

OFFICIAL

Agenda item: 06

# Performance Against Response Indicators

## Community Safety Committee

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<b>Date:</b>	11 April 2025
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Director of Service Delivery
<b>Purpose:</b>	To inform Members of Community Safety Committee of the performance against the 2024 / 25 performance outcome targets. The report specifically looks at performance covering 01 April 2024 – 17 March 2025
<b>Recommendations:</b>	That Members note the content of the report
<b>Summary:</b>	The service has delivered strongly against the majority of key performance indicators. The service is supporting the Police Investigation following a spate of deliberate fire related fatalities

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Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

<b>Exemption Category:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Scott Donegan, Area Manager Operations Response Scott.Donegan01@westyorksfire.gov.uk
<b>Background papers open to inspection:</b>	None
<b>Annexes:</b>	None

## 1. Introduction

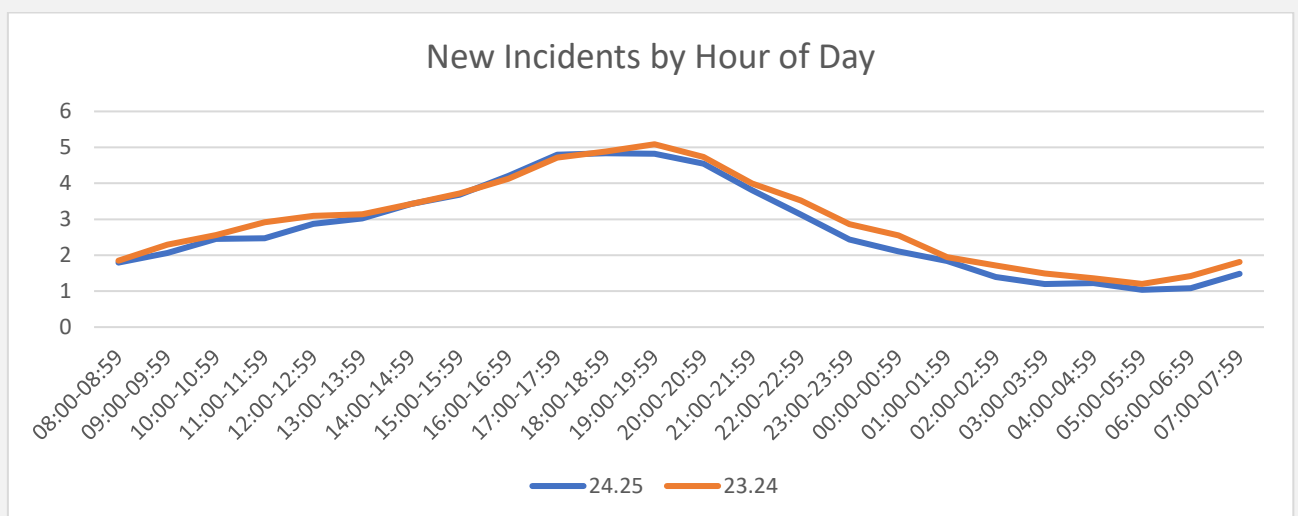
- 1.1 This performance report covers the period from 01 April 2024 to 17 March 2025.
- 1.2 A suite of nine Authority approved metrics provide a view of operational activity in the current financial year. These metrics are measured against a three-year average to demonstrate how the service is performing in comparison to previous years.
- 1.3 The nine performance indicators are:
- All incidents
  - Incident Demand
  - Victims Rescued
  - Injuries and Fatalities
  - False Alarms
  - Fire Related injuries and Fatalities
  - Non – Fires
  - Fires
  - Road Traffic Collisions

## 2. Information

### 2.1 All Incidents

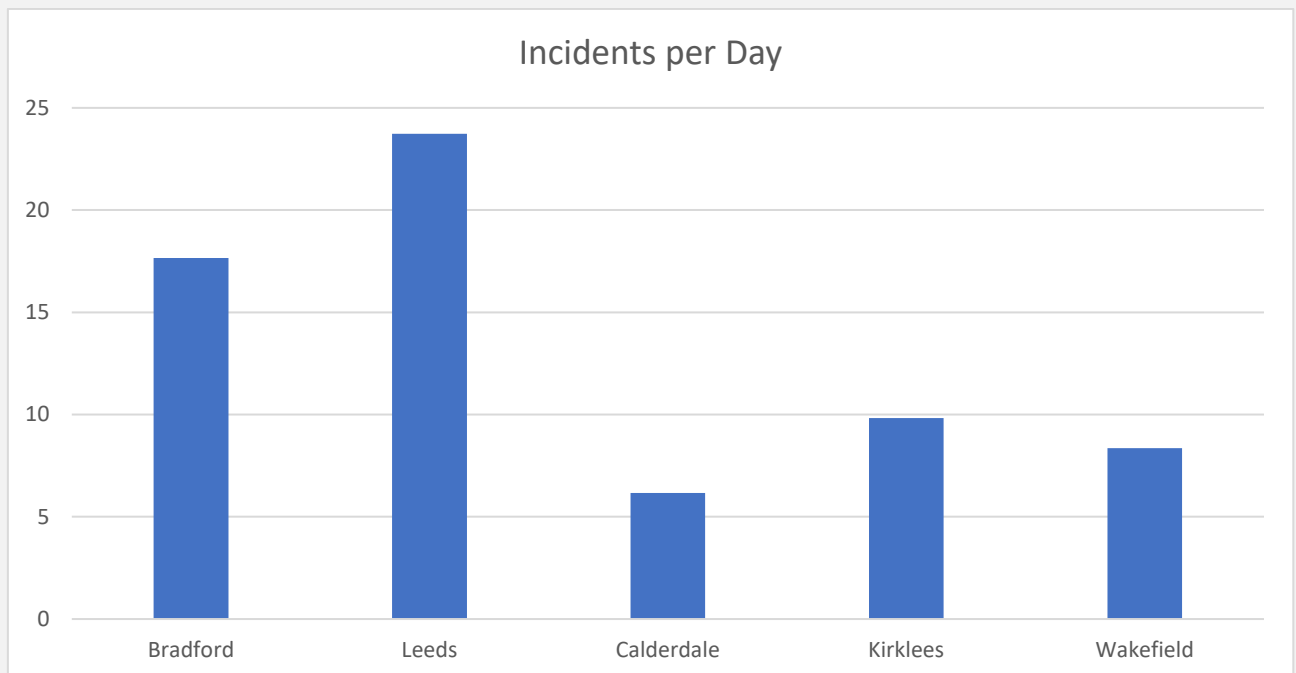
In this reporting period, the service has responded to 23089 incidents. This is 1541 fewer than the same reporting period for 2023 / 24 and 1700 fewer than the three-year average.

