



**Wednesday,
8th September 2021
10.00 am**

**Meeting of
Performance and
Overview Committee
Sadler Road
Winsford**

Contact Officer:
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Democratic Services

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Cheshire Fire Authority

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The Agenda may be divided into two parts. Most business is dealt with in the first part which is open to the public. On some occasions some business needs to be considered in the second part of the agenda, in private session. There are limited reasons which allow this to take place, e.g. as confidential information is being considered about an individual, or commercial information is being discussed.

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**MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Time : 10.00 am

Lecture Theatre, Sadler Road, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 2FQ

AGENDA

PART 1 - Business to be discussed

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1A Recording of Meeting

Members are reminded that this meeting will be audio-recorded.

1B Apologies for Absence

1C Declaration of Members' Interests

Members are reminded that the Members' Code of Conduct requires the disclosure of Statutory Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Non-Statutory Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Disclosable Non-Pecuniary Interests.

1D Notes of Informal Meeting of Members of Performance and Overview Committee

(Pages 1 - 8)

Notes of Informal Meeting of Members of Performance and Overview Committee held on Wednesday, 21 July 2021 via Skype at 10.00 am.

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION/DECISION

2 Finance Report, Quarter 1, 2021-22

(Pages 9 - 20)

3 Performance Report, Quarter 1, 2021-22

(Pages 21 - 68)

4 Programme Report, Quarter 1, 2021-22

(Pages 69 - 88)

5 Safety Central Annual Report 2020-21

(Pages 89 - 96)

6 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report 2020-21

(Pages 97 - 106)

7 Prosecutions Annual Report 2020-21

(Pages 107 - 110)

8	North West Fire Control Annual Report 2020-21	(Pages 111 - 116)
9	UPG Annual Report 2020-21	(Pages 117 - 128)
10	Forward Work Plan 2021-22	(Pages 129 - 130)

The table includes those items that have been identified/agreed to-date. Members are asked to agree any additional items at the end of the meeting which need to be added to the programme.

PART 2 - BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE



AS A RESULT OF CONCERNS ABOUT THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH MEETING IN PERSON CAUSED BY THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC THIS MEETING TOOK PLACE VIA SKYPE.

THE LAW AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING DID NOT RECOGNISE REMOTE MEETINGS (LIKE SKYPE) AS FULFILLING THE REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLIC ACCESS. THEREFORE, THE MEETING WAS INFORMAL WITH NO DECISIONS BEING MADE. ANY DECISIONS THAT NEED TO BE MADE IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL BE DEALT WITH AT THE NEXT FORMAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE.

NOTES OF INFORMAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE held on Wednesday, 21 July 2021 via Skype at 10.00 am

PRESENT: Councillors Phil Harris (Chair), Peter Wheeler, Razia Daniels, Phil Easty, Gina Lewis, James Nicholas and Norman Wright and independent (non-elected) member Derek Barnett

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

A Record of Meeting

The informal meeting was held using Skype and was also broadcast.

Members were reminded that the meeting would be audio-recorded.

B Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Parry.

C Declaration of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of Members' interests.

D Minutes of the Performance and Overview Committee

Members did not raise any issues about the minutes.

2 PERFORMANCE REPORT, QUARTER 4, 2020-21

The Group Manager for Organisational Performance introduced the report, which provided an update on the 2020-21 quarter 4 review of performance for each of the Service's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

Officers expanded on the KPIs where targets had not been achieved, providing further context, particularly in relation to the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic:-

- Thematic inspections, target remains suspended;
- Physical fire safety audits, restarted in September with limited capacity in Q3 and Q4, target remains suspended;
- Risk based inspection programme, target remains suspended;
- Safe and Well visits, were impacted due to Covid-19, no target was set for operational crews with a target of 9000 visits set for the Prevention team for the year.

The Group Manager for Organisational Performance referred Members to the KPI relating to the number of deaths in primary fires. One death occurred in Quarter 4, as a result of a chip pan fire. The individual was under the age of 65 and living alone. The total for the reporting year was three fatalities in primary fires.

The Area Manager for Service Delivery referred Members to the on-call availability KPI which was at 75% for the year, 10% below target. A number of temporary measures were put in place throughout the year to reduce the risk of the on-call workforce from contracting Covid-19 to safeguard the availability of the on-call fire engines.

The Group Manager for Organisational Performance gave an update on:-

- Working days lost through injury;
- False alarms attended;
- Covid-19 work streams undertaken.

A Member referred to the banners outside vaccination centres being predominantly displayed in Cheshire West. The Group Manager for Prevention responded that the banners were placed at venues CFRS were supporting with the vaccination programme. Requests had come predominantly from Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington. Roving vaccination units were now covering Cheshire East and banners could be utilised at these pop up sites.

A Member requested the information on Road Traffic Collisions be broken down into road type for future reports. Members agreed this would be helpful.

A Member highlighted the number of electric bicycles and e-scooters that were an issue because they do not require a licence or a test to use them. The Group Manager for Prevention responded that road safety education was given to schools in Cheshire East at Key stage 2 and 4. In the other unitary areas this was carried out by in-house road safety officers. Due to Covid-19 an online e-training session was provided to Cheshire East schools. The road safety team were working with Councils and commercial e-scooter rental companies on educating and informing the public.

A Member referred to the number of False Alarms Attended and asked how the Service was addressing this. The Group Manager responded that the Protection team were looking into the incidents and the causation and this would feed into the annual review of the Integrated Risk Management Plan.

Members were happy to move onto the next item.

3 PROGRAMME REPORT - QUARTER 4, 2020-21

The Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive provided Members with an update on the Service's programmes and projects. He referred Members to Appendix 1 to the report which contained a health report for the Quarter 4, 2020-21 and picked out key areas for specific focus, including:-

- The major build programmes and modernisation programmes had continued throughout the Pandemic;
- Chester Fire Station was now complete, the official opening due to take place on 19th August, with a closedown report due to be issued at the next meeting;
- Consultation had commenced regarding Crewe Fire Station as part of the planning process;
- The Training Centre had received excellent feedback from trainers and trainees;
- Further options were being evaluated on the Drone project due to a change in legislation.
- The procurement of the High Reach Fire Engine had commenced;
- The delay to the Emergency Services Communications Programme was beyond the Service's control – this was a Government led project.

Members requested that thanks were passed onto those that had kept the capital projects on schedule, safely throughout the pandemic.

A Member referred to the capabilities of the Water Carrier and its use for moorland fires. The Chief Fire Officer explained that the water carrier would offer resilience in any major fire, including moorland fires. Dialogue across services within the North West was taking place to establish whether water carriers could be mobilised to major incidents across the region to enable a constant rotation of water carriers.

Members were happy to move onto the next item.

4 OPERATIONAL ASSURANCE TRAINING TEAM 2020-21 ANNUAL TRAINING PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Group Manager for Operational Training and Assurance provided Members with an update on the training arrangements and performance throughout the training year 2020-21.

The existing training strategy had been revised at the beginning of the year due to the impact of Covid-19 and an Operational Covid Training Strategy was implemented. This involved the training team visiting all watches to deliver the training commitment.

82.4% of operational staff had completed the Breathing Apparatus training day. Those that had not attended were either on amended duties, isolating due to Covid or annual leave. The BA Training was front loaded in the new training year as this was considered the greatest risk to fire Fighter injury. All of the operational staff had now completed a new BA course at the training centre with a new high-rise evacuation procedure.

Swift water training is carried out at a site in North Wales, which offers Grade 2, moving water. This is a higher standard than the water risks found within the county. The availability of the course was restricted due to weather conditions and Welsh Covid guidelines. 42% of Swift Water Technicians had completed the course and was now up to date.

A Member referred to the impact of not using Manchester Airport for training services. The Group Manager for Operational Training and Assurance explained that this was a joint partnership with Manchester Fire Service and Manchester Airport, and now the Service had the facilities at the training centre to create flash over training and a light aircraft scenario.

A Member questioned if the National Fire Service College was still part of the annual training programme. The Group Manager for Operational Training and Assurance explained that the College was primarily used for command training weekends. A programme of command events had been put in place at the training centre, which replaced the National Fire Service College training programme. Which enabled training against local risks and could involve multi-agency participation from North West Ambulance Service and Police.

Members were happy to move onto the next item.

5 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (CYP) AND ADULTS – ANNUAL REPORT, 2020-21

The Group Manager for Prevention introduced the report and outlined the number of safeguarding referrals made from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021. 13 referrals were made covering 24 children and young people. Two of these referrals were not made in line with policy. An investigation had taken place, which found that in both cases there was a delay in reporting the case to the designated safeguarding leads and this was a potential risk for the children involved. As a result, a number of recommendations and improvements were identified. Level 3 safeguarding training had been given to all operational Group Managers and there was a dedicated safeguarding toolkit for staff members to augment their e learning.

28 cases of adult safeguarding had been referred to the local authorities where the safeguarding thresholds were met. Prevention activities had been changed due to Covid-19, and Safe and Well intervention activity was reduced, with resources utilised for the community response programme, e.g. delivering food parcels and medication, as well as supporting the vaccination programme.

Mental health safeguarding referrals had seen a downturn, which was believed to be due to the reduction in opportunities to enter private homes to identify other

safeguarding indicators. There had been a dramatic increase in self neglect referrals.

A paper had been presented to Service Management Team recommending a change in the approach to the Safe and Well programme - targeting the vulnerable in both the over 65 years and under 65 years demographic. An initiative operating in Cheshire West had a mental health advocate role assisting young families known to social services with ongoing long-term support.

It was noted that 402 instances involved activities that did not meet the safeguarding threshold for a referral. However, ongoing and meaningful support was provided, where required, e.g. to reduce the risk of fire within the home. 123 of the 402 were noted as vulnerable person cases due to a threat of arson at the property; support was put in place for the families involved.

Peer review exercises were taking place regionally and nationally, with Cheshire Constabulary and the local authorities ensuring policies were robust and closely aligned with partners.

A Member asked if Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service liaised with housing trusts on safeguarding issues. The Group Manager for Prevention explained that this happens in two ways, Protection advise on fire safety in communal areas and Prevention look at internal areas within the home. The Safety Central team would provide educational input to care professionals helping them identify and spot potential fire risks with the home, i.e. burns on furniture and overloading sockets.

Members were happy to move onto the next item.

**6 INTERNAL AUDIT FOLLOW UP REPORT AND ANNUAL REPORT AND
INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT AND HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT
OPINION 2020-21**

Anne-marie Harrop, a representative from Mersey Internal Audit Agency (MIAA), was in attendance at the meeting to present the Internal Audit Follow Up Report and Annual Report and Internal Audit Annual Report and Head of Internal Audit Opinion 2020-21.

The follow up report looked at 20 outstanding recommendations, 15 of which had been implemented, with a further 5 partially implemented.

She explained that the overall opinion for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 provides 'substantial assurance'. This means that there was a good system of internal control designed to meet the system objectives and that controls are generally being applied consistently throughout the organisation.

Members were happy to move onto the next item.

7 ANNUAL RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT 2020

Louise Willis, from the Planning and Performance Department, Joint Corporate Service, introduced the report which provided Members with an update about risk management.

Scrutiny of risk is undertaken at the Risk Management Board held in March and October each year, chaired by the Chief Fire Officer. Each department had its own risk register which was managed on the Cheshire Planning System and the highest risks were escalated to the Strategic Risk Register for transparency and oversight. A quarterly risk review was undertaken with each department.

Over the last year virtual training sessions had been undertaken with Members. An internal audit had been carried out on the risk management process by MIAA achieving 'high assurance' which was the best possible.

Members were happy to move onto the next item.

8 MENTAL HEALTH - 6 MONTH UPDATE REPORT 2021

The Mental Health Adviser introduced the report and highlighted significant areas over the last 6 months:-

- Skype roadshows for all stations and teams reminding them of the mental health guidance and help available;
- 2 guidance documents were produced Covid-19 Safe Workplace Guide and Post Covid-19 Return to Work Guide for managers
- Advice and guidance had also been made available through the intranet, in The Alert magazine and The Green to support people's mental health;
- One to one advice had been given to individuals to support them;
- The Mental Health Strategy had been published;
- The Mental Health Steering Group had been formed.

The Mental Health Steering Group was a forum comprised from a cross section of staff where issues and ideas could be raised. Initiatives included; the provision of mental health first aiders; expansion of trauma support practitioners; training on suicide first aid and prevention; and setting up new networks for Fathers and Carers.

A Member questioned how the service would identify those hiding mental health problems, or suffering anxiety. The Mental Health Adviser responded that people in leadership positions were reminded in the Skype visits and the managers guide that they could be the first to notice any changes with staff members and instigate conversations and encourage talking about mental health and wellbeing generally.

Members were happy to move onto the next item.

9 HMICFRS INSPECTION ACTION PLAN

The Group Manager for Organisational Performance introduced the report which presented Members with an update in relation to the action plan produced in response to the 'Areas for Improvement' highlighted within the inspection report of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

The action plan was largely complete and the paper highlighted the outstanding live actions and their updates.

The most recent HMICFRS inspection carried out early in 2021 and the subsequent inspection report due in the autumn will require a new action plan responding to the issues highlighted in the report.

Members were happy to move onto the last item.

10 FORWARD WORK PLAN 2021-22

The table included those items that have been identified/agreed to-date. Members were asked to agree any additional items at the end of the meeting which need to be added to the programme. No further items were requested.

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CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE: 8 SEPTEBER 2021
REPORT OF: HEAD OF FINANCE
AUTHOR: WENDY BEBBINGTON

SUBJECT: FINANCE REPORT, QUARTER 1, 2021-22

Purpose of report

1. The report provides a review of the Service's forecast financial outturn and reports on the progress against 2021-22 capital projects.

Recommended: That Members

- [1] Note the forecast outturn position.
- [2] Approve the movement in reserves set out in Appendix 2.

Background

2. The Authority's vision, plans, policies, and organisational structures are all focused on ensuring the Service can deliver the improvements in safety outcomes that matter to the communities of Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington.
3. On 10th February 2021 the Authority approved the 2021-22 revenue budget of £46.21m together with a 2021-22 capital programme of £8.2m. This report provides an early indication of the forecast level of expenditure when compared to the approved budget and capital programme.

Information

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic

4. The Service has continued to serve the public throughout the Coronavirus Pandemic; continuing to provide all the essential services, expected of it. Additional costs and a reduction of income fell mainly into 2020-21, following the Prime Minister's Pandemic-related speech on 24th March 2020 and the introduction of the lockdown rules. Some additional costs are continuing into 2021-22 such as additional PPE, cleaning products, waste disposal, and resilience firefighters.
5. In addition to the above spend, there is also financial impact on the Authority's funding as a direct result of the Pandemic. Local funding

comes from two sources – council tax and business rates. These are collected by the four unitary authorities who pay the Authority their share throughout the year. Should the actual performance during the year vary from the budgeted position, surpluses or deficits are created which again, the Authority either receives or repays its share.

6. The Coronavirus Pandemic has had a significant impact on the collection performance of the Cheshire authorities in terms of both council tax and business rates in 2020-21. Under normal regulations, the Authority's share of these deficits would need to be repaid in full during 2021-22, however the Government permitted these to be spread over three years. As things currently stand, this will only apply to the 2020-21 deficits.
7. The Coronavirus Pandemic impact on funding has been built into the budget for 2021-22, and the Medium Term Financial Plan

Forecast Revenue Spending

8. At this early stage of the financial year, one of the main variations relates to the pay award for operational staff of 1.5% from the beginning of July 2021. The cost of this had not been included in the 2021-22 budget and therefore the financial impact is an additional cost of £287k (full year equivalent of £383k). Pay awards for other employee groups have yet to be agreed.
9. There is also a projected shortfall on Business Rates S.31 grant of £535k, which is explained later in the report. After all forecast variations in spending are included, the overall total is for a projected overspend of £709k. This is before any further movement in Reserves, beyond those proposed in this report. Although this projected overspend is a significant figure, it is based on forecasts made at an early stage of the financial year and a clearer position will emerge as the year progresses.
10. To meet this shortfall, a review of earmarked reserves could be undertaken to identify an offsetting amount to be transferred to the revenue account. However, in the view of the Treasurer it is not necessary to take this decision at the present time. This forecast is at an early stage of the financial year and there are likely to be further, as yet unidentified, variations in spending during the year. If subsequent financial monitoring reports were to identify an overall forecast underspend, this can be used to absorb the potential additional costs identified in this report.
11. It is proposed that the position be kept under review and re-assessed as part of the quarterly budget monitoring reporting process. If the revenue account remains in an overspend position by the end of the financial year, proposals relating to an appropriate transfer from earmarked reserves can be made at that time.

12. The table below summarises the forecast position with some of the key reasons shown in the following narrative and with further details in Appendix 1. Proposed movements to and from Reserves are itemised in Appendix 2.

<u>Summary for 2021-22 First Quarter</u>	Original Budget £000	Forecast Spend £000	Variance £000
Firefighting and Rescue Operations	28,238	28,558	320
Protection	1,819	1,843	24
Prevention	2,378	2,406	28
Support Services	10,491	10,569	78
Unitary Performance Groups	100	100	-
Centrally held costs & contingencies	678	981	303
Pension costs	716	569	(147)
Capital Financing (incl. investment income)	1,136	1,136	-
S.31 Grants	(2,104)	(2,104)	-
Movement in Reserves – capital	1,544	1,572	28
Movement in Reserves – revenue	1,207	749	(458)
Net Revenue Position	46,203	46,379	176
Funding:			
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	(4,013)	(4,013)	0
Business Rate Retention Scheme	(9,698)	(9,698)	0
Council Tax Precept	(30,787)	(30,789)	(2)
Business Rates S.31 grant	(1,341)	(806)	535
Collection Fund Deficit (business rates)	2,031	2,031	0
Collection Fund deficit (council tax)	84	84	0
Collection Fund deficit S31 grant	(1,974)	(1,974)	0
Local Council Tax support grant	(505)	(505)	0
Total Funding	(46,203)	(45,670)	533
Total forecast overspend			709

Funding variations

13. The Authority issued precept demands amounting to £30.787m to the Cheshire authorities. Halton Borough Council has since indicated that the Authority's precept income will increase by £2.3k due to a small increase in the council tax base compared to that previously notified.
14. At budget setting there was some uncertainty over the level of business rates, the impact of Covid-19 and the level of Government support that would be provided. The Authority's budget anticipated Business Rates Section 31 grant of £1.341m, whereas current indications are that the amount received is likely to total £0.806m. This matches the four local authorities' returns and reflects the impact the Pandemic has had. Work is on-going to ensure the estimates for future years are robust and kept in line with the most up to date information from the four local authorities.

Firefighting & Rescue Operation variations

15. Within Firefighting and Rescue Operations, Service Delivery has incurred various additional costs relating to Covid-19, including overtime, additional payments to on-call firefighters and costs relating to resilience firefighters. The total cost of Covid-19 within Service Delivery is £200k. It is proposed that grant money received at the end of 2020-21 and which was carried forward into 2021-22, be utilised to offset this expenditure.
16. Other additional expenditure relates to running over establishment to maintain service levels, resulting in forecast costs of £12k. In addition, business rate refunds have benefitted the Service amounting to £84k. The cost of securing these refunds in respect of the use of property consultants engaged to act on the Authority's behalf, has been met from the Property Management budget, as this service has coordinated the exercise.
17. Also within Firefighting and Rescue Operations, Operational Policy and Assurance are reporting some slippage of one-off projects approved in 2020-21, which are now anticipated to proceed or be completed this year. These include replacement compressed air regulators of £10k, foam inductors of £15k, alcohol resistant film forming foam of £15k, wildfire capability equipment of £44k and additional thermal fleeces of £27k. A number of items of wildfire firefighting equipment have recently been delivered to Congleton, Macclesfield, Poynton and Bollington fire stations as part of the rollout of the IRMP project. This includes the Forced Air Firefighting Unit (FAFU): crews will now be given familiarisation training, and operational input on the use of the equipment before it goes live, leading to Cheshire's enhanced Wildfire capability.
18. Now that the training facility is operational, there is no longer a requirement for a reserve held for the restatement of the Manchester Airport site. It is proposed that the funds amounting to £45k be transferred to the Capital Reserve to meet future capital expenditure.
19. Notification of the 2021-22 New Dimensions Grant of £7k has been received. This is income that is additional to that budgeted and therefore it is proposed that these funds be transferred to Reserves to part fund the future operational equipment programme.
20. Additional pay costs are anticipated of £9k, due to the planned recruitment of an additional driving instructor.

Protection Service variations

21. Protection have agreed two contracts to release contributions of £36k each for sprinkler projects supporting Guinness Housing Trust and Onward Housing. A specific Reserve exists to fund such projects and it is therefore proposed to transfer £72k from this Reserve accordingly. Overall, forecast expenditure on the Protection Service is showing a slight overspend of £7k as a result of income for primary authority work being below budget for the first quarter.

22. In terms of the protection uplift programme, it is proposed that £72k be transferred to a Reserve to meet costs that are anticipated in 2022-23. This protection uplift programme aims to drive improvement in local protection capability; to bolster fire protection capability; and align with locally agreed Integrated Risk Management Plan and risk-based assessments. The balance of the protection work grant received in 2020-21 is being utilised to fund a post for the beginning of 2021-22.

Prevention Service variations

23. For the Prevention Department, Covid-19 resulted in a reduction in “business as usual” activities during the first quarter of 2021-22: e.g. there have not been any Prince’s Trust teams running at Chester, Ellesmere Port and Crewe for the first quarter and there has been the cancellation of the cadet’s camp. These have a neutral position on the budget. Anticipated savings of £52k have been forecast due to additional vacant posts for advocates and home safety advisors.
24. Costs of a new temporary staffing structure within the road safety team, and exit costs relating to the phase two team of “On the Streets” coming to the end of their project, were both anticipated at the end of the last financial year. Amounts were carried forward in Reserves and it is now proposed that these be used to meet this 2021-22 expenditure.
25. The temporary Covid-19 recovery officer post is to be extended to the end of December 2021 resulting in additional cost of £45k. A number of staff have been supporting the National Vaccination programme, including vaccination sites at Chester Racecourse and Ellesmere Port Civic Hall. This has resulted in additional cost for Fire of £82k, which will be reimbursed by the NHS.
26. The costs of Safety Central include an allocation of external funding of £14k (Crimebeat and SP Energy) to meet in year costs. It is proposed that a transfer from reserves of £19k be made to fund the interactive video refresh.

Support Service variations

27. Executive Management have purchased some additional microphones for meetings to allow social distancing, partly offset by some savings within supplies and services.
28. The Property Service is projecting an overspend, partly due to the use of business rates consultants (referred to earlier) at a cost of £14k and additional restaurant fees of £7k. There has also been additional spending of £23k on an environmental project; solar PV installations at Middlewich, Sandbach and Tarporley. This project was approved last year and it is proposed that a contribution from reserves of £23k be made to meet these costs.

29. Expenditure on ICT is forecast to reduce as a result of a £34k saving on Microsoft operating system costs (including part year security licences) and an anticipated £65k saving on network provider costs for phones due to achievement of cheaper new contracts.
30. Democratic Services will be taking on an Executive support apprentice for 18 months, to partly cover maternity leave and to give some resilience to the team. This cost is partly offset by savings in Member Services relating to Covid-19 (travel, conferences and seminars).
31. The projected costs of People and Development include additional Covid-19 costs of £3k. There are also projected additional costs relating to a new post (£61k) and art work at the new training centre (£10k). It is proposed that a contribution of £71k be made from an earmarked reserve to meet these costs.
32. Planning, Performance and Communications is reporting additional costs of £52k relating to the appointment of an interim Head of Corporate Communications, employed ready for the Corporate Communications team coming out of the Bluelight joint services and to work on the transition. This is slightly offset by an £8k reduction in corporate postage charges.
33. Transport is anticipating savings of £73k; including fuel savings of £40k mainly Covid-19 related offset by the impact of a significant increase in fuel prices. The final finance lease payment for a 'curtainsider' vehicle was made last year, resulting in a budget saving this year of £14k. Lease car contributions income is higher by £25k, offset partly by external consultant costs.

Centrally held cost variations

34. As mentioned earlier in the report, a 1.5% pay award has been agreed for operational staff, at a cost of £287k in year and this is shown within the centrally held cost totals. Pay awards for other staff within the service are not currently anticipated within these forecasts and remain under review as negotiations continue.
35. There are projected to be additional costs of the external audit service as a result of additional work arising from the updated auditing standards and these are likely to amount to £16k.

Pension cost variations

36. There are costs relating to pension schemes that will be incurred in 2021-22. It is forecast that ill health pension costs will amount to £160k. There is an earmarked Reserve to smooth out the impact of such costs and it is proposed that £160k be taken from this Reserve.
37. Every three years there is an actuarial review of the Local Government Pension Scheme. This review sets the employers' contribution rate and

any payment requirements to meet predicted shortfalls. The revenue budget includes a provision for such payments. As these will not arise until the next valuation in April 2023 it is proposed to transfer £291k to an earmarked reserve. This reserve will be used to fund any one-off payments required at that point.

Contributions to/from Reserves

38. In addition to the proposals identified in the above narrative, it is proposed that funding held in a Reserve for thermal image cameras (a capital programme item) be transferred from earmarked revenue reserves to the capital reserve. The overall total of proposed movements on Reserves in the first quarter amount to a net contribution from Reserves of £432k. A full list of the proposed contributions to and from Reserves is set out in Appendix 2.

