce the risks to the communities of West Yorkshire
- We will work efficiently to provide value for money and make the best use of reserves to provide an effective service
- We will be innovative and work smarter throughout the service
- We will support, develop and enable our people to be at their best
- We will continue working towards delivering a more inclusive workforce, which reflects and serves the needs of the diverse communities of West Yorkshire

## **10 Conclusions**

- 10.1 The documents presented to Community Safety Committee demonstrate how West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service have found innovative ways to make a positive contribution to the communities of West Yorkshire amidst the challenges posed by Covid.





# Spotlight on...

## Nitrous Oxide



### ➔ What was the need, how was it identified?

Nitrous oxide is one of the most used drugs by 16 to 24-year-olds, with many not realising that this seemingly innocent and accessible drug can have serious consequences. Nitrous oxide has been linked to life-threatening health complications, and it can also impair someone's ability to drive safely.



The connected road risk has been highlighted through partnerships, community group leaders and political leads. The small metal canisters have been replaced with larger canisters that are used in the catering industry. These are often discarded once they have been used and blight the local area as waste. It can cause severe nausea, dizziness and light-headedness which can make driving hazardous. At this moment the data is limited due the nature of the gas and its use. Through inhaling

the gas, it enters and leaves the system quickly so testing for it is difficult (10 – 30 minutes).

### ➔ What did we do?



We held an event at Centenary Square in Bradford on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March to highlight the dangers of the gas. Local partners from West Yorkshire Police, Bradford New Directions, Change Grow Live Yorkshire Ambulance Service and Bradford Councils Road Safety team worked together to provide the public with the health implications that come with inhaling Nitrous Oxide.

This event was filmed and will be available as an educational tool to show the risks associated with the gas, as well as the impact of driving whilst under the influence. West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue carried out a simulation of a Road Traffic Collision working with YAS and Police to extract three casualties from the vehicle.

As a service we utilised local MP's (Naz Shah) and varying media outlets to further the reach of the event.

### ➔ What difference did we make?

The local community has seen an increase in the use of Nitrous Oxide, the party drug is currently easily available to buy and many see it as a safe high.

The event and educational package will inform those that are taking it of the long term impact. Prolonged use can lead to a deficiency of vitamin B12, this can lead to nerve damage, causing tingling and numbness in the fingers and toes. In the extreme cases it has led to paralysis.

The event further demonstrates our support for the PCC Vision Zero. WYFRS' physical presence and activity allowed partners to put on a larger event with greater impact.

### ➔ What are the keys to our success?

The event highlighted the impact of the gas through physical, and digital forms further supported by an education package.

Our partners Bradford New Direction, Change Grow Live providing information about the use of the gas and offering support and advice to those using it or a referral pathway.

The Government are currently looking at legislation regarding the sale of Nitrous Oxide and many partners have highlighted their concern over the growing use.

We will be monitoring the use of Nitrous Oxide within the community and working with partners to keep the public aware of the risks.

Education package that can be utilised in schools supporting behavioural change and awareness.

### ➔ What are we doing next?

The educational programme will be built and available for all to use across the UK.

Within West Yorkshire the Police and Fire Service will be sharing this package with all secondary schools and carrying out joint visits to colleges and community centres to highlight the dangers.

Working with our Youth Interventions and West Yorkshire Polices safer schools' Officers we will target those that are likely to use Nitrous Oxide and educate them on the risks with the aim of supporting behavioural change.



Nitrous Oxide found at a local beauty spot.

### ➔ Contact



**Name:** District Commander Chris Kovacs

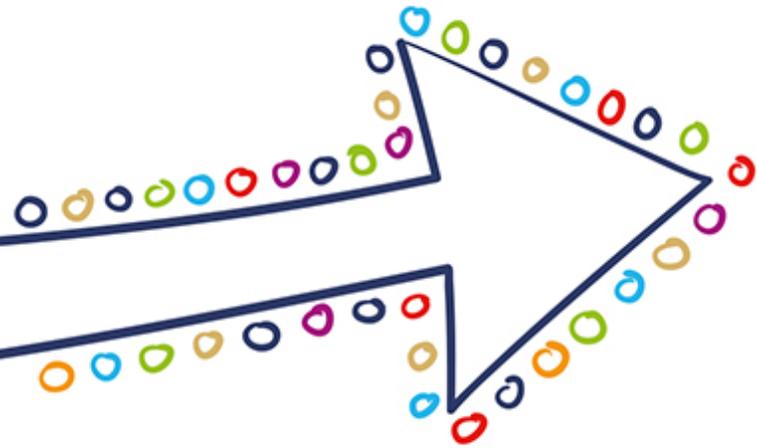


**Telephone:** 07557006173



**Email address:**  
[Christopher.Kovacs01@westyorkfire.gov](mailto:Christopher.Kovacs01@westyorkfire.gov)





# Spotlight on...

## Stay Safe Stay Warm



### What was the need, how was it identified?

The UK has seen significant increases in household gas bills, up by 141% since winter 2021/22 levels (House of Commons, 2022). These increases disproportionately affect individuals on low or fixed incomes. Together Housing has seen a 220% increase in the number of residents requesting to have their gas and/or electric supplies to be isolated.

This was brought to our attention through our partnership working with Calderdale Council. Along with a number of crews following incidents/safe and well visits reporting increased occurrences of residents having no ordinary means of heating their homes.

This may lead to increased risk to their safety and impact their wellbeing.



### What did we do?

A referral process was set up to allow together housing frontline workers to submit referrals for any household that had requested their electricity and/or gas to be isolated. These referrals were entered onto our safe and well system by the station clerks at all stations across Calderdale.

Our main referral pathway was to the Green Doctor. The Green Doctor offers free, impartial advice to help residents take control of their bills, save energy where possible in the home, and access other services and initiatives available.

Green Doctor can provide different kinds of support, whether that's advice on paying off debt with energy or water companies, or spotting other concerns for a referral to other services.

As we were working with Together Housing on this project all of the homes already had working smoke detectors therefore the safe

and well visits would focus on wellbeing, vulnerable residents, referrals to the Green Doctor and other referral pathways.

### ➔ What difference did we make?

Through being involved with this project we have had over 50 referrals through which have received a safe and well visit from our crews. From these we have identified other partnership referrals and areas of vulnerability.

We have also started working with the North Halifax Partnership and attending their events focussing around Staying Safe and Warm. The North Halifax Partnership work with socially isolated and lonely individuals and support them to access local groups, activities, services and support to improve their health and wellbeing. We have attended a number of their events in North East Calderdale. Here we are able to chat with members of the community and talk about our safe and well process and how we may be able to sign post them to further assistance.

### ➔ What are the keys to our success?

Working with Calderdale Council and Together Housing we are able to get early notification that someone has requested to have their electricity/gas isolated and therefore we are able to ensure that they are referred to the right agencies for support. We are also able to target these premises and offer safe and well advice on other areas of vulnerability which may exist.

Working with the North Halifax Partnership has allowed us to also speak to some members of the community who previously we may not have been able to engage with. We are working with the North Halifax Partnership to ensure they can refer in any members of the community they can work with that may benefit from a safe and well visit.



### ➔ What are we doing next?

The approach taken with the North Halifax Partnership will be rolled out across other areas of the district. The results of the stay safe stay warm project will be reviewed and evaluated and rolled out across other districts

### ➔ Contact



Laura Boocock, Calderdale DC

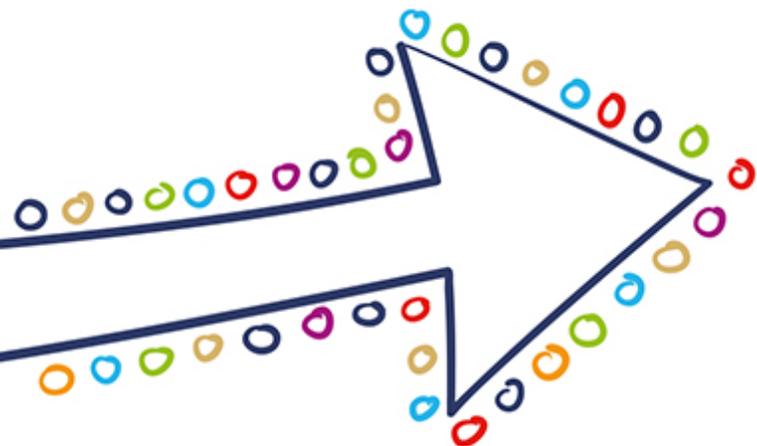


07552283487



Laura.boocock01@westyorksfire.gov.uk





# Spotlight on...

## Huddersfield University Partnership



### What was the need, how was it identified?

WYFRS have undertaken a range of meaningful opportunities to engage with other emergency services partners and academics from Huddersfield University. This has allowed the WYFRS personnel to be able to sign off competencies via multi-agency exercises. We have also undertaken a series of in-situ activities, which have provided valuable learning opportunities focused on difficult conversations for WYFRS crews. University lecturers have also been attached to shifts at Dewsbury and Huddersfield to explore future developments.

Whilst these initial activities were treated as pilots, it is evident that they are mutually beneficial and feed into our wider strategic goals to 'Make West Yorkshire safer'.

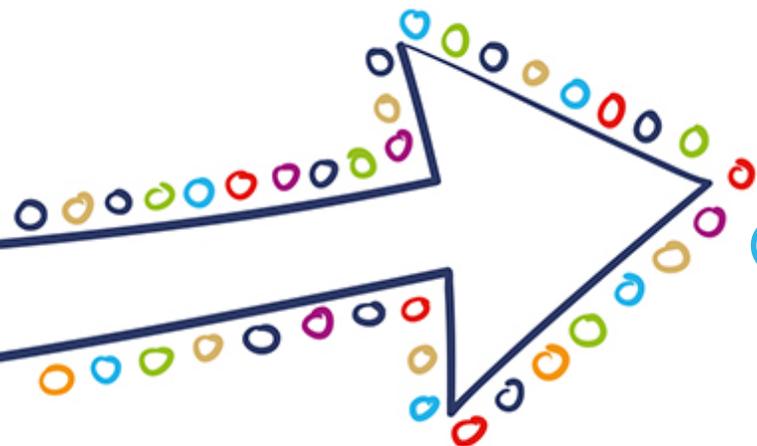


### What did we do?

In collaboration with the University a bid was secured for a PhD focused on investigating how WYFRS can reduce the risk of fire and accidents within vulnerable groups and create safer and stronger communities. The PhD researcher will survey current WYFRS policy and practice of outreach activities and the identification of key groups and evaluate the nature and effectiveness of information provided to the public. Based on the results of this phase, the researcher will then explore options for improving risk information and the targeting of outreach activity. The PhD will involve close collaboration with WYFRS and the development of studies involving the public. We are looking for candidates with experience in the design and analysis (both qualitative and quantitative) of research studies and the ability to evaluate and develop optimal methods for the communication of risk and its prevention.







# Spotlight on...

## Cost of Living Crisis Support



### ▶ What was the need, how was it identified?

In Spring 2022 we hosted a partnership event to talk about the impact the Cost-of-Living Crisis on our service users and generate ideas for ways we could offer support beyond our core purpose. We quickly realised we wanted to be able to offer immediate relief to the vulnerable people we support while waiting on our partners to step-in with longer-term support.

The cost-of-living crisis might not at once stand out as an issue that would cause an impact on the fire service, however when households struggle, especially around the cost of heating we see an increase in risky and unsafe behaviours.

As part of the Leeds Cost of Living and Welfare Group we proposed having a pack that we could hand out during safe and well visits, at incidents and at community events with vulnerable groups. We secured funding from the local Cllrs in Killingbeck station area and support funds for the rest of Leeds from the local council to procure a pack that included a blanket, hat, gloves, socks, hot water bottle and a thermos cup. We also decided to

manually add the Money Information Centre (MIC) leaflets on energy and utility and advice, and debt and money advice.



### ▶ What did we do?

Collaborating with key partners at LCC we secured funding and found a supplier for the packs. As this took more time than was ideal, we didn't receive the packs on stations until Feb. However we looked for opportunities, where we could make the most impact in the shortest amount of time. This included reaching out to partners who were supporting vulnerable people and combining fire safety talks, safe and well information and supplying the packs.

This work is still ongoing, and we have more talks planned in the upcoming weeks with fire crews and the specialist Prevention teams.



As well as giving out the packs we made referrals to partners such as Greendoctor, elderly action groups, local authority housing and private rented housing providers, to gain more substantial longer-term support for people.

### ➔ What difference did we make?

Over the course of 4 weeks, we supported over 90 households with the packs, 61% of which had individuals over 65, and 68% has individuals with disability needs and 15% had children under 16 in the home.

The feedback we have had from people has been supportive, they have appreciated the packs and the ability to help them stay warmer while they get support from other agencies. We even were sent a thank you card to Otley station by a grateful recipient from an elderly action lunch we attended.

We have had partners such as adult social care enquiring about the packs with a view of also looking to supply them next winter as they felt they were a useful product.

In addition to this we have had local media from the BBC and other news outlets get in touch asking to do a media piece on the work with the warmer packs and the support WYFRS is offering. The Cost of Living and Welfare group was also visited by leaders of other local authority councils to talk to the group about the work we have been doing as a collective partnership.

as an example of collaborative and innovative working.



“Partnership working to support our most vulnerable people in Leeds is a priority for us and we are proud of the partnership we have and continue to

### ➔ What are the keys to our success?

The key to our success is thinking beyond the obvious and understanding the bigger picture of life for our communities that will inevitably increase their risk of fire related incidents.

We have strong relationships with partners and the local council, and this led to the ability to have such a focused group with the objective of understanding the needs of our service users, the existing work and where support can be given in other ways.

In addition to this we are open and adaptable to challenging futures willing to look at ways we can helping people based on their needs within the work we already do.

### ➔ What are we doing next?

Next steps are a continuation on the Cost of Living and Welfare Group. The Cost-of-Living Crisis is an ongoing issue and we will be working with our partners for the months/years to come.

We are already planning to repeat the winter pack offer winter 2023 but aim have the planning and funding in place sooner for an October launch and also hope to have support funding from Cllrs and Community champions such as Asda, Amazon and Morrisons to add other items to the packs such as light weight non-perishable foods.

We are aware warmth isn't the only risk factor effecting households and we will be working with the group to look at interventions and support we could offer through the spring, summer, and autumn months.

### ➔ Contact



Naomi Hirst Leeds District Prevention Manager

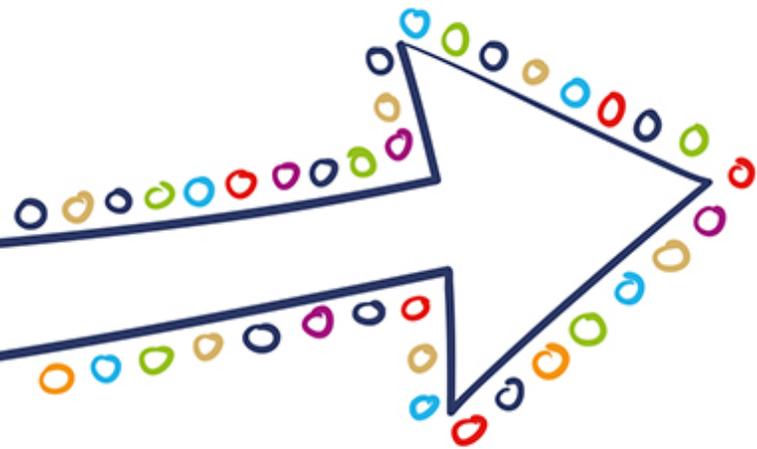


07552283577



Naomi.Hirst@westyorkshire.gov.uk





# Spotlight on...

Wakefield District – Tackling water safety with education and demonstration.



See a fire or someone using a BBQ  
on moorland - call 999 ask for FIRE

## ➡ What was the need, how was it identified?

Our team have worked alongside both internal and external partners to develop and education plan to deliver key safety messages across our District throughout 2023 / 24

## ➡ What did we do?

We have identified the key areas that we want to focus on and the messages we would like to deliver.

Our Operational crews and prevention team will concentrate on the following-

- Water Safety.
- Road Safety.
- Wildfire / standing corn fires.
- Anti-social behaviour

We will now deliver the safety messages across the District by endorsing National campaigns and target key areas and groups with bespoke educational packages.



## ➔ What difference did we make?

“

*In 2022/23 we delivered key messages across the District we want to improve on this in 2023/24*

”



Key dates we will be supporting in the next few weeks -

- Motorcycle safety week
- NFCC Water Aware week
- Boat Fire Safety week
- Child Safety week

## ➔ What are the keys to our success?

Effective and robust partnership working.  
Listening to our communities. Being seen to tackle these issues and deliver swift and innovative solutions



## ➔ What are we doing next?

We are working with our key District partners to produce some short Water Safety Videos.

These are being filmed in April and will be 1<sup>st</sup> screened in June.



## ➔ Contact



Name DC Paul Daly



Telephone 07552283496



[paul.daly@westyorkshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:paul.daly@westyorkshirefire.gov.uk)





OFFICIAL

# Performance Against PMI 2022 / 23

## Community Safety Committee

---

Date: 28 April 2023

Agenda Item:

**07**

Submitted By: Director of Service Delivery

---

<b>Purpose</b>	To inform Members of Community Safety Committee of the performance against the 2022/23 performance outcome targets. The reports specifically look at performance covering 01 April 2022 – 31 March 2023.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Members of the Community Safety Committee note the contents of the report.
<b>Summary</b>	This report provides details of the performance against the outcome targets.

---

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category: None

Contact Officer: AM Service Delivery - Scott Donegan  
[Scott.Donegan01@westyorksfire.gov.uk](mailto:Scott.Donegan01@westyorksfire.gov.uk)

Background papers open to inspection: None

Annexes: None

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The attached reports show the performance across West Yorkshire and the five Local Authority Districts against the outcomes targets that were set for the year 2021/22.
- 1.2 The performance report covers the reporting period from 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.
- 1.3 Members of the Community Safety Committee approved the methodology for setting the annual targets against a range of incident types using a 3-year rolling average. The District Management teams measure, monitor and evaluate the performance against these targets at regular intervals throughout the year.

## 2 Information

- 2.1 The Performance Management System, the WYFiremap tool and more recently OneView allows managers and staff to monitor incident activity using real time data sets. Incidents can be plotted onto a map so geographical trends can also be identified.
- 2.2 Due to Authority reporting schedules there may be some minor changes to the data provided in this report. This is because a small number of the incident reports are still being reviewed for accuracy and / or awaiting further investigation in to cause.

*Performance across West Yorkshire for the following indicators is set to meet or exceed the set targets:*

### **Arson**

- 2.3 The performance across all arson incidents is 933 higher than in the same period of the previous year. We have attended 6587 recorded deliberate fires in the year to date compared to 5654 in the previous year. Overall, arson has missed the agreed target by 204 incidents (3.2%). The extreme weather which affected the whole of the United Kingdom through July and August is the primary reason for the increase in this indicator. The service responded to 1124 additional deliberate fires when compared to the same period in 2021 / 21.
- 2.4 Members are asked to note that this performance indicator also covers deliberate fires and fires where the cause cannot be recorded as accidental because of lack of intelligence regarding cause.

### **Arson – Primary Fires**

- 2.5 Primary fires are the more serious fires that harm people or cause damage to property.
  - Primary fires have one or more of the following characteristics:
  - Fires in buildings and vehicles that are not derelict or in outdoor structures
  - Any fire involving casualties or rescues
  - Any fire attended by more than 5 pumping appliances
- 2.6 In this reporting period, we attended 1249 primary deliberate fires, compared to 1059 in the previous year. This is a 17% increase against the previous year, however we are still 6.9% under the three year target. Over half of the recorded primary fires (710) were in vehicles, with 184 dwelling fires and 186 fires in non-domestic properties.

## **Dwelling Fires**

- 2.7 This target has been achieved by 5.8%. We have attended 1078 dwelling fires over the reporting period. This is eight more than the same period 2021 – 22 and 66 under the three year average.
- 2.8 Over the last year we have continue to develop our services in response to the challenges faced by our communities. Examples over the last year include the additional upskilling our people undertook to support people struggling with the ‘cost of living’ crisis and the offer we made to families taking in refugees from the Ukraine.
- 2.9 We continue to review and refresh our referral partnerships and investigate new, intelligence opportunities to improve our reach into the most vulnerable communities and to identify the individuals most likely to need support.

## **Non-Domestic Building Fires**

- 2.10 There have been 4 fewer fires in this category compared to the figure from the previous year (354 compared to 358). The three year target is being achieved by over 12.8%.
- 2.11 We continue to deliver the operational risk visit and have placed significant investment in the Fire Protection Team to make our built environment and workplaces as safe as possible. We are well aware of the economic cost of fires in commercial properties with many companies failing to recover from a serious fire. The service has continued it investment in the Fire Protection Team and opportunities to increase the number of inspections undertaken by station-based staff are being explored.

## **Fire Related Injuries**

- 2.12 Fire related injuries are arguably one of the most important indicators when it comes to the effectiveness of prevention, protection and response activities. For the year 2022 / 23 we have recorded 153 fire related injuries. It must be noted that a large proportion of these injuries which appear to be slight (125) and are mostly due to smoke inhalation.
- 2.13 It is disappointing to report that there have been five accidental dwelling fire fatalities this year, two fewer than the previous year. Of these, two resulted from unsafe use of space heaters, one from smoking materials, one from unsafe use of a naked flame and one where the cause is not currently known.

## **Actual Rescues**

- 2.14 Performance against this target has remained reasonably consistent when considered against last year (14 more). The target against the three year average is being achieved by 25.8% and the overwhelming majority of these rescues are as a result of our effecting entry partnership with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service. This relationship does provide us with an additional opportunity to identify vulnerable individuals who can benefit from the support we provide.

## **Road Traffic Collisions**

- 2.15 All of our district teams are represented within their respective road safety partnerships, and we also hold a seat on the West Yorkshire Road Safety Executive. We have been working hard across districts to raise awareness of the dangers of antisocial driving and the consequences of bad decisions. We have attended four more incidents when compared with last year, however we have performed well against the three-year average (8.2% under).

## **Malicious False Alarms**

- 2.16 We have continued to work hard to support landlords, school and detention establishments to reduce this type of incident. Due to the limited number of incidents falling withing this indicator, one individual or premises can have a significant impact on the overall target.
- 2.17 We have seen improvements against last year (33 fewer) and the three year average (13) and this target has been achieved by 3.6%.

***Performance across West Yorkshire for the following indicators is projected to be within 10% the set targets:***

## **Arson – Secondary Fires**

- 2.18 Secondary fires are less serious and generally less information is collected following a secondary fire. The tend to involve accumulations of rubbish and 'vegetation' which is mainly grass fires during warm, dry periods. Compared to the same period in 2021 / 22 there has been an increase in secondary fires (743). Between 01 June 2022 and 01 Sept 2022 we attended 2068 additional secondary fires when compared with the previous year.
- 2.19 We have worked hard over the last seven months to reduce occurrence of deliberate secondary fires and improve performance which was 62.5% above the three year average in September to 5.9% over at year end.

## Prevalence of False Alarms

- 2.20 We have not achieved our target for false alarms against the three year average. The three year average indicator has been missed by 7.1%. We have seen a change in working habits and a shift to more independent living arrangements for people who previously lived in care. We will continue to work across our communities, with care providers and businesses to reduce the number of unwanted fire signals.
- 2.21 A review of how we respond to automatic fire alarms is currently being undertaken. The aim of this review is to ensure a safe, effective and efficient response whilst providing additional capacity for training, prevention and protection work.

***Performance across West Yorkshire for the following indicators is not on track to meet the set targets:***

### **Total Activity**

- 2.22 There has been an increase in the total number of incidents attended in 2022 / 23 compared to the previous year. Most of the key performance indicators have remained reasonably stable. We have seen a significant rise in deliberate secondary fires, we can attribute this to the red weather warning and wider heatwave we experienced over the summer. Between the 01 June 2022 and 01 September 2022 we attended 2257 additional fires when compared to the same period for the previous year. This target has been missed by 10.1%.