### 2.2 The peak period for operational mobilisations is between 18:00 and 20:00.



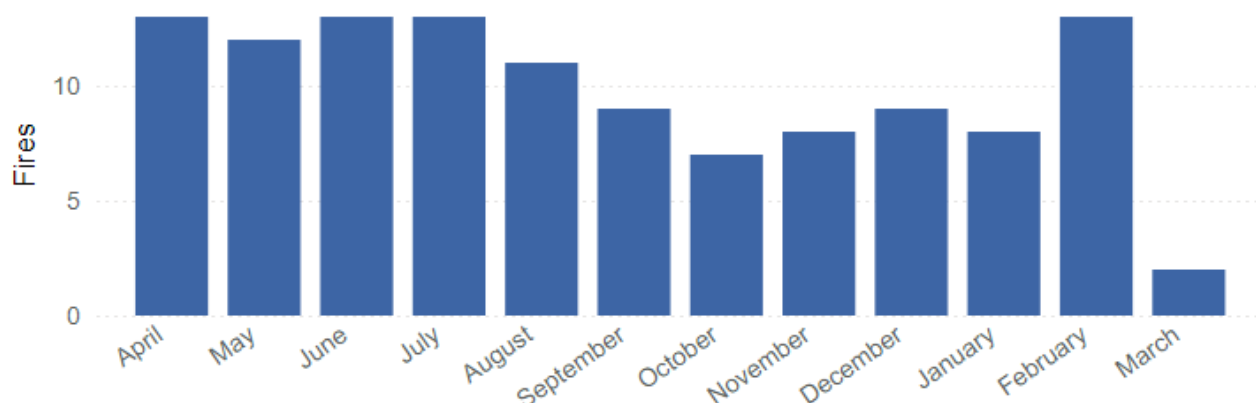
### 2.3 Through this reporting period the service has attended an average of 66 incidents per day compared to 70 incidents for the same reporting period in 2023.24.

- 2.4 Leeds sees the highest levels of operational demand and Calderdale the lowest. This is consistent with our understanding of risk and the related resourcing.



- 2.5 Performance against the Authority approved risk-based planning assumptions currently sits at 92.72%. This is 1.80% lower than the same period last year, however, continues to demonstrate exceptional confidence against the agreed standard.
- 2.6 The replacement mobilising system which is due to go live in the first quarter of 2025 / 26 will improve this standard through the application of a Dynamic Cover Tool and pre-alerting functionality.
- 2.7 Fires
- The service has responded to 8482 fires in this reporting period, this is 32 more than the same period last year and 725 fewer than the three-year average. 37% of all incidents attended are fires.
- 2.8 Of the 8482 fires, 4997 are thought to have been set deliberately and 3485 are considered accidental. 2775 are considered primary fires and 5671 are secondary fires.
- 2.9 There have been 119 deliberately set fires in secure accommodation. This is a nationally recognised concern and work continues with the prison service and improvements are being seen.

By Month



2.10 There have been 11 fewer dwelling fires (918) compared to the same period last year and 6 fewer than the three-year average. We continue to target our Safe and Well visits to those most at risk of fire. We have seen the number of visits numbers increase by 3% (775) compared to the same period last year and by up by 9.7% against the three-year average

## 2.11 Non-Fires

Non-fires include incident types such as effecting entry for partners, RTC's, lift rescues and other technical rescues. Non-fires make up 20% of operational demand. The breakdown of the 20 most common non-fire incidents can be seen below:

Initial Incident Type	Non-fires
ASSIST AMBULANCE - GAINING ENTRY	1496
PERSONS LOCKED IN	576
PERSONS STUCK	416
RTC SMALL VEHICLE(S) INV.	358
ASSIST POLICE	223
PERSONS IN LIFT	222
PERSONS REMOVAL OF OBJECTS	144
OTHER ASSISTANCE	133
VEHICLE SMALL ON FIRE	125
RESCUE FROM WATER (OR ICE)	93
RESCUE OF LARGE ANIMALS	83
RESCUE OF SMALL ANIMALS	82
ASSIST AMBULANCE	80
FLOODING INTERNAL	61
DANGEROUS STRUCTURE	58
RTC LARGE VEHICLE(S) INV.	41
SMELL / FUMES	37
FUEL SPILLAGE	32
BARIATRIC PERSON	29
PERSONS LOCKED OUT	28

2.12 The service has attended 4574 non-fire incidents. This is 105 more than the three-year average and 40 fewer than the same period last year.

2.13 1498 incidents result from the 'Effecting Entry' support we provide to the Yorkshire Ambulance service. This is an increase of 4 when compared to the same period last year.

#### 2.14 False Alarms

In this reporting period the service has attended 10019 false alarms. This is 1093 fewer than the three-year average and 1547 fewer than last year. False alarms are responsible for 43% of all operational demand for this reporting period.

False Alarm Reason	Number
Faulty	2300
Cooking/burnt toast	1746
Controlled burning	1151
Other	636
Accidentally/carelessly set off	594

Figure 4. Top 5 False Alarm Causes

2.15 In March 2024 the service rationalised the mobilisation to commercial false alarms. Since 1st April 2024 we have responded to 1775 fewer non-domestic false alarms than the same period last year. This has provided additional time for prevention, protection and training activities.

2.16 Fire Related Injuries and Fatalities – In this period there 164 fire related injuries, including 18 fire related fatalities. This is 16 more than the three-year average and 3 less than the same period last year.

Cause	Number
Accidental Dwelling Fire*	7
Road Traffic Collision	3
Deliberate Act **	8

Figure 5. Fire Fatalities 2024 / 25

\*Smoke detection was present in each of the seven properties.

\*\*three believed to be self-harm, five linked to criminal acts.

2.17 Multi-agency Serious Incident Reviews (SIRs) are undertaken for each fire related fatality. This is because a large proportion of the individuals involved have complex needs and are being supported by partners. Opportunities for learning and improvement are explored and shared across the wider Yorkshire and Humber Region.

2.18 Fire related injuries are recorded against 0.6% of incidents attended. Over 88% of these injuries are considered 'slight' or precautionary. We continue to target our safety advice at those most vulnerable from fire. This is achieved through referrals, direct approach, on request and post fire prevention activities.

2.19 Local campaigns are undertaken following the more serious fires and wider safety campaigns linked to the National Fire Chiefs Council Calendar are delivered county wide.

## 2.20 Injuries and Fatalities

In this reporting period there have been 316 non-fire related fatalities resulting from 300 incidents. This is a reduction of 65 compared to last year and 89 more than the three-year average. 232 of these resulted from supporting the Yorkshire Ambulance Service in effecting entry and providing support to other partners.

2.21 Other significant incident types include suicide (12), and water related incidents (12), RTCs (15).

2.22 During this reporting period there have been 1599 injuries resulting from 1352 incidents attended by the service. 644 injuries were considered slight, 300 were considered serious, a precautionary check was recommended for 179, first aid at scene was provided to 160 and 316 were of unknown severity.

## 2.23 Road Traffic Collisions

There have been 563 RTCs in this reporting period, 16 fewer than the three-year average and 64 fewer than the same period last year. RTCs are responsible for 2% of the service's overall operational demand. Of these the primary activities undertaken by firefighters include, full extrication techniques (131), ensuring scene safety (244) and precautionary stand-by (58).

# 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. People and Diversity Implications

5.1 It has been identified through national datasets that higher levels of deprivation are a key factor in the occurrence of fire and other emergencies. By targeting risk reduction activities to those most vulnerable we are likely to support and reduce risk in the most diverse communities across the county.

# 6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? No

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

- 7.1 The health, safety and wellbeing 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.
- 7.2 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 Changes to AFA policy has significantly reduced the number of journeys made during emergency response which reduces vehicle emissions.