Capital Programme

39. At the end of June 2021, the Authority's approved capital programme is £39.675m with a forecast outturn spend of £41.410m – an overspend of £1.735m, mainly in relation to the major schemes as previously reported. Details of all the capital schemes are in Appendix 3.
40. Year Two of the fire station modernisation programme has now reached its practical completion at Northwich, Widnes, Audlem and Holmes Chapel fire stations. Throughout the programme the team has worked closely with station staff, architects and construction teams to create a working environment that is fit for a modern day fire and rescue service.
41. The design is bespoke to each fire station and incorporates new community facilities with separate pedestrian access and self-contained welfare. The community rooms are fitted with new AV equipment, which will enable their use as training rooms for operational staff and provides a modern meeting facility. The fire station environment has benefitted in all areas - with new floor coverings, ceiling grids, internal doors and painting and decorating throughout.
42. Environmental improvements have been included within the modernisation programme resulting in the increased thermal values in roof coverings, the installation of double glazed doors, windows and improvements to heating and lighting systems. Operational areas of the modernised fire stations have benefitted from the installation of a slip resistant flooring within the appliance bays, new appliance bay doors and improvements to locker rooms, PPE storage and the addition of new furniture. The programme has further delivered new gym facilities providing a purpose built environment for staff to exercise in.
43. Year Three of the fire station modernisation programme is now underway, which will see investment in the fire stations at Ellesmere Port, Knutsford, Malpas and Congleton.

44. Plans are now well underway to build the new Crewe Community Fire Station at Macon Way in Crewe. A number of options have been discussed with staff across various departments that work at the current facility; this engagement has shaped the layout of the building and was used in the procurement process held during April 2021. The contract has been awarded to ISG, a company that the Service has worked with previously on several other new fire stations across the Authority's area as well as the safety centre and training facility at Sadler Road.
45. The planning application was submitted in August and a decision is awaited. Transition plans are also being developed to relocate staff from the fire station across Cheshire East to provide continuity of their departmental work with operational crews (and two fire engines) being based in a temporary fire station on the same site at Macon Way for the duration of the build.
46. It is anticipated that the current fire station at Crewe will be demolished in March 2022 and the new community fire station completed in March 2023.
47. The order has been placed for new high reach fire engine (HRFE) that is expected to be delivered around September 2021, at which time it will be customised to the service's specification and the training for Nucleus and On Call crews at Macclesfield fire station will begin.
48. Three new fire appliances arrived in workshops in June, where they were acceptance tested prior to delivery to station at Chester, Crewe and Runcorn in line with the fleet rotation programme.
49. As part of on-going investment, two additional appliances were ordered in June for delivery in February 2022. These two Scania pumping appliances are part of the 2021-22 capital scheme.

Financial implications

50. This report considers financial matters.

Legal Implications

51. There are no legal implications arising from the report.

Equality and diversity implications

52. There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

Environmental implications

53. There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE

**CONTACT: DONNA LINTON, GOVERNANCE AND CORPORATE PLANNING
MANAGER
TEL [01606] 868804**

Appendix 1

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY QUARTER 1 2021-22

	Original Budget £000	Forecast Spend £000	Income/ expenditure variance £000
Firefighting and rescue operations			
Service Delivery	23,198	23,405	207
Operational Policy and Assurance	5,040	5,153	113
Protection	1,819	1,843	24
Prevention			
Community Safety	1,946	1,956	10
Safety Centre	432	450	18
Support Services			
Executive Management	1,155	1,160	5
Workforce Transformation	227	230	3
Property Management	1,704	1,747	43
Finance	432	432	-
ICT	1,903	1,879	(24)
Legal and Democratic Services	578	584	6
People and Development	1,746	1,820	74
Planning, Performance & Communications	939	983	44
Procurement and Stores	311	311	-
Fleet services	1,496	1,423	(73)
Unitary Performance Groups	100	100	-
Corporate Finance costs			
Centrally held costs & contingencies	678	981	303
Pension costs	716	569	(147)
Capital Financing (incl. investment income)	1,136	1,136	-
S.31 Grants (incl. Covid-19)	(2,104)	(2,104)	-
Total Service Expenditure	43,452	44,058	606
Movement in Reserves	2,751	2,321	(430)
	46,203	46,379	176
Funding:			
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	(4,013)	(4,013)	-
Business Rate Retention Scheme	(9,698)	(9,698)	-
Council Tax Precept	(30,787)	(30,789)	(2)
Business rates S.31 grant	(1,341)	(806)	535
Collection Fund Deficit (business rates)	2,031	2,031	-
Collection Fund deficit (council tax)	84	84	-
Collection Fund deficit S31 grant	(1,974)	(1,974)	-
Local Council Tax support grant	(505)	(505)	-
Total Funding	(46,203)	(45,670)	533
Forecast Net overspend			709

Appendix 2

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES 2021-22

<u>Department</u>	<u>Description</u>	TOTAL £000
Corporate Finance Costs	Contribution to Capital	1,544.0
Corporate Finance Costs	Business Rates Collection Fund deficits reserve	1,151.0
OPA	Operation Equipment replacement carbon monoxide alarms	(7.1)
Property Management	Annual contribution of RHI Income to Environment Reserve	25.0
Property Management	Annual contribution Poynton Maintenance	4.5
ICT	Annual contribution MDTs	34.0
	Approved as part of 2021-22 Budget	2,751.4
 <i>Q1 Contributions to/(from) Reserves</i>		
Corporate Finance Costs	Ill Health pension costs	(160.0)
Corporate Finance Costs	Covid-19 grant received 2020-21	(257.0)
Corporate Finance Costs	LGPS secondary rate – employers contribution	291.0
OPA	Operational Equipment - second thermal fleece	(26.8)
OPA	Operational Equipment - compressed air regulators 2020-21	(10.0)
OPA	Operational Equipment - Foam inductors 2020-21	(15.0)
OPA	Operational Equipment - alcohol resistant film-forming foam	(15.0)
OPA	Wildfire capability – equipment and PPE 2020-21	(44.0)
OPA	Reserve – Manchester Airport training facility	(45.2)
OPA	Transfer to capital reserve	45.2
OPA	New Dimensions Grant - transfer to reserves	6.8
Protection	Two Grant towards Sprinklers	(72.0)
Protection	Protection work grant	(17.3)
Protection	Protection uplift programme grant	72.5
Prevention	External analysis Fire Safe profiles in Cheshire	(5.0)
Prevention	Road safety – temporary structure	(7.9)
Prevention	On the street project – phase 2	(5.2)
Safety Central	Set refresh	(18.5)
People and development	Pension Admin grant funding post	(61.2)
People and development	Training centre artwork	(10.0)
Workforce Transformation	Forum membership	(2.5)
Property Management	Environmental projects/ PV installations	(22.6)
Democratic Services	Executive Support Apprentice	23.0
ICT	Implementation of office 365	(74.8)
Fleet	Telehandler training costs	(1.0)
	First Quarter Proposed Transfers	(432.5)
	TOTAL POTENTIAL NET CONTRIBUTION TO RESERVES	2,318.9

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY CAPITAL QUARTER 1 2021-22

		2021-22 Capital Budget	Total Programme Budget	Total Expenditure to end of Jun21	Total Expenditure to date	Expected Scheme Outturn	Variance
	Description	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Prior year schemes:	New Operational Training Facility	-	11,000	7	12,188	12,329	1,329
	Chester Fire Station	-	5,810	3	6,200	6,215	405
	Crewe Fire Station	900	7,000	24	97	7,000	-
	Fire Station Modernisation Programme	5,800	11,500	1,935	6,763	11,500	-
	Fire Houses Refurbishment programme (3 year programme)	350	880	-	622	880	-
2020-21 Schemes	Telehandler (to move materials and training equipment)	-	85	-	-	85	-
	New vehicle & specialist water delivery equipment (Coldcut)	-	72	12	12	72	-
	Three New Appliances 2020-21 programme	-	780	308	769	780	-
	Support vehicles replacement 2020-21 programme	-	60	13	63	63	3
	Rapid Response Rescue Units (13 units)	-	520	26	40	520	-
	Water carrier unit	-	140	-	-	140	-
	Rapid Response Rescue Unit – wildfire unit kit out	-	25	-	-	25	-
	Wildfire unit – all terrain vehicle (ATV) and trailer	-	55	-	-	55	-
	Saffire IT system – Community Fire Risk Mgt Information	-	100	-	-	100	-
	ICT Review/Server Replacement Programme	-	50	-	-	50	-
	Mobile data terminals (MDTs)	-	370	-	-	370	-
	Technical rescue vehicle	-	50	-	-	50	-
2021-22 Schemes	Replacement thermal image cameras (phased replacement)	28	28	26	26	26	(2)
	Two New Appliance 2021-22 Programme	540	540	-	-	540	-
	One High Reach Extending Turret appliance	550	550	-	-	550	-
	Support vehicles replacement 2021-22 programme	60	60	-	-	60	-
	Sub-total	8,228	39,675	2,354	26,780	41,410	1,735
In-year approvals:	None	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	8,228	39,675	2,354	26,780	41,410	1,735

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2021
REPORT OF: DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
AUTHOR: MIKE CLARK

SUBJECT: PERFORMANCE REPORT, QUARTER 1, 2021-22

Purpose of Report

1. To present the 2021-22 Quarter 1 review of performance for each of the Service's Key Performance Indicators.

Recommended that:

- [1] Members review and consider the information presented in this report.

Background

2. The report forms part of the Authority's performance reporting cycle and provides a summary of the Service's performance against the KPIs for Quarter 1, 2021-22.

Information

3. Each year the service develops targets to contribute towards the services vision and we aim to demonstrate continual improvement and a positive direction of travel against each indicator year on year.
4. As in previous years, all targets have been reviewed on an individual basis, however, this year the Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact on the lives of the UK population, and on Fire and Rescue Services.
5. It is clear that there are significant differences in the performance data between previous years and the 2020/21 financial year. The Service has accounted for the differences in data when agreeing the targeting methodology for 2021/22.
6. The Service's Performance and Programme Board receives a quarterly review of performance against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The Board is responsible for monitoring and reviewing progress against performance targets and ensuring that action to improve performance is taken wherever possible if targets are not being met. The performance reviews are in turn presented to the Performance and Overview Committee as the Performance Health Report.
7. The continuing Covid-19 Pandemic has meant that many of our normal activities still have not restarted or not returned to pre-Pandemic levels. Therefore, a number of targets remain suspended until normal activity levels can resume.

8. The Corporate Performance Scorecard appears immediately after this report. It reflects the Quarter 1 position against targets set and the year-on-year direction of travel for the Service's KPIs.
9. A more detailed description of each KPI, including a summary of current performance and any actions required to improve performance, is set out in the Performance Health Report which begins immediately after the Corporate Performance Scorecard

Financial implications

10. There are no financial implications associated with the information in this report.

Legal implications

11. There are no issues to report at the end of Quarter 1 that should impact upon the Service's ability to meet its statutory or other legal obligations.

Equality and Diversity implications

12. The Service has for a number of years collected and reported equality monitoring data across a number of indicators. This is reported quarterly to the Equality Steering Group and annually to this committee so that trends can be identified and addressed.

Environmental implications

13. There are no specific environmental implications. Environmental performance targets are reviewed and monitored as part of the delivery of the Authority's Environmental and Climate Change Strategy.

- Appendix 1 – RTC Performance Report**
- Appendix 2 – False alarms Performance Report**
- Appendix 3 – Safety Central Infographic**
- Appendix 4 – Business Safety Infographic**
- Appendix 5 – COVID-19 Infographic**
- Appendix 6 – On-call Availability**

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Page 23

Year to Date 2021/22 Performance

A Cheshire where there are no deaths, injuries or damage from fires or other emergencies



Protecting Local Communities				
	Actual	Target	Q1 Year on Year	Q1 2020-21
Deaths in Primary Fires	0	0	↓	6
Injuries in Primary Fires	4	11	↓	13
Accidental dwelling fires	91	96	↓	92
- % starting in kitchens	47 (52%)		↑	37 (40%)
- % in homes with residents over pensionable age	13 (14%)		↓	19 (21%)
Deliberate fires (Primary and Secondary)	285	310	↑	223
Fires in Non Domestic Premises	38	45	↑	35
AFAs in Non Domestic Premises	104	116	↓	112

	Actual	Target	Q1 Year on Year	Q1 2020-21
SaWs Delivered to Heightened Risk	2,320	2,500	↑	1,413
Platinum address success rate	84%	65%	↓	94%
Thematic Inspections Completed	466	501		N/App
NDP Fire Safety Audits Completed	505	450		N/App
Percentage of Risk Based Programme Completed	99%	100%		N/App

Responding to Emergencies				
	Actual	Target	Q1 Year on Year	Q4 2020-21
10 Minute Standard	82%	80%	↓	87%
On Call Availability	64%	85%	↓	87%
Nucleus OC pumps	99%			
Primary OC pumps	69%			
Secondary OC pumps	53%			

Developing the organisation				
	Actual	Target	Q1 Year on Year	Q4 2020-21
Average Days/Shifts Lost to sickness	1.76	1.38	↑	0.9
Working Days Lost To Injury	72	10	↑	42

Performance Key		Year on year direction key	
Meeting target	↓	Improved direction of travel year on year	
Within 10% of target	↔	No change in direction of travel	
Failing against target by at least 10%	↓	Negative direction of travel year on year by up to 10%	
Target suspended	↓	Negative direction of travel year on year by at least 10%	

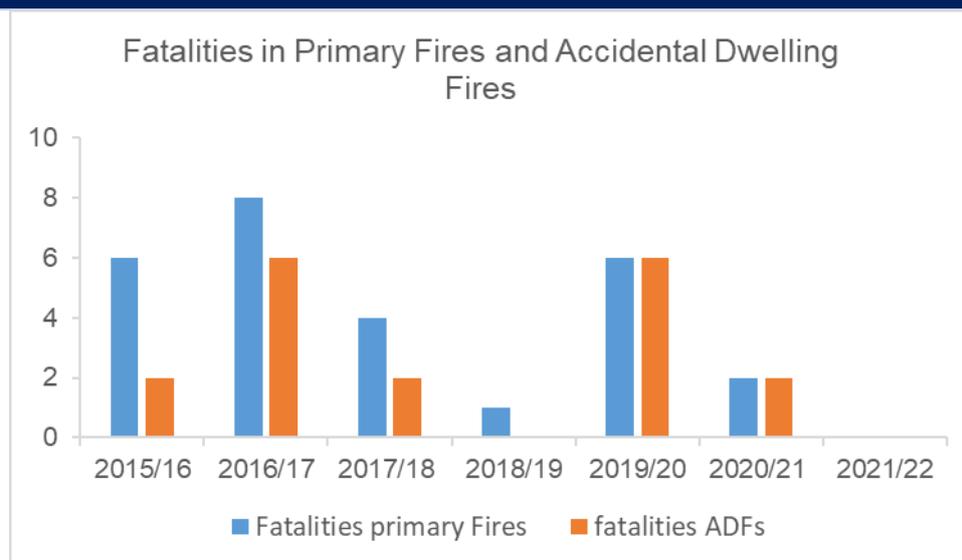
Performance and Programme Board – Performance Report

Indicator: [Number of Deaths in Primary Fires]

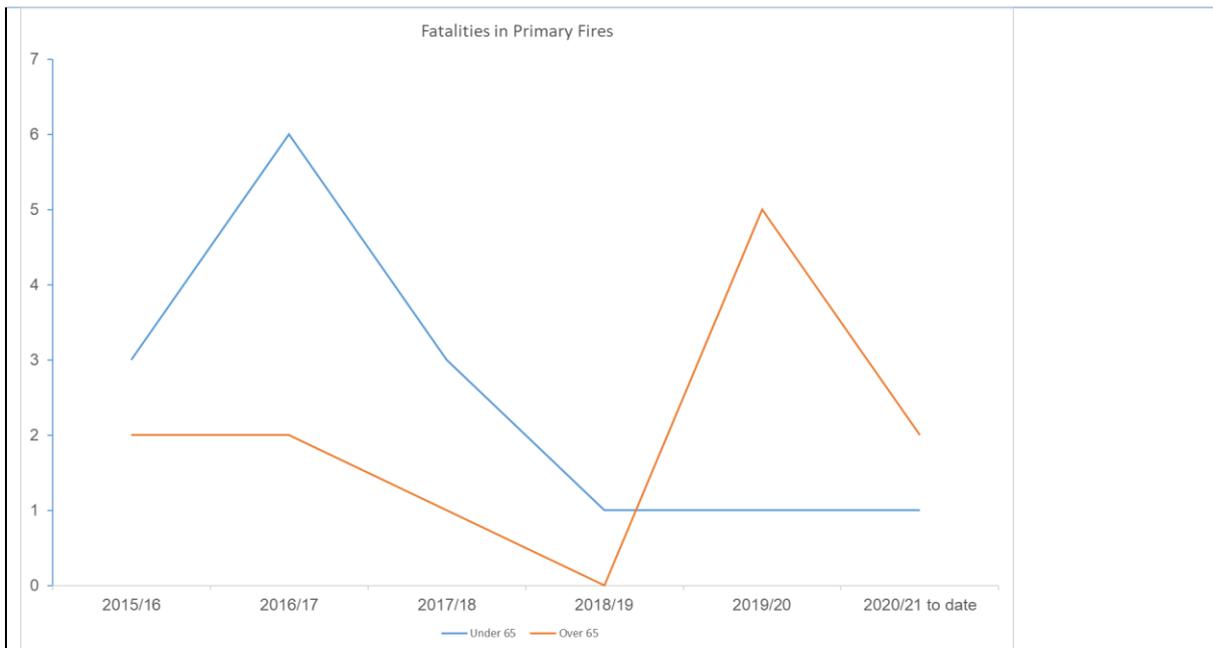
Primary fires include all fires in buildings, vehicles and some outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fires attended by five or more appliances

Reporting Period Q1		01/04/2021 To 30/06/2021	
Q1 Target	0	Q1 Actual	0
Q2 Target		Q2 Actual	
Q3 Target		Q3 Actual	
Q4 Target		Q4 Actual	
YTD Cumulative Target	0	YTD Cumulative Actual	0
Previous Status	Current Status		
N/A			

Summary of Current Performance



At the end of quarter 1, there have been no fatalities recorded.



Action taken to improve performance

The Service Management Team approved a new Safe and Well (SaW) targeting methodology for 2021/22 in May 2021. The Service will adopt a dual approach with Prevention teams delivering SaW interventions to occupiers aged 65 and over, utilising the existing Exeter data and high risk addresses. The Service Delivery teams will deliver SaW interventions to occupiers under 65 using the new Cheshire data following the previous evaluation of the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service Safe and Well Programme.

Routine press releases continue to be sent out by the Corporate Communications team and Station Twitter pages in line with community action plans and corporate campaigns.

All relevant incidents are followed up by the Prevention Department and operational crews to ensure fire safety messages are given to occupiers and neighbouring properties.

Virtual Station Open Days are being planned across Quarter Two with themed safety messages and advice given out to members of the public. Further routine prevention engagement activities will be reviewed as lockdown restriction ease, in line with the roadmap to recovery.

The thematic review of the fire related deaths in Cheshire East during the previous year has now concluded. This was conducted by the Service Delivery Manager along with Local Authority partners and the Prevention Department as part of the Safer Cheshire East Partnership (SCEP). The review will be presented to the SCEP Board at the next meeting in July 2021 and partners have already commenced the implementation of actions arising from the review to drive the improvements identified.

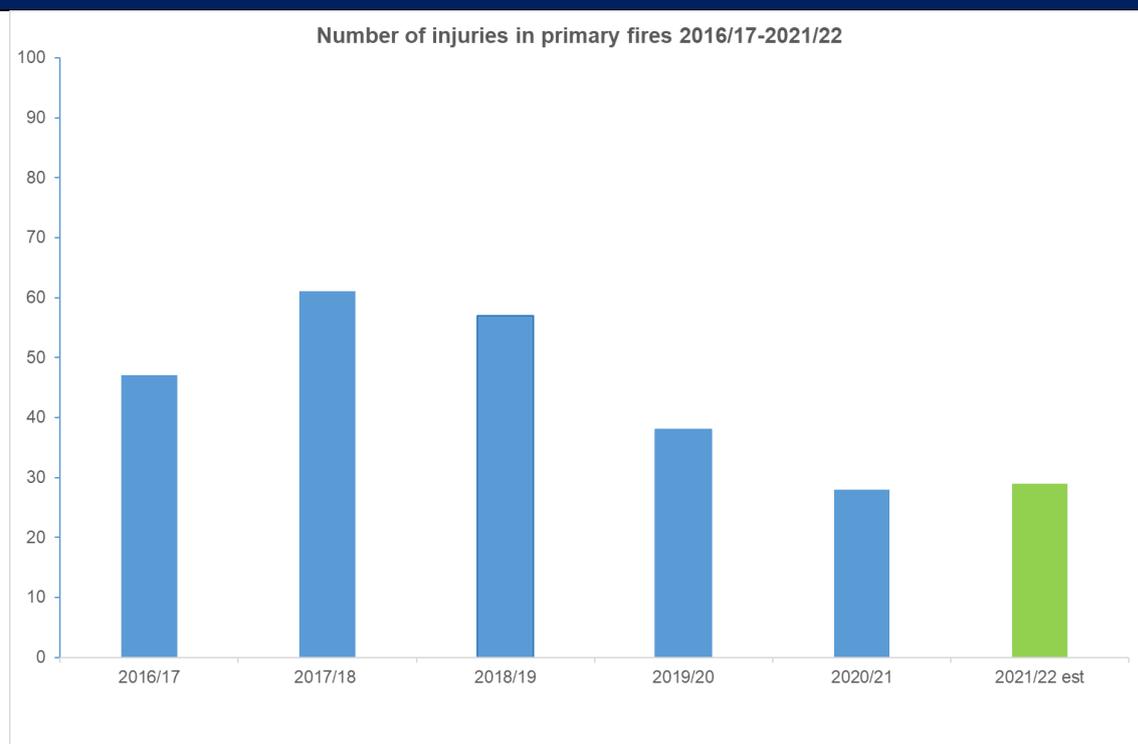
Performance and Programme Board – Performance Report

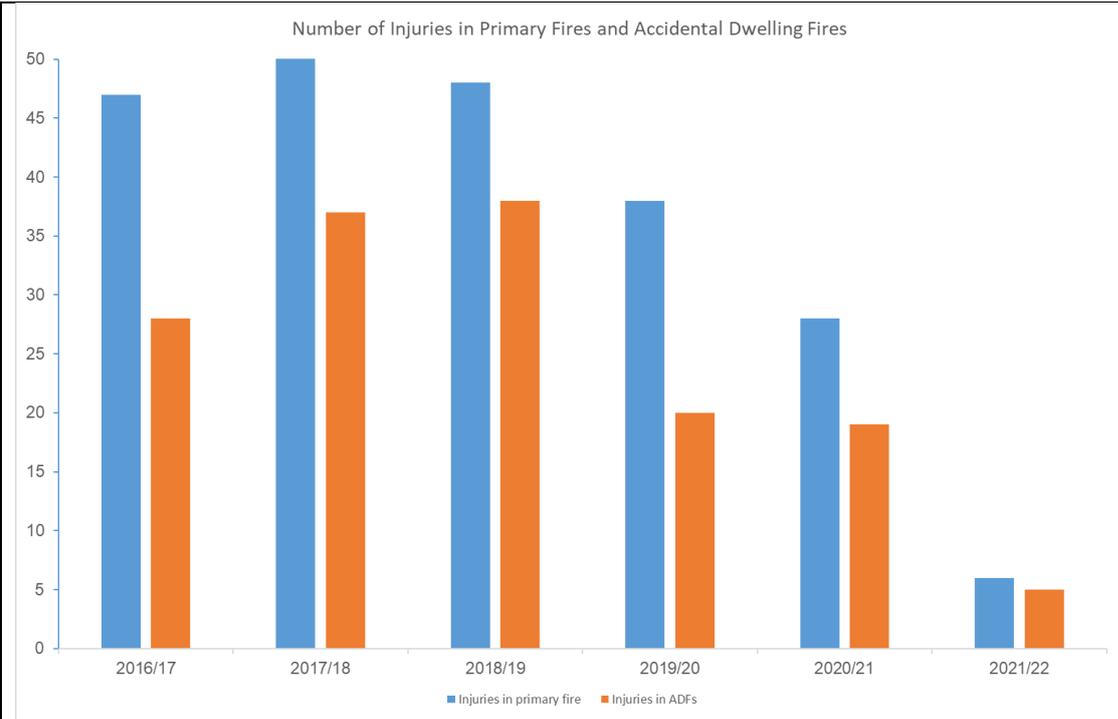
Indicator: [Injuries in Primary Fires]

Primary fires include all fires in buildings, vehicles and some outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fires attended by five or more appliances.

Reporting Period Q1		01/04/2021 To 30/06/2021	
Q1 Target	11	Q1 Actual	4
Q2 Target		Q2 Actual	
Q3 Target		Q3 Actual	
Q4 Target		Q4 Actual	
YTD Cumulative Target	11	YTD Cumulative Actual	4
Previous Status	Current Status		
N/A			

Summary of Current Performance





4 injuries occurred in the year to date against a target of 11.