## **3 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

## **4 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution

## **5 Human Resource and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1 All initiatives to reduce the numbers of incidents we attend are focussed towards those more vulnerable. Effective working with key partners across the districts continues to develop and we are starting to recognise that our strategy of concentrating our resources towards risk and vulnerability is increasing our effectiveness.

- 5.2 We are spending much less time with people who have little or no risk from fire and an increasing percentage of time on prevention activities is being spent in the right areas, dealing with those most vulnerable.
- 5.3 A trial has recently started which look to use data to further improve how we target vulnerable people in our communities.

## 6 Equality Impact Assessment

Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? ( <a href="#">EIA guidance and form 2020 form.docx (westyorksfire.gov.uk)</a> )	Yes / No
Date EIA Completed	DD/MM/YY
Date EIA Approved	DD/MM/YY

## 7 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

- 7.1 The health, safety and welfare of all WYFRS staff involved in responding to emergency incidents is one of the key priorities contained within the Your Fire and Rescue Service 2022-2025 Community Risk Management Plan. The District Command teams actively monitor the health and safety of staff following incidents and have welfare provisions in place for any specific incident type where crews may witness distressing scenes with support available through local managers and the Occupational Health and Safety Unit.

## 8 Environmental Implications

- 8.1 There are no environmental implication resulting from this report.

## 9 Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

- We will reduce the risks to the communities of West Yorkshire
- We will continue to develop ways of working which improve the safety & effectiveness of our firefighters
- We will work efficiently to provide value for money and make the best use of reserves to provide an effective service
- We will be innovative and work smarter throughout the service
- We will invest in information and communication technology, digital and data, to deliver our service in smarter ways

## 10 Conclusions

- 10.1 Members of the Community Safety Committee are presented this report as part of an ongoing commitment to demonstrate the priority that WYFRS places in prevention and early intervention and how we judge the success of our activities through the performance 'outcomes' targets that we set each year.
- 10.2 2022 / 23 has been a year of two halves. We have responded safely and effectively to a huge spike in fires resulting from a long, hot summer and we are continuing to improve our training, equipment and prevention activities to ensure we are well prepared as climate change means this will become the new normal. In the back half of the year our prevention and protection activities have led to a successful bonfire period and a strong response to the cost of living crisis.
- 10.3 Through 2023 / 24 we will continue to work with partners to challenge antisocial behaviour and support the most vulnerable people in our communities.

## West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

### Performance 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - PERFORMANCE MONITORING SYSTEM					
DEFINITIONS					
<b>3 YEAR AVG TARGET</b> (Previous 3 Years)	Average performance from the previous 3 financial years, used as the target for this current year				
<b>SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR</b> (Previous Year)	Cumulative total for the same period in the previous year				
<b>TOTAL SO FAR</b> (Current Year)	Cumulative total for current year so far				
<b>PROJECTION AGAINST 3 YEAR AVERAGE</b> (Current Year)	Comparison of projected annual activity against the 3 year average target – Red (outside 10% of target), Amber (within 10% of target), Green (target achieved or exceeded)				
<b>END OF YEAR PROJECTION</b> (Current Year)	Projected value at the end of the financial year based on Total So Far and the number of days remaining				
			<i>[values to 31 Mar 2023 23:59:59]</i>		
	<b>3 YEAR AVG TARGET</b> (2017/20)	<b>SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR</b> (2021-31/03/22)	<b>TOTAL SO FAR</b> (2022/23)	<b>AGAINST 3 YEAR AVG</b> (2022/23)	<b>END OF YEAR PROJECTION</b> (2022/23)
Arson	6383	5654	6587	3.2%	6587
Arson - Primary Fires	1341	1059	1249	-6.9%	1249
Arson - Secondary Fires	5042	4595	5338	5.9%	5338
Actual Rescues	1621	1189	1203	-25.8%	1203
Total Activity	24209	25017	26653	10.1%	26653
Dwelling Fires	1144	1070	1078	-5.8%	1078
Non-Domestic Building Fires	406	358	354	-12.8%	354
Prevalence of False Alarms	10558	11265	11303	7.1%	11303
Fire Related Injuries	181	134	153	-15.5%	153
Road Traffic Collisions	645	588	592	-8.2%	592
Malicious False Alarms	358	378	345	-3.6%	345
COMMENTS RELATING TO PERFORMANCE INDICATORS					

## Bradford Performance 01 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

BRADFORD LOCAL AUTHORITY (DRRT) - PERFORMANCE MONITORING SYSTEM					
DATE:	VISITING COMMANDERS:				
OFFICERS PRESENT:					
DEFINITIONS					
<b>3 YEAR AVG TARGET</b> (Previous 3 Years)	Average performance from the previous 3 financial years, used as the target for this current year				
<b>SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR</b> (Previous Year)	Cumulative total for the same period in the previous year				
<b>TOTAL SO FAR</b> (Current Year)	Cumulative total for current year so far				
<b>PROJECTION AGAINST 3 YEAR AVERAGE</b> (Current Year)	Comparison of projected annual activity against the 3 year average target – Red (outside 10% of target), Amber (within 10% of target), Green (target achieved or exceeded)				
<b>END OF YEAR PROJECTION</b> (Current Year)	Projected value at the end of the financial year based on Total So Far and the number of days remaining				
	3 YEAR AVG TARGET (2017/20)	SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR (2021-31/03/22)	[values to 31 Mar 2023 23:59:59]		
			TOTAL SO FAR (2022/23)	AGAINST 3 YEAR AVG (2022/23)	END OF YEAR PROJECTION (2022/23)
Arson	2156	1953	2048	-5.0%	2048
Arson - Primary Fires	419	313	366	-12.6%	366
Arson - Secondary Fires	1737	1640	1682	-3.2%	1682
Actual Rescues	376	301	282	-25.0%	282
Total Activity	6398	6500	6587	3.0%	6587
Dwelling Fires	318	297	275	-13.5%	275
Non-Domestic Building Fires	92	90	81	-12.0%	81
Prevalence of False Alarms	2523	2645	2673	5.9%	2673
Fire Related Injuries	45	30	45	0.0%	45
Road Traffic Collisions	139	128	137	-1.4%	137
Malicious False Alarms	132	165	135	2.3%	135

**The district performance in the following areas has met or exceeded the targets set:**

### **Arson**

Arson weighted against last years data has seen an increase by 95 incidents. The district is achieving targets by 5.0% based on a three yearly average.

For primary arson, considered against last years data we have seen a slight increase of 53 incidents. The district is achieving targets by 12.6% based on a three yearly average. Deliberate vehicle fires form the highest percentage of arson primary with 229 within the financial year to date.

Secondary arson weighted against last years data has seen an increase by 42 incidents. The district is achieving targets by 3.2% based on a three yearly average. Waste and loose refuse fires form the highest percentage of arson primary with 1000 within the financial year to date.

Bradford district is working collectively with the police to understand reason for the increase in vehicle fires. This information will allow for targeted interventions delivered at a ward level. Bradford district alongside Kirklees district and the Local Authority have produced new information / education in hope to change behaviours associated with fly tipping and how commercial premises dispose of waste.

### **Actual Rescues**

Bradford District has experienced a decrease in actual rescues compared to last year's data by 19 incidents. The district is achieving the target by 25.0% based on the three yearly average.

The highest percentage of this incident type is 'Gaining Entry Cause for Concern,' assisting YAS with entry into properties. These types of incidents do allow to identify vulnerable people who can then be supported through prevention interventions.

Road Traffic Collisions resulting in extrication account for a large proportion of actual rescues away from supporting YAS.

Bradford District continues to work alongside WYP and the Road Safety Partnership Board. The district is in the process of aligning communication approaches with 'Vision Zero' and discussing funding to support the Youth Interventions 'Fast and Furious' programme through the regional roads group.

Additionally, the district has provisionally secured funding through the Regional Roads Group allowing Youth Intervention to deliver Lv 2 education focusing on areas of the fatal 5. Bradfords approach will be unique to previous education delivered as it will target those already under the support of partners such as the Youth Justice Team for driving offences.

### **Dwelling Fires**

Bradford District has experienced a decrease in dwelling fires compared against last year's data by 22 incidents. The district is achieving targets by 13.5% based on the three yearly average. This achievement is attributed to the focused prevention work carried out by operational crews and prevention staff throughout the district.

3443 Safe and Well visits have been completed 2022/23. This work contributes to further driving down the number and severity of dwelling fires across Bradford. Stations are actively targeting areas where data demonstrates levels of vulnerability and deprivation.

The district actively encourages community and partnership referrals to identify those most at risk of fire. At the start of 2023 Bradford district will host two partnership days, one re-educating those partners working within the homes of vulnerable people (referrals in to WYFRS) and one re-educating Bradford district staff (green and grey) on recognising vulnerability.

Bradford district is trialling the use of Acorn data within the Keighley and Bingley areas. This approach will target those most vulnerable based on a range of data allowing intervention and partnership referral. Ultimately driving the risk within Bradford down and making those people safer within their homes.

### **Non-Domestic Buildings Fires**

Bradford District has experienced a decrease in non-domestic building fires compared to last year's data by 9 incidents. The district is achieving the target by 12.0% based on the three yearly average. This is in part due to the continued work completed by the Protection team supporting District in evaluating the suitability of building safety.

Watch and Crew Managers continue to work within the community against our risk-based inspection plan evaluating and educating responsible persons re their legislative requirements. Greater training has resulted in crews identifying and referring premises not deemed compliant earlier and as a result of incidents.

In recent months those premises not meeting the required standards have required the re housing of residents and reported on in local press. This further demonstrated the proactive approach of WYFRS and Local Authorities.

### **Road Traffic Collisions**

Bradford District has experienced a slight increase in RTC's weighted against last years data by 9 incidents. The district is achieving the target by 1.4% based on the three yearly average.

The district continues to be an influential member of the Roads Safety Partnership Board supporting days of action. Bradford has seen several fatal RTC's in 2022 each with vehicles operated inappropriately and, in each case, young males. Bradford District will continue to work within the community and schools highlighting the dangers of inappropriate driving.

Bradford district has provisionally secured funding through the Regional Roads group allowing Youth Intervention to deliver Lv 2 education focusing on areas of the fatal 5. Bradfords approach will be unique to previous education delivered as it will target those already under the support of partners such as the Youth Justice team for driving offences.

### **Fire Related Injuries**

Bradford District has experienced an increase in fire related injuries weighted against last years data by 15 incidents. The district is aligned to the three yearly average.

Station based staff alongside the Prevention Officers continue to work within the community providing fire safety educations and have referral links with partner agencies to support with other living concerns.

A larger percentage of the fire related injuries have been smoking inhalation only with YAS evaluating those connected to property fires. A recent example a low-rise premise where the corridor was smoke logged and 6 persons checked over by YAS.

The performance in the following areas is outside of targets:

### **Prevalence of False Alarms / Malicious False Alarms**

Bradford District has experienced a decrease in malicious FA's compared to last year by 30 incidents. Based on yearly data Bradford has seen an increase in the prevalence of FA's by 28 incidents. The district is outside of targets by 2.3% for malicious and 5.9% for prevalence.

Work is ongoing at a station level to engage with premises who continually attract the mobilisation of resources to unwanted fire signals.

### **Total Activity**

Bradford District has experienced an increase in total activity weighted against last years data by 87 incidents. The district is outside of targets by 3.0% based on the 3 yearly average.

This is as a result of increases across arson, false alarms and RTC's.

### **Summary**

The work of the partnership PRRG leading up to and over the bonfire resulted in a decrease of deliberate fires due to targeted intervention and lack of waste/refuse to light. A trend has been identified in an increase in deliberate vehicle fires and the district will now target this utilising data from fire investigation, IRS and partners.

The district continues to form relationships with community groups such as the Bradford Moor Pass, Holme Valley Group and those focusing to support impacts of the cost of living. These formed relationships provide greater access to individuals most likely to be involved with ASB and at risk of fire.

False Alarms remain a consistent issue within Bradford District. Station staff will use the comprehensive data set to target those premises of highest reoccurrence looking to work alongside the responsible persons.

The re education around partnership referral pathways both in and out of Bradford district is a key priority. The District Prevention Manager (DPM) will reinvigorate these pathways ensuring those most vulnerable in community are identified and referred to the necessary services.

## Calderdale Performance 01 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

CALDERDALE LOCAL AUTHORITY (DRRT) - PERFORMANCE MONITORING SYSTEM					
DATE:		VISITING COMMANDERS:			
OFFICERS PRESENT:					
DEFINITIONS					
<b>3 YEAR AVG TARGET</b> (Previous 3 Years)	Average performance from the previous 3 financial years, used as the target for this current year				
<b>SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR</b> (Previous Year)	Cumulative total for the same period in the previous year				
<b>TOTAL SO FAR</b> (Current Year)	Cumulative total for current year so far				
<b>PROJECTION AGAINST 3 YEAR AVERAGE</b> (Current Year)	Comparison of projected annual activity against the 3 year average target – Red (outside 10% of target), Amber (within 10% of target), Green (target achieved or exceeded)				
<b>END OF YEAR PROJECTION</b> (Current Year)	Projected value at the end of the financial year based on Total So Far and the number of days remaining				
	3 YEAR AVG TARGET (2017/20)	SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR (2021-31/03/22)	[values to 31 Mar 2023 23:59:59]		
			TOTAL SO FAR (2022/23)	AGAINST 3 YEAR AVG (2022/23)	END OF YEAR PROJECTION (2022/23)
Arson	367	375	391	6.5%	391
Arson - Primary Fires	79	90	92	16.5%	92
Arson - Secondary Fires	288	285	299	3.8%	299
Actual Rescues	167	145	138	-17.4%	138
Total Activity	2152	2398	2442	13.5%	2442
Dwelling Fires	105	92	106	1.0%	106
Non-Domestic Building Fires	38	32	29	-23.7%	29
Prevalence of False Alarms	917	1062	1088	18.6%	1088
Fire Related Injuries	21	11	23	9.5%	23
Road Traffic Collisions	65	65	57	-12.3%	57
Malicious False Alarms	29	38	39	34.5%	39

**The District performance in the following areas either meets or exceeds the required target:**

### **Actual Rescues**

Calderdale District has achieved the target for actual rescues for this period. 24 of these rescues result from road traffic collisions and 12 from lift rescues, a number are also related to effecting entry into properties. Reducing road traffic collisions continues to be an area of focus for engagement activities with the Calderdale Road Safety Delivery group as well as working with businesses where we receive repeat calls for lift rescues.. We continue to work with partner agencies including CVSRT, Calderdale council and other blue light agencies to ensure prevention activities are occurring and where rescues are necessary, they are completed in the most effective manner.

### **Road Traffic Collisions**

Calderdale District has achieved the target with 57 incidents recorded this year. Calderdale District continues to support the Calderdale Road Safety Delivery Group with Operation Hawmill which tackles anti - social use of vehicles and offences on the road networks of Calderdale.

The Road Safety Roadshow took place in March this year and crews and district teams have continued to deliver education around road safety through different education pathways. The Road Safety Roadshow was held in November and attracted an attendance from over 750 young adults aged 15+.

Work is continuing to develop around the roadshow with a plan to roll it out to other districts next year as well as exploring possibilities for delivers in the valley.

Calderdale District are continuing to work with school located in our highest risk areas for RTCs to engage with new drivers. We are developing visits with WYP traffic officers into schools to deliver road safety advice. We are currently developing a new roadshow for this year which aligns to the current incidents we are seeing involving young drivers in Calderdale.

### **Non-Domestic Fires**

The number of non-domestic building fires is below the target set for Calderdale this year. There have been a total of 29 reportable non-domestic building fires. There has been a significant reduction in the number of dwelling first over the last couple of months. Crews continue to work with our partner agencies during SSRI visits and when dealing with fly tipping and waste around nondomestic buildings. Calderdale district only saw a handful of incidents occurring around the bonfire period, which is usually a much busier time for non domestic buildings.

**Performance in the following areas which fall below the target set:**

### **Dwelling Fires**

Calderdale District have just missed the target for house fires with a total of 106 dwelling fires recorded since April 2022. We continue to monitor trends and proactively target the most vulnerable within the community.

We are continuing to deliver safe and well visits to our most vulnerable members of our communities and have recently held partnership events to reinvigorate partnerships formed before the pandemic. We are also looking at our referral pathways for our most prevalent referring agencies to ensure that they are easy to use and access.

We are monitoring incidents which could be attributed to the cost of living and ensuring appropriate prevention and response work is carried out in those areas. This includes our work with Calderdale Councils stay safe stay warm project.

## **Fire Related Injuries**

Calderdale District has missed the three yearly average target (2). Calderdale District continues to work with local community groups and partners to provide fire safety education. We promote the importance of having working smoke detectors and a fire escape plan. Strong partnership links with Adult Social Care, Together Housing, Care Providers and NHS have seen a development through communication & training and have led to improvement in quality and quantity of the right kind of referral and so enabled us to deliver a better more joined up service to the community. Recently district teams have forged new partnerships with local colleges and taken part in their freshers events to highlight the risks in the home.

Calderdale district monitor any trends which may be occurring around fire related injuries and ensure that we take a proactive approach to identifying any new risks. For example during late summer we identified a couple of incidents which had resulted from misuse of accelerants for lighting BBQs or bonfires. We issued fire safety advice around the mis use of accelerants to Calderdale Council Housing as well as utilising our social media outlets to pass fire safety messages.

## **Arson**

Calderdale District is just above the target set for primary arson with a total of 92 primary arson incidents recorded. Where these incidents have occurred we have ensured interventions have been put into place to prevent further incidents. We have also worked with neighbourhood policing teams to identify ASB. We have had a large number of primary and secondary fires in the Ovenden Green area which has been attributed to ASB. We are currently working with police and local communities to develop interventions for this area.

We have not achieved the secondary arson target by 3.8% with 298 incidents recorded. The majority of secondary fires are attributed to refuse and vegetation fires during the heatwave periods of July and August.

The District has highlighted this as a priority and are working on projects within Park and Ovenden wards to tackle this issue. We have partnered with police to deliver ASB intervention days in Park Ward, Lower Valley and North East. We are working with the highways section of Calderdale Council to ensure that areas identified through Environmental Visual Audits (EVA) are dealt with quickly and that areas that are prone to these types of incidents are visited by ourselves and partners on a regular basis.

Over the bonfire period there was a significant reduction in the number of secondary arson fires as compared to previous years. During this period we were working with Calderdale Council and WYP to record all EVAs carried out by all frontline workers firefighters, council wardens, council street teams, police officers, PCSOs etc. This was a very successful project which allowed us to act quickly when areas of fly tipping or waste were highlighted.

## **Malicious False Alarms**

The number of false alarms is above the target set, with a total of 39 incidents recorded since April. We have seen an increase in some sheltered housing complexes which was due to deliberate actuation of break glass points within three Together Housing properties, we are working with partners to look at methods of deterring anti social behaviour in these premises.

These figures were mainly attributed to a few addresses where we have worked with Calderdale Council housing providers to take action and where necessary evict problem tenants. Since these interventions we have seen a significant drop off in numbers, with only five recorded in the last quarter of the year

## **Prevalence of False Alarms**

The number of false alarms is above the target set, with a total of 1088 incidents recorded since April. False alarms which are attributed to human behaviours such as smoking or cooking practices are being addressed through education and advice in the most prevalent premises.

Operational crews continue to work with both Fire Protection and prevention teams and partners to identify premises where issues arise. We have a number of interventions and days of action planned for our purpose built flats in districts. We are also working with Calderdale Council Drug and Alcohol teams to target our most vulnerable residents and premises.

## **Total Activity**

The total number of incidents attended across Calderdale is above the target figure set. We have attended 2442 incidents since 01 April 2022, it has been a busier annual period due to the unusual weather conditions we have experienced during summer and winter periods The District team ensure that areas of high activity are brought to the attention of partners and solutions sought on these parts of the District.

The District Team will continue to monitor trends and target resources based on intelligence and the variety of data sets/mapping systems to further reduce the activity over the coming year.

## **Summary**

In Calderdale, we work with local partner agencies to educate people on how to prevent fire and where necessary, safely react to an emergency. We have worked with partner agencies across the district to educate our communities about the danger of moor fires and water dangers. We have delivered education to a large number of children across the district about the dangers of open water swimming throughout the hot weather period.

We continue to work closely with our partners to identify vulnerable members of our community and high risk areas. We look to add innovation to our ways of working and ensure that we can deliver initiatives to tackle arson, dwelling fires and malicious false alarms. We are still seeing reductions in some areas and these can be attributed to the on-going partnership work carried out by operational crews and prevention staff. We currently have a plan in place to tackle the secondary fires within the District, this will involve education, community engagement and further partner involvement

As we move into the spring and summer months we will be focussing on our water safety and wildfire campaigns, and planning for bonfire and road safety campaigns later in the year.

## Kirklees Performance 01 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

KIRKLEES LOCAL AUTHORITY (DRRT) - PERFORMANCE MONITORING SYSTEM					
DATE:		VISITING COMMANDERS:			
OFFICERS PRESENT:					
DEFINITIONS					
<b>3 YEAR AVG TARGET</b> (Previous 3 Years)		Average performance from the previous 3 financial years, used as the target for this current year			
<b>SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR</b> (Previous Year)		Cumulative total for the same period in the previous year			
<b>TOTAL SO FAR</b> (Current Year)		Cumulative total for current year so far			
<b>PROJECTION AGAINST 3 YEAR AVERAGE</b> (Current Year)		Comparison of projected annual activity against the 3 year average target – Red (outside 10% of target), Amber (within 10% of target), Green (target achieved or exceeded)			
<b>END OF YEAR PROJECTION</b> (Current Year)		Projected value at the end of the financial year based on Total So Far and the number of days remaining			
	3 YEAR AVG TARGET (2017/20)	SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR (2021-31/03/22)	[values to 31 Mar 2023 23:59:59]		
			TOTAL SO FAR (2022/23)	AGAINST 3 YEAR AVG (2022/23)	END OF YEAR PROJECTION (2022/23)
Arson	911	736	922	1.2%	922
Arson - Primary Fires	209	143	179	-14.4%	179
Arson - Secondary Fires	701	593	743	6.0%	743
Actual Rescues	273	196	186	-31.9%	186
Total Activity	4072	4056	4410	8.3%	4410
Dwelling Fires	187	175	188	0.5%	188
Non-Domestic Building Fires	63	57	47	-25.4%	47
Prevalence of False Alarms	1861	1913	1958	5.2%	1958
Fire Related Injuries	35	23	27	-22.9%	27
Road Traffic Collisions	130	123	113	-13.1%	113
Malicious False Alarms	56	41	47	-16.1%	47

The District performance in the following areas is on track to meet or exceed the required target set:

## **Arson**

Kirklees District is within its target on overall arson by 1.2% with 922 incidents this year. This success is attributed to the drive from District to highlight the issue of arson and its links to broader societal issues. However, the action taken by watches to reduce the secondary fires within their wards has been instrumental. Crews targeted safe and wells to the households within the affected areas to highlight the issue and provide advice to households blighted by the secondary fires within the area.

### **Arson Primary Fires**

Kirklees District is currently surpassing its target for primary arson by 14.4% with 179 incidents. However, vehicle fires attribute to over half these incidents with 103 incidents. These types of incidents are being monitored by Kirklees District and WYP regarding deliberate ignitions that are attributed to local feuds. We will continue to work with our partners to prevent and report these types of crime. This will be a significant priority as we move into the next quarter.