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

- 9.1 This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-25 strategic priorities below:

- Improve the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters.
- Promote the health, safety, and wellbeing of all our people.
- Encourage a learning environment in which we support, develop, and enable all our people to be at their best.
- Focus our prevention and protection activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.
- Provide ethical governance and value for money.
- Collaborate with partners to improve all of our services.
- Work in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way.
- Achieve a more inclusive workforce, which reflects the diverse communities we serve.
- Continuously improve using digital and data platforms to innovate and work smarter.
- Plan and deploy our resources based on risk.

## **10. Conclusions**

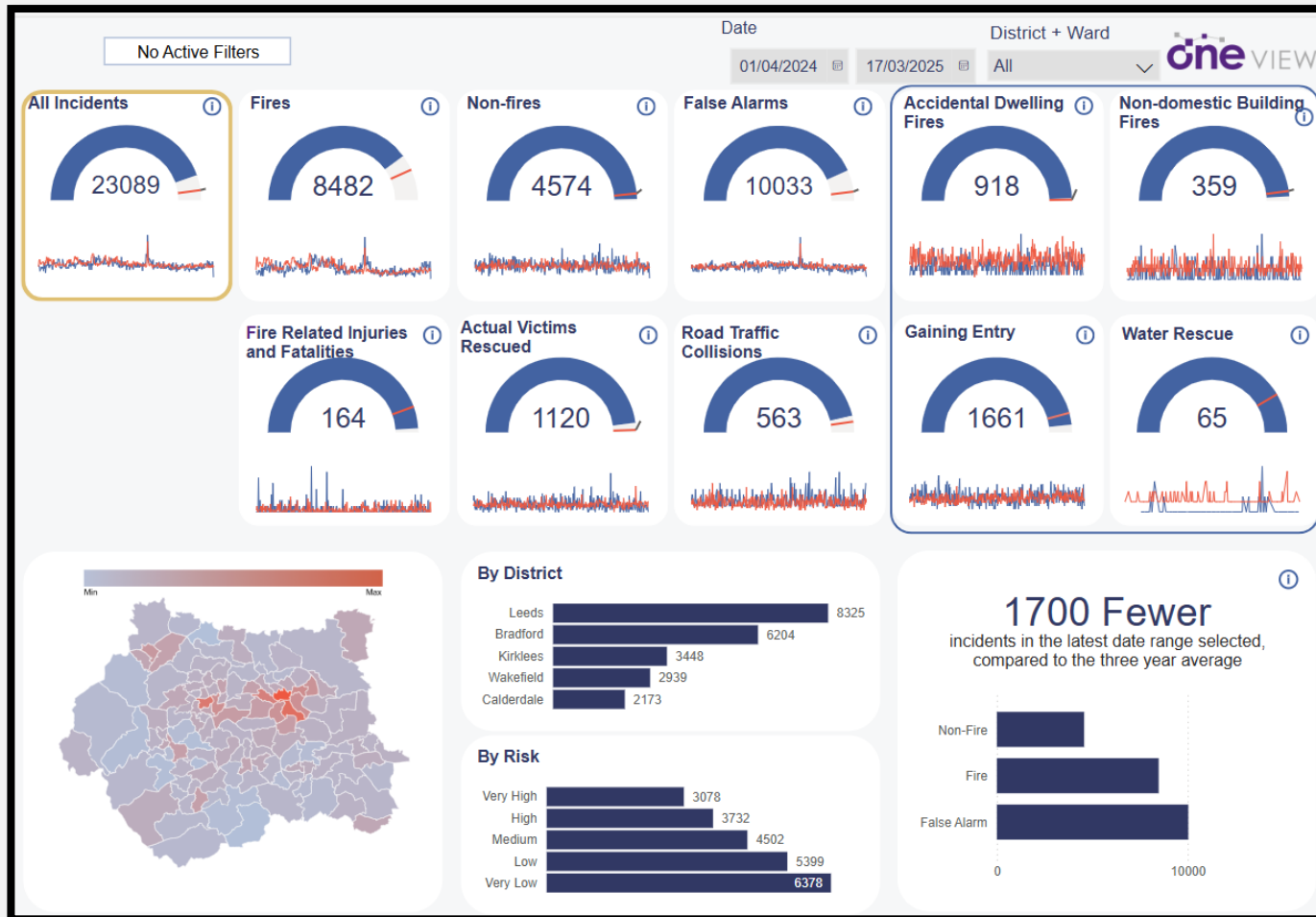
- 10.1 As we approach the end of 2024/25 we have seen significant reduction in overall demand for our emergency services. This has provided additional time to undertake training, exercising and service delivery activities.
- 10.2 The number of incidents we have attended is lowest we have seen in over 4 years, we have attended fewer RTCs, fewer dwelling fires and fewer fires in general which demonstrates the strength of our risk reduction activities.
- 10.3 Attendance at non-fires continues to be an outlier, with operation demand growing year on year. Over a third of these incident types are in attended to support our Local

Resilience Forum (LRF) partners and enable us to build relationships with vulnerable people.

- 10.4 We have seen a spike in fire related fatalities, the majority of which is linked to criminal acts and mental health. Safety in the home will continue to be a focus for the service going forwards.



## Appendix One – Performance Indicator Overview





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Agenda item: 07

# Safeguarding - Prevention Activity Update

## Community Safety Committee

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**Date:** 11 April 2025

**Submitted by:** Director of Service Delivery

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**Purpose:** To inform Community Safety Committee of the safeguarding activity undertaken in 2024 under WYFRS' Safeguarding Procedure (external).

**Recommendations:** That members to note the information in this report and continue to promote the Authority's commitment to safeguarding vulnerable people in West Yorkshire.

**Summary:** There were 225 cases Cause for Concern forms submitted in the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

162 of these concerns were identified as requiring action under the WYFRS safeguarding procedure.

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Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

**Exemption Category:** None

**Contact Officer:** Area Manager, Scott Donegan  
Scott.Donegan01@westyorksfire.gov.uk

**Background papers** WYFRS Safeguarding Policy [PRE-POL-002](#)  
WYFRS Safeguarding Procedure [PRE-PRO-002](#)

## 1. Introduction

- 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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. Information

- 2.1 For the year 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024, 225 concerns were raised by WYFRS personnel. 162 (72%) of these concerns were subsequently assessed as having a safeguarding issue and 63 (28%) were assessed as vulnerable individuals in need of further support from other agencies.
- 2.2 The total number of concerns raised during the year represents a 7% increase on the previous calendar year, with a 24% increase in those concerns which were subsequently assessed as having a safeguarding issue.
- 2.3 Table 1: Decisions made by designated safeguarding managers by district

District	No. of Cause for Concerns raised	District %	WYFRS %
<b>Bradford</b>	<b>52</b>		<b>23%</b>
Safeguarding	39	75%	17%
Other	13	25%	6%
<b>Calderdale</b>	<b>50</b>		<b>22%</b>
Safeguarding	38	76%	17%
Other	12	24%	5%
<b>Kirklees</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>7%</b>
Safeguarding	9	56%	4%
Other	7	44%	3%
<b>Leeds</b>	<b>90</b>		<b>40%</b>
Safeguarding	61	68%	27%
Other	29	32%	13%
<b>Wakefield</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>8%</b>
Safeguarding	15	88%	7%
Other	2	12%	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>225</b>		

### **3. Financial Implications**

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

### **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. People and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1 There are no people or diversity implications relating to this process

### **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 Implementation of the Safeguarding Procedure and the related training of employees supports the safeguarding of children & vulnerable adults. Equality and diversity issues relating to children and vulnerable adults are referred to the appropriate safeguarding unit at the time of referral.