- 3 of the 4 injuries occurred in accidental dwelling fires.
- 3 incidents involved people aged 40-50
- 2 injuries were classified as serious, both were in accidental dwelling fires

Unitary Authority	Number of Injuries (year to date)
Cheshire East	1
Cheshire West & Chester	3
Halton	0
Warrington	0
Total	4

Cause	Number of Injuries
Cooking	1
Matches and Candles	1
Naked Flame	1
Other domestic appliance	1
Total	4

Age Group	Number of Injuries Serious	Number of Injuries Slight
0-9	0	0
10-19	0	0
20-29	0	0
30-39	0	0
40-49	2	1
50-59	0	0
60-69	0	0
70-79	0	0
80-89	0	1
90+	0	0
Total	2	2

Injury Description	Number of Injuries Serious	Number of Injuries Slight
Burns - severe	1	0
Burns - slight	0	0
Back/neck injury (spinal)	0	0
Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes; asphyxiation	1	1
Other	0	1
Total	2	2

Quarter 1 data:

Cheshire East

There was one serious injury in Cheshire East; the cause of the fire was a candle.

Halton

There was no injuries in Halton.

Cheshire West & Chester

There were three injuries in Cheshire West and Chester, one of which was a serious injury. One incident involved a bonfire, one a deep fat fryer and the third the use of a weed burner.

Warrington

There was no injuries in Warrington.

Action taken to improve performance

The Corporate Communications team has sent out press releases and Station Twitter pages are regularly updated to help prevent fires, highlighting specific dangers. Incidents are followed up by the Prevention Department to help prevent fires re-occurring.

Incidents are scrutinised by the Officer in Charge and Station Managers. Community Action Plans are monitored by the Station and Group Managers.

Cheshire West & Chester (CWAC)

CWAC saw one serious injury in the Chester area, which was attributed to an occupier attempting to tackle a chip pan fire themselves and suffering burns to their hands. The Prevention team have carried out hot spotting and reassurance in the area whilst also exchanging the chip pan for an air fryer. The local crews and Corporate Communication team have undertaken a specific social media campaign. A Serious injury triage form has been completed and sent for consideration.

Cheshire East

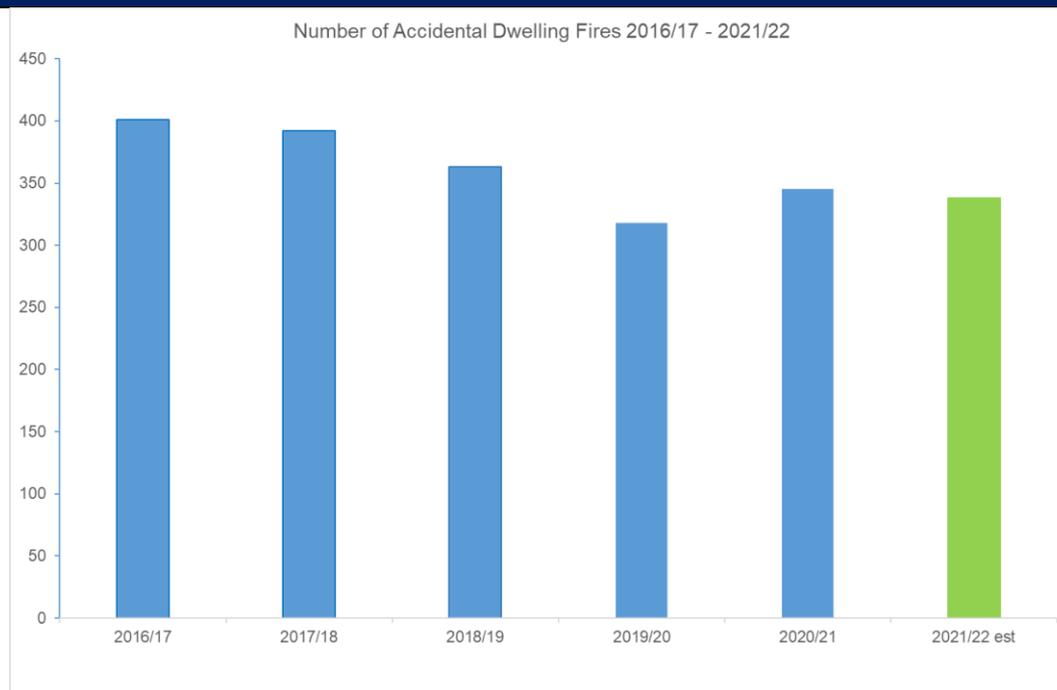
Cheshire East saw one injury in the Crewe area that involved a fire in the bedroom started by candles. The Service has tried to make contact with the occupiers of the affected property but to date have been unsuccessful. Prevention have sent a post incident Safe and Well offer letter. Follow up Home Safety Assessments have been completed in the area following the incident.

Performance and Programme Board – Performance Report

Indicator: [Number of Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)]

Reporting period Q1		01/04/2021 To 30/06/2021	
Q1 Target	96	Q1 Actual	91
Q2 Target		Q2 Actual	
Q3 Target		Q3 Actual	
Q4 Target		Q3 Actual	
YTD Cumulative Target	96	YTD Cumulative Actual	91
Previous Status	Current Status		
N/A	G		

Summary of Current Performance



At the end of Quarter 1 there were 91 Accidental Dwelling Fires compared to a target of 96. There was no firefighting action required at 26.4% (24) of incidents.

Looking at the key risk areas, there has been an increase in the number of fires starting in the kitchen (37-47), with the highest numbers in Ellesmere Port, Macclesfield and Chester. There has been an increase in the number of fires involving lone parents with children (8-14), 10 of the incidents started in the kitchen.

Unitary Authority	Total
Cheshire East	32
Cheshire West & Chester	40
Halton	8
Warrington	11
Total	91

Fire Location	Total
Kitchen	47
Bedroom	12
Living Room	9
External Structures	5
Garage	3
External Fittings	3
Other	12
Total	91

Occupancy Type	Was a smoke alarm present? Yes
Lone person over pensionable age	100%
Lone Person under pensionable age	92.86%
Lone parent with dependant children	100%
Couple one or more over pensionable age, no children	77.78%
Couple with dependant children	93.75%
Couple both under pensionable age with no children	63.64%
Other	94.5%
Total	78.57%

Occupancy Type	No of Incidents	Dwellings	Indexed Score
Lone person over pensionable age	13	56533	254
Lone person under pensionable age	14	73421	211
Lone parent with dependant children	14	82396	201
Couple one or more over pensionable age, no children	9	80559	123
Other	14	209308	74
Couple both under pensionable age with no children	11	167332	73
Couple with dependant children	16	347436	51

The indexed score is a risk score that compares the rate of incidents for each occupancy type against the average rate of accidental dwelling fires within Cheshire. The rate is converted to an

indexed score, with the average rate for Cheshire being converted to a score of 100. The indexed score is used rather than the rate so that simple comparisons can be made quarter on quarter and across occupancy types. For example, an indexed score of 200 indicates that occupancy type is twice as likely as average to have an accidental dwelling fire.

Action taken to improve performance

Prevention

The new Safe and Well (SaW) methodology maintains our approach of prioritising our prevention activity to the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Through the monitoring of our fire data statistics, a number of other fire safety vulnerabilities have been identified in certain under 65 groups. These include:

- Lone occupiers
- Lone parents with dependent children
- Those in rented accommodation
- Those in receipt of disability allowances/benefits
- Those who smoke heavily
- Those who consume alcohol to excess

These occupiers will be prioritised by Service Delivery personnel as their target audience.

Our health partners have confirmed that the health elements of the SaW visit can also be offered to the under 65's (as we currently do with the over 65's), with the exception of the falls risk assessments.

This will support healthier lifestyles and reduce the burden on the NHS, by identifying health risks at an earlier age. Furthermore all of the health interventions offered, have a direct link to fire causation and early intervention which will reduce the risk of fire in the home.

An evaluation of the new SaW methodology will be presented to SMT in February 2022.

The Service has received the evaluation report from Greenstreet Berman into the effectiveness of our SaW work. This report is due to be presented to SMT over the coming weeks. It identifies a number of recommendations, such as the number and positioning of smoke detection equipment and further input around electrical safety advice to occupiers.

Work has already begun, in collaboration with the Electrical Safety Council, to implement practical steps and advice for our personnel, to pass to occupiers.

Cheshire East

In Crewe, White Watch, have posted a video on social media of the chip pan demonstration unit, this shows the effects of putting water on a chip pan fire. The video was produced following a chip pan fire during the quarter. The post also contained important safety considerations regarding chip pans.

Hot spotting was carried out after all three accidental dwelling fires in the Crewe area in May. Social Media posts have also been sent out regarding cooking safety.

Following an incident in Waverley Court, Crewe (High Rise building), where we have responded to on a number of previous occasions, details have been referred to the local Multi Agency Action Group and also to the Prevention & Protection Department for appropriate follow up.

Following an incident in Alsager, with a high risk occupier who lives alone in the property, the Prevention Department are working with the Plus Dane Housing Tenancy Management Officer and care providers to complete a post incident SaW visit and follow up.

Following an incident in a flat in Wilmslow, the Prevention Department have been informed and they are speaking to the occupier's social workers. The Prevention Department are working with care providers and have previously installed fire retardant bins and have offered a portable suppression system which the occupier has refused. The premises has been flagged. The occupier is subject to an ongoing complex safeguarding case in which the Prevention team are involved.

Following a fire in Sandbach in a first floor flat, hotspotting has taken place to neighbouring properties by the Prevention Department.

Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC)

COVID restrictions continue to limit the direct safe and well engagement from crews, however Ellesmere Port have completed 443 vaccine related doorstep safe and well visits. CWAC are ten over target for accidental dwelling fires this quarter. Incidents are attributed to varying causes all of which could possibly be linked to occupiers spending more time at home.

Local crews along with the Corporate Communications team have produced and continue to produce targeted social media campaigns aimed at specific incidents and groupings.

Crews are preparing data driven preventative events for when restrictions allow physical interactions.

Warrington

Following two chip pan fires in Birchwood both families were advised to replace the chip pans and a referral was made to the Prevention team to offer a deep fat fryer free of charge. The crew used social media to increase awareness of cooking related fires. This included distraction, unattended cooking and cleaning of cooking equipment. Birchwood also tied in messages to align with the National Fire Chiefs Council smoking safety month in April.

Penketh focused their social media activity on electrical safety due to two incidents caused by electrical items.

Lymm spread important safety messages about improving fire safety in the home to include cooking safety and smoking in the home, Ramadan, electrical fire safety and escape routes.

Halton

Four out of the eight incidents started in the kitchen with various causes. Crews have been very active on social media to promote the various fire safety messages and campaigns.

In Runcorn, crews have attended a property on a number of occasions since 2019. The occupier is disabled, a smoker and drinks. Various items have been issued to the occupier including a metal waste bin for discarded cigarettes, fire retardant throw, a timer for cooking food, smoke detectors and Telecare has been installed.

Further easing of lockdown restrictions will see a return to more practical ways of delivering home safety messages. This will give crews an opportunity to be proactive and visit areas such as Murdishaw and Palacefields to promote home safety advice door to door. All three domestic incidents during April occurred in these areas and it has highlighted a need for a targeted campaign. Safety leaflets will be delivered around the areas and a visible presence available for residents to speak with crews.

Performance and Programme Board – Performance Report

Indicator: [Number of Deliberate Fires]

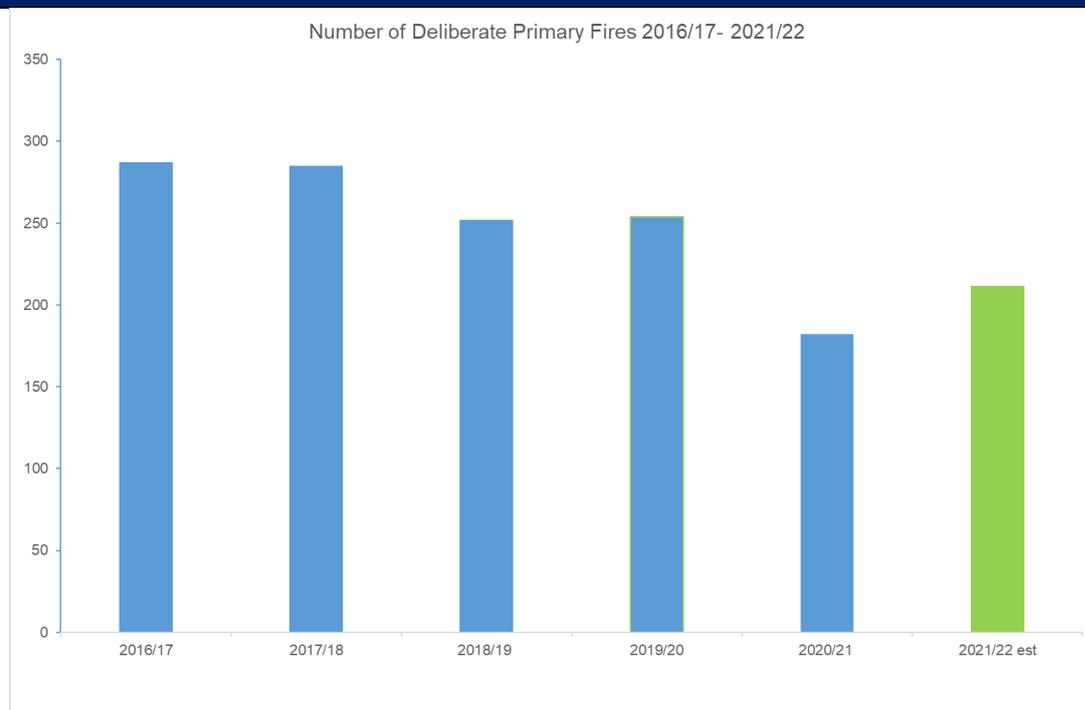
Reporting Period Q1		01/04/2021 To 30/06/2021	
Q1 Target (Primary)	65	Q1 Actual (Primary)	58
(Secondary)	245	(Secondary)	227
Q2 Target (Primary)		Q2 Actual (Primary)	
(Secondary)		(Secondary)	
Q3 Target (Primary)		Q3 Actual (Primary)	
(Secondary)		(Secondary)	
Q4 Target (Primary)		Q4 Actual (Primary)	
(Secondary)		(Secondary)	
YTD Cumulative Target (Primary)	65	YTD Cumulative Actual (Primary)	58
(Secondary)	245	(Secondary)	227

Deliberate Primary Fires

Deliberate Secondary Fires

Previous Status	Current Status	Previous Status	Current Status
N/A		N/A	

Summary of Current Performance



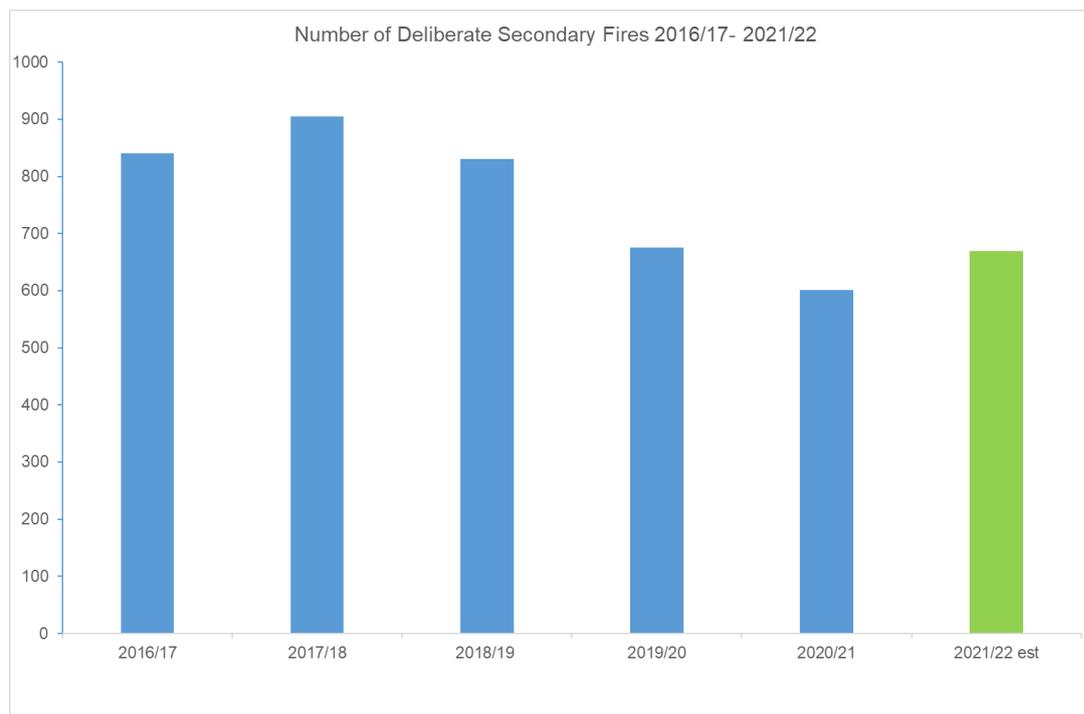
Deliberate Primary Fires

As defined in the Incident Recording System (IRS) primary fires include all fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fires attended by five or more appliances.

Overall, 58 deliberate primary fires were recorded at the end of quarter one, against a target of 65. Overall, the station areas with the highest number of incidents are Warrington (9) and Widnes (8).

Across Cheshire, 26 incidents (44.8%) involved the deliberate ignition of a road vehicle. Of these, 14 involved cars.

Unitary area	Number of Deliberate Primary Fires
Cheshire East	9
Cheshire West and Chester	24
Halton	13
Warrington	12
Total	58



Deliberate Secondary Fires

As defined in the Incident Recording System (IRS) Secondary Fires are fire incidents that did not meet the criteria of a primary fire, did not involve casualties and were attended by four or fewer appliances.

The number of deliberate secondary fires recorded at the end of Quarter One was 227 which is 18 incidents under target. The highest number of incidents have been in the following station areas - Warrington (47), Ellesmere Port (29) and Winsford (26). These three station areas account for 45.5% of all incidents.

Unitary area	Number of Deliberate Secondary Fires
Cheshire East	39
Cheshire West and Chester	80
Halton	39
Warrington	69
Total	224

Action taken to improve performance

Deliberate Fire Reduction

The number of Deliberate Primary and Secondary fires remain below the target figures. As Covid-19 restrictions are lifting it is recognised that we must be ready to react to any change in activity at the earliest opportunity to prevent any increase in incidents and local leads continue to monitor the situation in each area.

Regular update reports continue to be received by the Deliberate Fire Reduction Officer in Prevention from Cheshire Police. These reports outline the number of arrests and convictions for deliberate fires across Cheshire. This information provides valuable feedback to operational managers and fire investigation officers, highlighting the importance and benefits of robust and detailed fire investigation. This is in addition to reporting through the Incident Recording System (IRS) and Police Notification Report (PNR) platforms which are all quality assured by the Deliberate Fire Reduction Officer.

Cheshire East

Following a number of incidents in a similar vicinity (Tipkinder, Crewe) crews have conducted arson routes and the issue has been discussed with partners at a multi agency action group (MAAG). Further follow up has taken place with the local authority concerning planters in the town centre.

In Wilmslow, Operational crews are working with the local Youth Project and the local Policing team to develop plans to drive down anti social behaviour and deliberate fires in the area following a number of deliberate incidents.

Macclesfield crews have identified a trend, 3 incidents in June were in close proximity, and local Community Action Plan holders have liaised with the local PCSO.

Following the five deliberate fires in April in the Congleton area a meeting was held to introduce the new Local Policing Unit (LPU) Single Point Of Contact (SPOC) to the Watch and discuss the areas of concern in relation to deliberate fires.

The Police Inspector will liaise with beat officers to amend their route to patrol these areas. Local police will also contact the owners of local takeaways and chase up any CCTV footage of a car fire.

The Station Manager & Police Inspector also discussed joint working in the run up to Halloween and bonfire night to engage with high schools.

Congleton Town Council held a meeting with support of Councillors, input from Police, Streetscape and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service. We reported on deliberate fires in the Congleton area and the area where the deliberate fires took place were the same locations where the Police are dealing with anti social behaviour. We also fed into the group that a local premises is not secure, the group will contact the local authority Vacant & Voids team to make the building secure.

Alsager crews have identified a trend of deliberate secondary fires in the vicinity of the Milton Park area of Alsager. The Station Manager has discussed this with the local Police Beat Management team who have now re routed patrols on a Friday and Saturday night in the vicinity and at the times the incidents occurred.

In addition, Station Managers attend MAAG meetings where incidents of interest are discussed and Cheshire East Protection Department attend Vacant & Void meetings.

Operational crews continue to complete Police Notification Report (PNR) notifications as per the policy, Police log numbers are noted and all incidents are scrutinised monthly by the Service Delivery Manager & Protection team. Fire investigations are requested where necessary.

Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC)

CWAC has seen several deliberate primary fires linked with individuals setting fire to their own property with a strong link to mental health issues, possible worsened by the impacts of Covid. Close partnership working between Police and Fire have led to several arrests and support from the prevention team, for those that need it. An ongoing drugs feud in the Winsford area is largely responsible for an increase in figures and county lines operations have been implemented by the Police to address this issue.

In relation to secondary fires, partnership work is ongoing between Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service in Ellesmere Port to address fires around Stanney Lane/Whitby Park. This has resulted in the Police implementing an operation to identify young people involved in antisocial behaviour or disorder around the area. A dispersal order has been issued and enforced by Police. Community partners are now involved to undertake direct engagement with these young people and develop diversionary events as permitted by Covid restrictions.

Winsford has seen a large increase in deliberate secondary fires spread around the Winsford area, however the largest number have been in the Over area. This marked increase has coincided with the relaxation of Covid rules as well as school holidays and the better weather. In addition, the change to British summer time may have an impact on times that children are remaining out of the home. Two initial ad hoc meetings have been held with local PCSOs to share information.

Warrington

Two incidents at HMP Risley have been dealt with by Crown Premises Fire Safety Inspectorate (CPSFI). Crown Premises fire reports have been completed by fire investigators and shared with CPFSI.

In Warrington, a patient currently being held under the Mental Health Act set fire to bedding, clothes and toilet roll in their bedroom. A post fire visit was carried out by the Protection team. The Mersey Care Fire Safety advisor stated that the re-introduction of smoking shelters was being considered by the new trust. The trust have been advised at previous safety group meetings that in our opinion, banning smoking throughout the site would drive smoking underground. This decision has created several problems on the wards and a reverse of that policy would be welcome.

There have been seven secondary deliberate fires in Bewsey Park in Warrington during this period. The local Watch Manager is liaising with the local PCSO to explore repositioning the existing camera, but there are concerns this will only move the problem. There has also been antisocial behaviour reported in this area, which has resulted in a pre planned dispersal order being issued by Police. The Service is due to complete arson routes in the area.

There have also been issues in Lingley Park and crews are liaising with Police.

In Birchwood, there have been a low number of incidents this quarter, potentially due to the Police now being stationed in the Fire Station and a strong working relationship. Officers in charge now raise issues with the local Sergeant as soon as they arise, enabling a joint reaction to any themes. The team is currently planning joint visits to Woolston Park during the evening in the summer months.

Important fire safety messages regarding anti social behaviour and fire setting have continued to be driven via social media in Penketh. This type of direct engagement via social media platforms proves to be an important tool in communicating to our local communities.

Halton

Two deliberate primary fires in April in Widnes were linked to a domestic dispute. One incident in May is believed to be part of a large incident involving assaults, based on information passed to the Fire Investigation from the Police.

In relation to deliberate secondary fires, crews in Widnes were asked by Cllr Nelson to visit local businesses in the area, to educate them on arson prevention. The local Station Manager reported that over 30 premises were visited in only two days, with the engagement being well received. During the engagement, the team covered the usual business safety content but also reinforced the arson prevention and arson risk assessment element. This input appears to have been well received.

The Halton and Warrington Protection team have followed up with a number of audits at premises in the area following the business safety engagement. The Business Safety team also generated a targeted social media post highlighting the importance of arson reduction and prevention within the business community. This post received 2150 views in the first 12 hours.

A local Watch Manager has obtained CCTV footage of youths in relation to one incident. Crews are working with Police to explore the potential that they are responsible for a number of fires. Currently there are plans for the Community Action Plan holder to attend a local beat manager briefing to discuss the spike in calls.

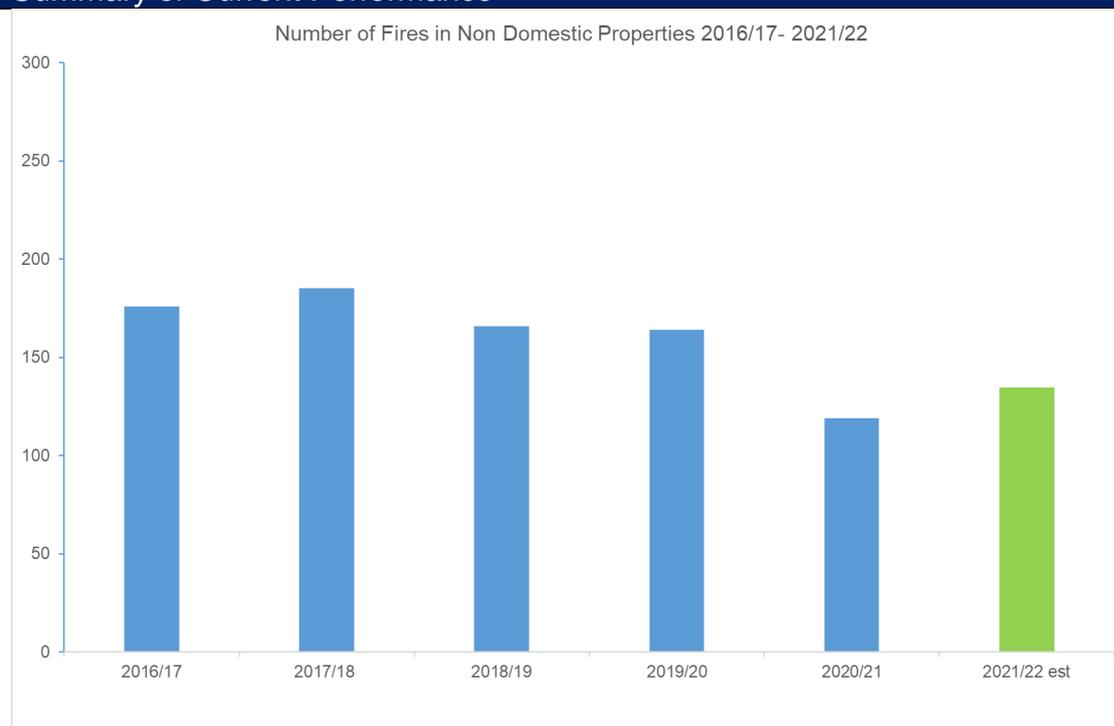
Police Notification Report (PNR) notifications are completed for all incidents and the Community Action Plan holders for reducing deliberate fires are in regular contact with Cheshire Police, highlighting any areas of concern and working together to reduce incidents. Crews have also been active on social media to highlight any issues with the community.