### **Arson Secondary fires**

Innovative partnership working has been pivotal in driving secondary arson figures below the three-year average. The figure is currently 6.0%. above target. Although there are still challenges ahead, with the commitment and hard work of all partners, and correct reporting procedures embedded, we aim to reduce these types of incidents. A number of targeted initiatives have been implemented in areas where we have seen repeat secondary fire incidents, these have involved crews undertaking direct home approach to homes affected by the problem.

## **Actual Rescues**

The number of actual rescues compared with the same period last year is down to 186 compared to 196 last year. The projections and current figures mean we have exceeded our target by 31.9%. There has been a significant amount of work with partners via the Kirklees Road Safety Group (KRSG) and Kirklees Water Safety Group (KWSG). We continue to raise fire safety awareness through a variety of formats such as community action days, safe and well visits and public events.

## **Non-Domestic Building Fires**

Kirklees has met the three-year average by 25.4%, This is partly due to identifying incident trends and ensuring that property owners take responsibility for securing their buildings. This has been evident in the work around the Old Kirklees College at Huddersfield. The work by Dewsbury Green watch in highlighting fly tipping and burning off which has seen a reduction in secondary fires in the area. This template has been rolled out across other parts of the district where we will potentially see a future downward trend.

## **Fire Related Injuries**

Kirklees District has seen 27 fire related injuries this year which is 22.9% below the set average, unfortunately 3 of these injuries proved fatal. We have conducted serious incident reviews in collaboration with partners regarding these incidents to identify any learning to continue to drive down fire related injuries. The majority of fire related injuries are minor and most commonly; smoke inhalation resulting in precautionary check-ups for the casualty.

Kirklees District will continue to strive to reduce the risk of fire and moving forward will be utilising Acorn Data to target the most vulnerable members of our community.

## **Road Traffic Collisions**

There have been 113 road traffic collisions requiring action by fire crews in this reporting period, which is a decrease of 10 on last year incidents. This has met our three-year average target by 13.1%.

WYFRS continue to work with the Kirklees Road Safety Partnership in aiming to make Kirklees roads safer and have been involved in a range of activities across District over the last year. Crews have held several 'Engage and Educate', practical demonstrations and engagement events across the area. These initiatives have provided impactful safety training and safety messages to the residents of Kirklees.

## **Malicious False Alarms**

Kirklees District is exceeding the target for malicious false alarms by 16.1%. This is due to the work that has been carried out by Fire Protection, Partners and the District team. Watch commanders are responsible for wards in their station areas and are monitoring incidents, involving partners and Fire Protections teams where required to help bring down this type of incidents. We continue to deliver programmes focused on raising awareness of fire safety and the impacts and consequences of inappropriate behaviour and the unnecessary actuation of fire alarms.

## **Dwelling Fires**

We have seen 13 more dwelling fires than last year; Kirklees District is currently within the three-year average target. Our S&W program continues to support safety in the home and our teams are delivering quality advice and support to household throughout the district. However, there is still work to do to target the people and communities that need the most help The ACORN project will ensure we are reaching the most vulnerable apart from undertaking Safe and Well visits we will work in partnership with other local agencies to identify and help vulnerable people.

**The District performance in the following areas has not met the target set:**

### **Prevalence of False Alarms**

Kirklees District are forecast to be 5.2% over the three-year average target set, although it is travelling in the right direction and is down from our last report.

We will continue to work with local businesses where we identify repeat occurrences and will utilise support from the Fire Protection Team. Where incidents occur in residential homes the District Team will deliver collaborative initiatives with partners and engage with residents.

### **Total Activity**

We have seen an increase of incidents compared to last year and the end of the year is 8.3% within our target. This increase can be attributed to the prolonged heatwave across the region last year where we saw unprecedented calls to the service over a short period. However, we recognise there is still work to do in all areas to drive down incidents such as secondary fires. Through our risk reduction activities and engagement with key partners we will continue to work hard on targeted campaigns in all areas to make the community of Kirklees safer.

## Summary

We continue to see positive indicators for the end of year against the majority of our PMI'S. However, Kirklees District are committed to the challenges around arson & secondary fires. We will be proactive in these approaches and the sharing of intelligence with key partners to address this through risk reduction activity. This cannot be delivered in isolation, and we will focus our efforts on proactive approaches and sharing of intelligence with key partners to identify areas of risk and address this through our risk reduction activity.

We will continue to take the lead within the Arson Reduction Steering Group and Road Safety Partnership, and through the Road Safety Group, new initiatives will be discussed based on the academic analysis carried out by Huddersfield University.

Moving forward, additional focus and engagement will be placed around the 6 key community areas identified with Safer Kirklees and the Police and there is further work to be done in relation to youth anti-social behaviour and the dumping of waste.

The team are dedicated to making Kirklees a safer place for our community and will continue to drive this objective and be pragmatic in our approach. We will not rest on our laurels, and the focus moving forward will be to build on the positive results achieved so far.

## Leeds Performance 01 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

LEEDS LOCAL AUTHORITY (DRRT) - PERFORMANCE MONITORING SYSTEM					
DATE:		VISITING COMMANDERS:			
OFFICERS PRESENT:					
DEFINITIONS					
<b>3 YEAR AVG TARGET</b> (Previous 3 Years)	Average performance from the previous 3 financial years, used as the target for this current year				
<b>SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR</b> (Previous Year)	Cumulative total for the same period in the previous year				
<b>TOTAL SO FAR</b> (Current Year)	Cumulative total for current year so far				
<b>PROJECTION AGAINST 3 YEAR AVERAGE</b> (Current Year)	Comparison of projected annual activity against the 3 year average target – Red (outside 10% of target), Amber (within 10% of target), Green (target achieved or exceeded)				
<b>END OF YEAR PROJECTION</b> (Current Year)	Projected value at the end of the financial year based on Total So Far and the number of days remaining				
	3 YEAR AVG TARGET (2017/20)	SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR (2021-31/03/22)	<i>[values to 31 Mar 2023 23:59:59]</i>		
			TOTAL SO FAR (2022/23)	AGAINST 3 YEAR AVG (2022/23)	END OF YEAR PROJECTION (2022/23)
Arson	1988	1787	2369	19.2%	2369
Arson - Primary Fires	445	357	430	-3.4%	430
Arson - Secondary Fires	1544	1430	1939	25.6%	1939
Actual Rescues	630	405	435	-31.0%	435
Total Activity	8579	9105	9794	14.2%	9794
Dwelling Fires	405	384	384	-5.2%	384
Non-Domestic Building Fires	162	129	138	-14.8%	138
Prevalence of False Alarms	4130	4540	4478	8.4%	4478
Fire Related Injuries	57	53	40	-29.8%	40
Road Traffic Collisions	225	208	206	-8.4%	206
Malicious False Alarms	113	109	97	-14.2%	97

## **Performance in the following areas which achieve the target set:**

### **Arson – Primary Fires**

Primary arson fires across Leeds have reduced over the past twelve months with the district currently sitting at 3.4%. We continue to address domestic arson concerns via Safe & Well referrals by visiting properties and working closely with Police colleagues and a range of partners, with 230 of the fires we have had in Leeds taking place in single occupancy properties.

The trend in primary arson incidents continues to demonstrate a declining trend with the majority of primary fires in Leeds occurring in an outdoor setting or within a road vehicle.

### **Actual Rescues**

Leeds District has continued to see a decrease in the number of actual rescues performed by crews with a 31% reduction in rescues carried out compared to the three-year average.

To continue to drive this agenda, Leeds District continue to chair the established Leeds Water Safety Group which contributes to the development and delivery of a safer water network, with the aim being to reduce the number of water related deaths, injuries, and incidents within the city and surrounding areas.

The Water Safety Group are exploring the introduction of additional throwline locations along the river Aire which runs through the city centre along with aid/crisis signage at known hotspots for attempted suicides to further this reduction in actual rescues.

Leeds District are working in partnership with Kirklees District to introduce the RNLi's water side responder scheme to deliver water awareness input for the public, businesses and night time economy venues to aid a continued reduction in water rescues.

### **Dwelling Fires**

Leeds District has seen a 5.2% reduction against the 3-year average for this financial year.

Data analysis within Leeds District indicates that cooking related fires have become more prevalent over recent months and require a continued campaign and education message to high risk and elderly community members and their carers/relatives. Social media and partnership working has been utilised in Leeds to promote positive fire safe practices. We look forward to building on our social media platform access over the next fiscal year to allow us broadened community engagement structure.

The 10-week trial of Acorn data starting in April 2023 will continue to assist with the education of our most vulnerable homeowners and further demonstrates our commitment to reducing the number of dwelling fires taking place in Leeds.

### **Non-Domestic Building Fires**

Leeds has continued to achieve a significant reduction in this performance area by achieving a -14.8% reduction against the three year target..

Through the SSRI inspection programme crews across Leeds have continued to visit non-domestic premises and carry out inspections to identify unsafe practices, whilst sharing education for building owners and managers.

Considering the level of commercial property within Leeds we continue to be proud of this target achievement.

## **Road Traffic Collisions**

We are pleased to observe a positive reduction in the number of RTC's we attend with a decrease in incidents for this financial year of 8.4%.

We also acknowledge that we are not requested to attend all RTC's that occur within Leeds and have highlighted within the PRRG Road subgroup that pedestrian safety will be a key education area moving forward, with a large number of those people killed or seriously injured on roads in Leeds were pedestrians.

We continue to work closely with partner agencies and support the wider Leeds Safer Roads Partnership and 'Vision Zero' project. The Leeds District Prevention Team continues to support and be an influential member of the Leeds Safer Roads Steering Group, while also chairing the PRRG Road safety subgroup.

The Leeds risk reduction team are aiming to work closely with a division of Leeds university to share educational material for use with young drivers to educate the next generation of road users.

## **Fire Related Injuries**

During this financial year we have seen a significant decrease in fire related injuries at 29.8% below the target. This is testament to the dedicated hard work and targeted driven approach in reducing risk of injury from fire and other critically within higher risk areas of Leeds. With the structure that is now embedded within Leeds District we expect to see greater or maintained achievements within such target areas.

## **Malicious False Alarms**

Malicious false alarms for this financial year are 14.2% below target (97 incidents year to date). We have conducted some real focus within this area as at one point we observed a rise against the target average. We have focused on supporting repeat offending locations and facilities in reducing incidents of this nature significantly, as described with the prevalence of false alarm section of this report.

## **The District performance in the following areas has not met the target set:**

### **Arson**

Leeds District has recently seen a steep decline in the number of Arson related incidents compared to the previous few months, however over the year to date there has been a rise against the 3-year average which sees the district currently sitting at a 19.2% rise in arson related incidents, with almost 582 more incidents taking place compared to the same period last year.

Despite Risk Reduction activities, partnership working, and the development of engagement opportunities with community groups and Neighbourhood Policing Teams, this rise has continued and is primarily linked to deliberate secondary fires. These deliberate fires whilst influenced by unprecedented hot weather during the summer period, is also linked to a rise in ASB within areas of Leeds, in total 97% of the arson incidents seen across Leeds have occurred in an outdoor setting.

Whilst over the target average, it is important to note there has been a successful reduction in such incidents over the recent months.

We continue to work successfully with Leeds City Council and Police, along with community groups to reduce such community impactful behaviours.

### **Arson – Secondary Fires**

Leeds has seen a rise in secondary fires, with an 25.6% increase when compared against the three-year average of 1544, some areas with a higher increase are Killingbeck, Leeds and Hunslet where we are witnessing rises in ASB and criminality.

Leeds District continue to share incident intelligence with key partners within highlighted risk areas, overlaying arson with ASB and lower-level criminality.

Leeds risk reduction team continue to work closely with Police and Leeds City Council to share intelligence which continues to drive down secondary fires through the schools and education system. We are working with communities around place-based initiatives and local youth charities in the Killingbeck area to develop youth engagement and will continue this valuable work.

Again, although above the target average, it is important to note the work that has been achieved in driving down what was a severe rise in arson related incident earlier in the year.

### **Total Activity**

Leeds District has seen an overall increase in activity during this period by 14.8%, this increase in activity reflects the overall increase in activity across the service and for Leeds is mainly attributed to a regretful rise in secondary fires and ASB within areas.

We have seen a reduction in the following areas when compared to the three-year average:

- Fire related injuries and fatalities
- Gaining entry requests
- Water rescues
- Non-domestic building fires
- Accidental dwelling fires

## **Prevalence of False Alarms**

Leeds District have observed a slight increase against this performance objective of 8.4%. We are predicted to finish the financial year with 4478 false alarm incidents, this would however demonstrate a real terms reduction in false alarms by 1.5% when compared the previous financial year where we totalled 4540 false alarms.

In total 3141 of these false alarms were classified as 'fire alarm due to apparatus', 1101 were classified as 'good intent false alarm' and 90 were classified as 'malicious false alarm'.

The District team have held several meetings with assisted living facility managers and LCC with the aim of reducing these incident types moving forward. We continue to plan and arrange similar meetings and are hopeful this targeted driven approach will continue to drive a reduction in this incident type. Whilst we recognise there is work to do in this area, the target score is an achievement when we consider the level of commercial properties in Leeds compared with other Districts.

## **Summary**

I continue to be immensely proud of the hard work, dedication and professionalism within the staff at Leeds in reducing risk within our communities. We have seen some slight challenges around staffing throughout 2023 which has undoubtedly impacted within some risk reduction areas.

We recognise the challenges ahead. We are observing a slight down-turn in incidents associated with ASB but regrettably continue to observe incidents that have negative community impacts such as secondary arson.

I continue to be pleased with the robust partnerships and intelligence sharing approach that has been forged with tangible improvement within risk reduction areas being observed. I am confident that in-time we will observe further reductions in incident of secondary arson and in-turn positive targets within these areas.

I am proud of the delivery of pioneering work such as the cost of Living warm packs. We recognise the challenges our marginalised and deprived communities face around the cost of living, the warm packs offer slight relief and initiate support mechanisms to assist those most in need.

Leeds continue to seek progressive ways of developing partnership work through current local and national topics. We have been the first District to facilitate a cost of living crisis work-shop with further collaborative events being held through key partnerships such as Leeds City Council.



## Wakefield Performance 01 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

WAKEFIELD LOCAL AUTHORITY (DRRT) - PERFORMANCE MONITORING SYSTEM					
DATE:		VISITING COMMANDERS:			
OFFICERS PRESENT:					
DEFINITIONS					
<b>3 YEAR AVG TARGET</b> (Previous 3 Years)	Average performance from the previous 3 financial years, used as the target for this current year				
<b>SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR</b> (Previous Year)	Cumulative total for the same period in the previous year				
<b>TOTAL SO FAR</b> (Current Year)	Cumulative total for current year so far				
<b>PROJECTION AGAINST 3 YEAR AVERAGE</b> (Current Year)	Comparison of projected annual activity against the 3 year average target – Red (outside 10% of target), Amber (within 10% of target), Green (target achieved or exceeded)				
<b>END OF YEAR PROJECTION</b> (Current Year)	Projected value at the end of the financial year based on Total So Far and the number of days remaining				
	3 YEAR AVG TARGET (2017/20)	SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR (2021-31/03/22)	[values to 31 Mar 2023 23:59:59]		
			TOTAL SO FAR (2022/23)	AGAINST 3 YEAR AVG (2022/23)	END OF YEAR PROJECTION (2022/23)
Arson	961	803	857	-10.8%	857
Arson - Primary Fires	188	156	182	-3.2%	182
Arson - Secondary Fires	772	647	675	-12.6%	675
Actual Rescues	175	142	162	-7.4%	162
Total Activity	3009	2958	3420	13.7%	3420
Dwelling Fires	128	122	125	-2.3%	125
Non-Domestic Building Fires	50	50	59	18.0%	59
Prevalence of False Alarms	1127	1105	1106	-1.9%	1106
Fire Related Injuries	22	17	18	-18.2%	18
Road Traffic Collisions	86	64	79	-8.1%	79
Malicious False Alarms	28	25	27	-3.6%	27

## **Performance in the following areas which achieve the target set:**

### **Arson - Primary Fires**

Primary fires across the District are 3.2% down against the 3 year average. The figure of 182 is 26 above the same period last year. Most of these incidents are deliberate vehicle fires (82), 15 were incidents involving dwellings and 33 non domestic properties.

Last summer's extreme temperatures saw a large rise in field fires across the District – a large proportion of these were allocated as primary fires due to the land involved.

We continue to work hard to try reduce these types of incidents through carrying out environmental visual audits and reporting issues to the local authority and highlighting the dangers of rubbish stored externally to both dwelling owners/occupiers and business owners when carrying out both Safe and Well and Operational Risk Visits.

### **Arson – Secondary Fires**

Secondary Fires increased by 28 incidents compared to the previous year, however we have still achieved the target by 12.6%. Most secondary fires involved refuse, 319 incidents and vegetation 186 incidents. Refuse incident decreased by 35 in comparison to the same period in 2021/22.

This is a key area of focused working moving into 23/24 and is a district priority to reduce these incidents and the impacts of anti-social behaviour.

### **Actual Rescues**

The district saw a large decrease in actual rescues across the period compared to the 3-year average by 7.4%. 6 of the rescues were from fire incidents and 32 rescues from road traffic collisions (the majority not resulting in serious injury) this is encouraging as they are the most impactful on the persons involved.

The reason for the majority of these incident types is the 'Gaining Entry Cause for Concern' workstream, assisting YAS with entry into properties. Looking forward we will continue to strengthen our education to younger drivers through our engagement with colleges and partners to try and reduce risk from RTCs. We are also carrying out Water safety education across the District over the coming months to try and reduce the number of water rescue incidents and rescues.

### **Dwelling fires**

The District saw 3 more dwelling fires compared to 2021/22, with an overall reduction against the three-year average of 2.3%. The occurrence of dwelling fires is spread across the district with Wakefield, Castleford, South Kirby and Pontefract seeing a higher number of incidents compared to the other areas in the district. Analysis of the incidents has revealed that most were small fires limited to item first ignited or kept within the room of origin; this is a positive sign and demonstrates the effectiveness of our safe and well guidance (Our crews and prevention teams have delivered 1488 safe and well checks over this period), however, we will continue to monitor dwelling fire trends and identify risk reduction initiatives and follow up campaigns to drive the figure down further.

## **Prevalence of False Alarms**

Prevalence of False Alarms remains the single largest area of operational activity in the district. We matched last years standard and achieved the agreed three-year target by 1.9%. Stations and the district team continue to work with Fire Protection Inspectors and partners to drive down unwanted fire signals and target premises with a high number of false alarms calls.

## **Fire Related Injuries and deaths**

Fire related Injury statistics are very encouraging 18.2 % below the agreed average. The 18 injuries sustained were thankfully minor, resulting in precautionary check-ups either on scene or at hospital. As a District we are pleased with such low numbers and severity of injuries; but any fire related injury no matter how serious is stressful for those involved. We will continue to deliver our safe and well programme to those vulnerable in society to educate on the risks of fire and install detectors, where required, to ensure early notification of a developing fire.

## **Road Traffic Collisions (RTC)**

The number of RTC's recorded has risen, by 15 incidents from the same period in 2021/22 as life returns to normality and traffic gets busier on our roads.

Encouraging though, is that the figures are still below the set three-year average target (-18.2%). Reducing RTCs continues to be a district priority. In 2022/23 we delivered a widespread education package across the local authority area.

We will continue to implement local initiatives delivering impactful safety training and safety messages. We will work in collaboration with Safer Roads Wakefield and various other local agencies to increase engagement with young adult drivers.

## **Malicious False Alarms**

The district saw a significant decrease of 3.6% below the set target. We will continue to engage with local schools and colleges to deliver educational programmes focused on raising awareness of fire safety and the impacts and consequences of inappropriate behaviour and the malicious use/activation of alarms. We will also promote and support brigade and national campaigns regarding this issue.

## **Performance in the following areas is outside of the target set:**

### **Non – Domestic Building Fires**

Non-domestic building fires are impactful to businesses and WYFRS. We have seen an increase of 8 compared to the same period last year with 18% rise against the 3 year average.

Incidents have been recorded across the district with no specific trends identified. Most of the fires were processes or equipment/machinery that had failed causing overheating, smouldering or limited fire development, resulting in insignificant damage to the buildings or businesses. 14 of the incidents were due to a deliberate act, these included 4 cell fires at Wakefield Prison – we are working alongside their staff to reduce this type of incident. 5 incidents occurred at the same site – South Kirby Household Waste Recycling Centre – we are working alongside the company and corporate comms to produce a campaign which will educate the community on the safe disposal of batteries.

A reduction in these incident types is beneficial not only to us as a service but more importantly to the businesses, community, and employees; we will continue to identify risk on our Site

Specific Risk information visits to educate businesses and ensure our firefighters are well trained and equipped to deal with such fires.

## **Total Activity**

Wakefield district has seen an increase of 462 incidents in comparison to the same period in 2021/2022, this is an increase of 13.7% against the three-year set target. The main cause of this rise was the unprecedented hot weather we experienced during the summer and the impact it had on incidents across Wakefield District. We will now continue to implement the proactive measures for the continued reduction of incidents include engaging with local schools, community anchors/hubs, businesses, and partner agencies.

## **Summary**

Wakefield District experienced increases in 2 areas of operational activity over the last few Months (Non domestic building fires and total activity). The hot weather periods in the summer placed a significant operational demand on our service and this is reflected in these figures. A priority is to ensure that our work and initiatives within the community are continued and supplemented with new innovative ways of working. Our Station based personnel and District Prevention team will continue to actively engage with partners and local community-based groups in identifying vulnerable people and reinforcing fire, water safety and road safety messages through our schools education and safe and well programme.



OFFICIAL

# Arson Convictions 2022/23

## Community Safety Committee

---

Date: 28 April 2023

Agenda Item:

**08**

Submitted By: Director of Service Delivery

---

### Purpose

This report gives details of the arson convictions for the year 2022 - 23, where the Fire Investigation Team from West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) provided expert witness statements to the Crown Prosecution Service.

### Recommendations

That members note the content of this report.

### Summary

The Arson Convictions where expert witness evidence from a West Yorkshire Fire Investigation Officer was used for prosecution are included within this report

---

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category: None

Contact Officer: Scott Donegan. Area Manager, Operations Response

[Scott.Donegan@westyorksfire.gov.uk](mailto:Scott.Donegan@westyorksfire.gov.uk)

Background papers open to inspection: None

Annexes: None

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 For the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) Fire Investigation Unit Officers (FIOs) investigated the origin, cause, and development of fire in 216 incidents.
- 1.2 For a number of these incidents the police require expert witness statements to assist them in the preparation of a case file for consideration by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in relation to individuals being charged with arson offences.
- 1.3 West Yorkshire Police Witness Care routinely update Fire Investigation Officers on the progress of those cases whereby the Fire Investigation Officer has been notified that they may be required to attend court and give evidence. In many of the other cases, a robust expert witness statement has resulted in those accused of arson pleading guilty to the alleged offence and there has been a subsequent conviction.
- 1.4 The fire investigation unit is not routinely updated on the outcome of these cases, but the unit endeavours to follow up on them to ensure we can produce the most accurate statistics that closely reflect our value to West Yorkshire Police and the communities we serve.
- 1.5 This report provides an overview of the cases where expert evidence submitted by the Fire Investigation Team from WYFRS has been used by West Yorkshire Police and the CPS to aid in securing convictions.

## **2 Information**

- 2.1 For 76 of the 216 incidents the WYFRS FIO supplied West Yorkshire Police with expert witness statements.
- 2.2 For the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 the following outcomes have been established:
  - 18 cases have been, or are being, progressed through the judicial system.
  - 12 cases have found 11 defendants guilty.
  - 13 cases have resulted in sentences totalling 44 years and 5 months.
  - 1 case resulted in the issue of a hospital order.
  - Sentencing information is pending on 4 cases.
  - 2 cases are pending trial.