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

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

### **8. Environmental Implications**

- 8.1 There are no environmental impacts relating to this process.

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

- 9.1 This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-25 strategic priorities below:
- Focus our prevention and protection activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.
  - Plan and deploy our resources based on risk.

### **10. Conclusions**

- 10.1 This report demonstrates our commitment to making West Yorkshire Safer and our commitment to a person centre approach wider safety in the home.
- 10.2 Training is provided to all station based staff and prevention officer to enable them to identify people in need of support and how to help them access services available to them.



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Agenda item: 08

## Risk Based Inspection Programme

### Community Safety Committee

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**Date:** 11 April 2025

**Submitted by:** Director of Service Delivery

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**Purpose:** To provide information to members with regards to the Fire Protection Risk Based Intervention Programme.

**Recommendations:** That members note the contents of the report.

**Summary:** This report provides an update to members on the work the Fire Protection team are currently undertaking to develop a new Risk Based Interventions Programme, the new name for the RBIP.

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Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

**Exemption Category:** None

**Contact Officer:** Chris Kemp – Senior Fire Protection Manager

[christopher.kemp@westyorksfire.gov.uk](mailto:christopher.kemp@westyorksfire.gov.uk)

**Background papers open to inspection:** None

**Annexes:** None

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Risk Based Intervention Programme (RBIP) which is the new name for the previous Risk Based Inspection Programme, details how West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service will meet the requirements of the current National Framework. The RBIP provides details of the annual programme of Fire Protection visits, based upon the risk profile of buildings, intelligence and limited national guidance.
- 1.2 Historically our RBIP has been based on local factors, however, recent publication of new guidance by the National Fire Chief's Council '*Guidance on risk in the built environment, highest risk occupancies and prioritising fire safety interventions*', means that we now need to incorporate the principles of this new guidance document within our RBIP.
- 1.3 The RBIP is generally submitted to the Community Safety Committee around April for approval and publication.

## 2. Information

- 2.1 In 2018 the National Fire Chief's Council began a piece of work to develop guidance for FRS on what a RBIP should look like. The reason for this piece of work was due to limited guidance being available, and that which was, did not provide useable support to FRS's on the principles or methodology of a RBIP.
- 2.2 This work led to the development of preliminary guidance in 2021, however since then the guidance has continually changed in the lead up to it being formally published. In February 2025, that guidance was formally published as confirmed guidance.
- 2.3 Rather than continue to publish our draft RBIP, we have taken the decision to review the newly published guidance prior to submitting our RBIP for approval. This will ensure that we can incorporate the most recent guidance and more specifically the methodology which considers the timescales for re-inspection of premises of differing categories.
- 2.4 The review of this new guidance within the RBIP means that we have had to defer submitting the RBIP to members until the Community Safety Committee on 11 July 2025.

## 3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with 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 currently no HR or diversity implications associated with this report.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 The work schemes that will be developed and linked to this paper will be individually assessed through an Equality Impact Assessment which will be conducted by West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

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

- 7.1 The development of our RBIP for buildings within West Yorkshire will have a positive impact on communities we serve by supporting compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

## **8. Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities**

- 8.1 This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-25 strategic priorities below:
- Focus our prevention and protection activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.
  - Collaborate with partners to improve all of our services.
  - Plan and deploy our resources based on risk.

## **9. Conclusions**

- 9.1 It is essential that prior to publishing our updated RBIP, we take the opportunity to review newly published guidance issued by the National Fire Chief's Council and incorporate the principles of that guidance within our plan.



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Agenda item: 09

## Arson Convictions 2024/25

### Community Safety Committee

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**Date:** 11 April 2025

**Submitted by:** Director of Service Delivery

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**Purpose:** This report gives details of the arson convictions for the period 01 April 2024 – 07 March 2025, where the Fire Investigation Team from West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) provided expert witness statements to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

**Recommendations:** That members note the content of this report.

**Summary:** The Arson Convictions where expert witness evidence from West Yorkshire Fire Investigation Officer has been used for prosecution are included within this report.

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Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

**Exemption Category:** None

**Contact Officer:** Scott Donegan, Area Manager Operations Response  
Scott.Donegan01@westyorkshire.gov.uk

**Background papers open to inspection:** None

**Annexes:** None

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 For the period 01 April 2024 to 07 March 2023, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) Fire Investigation Unit Officers (FIOs) investigated the origin, cause, and development of fire in 232 incidents.
- 1.2 19 of those incidents resulted in the deaths of 21 adults and 5 children.
- 1.3 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. West Yorkshire Police Witness Care routinely update Fire Investigation Officers on the progress of those cases whereby the Fire Investigation Officer has been required to attend court and give evidence.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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

- 2.1 108 of the 232 fires were determined to have been started deliberately. Of those 108 incidents, the Fire Investigation Unit supplied West Yorkshire Police with 61 expert witness statements. For this reporting period:
  - 11 cases have been, or are being, progressed through the judicial system.
  - 5 cases have found 5 defendants guilty.
  - 2 cases have resulted in sentences totalling 31 years.
  - 1 case resulted in a supervision order.
  - 1 defendant was found not guilty.
  - 2 cases involved youth offenders.
  - 4 cases are awaiting sentencing details.
  - 1 case is awaiting a trial date.
  - 1 case is set for trial in November 2025.
  - 2 cases did not proceed to trial as the only suspects were deceased.
  - 1 case is awaiting a decision on the capacity of the accused's ability to plead

Incident	Incident Date	Type	Charge	Sentence
2247030824	05/11/2022	Flat	Arson	Two-year supervision order
2247028992	15/10/2022	Large Building	Arson	One defendant found not guilty at trial. One defendant pleaded guilty before trial and was committed to a young offender institution for 7 months
2347031926	21/12/2023	House	Arson with intent to endanger life. Assault occasioning actual bodily harm. Having an article with a blade or point.	6 years in total - 4 years for arson, 2 years for assault and actual bodily harm.
2447003460	14/02/2024	Flat	Murder. Arson with intent to endanger life.	17 and a half years for manslaughter, plus 8 years for arson reckless
2447025466	09/10/2024	Bus	Arson being reckless	18 month Youth Rehabilitation Order plus 6 month fire awareness and prevention programme
2347012151	29/05/2023	Flat	Arson	Guilty plea entered. Awaiting sentencing details
2247004801	03/03/2022	Grade II* Mill	Arson	Guilty. Awaiting sentencing
2447021688	24/09/2024	High Rise	Arson being reckless	Guilty plea entered. Awaiting sentencing
2447018064	30/07/2024	HMO	Arson	Guilty. Awaiting sentencing
2447020222	21/08/2024	House	Four counts of murder and one of attempted murder	Trial set for November 2025
2147014690	17/06/2021	Shed	Arson	Awaiting trial date
2447008162	16/04/2024	House	Murder	Awaiting CPS decision on capacity of accused to plead
2447008952	25/04/2024	House	Murder	No trial, only suspect deceased
2447018077	31/07/2024	House	Murder	No trial, only suspect deceased

### **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. People and Diversity Implications**

5.1 There are no people and diversity implications arising from this report

### **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? No

### **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 Community Risk Management Plan 2022-25 strategic priorities below:

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

### **10. Conclusions**

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.