Performance and Programme Board – Performance Report

Indicator: [Fires in Non-Domestic Premises]

Reporting Period Q1		01/04/2021 to 30/06/2021	
Q1 Target	45	Q1 Actual	38
Q2 Target		Q2 Actual	
Q3 Target		Q3 Actual	
Q4 Target		Q4 Actual	
YTD Cumulative Target	45	YTD Cumulative Actual	38
Previous Status	Current Status		
N/A			

Summary of Current Performance



There have been 38 Non-Domestic Premises fires up to the end of Quarter One which is 7 below target.

The most significant numbers of fires have been identified in the following building types.

Type	Number of occurrences
Barn	4
Other Buildings	4
Retirement/Elderly Homes	3

The barn fires occurred through the use of welding/cutting equipment, wiring or spread from a secondary fire.

The main causes for fires in Non-Domestic Premises:

- 7 electrical causes - including fluorescent lights, other lights, batteries, wires and cabling.
- 3 cooking related incidents - including cookers, deep fat fryers and microwaves.
- 9 industrial equipment including kilns and dryers.

45% of the 38 fires (17 incidents) were either confined to the item first ignited (48) or involved smoke and heat damage only (11). Whilst a further 14 (37%) fires were confined to the room of origin.

Unitary Area	Accidental	Deliberate
Cheshire East	9	1
Cheshire West & Chester	13	5
Halton	3	1
Warrington	0	6
Grand Total*	25	13

Property Type	Number of Properties	Number of Incidents	Index Score
Prison	3	6	123529
Hospital / Hospice	40	4	4117
Factory/Manufacturing	438	13	1222
Care / Nursing Home	220	6	1684
Fast Food Outlet / Takeaway (Hot / Cold)	518	5	635
Farm / Non-Residential Associated Building	1077	10	420
Restaurant / Cafeteria	703	6	351
Public House / Bar / Nightclub	805	4	204

The indexed score is a risk score that compares the rate of incidents for each premises type against the average rate of fire in non-domestic premises within Cheshire. The rate is converted to an indexed score, with the average rate for Cheshire being converted to a score of 100. The indexed score is used rather than the rate so that simple comparisons can be made quarter on quarter and across occupancy types. For example, an indexed score of 200 indicates that the premises type is twice as likely as average to have a fire. The data for the index is over a 12-month period.

Action taken to improve performance

Close working is continuing with the Crown Premises Inspection Group who regulate fire safety in Prisons. This aim of this initiative is to build strong links between the emergency response (Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service) and the regulator who has the power to make changes (Crown Premises Inspection Group). The initiative means a specific focus on the Service's three prisons. Regular reporting processes and stronger relationships with the inspection group will ensure all prison incidents receive more robust scrutiny from all involved. This cross-departmental work involves the operational staff from those fire stations that attend the incidents, and the fire investigation teams. The above index score highlights the importance of this project. This first

quarter has seen 3 incidents, all at Risley and 2 fires were by the same individual. Protection inspectors and the Birchwood station manager have taken part in a contingency exercise with Risley Prison to review the fire plans.

The Chester Heritage Officer is continuing to audit heritage buildings to work on improving fire safety standards across the Chester rows. This joint initiative involves close working and regular joint inspections with partners from across the Chester area. 120 audits per year are planned to be completed and in addition, safe and well inspections are being completed where domestic accommodation is encompassed within the Rows. Close liaison is continuing to ensure there are accurate Site Specific Risk Information plans available for operational crews, this involves Chester fire station producing accurate plans of the Rows, which would be used in an emergency. The Chester Heritage Officer also co-ordinates close working with the three fire protection offices for any audits of heritage premises pan Cheshire.

Following each fire in a Regulated building there is a fire safety audit/ post fire inspection that is completed by a qualified inspector. The purpose of this visit is to ascertain if fire safety law was being complied with before the fire and potentially retrospective action may be taken against the building management. In addition, when fire crews are at the scene of a fire in a Regulated building, should they have any concerns for the safety of occupants an on duty fire Protection inspector is available to assist.

The Business Safety Team are actively involved following fires in Regulated premises. They conduct physical low-level checks and engagements with surrounding premises. Generally following a fire there is increased local interest and therefore this makes engagement that bit easier. The Business safety Team 'hot spotted' 496 premises and identified 16 premises that the fire service had no previous record of. A further 44 premises records were cleansed to ensure there were up to date on the Protection's SAFFIRE electronic database. It is very important that the SAFFIRE database is as up to date as possible as these premises details form the risk based inspection programme.

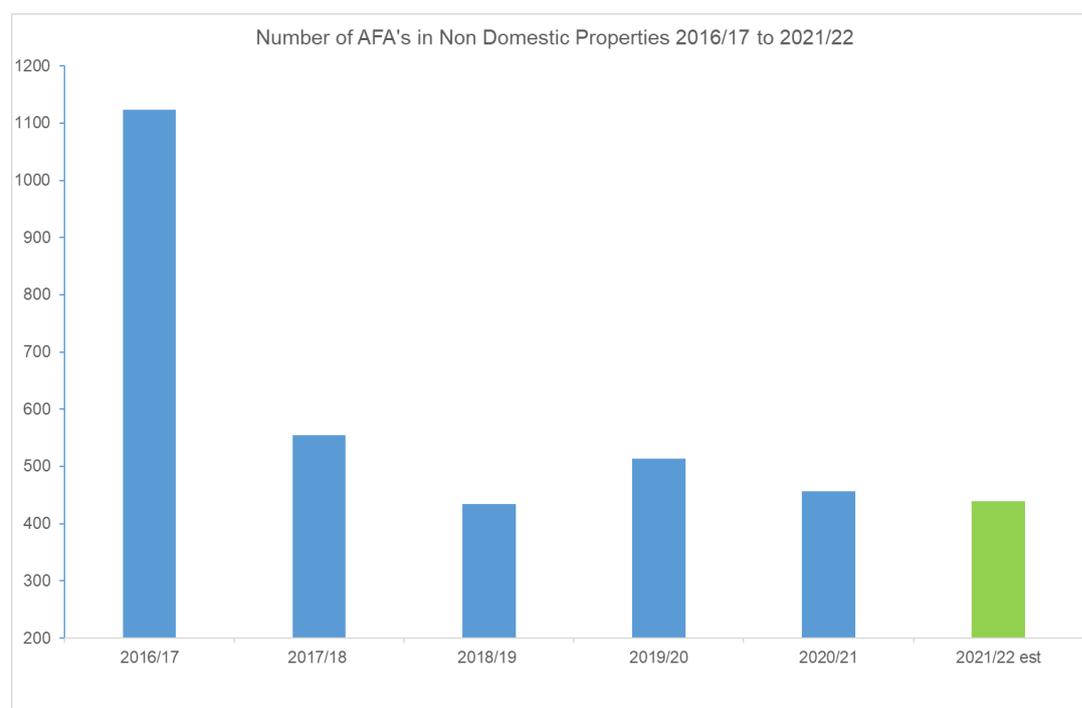
Social media continues to be used to great effect over the last quarter. This is used following incidents of note and for regular topical updates to tie in with National Fire Chief Council themes. The Sprinkler IRMP project makes use of monthly topical issues to promote the benefits of sprinkler systems.

Performance and Programme Board – Performance Report

Indicator: [Number of Automatic Fire Alarms (AFAs) in Non-Domestic Premises]/False Alarms

Reporting Period Q1		01/04/2021 To 30/06/2021	
Q1 Target	116	Q1 Actual	104
Q2 Target		Q2 Actual	
Q3 Target		Q3 Actual	
Q4 Target		Q4 Actual	
YTD Cumulative Target	116	YTD Cumulative Actual	104
Previous Status	Current Status		
N/A			

Summary of Current Performance



An Unwanted Fire Signal is defined by the British Fire Protection System Association as “any alarm signal other than a genuine fire or test signal”. Any false alarm, which is subsequently passed to the fire and rescue service from an Automatic Fire Alarm, is classed as an Unwanted Fire Signal.

At the end of Quarter 1, there were 104 attendances to Automatic Fire Alarms in Non-Domestic Premises against a target of 116.

The station areas with the highest number of calls are Chester, Warrington and Crewe which together account for 56% (58) of the overall total.

The main property types for Automatic Fire Alarms are hospitals (33) and nursing, retirement or care homes (27), whilst the most common reason for the alarm to go off was a fault (38), followed by cooking/burnt toast (16) and accidentally/carelessly set off (17).

Unitary area	Number of AFAs
Cheshire East	28
Cheshire West and Chester	50
Halton	9
Warrington	17
Total	104

Since the introduction of the revised policy in 2017/18, UWFS have reduced by over 50%. Whilst some activations can still be challenged, it is unlikely that additional reductions can be achieved without a further change to policy that would result in non-attendance to all UWFS without a confirmatory phone call. Members have previously indicated a reluctance to progress this approach.

Action taken to improve performance

Despite the strong UWFS performance, additional measures are being introduced across the 3 offices. These include a single point of contact that will challenge the application of the mobilization policy through NWFC should any be outside of policy.

There have been a number of UWFS at hospitals whereby more challenge is needed to ensure they are recorded accurately. This will involve close working with fire stations to ensure sufficient practical fire safety knowledge is available to front line crews. UWFS being recorded as fault will receive more challenge to ensure there are no issues with the fire alarm system itself. Failing to notify the receiving Centre is a continuing issue, which poses a problem of business continuity for both premises and emergency response assets. The UWFS will also receive a review to ensure it continues to deal with the infrequent number of calls across large numbers of premises which themselves total a large number of calls.

Liaison with fire stations & NWFC, fire protection inspectors undertaking visits and business safety information will all have a positive impact on reducing numbers.

Performance and Programme Board – Performance Report

Indicator: [A] Number of Safe and Well visits delivered to properties of Heightened Risk

Reporting Period Q1		01/04/2021 To 30/06/2021	
Q1 Target	2500	Q1 Actual	2320
Q2 Target		Q2 Actual	
Q3 Target		Q3 Actual	
Q4 Target		Q4 Actual	
YTD Cumulative Target		YTD Cumulative Total	2320
Previous Status	Current Status		
N/A			

Summary of Current Performance

Number of Safe and Well Visits

Up to the end of quarter four 2320 heightened risk visits have been completed by Prevention and operational staff.

Unitary area	Number of Safe and Well visits
Cheshire East	526
Cheshire West and Chester	917
Halton	519
Warrington	358
Total	2320

Indicator: [B] Platinum Address Success Rate]

Reporting Period Q1		01/04/2021 To 30/06/2021	
Q1 Target	65% *	Q1 Actual	84%
Q2 Target		Q2 Actual	
Q3 Target		Q3 Actual	
Q4 Target		Q4 Actual	
YTD Cumulative Target	65%	YTD Cumulative Total	84%
Previous Status	Current Status		
N/A			

Summary of Current Performance

Platinum Address Success Rate –

“Platinum” – the top 10,000 households identified at most risk from fire.

The percentage of platinum addresses where we have completed a Safe and Well visit is 84%.

Unitary area	Platinum address success rate
Cheshire East	90%
Cheshire West and Chester	74%
Halton	96%
Warrington	86%
Total	84%

Action taken to improve performance

The new Safe and Well (SaW) targeting methodology, proposed that Prevention staff work to a target of 10,000 SaW visits this year. This is due to the impact of Covid restrictions and the other essential community response activities the Service has been involved in, such as the vaccination program.

Service Delivery staff are forecast to recommence SaW delivery in September/October 2021. This is on the condition that there are no delays as a result of the Central Governments road map to recovery. This is also in line with the current training requirements to familiarise Service Delivery personnel with the SaW database and refresh them on the health elements of the visit.

Service Delivery have been allocated a target of 10,000 SaW visits, on a pro-rata basis. It is therefore envisaged Service Delivery will deliver approx. 5000-5800 in the remainder of the 2021-22 year.

Performance and Programme Board – Performance Report

Indicator: [Thematic Inspections Completed by Operational Crews]

Reporting Period Q1		01/04/2020 To 30/06/2021	
Q1 Target	501	Q1 Actual	466
Q2 Target		Q2 Actual	
Q3 Target		Q3 Actual	
Q4 Target		Q4 Actual	
YTD Cumulative Target	501	YTD Cumulative Total	466
Previous Status	Current Status		
N/A			

Summary of Current Performance

A thematic inspection is a fire safety assessment carried out by operational crews of low-risk Non-Domestic Premises. Thematic inspection targets are allocated to all stations with the exception of on-call.

Unitary	Q1 Target	No. completed during Q1
Cheshire East	101	95
Cheshire West and Chester	158	156
Halton	88	86
Warrington	154	129
TOTAL	501	466

Action taken to improve performance

Thematic inspections have now started again and operational crew are making every effort to access commercial premises. This is in line with the COVID risk assessments. The operational Thematic inspections follow the training that has been delivered by the Protection team. Any premises that have not been visited due to COVID issues will be picked in subsequent months.

There has been several examples over the last quarter where operational crews have visited commercial premises as part of a thematic inspection, which have resulted in either enforcement or a prohibition notice being issued (for the most serious fire safety issues). This has served to demonstrate the value of Thematic inspections and the importance of restarting them too.

Performance and Programme Board – Performance Report

Indicator: [A] Fire Safety Audits in Non-Domestic Premises]

Reporting Period Q1		01/04/2020 To 30/06/2021	
Q1 Target	450	Q1 Actual	505
Q2 Target		Q2 Actual	
Q3 Target		Q3 Actual	
Q4 Target		Q4 Actual	
YTD Cumulative Target	450	YTD Cumulative Total	505
Previous Status	Current Status		
N/A			

Summary of Current Performance

The Protection team has made an excellent start to the 2021 Q1 with numbers exceeding target. A concerted effort has been made to reach those premises which have previously been closed due to COVID and had previously been identified as part of 2020 RBIP. Face to face, physical audits are now being completed.

Enforcement activity has increased significantly in comparison to the previous lockdown quarters. 21 enforcement notices have been issued and 9 prohibition notices have been issued for the most serious of fire safety issues.

A range of issues are covered across the enforcement notices from inadequate fire detection to poor compartmentation. Several of the notices relate to premises with sleeping accommodation where the risk is increased due to the potential that occupants may be unaware that a fire could have broken out.

Unitary area	Q1 Target	Number of Fire Safety Audits Completed in Q1
Cheshire East	150	171
Cheshire West and Chester	150	193
Halton	75	68
Warrington	75	73
Total	450	505

Indicator: [B] Percentage of Risk Based Inspection Programme Completed]

Reporting Period Q1		01/04/2020 To 30/06/2021	
Q1 Target	100% (81 audits)	Q1 Actual	98.8% (80 audits)
Q2 Target	100%	Q2 Actual (cumulative)	
Q3 Target	100%	Q3 Actual (cumulative)	
Q4 Target	100%	Q4 Actual (cumulative)	
Previous Status	Current Status		
N/A			

Summary of Current Performance

Strong progress has been made to access all the premises that are classed as the highest risk (and therefore form part of the Risk Based Inspection Programme). The section above details some of the enforcement outcomes and therefore it can be seen the direct positive impact of the protection activities. The one visits that had not been completed in the first quarter has now already been visited and audited in line with the RBIP.

Unitary area	% RBIP Completed
Cheshire East	100% (31 audits)
Cheshire West and Chester	96% (26 audits)
Halton	100% (6 audits)
Warrington	100% (17 audits)
Total	98.8% (80 audits)

Action taken to improve performance

RBIP visits and audits have now recommenced in line with the lifting of government restrictions. RBIP visits are being prioritised with the aim of addressing the highest risk premises. The majority of regulated premises are now open in some capacity and therefore inspectors are conducting visits in accordance with the COVID risk assessments.

Performance and Programme Board – Performance Report

Indicator: [10 Minute Standard]

Reporting Period Q1		01/04/2021 To 30/06/2021	
Q1 Target	80%	Q1 Actual	82%
Q2 Target		Q2 Actual	
Q3 Target		Q3 Actual	
Q4 Target		Q4 Actual	
YTD Cumulative Target	80%	YTD Cumulative Total	82%
Previous Status	Current Status		
N/A			

Summary of Current Performance

Overall 82% of life risk incidents were attended within ten minutes, which is above the target of 80%. The average attendance time for life risk incidents is eight minutes and 29 seconds.

When scrutinising the 10 Minute Standard Life risk incidents are broken down into two categories Dwelling Fires and Road Traffic Collisions. The tables below capture the incidents that have failed to make the 10 minute standard with the common causes.

Dwellings							
	Appliance over 10 mins from incident	Traffic problems impeding appliance	Incorrect Address	Delay in On Call turnout - compared to target	Delay in Wholetime turnout - working in community	Other Explanation	Totals
Cheshire East	3					1*	4
CWAC	3				1		6
Halton	1						1
Warrington							0
Totals	9				1	1	11

* The failure was due to the Alsager appliance being on standby at Crewe Fire Station.

Road Traffic Collisions							
	Appliance over 10 mins from incident	Traffic problems impeding appliance	Incorrect Address	Delay in On Call turnout - compared to target	Delay in Wholetime turnout - working in community	Other Explanation	Totals
Cheshire East	1	1		2			4
CWAC	7						7
Halton			1				1
Warrington						1*	1
Totals	8	1	1	2		1	13

* The failure was due to the Birchwood appliance being on standby at Warrington Fire Station.

Action taken to improve performance

Community Action Plan (CAP) holders scrutinise failures and validate them at the local scrutiny meeting. Appropriate action is taken to prevent future failures, wherever possible.

Members of the Organisational Performance team and OPA are working together to provide a solution to calculate attendance times for those incidents where the Incident Commander has failed to book in attendance on the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT). It is important to deal with these incidents as they have a detrimental impact upon the Service's average attendance time performance that is reported to the Home Office. These are not included in the tables above.

To further assist, Service Delivery Managers have re-iterated the importance of booking in attendance to their operational teams.

Performance and Programme Board – Performance Report

Indicator: [On-call Availability]

Reporting Period Q1		01/04/2021 To 30/06/2021			
Q1 Target	85%	Q1 Actual	64%		
Q2 Target	85%	Q2 Actual			
Q3 Target	85%	Q3 Actual			
Q4 Target	85%	Q4 Actual			
YTD Cumulative Target	85%	YTD Cumulative Actual	64%		
Nucleus		Primary on-call		Secondary on-call	
Previous Status	Current Status	Previous Status	Current Status	Previous Status	Current Status
N/A		N/A		N/A	

Summary of Current Performance

On-call YTD global availability at the end of Q1 was 64% (crew of four) and 69% (crew of three, available as a Small Incident Unit).

However, there are variations of availability between the differing on-call shift systems as follows:

- Nucleus on-call appliance (e.g. Birchwood) availability was 95%
- Primary on-call appliance (e.g. Malpas, Poynton etc.) availability was 64%
- Secondary on-call appliance (e.g. Winsford second appliance etc.) availability was 45%

Action taken to improve performance

On-Call availability has decreased from Quarter 4 to Quarter 1 from 77% to 64%. Whilst the quarterly direction of travel is negative in direction this quarter, Appendix 6 demonstrates that when assessing over a 12-month period, only two stations are tracking in a negative direction of travel of above 10% (Holmes Chapel and Stockton Heath). An existing action plan is in place at Holmes Chapel following a number of previously identified issues. The On-Call Programme Team (OCPT) are working with Stockton Heath to develop a plan for future improvement.

Quarter 1 also saw an unusually large number of key supervisory managers leaving the On-Call duty system that has negatively affected availability at a number of On-Call stations. These leavers were due to retirement or the impact of primary employment contracts.

The difference between Q4 and Q1 this year has been accentuated by the national lockdown (which commenced on 26th December 2020) inflating Q4 levels of availability due to a number of On-Call staff who were furloughed or had increased ability to work from home. Q1 has also coincided with lockdown restrictions easing as part of the Government Roadmap and, therefore, a greater proportion of On-Call staff have taken annual leave in this period.

The On Call Support Crew Managers continue to provide support to stations such as Frodsham whilst availability remains low and a number of new recruits are developed to the point at which they can respond to support availability of the fire engine.

Recruitment remains a priority and social media campaigns for all of our On Call stations take place across platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Innovative videos form part of the campaigns to attract new recruits, which feature real life stories of our own On Call firefighters and their families.

The On Call Programme Team has developed and introduced a method of utilising existing, qualified staff, employed in other departments to provide cover at On Call fire stations. Departmental and Wholetime Latent resource maximises the opportunities to place staff at On Call fire stations during the typically hard to cover weekday periods.

Performance and Programme Board – Performance Report

Indicator: [Average Days/Shifts Lost to Sickness]

Reporting Period Q1		01/04/2021 To 30/06/2021	
Q1 Target	1.38	Q1 Actual	1.76
Q2 Target (cumulative)	2.75	Q2 Actual (cumulative)	
Q3 Target (cumulative)	4.13	Q3 Actual (cumulative)	
Q4 Target (cumulative)	5.5	Q4 Actual (cumulative)	
YTD Cumulative Target	5.5	YTD Cumulative Actual	1.76
Previous Status	Current Status		
			

Summary of Current Performance

The Quarter 1 figure for all staff is 1.76, which is an increase on the Quarter 1 figure for 20/21 of 0.86. For operational staff, the figure for wholetime staff is 1.52, which is an increase on the 20/21 figure of 0.95; the Q1 On Call figure of 1.94 is an increase on the previous 20/21 figure of 0.67. Overall, the Quarter 1 figure for operational staff of 1.69 is an increase on the 20/21 figure of 0.83.

Performance for Fire Staff for the quarter (2.07) shows higher average days lost than for Operational Staff (1.69). The figure for Fire Staff (2.07) is higher than for Quarter 1 last year when it was 0.96.

In terms of total days lost, the Q1 figure for 21/22 is 1562, which is an increase of 101% compared with the figure of 777 days for 20/21.

Therefore the average days lost to sickness in Q1 for all staff groups is above the target of 1.38 and well in excess of the corresponding quarterly figure last year. In addition, the total days lost to sickness is double the figure for the same quarter last year.

Comparing Q1 figures this year with the same period last year, whilst days lost to short-term absence has increased by 17.8%, days lost to long-term absence has increased by 260%. This requires further investigation, however delays to NHS operations caused by the prioritisation of Covid-19 cases in the NHS, may be a factor in elongating absences for staff who are off awaiting NHS diagnosis/treatment/intervention.

There were 6 episodes of sickness absence in Q1 due to Covid-19, amounting to less than 21 working days lost (this does not include absences due to self-isolation or shielding).

Staff Category	# of sickness days/shifts	Headcount	Average working days lost to sickness per person
Whole-time	657	432	1.52
On-call	559	288	1.94
Uniform Total	1216	720	1.69
Fire Staff	346	167	2.07
Q4 Total	1562	887	1.76

What actions will be required to improve performance?

- Following the most recent Attendance Management meeting in July 2021 the following information has been obtained to compare the position from Quarter 1 2020 to 1st August 2021

In Quarter 1 - 2021 the 'average days lost' performance demonstrated a small increase in short term absences from 323 days to 381 when compared with last year's Q1. The long-term absences for the same period have risen from 453 days to 1181.

By the start of Q2 – 2021, and following some supportive actions and case management, with the assistance of the occupational health provider, the number of staff on long-term absence has been reduced from 25 cases in total to 5. 19 have returned to the workplace and 1 person has resigned their position. This will ensure that the long term absence figure shows a positive decrease in the coming quarters.

The Covid pandemic has impacted on the long term absence cases in particular. This is due to staff waiting longer for appointments / interventions from the NHS because of the associated demands placed on these services in the fight against Coronavirus. Work is continuing to support the staff with their recovery and a return to the workplace at the earliest opportunity.

- The latest national benchmarking data available from Cleveland Fire & Rescue Service is a quarter behind this reporting period so relates to Quarter 4. This shows that CFRS has the second lowest Wholetime absence rate of all services. Although not amongst the lowest, for Fire Staff absence the Service's average days lost figure was below the national average for Fire Staff across all Services. For On Call staff the Service had the third lowest sickness absence rate of all services.

Performance and Programme Board – Performance Report

Indicator: [Working Days Lost to Injury]

Reporting Period Q1		01/04/2021 To 30/06/2021	
Q1 Target	10	Q1 Actual	72
Q2 Target		Q2 Actual	
Q3 Target		Q3 Actual	
Q4 Target		Q4 Actual	
YTD Cumulative Target	10	YTD Cumulative Actual	72
Previous Status	Current Status		
N/A			

Summary of Current Performance

In Quarter 1, there were 72 days lost as a result of three incidents. In one accident, only two days were lost. The other accident involved an On Call fire fighter sustaining an injury during training on station. He was provided with a sick note, as he is On Call all of the time was counted as lost time, this resulted in 49 days being recorded as lost.