Incident	Incident Date	Fire Type	Charge/Sentence	Prison / Community Sentence
2147028593	19/11/2021	House	Arson being reckless as to whether life is endangered.	4 years custodial sentence
2147014554	16/06/2021	High rise	Arson being reckless as to whether life is endangered.	Custodial term of four years and three months, two-thirds of which must be spent in custody, followed by a further two years on licence.
2147000754	13/01/2021	Flat	Arson being reckless as to whether life is endangered.	28 months imprisonment.
2247014768	13/06/2022	Garage	Arson	The court ordered that the defendant be sentenced, under section 279 of the Sentencing Act 2020, to
2247014765	13/06/2022	Van	Arson	an extended sentence of 14 years 6 months comprising
2247014764	13/06/2022	Car	Arson being reckless as to whether life is endangered.	a custodial term of 7 years 6 months and an extension period of 7 years.
2247014664	12/06/2022	Shed spreading to house	Arson	Next hearing 6 April 2023
2047000965	14/01/2020	Shop	Arson	Two males, each sentenced to 32 months in prison. One was also given an extended licence period of two years.
224704748	02/03/2022	Flat	Arson being reckless as to whether life is endangered.	Sentenced to 78 weeks in prison.
2247022340	13/08/2022	House	Arson being reckless as to whether life is endangered.	Guilty. Awaiting sentencing.
2147017677	20/07/2021	House	Arson being reckless as to whether life is endangered.	3 years imprisonment.
2247002383	01/02/2022	School	Arson	Life sentence, to serve a minimum of 9 years.

2247005187	08/03/2022	Flat	Arson being reckless as to whether life is endangered.	3 years 4 months
224725490	06/09/2022	Flat	Arson being reckless as to whether life is endangered.	Trial 2 March did not take place – not able to plead. 21 April for court update – held in remand.
2247008445	10/04/2022	House (HMO)	Murder (Arson) Attempted murder	Guilty. Awaiting sentencing.
2247002417	02/02/2022	House	Arson reckless Assault of emergency worker Damage of property	S37/41 Hospital Order under the mental health act.  Can only be discharged by authority of the secretary of state for justice
2247028568	11/10/2022	House	Arson	Trial date set for April 2023
2347001834	28/01/2023	House	Arson	Trial date set for July 2023

### **3 Financial Implications**

3.1 There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

### **4 Legal Implications**

4.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution

### **5 Human Resource and Diversity Implications**

5.1 There are no human resource and diversity implications resulting from this report.

### **6 Equality Impact Assessment**

Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? ( <a href="#">EIA guidance and form 2020 form.docx (westyorksfire.gov.uk)</a> )	Yes / No
Date EIA Completed	DD/MM/YY
Date EIA Approved	DD/MM/YY

The EIA is available on request from the report author or from [diversity.inclusion@westyorksfire.gov.uk](mailto:diversity.inclusion@westyorksfire.gov.uk)

### **7 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications**

7.1 The work undertaken by the Fire Investigation Team supports Police investigation and plays a significant role in securing convictions for fire related incidents. Investigating the cause of fires provides the opportunity to identify emerging fire risks, inform prevention initiatives, understand fire development, and supports the West Yorkshire Firefighter Safety Strategy.

### **8 Environmental Implications**

8.1 There are no environmental implications resulting from this report.

### **9 Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities**

9.1 This report links with the key 2022 – 25 service priorities below:

- Improve the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters.
- Collaborate with partners to improve all of our services.
- Plan and deploy our resources based on risk.
- Focus our prevention and protection activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.

## **10 Summary**

- 10.1 The Fire Investigation Officers working within WYFRS are often provide vital evidence at court for criminal prosecution of arson cases. Their training and experience of dealing with fire investigation work is an essential element of the judicial process.



OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

# Grenfell Tower Programme Update

## Community Safety Committee

---

Date: 28 April 2023

Agenda Item:

09

Submitted By: Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Director of Service Delivery

---

<b>Purpose</b>	To update the Fire Authority on the progress against the Grenfell Tower phase one inquiry action plan and consider the anticipated phase two report
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Members of the Community Safety Committee note the contents of the report
<b>Summary</b>	The paper provides a brief overview of the work undertaken and progress made against the WYFRS Grenfell Tower phase one inquiry action plan and outlines the areas covered by phase two of the inquiry.

---

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category: None

Contact Officer: Area Manager (AM) David Teggart

T: 07810 354638

E: [dave.teggart@westyorksfire.gov.uk](mailto:dave.teggart@westyorksfire.gov.uk)

Background papers open to inspection: None

Annexes: None

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 On 14 June 2017 the tragic fire occurred at Grenfell Tower, London which resulted in the loss of 72 lives. Now, nearly 6 years on, the impact of the fire continues to have a devastating and long-lasting effect on the victims' families, survivors, local communities, the firefighters, and other agencies that responded to it.
- 1.2 The Grenfell Tower Inquiry (GTI) hearings for Phase 1 began on 21 May 2018 and concluded on 12 December 2018. Phase 1 focused on the events on the night of 14 June 2017. The Phase 1 report was released on 30 October 2019 and identified a variety of findings along with 46 recommendations to London Fire Brigade, HM Government, wider FRS, and other Services.
- 1.3 Phase 2 of the Inquiry examined the causes of these events, including how Grenfell Tower came to be in a condition which allowed the fire to spread in the way identified by Phase 1. The Inquiry's Phase 2 hearings begin on 27 January 2020 and ran through to 10 November 2022. It is anticipated that the Phase 2 report will be released in late 2023.
- 1.4 Over the course of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Inquiry it disclosed over 320,000 documents, received more than 1600 witness statements and held 400 days of testimony, costing around £150 million.

## **2 Phase 1**

- 2.1 Following the publication of the GTI Phase 1 report, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) established a small project team to undertake a gap analysis to consider all 46 recommendations, identify risks, action owners, the financial impacts, and any other implications. This led to a wide-ranging action plan that was developed around ten thematic areas with service leads for each area. The thematic areas included: Buildings and Fire Safety Measures, Operational Pre-planning, Command and Control, Operations, Control, Communications, Equipment, Human Factors, Training and Miscellaneous areas.
- 2.2 Our approach meant we adopted all 46 recommendations that were initially issued and included additional objectives within Service to ensure we had taken the fullest account of the learning. In total this resulted in 88 objectives within our Grenfell action plan.
- 2.3 Initially we expected the project lifecycle to be around 2 years, however, due to the impacts of the COVID19 pandemic this has extended the timeline for the project. Of the original 88 objectives, 78 have been completed, 10 local objectives remain open and ongoing. Of the 46 GTI Phase 1 recommendations, 17 were directly related to all FRS, each of these recommendations have been completed by WYFRS.
- 2.4 The Grenfell Team continue to engage with a range of internal and external stakeholders in the development of updated guidance, policies and procedures which includes new ways of working relating to fires in tall buildings. These include the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), regional FRS', other FRS throughout the UK and local authority partners to ensure we continued to be heavily involved in the research around fires in tall buildings and the interventions that could be used to mitigate them.
- 2.5 We continue to engage with operational crews, Fire Control and our representative bodies through internal meetings, input and publications to keep them informed on progress and any pending policy changes or implementation of new equipment.

## **High-Rise Residential Buildings (HRRB's)**

- 2.6 There are approximately 550 HRRB's within West Yorkshire, each has been visited and where required Fire Protection audits have been completed, risk information gathered, and tactical information plans created for each. The tactical information plan contains a simple to use evacuation board that is also available to crews electronically on MDT's and online via a secure website, they should also be available on site in the premises information boxes.
- 2.7 WYFRS have identified over 100 residential buildings over 18 metres high that have unsafe external wall systems (EWS). EWS does not only relate to failed cladding on buildings, including aluminium composite material (ACM) and high-pressure laminate (HPL), but other combustible materials such as timber cladding, timber balconies and rendered buildings with insulation material underneath. It also includes poor installation of these systems, such as missing fire breaks and poor/limited fire stopping. Where required these buildings have interim measures in place including increased attendance, increased fire alarm provision and/or 'waking watches'.
- 2.8 Our Fire Protection Team are continuing to work with the 5 Local Authorities and government to ensure that we target these premises to assure ourselves that progress is being made towards remediation. Whilst we are mindful that interim measures enable buildings to continue to be safely occupied, they should not be seen as a permanent solution. We continue to work with and assess the ongoing risks and impact to residents and firefighters to determine our future options which include new enforcement powers under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, newly introduced Remediation Orders and Prohibition and/or Restriction Notices if Responsible Person's demonstrate limited commitment to residents' safety.
- 2.9 We have been working with NFCC and Government on a process to support the remediation of not only EWS but other fire safety deficiencies found within buildings such as compartmentation issues. Recently this work has culminated in 44 of the UK's largest building developers signing government agreements that they will progress remediation on all their building stock, more importantly they have agreed to pay for these works outright and not pass any costs on to leaseholders or residents. We are currently looking at a data transfer process so that we can understand which these building are within West Yorkshire, enabling us to focus and target our resources at those buildings which were not built by the 44 developers.

## **Policy and Guidance**

- 2.10 We have produced a policy on Fire Survival Calls with guidance and procedures for Fire Control to be able to receive multiple calls from concerned residents and then share this information with the incident ground to improve the evacuation of a building failing in fire.
- 2.11 All operational crews have been involved in evacuation training and exercises, these were carried out within Leeds District to simulate the evacuation of a high-rise building using our evacuation and fire survival call guidance. These exercises included the use of role players within flats making live 999 calls to Fire Control and testing our procedures in how we prioritise and respond to the information provided by residents who may be need advice, reassurance or rescue.
- 2.12 Specialist crews, Fire Control and officers continue to train on evacuation procedures on a quarterly basis with a blend of knowledge and understanding, tabletop exercises and simulated evacuation exercises.

- 2.13 We have developed draft Fires in Tall Buildings guidance having consulted with external stakeholders including NFCC Fires in Tall Buildings Working Group and other FRS's such as Kent, London and Manchester where best practice was shared. In doing so, we gathered a significant amount of evidence around changes in procedures either being planned or in place in other services and have considered how these may improve our existing ways of working at fires in tall buildings.
- 2.14 We surveyed our staff to seek their views on how we currently deal with incidents and how we could potentially introduce new procedures to ensure firefighter safety and that our procedures meet the needs of the public and the known risks within the built environment.
- 2.15 Our draft Fires in Tall Buildings guidance takes into account all of the above along with staff and representative body feedback. It builds on existing guidance and good practice identified in other services by adopting a risk assessed approach, introducing gas monitoring as a further control measure and will see an increase in attendance to 5 appliances and 1 aerial appliance to all high-rise residential buildings to allow for the introduction of stairwell protection teams to maintain the integrity, access and egress of stairwells.
- 2.16 There is ongoing dialogue between the service and the representative bodies and further formal consultation will be undertaken regarding the some of the proposed changes as there is currently a national BA safety campaign led by the FBU that opposes certain areas of national guidance that WYFRS are looking to fully adopt.

## **Equipment**

- 2.17 Smoke hoods were procured as part of a regional framework and rolled out in July 2020, with 2 smoke hoods been issued to every frontline appliance, a stock on each command unit and a small logistical stock within Stores. These hoods can be used to assist with the rescue and evacuation of occupants who may have to enter untenable atmospheres to reach an ultimate area of safety. We have seen these used on multiple occasions since being rolled out across the service.
- 2.18 Smoke curtains were procured and rolled out in early 2021 and resulted in the publication of an e-learning package which was shared across the region. They are primarily used to prevent products of combustion from a compartment fire affecting other areas within a building including the stairwell, allowing residents to evacuate if required. They are also used for firefighter safety, operational effectiveness, and damage limitation.
- 2.19 We procured two National Air Police Service (NPAS) receivers - a handheld device which has been placed on the Command Unit Lite and a fixed unit on the main command unit. These devices went live in April 2021 and allow images and videos to be streamed directly from the Police aircraft to our command units and from there, the images can then be streamed to any location via an application on mobile phones or via a weblink. They can give the Incident Commander, and those remote from the incident, a greater situational awareness of the incident ground protecting firefighters and members of the public. The procurement process was, again, part of our regional process.
- 2.20 Gas detectors are currently being procured and will be placed on every front line appliance in the near future.

## **Training**

2.21 Training has taken place across a range of subjects and has been provided through various mediums including face to face, online facilitator led, PowerPoint presentations, e-learning and more. This ensured a continued series of training packages were introduced across differing formats, and included:

- Grenfell Case Studies for all staff
- Evacuation and Fire Survival Guidance presentation and scenario
- E-Learning packages on smoke curtains and evacuation alert systems
- High Rise Command Scenarios for all operational staff
- CPD session for Flexi Duty System (FDS) officers
- Topic talks on Firefighting shafts and Lifts
- Evacuation exercises at high-rise premises for all operational crews
- Evacuation training for specialist stations including Fire Control

2.22 We are currently preparing for a number of large-scale live play high-rise exercises to provide further realistic training for operational staff to put into practice the various elements of the new procedures and to test the end-to-end processes.

## **Legislation**

2.23 The Fire Safety Act 2021 brought about changes to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 which was amended so that common parts of a building now incorporate the external wall systems and the main entrance doors to each individual flat.

2.24 The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 came into force on 23 January 2023 and implemented the majority of the recommendations made by the Grenfell Tower Inquiry in its Phase 1 report which required a change in the law. For multi-occupied residential buildings at least 18 metres in height or 7 or more storeys, responsible persons must:

- share electronically with their local fire and rescue service (FRS) information about the building's external wall system and provide the FRS with electronic copies of floor plans and building plans for the building.
- keep hard copies of the building's floor plans, in addition to a single page orientation plan of the building, and the name and UK contact details of the responsible person in a secure information box which is accessible by firefighters.
- install wayfinding signage in all high-rise buildings which is visible in low light conditions.
- establish a minimum of monthly checks on lifts which are for the use of firefighters in high-rise residential buildings and on essential pieces of firefighting equipment.
- inform the FRS if a lift used by firefighters or one of the pieces of firefighting equipment is out of order for longer than 24 hours.

- 2.25 For multi-occupied residential buildings over 11 metres in height, responsible persons must undertake quarterly checks on all communal fire doors and annual checks on flat entrance doors. In all multi-occupied residential buildings, responsible persons must provide residents with relevant fire safety instructions and information about the importance of fire doors.
- 2.26 The Building Safety Act 2022 brings into law the changes to building regulations for higher-risk buildings in England based on the proposals of Dame Judith Hackitt independent review of building regulations and fire safety in 2018. The Act also introduces changes to building control that will affect all buildings, strengthens the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (FSO), provides new accountability, duties and provisions to strengthen the construction products regulations.
- 2.27 Section 156 of the Building Safety Act, amendments to the FSO are due to come into force on 1 October 2023. They will strengthen fire safety in all FSO regulated premises by improving cooperation and coordination between Responsible Persons (RPs) when there is more than one in a building, and ensuring residents have access to comprehensive information about fire safety in their building.
- 2.28 It does this by placing new legal duties on RPs to record their fire risk assessments in full (previously only the significant findings had to be recorded and only in specific circumstances) and provide this and other fire safety information to residents to increase transparency and promote the importance of fire safety precautions such as fire doors; identify, and share information with, other RPs in the premises to help facilitate a cohesive approach to fire safety throughout the entire building; share fire safety information with incoming RPs when control of the building passes between them to provide a continual record of fire safety information throughout a building's lifetime; and record their name and a UK address in the fire risk assessment to make it easier for enforcement authorities to identify them and, where necessary, take enforcement action.
- 2.29 Section 156 also increases the level of fines available for some FSO non-compliance offences to the highest possible (unlimited), providing an increased deterrent against non-compliance.

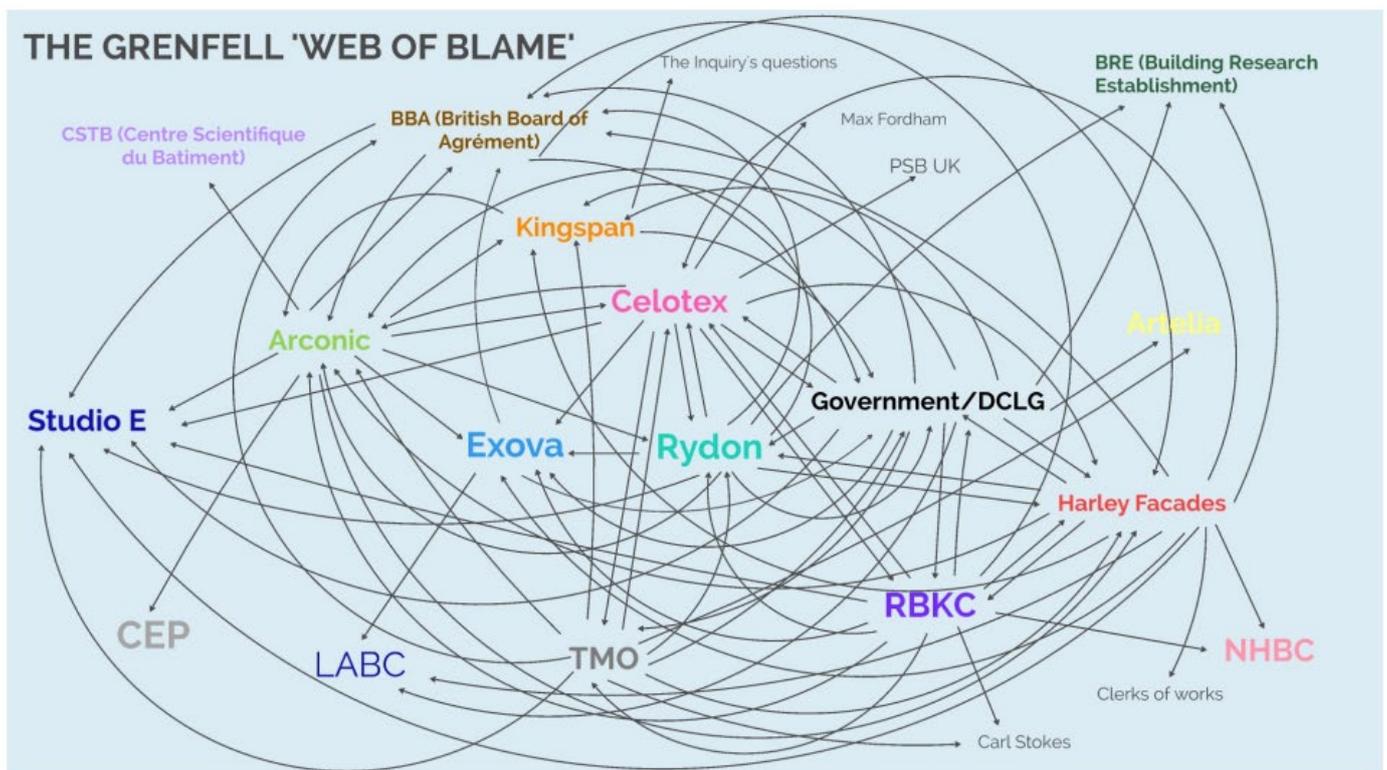
### **3 Phase 2**

- 3.1 Phase 2 was divided into eight modules, each covering a separate area of the Inquiry's investigation, they are listed in the chronological order in which they were heard:
- Module 1: The primary refurbishment - overview and cladding
  - Module 2: Cladding products – testing/certification, product marketing
  - Module 3: Complaints and communication with residents; management of Grenfell Tower, compliance with Fire Safety Order 2005; fire risk assessment; active and passive fire safety measures internal to building
  - Module 5: Firefighting
  - Module 6: Government
  - Module 7 Further evidence from expert witnesses
  - Module 4: Aftermath of the fire
  - Module 8: Evidence concerning the deceased to enable the finding of facts necessary for the purposes of s.5(1) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009

3.2 The scope of Module 5 was to investigate the remaining matters concerning the London Fire Brigade's response on 14 June 2017 that were not addressed in the Phase 1 report. Specific topics that were covered included:

- Policy, procedures and guidance;
- section 7(2)(d) visits;
- training (including training for incident commanders generally, but particularly on evacuation); and
- alternative firefighting strategies in high-rise buildings.

3.3 The term the “Web of Blame” was used by the Mr Millett, as Counsel to the Inquiry during his closing presentation, in it, he sets out how the main protagonists throughout the whole of Phase 2 sought to “*pass the buck*” and lay blame at the feet of others rather than take responsibility for their part in it. The below diagram was used by Mr Millet to show how each of the companies, organisations and entities had blamed others for some part or another.



3.4 Mr Millet went on to say *“each and every one of the risks which eventuated at Grenfell Tower on that night were well known by many and ought to have been known by all who had any part to play. As a result, you (Sir Martin Moore-Bick) will be able to conclude with confidence that each and every one of the deaths that occurred in Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017 was avoidable”*.

3.5 *The reasons were many, complex and in many cases inextricably interlinked. Some had an immediately causative effect, and others less so... there was a long run-up of incompetence and poor practices in the construction industry and the fire engineering and architects’ profession; weak and incompetent building control; cynical and possibly even dishonest practices in the cladding and insulation materials manufacturing sector; incompetence, weakness and malpractice by those responsible for testing and certifying those materials; the failure of central government to act, despite known risks; failures of competence, training and oversight within the Tenant Management Organisation (TMO), and over it by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC); a failure by the London Fire Brigade (LFB) to learn the lessons of Lakanal House, and other fires, and to train its operational staff to collect, understand and to act on the risks presented by modern construction methods and materials; risks well known to some, but not all, within that institution.”*

3.6 During Sir Martin Moore-Bick’s closing statement as the Chairman of the Inquiry he described drawing conclusions as *“a task of considerable proportions”*, he went on to say *“Although it is possible to identify some decisions relating to the refurbishment that had an immediate effect, the wider causes of the fire have their roots in the culture of the construction industry and the regulatory regime”* he said *“Many decisions, taken by many people over the course of many years, conspired to create a building which in June 2017 was vulnerable to a catastrophic fire.”*

3.7 The inquiry has brought to light vast quantities of evidence that could lead to cases being brought against organisations involved in the refurbishment for charges such as fraud and gross negligence manslaughter, corporate manslaughter, and health and safety offences. The Metropolitan police are waiting the report publication prior to deciding whether to recommend that the Crown Prosecution Service bring criminal charges.

3.8 Once the Phase 2 report is released, WYFRS will undertake a similar gap analysis and create an action plan to provide assurances to the Fire Authority to show how we intend to implement any necessary changes.

## **4 Financial Implications**

4.1 WYFRS received a Grenfell infrastructure grant, allowing for many of the previously highlighted areas to be undertaken, including, but not limited to staff costs, procurement of equipment and exercise planning.

## **5 Legal Implications**

5.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority’s Constitution

## 6 Human Resource and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 Staffing within the project has recently reduced as the outstanding objectives/actions are now transitioned across to business as usual. This will be reviewed once the Phase 2 report is released.
- 6.2 There are no diversity implications contained within this report.

## 7 Equality Impact Assessment

Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? ( <a href="#">EIA guidance and form 2020 form.docx (westyorksfire.gov.uk)</a> )	No
Date EIA Completed	N/A
Date EIA Approved	N/A

The EIA is available on request from the report author or from [diversity.inclusion@westyorksfire.gov.uk](mailto:diversity.inclusion@westyorksfire.gov.uk)

## 8 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

- 8.1 The updates within this report are intended to assure WYFRS and the Fire Authority that we are working to mitigate the risks to ourselves, our staff and the public of West Yorkshire.
- 8.2 Any proposed changes to training, equipment, guidance, policy or procedure will be undertaken in consultation with staff and representative bodies.
- 8.3 Increasing the provision of equipment, training, knowledge and understanding of fires in the built environment, particularly around high-rise and cladded buildings will reduce the risk to our staff and members of the public within West Yorkshire.

## 9 Environmental Implications

- 9.1 There are limited environmental implications identified within this report.