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Agenda item: 10

## Spotlight On Reports

### Community Safety Committee

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**Date:** 11 April 2025

**Submitted by:** Director of Service Delivery

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**Purpose:** 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.

**Recommendations:** That Members of the Community Safety Committee note the contents of this report.

**Summary:** The 'Spotlight On' case studies highlight just some of the excellent work that is being delivered across the communities of West Yorkshire

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Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

**Exemption Category:** None

**Contact Officer:** Scott Donegan, Area Manager Service Delivery  
Scott.Donegan01@westyorksfire.gov.uk

**Background papers open to inspection:** None

**Annexes:** Spotlight-On Reports

## **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 gender, 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. People and Diversity Implications**

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

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance?      No

## **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 activities have been fully risk assessed and where necessary control measures implemented.

## **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**

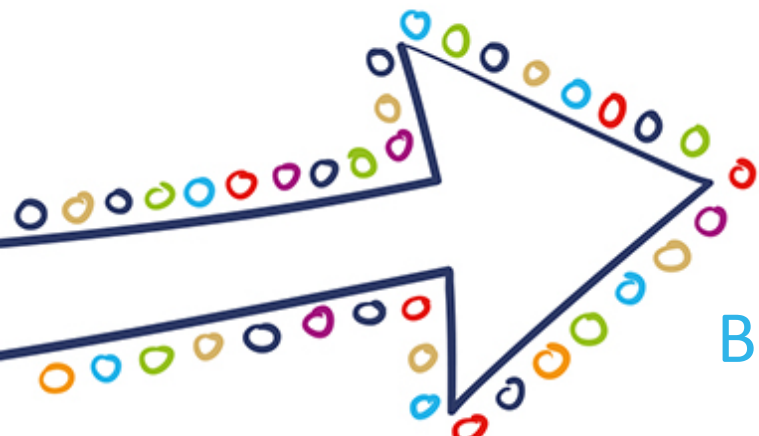
- 9.1 This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-25 strategic priorities below:

- Improve the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters.
- Promote the health, safety, and wellbeing of all our people.
- Focus our prevention and protection activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.
- Collaborate with partners to improve all of our services.
- Work in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way.
- Plan and deploy our resources based on risk.

## **10. Conclusions**

- 10.1 The documents presented to Community Safety Committee demonstrates how West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service have found innovative ways to make a positive contribution to reduce risk for the communities of West Yorkshire.





# Spotlight on...

'56 for 56'

## Bradford City Fire – 40th anniversary



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

The 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bradford City fire disaster. The match was between Bradford City and Lincoln City and claimed the lives of 56 people, leaving hundreds more injured. This was a hugely significant incident for WYFRS, the city of Bradford and indeed everyone who was impacted by the tragedy.



Strengthening WYFRS' partnership with Bradford City Football club, Bradford Fire

Station, has committed to commemorate the anniversary, through several fund-raising events and use these as a platform to re affirm important fire safety messages to the community. The incident lives long in the memories of football fans, the local community and the responding services who attended that day.



### What did we do?

Earlier this year Bradford crews launched their campaign in collaboration with Bradford City

football club and former player Dean Windass, which involves a series of planned events culminating in a significant 75-mile walk between the two clubs (Bradford City and Lincoln City). The launch event served as an ideal platform to reaffirm each partner's commitment to community safety and raise awareness about fire safety issues across the district, while also remembering the lasting impacts of such tragic events.

A schedule of events has been agreed upon, including:

- Station open day
- Bradford City Legends vs. Bradford Fire Station football match
- Black tie dinner
- 75-mile community walk from Lincoln to Bradford.

Each event provides an opportunity to engage with the community and deliver current key fire safety messages. Bradford City has also supported the crews who will finish their 75-mile walk at the University of Bradford Stadium

for the match between Bradford City and Crewe Alexandra.



Additionally, Bradford crews spent a day with the Plastic Surgery and Burns Unit (PSBRU) at Bradford Royal Infirmary, which was founded by Professor David Sharpe following the fire at Valley Parade.



Bradford fire crews are well underway in their preparations for the walk, with group training sessions helping to promote interest in the events and making the crews visible in the community.

### ➡ What difference did we make?

Bradford city and local community groups have been quick to complement crews for their commitment to create a positive impact on the back of such a tragic event, whilst also supporting the important work of the PSBRU by committing to raise £56,000 in memory of the 56 people who tragically lost their lives. The strengthening of partnerships through sensitive periods is important and continues to build trust within the community.

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

The key to success for WYFRS is ensuring that crucial fire safety messages reach our communities, especially the most vulnerable. The WYFRS corporate communications team supports this campaign and has already observed increased media engagement. This is achieved through sharing information via social media accounts, including those of Bradford City Football Club and its current and past players. Combined with our own media following, this approach helps ensure that important fire safety messages are effectively communicated to our communities, enhancing community fire safety.

### ➡ What are we doing next?

Bradford crews will continue to strengthen their partnership with Bradford City Football Club, seeking opportunities to reach large audiences with key safety messages. Additionally, they are preparing for the challenging task of walking 75 miles within 27 hours.

If you would like to donate; please use one of the following methods.

[Justgiving.com/page/56for56](https://www.justgiving.com/page/56for56)

QR code:



### ➡ Contact



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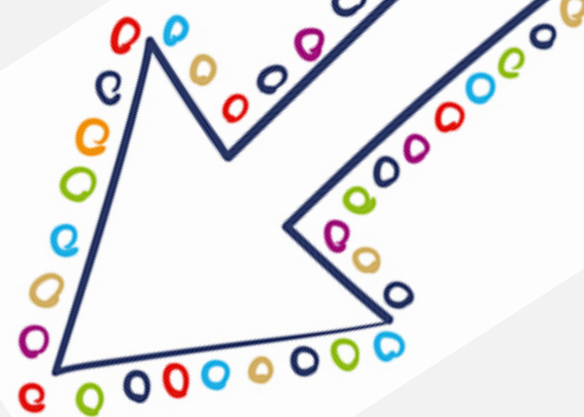


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# Spotlight on...



## Calderdale District Multi-agency 'Safe & Well' engagement

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

West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service (WYFRS) ambition is 'Making West Yorkshire Safer' and one of the ways we do this is by using a person-centred approach to our 'Safe and Well' programme to support vulnerable members of our community.

WYFRS operational firefighters from Mytholmroyd Fire Station and Todmorden Fire Station identified a concern for a resident in a domestic premise following a series of incidents they had attended.

The property had high fire loading due to visible hoarding, and the occupant, an 83-year-old male, required additional support to maintain his safety within the home.

On 29 January 2025, two incidents occurred within hours, both involving sparks from electrical sockets.