8 days were lost following an injury on duty that is currently under investigation.

13 days were lost as a result of an accident in the last quarter of the previous reporting year.

Action taken to improve performance

The incident resulting in the most days lost occurred during training when a relatively inexperienced crew were pitching a 13.5m ladder, which they did not foot correctly. The firefighter was injured trying to control the ladder when it moved. The poor technique was addressed at the time with the crew concerned.

The second injury is currently being investigated.

The third accident happened when an on-call firefighter slipped on poorly lit pavement when responding to a call. Cheshire East council have been made aware of the problem.

Discussions are on going to address the current absence recording methodology that includes all On Call personnel's time as absence. The objective is to provide a more representative method that is proportionate to the impact of the absence.

Performance and Programme Board – Performance Report

Indicator: [Road Traffic Collisions Attended]

Reporting Period Q1	01/04/2021 To 30/06/2021	Q1 Actual Q2 Actual Q3 Actual Q4 Actual YTD Cumulative Actual	72 72
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Summary of Current Performance

Over recent years there has been an increase in the number of fatalities on the road, therefore as part of the IRMP we have committed to expanding the road safety provision in relation to prevention activity and are developing a Strategic Road Safety Plan and expanding operational response.

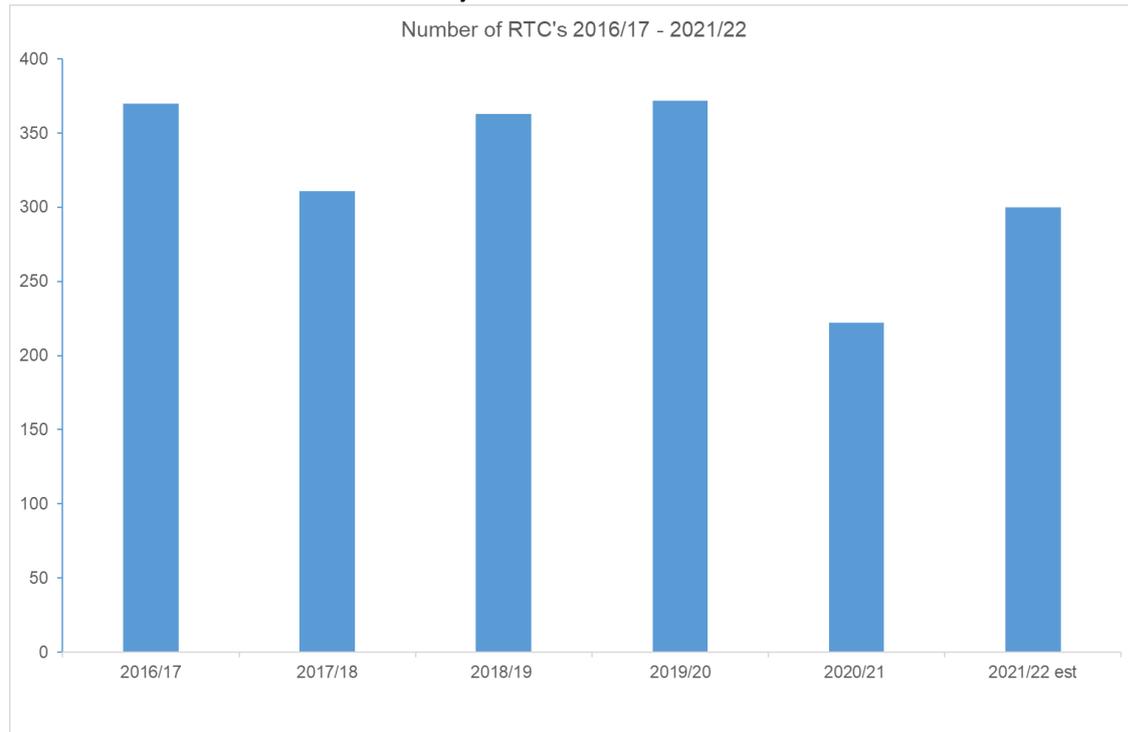
As a consequence, the Service has taken a decision to monitor and report the number of road traffic collisions (RTCs) that we attend.

Fatalities and injuries occurring as a result of Road Traffic Collisions.

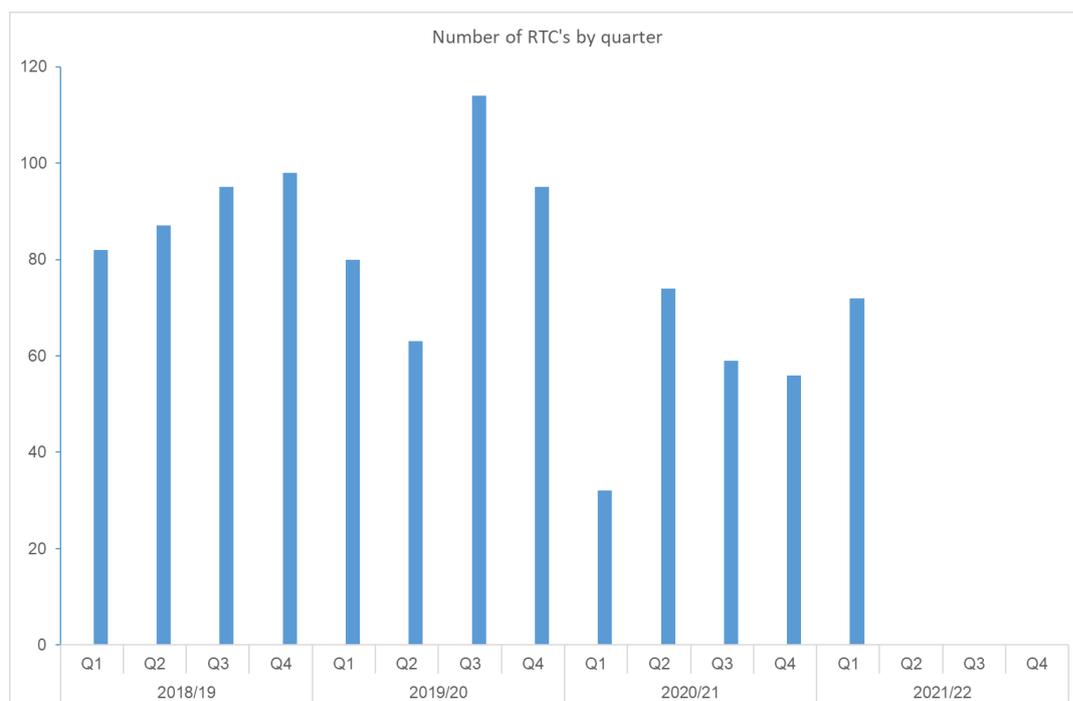
Please note, the following information is collated from data owned by Cheshire Constabulary and relates to the calendar year.

Severity	1 st January 2019 to 31 st December 2019	1 st January 2020 to 31 st December 2020	% of total	Year on year change
Fatal	34	29	2.1%	↓ 15%
Serious	211	207	15%	↓ 2%
Slight	1496	1140	82.9%	↓ 24%
Total	1741	1376		↓ 21%

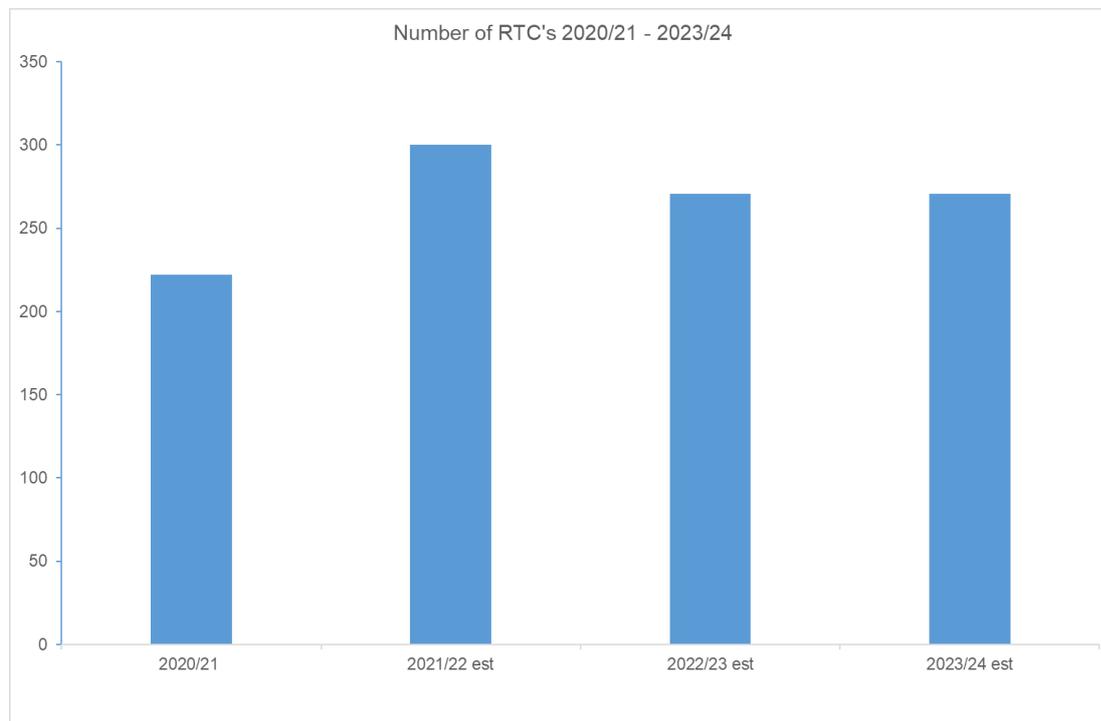
Chart of number of RTC's attended by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service



The chart below shows the number of RTCs attended by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service per quarter from April 2018. Overall, the trend was upwards up to December 2019 with a subsequent decrease following this. The downward trend during 2020/21 is partially due to the travel restrictions placed on households due to Covid-19, since the start of 2021/22 the numbers have increased to expected levels.



The chart below shows the predicted number of incidents the Service will attend over the next three years with the number of incidents expected to consistently stay around 300-320.



Action taken to improve performance

Work continues to promote the adoption of a Strategic Road Safety Plan with Cheshire Road Safety Group (CRSG) and the review of the group continues. The review encompasses the structure, service delivery, governance model and funding arrangements for the existing Cheshire Road Safety Group. A CFRS submission to CRSG has been completed, making recommendations to revise the Group.

The Service has continued to engage predominately with the public regarding Road Safety via social media, using content created by the Road Safety Manager and the communications team. This has seen a large increase in the use of social media to support key areas contained in the Service's Road Safety Delivery Plan.

The figures within this report are moving back to normal levels but it must be recognised that during this period the general public had many restrictions in place due to Covid-19, which would have limited some normal travel routines.

"Operation Close Pass" continues to be utilised respond to the rise in injuries from those utilising pedal cycles for transport and recreation a further event was held on the 15th of April in Wilmslow– face to face with the public with Cheshire Police. Several further events are in the planning to supplement the Service's current Road Safety Delivery Plan.

A discussion took place at the previous Performance and Overview Committee regarding a breakdown of the road type of where incidents occur. The Organisational Performance department are in discussion with the Joint Corporate Services Planning and Performance team to consider how best to present this data. As soon as the data is collated, it will be made available to members of the Committee.

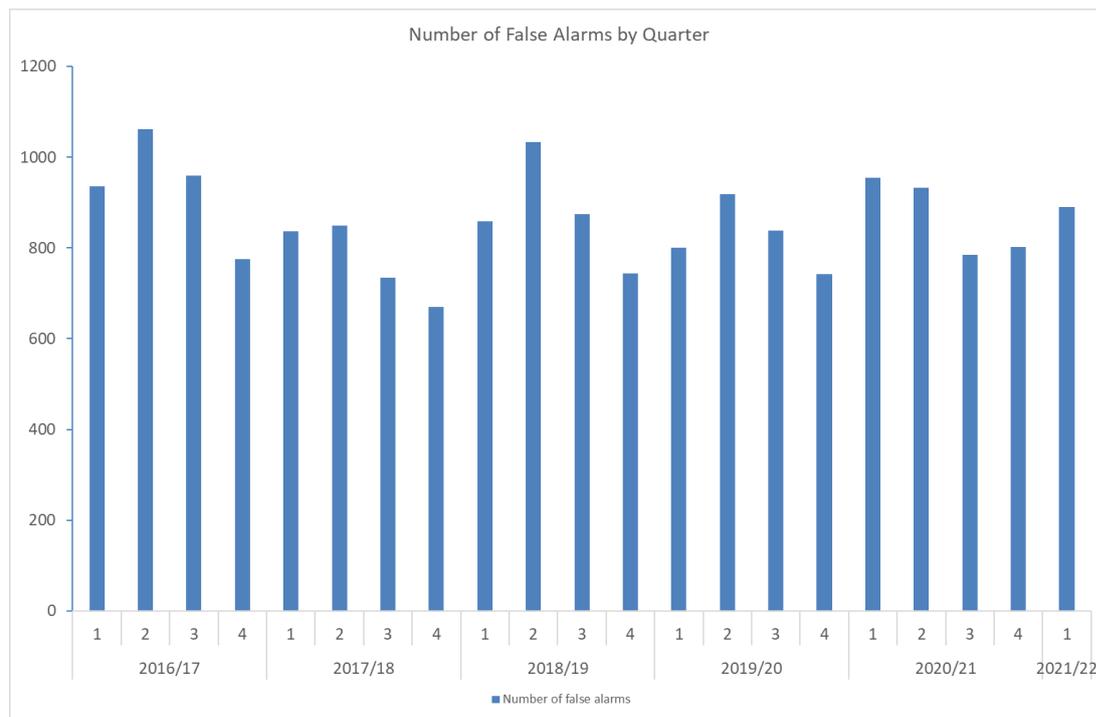
Performance and Programme Board – Performance Report

Indicator: [Total number of False Alarms attended]

Reporting Period Q1	01/04/2021 To 30/06/2021	Q1 Actual Q2 Actual Q3 Actual Q4 Actual YTD Cumulative Actual	890
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Summary of Current Performance

Approximately 40% of all operational incidents across Cheshire are false alarms. The Service has an existing KPI for automatic fire alarms in non-domestic premises that are actively managed. Therefore from this year the Service will be monitoring all false alarms, both malicious and those of good intent, to review where we can improve performance.



Over the last 12 months (July 2020-June 2021), 3410 incidents have been classified as a false alarm. This is a decrease of 44 incidents over the previous year.

55.9% of false alarms are accounted for by automatic false alarm calls (1905) and 42.1% by false alarm good intent calls (1435). In both categories the highest number of calls relate to dwellings, accounting for 62.8% of all false alarms.

The highest number of calls are from dwellings, particularly AFAs linked to “faulty alarms” and “cooking/burnt toast” which account for 46.5% of all calls from dwellings.

Outside of dwellings, the individual properties with the highest number of calls are hospitals – Countess of Chester, Warrington and Macclesfield. Calls to hospitals are classed as Unwanted Fire Signals and are scrutinised regularly.

Dwellings account for the highest number of calls and fall outside the scope of the Unwanted Fire Signal policy. Dwellings consist of individual houses, blocks of flats/apartments and sheltered accommodation. The vast majority of false alarms in dwellings are in sheltered accommodation and other multiple occupancy buildings.

Count by Unitary Area

Unitary Area	Number of False Alarms July 2020-Jun 2021
Cheshire East	1257
Cheshire West and Chester	1075
Halton	502
Warrington	576

Data July 2020-June 2021

Count by false alarm type

Type of False Alarm	Number of False Alarms
False alarm due to apparatus	1905
False Alarm Good Intent	1435
False Alarm Malicious	70

Count by false alarm reason and property type

Reason	Dwelling	Non Residential	Other Residential	Outdoor	Outdoor Structure	Road Vehicle	Total
Cooking/burnt toast	560	16	49		0		621
Faulty	453	107	62		1	3	626
Controlled burning	77	11	0	247	34		369
Other	163	29	12	22	11	16	254
Accidentally/carelessly set off	111	41	19		0	0	171
Not required	157	4	1	10	3	21	196
Fire - Reported Incident/Location not found	68	6	1	53	10	10	148

Count by Station Area

Station Area	Number of False Alarms
Chester	418
Warrington	328
Runcorn	310
Crewe	275
Macclesfield	228



Cheshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Our Performance

Q1 2021/22 update

TOTAL VISITORS SINCE APRIL 2021: 620

(22,581 since July 2017)

School visits:

None so far, due to restart on September 7 2021

Summer family visits

None so far, will host in August if restrictions allow

"Thank you to everyone who made tonight's vaccination session a success. What a wonderful venue"



Additional visitors:

- 47 colleagues from external agencies
- 139 patients attending community antenatal clinic pilot
- 434 members of the public attending vaccination session

Current C19 Recovery Phase

4	Full programme recommences
3	Primary school groups of 30 only
2	Family groups of up to 6 people only
1	Closed to visitors, workplace only





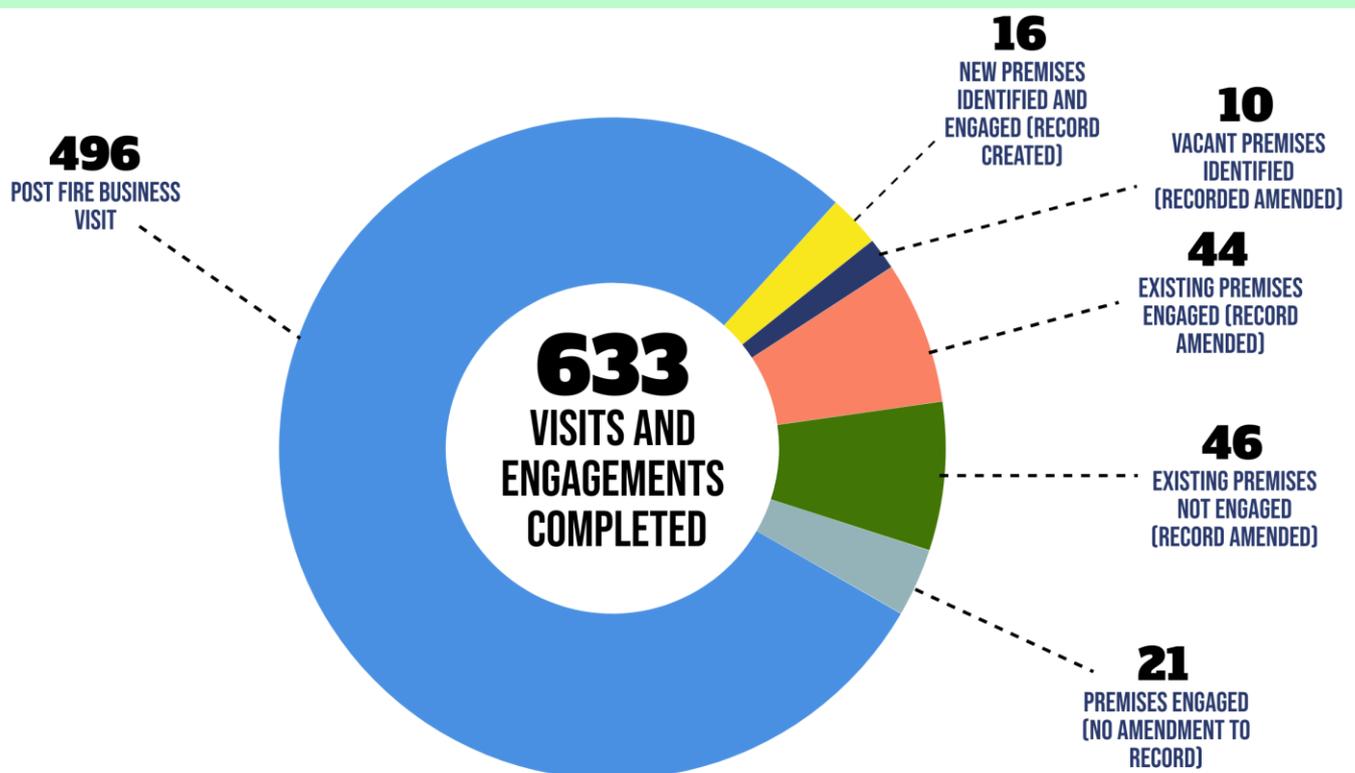
Cheshire
Fire & Rescue Service

BUSINESS SAFETY TEAM

1ST APRIL 2021 - 30TH JUNE 2021

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service has a proud record of keeping businesses safe. The team work with businesses through engagement and scheduled audits/inspections to ensure they are compliant with The (Fire safety) order 2005. The initiatives have been rolled out to include working in partnership with local authorities, other fire authorities, business chambers and networking groups

These activities took place during Covid-19 restrictions



JOB TYPE	CHESHIRE EAST	CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER	HALTON	WARRINGTON	NO LOCATION
FARM WITH BUSINESS	0	0	0	0	0
POST FIRE BUSINESS VISIT	136	223	77	60	0
NEW PREMISES IDENTIFIED AND ENGAGED (RECORD CREATED)	10	0	2	4	0
VACANT PREMISES IDENTIFIED (RECORD AMENDED)	5	0	5	0	0
EXISTING PREMISES ENGAGED (RECORD AMENDED)	22	1	17	4	0
EXISTING PREMISES NOT ENGAGED (RECORD AMENDED)	14	3	12	17	0
PREMISES ENGAGED (NO AMENDMENT TO RECORD)	1	2	9	9	0
TOTAL	188	229	122	94	0



Cheshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Vaccination Support

15 February – 4 July 2021

COVID-19 Activity for the whole of Cheshire

April 2020 - July 2021

- 5,064 Food Deliveries
- 8,180 Prescription Deliveries
- 1,447 Welfare Calls
- 1,374 Shielding Visits
- 95,000 PPE Items delivered
- 2,964 Pre Operation Swab Test Kits delivered
- 234 Education Resource Packs delivered
- 441 Meals for young people
- 61 Bulk food pickup for young people



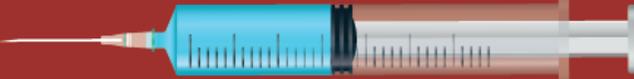
Up to

4 July 2021

134,014 vaccines

administered at sites, of which

76,869

 were given by CFRS personnel

438
Safe and Well addresses visited

6
Vaccine appointments booked



12,788

Number of hours worked

1,818

Number of shifts worked

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ON-CALL AVAILABILITY																														
Quarter 2 2020/21																														
Quarter 3 2020/21																														
Quarter 4 2020/21																														
Quarter 1 2021/22																														
Appliance Location	Jul-20		Aug-20		Sep-20		Oct-20		Nov-20		Dec-20		Jan-21		Feb-21		Mar-21		Apr-21		May-21		Jun-21		Overall		Direction of Travel			
	4 riders	3 riders	4 riders	3 riders																										
NUCLEUS																														
Macclesfield	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	↔	↔
Birchwood	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%	98%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	97%	97%	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%	97%	84%	93%	97%	98%	↓	↓	
Wilmslow	98%	100%	97%	100%	94%	98%	98%	100%	100%	100%	96%	98%	100%	100%	99%	99%	97%	97%	95%	95%	93%	95%	95%	96%	97%	98%	↑	↑		
Average	99%	100%	99%	100%	98%	99%	99%	99%	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%	100%	99%	99%	98%	98%	97%	97%	96%	97%	93%	96%	98%	99%				
PRIMARY																														
Nantwich	98%	98%	97%	97%	95%	95%	98%	98%	99%	99%	88%	88%	96%	96%	98%	98%	98%	98%	94%	94%	86%	86%	93%	93%	95%	95%	↓	↓		
Poynton	82%	85%	77%	82%	78%	84%	79%	82%	87%	89%	79%	84%	91%	92%	91%	94%	86%	91%	74%	79%	79%	84%	71%	80%	81%	86%	↓	↓		
Alsager	99%	100%	85%	89%	87%	91%	94%	97%	98%	98%	99%	100%	98%	98%	93%	94%	97%	98%	95%	96%	86%	88%	84%	85%	93%	94%	↑	↑		
Sandbach	85%	92%	82%	85%	81%	88%	82%	87%	77%	82%	77%	80%	87%	92%	89%	95%	84%	91%	78%	88%	73%	84%	72%	83%	81%	87%	↓	↓		
Middlewich	92%	93%	78%	79%	83%	85%	94%	95%	93%	93%	95%	95%	89%	89%	91%	91%	94%	95%	90%	91%	91%	92%	81%	81%	89%	90%	↑	↑		
Audlem	88%	93%	56%	70%	83%	87%	79%	81%	93%	95%	84%	91%	92%	92%	97%	97%	94%	95%	85%	89%	81%	85%	87%	91%	85%	89%	↑	↑		
Bollington	96%	97%	83%	86%	64%	71%	73%	74%	82%	85%	86%	88%	99%	99%	98%	98%	94%	95%	81%	83%	67%	69%	66%	72%	82%	85%	↑	↑		
Malpas	80%	81%	66%	72%	69%	74%	74%	78%	77%	80%	83%	86%	79%	81%	82%	86%	78%	82%	75%	77%	67%	69%	60%	61%	74%	77%	↑	↑		
Holmes Chapel	57%	62%	36%	40%	30%	30%	13%	13%	12%	12%	5%	5%	25%	27%	25%	28%	27%	33%	23%	30%	34%	43%	29%	39%	26%	30%	↓	↓		
Stockton Heath	63%	66%	47%	50%	56%	62%	52%	56%	30%	34%	37%	39%	61%	64%	62%	64%	62%	64%	54%	55%	51%	53%	39%	43%	51%	54%	↓	↓		
Knutsford	52%	61%	29%	36%	49%	55%	65%	73%	45%	47%	50%	56%	78%	80%	85%	88%	81%	86%	78%	79%	61%	63%	49%	54%	60%	65%	↓	↓		
Tarporley	43%	63%	30%	59%	37%	63%	39%	63%	51%	76%	39%	67%	61%	84%	78%	89%	48%	72%	45%	73%	28%	48%	23%	39%	43%	66%	↓	↓		
Frodsham	22%	28%	35%	43%	35%	39%	31%	40%	35%	41%	23%	29%	40%	45%	37%	42%	24%	30%	29%	34%	30%	36%	21%	25%	30%	36%	↓	↓		
Average	74%	78%	61%	68%	65%	71%	67%	72%	68%	72%	65%	70%	77%	80%	79%	82%	75%	79%	69%	74%	64%	69%	60%	65%	69%	73%				
SECONDARY																														
Macclesfield	69%	74%	52%	62%	52%	61%	51%	61%	61%	68%	48%	60%	84%	88%	71%	74%	66%	71%	54%	60%	48%	55%	47%	58%	59%	65%	↓	↓		
Penketh	85%	87%	70%	72%	66%	71%	65%	67%	79%	82%	54%	60%	75%	76%	69%	73%	70%	73%	65%	68%	74%	75%	64%	66%	70%	72%	↓	↓		
Northwich	43%	53%	49%	57%	39%	47%	42%	53%	52%	61%	59%	70%	80%	85%	79%	86%	73%	82%	55%	66%	51%	65%	44%	51%	56%	65%	↓	↓		
Runcorn	45%	53%	47%	53%	40%	48%	61%	67%	47%	57%	19%	25%	51%	60%	52%	60%	50%	58%	28%	32%	41%	44%	19%	26%	42%	49%	↓	↓		
Winsford	38%	48%	39%	56%	55%	67%	43%	54%	49%	53%	36%	46%	50%	55%	45%	46%	51%	56%	41%	43%	24%	27%	16%	20%	41%	48%	↑	↑		
Average	56%	63%	51%	60%	50%	59%	52%	60%	58%	64%	43%	52%	68%	73%	63%	68%	62%	68%	49%	54%	48%	53%	38%	44%	53%	60%				
Overall Average	73%	78%	64%	71%	66%	72%	68%	73%	70%	74%	65%	70%	78%	81%	78%	81%	75%	79%	68%	73%	65%	69%	59%	65%	69%	74%				
Quarterly Availability (4 riders)	68%						68%						77%						64%											
Quarterly Availability (3 riders)	74%						72%						80%						69%											

↑	Improved direction of travel compared to 2019/20
↔	No Change in direction of travel compared to 2019/20
↓	Negative direction of travel by up to 10% compared to 2019/20
↓	Negative direction of travel by 10% or more compared to 2019/20

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CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2021
REPORT OF: CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE
AUTHOR: JANET GAUKROGER

SUBJECT: PROGRAMME REPORT, QUARTER 1, 2021-22

Purpose of Report

1. To update Members on the Service's programmes and projects (including those contained within the Authority's annual IRMP action plan).