## 10 Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

- 10.1 This meets the Community Risk Management Plan strategic priorities 2022-2025:
- Plan and deploy our resources based on risk to provide an efficient and effective operational response.
  - Constantly review and when necessary, develop new ways of working to improve the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters.
  - Promote the health, safety and wellbeing of all our staff in the workplace.
  - Encourage a learning environment in which we support, develop and enable all our people to be at their best.
  - Engage with our communities to focus our prevention and protection activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.
  - Provide ethical governance and value for money.

- Collaborate with partners to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our services.

10.2 In doing this also meets the Community Risk Management Plan areas of focus:

- be innovative and work smarter by investing in information, communication and digital technology.
- use data and performance management processes to understand how and where we can improve.
- implement learning from the Grenfell Inquiry to improve how we respond to high-rise emergencies.
- use Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection and assessment programme as a foundation to implement our improvement action plans to deliver an outstanding service.
- implement the new, approved Fire Standards to ensure the Service is demonstrating its commitment to continuous improvement.
- maximise the health, safety and wellbeing of all our staff by investing in innovative fire station and fire engine design.

## 11 Conclusions

11.1 Following the publication of the Grenfell Phase One Inquiry, WYFRS have completed all of those recommendations specifically aimed at all fire and rescue services. A small number of local objectives remain ongoing within our action plan and are making good progress towards completion having transitioned across to business-as-usual areas.



OFFICIAL

# Safeguarding Annual Activity Report

## Community Safety Committee

---

Date: 28 April 2023

Agenda Item:

10

Submitted By: Director of Service Delivery

---

<b>Purpose</b>	To inform Community Safety Committee of the safeguarding activity undertaken during 2022 under West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) Safeguarding Procedure.
<b>Recommendations</b>	Members to note the information in this report and continue to promote the Authority's commitment to safeguarding vulnerable people in West Yorkshire.
<b>Summary</b>	<p>243 cases have generated a Cause for Concern in the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.</p> <p>173 people were identified as requiring safeguarding and referred to the local authority safeguarding team and 61 were identified as vulnerable individuals requiring additional support from WYFRS. 3 cases were the identification of soft intelligence. 6 were uncategorised.</p>

---

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category: None

Contact Officer: Claire Tabert, Policy and Information Coordinator  
Tel 01274 682311, Ext 671043

Background papers open to inspection: WYFRS Safeguarding Policy - PRE-POL-002  
WYFRS Safeguarding Procedure - PRE-PRO-002

Annexes: None

# 1 Background

1.1 West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service is a reporting authority for situations where abuse or neglect has taken place, is threatened or where an omission of care has been identified or is suspected. The Local Authority's statutory duty of care applies to the protection of children and vulnerable adults, from abuse and neglect. As we are a reporting agency only, no member of staff will investigate any incident of abuse unless they have been designated a specific role as part of a formal safeguarding authority investigation. Wherever possible, our decision to raise a cause for concern or safeguarding referral is made in conjunction with the person concerned if they have the capacity to contribute to the decision.

## 2 Data for 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022

2.1 For the year 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022, 243 Cause for Concern cases were raised by WYFRS personnel. 173 (71%) of these cases were subsequently assessed as having a safeguarding issue and were reported to the local authority and 61 (25%) were assessed as vulnerable individuals in need of further support from other agencies. 6 further records were uncategorised<sup>1</sup> or duplicated. 3 cases were categorised as soft intelligence.

2.2 The total number of cases raised during the year represents a 37% increase on the previous calendar year, 2021. This may be due to the cumulative effect of the cost of living and energy crisis contributing to a growth in the occurrence of abuse, neglect and self-neglect within households across West Yorkshire.

2.3 Table 1: Decisions made by designated safeguarding managers by district

District	No. of Cause for Concerns raised	% of total no. in district
<b>Bradford Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100%</b>
Safeguarding	11	32.4%
Vulnerable Person	18	52.9%
Uncategorised	4	-
Soft Intelligence	1	-
<b>Calderdale Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100%</b>
Safeguarding	35	71.4%
Vulnerable Person	12	24.5%
Uncategorised	2	-
<b>Kirklees Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>
Safeguarding	9	60%
Vulnerable Person	6	40%
<b>Leeds Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100%</b>
Safeguarding	106	68.1%
Vulnerable Person	23	30.6%
Soft Intelligence	2	1.3%
<b>Wakefield Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100%</b>
Safeguarding	12	80.9%
Vulnerable Person	2	19.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>243</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Definition of uncategorised – a case where the field on the Cause for Concern form has been left blank by the raiser and the designated officer.

### **3 2021 Process Review Implementation**

- 3.1 The 2022 safeguarding activity update report stated that the process review, carried out in March 2021, identified the following changes;
- a. Re-development of the e-learning package for staff.
  - b. Update training for managers involved in the safeguarding process.
  - c. Removal of the role of designated safeguarding advisor would be removed but the role of designated safeguarding manager <sup>2</sup>would remain.
  - d. Cause for Concern form would need to be reviewed and updated.
  - e. Quarterly audit process would be replaced by a quality assurance process.
  - f. Quality assurance process would be evidenced within quarterly performance meetings.
  - g. Reporting soft intelligence would be removed from the safeguarding process.
- 3.2 Items a, b, e, and f have been completed. The other items - c, d and g are awaiting the finalisation of the changes to the Cause for Concern form and are delayed due to other organisational IT system changes.

### **4 Quality Assurance**

- 4.1 The quarterly safeguarding audit process has been replaced by a quality assurance process. This process was introduced in January 2022. A sample of Cause for Concern forms were examined to assess whether the process had been followed correctly and to identify areas for improvement. An overall rating of Outstanding, Good, Improvement Needed or Requires Support is used.
- 4.2 Two quality assurance exercises were carried out during 2022 and an overall grade of Improvement Needed was given. Recommendations made and communicated during performance management meetings were about writing concise notes, providing constructive feedback to report raisers, gaining consent before raising a concern, and clarity about any concerns relating to hoarding.

### **5 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The costs of training and implementation of the safeguarding policy are met from within the current approved revenue budget.

### **6 Legal Implications**

- 6.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution

### **7 Human Resource and Diversity Implications**

- 7.1 There are no Human Resource and Diversity Implications arising from this report

---

<sup>2</sup> These are not posts. The role of designated safeguarding manager is carried out by the five district prevention managers.

## 8 Equality Impact Assessment

Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? ( <a href="#">EIA guidance and form 2020 form.docx (westyorksfire.gov.uk)</a> )	No
Date EIA Completed	DD/MM/YY
Date EIA Approved	DD/MM/YY

The EIA is available on request from the report author or from [diversity.inclusion@westyorksfire.gov.uk](mailto:diversity.inclusion@westyorksfire.gov.uk)

## 9 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

9.1 The implementation of robust safeguarding procedures will help ensure the safety of vulnerable adults and children across West Yorkshire.

## 10 Environmental Implications

10.1 There are no Environmental Implications arising from this report

## 11 Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

11.1 Safeguarding is a key element in terms of delivering the WYFRS vision of Making West Yorkshire Safer where effective partnership working ensures we deliver a proactive and inclusive prevention programme.

## 12 Conclusions

12.1 That Community Safety Committee note the content of this report and

- Continue to actively promote the Authority's commitment to preventing abuse and safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
- Support the internal safeguarding processes implemented under the Procedure.



OFFICIAL

# Evaluation of Prevention Work

## Community Safety Committee

---

Date: 28 April 2023

Agenda Item:

11

Submitted By: Director of Service Delivery

---

<b>Purpose</b>	To inform members of the work being undertaken to evaluate the performance of our prevention initiatives.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That members note the content of this report.
<b>Summary</b>	This report demonstrates our commitment to learning and provides reassurance to members that the service is responding to the findings of the HMICFRS.

---

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category: None

Contact Officer: AM Service Delivery - Scott Donegan  
[Scott.Donegan01@westyorksfire.gov.uk](mailto:Scott.Donegan01@westyorksfire.gov.uk)

Background papers open to inspection: None

Annexes: Freshers Fair Evaluation Report  
Ukraine Refugee Project Evaluation  
Bradford Bonfire Period Evaluation

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 In the State of Fire and Rescue: The Annual Assessment of Fire and Rescue Services in England 2022, it was highlighted that “learning from prevention activity; We found that some services didn’t always meaningfully evaluate their prevention activities to inform their future work. Evaluation is generally lacking at both service and national levels”.
- 1.2 WYFRS is fully committed to improving the service delivered to the communities of West Yorkshire to achieve the strategic ambition of making West Yorkshire Safer. This can only be achieved if we fully evaluate the interventions we deliver, share what works well and learn when areas of improvement are identified.

## 2 Information

- 2.1 Our prevention teams have, for several years, relied on a ‘toolkit’ of interventions which they can use to tackle risks within their communities. Some of these are more successful than others.
- 2.2 The risks faced by individuals and families living and working within West Yorkshire are changing rapidly, recently we have seen challenges resulting from the cost-of-living crisis, electric vehicles, the war in the Ukraine. These sit alongside our existing risks such as dwelling fires, road traffic collisions, water safety and wildfire.
- 2.3 To ensure we can prevent and respond effectively we need to target the resources at our disposal effectively.
- 2.4 The prevention teams have embraced the move toward a more data literate approach to performance management and this has enabled to better understand the value of the initiatives we use to reduce risks.
- 2.5 To demonstrate how evaluation is being used to improve how we learn from the work we undertake, three evaluation reports are presented to members.
- Freshers Fair Evaluation report
  - Ukraine Refugee Response
- 2.6 The key recommendations from these evaluations are:

### **Freshers Fair**

- ***Use of social media***

In total social media posts on Twitter specific to the ‘Freshers Week’ period were seen 6468 times.

Social media was not put to effective use during these events, a detailed social media plan with pre-planned tweets from the corporate Twitter account along with regular tweets from events may see our social media channels have a greater impact than they did this time.

- **External Website – Student Page**

The WYFRS internet site should have a student focused page where we can direct students to, this page should include all our relevant safety advice (fire, water, road, cooking etc.) along with legal duties of landlords.

Several local contacts could also be present to aid students living in private rented accommodations with issues they may be experiencing with their accommodations and/or landlords.

A page with this kind of information would be a significant improvement on the very little available information we have for higher education students.

- **Gimmick Giveaway**

At both Leeds District events it was identified that the draw of the ‘gimmick’ smoke detector tester drew far more people to our stall than could have been anticipated.

Many students came to the stall asking ‘is this where we can get the sticks’, this enabled the stalls crew to engage in open conversation about a variety of safety subjects and recruitment. This was highlighted more when the crowds diminished due to word getting around that the stall had run out of the smoke detector testing poles.

### **Refugee project**

- Recommendation 1: Integrate hosting households into BAU

Hosting households will apply for Safe and Well visits via the normal channels i.e., online or via the clerk’s triage service once the refugee has arrived. If they do not qualify, they will receive an education pack via the post or email.

If the hosting household qualifies, crews will carry out a Safe and Well visit as usual. If the refugee has not arrived yet, the householder should be asked to share their escape plan and night-time routine with the refugee and inform WYFRS if the refugee carries any additional risk that the householder is concerned about.

- Recommendation 2: Develop a generic leaflet aimed at refugees.

Replace the welcome letter with a generic promotional ‘leaflet’ which removes the project code, references to hosting households, and directs people to the online application as well as the triage service. Local authorities will need to be informed of the removal of ‘automatic visits’ for all those who apply.

- Recommendation 3: Develop community engagement work to identify refugees and migrants within West Yorkshire

Work within districts to target all refugees and migrants via existing services.

- 2.7 These findings have been shared across districts and will be used to build prevention best practice library which will inform future campaigns.
- 2.8 Sharing the learning in this way is helping to break the cycle of “do what you have always done, get what you have always got”. This is providing us with new opportunities, it is identifying new ways of working with partners and is allowing us to respond quickly to the changing community risk profile.

**Bradford Bonfire Period Evaluation**

- 2.9 Reforming of the PRRG ensuring 2022 activities are matched and further developed for the 2023 bonfire period.
- 2.10 Partners continue to explore innovative ways to change the negative culture around Bonfire night through positive schemes which change behaviour.
- 2.11 Improved sharing of WYFRS deliberate ignition data at a ward and leadership level
- 2.12 Members to consider options with regards to the supply and use of fireworks at a national level.

**3 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications resulting from this report. The projects highlighted were funded from existing service budgets.

**4 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority’s Constitution

**5 Human Resource and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1 There are no human resource and diversity implications resulting from this report.

**6 Equality Impact Assessment**

Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? ( <a href="#">EIA guidance and form 2020 form.docx (westyorksfire.gov.uk)</a> )	<b>No</b>
Date EIA Completed	DD/MM/YY
Date EIA Approved	DD/MM/YY

The EIA is available on request from the report author or from [diversity.inclusion@westyorksfire.gov.uk](mailto:diversity.inclusion@westyorksfire.gov.uk)

## **7 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications**

7.1 Evaluating the effectiveness of our prevention work will inform future delivery of campaigns aimed at reducing risk to community groups more vulnerable to fire.

## **8 Environmental Implications**

8.1 There are no environmental implications resulting from this report.

## **9 Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities**

9.1 This report links with the key 2022 – 25 service priorities below:

- Collaborate with partners to improve all our services.
- Plan and deploy our resources based on risk.
- Focus our prevention and protection activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.

## **10 Summary**

10.1 This report demonstrates our commitment to learning and provides reassurance to members that the service is responding to the findings of the HMICFRS. This will lead to more efficient and effective targeting of vulnerability across West Yorkshire.



# University and College Freshers Fair Evaluation Report



## Revision and Sign-off Sheet

### Revision History

Revision date	Version	Summary of changes	Author
15/12/2022	1	Final Version	ADC Adam Garvey

### Approvals

Name	Position	Version approved	Date
T/GM Chris Kovacs	PRRG Co-ordinator	1	15/12/2022

### Distribution

Name	Position	Date of issue	Version
PRRG Group		15/12/2022	1
DC Cohort		15/12/2022	1

### Document Properties

Item	Details
Document Title	University and College Freshers Fair Evaluation Report
Author	Adam Garvey
Creation Date	01/11/2022
Last Updated	15/12/2022

## Contents

1	Background .....	3
2	Aims & Objectives .....	3
3	Competition Details .....	3
3.1	Equality Impact Assessment.....	4
4	Event Briefing Document.....	4
5	Safety Messages .....	5
5.1	Fire Safety .....	5
5.2	Road Safety .....	6
5.3	Water Safety .....	6
5.4	Private Rented / House Share .....	6
6	Freshers Fair Events .....	7
6.1	Events.....	7
6.2	Calendar of Events .....	8
6.3	Resources .....	9
6.4	Event Engagement .....	11
6.5	Additional Activities.....	11
6.6	Resource Efficacy.....	12
7	Competition Data.....	12
7.1	Entrant Breakdown .....	14
7.2	Competition Winner .....	14
8	Social Media.....	16
9	Outcomes.....	20
9.1	What went well.....	20
9.2	Lessons Learned .....	20
9.3	Recommmendations .....	21
10	Summary.....	22

## 1 Background

Research shows that West Yorkshire has seen an increase in those individuals killed and/or seriously injured (KSI) in road related incidents in 2021 when compared to previous years.

To improve engagement and education with the young adults across West Yorkshire the Road Safety subgroup as part of the larger Prevention and Risk Reduction Group (PRRG) came up with the idea of running a road safety quiz during 'Freshers Week' in September and October 2022.

After further discussion, the Road Safety Subgroup agreed that the quiz and events should take an all-encompassing approach, and that this opportunity should be used to engage with young adults about a variety of safety messages.

## 2 Aims & Objectives

Engagement and education for students and young adults is an area whereas a service we do not direct resources. The objective of this approach was to raise awareness in a number of different areas where West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) currently respond to operational incidents with the aim of improving the safety of young adults who have left home and now find themselves living independently for the first time.

## 3 Competition Details

Prior to commencement of 'Freshers Fair' events the PRRG Road safety subgroup had an agreement in place that each District would assign £300 from District budgets to the competition, totalling £1500.

This £1500 would then be the advertised prize and would be used on all advertising images for the competition to attract students to our stalls so that further engagement and conversations about safety could take place.

The terms and conditions for the competition were as below:

- Prize £1500 to spend on cycling and safety equipment or ICT equipment to be approved by WYFRS (No cash equivalent will be offered)
- Competition close **midnight 16th Oct 2022**
- Winner will be required to **choose prize within 4 weeks of close of competition - midnight 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022.**
- Prize to be spent at a retailer that is approved by WYFRS (Rather than designate a shop that people need to purchase from as this may prevent people from shopping locally)

### 3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

As part of this the competition it was agreed that the group should carry out an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to ensure that we identified a prize that would be accessible to all and that we did not inadvertently disadvantage anyone or exclude them from participation due to the prize on offer.

SM Imran Ali worked closely with the Equality and Diversity team to produce an EIA. This assessment identified that the originally discussed prize (bicycle) would not be suitable and may discourage some people from completing the safety quiz and entering the competition.

The same was identified for the next second choice prize (laptop). Through further discussions within the Road Safety group, it was decided what the prize would be based upon the finding of the EIA.

## 4 Event Briefing Document

Prior to ‘Freshers Fair’ taking place the Prevention Assurance and Improvement Team (PAIT) created a briefing document that was distributed to all Districts. The aim of this document was to assist personnel in the delivery of consistent safety messages across a number of areas such as road and water safety for those present at the events to share with the students with whom they engaged.

## WYFRS Event Briefing Freshers 2022

---

**Resources Available**

**Pull up banners**  


**Posters**  


**Drinks Mats**  
(fire, road and water themed)  


**Digital Resources**  
(distributed to district teams)

**Pop-up Table**  
(provided by district teams)

**How we will Evaluate**

Analysis of competition entries  
Entrant Answers  
Event feedback  
Social media activity

**Brief**

We will be using a new approach during Freshers 2022; we've created a competition with a substantial prize fund as the hook to get people to engage with our prevention advice.

The competition has been set up as the focus of our engagement, and consists of a 5-question quiz about student safety, with the following themes:

- Cooking safety
- Crossing the road
- Distractions when driving
- Seatbelts
- Water safety

Attendance by local teams at Freshers events will support this by enabling us to offer tailored advice, provide resources which act as a reminder of the interaction, and promote our social channels, and raise awareness of the competition.

During these local events, it is expected that WYFRS staff will:

- encourage students to take part in the competition, accessing it through the QR code link that is printed on our event resources.
- discuss fire, road (including pedestrian), and water safety (using local knowledge)
- offer advice on fire, road (including pedestrian), and water safety (examples on the rear of this page)
- offer a free physical resource (a theme related drinks mat) to students if advice has been given
- make a record of the main concerns held by students that relate to fire, road (including pedestrian), and water safety. This can be captured on the attached table.

**Fire Safety**

**All**

- If you smoke, do it outside whenever possible and always ensure cigarettes are fully extinguished.
- Never cook if you've been drinking (or taking drugs) – get a takeaway or eat a cold sandwich/ snack.
- Follow the packet instructions when using a microwave – never use tin foil.
- Always turn off hair appliances (hair dryers, straighteners and curlers) at the mains.
- Never buy cheap or counterfeit chargers. Buy those recommended by the manufacturers.
- Don't overload sockets (if an appliance generates heat such as a portable heater or hairdryer – it should be plugged directly into the mains).
- Keep candles and incense sticks away from combustible items, and do not leave unattended.

**Private rented/house share**

- Smoke detectors should have already been fitted by your landlord, as this is their legal responsibility to do so.
- Test smoke detectors weekly.
- Last one to bed at night - shut internal doors, switch everything off and blow out candles.
- Discuss with your landlord and housemates what you would do and how you would escape if there was a fire.
- Don't allow the build-up of fat and grease around the hob and cooker.

**Water Safety**

- Do not walk near to, or enter, canals, rivers or lakes when you have been drinking or under the influence of drugs.
- Don't walk alone by canal, rivers or lakes if you have been drinking or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

**Road Safety**

- Don't drink and drive and don't encourage your designated driver to drink.
- Be a considerate passenger and make sure you do not distract your driver.
- Don't set off until you and your passengers have fastened their seatbelts.
- Don't carry more passengers than is safe and don't get distracted when driving.
- When walking, be extra vigilant when crossing the road; turn off any music you're listening to. Electric cars and bicycles are silent.

## 5 Safety Messages

### 5.1 Fire Safety

- If you smoke, do it outside whenever possible and always ensure cigarettes are fully extinguished.
- Never cook if you've been drinking (or taking drugs) – get a takeaway or eat a cold sandwich/ snack.
- Follow the packet instructions when using a microwave – never use tin foil.
- Always turn off hair appliances (hair dryers, straighteners and curlers) at the mains.
- Never buy cheap or counterfeit chargers. Buy those recommended by the manufacturers.
- Don't overload sockets (if an appliance generates heat such as a portable heater or hairdryer – it should be plugged directly into the mains).
- Keep candles and incense sticks away from combustible items, and do not leave unattended.

## 5.2 Road Safety

- Don't drink and drive and don't encourage your designated driver to drink.
- Be a considerate passenger and make sure you do not distract your driver.
- Don't set off until you and your passengers have fastened their seatbelts.
- Don't carry more passengers than is safe and don't get distracted when driving.
- When walking, be extra vigilant when crossing the road; turn off any music you're listening to. Electric cars and bicycles are silent.

## 5.3 Water Safety

- Do not walk near to, or enter, canals, rivers or lakes when you have been drinking or under the influence of drugs.
- Don't walk alone by canal, rivers or lakes if you have been drinking or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

## 5.4 Private Rented / House Share

- Smoke detectors should have already been fitted by your landlord, as this is their legal responsibility to do so.
- Test smoke detectors weekly.
- Last one to bed at night - shut internal doors, switch everything off and blow out candles.
- Discuss with your landlord and housemates what you would do and how you would escape if there was a fire.
- Don't allow the build-up of fat and grease around the hob and cooker.

## 6 Freshers Fair Events

### 6.1 Events

Prior to 'Freshers Week' the representatives from all five Districts within the Road Safety Subgroup contacted local colleges and universities, seeking permission to attend the events and share our various safety messages.

Across all five Districts we were invited to the following colleges and universities:

#### ***Bradford***

- Bradford College – Great Horton Road, Bradford, BD7 1AY
- Bradford University – Richmond Road, Bradford, BD7 1DP

#### ***Calderdale***

- Calderdale College – Francis Street, Halifax, HX1 3UZ

#### ***Kirklees***

- Huddersfield University – Queensgate, Huddersfield, HD1 3DH

#### ***Leeds***

- Leeds Trinity University – Brownberrie Lane, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 5HD
- Leeds University – Woodhouse, Leeds, LS2 9JT

#### ***Wakefield***

- Wakefield College – Margaret Street, Wakefield, WF1 2DH
- Castleford College – Thunderhead Ridge, Castleford, WF10 4UA
- Selby College – Abbot's Road, Selby, YO8 8AT

Across these venues the service had a total of 22 days' worth of engagement with young adults at higher education facilities.

## 6.2 Calendar of Events

September 2022						
August '22						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
October '22						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6 MS Teams Meeting Final Planning Meeting	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Calderdale - Calderdale College	14	15 Calderdale - Calderdale College	16	17
18	19 Kirklees - Huddersfield Uni Wakefield - Wakefield College	20 Kirklees - Huddersfield Uni Wakefield - Wakefield College	21 Leeds - Leeds Trinity Uni Wakefield - Wakefield College Bradford - Bradford College	22 Wakefield - Wakefield College	23 Wakefield - Wakefield College	24
25	26	27	28 Leeds - Leeds Uni Bradford - Bradford Uni	29	30	1

October 2022						
September '22						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
November '22						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Wakefield - Castleford College	11 Wakefield - Castleford College	12 Wakefield - Castleford College	13 Wakefield - Castleford College	14 Wakefield - Castleford College	15
16 Competition Closing Date	17	18 Wakefield - Selby College	19 Wakefield - Selby College	20 Wakefield - Selby College	21 Wakefield - Selby College	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

## 6.3 Resources

To attract students to our stalls we utilised a number of resources that were made available to all districts in addition to a number of unique resources that were only available to individual districts at the time.