The second incident highlighted the occupant's vulnerability after he turned the electrical supply back on despite being advised previously by WYFRS to keep it off until it had been inspected by a qualified electrician.

Following the second incident on the same day, attending crews took a proactive approach by identifying safety risks to safeguard the occupant.

They raised their concerns with Fire Prevention colleagues, who subsequently highlighted another occasion when WYFRS had attended an incident which involved the occupant whilst living at a different address.

### ➡ What did we do?

After ensuring the occupant's safety and minimising the risks to the wider community, the crew from Mytholmroyd

and Todmorden initiated Safeguarding procedures to further support the vulnerable occupant.

This procedure, triggered a multidisciplinary team (MDT) meeting, resulting in key actions being undertaken:

- Northern Power Grid isolated the electrical supply to the property to reduce the risk to the occupier. Alternative accommodation was offered to the occupant.
- Calderdale Council Environmental Health team. Arranging for a qualified electrician to inspect the property, condemned aspects of the old electric. Leading to a new consumer unit being fitted.
- Calderdale Fire Prevention staff supported the occupant with a further home visit, to help manage and reduce risk in the premise.
- Engagement with Social Services to provide long term support, via the allocation of a Social Worker.



### ➡ What difference did we make?

Due to WYFRS' involvement in a multi-agency approach, the occupant is now in a much less vulnerable position. Hoarding issues have improved dramatically, the electrics in the property are now safe, and the house is warm and being heated by safe means.

Follow-up visits by social workers and WYFRS' Prevention team have reiterated our Safe and Well advice. Whilst the occupant still displays some risk factors, WYFRS' person-centred approach has reduced these risks significantly.

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

The keys to our success are a person-centred approach, professionalism and teamwork from WYFRS' operational and Prevention staff, combined with collaboration and communication with partner agencies.

### ➡ What are we doing next?

WYFRS will use Risk Reduction Logs (RRL) and a data-driven approach to capture incidents and address safety concerns.

The collaborative RRL ensures professionals can access the property's event history, enabling crews to follow up and contact relevant partners if needed.

The collaborative approach will help in promptly addressing any concerns and ensuring the safety and well-being of members of our community.

### ➡ Contact



**Name** Group Manager Andy Rose

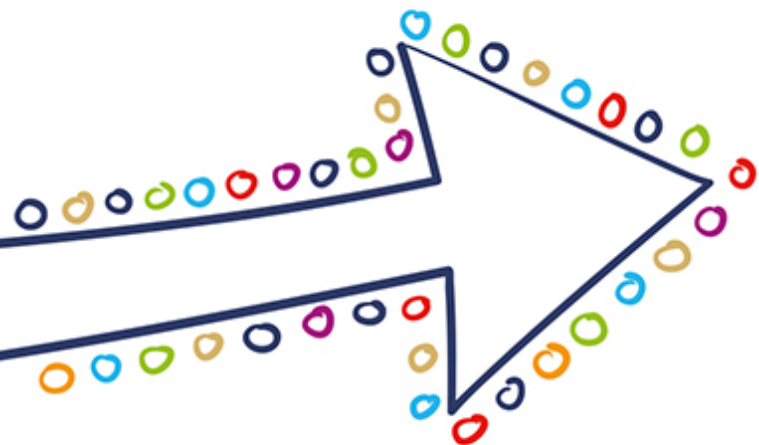


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# Spotlight on...

## Immediate First on Scene Safety Training



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

WYFRS currently has 347 green book members of staff who are regularly travelling across the service performing their duties. This presents an opportunity which will improve how we can deliver our service. All green book members of staff undertake first aid at work training at the start of their career which is classroom based. The Immediate First on Scene training has gradually become accepted as a new standard for first aid training in many industries or settings. The workplace first aid course typically offered are relevant in just those circumstances- within a workplace with easy access to the emergency services. But for those working in more fluid settings the course isn't always that appropriate.



### What did we do?

The days training was delivered to Green Book members of staff across different departments of the organisation. The course included performing initial assessments, calling for professional help, and providing basic first aid. This training equipped individuals with the knowledge and skills to assess and manage emergency situations effectively. The training ensures the safety of both the responder and the victim, and it can significantly impact the outcomes of emergency incidents. WYFRS understands what a difference confident and competent first aiders can make in real life situations. Colleagues working support roles are an integral part of WYFRS, with some individuals in WYFRS uniform or liveried vehicles, the public may expect them to undertake some form of intervention.



## ➡ What difference did we make?

“

I thought it was really positive. Well delivered and kept the whole group engaged. The session was informative and left me feeling confident if I was

put in an emergency situation ”

**Claire Wright**

**Youth Interventions Manager**

## ➡ What are the keys to our success?

The experience of WYRFS across the service allows us the flexibility to build a bespoke course for any partnership, meeting the needs of their workplace or environment. Investing in this training program internally is a vital step towards equipping individuals with the necessary skills to assess and manage emergency situations, we can ensure better outcomes and save lives. Immediate scene safety training empowers individuals by giving them the skills and confidence to act in emergency situations. This empowerment can lead to a greater sense of responsibility and willingness to help others, fostering a culture of safety and preparedness within the community.

Trained individuals are more likely to remain calm and composed during emergencies, which can positively influence the overall response.

## ➡ What are we doing next?

The training has been a fantastic success with a debrief providing an opportunity for questions and discussion about what went well and where we could improve. This has resulted in looking to expand the pilot project to other partner agencies such as Councils and possibly schools. This would be a further step towards building safer and more resilient communities.

## ➡ Contact



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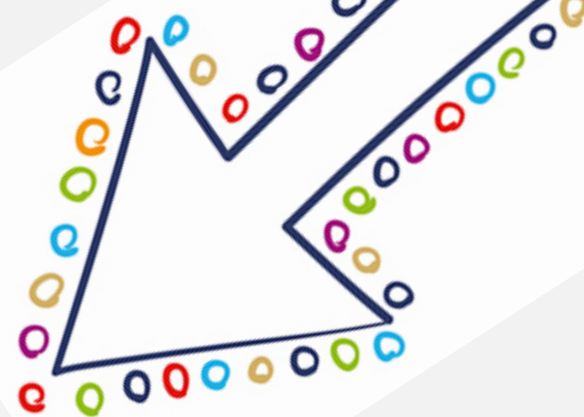


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# Spotlight on...



## Big Sister Programme – Leeds District

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

Natasha Logan, Diversity Projects Officer, and CC Georgina Ralph at Garforth, organised a White Ribbon Day event based at Killingbeck Fire Station in November 2024. Natasha having worked in various communities within Leeds was aware of Getaway Girls' (GAG) work around violence towards women and girls. As such she invited the Managing Director of GAG, Flavia as a guest speaker. Flavia spoke about the charity and how it empowers girls and young women to support each other, to build confidence, resilience, raise aspirations, develop new skills and take positive risks in a positive environment. It offers co-operation and support which is achieved through their strength-based approach, recognising young

women's strengths, abilities, talents and lived experience. Getaway Girls has been running for over 30 years, they have supported over 13,500 young women to learn new skills and build confidence, resilience, and aspiration. The support that this charity offers the community is second to none, providing 1-2-1 support, complex needs support, peer support and offering these girls and young women a safe space.