Recommended:

- [1] That members review the information provided.

Background

2. This report forms part of the Authority's quarterly performance reporting cycle which also includes reports on performance indicators and financial performance.

Information

3. Progress on delivery of the programmes and projects is reported in the form of a quarterly health report to the Service's Performance and Programme Board (members of Service Management Team). The Board is responsible for ensuring the successful delivery of programmes and projects contained in the Authority's annual IRMP action plans. The Programme Health Report for the first quarter of 2021-22 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
4. The report includes the first updates from the new IRMP related initiatives.

Financial Implications

5. Specific financial and budget impacts are detailed in the finance report presented separately by the Head of Finance.

Legal Implications

6. There are no issues to report that impact upon the Service's ability to meet its statutory or other legal obligations.

Equality and Diversity Implications

7. Programmes and projects are required to have equality impact assessments completed in accordance with the approved Project Management Framework.

Environmental Implications

8. Projects are individually assessed for environmental implications by the relevant project managers in accordance with the Service's Project Management Framework.

**CONTACT: DONNA LINTON, GOVERNANCE AND CORPORATE PLANNING
MANAGER**

TEL [01606] 868804

BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE



Performance and Programme Board – Programme Health Report

All data supplied in the report has been populated directly from the Cheshire Planning System.

Reporting Period	FROM	1st April 2021	TO	30th June 2021
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ACTION OR DECISION REQUIRED BY PROGRAMME BOARD

No decisions required.

Governance and Commissioning

1226	BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION PROGRAMME		
PROGRAMME SPONSOR		Chief Fire Officer	PROGRAMME MANAGER
			Director of Governance and Commissioning
Previous status	Current status	Explanation (where status is red or amber)	
			
Programme Update			
It has been agreed that the Programme will go into Closedown phase. Report to be produced during Quarter 2.			



1544		REPLACEMENT OF CHESTER FIRE STATION			
PROJECT SPONSOR		Director of Governance and Commissioning	PROJECT MANAGER		Group Manager Cheshire West and Chester
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)			
Project Update					
<p>The station continues to operate successfully, with any minor issues being resolved with ISG through Estates.</p> <p>A meeting has been called to address the issues presented by the photovoltaic panels and feedback from this will be provided in next quarter's report.</p> <p>The Survey Monkey lessons learned survey has been developed and currently being tested, before going out for consultation. The findings from this will be used to formulate the closedown report.</p> <p>Owing to the Government's postponement of the relaxation of Covid measures, the opening ceremony was rescheduled to the 19th August 2021.</p>					

1558		REPLACEMENT OF CREWE FIRE STATION			
PROJECT SPONSOR		Director of Governance and Commissioning	PROJECT MANAGER		Group Manager Governance and Commissioning
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)			
Project Update					
<p>Community engagement is taking place during July at Crewe fire station, to invite local residents to view the proposed plans of the new fire station.</p> <p>Station staff have been consulted during the development of the draft plans. A transition plan is being prepared which covers the people and business areas that will be impacted during the build.</p> <p>The project team is developing the designs and plans in readiness for the submission of a planning application to Cheshire East Council in August.</p>					



1557 FIRE STATION MODERNISATION PROGRAMME				
PROGRAMME SPONSOR		Director of Governance and Commissioning	PROGRAMME MANAGER	Group Manager Governance and Commissioning
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)		
				
Programme Update				
<p>Year 2 of the modernisation programme has now been completed covering works at Audlem, Holmes Chapel, Northwich and Widnes (including the community safety bungalow refurbishment) fire stations.</p> <p>The Pre-Construction Services Agreement period for Year 3 commenced on 5th July 2021, with site visits arranged for Congleton, Ellesmere Port, Knutsford and Malpas. Staff engagement remains an important element of the programme.</p>				

1575 WILMSLOW FIRE STATION TRANSITION TO DAY CREWING				
PROJECT SPONSOR		Director of Governance and Commissioning	PROJECT MANAGER	Project Manager, Governance and Commissioning
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)		
		<p>Due to the late conclusion of Phase 1, this project is now Amber. Another feasibility phase will commence, looking at the viability of other options.</p>		
Project Update				
<p>The feasibility study concerned with the creation of a joint ambulance, fire and police facility was completed in late June 2021. The outcome from the feasibility study led to the parties concluding that it would not be possible to move forward with the project.</p> <p>The Service will now consider other options to work towards a satisfactory crewing arrangement at Wilmslow. If Day Crewing is to be achieved the Service will need to secure houses within close proximity of the fire station which can be used by operational staff.</p> <p>The Fire Authority will need to consider this further and it is likely that consultation will be required before this project can proceed.</p>				



1591		MICROSOFT 365 IMPLEMENTATION	
PROJECT SPONSOR		Director of Governance and Commissioning	PROJECT MANAGER
			Project Manager, Governance and Commissioning
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)	
			
Project Update			
<p>Comms Care/Insight have been chosen to design and build the Azure cloud environment for the Service.</p> <p>Several fact-finding and design sessions have been held with Comms Care and the design of the new cloud environment was due to be finalised week ending 23rd July 2021.</p> <p>Following confirmation of the proposed design, an implementation plan will be produced and agreed. Crucially this design will help the project establish the initial scope of the M365 roll-out. It is expected that the build and initial testing of the Azure cloud environment will take 3 months, once agreed. The implementation plan will shape the timings and scope of the system User Acceptance Testing (UAT) and the following Business Pilot and roll-out.</p> <p>Work continues to secure staff and departments wishing to be a part of the Business Pilot and to take part in system UAT prior to full roll out around the Service.</p> <p>The first project board is due to be held in late July and will focus on any outstanding decisions that need to be fed into the M365 system design. In particular the scope of the software available to staff following initial roll-out will be reviewed.</p> <p>An issue has been raised from the Information Management team around resource availability to assist the Project.</p>			



Operational Policy Assurance

1490		SADLER ROAD TRAINING CENTRE PROGRAMME		
PROGRAMME SPONSOR		Deputy Chief Fire Officer	PROGRAMME MANAGER	Group Manager Operational Policy and Assurance
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)		
Programme Update				
<p>A final day's training and site familiarisation with contractors and employees (estates and instructors) took place on the 8th July, this has ensured that any props and features of the site are fully utilised in line with the operating methods and manuals.</p> <p>Quarterly defect meetings continue to be held on site and any defects are being reported through the identified procedure to ensure a full audit process is available.</p> <p>The survey to identify the lessons learned from the whole programme has now concluded and the outcomes are being populated and will form part of the project closedown report.</p>				

1553		OPERATIONAL TRAINING GROUP REVIEW		
PROJECT SPONSOR		Deputy Chief Fire Officer	PROJECT MANAGER	Service Delivery Station Manager
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)		
Project Update				
<p>The new Operational Assurance Training Team (OATT) is functioning well with both teams continuing to forge close working relationships.</p> <p>The new structure in the department came into force on 1st April 2021 with a new Training Manager taking responsibility for training.</p> <p>The OATT is running at full strength with 18 members of staff delivering first class training in the new state of the art training facility.</p>				



1567		CHESHIRE FIRE DRONES	
PROJECT SPONSOR		Head of Operational Policy and Assurance	PROJECT MANAGER
		Group Manager Operational Policy and Assurance	
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)	
		The project timescales have slipped due to a number of factors described in the project update.	
Project Update			
<p>The pandemic has impacted the ability to complete the training and assessment of the drone pilots. The equipment has also been away as part of a warranty repair. In addition, new regulations have now come into force (the governing body moved from the Civil Aviation Authority to European Union Aviation Safety Agency). Part of these changes mean that the governance around the commercial use of drones needs to be re-written and the training already completed by the pilots is no longer valid for commercial operations.</p> <p>As a result of these issues, the options for continuing the project have been reviewed due to changes that have occurred since the trial started.</p> <p>Cheshire Police have also reviewed their delivery model for drones in March 2020 to reduce their demand on the National Police Air Service (NPAS) by replacing it with a drone deployment where appropriate. They have now resourced a full-time drone unit consisting of four officers providing a drone capability 24/7.</p> <p>A paper was presented to SMT in June 2021 providing three options for consideration:</p> <p>Option 1: Bring the trial of an internal drone capability to a close. Investigate the creation of a Memo of Understanding (MOU) with Cheshire Constabulary (CC) for the assistance of their existing drone team when required. CFRS drone is the same platform used by CC, hence they may wish to purchase the equipment from CFRS or use it to offset any costs of providing a service to CFRS.</p> <p>Option 2: Continue to develop the project in line with the current trial. This will require all six pilots to complete new training courses with the drone being based at a central location. This approach could lead to delays in deployment as the pilots are based around the county on differing duty systems. This would provide more resource for wider use of the drone for non-emergency response work e.g. collecting Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI) and other risk information or working more widely in the Cheshire Resilience Forum with other category 1 & 2 partners.</p> <p>Option 3: Include the drone as part of the Immediate Building Evacuation (IBE)/forward control vehicle concept. This would require several new pilots to be trained (dependant on the location chosen for the vehicle) however, competence on the operation of the drone would be easier to maintain & incident attendance times reduced.</p> <p>At the SMT meeting, two of the options (1 & 3) were highlighted for additional scoping work so that further could be presented to SMT in September 2021.</p>			



1585		PROCURE AND IMPLEMENT HIGH PRESSURE MISTING LANCES AND DRILLS		
PROJECT SPONSOR		Head of Operational Policy and Assurance	PROJECT MANAGER	Group Manager Operational Policy and Assurance
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)		
				
Project Update				
<p>Lances and drills started to be delivered to fire stations from 1st July 2021 and are now available across wholetime stations with on-call stations also nearing completion.</p> <p>E-Learning and viewing the training video is sufficient for the equipment to go live as soon as it is delivered.</p> <p>The wood auger drill bit was delivered in June, but Milwaukee reported delays for delivery of the metal and masonry drill bits estimating arrival into service by the end of July 2021. Technical Services will then deliver these to Station.</p>				

1586		PURCHASE A WATER CARRIER		
PROJECT SPONSOR		Head of Operational Policy and Assurance	PROJECT MANAGER	Group Manager Operational Policy and Assurance
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)		
				
Project Update				
<p>The final costings for the conversion of the IRU have been agreed which encompasses the extra stabilisation wheel at the rear of the vehicle, upgraded front axle, retractable under bar for rear lights and a rear-view window in the cab. It is hoped that the works will be ordered at the start of September.</p> <p>As final heights and load carrying capacity of the converted truck are only a theoretical figure at present HIAB will provide these quantities as soon as they are able to during the build. This will allow a tender process to take place for the water carrying pods.</p>				



1587		PURCHASE OF A HIGH REACH FIRE ENGINE		
PROJECT SPONSOR		Head of Operational Policy and Assurance	PROJECT MANAGER	Group Manager Operational Policy and Assurance
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)		
		The re-baselining of critical milestones has been approved due to Covid-19 delays when the project team was unable to visit other services in order to assess vehicle options.		
Project Update				
<p>Following the SMT decision to purchase the Emergency1 demonstration vehicle (Scania Chassis with Scorpion turret) the contracts are being prepared for signing. The available training package is being finalised with Fleet.</p> <p>Some alterations are required to the vehicle with delivery expected to be early September 2021.</p> <p>Driver Training is aware of the need to provide some familiarisation training for the existing drivers at Macclesfield once the vehicle is delivered to the fire station.</p>				

1313		EMERGENCY SERVICES MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME (ESMCP)		
PROJECT SPONSOR		Head of Operational Policy and Assurance	PROJECT MANAGER	Group Manager Operational Policy and Assurance
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)		
		Internally the project is meeting project timescales, however the National programme continues to experience major delays. Therefore, the projected savings from decommissioning Airwave are also delayed.		
Project Update				
<p>The revised Full Business Case for Emergency Services Network Project (ESN) is still with the Home Office, approval was expected in June 2021.</p> <p>The Full Business Case includes the following assurance for user organisations: Preferred option is incremental delivery of ESN, with a risk-based approach. Full transition is now expected 2023-2026 with an expected Airwave shut down date of December 2026.</p> <p>The plan and assumptions for User Organisations for the transition is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery of the 2 remaining ESN products by Q2 2023 - A comprehensive assurance process including 6 months of Operational Evaluation Scenarios - 3 months of live pilot to further exercise the solution - Core Network Coverage delivered ahead of transition commencing - Control Room Upgrades - Appropriate contingency built into the Plan. 				



In addition, an *Accelerated Deployment Project* is also about to commence as part of the national programme to explore if User Organisations support a 'data first' option for Fire & Rescue Services to enable earlier transition and shut down of Airwave (and start to deliver savings).

At the May Fire Customer Group it was approved that 2 options from an initial 14 were explored further. These were:

1. Investigate partial dual fitment for vehicles (i.e. Airwave and mobile)
2. Investigate dual fitment, potentially by deploying data first

This is currently in early stages; an update will be provided in Quarter 2.

Internally CFRS continue to coverage test External Critical Operational Locations under Assure 1.1 to provide a baseline as coverage moves into Assure 1.9 and eventually the final Assure 2.0 in May 2022. All Regional Fire and 3ES meetings are attended by CFRS Lead and close working links are maintained with Cheshire Police and functions are shared wherever possible.

Service Delivery

1556	ON-CALL PROGRAMME		
PROGRAMME SPONSOR	Head of Service Delivery	PROGRAMME MANAGER	Group Manager Cheshire West and Chester
Previous status	Current status	Explanation (where status is red or amber)	
			
Programme Update			
<p>During Q1 the On-Call Programme Team (OCPT) has implemented a number of initiatives such as Departmental Latent Resourcing (DLR) and Wholetime Latent Resourcing (WLR) to provide additional support to availability. DLR involves dual role staff who work across different departments being either available at On-Call stations or able to respond whilst working from home and within 5 minutes of the station. DLR has seen a gradual increase month on month in Q1 with 452 hours provided in April, 697 in May and 755 in June. WLR has gone live in July 2021 and involves utilising any additional staff to support On-Call availability. These initiatives are expected to deliver additional increases in On-Call availability in the longer term.</p> <p>Recruitment continued to be a key focus during the quarter with eight new On-Call Firefighters joining the organisation. There are 30 applicants within the various stages of the application process. The OCPT are currently completing a review with the recruitment team to develop some revised performance metrics for the processing of candidates. The intention of this is to improve the speed of the recruitment process.</p> <p>A sixth On-Call Support Crew Manager was recruited during the quarter bringing the team strength to full capacity. The team continue to be fully engaged in a programme of providing support to development On-Call firefighters and have been increasingly providing training to newly qualified or aspiring Incident Commanders to increase the number of ICA Firefighters.</p>			



The employer recognition scheme went live during the quarter with all the certificates and awards being provided to each Station Manager to distribute appropriately to local employers of our On-Call Firefighters. Guidance in relation to promoting this via social media and emphasising the corporate social responsibility of these employers has been issued.

Further work on the finance strand will commence in the next quarter, with a particular focus on the composition of the budgets for each On-Call station watch and ensuring these are more appropriately aligned to establishment size, activity and operational demand at each location.

Further detail on On-Call availability can be found in the Performance Report.

Finally, the reporting structure within the OCPT is being reviewed again to ensure maximised output from the team. This will involve one of the On-Call Support Station Managers taking an increased role in line managing the Watch and Crew Manager cohort.

1576		RELOCATE THE SECOND FIRE ENGINE AT ELLESMERE PORT FIRE STATION TO POWEY LANE		
PROJECT SPONSOR		Head of Service Delivery	PROJECT MANAGER	Station Manager - Chester and Ellesmere Port Community Fire Stations
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)		
		This project is in closedown phase.		
Project Update				
<p>The project has now successfully been undertaken and moved into the closedown phase.</p> <p>The survey monkey lessons learned survey has been developed and is currently in testing before going out to affected staff. The detail from this will form the findings for the closedown report and any organisational learning.</p> <p>The effect of the locations of fire engines and special appliances at incidents continues to be monitored along with local feedback from staff which will be used to inform the closedown report.</p>				



1578		EXPANSION OF RAPID RESPONSE RESCUE UNITS		
PROJECT SPONSOR		Head of Service Delivery	PROJECT MANAGER	Service Delivery Manager – Halton and Warrington
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)		
				
Project Update				
<p>The project continues to progress well and the risks associated with Covid 19 and driver training have been reviewed and the likelihood reduced.</p> <p>The project team are mapping out the roll out strategy to align to a staged delivery so that none of the dependant departments or contractors are overwhelmed. It's currently believed the vehicles will start to leave the factory towards the end of July 2021 and will hopefully be on station starting in September 2021.</p> <p>The driver training is progressing well with excellent feedback received from those attending. By the end of September there will be 28 RRRU drivers qualified. Additional courses could result in up to a further 12 RRRU drivers attending before the year end. The project team are assessing how best to spread the remaining driver training courses.</p> <p>Poynton – The RRRU at Poynton will be a Toyota Hilux with a bigger engine and is due to be ordered in mid-July 2021 following extensive staff engagement. The lead time is likely to be similar in about 4-6 months. Therefore, they will be looking at alternative towing vehicles for the Wildfire Unit as an interim measure.</p> <p>Bollington – A 4x4 Mercedes sprinter crew cab van has been ordered. The project team are awaiting confirmation of a lead time and full specification of the vehicle. Following this, the 2-day RRRU course will then be adapted to accommodate the vehicle and train the drivers at Bollington.</p> <p>Risk assessment and Standard Operating Procedures are out for consultation with representative bodies, on-call working group and project team.</p>				



1582 REVIEW OF FLOOD/WATER RESPONSE PROVISION				
PROJECT SPONSOR		Head of Service Delivery	PROJECT MANAGER	Group Manager - Cheshire East
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)		
Project Update				
<p>The floodwater review paper was presented and discussed in SMT on the 21st June 2021.</p> <p>Following this, further research has commenced to identify what other services in the region are doing to tackle the same challenges presented by climate change and consequent flooding. This is currently ongoing with a view to providing a verbal update and presentation to SMT on 6th September 2021, including the associated lifetime costs of training and equipment to accompany the various options. Recommendations will feed into the budget setting process for 2022/23.</p>				

1588 DEVELOP A NEW WILDFIRE CAPABILITY				
PROJECT SPONSOR		Head of Service Delivery	PROJECT MANAGER	Station Manager - Macclesfield and Wilmslow
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)		
Project Update				
<p>The PPE procurement process awarded the contract to Flame Pro. Sizing is now complete and the order for all tunics and leggings was placed w/c 19th July, the lead time is expected to be 8 weeks.</p> <p>Safety boots for use at wildfire incidents are currently under trial at Congleton, Poynton and Bollington.</p> <p>The procurement process for the all-terrain vehicle has gained a quote through an existing supplier on a framework. CFRS will proceed with this supplier, once they return the final quote with all requested specifications added. The supplier is estimating a mid-October delivery.</p> <p>The wildfire equipment has been delivered to all 4 fire stations. Training and familiarisation activities commenced week beginning 12th July 2021.</p> <p>One day Wildfire, Fire Operations Group training for all wildfire watches commenced week beginning 12th July 2021.</p> <p>As equipment and PPE is arriving at the 4 fire stations, familiarisation training is being delivered to ensure it can be used in the interim as we await other items. This allows the equipment to be available and utilised if a wildfire were to occur before the final 'go live' of the project as a whole.</p>				



The project has experienced some slippage due to Covid-19 restrictions which delayed procurement and delivery of some equipment. The sponsor has approved the re-baselining of delivery milestones to reflect this.

Prevention and Protection

1058		SPRINKLER CAMPAIGN 2014	
PROJECT SPONSOR		Deputy Chief Fire Officer	PROJECT MANAGER
			Head of Prevention and Protection
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)	
Project Update			
<p>The funding agreements for the three Handforth installations (Onward Housing Trust) have been agreed and signed. The process to transfer the funds is now taking place. The service is working with Onward Housing Trust to arrange a media opportunity to celebrate and publicise the installations.</p> <p>This will be the third and final funding package delivered as part of this project bringing the total number of installations for this project to seven.</p>			

1549		HIGH RISE SPRINKLER CAMPAIGN 2018	
PROJECT SPONSOR		Deputy Chief Fire Officer	PROJECT MANAGER
			Head of Prevention and Protection
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)	
Project Update			
<p>The Waverley Court (Crewe) installation is complete and the funding agreement documentation has been signed by Guinness Housing Trust and CFRS.</p> <p>Funding has been released to the trust and work is ongoing to arrange a media opportunity to celebrate and publicise the installation.</p>			



The 9 installations in Cheshire West (Sanctuary) are progressing in accordance with the project plan with a number of buildings now complete.

The Protection Team have been pursuing the 3 registered social landlords who have so far not committed to sprinkler installations in high rise flats to try to persuade them to do so. As a result, positive talks have taken place with Torus Housing regarding Kingsway House, Warrington and they have indicated that sprinklers will be included in a planned refurbishment program utilising the part funding from the Authority.

1554		PROTECTION REVIEW	
PROJECT SPONSOR		Deputy Chief Fire Officer	PROJECT MANAGER
		Head of Prevention and Protection	
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)	
			
Project Update			
<p>A new Protection structure was proposed as part of a piece of work to ensure the department was appropriately structured in the wake of the Grenfell Tower tragedy and the subsequent Hackett and Public Enquiry reports. The review also sought to achieve improvements in recruitment, retention and succession of specialist staff where possible.</p> <p>As a result, an agreement has been reached with the three relevant representative bodies regarding the new structure and signed agreements are due to be returned.</p> <p>Implementation arrangements have also been agreed with representative bodies and a plan is in place to transition from the old to the new structure.</p> <p>Work is now taking place to implement the review and recruit to relevant roles. The new Crew Manager roles will be recruited as part of the Services annual promotion board process.</p> <p>Protection staff have been briefed and updated on the progress and plans and articles are being prepared to communicate the new structure to the wider organisation.</p>			



1577 REVIEW OF THE RISK BASED INSPECTION PROGRAMME (RBIP)				
PROJECT SPONSOR		Head of Prevention and Protection	PROJECT MANAGER	Protection Manager
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)		
		There has been some slippage against key milestones, but inspection activity continues.		
Project Update				
<p>The Protection, risk-based list produced by Business Intelligence has been analysed and reviewed. The attributes and scoring mechanism used to prioritise premises has been shown to Protection staff for comment and observations. Once commenced the majority of fire safety audit activities will be undertaken from the new risk-based list, which provides for a more accountable and focussed approach.</p> <p>The Protection department are currently working from the existing RBIP but are ready to move onto the new RBIP on approval of the methodology by SMT in September 2021.</p>				

ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY PLAN CHESHIRE				
PROJECT SPONSOR		Head of Prevention and Protection	PROJECT MANAGER	Head of Prevention and Station Manager - Deliberate Fire Reduction and Road Safety
Previous status	Current status	<u>Explanation</u> (where status is red or amber)		
		There are significant funding issues to be resolved by the Cheshire Road Safety Group; however, CFRS is limited in its ability to influence this discussion.		
Project Update				
<p>The Cheshire Road Safety Group (CRSG) continues to review its structure, service delivery, governance model and funding arrangements. A membership questionnaire has been sent to all members of the group with returns due to be completed by the 16th July 2021.</p> <p>This has been an opportunity for all partners to provide feedback and for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service to reaffirm its desire to adopt a Strategic Road Safety Plan, to be used to support key objectives and activities to aid in the reduction of those killed and seriously injured on our roads.</p> <p>The group continues to support road safety activity through engagement and education, especially action relating to targeting new emerging risks, such as the way the public continues to adapt and change their travel and recreational use of transport brought about from the Covid-19 pandemic. A further Close Pass multi agency event is due to be completed in August 2021 in the Warrington area.</p>				



The Service has also just launched a new campaign in partnership with the Cheshire Road Safety Group, “Share the Road”. The Campaign calls upon the public to be kind and considerate to each other and to help keep each other safe on the roads, reinforcing that we are all people with lives to live and loved ones who care for us and that we want to see journeys completed safely. There are a variety of bespoke assets and the campaign ties directly into the current work concerned with injuries to cyclists.