Some districts were asked by universities and colleges to refrain from utilising handouts and leaflets as it was their aim to reduce waste and their impact on the environment at the events.

This limited our messages to verbal communications only, due to time constraints we were unable to have a student focused area on our internet site created in time, noting that this would be a beneficial development should we attend these events again in the future.

The resources all districts had available were:

- 2 x pop up banners (shared between districts)



- A3 Posters and Digital version



- Red and Blue Pens



- Drinks Coasters (3 types)
  - Road
  - Water
  - Fire



- Egg timers



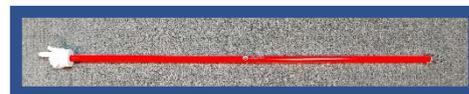
- Key rings



- Note pads



- Smoke detector testing poles



In addition to these resources Bradford district also utilised the water safety demonstration flume.



## 6.4 Event Engagement

It is estimated that across the 22 events that WYFRS personnel attended the number of young adults that we engaged with exceeded the number of competition entrants received.

The estimated engagements from each District are below:

Bradford – 1500

Calderdale – Figures unavailable

Kirklees - 500

Leeds – 1800

Wakefield – Figures unavailable

## 6.5 Additional Activities

Wakefield District WM Richard Hames along with Wakefield District crews carried out several live demonstrations at colleges within the district demonstrating the dangers young drivers may face on the road and how WYFRS responds to road traffic collisions.



## 6.6 Resource Efficacy

Following the completion of events each District team feedback into the Road Safety Subgroup the estimated numbers of each item distributed at events along with the popularity and efficacy of them:

Giveaway Item	Number Distributed	Giveaway Item Rating (1 – 10)
Pens	1300	8
Drinks Coasters	450	2
Egg Timers	400	8
Keyrings	300	4
Notepads	250	5
Smoke Detector Testing Poles	700	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>3400</b>	

*\* Figures above are estimations from Leeds, Bradford and Kirklees Districts. Item ratings are from all Districts and are based upon popularity of the item.*

## 7 Competition Data

The competition consisted of a short online quiz with five questions followed by factual evidence and a short safety message.

The online data collection tool Typeform, was used to host the quiz and collect information from the participants relevant to the competition.

In total 4,388 people scanned the QR code which directed them to the quiz, on average it took 2 minutes 57 seconds to complete.

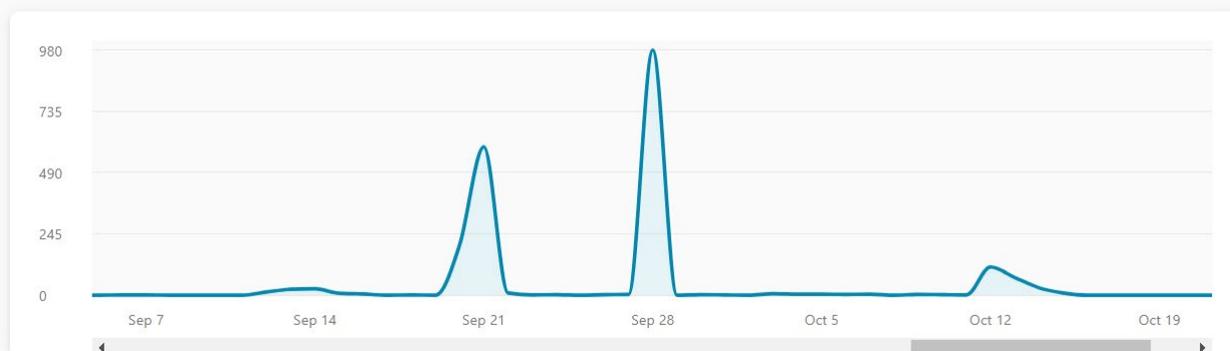
Of the 4,388 people who scanned the QR code, 2,311 people clicked the 'Take our Safety Quiz' button with 2,122 people completing the quiz and entering their details to win the £1500 prize.

The following demonstrates the drop off rate at each stage of the online safety quiz and the peak dates when entries were completed:

Questions	Views	Drop-off (?)
WIN £1,500 Take our safety quiz to enter	4395	-2084 (47%)
* Which is more deadly?	2311	-62 (3%)
In a crash, you're TWICE as likely to die if you don't wear a seat belt. One study reported the fata...	2249	-17 (1%)
* Which colour car is more likely to be involved in a road incident?	2233	-30 (1%)
Black cars are!...It doesn't matter what colour your car is if you get distracted.	2206	-22 (1%)
* Which is the quietest?	2185	-28 (1%)
Electric vehicles! Pedestrians are 40% more likely to be hit by an electric car rather than a petrol ...	2157	0
After a night out, your friend has gone for a swim in the river. They begin to struggle. What wo...	2149	-42 (2%)
You should NEVER ENTER A BODY OF WATER This includes canals, rivers and reservoirs.	2110	-5 (0%)
You come home late from a night out and feel a bit peckish, what do you do?	2105	-21 (1%)
Do not cook if you are tired or under the influence Get yourself a takeaway!	2086	-1 (0%)
* Now we need just a few short details to enable us to contact you if you are our lucky winner...	2108	-20 (1%)
* What is your full name	2088	-42 (2%)
* What is your telephone number?	2046	-79 (4%)
* What is your current postcode?	1968	-41 (2%)
* Where did you hear about this competition?	1929	-23 (1%)

Trends

Submissions



\* Peek entries coincided with events ran by districts, with a small unexplained peek around the 12<sup>th</sup> October

## 7.1 Entrant Breakdown

Of the 2,122 individuals who completed the safety quiz, 198 individuals entered 'other' for the location rather than opting for one of the selectable locations where events took place.

Of these 198 individuals, 150 identified other locations within Leeds, 27, identified other locations within Bradford, 6 Identified other locations within Kirklees, 1 identified another location within Wakefield and the remaining identified locations such as 'by email'.



## 7.2 Competition Winner

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022, ADC Adam Garvey and PAIT Manager Dan Mahon extracted the fire safety quiz entrant information from the online platform and drew the winner of the competition.

The competition winner entered the competition at Huddersfield University outside of scheduled WYFRS events at 20:05 on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022.

Miss Fengyu Zai (Jenny) was contacted by ADC Chris Bell and was informed she was the winner of the £1500 prize. Miss Zai identified a Dell Gaming Laptop as the prize she would like.

Purchase of the prize was organised by ADC Chris Bell with the presentation taking place on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at Huddersfield University.

Miss Zai was presented with the prize by ADC's Chris Bell and Adam Garvey along with Huddersfield Blue Watch.

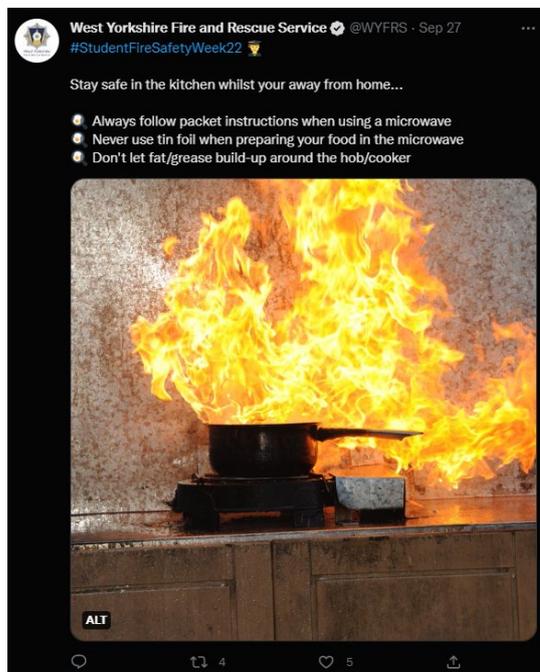


## 8 Social Media

During 'Freshers Week' Districts utilised Twitter to share our activities along with a number of safety messages aimed at students in higher education facilities.

These tweets we viewed by 6468 people over the 'Freshers week' period.

### Corporate Twitter @WYFRS



Impressions – 1314

Engagements – 22



Impressions – 1149

Engagements – 16

Leeds District Twitter @WYFRSLeedsTeam



Impressions – 830

Engagements - 29



Impressions – 171

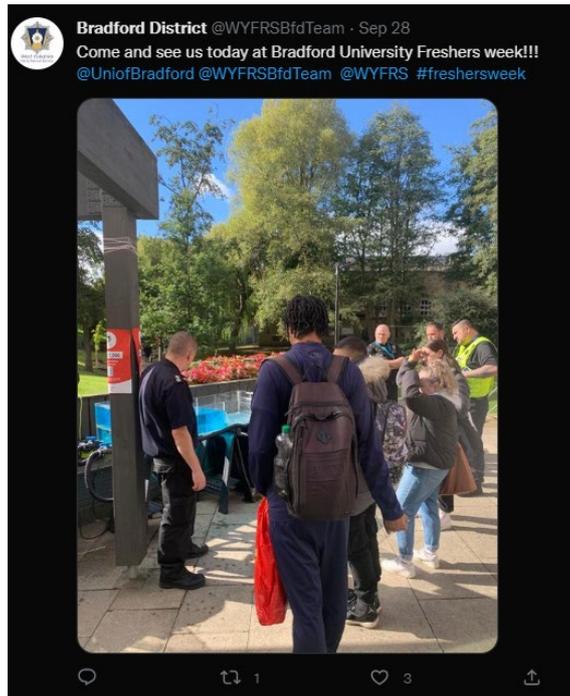
Engagements - 2



Impressions – 188

Engagements - 30

Bradford District Twitter @WYFRSBfdTeam



Impressions – 494

Engagements - 26



Impressions – 2322

Engagements - 134

## 8.1 Social Media Impressions

Prior to freshers' fair events, social media analytics were captured for the services corporate Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts so that before, during and after impressions could be gauged and reviewed to assist the evaluation of our attendance at university and college events.

The below data shows a significant rise in the services reach and impressions both during and following our attendance at freshers fair events across the county when compared to the week prior which can be deemed as an average week on each platform.

Social Media Platform		W/C 12 <sup>th</sup> September (Before – Average week)	W/C 19 <sup>th</sup> September (During)	W/C 26 <sup>th</sup> September (After)
<b>Twitter</b> 	<b>Engagement Rate</b>	3.7%	4.8%	4%
	<b>Link Clicks</b>	279	827	507
	<b>Total Impressions</b>	14,500	27,200	27,000
<b>Facebook</b> 	<b>Reach</b>	6628	30,040	34,460
	<b>Profile Visits</b>	878	1974	1696
<b>Instagram</b> 	<b>Reach</b>	692	2912	2313
	<b>Profile Visits</b>	591	648	406

## 9 Outcomes

### 9.1 What went well

#### ***Use of QR Codes***

The use of QR codes enabled students to quickly scan the QR code with their smart device and take part in our competition, further use of this at events in the future should be explored.

#### ***Crew Engagement***

At those events where crews could attend, a greater degree of interest was visible with students more open to engagement and conversation.

#### ***Leaflets***

Many colleges and Universities requested an environmental approach, requesting that we did not hand out leaflets unless they were printed on biodegradable paper.

Due to this very few leaflets were handed out with some locations not using leaflets at all, this proved to work well as leaflets from other stalls were seen to be left littering the floors.

#### ***Competition***

The competition seemed to work well and enticed many students to our stalls affording those staffing the stalls the opportunity to engage and have conversations covering a number of different subject areas.

#### ***Fire Safety Quiz***

The fire safety quiz was very popular with students, many conversations followed the quiz question themes with many students not being aware of the safety tips that followed each question.

#### ***Giveaway Items***

The attraction of giveaways if individuals completed the safety quiz increased the number of competition entries and drew people to the stalls enabling conversations about safety to take place.

### 9.2 Lessons Learned

#### ***Use of QR Codes***

Although QR codes worked well, Bradford District identified issues with Android and Huawei devices.

#### ***Stall Locations***

Due to the locations in which stalls were placed (college/university decision) some students had difficulty with data connectivity and were unable to enter the competition at the time, the possible use of a QR code that could be given to the student in those instances may have increased competition entrants.

**Pop up Banner QR code**

The QR code printed on the pop-up banner proved difficult to scan due to not being a flat surface, future events should make use of a Printed QR code, such as the ones on the posters.

**Competition Rules**

Due to the short timescales in which this program of events took place, the competition rules proved not to be as rigid as they should be, future competitions need to be better defined with small print details being visible at the start of the competition.

**Equality Impact Assessment**

The EIA carried out prior to the events, unfortunately closed many doors in relation to the prize that was on offer, starting off as a bicycle due to the links with the Riad Safety Subgroup moving to a laptop, finally settling on a prize value which could be spent wherever the winner chose on ICT and/or cycling equipment.

Future competitions should not be as heavily influenced by the EIA as this one was.

**Prize Value**

Following discussions within the Road Safety Subgroup we have identified that on this occasion the prize on offer of £1500 is more than it needed to be, with many discussions about future prizes being more focused at students and being such items as a laptop, which the service purchase prior to the competition and can display at events.

**9.3 Recommendations****Use of social media**

In total social media posts on Twitter specific to the 'Freshers Week' period were seen 6468 times.

Social media was not put to effective use during these events, a detailed social media plan with pre-planned tweets from the corporate Twitter account along with regular tweets from events may see our social media channels have a greater impact than they did this time.

**External Website – Student Page**

The WYFRS internet site needs a student focused page where we can direct students to, this page should include all our relevant safety advice (fire, water, road, cooking etc.) along with legal duties of landlords.

Several local contacts could also be present to aid students living in private rented accommodations with issues they may be experiencing with their accommodations and/or landlords.

A page with this kind of information would be a significant improvement on the very little available information we have for higher education students.

### ***Gimmick Giveaway***

Leeds District identified the need for a gimmick style giveaway that draws students to our stalls.

At both Leeds District events it was identified that the draw of the gimmick smoke detector tester drew far more people to our stall than could have been anticipated.

Many students came to the stall asking 'is this where we can get the sticks', this enabled the stalls crew to engage in open conversation about a variety of safety subjects and recruitment.

This was highlighted more when the crowds diminished due to word getting around that the stall had run out of the smoke detector testing poles.

## **10 Summary**

Our attendance during 'Freshers Week' enabled us to interact with a significant number of young adults and share our safety messages amongst both British and foreign nationals attending the counties higher education facilities.

With over 2000 competition entrants, over 6000 views on social media and an estimated 4000 + face to face conversations, all five districts have been able to widen their reach in higher education facilities with young adults, improving their knowledge and awareness, with the aim of making their college and university experience in West Yorkshire a safe and enjoyable one.



# PRE-REP-047: Review of Ukrainian Refugee Pilot Project

---

## Contents

Contents.....	1
Introduction .....	2
Methodology used.....	2
Background .....	2
Process for visiting Ukrainian refugees.....	3
What the data says .....	3
Arising Issues.....	5
District differentials .....	5
Routing and assigning .....	5
Level of risk .....	6
Translation and interpreting.....	6
Refusals .....	7
Change in local authority process.....	7
Recommendations .....	8
Recommendation 1: Integrate hosting households into BAU .....	8
Recommendation 2: Develop a generic leaflet aimed at refugees .....	8
Recommendation 3: Develop community engagement work to identify refugees and migrants within West Yorkshire.....	8
Appendix 1: Responses from the consultation with clerks.....	9
Appendix 2: Offer of S&W visit to hosting householder.....	10

## Introduction

This report examines whether the pilot project set up to offer Safe and Well visits to host families and visiting Ukrainian refugees should continue and be integrated into business as usual (BAU). It includes relevant data, issues arising and associated learning and makes recommendations for moving forward.

## Methodology used

Situational evidence was gathered by the visiting Prevention Assurance and Improvement Team (PAIT) officer during Safe and Well visits. WYFRS data was obtained from the prevention database for the dates 26/4/22 to 23/01/23.

Members of the PAIT task and finish group, district prevention managers (DPMs) and clerks were consulted (see [Appendix 1](#)) via individual phone or Teams appointments. Additionally, some desktop research was carried out to identify relevant internal documents such as reports, emails etc.

## Background

There has been an increase in the number of Ukrainian refugees entering the UK due to the war in Ukraine. Many of the refugees are being matched to hosts for extended periods of time.

In March 2022, members of PAIT set up a project to:

- Gain a better understanding of any emerging fire risks relating to hosted refugees
- Support householders to provide safer living environments
- Work collaboratively with local authorities to deliver WYFRS service offer
- Promote and increase awareness of the Safe and Well service

A letter would be included in local authority welcome packs inviting hosts to contact WYFRS for a Safe and Well visit once the refugee has settled. All self-referrals would be visited regardless of the level of identified risk and would be routed to a specified PAIT officer.

The project would be regularly monitored and reviewed by a PAIT task and finish group who would ensure any learning informed change, evaluate the project, and ensure its smooth transition into business as usual (BAU).

A project code, UKRAINE1, was allocated to each case to enable monitoring and data extraction.

## Process for visiting Ukrainian refugees

A procedure for visiting the hosting households was developed as follows:

- The host receives a letter, detailing the reasons why a Safe and Well visit would be helpful, (See [Appendix 2](#)) as part of their local authority welcome pack.
- The host contacts WYFRS via the Freephone number where a clerk processes their enquiry, using the standard filter questions to assess the level of pre-visit risk. Regardless of the level of risk, the case will be allocated for a safe and well visit. The case is assigned to the PAIT queue.
- The visit would take place with the householder; the refugee (or lead refugee for families/groups) should be present wherever possible – but this should not be a requirement.
- The Safe and Well visit includes advice and smoke and/or heat detection as required. Additional interventions will be offered according to the risks identified.
- Householders are given the education leaflet and other leaflets as appropriate. A fire safety advice leaflet in Ukrainian is also left for the refugee.
- Additional specialist support agencies (including translation services) will be identified so any outward referrals are effectively made.

## What the data says

**Table 1: Outcome of cases referred between 26/4/2022 and 23/01/23**

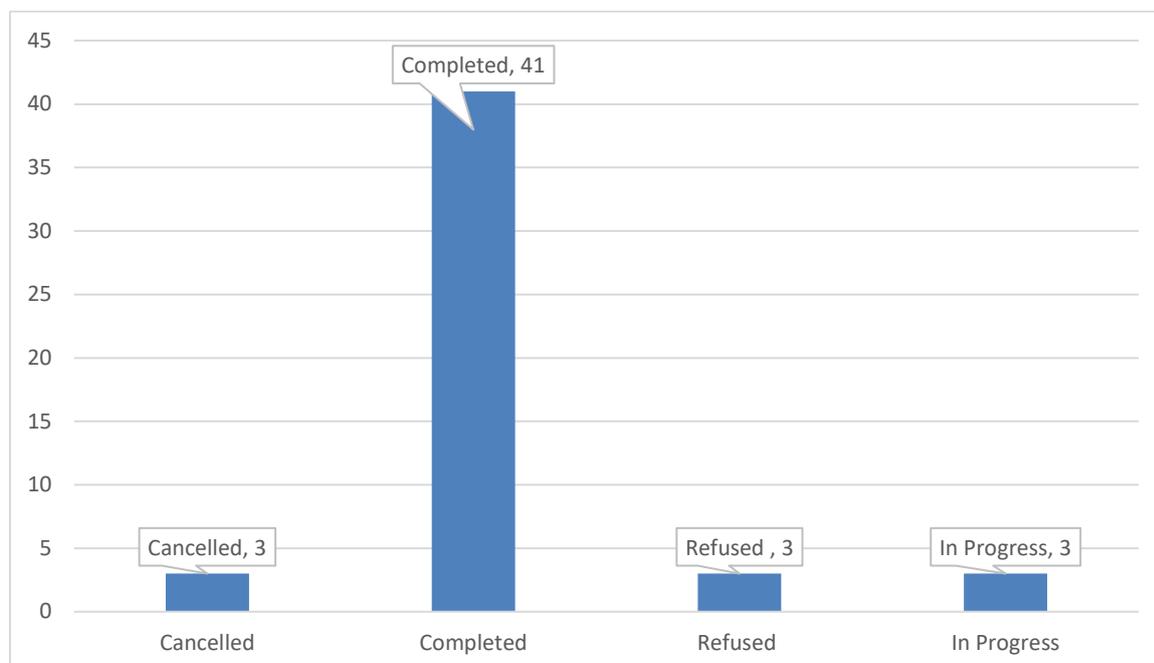


Table 1 shows the number of cases referred from 26/04/22 to 03/01/23, and their status on 03/01/2023.

**Table 2: Number of self-referrals received by district between 26/4/2022 and 23/01/23**

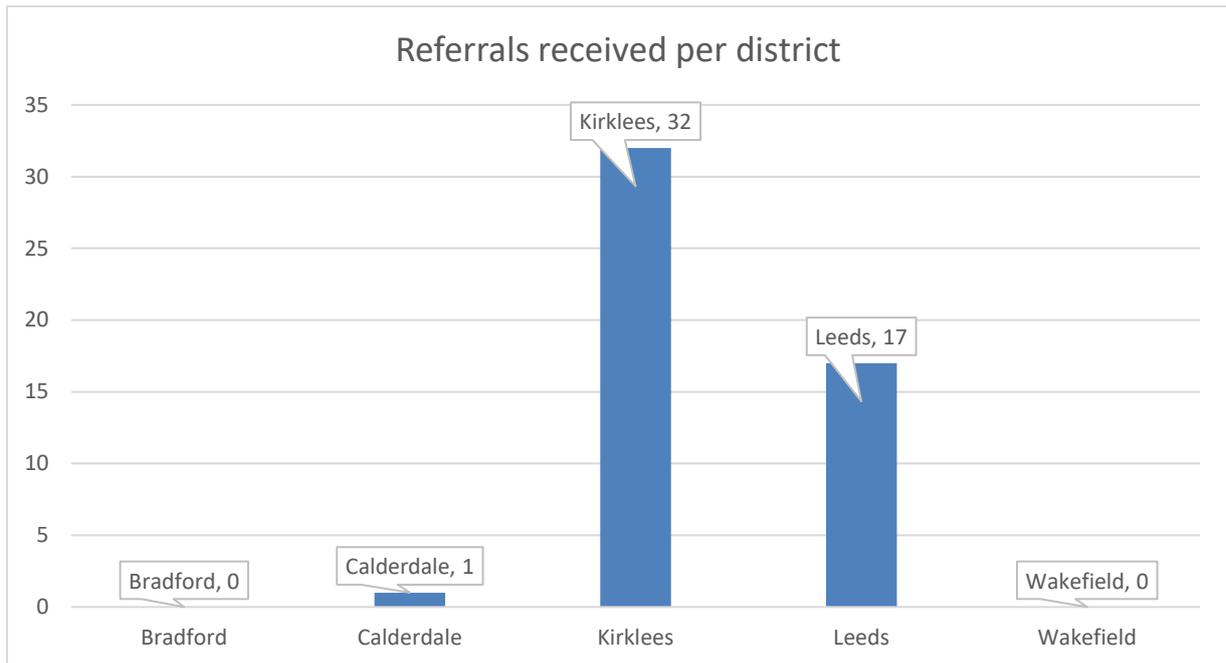


Table 2 shows the number of self-referrals received per district. 64% of referrals were received within Kirklees, 34% in Leeds, and 2% in Calderdale. No referrals were received in Bradford or Wakefield.