Over the past 30 years, Getaway Girls has continuously adapted to meet the evolving needs of young women in each moment. This ability to pivot offers valuable lessons for WYFRS, providing an opportunity to create a more equitable service for the women who serve.

WYFRS are working towards becoming a diversified organisation which represents the communities it serves. We are taking steps and heading in the right direction regarding a diverse cohort of staff from varying genders, ethnicities, sexual orientation and socioeconomic backgrounds. However, there is still a way to go.

Flavia explained the positive impact that they have within specific communities like Chapel Allerton, Chapeltown, Harehills, Seacroft, Gipton etc which are often difficult communities to get embedded in. It is a challenge to the service, especially when it comes to promoting the service as a profession, to girls and young women. We want to build a professional relationship with Getaway Girls so we can provide that

insight to those girls and young women who are interested.



#### ➡ What did we do?

Flavia discussed trialling a 'Big Sister' programme. Which would offer our service the opportunity to come to Getaway Girls and engage with those in attendance about the organisation, career and personal goals and aspirations. A real 'If you can see it, you can be it' opportunity. Flavia invited both George and Natasha to Getaway Girls and they shared everything they could about their individual roles, the organisation, the recruitment process for becoming an

operational firefighter, progression and opportunities. George let them all try on her fire kit and even did a bit of PT in the yard! They talked about the different career opportunities within WYFRS because we do more than put fire out.

As part of the Big Sister programme, you form a relationship with a young person to offer them mentoring in a specific area. It could be anything really, but in this case it is career advice and guidance. Once you have been linked with your 'Little sister' you have an obligation to meet with them four times a year at Getaway Girls to check in, offer them support and guidance, be a little helping hand to push them in the right direction.

#### ➡ What difference did we make?

We wanted to show the girls and young women that the fire service is made up of normal people. We wanted to represent what the fire service is about, which at its heart, is engaging with our communities. Prior to the visit, none of the girls or young women in attendance (barring one!) would have considered looking at WYFRS as a

career option, firefighter or otherwise, but after the visit they were excited about the prospect of working for WYFRS in the future.

One young woman saw the Big Sister Programme advertised on social media and came to Getaway Girls for the first time that day, to speak to George, because she has always wanted to be a firefighter, and she is nearing the age in which she can apply. So, George has gained a little sister, to support her ultimately getting where she wants to be, which is sat on a fire engine! The girls also participated in the CRMP consultation during the session, contributing valuable input that will strengthen the voice and influence of this group.





## ➡ What are the keys to our success?

Utilising our staff that are connected into diverse groups such as GAG and the local community. The trust and relationship were already in place and made the project implementation a simpler process.



## ➡ What are we doing next?

Providing spaces for the young girls and women to learn new skills for example, a bespoke Ignite programme for the getaway based at a local station, allowing us to build up positive relationships, also working closely with the DEI Team around positive action to provide regular comms with Getaway girls and working within those targeted communities.

Providing members of Getaway Girls the opportunity to become community champions, working alongside the Youth Interventions Team to promote our safety messages.

Extending the big sister – little sister mentor scheme to other departments to offer that insight and potential interest in for future roles i.e. Fire Protection, Prevention and Control room and allowing colleagues from these departments the time and opportunity to participate.

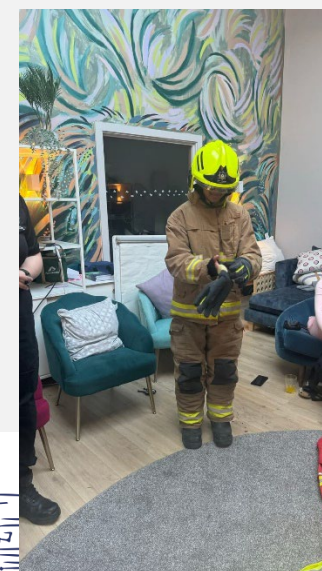
Facilitating a HQ visit to allowing the girls and young women to see the different departments and work that goes behind the operational work.

## ➡ Contact

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# Spotlight on...

## Wakefield District – Working within the community to improve safety.



What was the need, how was it identified?

### Lithium-Ion Batteries.

A rise in lithium-ion battery-related fires across the district and West Yorkshire has been identified using the WYFRS One View data system. Our crews, in collaboration with Wakefield Council and waste care sites are actively addressing this issue.

# Biffa

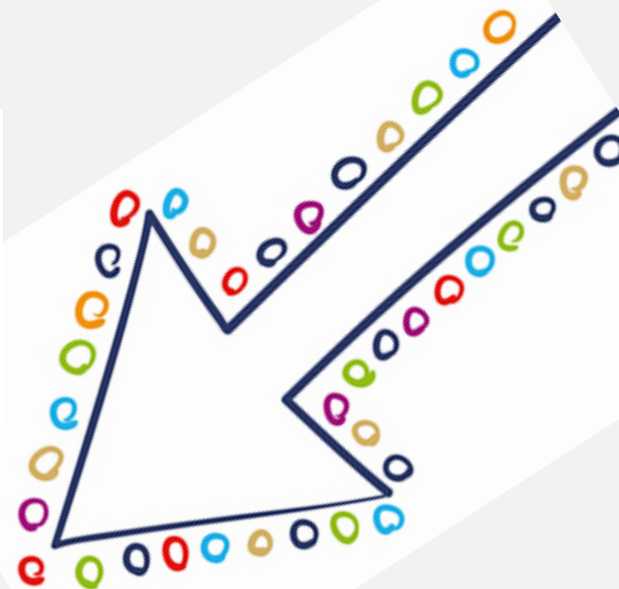


### Water related Incidents.

An increase in water-related incidents, identified using a data led approach, One View and intelligence from crews over the past few years, has prompted us to continue our water awareness training across the district.



What did we do?



### Lithium-Ion Batteries.

In collaboration with Wakefield Council, supported by Biffa Waste Management, we launched a joint campaign for the safe disposal of batteries. This campaign will be promoted across various social media platforms.

### Water related Incidents.

Continuing with the water safety theme, WC Richard Hames, supported by our crews and the RNLI, has been conducting cold-water shock awareness events at the three main colleges in the district. Over the past few weeks, he has successfully engaged thousands of 16–18-year-olds, warning them about the dangers of cold water and teaching them life-saving tips.



**What difference did we make?**

**Lithium-Ion Batteries.**

Through our new social media campaign and collaboration with Biffa and Wakefield Council, we aim to stem the rising trend of battery-related fires in waste recycling facilities. This initiative will help protect site staff, safeguard our firefighters, and ensure our resources remain available for other emergencies.

**Guidelines for the Safe Disposal of Batteries and Electrical Items**

Every person throws away **21 batteries** a year on average – that's about **6.5 million** across the Wakefield district.

**THE RISKS:**  
 Batteries **MUST** not be put in any kerbside bins.  
 Always check batteries for signs of damage (bloating, swelling, cracks, corrosion, or leaking).  
 Do not use or dispose of a battery if there are any signs of damage.  
 Smoke from battery fires is highly toxic, and the fires are particularly hard to extinguish.

**HOW TO DISPOSE OF SAFELY:**  
 You can recycle household batteries where you bought them, such as at the supermarket.  
 Battery recycling bins are in all Council buildings including leisure centres and libraries.  
 Take small electrical items to Bring Sites, libraries, or Household Waste Recycling Centres.  
 Batteries for larger items must be taken to a Household Waste Recycling Centre for recycling.