1594		SPRINKLERS SAVE LIVES CAMPAIGN 2021/22		
PROJECT SPONSOR		Deputy Chief Fire Officer		PROJECT MANAGER
		Head of Prevention and Protection		
Previous status	Current status	Explanation (where status is red or amber)		
Project Update				
<p>Three successful sprinkler campaigns were delivered in quarter 1.</p> <p>April - Sprinkler facts Social media posts throughout the month signposting to sprinklers on the website – this triggered 219,476 views, 73 shares, 324 likes and 15 comments.</p> <p>May - Sprinkler myths A poll was run through social media platforms during the month of May asking a series of questions to establish what the business community knew about sprinklers. 1,018 votes in total 859 from Facebook, 159 from Twitter.</p> <p>May also saw the national sprinkler campaign launched through the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC). National sprinkler messages were shared by all Fire Authorities. This triggered 13,000 views, 3 shares and 190 likes. This is lower due to only retweeting the national messages not creating our own.</p> <p>June - Sprinkler Legislation Social media posts signposting to sprinkler section on the website and to British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association (BAFSA). A total of 11 posts were delivered which reached 183,975 people.</p> <p>The CFRS planned sprinkler seminar has been put on hold due to Covid-19 and BAFSA not wanting to work in partnership until 2022 due to the COVID uncertainty.</p>				



1589 FIRE PROTECTION IN HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION			
PROJECT SPONSOR		Deputy Chief Fire Officer	PROJECT MANAGER
			Head of Prevention and Protection
Previous status	Current status	Explanation (where status is red or amber)	
			
Project Update			
<p>Progress against the current milestones is as follows:</p> <p><u>Develop a leaflet</u> This has been completed and is awaiting final sign off before being sent to the local authorities. Some minor amendments may be required depending on whether all 4 local authorities agree to the Memo of Understanding (MOU).</p> <p><u>Develop 3-year inspection programme</u> The MOU has been written following the Project Initiation Document and is awaiting sign off. It'll then be shared with 4 local authorities.</p> <p><u>Draft a departmental information note</u> The note has been drafted and will be finalised and distributed once the MOU has been signed off.</p> <p><u>Build 'Houses of Multiple Occupation' inspections into Risk Based Inspection Plan (RBIP)</u> Visits will not be generated by RBIP as information will be shared from the local authorities however the joint visits will count towards each offices' targets for the year.</p> <p><u>Meet with local authorities</u> Initial meeting held with 4 local authorities. All agreed in principle to the MOU. Halton will decide when they receive the MOU and leaflet whether they will sign up. A further meeting will be arranged when the MOU is ready to be rolled out to them for sign off.</p> <p>Joint inspections are already taking place in Cheshire East and Warrington on an intelligence-based approach and will count towards each office target of 60 visits per year.</p> <p>A Data Protection Impact Assessment has been completed. An Environmental impact assessment is in the process of being written.</p> <p>The following risks have been identified and are being monitored: One or more of the local authorities may not sign up to the MOU. Covid-19 may change direction and could lead to further setbacks rolling out the MOU.</p>			



RISK MANAGEMENT

CPS Ref	Risk Detail	Risk Owner	Risk Score	Progress Update – Mitigation / Progress
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No red risks are reported at this time.

The impact of a 3rd wave of Covid-19 infections and the increasing requirement to self-isolate is yet to be fully understood, but agile working arrangements mean that most project work can continue although this may still affect supply chains.

The impact of Brexit on supply chains continues to be monitored.

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2021
REPORT OF: HEAD OF PREVENTION AND PROTECTION
AUTHOR: MARK SHONE, SAFETY CENTRAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: SAFETY CENTRAL ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

Purpose of Report

1. To present a review of the performance of Safety Central, the Service's safety and lifeskills education centre, between April 1st 2020 and March 31st 2021.

Recommended:

- [1] Members review the information presented in this report.

Background

2. This is Safety Central's third annual report. Its briefer format differs to the previous two years owing to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the centre's activity during 2020/21.

Information

3. The report comprises four key sections to provide an overview of Safety Central's work over the last 12 months; how the team supported the pandemic response, delivery of limited family and school visits during summer 2020, development work and plans for 2021/22.
4. Key points to note from the report include an unavoidable decrease in visitor numbers on the year before owing to the centre's closure for much of the reporting period. However, at the time of this report being produced a targeted marketing campaign has generated more than 100 school bookings for the 2021/22 academic year.

Financial Implications

5. Safety Central's revenue costs are met from the Prevention Department budget. An annual grant of £10,000 from SP Energy Networks supports the running of the volunteer ranger programme. It is not yet known whether this award will be made in 2021/22 owing to reduced education delivery last year.

However, volunteer costs are currently significantly lower owing to much-reduced mileage claims and in-person training days.

Legal Implications

6. Cheshire Fire Authority has a statutory duty to promote fire safety through the provision of information, publicity and encouragement in respect of the steps to be taken to prevent fires and death or injury by fire

Equality and Diversity Implications

7. Safety Central's facilities and learning programmes were subject to full Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) during the development phase. All lesson plans are underpinned by 'EIAs', which were reviewed during the course of the year.

Environmental Implications

8. There are no environmental implications to consider as part of this paper.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS: APPENDIX 1 - SAFETY CENTRAL ANNUAL REPORT
2020-21**



Cheshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Annual Report 2020/21

for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's
Performance and Overview Committee

September 2021



1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is Safety Central's third annual report, summarising performance for the period April 1st 2020 to March 31st 2021. It is important to note that the reporting period straddles two school years – in this case the summer term of 2019/20 and the first term and a half of 2020/21.
- 1.2 The Covid-19 (C19) pandemic forced us to suspend our education programmes on Friday 13th March 2020, just before the start of this reporting period. Although we have been able to deliver limited activities, the centre has remained closed to visitors throughout much of 2020/21.
- 1.3 The closure came at a time when Safety Central was beginning to establish itself as a destination of choice for school trips and an increasing number of community groups. Shortly before we suspended visits, we welcomed our 20,000th visitor at the end of a year in which visitor numbers increased by 26% compared to 2018/19. 2020/21 was shaping up to be another successful year, with more than 5,300 visitors from 113 school groups, 42 community and youth groups, and 25 partner agencies booked to attend between April 1st and December 31st 2021. The vast majority of these bookings had to be cancelled.
- 1.4 In spite of a very difficult situation, we have worked hard over the last 12 months to maintain momentum while keeping ourselves and each other safe. While this annual report is briefer than we would like, we are pleased to be able to describe over the following pages:

- the support the Safety Central team has been proud to offer our partners in their **response to the health emergency**
- our C19-safe **visits for families and schools** while restrictions were eased during August, September and October 2020
- work to develop our **programmes, partnerships, volunteers and ourselves**
- our **plans for the year ahead.**



2. Response to the health emergency

2.1 Like many other fire staff, the Safety Central team began working from home in the middle of March 2020. Initially we focussed on cancelling and rearranging visits booked for the remainder of the school year and keeping our volunteer rangers informed and engaged. However, we were also keen to get involved with the Service's efforts to support partners in responding to pandemic.

2.2 As a result, during the course of 2020/21:

- our Operations Officer, Support Officer and Visitor Relations Officer made hundreds of **welfare phone calls** to people who needed help with shopping and medication
- our Development Officer joined a team of Service personnel trained to **fit and test face masks** for North West Ambulance Service crews, NHS colleagues and dental staff
- our Centre Manager became the Service's **Single Point of Contact** for partners in Cheshire East. This included assisting Cheshire East Council in setting up a process for triaging requests for help and deploying Service staff and volunteers to visit people who were shielding
- we supported several **foodbanks**, including Cheshire Streetwise in Macclesfield, by collecting bulk food items from a depot in Manchester
- three of the team worked as **vaccinators** at the Chester Racecourse and Orford mass vaccination centres
- our Support Officer delivered **swab test kits** to staff and patients of Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and returned samples to the lab.

2.3 In addition, Safety Central was used:

- as a location for **face mask fitting and testing**
- by the NHS Foundation Trust's community midwives on Thursdays (as well as their routine Fridays) when other **antenatal clinic** venues closed
- in the **retraining of recently-retired firefighters and officers**, recruited by the Service to provide additional resilience to crews.



3. Family and school visits

3.1 During August, September and part of October 2020, C19 restrictions eased sufficiently for us to run a limited programme of family and school visits. In preparation, we worked closely with the Service's health and safety team to undertake a thorough C19 risk assessment and put in place control measures to keep staff, volunteers and visitors safe. These included:

- asking anyone **symptomatic** or in close contact with anyone with C19 to stay away from the centre
- operating as **two separate bubbles** on assigned days to prevent all staff and volunteers from coming into contact with each other on the same days
- **temperature checking** people on arrival, installing **hand sanitisers** throughout the centre, mandating **masks or visors** for anyone aged over 11, putting in place enhanced **cleaning** regimes and ensuring good **ventilation** throughout
- maintaining two-metre **social distancing** by limiting group sizes and adapting learning activities to rely less on handling props.

3.2 These precautions allowed us to operate as a C19 Secure venue and there were no reports of C19 infection among staff, volunteers or visitors as a result of mixing at the centre.

3.3 August's **family visits** enabled household or support bubble groups of up to six people to take part in a two-hour Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2 tour. These were promoted on social media, booked in advance on Eventbrite, ran every 15 minutes and were led by the Service's community safety and firefighter apprentices and a small number of volunteers.



A total of 78 families including 113 children and 110 adults visited over the course of 12 days.

During September and early October, **229 children and 44 teachers and assistants visited with eight primary schools**, to take part in an adapted version of our Key Stage 2 *SafetyQuest* programme. Visits were limited to four hours with no more than 30 pupils in a group. We surveyed the teachers who visited and **100% rated the steps we had taken to keep visitors safe as 'very good'**. Unfortunately in October tier three restrictions were introduced in Warrington and we made the difficult decision to suspend visits to prevent schools travelling into the area.



4. Development

- 4.1 In last year's annual report we set out a number of key objectives from the 2020/21 Prevention Department Plan, developed before the pandemic in late 2019. These included increasing visitor numbers to 9,500 a year, maintaining a cohort of 50 volunteers, benchmarking the number of schools visiting from disadvantaged areas and replacing our building site scenario. In addition, objectives around evaluation, external accreditation and developing a partnership with community midwives were carried over from the year before. We will return to these as soon as we are operating again normally.
- 4.2 However, in spite of significant practical challenges, we were able in 2020/21 to make progress in a number of areas in preparation for a staged re-opening in the months ahead. These include:
- awarding three-year **maintenance contracts**, following a competitive tender process, to interactives specialists Technically Creative and audio visual company Piranha Creative, ensuring our resources and special effects remain in optimal condition
 - a significant upgrade of our showpiece **burning bedroom scenario**, now featuring theme-park standard animation and projection
 - a new partnership with gas distribution network operators Cadent, who have provided funding for a touch screen TV and special effects in our kitchen, to highlight the signs and dangers of **carbon monoxide**
 - starting production on **four new intro films** to replace our existing cinema room film, providing age-appropriate context for our main visitor groups
 - updating all **Key Stage 2 lesson plans**, to bring safety messaging up to date and enable volunteers to more easily remember health and safety controls and equality, diversity and inclusion considerations
- 4.3 In addition, our staff team and volunteers have been able to participate in a number of development opportunities including:
- levels 1 to 3 **safeguarding** training for staff team members, improving our knowledge and understanding of risks to children, young people and adults
 - **Makaton** levels 1 to 4 for the staff team members, helping us to communicate more effectively with visitors who have additional needs
 - completion of **social media training** by our Visitor Relations Officer
 - **Mental Health First Aid, online safety and self-care training** as part of a package of regular contact and engagement with our volunteers.



5. Our plans for 2021/22

5.1 As part of the Service's roadmap to recovery from the pandemic, a plan has been agreed for the centre to reopen and once again host visits. This takes into account hesitancy among some schools and community groups about making trips and the need to ensure all volunteers feel safe, comfortable and ready to deliver activities. The plan is as follows:

June and July	Ranger refresher training and opportunities to practice delivery.
August	Volunteer recruitment 'open days' and days for Service staff to bring children and young people for a visit.
September to October	Three Key Stage 2 school visits a week, limited to 30 pupils per group.
November to Christmas	As above, but increasing to four visits per week with 60 per group as more rangers become available.
January 2021	Key Stage 1, Key Stage 3 and community group visits restart.

5.2 The pause in delivery is enabling us to refocus marketing and promotion of programmes. To fill slots between September and Christmas, we targeted head teachers of schools in areas of multiple deprivation followed by schools that have never visited. At the time of this report being written, this campaign has generated more than 100 bookings for 2021/22.

5.3 As well as restarting visits in a safe and orderly way and returning eventually to normal visitor numbers, our other priorities for the year ahead include:

- aiming for 25% attendance from **schools from disadvantaged areas**
- gaining **ISO9001:2015 accreditation**, to help assure the quality of our delivery, and prepare for **Learning Outside the Classroom** endorsement
- producing a business case for replacing our building site scenario with a **new educational feature** in summer 2022
- developing a strategy for **packaging and integrating the Service's offer to schools** so that Safety Central, Key Stage 2 visits to schools, Respect and online resources are more closely aligned.



CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2021
REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION
AUTHOR: BENJI EVANS

SUBJECT: EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an overview of key equality, diversity and inclusion developments within the Service and to highlight upcoming work.

Recommended: That

- [1] members note the report and highlight any issues for further discussion or clarification.

Background

2. Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's employees are our most valuable asset and in order to continue to deliver an excellent emergency service to our communities, we recognise equality, diversity and inclusion as a significant business imperative.
3. Being inclusive is also one of the Service's core values and we constantly strive to create an environment and a culture where all of our people are able to thrive and achieve their full potential.
4. Under the Equality Act 2010, the Service also has a duty to: eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between different groups ("public sector equality duty").
5. In order to fulfill this public sector equality duty, the Service currently has in place an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy ('the Strategy') for the period 2017-2020. A new strategy for the period 2021-2024 will be submitted for review and approval to Members in Autumn 2021.
6. Delivery of the strategy is captured within a comprehensive action plan which is monitored on a quarterly basis by the Equality Steering Group (ESG). The ESG is chaired by the Chief Fire Officer who holds overall responsibility for overseeing equality, diversity and inclusion in the Service.
7. This report provides a summary and highlights the progress over the last 12 months.

Key Accomplishments

Stonewall Workplace Equality Index

8. In May 2020, Stonewall announced that following feedback, and in response to the challenges presented by the lockdown restrictions, the 2020 Stonewall Workplace Equality Index was to be deferred for 12 months. The Service are currently positioned 3rd in the Stonewall Top 100 and the UK's most inclusive emergency service and Top North West employer in terms LGBT+ inclusion for the sixth year running.
9. In recent years the Stonewall criteria has remained relatively static which has enabled the Service to demonstrate continued progress against the key themes and maintain its position in the top 5. However in July 2020, Stonewall changed its emphasis to focus on new areas including intersectionality and multiple and minority identities, communication methodology plus additional questions in all eight sections of the criteria.
10. Having undertaken a gap analysis against the new criteria, the EDI Officer has worked closely with the Service's designated Stonewall Account Manager to discuss the work currently in progress and to close any identified gaps in order to prepare effectively for this year's submission which is due in October 2021.
11. The Service has also started to develop new projects which are helping to improve community engagement with local LGBT+ people, especially with people deemed 'at risk' in terms of various safety indicators. An example of this is working closely with Chester Aid for the Homeless to communicate key safety messages whilst also providing advice to where LGBT+ people living on the streets are able to access support.
12. Over the last year the Service's work around LGBT+ inclusion and its investment in Stonewall has continued to deliver tangible improvements. One year ago, the number of staff identifying as LGBT was 3.1% which has now increased to 3.2%. The service has also seen a reduction in the number of staff who are unwilling to declare their sexual orientation. A year ago, 19.7% chose not to declare, whereas the current percentage is 18.7% which shows more people are confident and happy to share their sexual orientation with the service.
13. This is evidence that all the positive work around LGBT+ inclusion continues to help our aspiration of supporting LGBT+ staff within the Service whilst reinforcing public perception that we are a welcoming and inclusive employer.

Addressing disproportionality in the workforce

14. Despite the onset of the national pandemic work has continued to develop positive action and creative recruitment campaigns to encourage applications from under-represented groups, with the aim of increasing the diversity within our workforce.
15. Although progress is incremental, the outcome of positive action work over the last two years has seen an additional 23 females recruited into the Service. This accounts for an overall increase in the female employee population from 17% to

19%. Over the last year we have seen a specific increase in female staff working in operational positions from 7.7% to 9.3%. A specific highlight in this regard was the recruitment of two females onto the 2020 High Potential Development Scheme. They were selected from an initial applicant pool of over 40 applicants, and a shortlisted group of 10, 4 of whom were female.

16. Against the backdrop of Black Lives Matter during this reporting period a key area of focus for the Positive Action Group has been around developing new partnership with community groups, charities, sports teams and places of worship to help target individuals and groups of people currently under-represented in our workforce and volunteers; One example of excellent partnership working is a collaboration between staff, Cheshire Football Association and a faith based organisation in Chester. This collaboration to organise football related competitions in the future. We intend on planning these events to coincide with key religious and cultural celebrations which organically attract large crowds of people together, thus creating a platform where our staff can engage with different ethnic groups and the wider community to promote key safety messages, youth provision, careers advice, and volunteering.
17. Despite the Service seeing a slight decrease in the number of BAME staff during the last reporting period, during this financial year the Service has recruited more staff from different ethnic backgrounds and has seen an increase from 4.1% to 4.3% in its BAME workforce. With 5% of applicants coming from people of BAME heritage, this demonstrates that despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, the Service's positive action work is reaching and attracting applicants from different ethnic groups.
18. Recruiting staff with disabilities into the Fire and Rescue Service is an ongoing challenge because quite often people deselect themselves based on assumptions about the role of a firefighter and what adjustments can be made. Currently the Service only has 2.9% of its workforce with a declared disability which has reduced slightly from the previous year which showed a representation of 3.2%.
19. It is expected however that with a number of hidden disabilities such as dyslexia and dyspraxia, the actual number of staff with a disability is much higher. In order to identify this and to remove any stigma about declaring a disability, it is intended that the new EDI Strategy will have a specific focus on disability, especially people who are neurodiverse.

Staff Networks

20. Staff network groups continue to play an important role and despite the limitations of face to face contact throughout the pandemic, they have all stepped up to provide support for staff during very challenging times.
21. The service's BAME Staff Network has seen increased membership and greater participation in national ASFA meetings and events. The BAME network held educational workshops during February to celebrate Race Equality Week and the network have met on a quarterly basis. Awareness of the network is increasing as a result of the production of monthly newsletters

and the Service has recently been approached to host the national ASFA conference in 2022.

22. The Limitless network have been very active during the year and during the entire pandemic, has continued to meet as a network, support each other and maintained regular contact via email and a dedicated What's App.
23. Key deliverables from the network this year have seen the progression of work around menopause, maternity and return to work support, mentoring and buddying. New policies have evolved and training has been provided to create new initiatives such as Menopause champions to support staff. One particular project has also seen the Service trial new ecofriendly products to enhance the accessibility and quality of hygiene packs on station and in all service vehicles.
24. The Limitless group played a key role in organising the International Women's Day event which was a virtual event this year. This year's theme was #Choose to Challenge with the focus on the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviour, championing gender equality and speaking up as a way of improving working conditions for women. The event was hosted by the two highest ranking female staff members and included a number of quality external speakers. Notably the event was also very well attended by male colleagues who demonstrated their continued support.
25. In November, the Service organised and hosted its second "Proud to Provide" conference. The focus of the conference was intersectionality and multiple identities and over 250 delegates attended the online event to hear from a range of high profile speakers which included Lord Michael Cashman, MP Charlotte Nicholls, Sarah Jones, comedian Clare Summerskill and the CEO's of two equality charities. The feedback from the event was very positive and due to its popularity and purpose, the Service has taken the decision to make "Proud to Provide" an annual event.

Visibility and Awareness Days

26. During the reporting period, the service has continued to increase LGBT+ visibility and awareness surrounding various cultural and religious celebrations. The service was again active during LGBT+ History Month, flying rainbow flags on stations and at HQ. Articles, statements of support, training workshops and resources uploaded onto the staff intranet and website have enabled staff to access key information and education. Social media platforms have also been used to good effect to promote key messages to our wider community.
27. The service has actively promoted all LGBT+ visibility days during the reporting period including Trans Visibility (February), Lesbian Visibility (March), IDAHoBiT & Pansexual Visibility (May) and Non-Binary People's Day (July). External guest speakers were arranged to talk at our Firepride Breakfasts for Trans Visibility and Non-Binary People Day.
28. The service has continued to increase awareness around all major religious and cultural celebrations and observances including Passover, Ramadan, Eid, Vaisakhi/Baisakhi, Dhamma, Buddha Day, Chinese New Year and National Windrush Day. As well as providing educational opportunities for staff, key

safety messages have been promoted to the wider community to help reduce risk of fire and injury to people when marking their respective celebrations with open fire, candles, fireworks, lanterns, and fire crackers.

29. The service has worked closely with partners to raise awareness of different disability related themes including Dyslexia and Dyspraxia Awareness, Neurodiversity Awareness, Downs Syndrome Awareness Week, Learning Disability Awareness Week and Deafblind Awareness Week. Each awareness theme provided insight to each disability with, educational resources uploaded onto the staff intranet. This focus has enable staff to gain wider knowledge that will enhance their ability to support colleagues with a disability and also provide a more inclusive service to community members with differing needs.
30. June 1st marked the start of the 2021 Pride season, but like 2020, all but two local pride events were cancelled. The Service provided support through supportive statements in the media and social media coverage. During the pride season, the Service also increased visibility by flying rainbow flags at all stations and HQ.
31. Crews from the locations that would normally have hosted a physical Pride event also offered support via social media.

Policy Development and Review

32. The Service has continued to develop its networks and review policies to ensure they are family friendly and attractive to prospective applicants. Examples of this include the review and development of a new Equality Impact Assessment template and guidance to ensure policies do not inadvertently discriminate.
33. During the year the Service also developed a new Menopause Policy and work has been commissioned to ensure all welfare facilities are appropriate and gender specific issues such as menstruation are understood and supported in the workplace.
34. Following feedback from staff and in acknowledgement of the need to introduce new ways of working following the pandemic, the Service also introduced a new Agile working policy. This offers staff the ability to work remotely from home and in many cases achieve a better work/life balance. Other factors that have been considered in the development of this policy include health and safety, wellbeing, social isolation and continued access to support and supervision.

EDI Education and Training

35. During 2020, various e-learning modules were updated and the Service launched new e-learning packages focusing on Unconscious Bias and Stress Awareness. Updated versions of Dyslexia Awareness were also made available and a revised course on Safeguarding was launched which covers overarching themes such as modern slavery, race, and sexual orientation.
36. Bespoke Equality Impact Assessment training workshops were developed in February 2020 and have since been rolled out and delivered to 91 staff across all levels and departments. The interactive training covered the Service's legal

responsibilities and duties, definitions and terminology of equality, diversity and inclusion in the context of Fire and Rescue Services. Various case studies enabled staff to explore the broad considerations required to show due regard for different protected characteristics, but how the Service need to document and evidence how they are mitigating any risk identified.

37. The Service also launched various guidance documents including 'How to Support Colleagues during Ramadan' and 'LGBT+ allies booklet'.

Maintaining and Developing New Partnerships

38. Although COVID-19 has continued to restrict the ability to physically meet people, the Service has maintained its relationship with key partners and networks including fire specific networks, working groups, community and voluntary sector. The Service has also made the most of networking forums to reconnect with partners as well as developing new partnerships. For example, we have connected with the Warrington Disability Partnership and Cheshire Healthwatch to connect with more people with a disability and/or a long term health condition. We have utilised the power of social media, virtual technologies and traditional methods of email and telephone to connect with our partners.
39. As part of the Positive Action work, new connections have been made with various equality interest groups and charities that will enable the service to reach out to people 'at risk' in terms of promoting key safety messages, but also groups of people that are currently underrepresented in our workforce. Examples include Active Cheshire who we are in the process of developing a community project to support local girls and women to participate in physical activity using our facilities – this will create an ideal platform to communicate key safety messages, but also to promote careers, volunteering and youth provision.
40. Based on the success of working closely with women's rugby teams previously, the Services are in the early stages of working with Crewe Alexander Ladies Football Club to use football as a way of connecting with local girls and women. Other sports will be explored in conjunction with Chester University.
41. The Service have also held some initial discussion with Sale Sharks about partnering them to develop a primary school initiative which will widen access to children in Cheshire East with a specific focus on deprivation and some focus on race and gender equality.