**Table 3: Number of completed visits made by staff between 6/04/22 and 03/01/23**

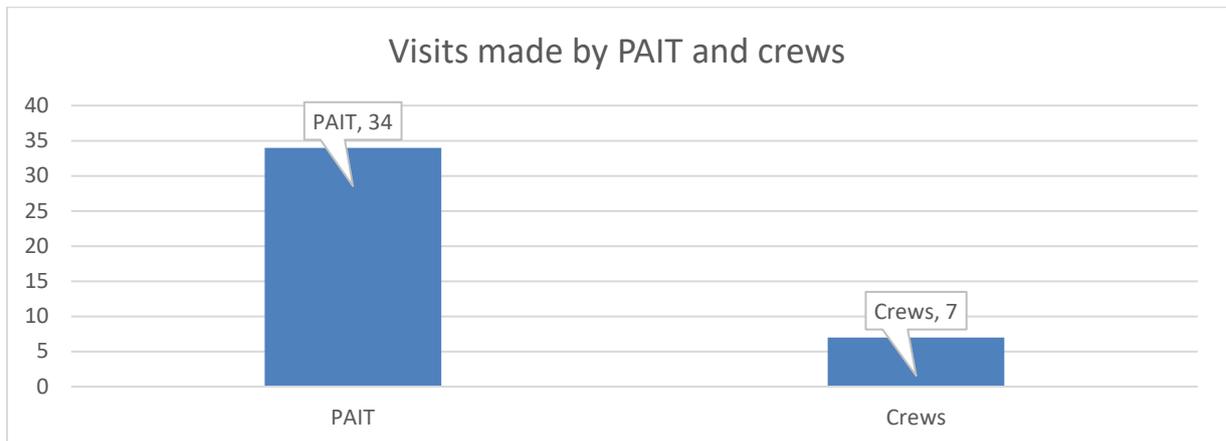


Table 3 shows the number of Safe and Well visits completed by PAIT and crews. 83% of cases were dealt with by PAIT (as per the process). 7 visits were made by crews.

**Table 4: Pre and post visit risk level of referrals**

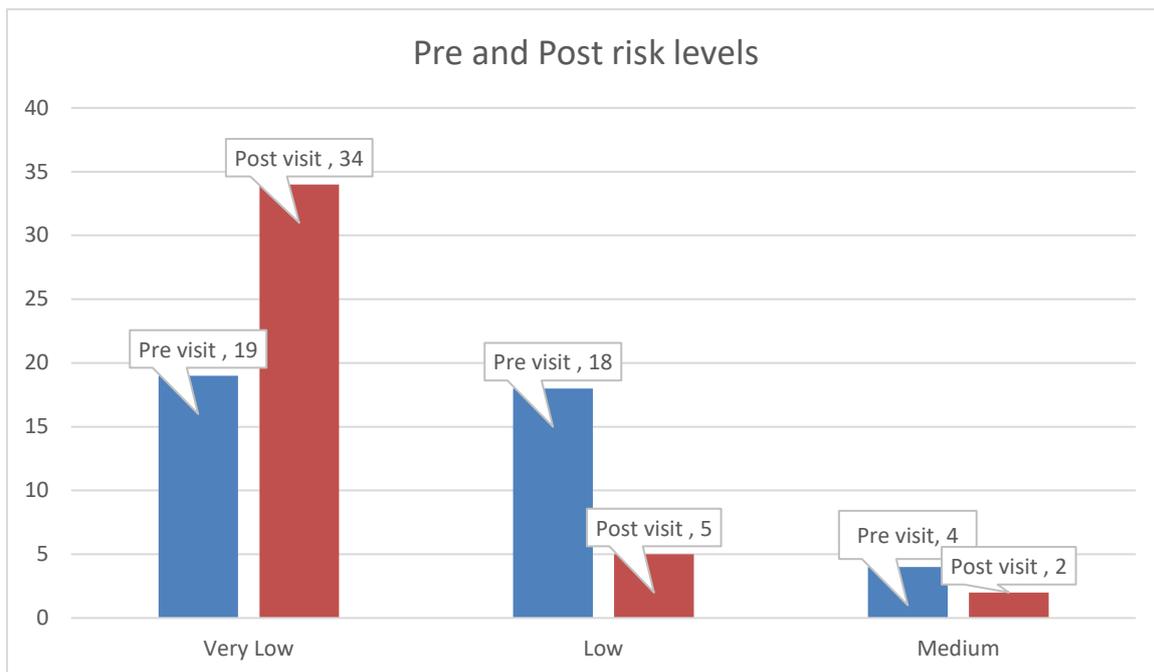


Table 4 shows the risk level of the 41 completed cases - pre and post visit. There were no cases that were deemed as high or very high at the time of the referral or following the visit. At the time of referral, 46% of cases were assessed as very low risk and 44% of cases were low. Post-visit, 83% of cases were assessed as very low risk and 12% as low risk.

## Arising Issues

### District differentials

Two districts received no referrals and no visits were made i.e. no use was made of the project code in Bradford or Wakefield. No approach was made during the consultation to a Wakefield representative as none were available. No response was received from Bradford. It is therefore not possible to draw any conclusions about the absence of referrals within these districts.

For the three districts where referrals were received and cases were visited, the DC/DPMs generally understood their role and responsibilities about sharing the letter to local authority welcome packs. One DPM raised concerns about the lack of communication and consultation about the development of the project i.e., whether their role should have extended to raising awareness/promoting the project. No questions or queries were raised by anyone during the pilot project period.

Some local authorities were ahead in terms of their response planning and required little input other than generic support for the scheme from WYFRS.

### Routing and assigning

All cases should have been assigned to the PAIT Officer, but four cases were dealt with by crews in Leeds. A clerk in Leeds had not followed the correct process and had left the cases in the station queue for crews to deal with rather than assigning them to the PAIT queue. Crews had not been

informed about the new process for Ukrainian refugees and therefore attended and conducted the Safe and Well visits as usual. This may have resulted in the refugee not being present during the visit and not receiving appropriate advice in their own language.

Three other cases were assigned to crews to complete because the occupants were only available out-of-hours. For these cases, the crew were informed about the correct process of completing the visit with the refugee and host.

One of the three refused cases was not assigned to PAIT resulting in the crews contacting the host and recording the case as refused.

A telephone consultation was conducted with four clerks in different districts (See [Appendix 1](#)) to establish why some cases had been incorrectly assigned. The incorrect assigning was because of individual error by one clerk.

### Level of risk

Table 5 shows 50% of cases (20) referred would not have qualified for a visit under the current scoring system on the prevention database if they had not hosted a Ukrainian refugee.

**Table 5: Points levels**

Points	No. of cases
0	11
1	9
2	11
3	7
4	3

The visiting PAIT officer did not identify much risk within the homes visited. No 'unsafe' smokers were identified i.e., no burn marks, no smoking in bed etc. No flame-retardant bedding or throws were issued and no vibrating pads and strobes. Linked detection systems were installed in a number of the properties because of their significant size and more complex layouts.

No safeguarding referrals were raised by the PAIT officer.

### Translation and interpreting

Although, interpretation services could be provided, none were accessed.

Communication was made via:

- The refugee directly, if they had good level of spoken English

- Other family members, or friends, who had been living in the UK for some time and could speak English; they were able to interpret the questions asked by the PAIT officer and provide responses.
- The Google Translate App. which the refugees appeared to be comfortable and confident using. The host would communicate with the PAIT officer on their behalf.

Initially, word document written in Ukrainian was given to the refugee. It contained fire safety advice around safe smoking, cooking etc, carrying out a night-time routine, what to do if there was a fire and how to make an emergency call. This document was later developed into a leaflet.

On several occasions, it was identified the refugee spoke and read Russian due to the area of Ukraine they were from. As the leaflet was not available in Russian, refugees used a document reader to translate.

## Refusals

Despite the process depending on self-referrals, three householders refused the offer of a safe and well visit for the following reasons

The hosting household:

- Had already sourced and installed their own smoke detection when contact was made to arrange a visit.
- Had contacted WYFRS for a gas safe certificate not realising that they are provided by gas safety engineers and subsequently refused the visit.
- Felt the offer of a visit “seemed far-fetched” or unnecessary when the purpose of the visit was explained to them.

## Change in local authority process

In May 2022, Kirklees Council changed their process for approving a request to host a refugee. They required the host to have working smoke alarms in their property prior to having a refugee allocated. This resulted in householders contacting WYFRS to request a Safe and Well visit prior to the refugees arriving to stay. This contradicted the existing WYFRS process.

After a discussion with the Kirklees DPM and the PAIT manager, it was decided that crews would conduct an initial Safe and Well visit giving advice and education to the householder and installing appropriate smoke detection. The case would then be assigned to the PAIT Officer, who would arrange a high-risk intervention visit once the refugee had arrived and settled.

This occurrence happened on one occasion where the homeowner was happy to purchase and installed their own smoke detection before a Safe and Well visit was completed. No further instances arose of this nature.

## Recommendations

### Recommendation 1: Integrate hosting households into BAU

Hosting households will apply for Safe and Well visits via the normal channels i.e., online or via the clerk's triage service once the refugee has arrived. If they do not qualify, they will receive an education pack via the post or email.

If the hosting household qualifies, crews will carry out a Safe and Well visit as usual. If the refugee has not arrived yet, the householder should be asked to share their escape plan and night-time routine with the refugee and inform WYFRS if the refugee carries any additional risk that the householder is concerned about.

### Recommendation 2: Develop a generic leaflet aimed at refugees

Replace the welcome letter with a generic promotional 'leaflet' which removes the project code, references to hosting households and directs people to the online application as well as the triage service. Local authorities will need to be informed of the removal of 'automatic visits' for all those who apply.

### Recommendation 3: Develop community engagement work to identify refugees and migrants within West Yorkshire

Work within districts to target all refugees and migrants via existing services.

## Appendix 1: Responses from the consultation with clerks

<p><b>1. How did you hear about the project?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Safe and Well meeting with PAIT Manager at HQ.</li> <li>• An email from PAIT Manager sharing the project code.</li> <li>• An email that I printed off for future reference.</li> <li>• I had a call from a host requesting a Safe and Well visit, then the email.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Did you have any questions/make phone calls to PAIT?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No questions.</li> <li>• I was happy with the information.</li> <li>• No, it was straight forward.</li> <li>• No questions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Was the email on the 07/04/22 clear?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was clear, but bullet points would be better to show the steps and could be made clearer not to assign to crews, although, I missed some information.</li> <li>• Would have helped it was clear that the refugee had to be present.</li> <li>• I thought the email was clear and did not have any questions.</li> <li>• The email was clear with no questions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Were there any issues taking referrals?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All clerks responded that there were no issues</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Were you asked any questions?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is a Safe and Well visit?</li> <li>• What is a Safe and Well visit and what happens next?</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Any other comments?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would have helped if the crews were aware of the project and referral process.</li> <li>• I found a couple of cases in station queues which I added the project code to and redirected.</li> <li>• Already having the Triage training helped</li> </ul>

## Appendix 2: Offer of S&W visit to hosting householder



West Yorkshire  
Fire & Rescue Service

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Oakroyd Hall  
Bradford Road  
Birkenshaw  
BD11 2DY

Dear Householder,

We are happy to hear you are hosting a Ukrainian refugee within your home and wish you and them every success in the future.

It is possible, because you are welcoming someone new into your home, that the fire safety advice appropriate to your situation may have changed.

We would therefore like to offer you a free Safe and Well home visit. During the visit we will

- Assess all rooms within your property to identify any fire risks and offer you fire safety advice to mitigate the risk.
- Fit free smoke and/or heat detection to ensure that you and anyone living in your home receive an early warning should a fire occur.
- Discuss a night-time fire safety routine and escape plan with you.
- Signpost or refer you (with your permission) to other support agencies, as appropriate

If you would like us to visit, please ring us on **0800 587 4536**. Please use the reference **Ukraine1** when calling.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Fire Prevention team

**Making West Yorkshire Safer**  
[www.westyorksfire.gov.uk](http://www.westyorksfire.gov.uk)



**Report to: Safer Communities Partnership Board**

**Title: Bonfire Period Response 2022**

**Date: January 2023**

**BACKGROUND**

The bonfire period is an anticipated event for both partners and the community. Many positively experience the period aside the incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB), misuse of fireworks, attacks on public sector workers and the disposal of waste via means of fly tipping/fire.

Through partnership working resources can be efficiently and effectively utilised, allowing the orchestration of prevention and risk reduction activities, thus reducing the number or impact of incidents across the period.

As of 2022 Bradford District established the Prevention and Risk Reduction Group (PRRG) attended by Silver level decision makers from a range of partner organisations. This group co-ordinated the agreed prevention and risk reduction action specific to Bradford between July and November.

Aims of the group:

- To ensure members work collaboratively and proactively to implement prevention and risk reduction work streams targeting specific risk and areas.
- To act as the tactical receiving/decision making point with regards to collaborative prevention/risk reduction efforts for the 5 constituent areas of Bradford District specific to the Bonfire Period.

In addition to prevention and risk reduction activities Bradford District established a Special Operations Room (SOR) based at Appleton House across the Bonfire period. The function, to monitor incidents and deploy suitable resources from the relevant services (Police, Fire, Local Authority).

Across Bradford a culture of fly tipping has developed prior to and across the bonfire period. This has resulted in hazardous waste within the community, dangerous fires with the potential to spread to properties and an expectation the Local Authority will clear away.

With limited controls around the sales and access to fireworks Bradford continues to see these used inappropriately, fired at public sector staff, and utilised to start fires within properties and vehicles. In addition, the use of fireworks has greater impacts on communities especially those with animals

In 2022 Bradford District experienced what would be deemed a successful bonfire

period as a result of the work carried out by partners prior to and over the weekend. WYFRS recognised a reduction in secondary fires but notes the overall increase in deliberate primary fires, but this is consistent with the annual view and not specific to the period.

The Local Authority Anti-Social Behaviour Team focused on those who have been involved in nuisance behaviour involving fireworks or where other information indicates significant risk. Warning letters were issued to those most vulnerable to becoming involved in anti-social or dangerous behaviour.

The Youth Justice Service delivered input on the consequences of ASB to the large majority of their current cohort.

Safer Schools Police Officers and WYFRS staff delivered a bespoke education package on bonfire night as well as supplementary schools. This year it is estimated this programme reached over 20,000 young people

WYFRS Youth Team delivered educational packages at PRU (PRISM), Stay Safe events and as part of the Prices Trust programme at Bradford College.

As in previous years, communities, elected members, faith and voluntary sector groups worked alongside statutory services providing a significant partnership response. This helped to educate and build resilience but also challenge negative behaviours and, where necessary, take enforcement action. Groups were supported by collective funding from the LA, Police and Fire and Rescue Service ensuring volunteer welfare needs were catered for.

Local Area teams developed their own bespoke partnerships to prevent and reduce problems. Each Area responded well in managing fly-tipping, providing bespoke plans for high-risk locations and engaging community partners. Areas were given grants of up to £4,000 from Summer 22 to put work in place that would minimise disorder.

The use of Youth Workers has deterred many young people from taking actions that could have resulted in distress to others. It challenges young people's behaviours, sometimes preventing arrests and allows more effective deployment of blue light services to incidents where there is a serious risk to life. In summary this was for the whole service providing street based detached work, diversionary activities and the bonfire operations over the 3 days 4-6<sup>th</sup> November.

The perception by young people of a 'non-confrontational approach' that youth workers employ very often pays dividends in ensuring that situations do not escalate and are managed with young people in a way most likely to decrease problems.

Incommunities' Operatives worked across the period removing 4.9 tonne of waste from bonfires and areas which posed fire risk/potential spread. Staff committed to spend time within wards identifying build ups of waste, engaging with residents re fire safety and highlighting reporting mechanisms.

Council, Police and Fire Service Communications Teams worked together to ensure communities are aware of the partnership effort and the role of residents in helping to report ASB. Social media is also widely employed but there is, inevitably, a range of negative press exposure.



District comparison (Deliberate vehicle fires)

Count of Inc No	Column Labels				
Row Labels	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand Total
Bradford	33	36	23	38	130
Calderdale	8	12	11	7	38
Kirklees	13	18	14	17	62
Leeds	30	26	28	27	111
Wakefield	8	13	18	14	53
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>394</b>

District comparison (Attacks on FRS)

Count of Inc No	Column Labels				
Row Labels	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand Total
<b>Harassment</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>3</b>
Bradford	1				1
Leeds		1			1
Wakefield	1				1
<b>Objects thrown at firefighters/appliances</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>130</b>
Bradford	22	11	24	27	84
Calderdale	5	3	2	3	13
Kirklees	1	4	2	1	8
Leeds	4	5	2	12	23
Wakefield			2		2
<b>Other acts of aggression</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>
Bradford	2	3		2	7
Calderdale	1			1	2
Leeds	2	2	1	1	6
Wakefield				1	1
<b>Physical abuse</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>
Bradford		1	2	2	5
Calderdale	1				1
Kirklees	1			1	2
Leeds		1	1	1	3
<b>Verbal abuse</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>118</b>
Bradford	15	9	7	5	36
Calderdale	3	2	1	2	8
Kirklees	5	9	8	5	27
Leeds	6	10	2	11	29
Wakefield	4	7	5	2	18
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>278</b>

The bonfire period continues the positive trend of a reduction in arson/secondary fires but unlike the previous year deliberate car fires/primary fires are on the rise. WYFRS will focus its attention on deliberate primary fire across 2023.

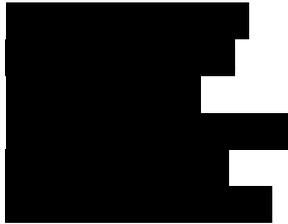
Attacks on staff remains at a consistent level which is disappointing knowing the level of work and commitment delivered by partners within the community. Over Bradford district remains the worst performing in West Yorkshire.

Police ASB Team issued the following:

- 102 Bonfire/Firework warning letters issued to young people in front of parent/guardian.
- 7 ASB warning letters issued informing suspects that their behaviour is being monitored by the ASB team
- 3 CPW (Community Protection Warnings) issued to parents whose children had been involved in serious firework ASB last year.

Test purchasing attempt (Trading Standards)

FIREWORKS/ BRADFORD 3/11/22



**No Sales were made**

2021 – fewer complaints received, 1 test purchase attempted resulting in no sale.

PRRG actions/achievements:

- School education provided digitally through learning portal – Year 4 to 8
- Secondary school education – ‘Mischief package’ developed in conjunction with The Riot Act (Theatrical Group).
- Days of action alongside Ward Officers and Area Co-Ordinators
- Delivery of media campaign – Physical and digital assets
- Environmental Visual Audits
- Waste removal – Direct access to LA cleansing leads
- Partnership ToR developed and delivered at Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to Cllr Jabar
- Shared intelligence between FRS, Police and Youth Intervention (LA) to identify top 10 risk areas allowing appropriate allocation of resource
- Induction and training on Partnership Information Portal (PiP) allowing live gathering of information then reviewed by police data team
- Direct cleansing contacts for improved response to EVA’s and Ward Officer waste identification
- Adjustment of waste site opening and closing times allowing longer periods to tip waste. Open across bonfire weekend.
- Shared firework storage license list allowing Police, Ward Officer, and Trading Standards to conduct informed visits and report those operating outside current legislation
- Joint secondary school visits to high-risk sites by Bradford WM Community Safety (Craig Kettlewell), LA Youth Intervention and Safer Schools Police Officers
- Youth Intervention providing targeted education in PRU (PRISM)

- Briefing and funding provided for community calming groups (Bradford Moor Pass)
- Incommunities included in all meeting allowing early identification of unofficial events
- Youth Services developed and delivered consequences letter
- VIPER cameras (LA convert cameras) installed in high-risk areas for ASB and fly tipping.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. Reforming of the PRRG ensuring 2022 activities are matched and further developed for the 2023 bonfire period.
2. Partners continue to explore innovative ways to change the negative culture around Bonfire night through positive schemes which change behaviour.
3. Improved sharing of WYFRS deliberate ignition data at a ward and leadership level
4. Members to consider options with regards to the supply and use of fireworks at a national level.

**CONTACT OFFICER**

Christopher Kovacs

WYFRS Bradford District Commander

Christopher.kovacs01@westyorkshire.gov.uk

# Risk Based Inspection Programme 2023/2024

## Community Safety Committee

---

Date: 28 April 2023

Agenda Item:

12

Submitted By: Director of Service Delivery

---

**Purpose** This report provides Members of the Community Safety Committee with information on the Risk Based Inspection Programme setting out the fire protection activities for 2023 – 2024

**Recommendations** That Members of the Community Safety Committee approve the Risk Based Inspection Programme for 2023 - 2024.

**Summary** The Risk Based Inspection Programme is a requirement of the National Framework for Fire & Rescue Services. It enables WYFRS to determine the fire protection risks within West Yorkshire and utilise our resources to deliver a programme of audits in premises where the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 applies.

We are awaiting national guidance on the methodology which should be incorporated into RBIP's, this document provides an interim arrangement until such guidance is published at which point this RBIP will be reviewed.

---

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category: None

Contact Officer: Chris Kemp, Senior Fire Protection Manager  
[Christopher.Kemp@westyorkshire.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Kemp@westyorkshire.gov.uk)

Background papers open to inspection: None

Annexes: Risk Based Inspection Programme 2023/24

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP) details how West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service will meet the requirements of the current National Framework. This document covers the document at Annex A provides details of the annual programme of visits, based upon national intelligence of emerging risks or clarification/national determination on the definition of High Risk in relation to Fire Protection activities.
- 1.2 The National Framework expects Fire Authorities to have a locally determined risk-based inspection programme in place for enforcing compliance with the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO). At present this is based on local factors but does not exclude the inclusion of national guidance or trends which are incorporated into the document.
- 1.3 The Risk Based Inspection Programme also enables the Authority to demonstrate that it is meeting its statutory enforcement responsibilities in respect of the FSO.

## 2 Information

- 2.1 Annexe A to this report provides a full copy of the RBIP which demonstrates how WYFRS will discharge its statutory duties in relation to Fire Protection. We want to ensure that the communities of West Yorkshire are safe in the premises they use. Our Fire Protection Inspectors will visit premises in line with the RBIP to check compliance with the FSO and where necessary they will carry out an audit relevant to the premises and utilise their powers as an inspector to ensure compliance.
- 2.2 The delivery of a RBIP needs to have cognisance of other external requirements on regulators. One such requirement is the Regulators Code which places a statutory duty on all regulators to have regard to the burden of inspection placed on building owners. Due to this, our RBIP is not one which currently provides a re-inspection frequency to specific premises types but focuses on available information and intelligence to identify those premises which pose relevant persons at the greatest risk.

## 3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## 4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution

## 5 Human Resource and Diversity Implications

There are no Human Resource and Diversity implications arising from this report.

## 6 Equality Impact Assessment

Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? ( <a href="#">EIA guidance and form 2020 form.docx (westyorksfire.gov.uk)</a> )	/ No
---	------

Date EIA Completed	DD/MM/YY
Date EIA Approved	DD/MM/YY

The EIA is available on request from the report author or from [diversity.inclusion@westyorkshire.gov.uk](mailto:diversity.inclusion@westyorkshire.gov.uk)

## **7 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications**

7.1 The health and safety of our staff and the communities we serve is our priority. Given the targeted approach we take there is inevitably a higher risk of conflict when our inspectors attend premises which are non-compliant. We have processes in place to ensure lone working arrangements are managed and risk assessments for inspectors to follow which provide the opportunity for the attendance of additional colleagues or the involvement of the Police.

## **8 Environmental Implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **9 Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities**

9.1 This report links with the key 2020 – 23 service priorities below:

- Plan and deploy our resources based on risk.
- Focus our Prevention and Protection activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.

## **10 Conclusions**

10.1 The RBIP enables us to demonstrate that we are utilising our fire protection resources in the most effective and efficient manner by being proactive in determining the actual risk in premises rather than the perceived risk.

