

Minutes

Community Safety Committee

Date: 11 July 2025

Time: 10:30

Venue: FSHQ

Present:

Councillor Keith (in the chair) Councillors Ahmed, Bryan, Dickenson, Downes (as substitute for Cllr Burke), Hall, O'Donovan, Tudor and Wood

Apologies:

Councillors Burke, Salam and Sutcliffe

1. Minutes of the last meeting held on 11 April 2025

Resolved

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 11 April 2025 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Urgent items

There were no urgent items

4. Admission of the public

There were no items requiring exclusion of the press or public

5. Declarations of interest

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

6. Risk Based Intervention Programme

The Director of Service Delivery presented a report detailing the new Risk Based Intervention Programme which has been developed following the publication of new national guidance.

Members mentioned the proliferation of acronyms in the report and challenged the report author on the training of the new inspectors, which is done both in house and externally outsourced. Members were pleased to note that of the 21 apprentice inspectors recruited last year, 20 have remained with the service, embracing the high expectations and technical requirements of the role. Just one of the new recruits had been redeployed from operational staff and the diverse range of experiences and backgrounds had been welcomed into the Department, with changes made in accordance with new ideas.

Members further discussed the use of targets for the number of monthly visits, the risk matrix for identifying properties targeted for inspections, the variance of properties allocated to each team member, how lessons are learnt from incidents, the role of the building safety regulator in future large scale housing plans, guidance for return visits which is every 3 years but is often less for higher risk properties, unannounced visits and robust management of extensions.

Resolved

That the Risk Based Intervention Programme be approved

7. Performance Against Response Indicators

The Director of Service Delivery presented a report detailing the performance against the performance outcome targets covering the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

An updated report of figures to date was provided for Members.

Members thanked the report author for the thorough report and discussed the Vision Zero campaign, which is now being adopted by all councils and is chaired by the Deputy Mayor. Members were pleased to note that the statistics showed injuries from road traffic collisions (RTCs) had dropped in some areas and the figures reflected the positive outcomes of reducing visits to automatic fire alarms (AFAs).

Members discussed:

- Accountability where incidents take place on county boundaries which is decided by the Home Office
- Incidents categorised as “other assistance”
- Moorland fires and surface water floods
- The high percentage of fires classified as deliberate, further indicating the ongoing need for the valued work of the Youth Intervention Team.

- The classification of “person locked out” and the involvement of the Fire Service, which is only when there is a dangerous situation unfolding.

Resolved

That the report be noted

8. Youth Interventions Annual Update

The Director of Service Delivery presented a report informing Members of the progress and work of the Youth Interventions Team.

Members were asked to note the change in year end, which was previously in line with the school year end (September) to the financial year end (March).

Members welcomed the impressive work done by the Youth Interventions Team

Resolved

That the report be noted

9. Fire Prevention Update

The Director of Service Delivery presented a report updating Members on the work of the Fire Prevention Team, including performance against the 2024/25 performance outcome targets.

Members welcomed the improved manpower efforts to complete risk assessments and safe and well visits, which are made on request, as follow up to incidents, by referral from local partners and by unannounced visits to vulnerable premises, which include rented properties. Members welcomed the post incident collaboration with the Red Cross and noted the development of a trauma kit in association with the Red Cross, which will be rolled out across all Districts when completed.

Resolved

That the report be noted

10. Spotlight On Case Studies

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Delivery which provided examples and updates on the following areas of work which are being undertaken to meet the needs of the communities of West Yorkshire in the delivery of prevention, protection and response activity

- a) Bradford – Bentley Court, Keighley
- b) Calderdale – Wildfires
- c) Kirklees – On Call Recruitment Day
- d) Leeds – Prison Cell Fires
- e) Wakefield – Working with the Community to Improve Safety

It was emphasised that the Spotlight Ons are just examples of initiatives going on across all Districts all the time and new initiatives are rolled out across the whole Service.

Members noted the Spotlight On reports and received them positively.

Members discussed the introduction of tamper proof vapes in secure units and noted that WYFRS is not directly affected by the hosepipe ban in West Yorkshire but that sensible reductions in water usage were being made where possible.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

Chair