Download the FREE Wakefield Recycles app

To find your nearest electrical drop off point visit: [www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk](http://www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk)

For more information on what you can take to Household Waste Recycling Centres visit [wakefield.gov.uk/recycling](http://wakefield.gov.uk/recycling)

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**Fire Service Safe Use Advice**

**DO NOT:**  
 Over charge batteries.  
 Buy fake or cheap chargers.  
 Overload sockets or leads

**NEVER:**  
 Charge items while you're asleep or leave them unattended.  
 Cover the charger, battery or lead when the item is charging.

**Things to Avoid**

**AVOID:**  
 Storing or charging e-bikes, e-scooters or mobility scooters close to exits, escape routes or communal areas.  
 Damaging batteries by dropping, crushing, puncturing or submerging them in water.  
 Batteries touching other metal items e.g. coins or keys in pocket.  
 For more information: [wakefield.gov.uk/recycling](http://wakefield.gov.uk/recycling)

**Batteries cause fires in our facility every week.**

*My daddy works at the recycling facility. Please help keep him safe.*

**Caution**

Keep up with the latest news and tips on recycling:  
[Wakefield Recycles](#) [RenewWakefield](#) [WakefieldDoes](#)

West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service | Biffa | working in partnership with wakefieldcouncil



## Water related Incidents.

In response to the ongoing rise in water-related incidents, we have continued our educational efforts in the district alongside the RNLI, delivering water safety awareness sessions to various high schools/colleges. We are working closely with schools to educate the young people of Wakefield District about the dangers of open water. Our crews will be actively promoting the water safety message across the district in the coming months.



## 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?

### Prevention update.

We are establishing connections with the local PCN, GP practices, Integrated Neighbourhood Networks, and community anchors and assets in the district. This collaboration involves working with local care coordinators and frontline practitioners to address the complex needs of residents, delivering early interventions and prevention strategies.

Live Well Wakefield serves as our key point of contact, where referrals for complex needs and lifestyle factors presenting fire risks are submitted by WYFRS to gain support from key partners.

In addition to our partnership work, we are actively tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) within the district, particularly the rise in fires and ASB at the Skate Park on Love Lane, Castleford.

to residents and pooling resources, we have secured funding for CCTV, removed vegetation that provided cover for individuals setting fires, and damaged skate park equipment. We are currently pursuing the demolition of a derelict building on the site to prevent it from becoming a target for further ASB. This initiative is ongoing.



## ➡ Contact



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A multi-agency approach has been adopted, involving WYFRS, WY Police, and Youth Outreach from the 5 Towns Christian Fellowship Team. By listening





# Spotlight on...



## Fire Work: A new employability & self-development programme for NEET 16-18yrs.



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

Following a deep dive carried out by Wakefield Youth Justice Service (YJS) into their NEET cohort of 16–18-year-olds it was raised that there is a distinct lack of further education opportunities for this complex cohort. Recent Local Needs Assessments also highlight that around half of adult offenders in serious violence offences were recorded as being unemployed.

In November 2024, the Youth Interventions Team identified an opportunity to work with Wakefield YJS and engage with this cohort. They developed a 6-week employability and self-development programme aimed at NEET 16-18-year-olds to support them in developing the transferable employability skills needed to help them find their way back into the world of education, employment or training. This initiative also links into WYFRS serious violence duty as it looks to reduce the chances of these young people re-offending in the future.

The Youth Interventions Team regularly deliver fire setting, reckless road use, and anti-social behaviour interventions with young people involved with the Youth Justice services across West Yorkshire and are well placed to support these young people in their self-development due to the team's experience and

competence in working with children with a range of complex needs.



### What did we do?

The Youth Intervention Team developed a six-week employability and self-development programme that intended to raise aspirations, develop key skills, and provide young people with a grounding to allow them to progress onto their next steps into employment, education, or training following the culmination of the programme.

The FireWork programme was specifically designed to engage this complex cohort of young people. Each week of the programme had a specific focus and a dedication to building resilience and routine for these young people. There were also plenty of opportunities to experience different types and ways of working. This helped young people to have a clearer idea of what their individual visions of their future could be and work towards their goals to reach this. The programme involved other areas of WYFRS, local businesses and organisations to offer insights into job and apprenticeship opportunities, support with CV and cover letter writing, interview preparation and mock interview process.





## What difference did we make?

FireWork started with 5 NEET 16-18-year-olds. 4 Young People completed the programme with the aim of finding a route back into employment, education, or training. They have each significantly improved their personal goals and aspirations, as well as developed relations with uniformed services within their community. Each young person has achieved two new qualifications; a Level 1 Award in Developing Resilience, and a Level 1 Award in Personal Money Management. In addition to new qualifications, the participants experienced working with a range of different professionals in a variety of settings. FireWork provided opportunities for young people to:

- Visit Leeds City College to see different learning environments.
- Create CV's and apply to college courses or jobs on computers in a public space at Wakefield One.
- Do a mock interview with Fire Service staff.
- Visit different workspaces within WYFRS, and engage with staff in their role at stores and workshops.
- Utilise the fantastic training facilities at different fire stations across West Yorkshire.

All visits and experiences were designed to challenge the young people at an appropriate level, develop motivation, and increase aspiration.

The FireWork programme is part of an ongoing contribution to the serious violence duty in West

Yorkshire as we look to diversify further education provisions for young people in Wakefield who have a series of complex needs and prevent further re-offending. Of the 4 young people who completed FireWork, one person is attending a joinery course in September, one is enrolled onto a Public Services course also starting in September, at Castleford and Wakefield Colleges respectively. One person is looking to join a 15-week construction course with King's Trust in Wakefield, and the fourth is wanting to further explore apprenticeship opportunities.



## What are the keys to our success?

The success in this project comes from having a dedicated, passionate, and enthusiastic team of people who are committed to improving the lives of young people across West Yorkshire is a fantastic start. The Youth Intervention Team works in a creative way to find new and innovative methods of using equipment to support the delivery of key safety messages and help them to become more memorable for young people participating on their intervention and maximise positive impact. Children and young people of this nature require extra support and considerations to their learning styles and individual needs to best support their engagement and help generate a motivation that will help them live long and meaningful lives.

Due to the nature of this NEET 16-18yrs cohort, their day-to-day routines were poor or erratic, motivation to progress into work or learning was low, and they had low resilience towards situations outside their comfort zone. The FireWork programme was

designed in a way to build resilience towards working day routines and ease young people into more regular routines with elements of healthy lifestyle factors as another way of preparing them for getting back into education or work. So instead of participants being expected to go from a period of being NEET straight into a full 5-day course over six-weeks, the programme started with a Welcome Day, followed by a 3-day week and gradually built up in small increments. This supported the increase of 'work fitness' and endurance towards maintaining their education or employment after FireWork has finished.



## What are we doing next?

A full evaluation of this pilot programme will now take place to shape and improve future programmes. As positive word of the FireWork programme has spread between our colleagues in neighbouring districts and with partners such as the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) there is scope for the programme to be funded and delivered to more NEET Young People in West Yorkshire.



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