10.2 The document provides a section on assurance which specifically addresses concerns raised by HMICFRS.

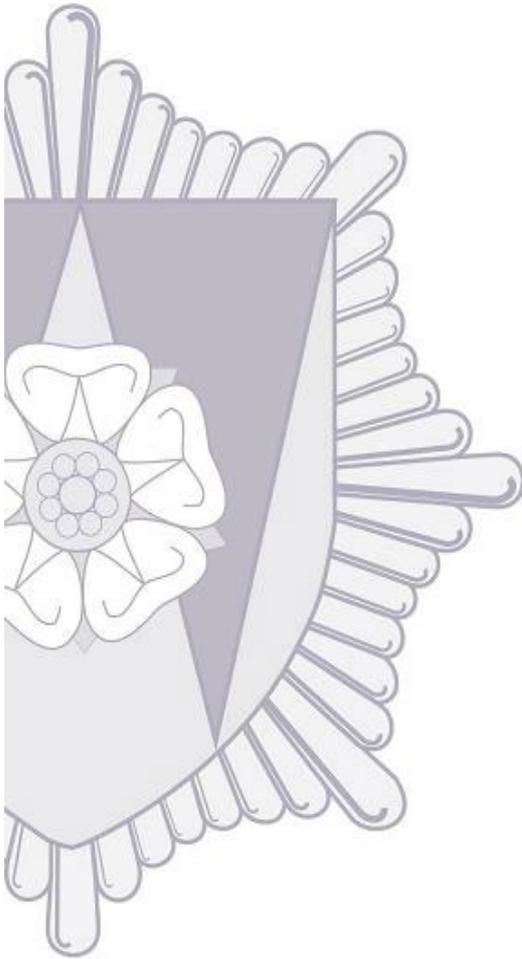
10.3 Our inspectors improve compliance and this inevitably reduces the risk to relevant persons should a fire occur.



West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority

## Fire Protection Policy

### Risk Based Inspection Program 2023 - 2024



**West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service**

**Oakroyd Hall**

**Birkenshaw**

**Bradford**

**BD11 2DY**

Date Issued: 28/04/2023

Ref: FS-POL015

Review Date: 28/02/2024

Version: 14.1

***PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING***

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

Page 2 of 12

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP) details how West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) will meet the requirements of the current National Framework. This document covers the period up to 31 March 2024.
- 1.2 The National Framework expects Fire Authorities to have a locally determined risk-based inspection programme in place for enforcing compliance with the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO). At present this is based on local factors as we await national guidance which is currently in development.
- 1.3 The RBIP enables the Authority to demonstrate that it is meeting its enforcement responsibilities in respect of the FSO. It is noted that in the most recent HMICFRS inspection (2021/2022), clarification was sought that the methodology used within this RBIP provided assurance that the programme prioritises the highest risk and incorporates proportionate activity which reduces risk. Section 2 of this document entitled 'Assurance' provides detailed background information providing assurance in this area whilst we await further national guidance on the definition of risk and a standardised RBIP methodology.
- 1.4 The FSO makes Risk Assessment central to determining the necessary level of fire precautions in non-domestic premises and the common parts of multi-occupied domestic premises. The statutory responsibility for ensuring an adequate level of fire safety lies with the Responsible Person for individual premises – usually the employer, or occupier (person in control of the premises) or the owner. This RBIP does not place any undue responsibility of compliance with this Authority.
- 1.5 The Fire Authority has a statutory duty to enforce the compliance requirements of the FSO in the majority of premises, although the Health & Safety Executive (HSE), the Crown Premises Inspection Group and local authorities also have enforcement responsibilities in some specific types of premises.
- 1.6 The development of this inspection programme allows WYFRS to demonstrate that we are focusing our resources on those premises that represent the greatest risk to life in the event of fire through failure to comply with fire safety law.
- 1.7 Fire Protection Inspectors (FPI) are specifically trained and authorised to carry out “audits” as defined by IRMP Note 4 which is a full in-depth inspection in relation to whether the Responsible Person of the premises is complying with the FSO. The competence of our FPI's and the associated assurance process is subject to external scrutiny through Kirklees Audit, receiving a score of 'Substantial Assurance' in March 2023.
- 1.8 WYFRS have adopted the NFCC “short audit” model which aims to provide the facility for inspectors to carry out an audit relevant to the premises they are visiting, allowing them to make a judgment to determine if the premises are safe enough. If this is deemed to be the case the inspector conducts a much shorter audit which significantly reduces the time the business has to engage with us as a regulator. By doing this we reduce the burden of inspection on business which allows us to target resources more effectively.
- 1.9 Over the last 24 months we have integrated the NFCC desk top approach to auditing due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has enabled us to continue to engage with Responsible Persons and provide advice and support whilst making a judgement on the safety of premises. This approach will continue to within the Protection Team to enable us to support businesses and continue to provide Fire Protection activities should future business continuity events occur.

## Risk Based Inspection Program 2023 - 2024

- 1.10 Station personnel are not authorised to inspect or audit premises under the FSO. However, it is incumbent on operational staff to gather risk information in relation to fighting fires in premises that may pose a risk to the safety of firefighters and the public alike. Operational crews carry out visits to collect site specific risk information, these visits which are carried out under section 7(2)d of the Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004 do not form part of this RBIP but do form a key element of intelligence that we utilise to assess risk.
- 1.11 All Watch and Crew Managers will have attended either the previous Operations Fire Protection course which was delivered by the Fire Protection team or the newly introduced Level 3 introductory Certificate in Fire Safety, both of which provide a comparable grounding knowledge in fire protection and as such, ensures that our operational staff are competent to collect and identify Fire Protection issues.
- 1.12 Whilst station personnel carry out visits to gather operational risks they will inevitably utilise the training, skills and knowledge gained to highlight potential fire protection issues, these will be scored accordingly and a follow up visit actioned by a fire protection inspector where necessary.

## Assurance

- 2.1 The 2021/2022 HMICFRS report identified a recommendation which related to the Risk Based Inspection Programme. That recommendation stated:

*“The service should assure itself that its risk-based inspection programme prioritises the highest risks and includes proportionate activity to reduce risk.”*

This section of the RBIP provides background information to provide assurance that whilst we await national methodology on RBIP's, the approach we have adopted is one which prioritises the highest risk and includes proportionate activity which reduces risk.

- 2.2 In order to establish how our RBIP prioritises risk successfully, we have carried out analysis of the last 5 years outputs. In order to understand from a legislative perspective if our activities are targeted at the highest risk, we need to review the outcomes of audits. Non compliance with the FSO is a clear determining factor that relevant persons are placed at increased risk should a fire occur, therefore the number and percentage of audits which result in enforcement activity (Enforcement Notice or Prohibition Notice) is the key identifier to demonstrate if our RBIP is prioritising high risk. This also is a key identifier in demonstrating that proportionate activity is used to reduce that risk.
- 2.3 The data used to provide this analysis is from the Home Office fire statistics data tables for the years 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020,21, 2021/22 and are available at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire1204-previous-data-tables>
- 2.4 The data also incorporates an average 5 year analysis over the period for additional information with rankings based on how we perform against other FRS's.

## Risk Based Inspection Program 2023 - 2024

2.5 Table 1

	Prohibition Notices	Enforcement Notices	All Formal Activity %	All Audits
<b>2017/2018</b>				
WY No	22	87	109	928
WY %	2.37%	9.38%	11.75%	
Nat No	635	1424	2058	49,423
Nat %	1.28%	2.88%	4.16%	
Rank	8 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> (No) / 5 <sup>th</sup> (%)	
<b>2018/2019</b>				
WY No	170	67	237	795
WY %	21.38%	8.42%	29.81%	
Nat No	725	1479	2204	49,327
Nat %	1.46%	2.99%	4.46%	
Rank	1 <sup>st</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> (No) / 1 <sup>st</sup> (%)	
<b>2019/2020</b>				
WY No	11	81	92	646
WY %	1.70%	12.53%	14.24%	
Nat No	788	1347	2135	48,414
Nat %	1.62%	2.78%	4.40%	
Rank	25 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> (No) / 3 <sup>rd</sup> (%)	
<b>2020/2021</b>				
WY No	6	36	42	808
WY %	0.75%	4.45%	5.20%	
Nat No	357	1302	1659	34,888
Nat %	1.02%	3.73%	4.75%	
Rank	19 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> (No) / 9 <sup>th</sup> (%)	
<b>2021/2022</b>				
WY No	21	55	76	1006
WY %	2.08%	5.47%	7.55%	
Nat No	610	1518	2128	48,018
Nat %	1.27%	3.16%	4.43%	
Rank	9 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> (No) / 5 <sup>th</sup> (%)	
<b>5 Year Period</b>				
WY %	5.65%	8.04%	13.69%	
Nat %	1.33%	3.10%	4.43%	

Entries in **GREEN** show where the figures for WYFRS are higher than the national average.

Entries in **AMBER** show where the figures for WYFRS are lower than the national average.

## Risk Based Inspection Program 2023 - 2024

- 2.6 National data shows WYFRS within the top 6 FRS's for the combined number of prohibition and enforcement notices served each year over the last 5 years. This data also shows that the % of audits, which result in a Prohibition or Enforcement Notice within West Yorkshire is consistently high and significantly higher than the national average (13.69% WYFRS v 4.43% national average)
- 2.7 The fundamental principles behind the FSO is compliance with the specific articles, failure to comply with the FSO ultimately places relevant persons at risk. The data above demonstrates that WYFRS's RBIP prioritises those premises which present a higher risk whilst also providing evidence that our actions are proportionate to bring about compliance and reduce or remove the risk .

### 3 Information

- 3.1 We want to ensure that the communities of West Yorkshire are safe in the premises they use, our Fire Protection Inspectors will continue to visit premises where we receive intelligence to suggest that compliance with the FSO is significantly poor, where necessary they will carry out an audit relevant to the premises and utilise their powers as an inspector to ensure compliance.
- 3.2 Our Senior Officers are engaged with national work to develop a consistent approach to risk based inspection through the NFCC and Home Office which is focusing on the definition of risk and a standardised RBIP methodology. We understand that guidance is expected to be published during 2023 but rather than wait for that publication we have incorporated some of the initial high risk premises within this RBIP to ensure we are working towards the type of approach that we expect to be published. Details of this are included in Section 4.
- 3.3 Fire Protection Inspectors are provided with individual targets which are based on calculations within National Guidance, this guidance however does not take account of the type of premises they are visiting and the outcome of the audit, only the available hours per inspector.
- 3.4 In order to develop a target for fire protection inspectors we would have to calculate the average time taken for an audit, this can vary significantly based upon the size, type and occupancy of the premises together with the required interventions by the inspector to ensure compliance. The number of hours a fulltime inspector is expected to commit to fire protection work is 1440 per year taking in to account, training, Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and other administrative work.
- 3.5 As a service we recognise the importance of audits within premises however they do not represent the full picture of activity within the team. During the Covid pandemic we demonstrated the importance of collaborative working with Local Authorities in ensuring that premises which were repurposed were safe to be used. We have realised the benefit of this type of partner working which will continue to be carried out by our Protection Team and may therefore have an impact on the number of audits which we will be completed annually.
- 3.6 Inclusive of the hours specified in 2.3 our inspectors will also be required to dedicate time to supporting new trainees. We are embarking on programme of introducing new staff to the team which will mean that our competent staff are required to support newer less experienced staff in order to progress.

## 4 Programme of visits

- 4.1 Our RBIP does not exist to generate enforcement action, its purpose being to target our resources effectively, thus maintaining fire protection standards through compliance and reducing the likelihood of loss of life due to fire. Due to this targeted approach, it is inevitable that enforcement action will follow as a result of this inspection plan.
- 4.2 The RBIP is underpinned by a determination of the level of risk presented by premises through non-compliance. Inspections will be determined by their priority when set against other similar premises which may present a greater or lesser risk due to poor compliance with the FSO. The focus of the FSO is life safety.
- 4.3 This inspection programme is delivered by specialist Fire Protection Inspectors whose training, skills and knowledge have been gained through extensive training in line with the principles of the Competence Framework. We are currently reassessing individual inspectors to realign them to the latest revision of the framework and the new 3<sup>rd</sup> party Contextualised Auditors Register. These Inspectors will target those premises that present the greatest risk within West Yorkshire. We will do this by utilising various mechanisms including:

Programme of pro-active inspections follows:

We understand that the national methodology currently being developed will place hospitals and care homes as high risk, we also understand that there will be significant focus on how schools form in RBIP's.

We will therefore programme pro-active inspections in the following premises:

Hospitals – We will aim to visit 10% of the hospitals.

Care Homes – We will aim to visit 10% of care homes.

HRRB's requiring remediation.

Complex fire engineered buildings will be sampled.

In addition to the we will also continue to deal with the following reactive work:

- Intelligence received that indicates poor compliance of fire safety law which is likely to put relevant persons at risk of death or serious injury in case of fire
  - Referrals from Operational Crews and partners
  - Complaints from members of the public
  - National identified risks
  - Local and national incidents
- 4.4 The perception of risk in premises can remain high even though the premises may be fully compliant with the FSO. We will maintain the concept of improving the 'regulatory compliance level' within the premises we visit.
- 4.5 All fire safety audits include the requirement for FPI's to discuss the problems related to arson and the opportunities available for reducing them, with referrals to the District Prevention Teams as and when deemed necessary.

## **Risk Based Inspection Program 2023 - 2024**

4.6 Each year, in addition to the work identified above our Fire Protection Inspectors will deal with routine visits to premises as detailed in the following sections, these visits are in addition reactive work and that identified in relation to HRRB's.

### **4.8.1 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO)**

The enforcing authority for the provisions of the Housing Act 2004 is the Local Housing Authority (LHA) and not WYFRA.

A legislative overlap means that both the LHA and WYFRA may enforce fire safety standards in a HMO. In order to clarify areas of responsibility a national protocol has been produced which WYFRS have adopted with the 5 Local Housing Authorities. Previous clarification of LACORS Guidance recommended that all issues within common areas of purpose built flats are dealt with under the FSO, however where a local housing authority is in agreement they may continue to deal with issues under the protocol.

### **4.8.2 Hospitals (Sampling Inspections)**

FPIs will, where resources and capacity allow, carry out sample inspections of Hospitals within West Yorkshire checking for progress towards compliance with the RRO and agreed action plans.

### **4.8.3 Schools (LEA) (Sampling Inspections)**

Each of the 5 Local Education Authorities (LEA's) within West Yorkshire has agreed a working protocol with WYFRA. These protocols are reviewed and updated as necessary. FPI's may carry out sample audits to check fire safety standards and compliance through both independent and joint inspections.

### **4.8.4 Fire Engineered and Complex Buildings**

The fire engineering team exists to reduce fire risk in large and complex buildings. The majority of these buildings incorporate some element of fire engineering as a risk control measure e.g. smoke control or sprinklers.

Fire engineering may rely on complex systems to reduce risk to an acceptable level. It is essential that systems are maintained and that alterations to the building do not compromise the fire safety strategy and engineered systems for the building.

The team will conduct joint visits with operational staff to increase their awareness of the hazards, fire fighting facilities, layouts and evacuation procedures within fire engineered and complex buildings enabling the creation of Tactical Information Plans.

### **4.8.5 Petroleum Inspections**

Inspections will be carried out by specialist FPI's who are duly authorised under the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 to ensure compliance with the Petroleum (Consolidation) Regulations 2014 and Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (DSEAR). Additionally as the Petroleum Enforcing Authority we also have a duty to:

- Ensure the approved arrangements are maintained at sites
- Approve and provide guidance and advice to new and refurbished sites
- Investigate all reports of non-compliance
- Review the license arrangements for individual licensed sites

At present there are approx. 300 licensed/certificated petrol filling stations in West Yorkshire.

### **4.8.6 Explosives**

## **Risk Based Inspection Program 2023 - 2024**

Inspections will be carried out by specialist FPI's who are duly authorised under the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, The Explosives Act 1875 and the Fireworks Act 2003 to ensure compliance with the licensing and registration requirements of the Explosives Regulations 2014. Firework Inspections carried out by specialist officers are in support of the memorandum of understanding between the Authority and West Yorkshire Trading Standards.

### **4.8.7 BASIS Inspections**

BASIS is an independent registration, standards, certification and training organisation (serving pesticide, horticulture, forestry and other relevant interests), working with and through industry organisations to implement relevant sections of 'The Food and Environment Protection Act 1985' and other legislative and industry Code of Practice requirements.

WYFRS and BASIS have established and agreed joint working arrangements which promote opportunities for WYFRS to obtain operational information about operational risks and to ensure fire safety resources are targeted towards higher risk to life premises.

### **4.8.8 NAMOS Inspections**

The Dangerous Substances (Notification and Marking of Sites) Regulations 1990 (referred to as the NAMOS Regulations), require the person in control of any site or premises where a total quantity of 25 tonnes or more of dangerous substances are used or stored, or are to become used or stored, to give written notification to both the Fire & Rescue Service and the Health and Safety Executive.

### **4.8.9 Unwanted Fire Signals (UwFS)**

We will continue to work with local and national businesses to reduce the number of false alarms in premises where the FSO applies. In conjunction with our UwFS policy we will visit those premises that cause concerns to our operational response crews due to persistent attendance to false alarms, if after exploring our cost recovery process there fails to be a reduction in attendances.

## **4.9 Consultation**

The primary responsibility for enforcing 'general fire precautions' in places other than domestic dwellings rests with this Authority. In some cases other enforcing authorities may have responsibilities for certain fire precautions under more specific legislation. In such cases, we have effective and agreed consultation procedures with those relevant statutory authorities, e.g.

### **4.9.1 Health & Safety**

Owing to the overlap of certain responsibilities for fire precautions the Authority will establish and maintain close links with the authorities enforcing the provisions of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

### **4.9.2 Building Regulations**

Through effective consultation with 'building control bodies' the Authority will ensure that buildings are adequately protected from the effects of fire as required by the Building Regulations. In order to facilitate the consultation process the 'building control body' will take the co-coordinating role with this Authority and as per procedural guidance we will provide responses to consultation requests

### **4.9.3 Licensing**

## Risk Based Inspection Program 2023 - 2024

West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority (the Authority) is a “Responsible Authority” as defined within the Licensing Act 2003 (the Act). The responsibility for licensing functions under the act is the local authority (LA). Responsible authorities must be notified of applications for the grant, variation, or review of a premises license or club premises certificate. The Authority will examine license applications and the applicant will be advised of their responsibilities under the RRO.

### 4.9.4 Sports Grounds

The Fire Safety order has passed all enforcement duties, in certificated sports grounds and regulated stands over to local authorities.

To support our operational colleagues and ensure that timely and appropriate advice is given during these multi-agency meetings, we provide nominated fire protection inspectors to represent WYFRA.

### 4.9.5 Statutory Notifications

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 - Fire Fighters’ Switches for Luminous Tube Signs etc.

In the case of new installations, the ‘responsible person’ is required, not less than 42 days before commencement of the work, to give notice to West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority (the Authority) showing the location, colouring and marking of the cut-off switch for such installations.

## 4.10 Definition of High Risk and confirmation of RBIP

In order to satisfy the requirements of this RBIP we have developed a definition of ‘high risk’ in terms of Fire Protection in the built environment. This definition which is set out below is the fundamental methodology of this RBIP and the principles within are based on this definition.

Definition of High Risk in relation to Fire Protection:

***Any premises regardless of type, occupancy, or size where there is a serious failure of the general fire precautions which would place one or more relevant persons at risk of death or serious injury should a fire occur.***

4.11 Given the above definition this RBIP identifies the following premises to be audited by Fire Protection Inspectors during 2021/2022:

- All premises where this authority receives information to suggest that compliance with the FSO places a serious risk to relevant persons and is given a priority of Dangerous Conditions, Priority 1 or Priority 2 as detailed in appendix A.
- All High Rise Residential Buildings - Given the evidence available regarding the significant risk in these premises.
- Routine visits as set out in section 4.8
- Visits required as a result of consultations as set out in section 4.9

## Appendix A

### Prioritisation of Fire Protection reactive Work

- 1.1 Every complaint, referral or report of dangerous conditions is reviewed by the Enforcement Manager or equivalent and prioritised in to one of 5 categories:
- Dangerous Conditions
  - Priority 1
  - Priority 2
  - Priority 3

- 1.2 The criteria used for determining the priority of each work item is set out below under each additional heading however, the information will be assessed based upon the following criteria which is not in any specific order:

- Time of day
- Use of premises
- Number of people likely to be using the premises
- Familiarity of occupants
- Vulnerability of occupants
- Sleeping / non-sleeping
- Nature of deficiencies
- Historical data / action
- Primary Authority Scheme involvement
- Any additional hazards/information

#### 1.3 **Dangerous Conditions**

Work tasks set as Dangerous Conditions will meet the following criteria:

- Report of inadequate fire precautions which place one or more relevant persons at immediate risk of death or serious injury should a fire occur.

The Enforcement Manager or equivalent will review such reports and determine if dangerous conditions are likely to exist utilising the factors set out in section 1.2 against the information received.

Reports of dangerous conditions will be responded to as soon as possible by being allocated to an available inspector for immediate action.

An initial visit will be made as soon as possible to determine if Prohibition or Restriction is necessary or if the risk can be reduced by the introduction of temporary interim measures.

#### 1.4 **Priority 1**

Work tasks set as Priority 1 will meet the following criteria:

- Dangerous conditions as detailed above in 1.3 are not present
- The report includes serious inadequate fire precautions in premises with sleeping accommodation or vulnerable occupants which incorporate:

- 1) Inadequate means of giving warning in case of fire and/or

## Risk Based Inspection Program 2023 - 2024

### 2) Inadequate means of escape

The Enforcement Manager or equivalent will review such reports and determine the priority of the work item utilising the factors set out in section 1.2 against the information received.

Work tasks set as Priority 1 will be allocated to an appropriate inspector who based upon availability and the need to prioritise more urgent work items will carry out a response as soon as possible within 5 working days.

The task may extend beyond 5 working days dependent upon the level of involvement required and may have to be extended where other priority work takes precedence.

## 1.5 Priority 2

Work tasks set as Priority 2 will meet the following criteria:

- Dangerous conditions as detailed above in 1.3 are not present
- Serious inadequate fire precautions as detailed in 1.4 are not present.
- The report includes inadequate fire precautions which may incorporate:
  - 1) Inadequate means of giving warning in case of fire and/or
  - 2) Inadequate means of escape

The Enforcement Manager or equivalent will review such reports and determine the priority of the work item utilising the factors set out in section 2.6 against the information received.

Work tasks set as Priority 2 will be allocated to an appropriate inspector who based upon availability and the need to prioritise more urgent work items will carry out a response as soon as possible within 15 working days.

The task may extend beyond 15 working days dependent upon the level of involvement required and may have to be extended where other priority work takes precedence and resources will not allow the initial action date to be met.

## 1.6 Priority 3

Work tasks set as Priority 3 will meet the following criteria:

- Dangerous conditions as detailed above in 1.3 are not present.
- Serious inadequate fire precautions as detailed in 1.4 are not present.
- Inadequate fire precautions as detailed in 1.5 are not present.
- Inadequate fire precautions which relate to matters other than inadequate means of giving warning in case of fire and inadequate means of escape are present.

The Enforcement Manager or equivalent will review such reports and determine the priority of the task utilising the factors set out in section 1.2 against the information received.

Work tasks set as Priority 3 will be allocated to one of the following:

- Business Fire Safety Advisor
- Trainee Fire Protection Inspector

## **Risk Based Inspection Program 2023 - 2024**

Alternatively in the short-term, Priority 3 tasks may be allocated to a Fire Protection Inspector who will deal with the task via a desk top audit.

The task should be completed within 3 months however this may be extended dependent upon the level of involvement required and where other priority work takes precedence.

### **1.8 Requests for Advice**

We will aim to respond to a request for advice and will look to incorporate responding to these requests with those individuals new in role and undertaking training.

Requests for advice will normally be dealt with via telephone or by email. WYFRS will not carry out fire safety visits upon request.

If the Officer dealing with the request feels a site visit may be necessary due to concerns raised during the process of giving advice then a new priority would be issued and a visit may be undertaken.