Neurodiversity Project

42. The Service have continued to develop this area of work and a new dyslexia assessment tool has been sourced which has been designed specifically for the fire and rescue sector. This will enable managers to better support staff and to identify the most appropriate adjustments where required.
43. The Dyslexia awareness e-learning has been updated and the Service is in the initial stages of completing the British Dyslexia Accredited Workplace Assessor Programme. This educational programme will support the Service's Equality

and Inclusion Officer who will be able to conduct workplace assessments to make more informed and professional judgements to what adjustments will benefit staff.

44. The Service have also become corporate members of the Business Disability Forum (BDF). This new membership will enable the service to benchmark against the BDF 'equality standard' which exceeds the criteria to become a Disability Confident Leader which is the highest accreditation the government offer. It also provides access to resources, information and toolkits which will enable us to improve our offer of support to staff with any type of disability.

Contributing towards the national agenda

45. As part of our involvement with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) EDI working group, The Services Equality and Inclusion Officer was co-author of a paper called 'Equality of Access to Services and Employment' which focused on Gypsy and Travellers (G&T). The paper provides insight to the various considerations given when engaging with G&T communities in terms of barriers and challenges they traditionally experience and how to effectively communicate with this section of the community. The paper is part of series which will provide insight, advice and best practice to all 45 fire and rescue services across the UK.
46. Other work conducted as part of the NFCC EDI working group includes 'recruitment' and 'positive action' which helps the Service to meet professionals across the county which enable us to identify best practice and access new methods of working which can be later cascaded internally to colleagues.

Recruitment Communications and Attraction Strategy

47. As a Service, we are maximising our partners to help us promote our careers and vacancies to the wider community with particular emphasis on reaching out to people underrepresented in our workforce. For example, Chester Pride now send out monthly posts to promote our jobs, volunteering and youth provision as way of targeting LGBT+ people.
48. Operational staff across the Service have been completing mapping exercises to identify equality interest groups to help us target girls and women, people with a disability, people from different ethnic backgrounds and people who identify as LGBT+. This exercise will also help identify parents and people who live alone for the purpose of promoting safety messages, but we intent to use this intelligence to target our marketing and recruitment.

COVID-19 Recovery Planning and Road Map

49. In 2020, the Service conducted a thematic staff survey which provided a valuable source of information to help identify risks which aided the way we planned and developed the recovery plans. As with all staff surveys a specific EDI analysis was undertaken to assess the results exploring trends and/or concerns.

50. The COVID-19 EIA produced in 2020 was reviewed and updated at various points in time to reflect the dynamic situation. The EIA ensured that risks have been considered from an internal and external perspective. The findings of the EIA and associated impacts will also be inform the services recovery planning process.
51. During the COVID-19 HMICFRS inspection, the Service was able to demonstrate that they adopted an ethical and sensitive approach to our recovery planning where due regard has been take in respect of EDI.

Priorities for Next 6 Months

52. The following provides an update on key pieces of upcoming work relating to equality, diversity and inclusion.
53. The anticipated white paper for reform is expected to revolve around Professionalism, People and Governance and within this it is likely that there will be a strong emphasis around Ethics. Over the coming months, we will continue to gain more insight in relation to the detail but in the meantime, the Service will consider how its networks and senior leaders can be continue to be recognised as ethical role models for change and inclusion.
54. To maintain the momentum behind the networks, there will be further emphasis on the need to have strong Ally's and to maintain a regular Programme of events. The Firepride network have previously gained some success with their LGBT+ Ally's Programme, so similar work is planned to promote 'champions' during in October around work streams such as Neurodiversity, Black History Month and Menopause Awareness Week.
55. A new neurodiversity network will be launched in September 2021. This will incorporate a Dyslexia Working Group to bring staff from various departments together to provide feedback, offer suggestions and collectively help the Service progress this important area of work.
56. The BAME network are intending to rebrand themselves with a new name and logo in the coming months. Events are also being planned to increase awareness during cultural and race related campaigns such as South Asian Heritage Month in July and Black History Month in October.
57. One year on from the #BLM campaign, the Service and the BAME network will be exploring issues surrounding racism in society and the ongoing challenges black people face. It will also consider how we can recruit more BAME staff, build further connections with different ethnic groups through community engagement and liaison with partner organisations, educational institutions and local businesses.
58. The 50/50 campaign will be relaunched in autumn 2021 to coincide with the upcoming apprentice recruitment campaign. The images associated with the campaign will be visible on the website and materials will be circulated to promote the Service's commitment to providing an open and welcoming culture.

59. In October 2021, the Service will submit the Stonewall submission based on the new criteria with an expected result in February 2022. The new criteria has challenged the Service, but will ultimately improve everything we do across policies, the way we support staff, and the way we engage with LGBT+ people in our community.
60. The Service's third Proud to Provide Conference will be held as a physical event in January 2022. It is expected that with a range of high profile guests and an effective publicity campaign this event will attract a lot of interest. The event will be held in Chester.
61. Work has been commissioned for the Limitless Group in conjunction with the EDI Officer to look at welfare facilities and issues relating to menstruation and endometriosis. This is to ensure that the Service understands how these issues may impact staff in the course of their work and what can be done to provide and access greater support.

Financial Implications

62. The EDI function has its own budget but a budget bid will be put forward for consideration in 2021 to secure the necessary funding to extend the work around Neurodiversity and Dyslexia screening. This will be in the region of £5-7k.

Legal Implications

63. As referred to in the 'Background' section, the above activities will help evidence the Service's commitment to and compliance with the provisions of the Equality Act 2010, and in particular to the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Equality and Diversity Implications

64. Due to the nature of this report, equality and diversity implications have been considered and discussed throughout the main body of the report.

Environmental Implications

65. None.

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CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2021
REPORT OF: HEAD OF PREVENTION AND PROTECTION
AUTHOR: KRIS CLOWES

SUBJECT: ANNUAL PROSECUTIONS REPORT 2020-21

Purpose of Report

1. To present an update on Cheshire Fire Authority's (the Authority) prosecutions under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the Order) during the financial year 2020-21.

Recommended that:

- [1] the contents of this paper be noted; and
- [2] prosecutions remain on the Performance and Overview Committee future work programme for annual review.

Background

2. The Order was introduced on the 1st of October 2006 and it had the effect of widening the range of premises that fire and rescue services had powers to inspect.
3. Depending on the seriousness of a regulatory breach, inspectors have a range of enforcement options available to them ranging from educate and inform, through to prosecution.

Prosecutions summary

4. Protection, supported by Legal Services and external solicitors, in the year 2020/21 undertook one prosecution which was successful (Appendix A).
5. The Authority secured extensive press coverage, providing public reassurance about its regulatory effectiveness and sending a clear message of deterrent to other businesses.
6. This last year has seen significant disruption in criminal cases being brought before the court due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The courts have been severely impacted and have a backlog of cases. As a result, the service have found it difficult to schedule one case that is ready to proceed.

Additionally, a further case that is in the court system is awaiting sentencing and has been adjourned multiple times. This now appears to be easing and a number of cases should be taken forward in the next financial year.

7. In addition, the COVID restrictions have made investigating some cases a little more challenging than usual. For example, the ability to undertake PACE interviews has been restricted due to lockdowns, infection controls and social distancing protocols. Despite this, the service have made good progress with investigations.
8. There are currently twelve cases in various stages of the prosecution process. These include 1 case awaiting sentencing, 1 case due in magistrate's court, 2 cases at draft summons stage and 8 cases with suspects under investigation.

Financial implications

9. Where the Authority successfully prosecutes cases it may be awarded costs to cover its own solicitor's fees and staff time. The Authority maintains a prosecution reserve capped at £300k (any additional costs are transferred to the general reserve). The reserve currently stands at £289,023 - as at 31/03/21.

Legal implications

10. The aim of protection activity is to guide, educate and assist commercial business owners to make their premises safe for users, employers and the wider community. The Service prosecutes only when appropriate and when the prospect of success is high. More speculative, or aggressive use of the Order could result in awards of costs against the Authority, reputational damage and resource implications. This could affect the Service as a whole and not serve the interest of the public.

Equality and Diversity implications

11. Due to an increase in serious fires locally and nationally which involve certain types of fast food outlets, officers have, over recent years, visited more of these businesses to help them reduce risk and comply with regulations. This, in the most high risk premises, has resulted in an increase in enforcement action issued to businesses which are frequently owned and operated by members of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities. An Equality Impact Assessment for this work has been completed.

Environmental implications

12. Effective enforcement reduces the risk of fire and therefore contributes to reduced emissions, water use and CO₂ associated with transporting and producing re-building products.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: APPENDIX 1, PROSECUTIONS 2020/21

Agenda Item 7, Appendix 1

Prosecutions 2020/21

2021

1. Trinnette Hair Professionals – Chester

On Monday 1st February at Warrington Magistrates Court Mr Adibelli of Trinnette Hair Professionals was ordered to pay £2250 in fines which amounted to £250 for each of the nine breaches of The Order. In addition, £5000 in costs and a further £190 in victims surcharge were also ordered to be paid.

The breaches of The Order included lack of compartmentation, no working fire alarm, no fire risk assessment and fire extinguishers that hadn't been serviced. There were people sleeping on the premises who would have been in serious danger if a fire had occurred either in the premises or in the coffee shop below.

The fire safety issues at this premises were first identified by operational crews during a special service call for a water leak at the premises below. They flagged the premises to the Protection team and an audit was carried out.

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2021
REPORT OF: HEAD OF OPERATIONAL POLICY AND ASSURANCE
AUTHOR: SM TAM BLAIR

SUBJECT: NORTH WEST FIRE CONTROL ANNUAL
REPORT 2020-21

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members about the performance of North West Fire Control (NWFC) during the year 2020-21 (1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021).

Recommended: That

- [1] Members note the performance information relating to North West Fire Control.

Background

2. This report is based on the Quarterly Performance Management reports produced by NWFC.

Information

3. The following headings deal with call handling performance, costs of service, staff performance, staffing levels and business continuity. These are the agreed performance measures reported on for the four Fire & Rescue Services (FRS) for whom NWFC provides Control Room functions.

Call handling performance

Number of calls

4. The total number of emergency calls and admin calls per call is shown in the table below.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Emergency Calls	39,128	34,879	31,248	31,666
Admin Calls	28,226	25,772	24,399	25,981

5. Overall, emergency calls are slightly lower than last year. It is difficult to identify emerging trends from such a short time period, but it should be acknowledged that societal behaviour patterns changed considerably during the Covid-19 pandemic and this may have had an impact on emergency calls. Call volume continued to be lower in comparison to previous years in Q4 despite the spate conditions brought on by the wide area flooding in Cheshire and Greater Manchester. Societal behavioural changes on trends should become evident in the performance report of 2021-22.

Call Challenging

6. Control Room Operatives are trained to challenge specific call types and ask additional questions to identify if fire and rescue service attendance is required. These include Automatic Fire Alarms, (AFA's) Animal Rescues, Bonfires and Gaining Entry incidents on behalf of other agencies. The table below shows a breakdown by quarter of the number of calls that were challenged and their subsequent outcomes.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Calls Challenged	5620	7334	7790	13628
Mobilised	3769	4403	4512	8106
Not Mobilised	1851	2931	3278	5522

7. The majority of non-mobilisations relate to calls from AFAs where approximately half of all calls received do not generate a fire and rescue service attendance. The success of the call challenge protocols introduced by Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service (CFRS) has prompted neighbouring services to implement similar policies.

Time to Answer Emergency Calls

8. A national target was recommended some years ago by the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA), now the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), and it is against this target that NWFC has been reporting. The target is that 95% of emergency calls should be answered in 10 seconds, or less.
9. Performance is shown in the table below.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Average Time to Answer	5 seconds	5 seconds	5 seconds	5 seconds
Percentage of calls answered within 10 seconds	95%	95%	95%	95%

Time of Call Answer to Time of Alerting the First Resources for all Emergency Calls

10. A national target was recommended some years ago by NFCC and it is against this target that NWFC reports. The target is for resources to be mobilised within 90 seconds of a call. Obviously, this only relates to calls where a mobilisation is necessary.
11. Performance is shown in the table below (average in seconds).

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Call to Alert in Seconds – Average Across FRS'	96	95	94	94
Fires – CFRS	77	79.6	77.6	73.6
Special Service Calls - CFRS	153	135.6	120	130.6

12. The time taken to mobilise resources to Fire Incidents within Cheshire is an improvement on recent years and consistently falls under the average time for this incident type across the four regional FRS'.
13. It should be noted that different incident types require differing amounts of information to be taken during the call handling processes to ensure correct mobilisation. Mobilisations to Fire related incidents are consistently within the 90 second national target.
14. The table above shows a measure of all 'attended' incidents with the following omissions:

Any incident classified as Incident Recording System (IRS) or NWFC 'Other' – these are predominantly test and admin incidents some of which do not feed into the Fire Service Incident Recording Systems.

- Chemical suicide
- Concern for welfare
- Gaining entry
- Calls to assist other agencies non-life risk (i.e. Police or Ambulance)
- Suspect package/White powder/bomb
- Arson threat
- Threatening to Jump (from height or into water)
- Attendance to be made to a non-critical incident within 2 hours

15. These incident types have been removed due to them not requiring an immediate attendance or where consultation with an officer such as a

National Inter Agency Liaison Officer (NILO) determines the required attendance.

Costs of Service

Percentage of Incidents by FRS 2020/2021

16. The cost of the service provided by NWFC is paid for in proportions agreed by the FRSs.
17. The table below shows the percentage of activities in each quarter per FRS area and then contains the overall percentage for the year compared to the cost paid by each FRS. As previously, the figures show a very close alignment between activity and cost.

	Cheshire	Cumbria	Greater Manchester	Lancashire
Q1	16.62%	7.08%	50.03%	24.98%
Q2	17.18%	7.27%	49.72%	24.35%
Q3	18.35%	7.71%	47.07%	25.98%
Q4	18.08%	7.77%	47.36%	25.83%
Overall Average	17.55%	7.45%	48.54%	25.28%
Annual Percentage of Cost per FRS	18%	8%	48.5%	25.5%

N.B. The overall average figures do not add up to 100 as there is a small proportion of 'other' calls that are not accounted for in the table.

Staff Performance

18. CFRS staff regularly attend NWFC. Their observations form an important aspect of performance monitoring as they can take a view about aspects of the service provided by NWFC that are not measured statistically, e.g. the approach to call handling. There is close working for significant events and during certain periods, e.g. major disruption such as flooding and during the bonfire period. On the whole, the staff at NWFC continue to work well with the vast majority of calls leading to the correct mobilisation of resources. Systems and people are fully tested when conditions are the most challenging and staff at NWFC worked well on each occasion. There are clear channels through which to communicate feedback between operational crews within CFRS and staff in NWFC.

19. NWFC continues to take the training and improvement of the skills of its staff very seriously. This is evident from the management and integration of new starters and approach to the ongoing maintenance and improvement of skills. NWFC now use the same Competence Management and eLearning system as CFRS, PDRPro.
20. Performance statistics are also considered by Team Leaders so that they can see how well their team members are performing and where additional help or training may be required. Individual performance also provides evidence for appraisals and is considered when performance related pay is determined.
21. This year, the National Operational Guidance Program (NOGP) run by the NFCC program team has initiated their Control Room project, which will provide a set of standards and practices that all Control Rooms in the Country can utilise to develop their internal policies, procedures and training packages.

Business Continuity

22. Two full business continuity exercises have been carried out at NWFC during the reporting period. Both exercises took place whilst there was a complete shut down of the mobilising system, necessitated by a requirement to complete essential updates. Business Continuity arrangements are now fully embedded at NWFC with an effective management system in place.
23. NWFC has continued to operate a full service throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic, adopting remote working practices to maintain close liaison with CFRS and ensure that the needs of our organisation continue to be met.

Financial Implications

24. None resulting from the information in the report. The arrangement continues to deliver significant savings to the Authority.

Legal Implications

25. None resulting from the information in the report. An agreement for services exists between the Authority and NW Fire Control Ltd. This provides a framework for managing the relationship.

Equality and Diversity Implications

26. None

Environmental Implications

27. None

**CONTACT: DONNA LINTON, GOVERNANCE TEAM, CLEMONDS HEY
TEL [01606] 868804
BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE**

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2021
REPORT OF: HEAD OF SERVICE DELIVERY
AUTHOR: BEV HUGHES

SUBJECT: UNITARY PERFORMANCE GROUPS, ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with an update on the initiatives supported and funded by the Unitary Performance Groups (UPGs) during 2020-21.

Recommended: That

- [1] Members note the contents of the report.

Background

2. The Service has UPGs for Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington.
3. UPG meetings provide an opportunity for local Fire Authority Members to engage with officers from Service Delivery and Prevention and Protection to scrutinise performance at a local level. The UPG also develops initiatives which can help to improve performance and outcomes for the communities within each unitary area. UPGs have budgets allocated to enable them to consider and approve funding bids within their areas.

Information

4. Appendix 1 to the report contains details of some of the initiatives supported and funded by the UPGs during 2020-21.

Financial Implications

5. The main financial implication for Members to consider is the fact that UPG budgets are consistently underspent each year. Each of the four UPG's have a budget of £25k (£100k total) and any underspends are transferred to a central corporate pot which had a closing balance of £162.2k at the end of 2020/21. The 2020/21 UPG unspent balance totals £61.9k across all four UPGs. This underspend will be transferred to the corporate pot.

Legal Implications

6. Members have a fiduciary duty. This committee plays an important part in reviewing the activities that have been supported by the UPGs.

Equality and Diversity Implications

7. Several projects highlighted within the UPG Annual Report have a central theme to widen access and promote inclusion for people deemed 'at risk' in our communities. The majority of the projects are countywide which benefit a wide range of people. Where projects are targeting people in specific locations, they bring a benefit to these 'at risk' people as a result of their disability (or long term health condition) or age (i.e. older people, school age children).

Environmental Implications

8. There are no known environmental implications.

**CONTACT: DONNA LINTON, FIRE SERVICE HQ, SADLER ROAD, WINSFORD
TEL [01606] 868804**

BACKGROUND PAPERS: APPENDIX 1, UPG INITIATIVES 2020-21

Event and link to Service Aims	Details
<p>Service Wide (Central Pot) – Chester Pride – Just Ask Project</p> <p><i>Contributes to preventing fires in the home and ensuring our Safe and Well offer is inclusive and accessible for all members of our community.</i></p>	<p>£5000.00</p> <p>Just Ask by Chester Pride is a new LGBT+ focused helpline that provides specialist support, advice and information to any person on any topic. They primarily act as a signposting service, connecting vulnerable service users with the correct service to support them.</p> <p>Chester Pride have been operating as a registered charity since 2015 and during this time, they have developed a strong rapport and brand amongst the local LGBT+ community, not just in Chester, but across the county and beyond.</p> <p>The funding will go towards general provision of the Just Ask helpline, covering the overheads of running the service, staff costs, volunteer expenses, and case related expenses.</p> <p>A particular focus of this funding will be the training and management of volunteers as the helpline service expands, and it will particularly be focused on a befriending service for those socially isolated, and physical check ins with vulnerable members of the LGBT+ community who are not able to access services online or over the phone.</p> <p>As the helpline service develops further, the partnership link will be further strengthened to ensure that helpline volunteers and staff are empowered and able to recognise and signpost back to Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service to facilitate home safety checks for these isolated and vulnerable service users.</p>
<p>Service Wide (Central Pot) – Promotional Items – Business Safety</p> <p><i>Contributes to reducing fires in business premises and supporting business owners with compliance with Fire safety legislation.</i></p>	<p>£4591.00</p> <p>Promotion of Fire Safety across businesses involving seminars, training events, multi agency impact days and targeted visits. This activity takes place across all Unitary areas of Cheshire and provides a centrally co ordinated approach to ensuring commercial premises receive the best possible fire safety advice. A number of items to support these activities were purchased through this bid including outdoor gazebos, tables, stands and branded promotional items which can be used in all weather and provide a focal point during community shows and impact days.</p> <p>The objective of the events is for local partners to work closely together to engage and deliver their individual key safety messages to local businesses, primarily those in small to medium sized businesses, who are responsible directly for Fire Safety. The aim of the Business Safety Team is to engage with as many businesses as possible each year with over 32000 businesses within our Authority area. Fire Authority members and local councillors have been invited to support these events previously and it is the intention to increase these events due to the positive feedback received from those attending.</p>

**All UPG Areas -
Christmas
Hampers for Care
Homes**

A humanitarian gesture from UPG's in recognition of the isolation that residents of Care Homes had suffered as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic.

**£5658.07 – Cheshire East
£1467.08 – Halton
£3228.51 – Warrington
£5140.84 – Cheshire West & Chester**

The Service remained committed to continuing the community work that is usually completed annually despite the Covid-19 pandemic. The initial idea for this particular initiative originated from a member of the Fire Authority. Subsequently, the idea was widely considered by Members across all UPG areas. All UPG's agreed that this would be a good way to show the residents of the Care Homes that the Service and Members are thinking of them during such difficult times, especially when many may not have seen members of their family for a considerable amount of time.

The contents of each hamper were put together based on the resident numbers at each Care Home. To ensure that no Care Homes were missed, information from the Service's SAFFIRE System was utilised and a detailed plan was prepared for each specific area. Watch Manager Jo Collier from Warrington led the challenging logistical exercise in conjunction with Morrison's supermarkets and a team of willing volunteers.

Although the Service staff were not able to enter the care homes to deliver the hampers, pictures were taken of staff dropping hampers off and posted on social media which received fantastic feedback.

The hampers were all delivered just prior to the Christmas holiday. All items were ordered in one transaction which ensured that the funds were strictly controlled.



Staff at Crewe and Congleton ensured some Christmas cheer was had at all of our Care homes. Following on from a Service wide initiative, we delivered a Christmas hamper to every Care Home in the Crewe, Nantwich and Congleton area. The Service was inundated with emails of thanks from everyone that received their hampers. This gesture by CFRS has gone a long way to lifting spirits of our most at risk group during this festive period.

2020/21 Funding Bids

 **Warrington Fire Station ...** · 20 Dec 20
Off-duty Warrington firefighters are working hard on a service wide project this weekend. For more info, follow our Cheshire Fire social media pages next week.



Warrington Fire Station ... · 21 Dec 20
We at Warrington Fire Station are finally ready to start distributing our special deliveries 🚒📦



 **Warrington Fire Station ...** · 23 Dec 20
Firefighters, protection and prevention teams from Warrington have been out in the community delivering hampers to our local care homes, to say thank you for everything you have done and continue to do, and we are thinking about you. Have a wonderful Christmas 📺



Frodsham Fire Station @FrodshamFire · Dec 24, 2020
This week, our Fire Fighters assisted with delivering festive hampers to local care homes.
@cheshirefire has delivered to over 350 care homes across Cheshire. Bringing a little festive cheer during difficult times. 🎄🚒📦 #frodsham



Tony O'Dwyer @ODwyerAnthony · Dec 22, 2020
Wow that really was a rewarding day. Supporting volunteers from across @CheshireFire delivering Christmas hampers to our care homes across the unitary. Heartfelt thanks from the carers I met along the way. It is us, applauding you 🙌📺 Thanks to @EPortFS @PoweyLaneFS @ChesterFireStn



Powey Lane Fire Station @PoweyLaneFS · Dec 22, 2020
The Service have been delivering hampers across Cheshire today to The Care Sector to say thank you for all the work you have done and continue to do during this most difficult of years. Our local teams in Cheshire West have delivered over 90 hampers today, great effort 📺🚒📦



All UPG Areas -
CF&RS Choir

The Choir has
represented the
Service in a

£3000.00 – Cheshire East
£3000.00 – Halton
£3000.00 – Warrington
£3000.00 – Cheshire West & Chester

Total of £12000.00 for 2020-21

<p><i>number of arenas over the years and seeks to promote the work of the Service and raise awareness of key safety messages.</i></p>	<p>The total cost to each UPG is £3K per year over a 4 year period. The Cheshire Fire Choir consists of current and retired members of staff who work across different departments and as such, is representative of the Service when performing at events in all areas of the county and beyond. Members of the Cheshire Fire Choir were auditioned by Gareth Malone in 2013 and featured in the BBC 2 second series of The Choir: Sing While You Work, in which they reached the final. Cheshire Fire Choir were invited to take part in a concert at Carnegie Hall, New York and, whilst they were there they performed a rendition of “The Rising” at the Ground Zero memorial to those who died in the September 11th 2001 attack on the World Trade Center. They have since released a recording of “The Rising” to download and all monies raised go to the Firefighters Charity.</p> <p>The Cheshire Fire Choir has established a strong reputation through performances in Cheshire, the wider UK and abroad over the years. Funding through the UPG’s is the usual source for continuing to further develop the choir and its repertoire. The funding assists with the provision of professional services, equipment, uniform, travel, accommodation and promotional and marketing material that will supplement existing Service campaigns.</p> <p>Each member of the choir also pays a subscription on a weekly basis to support the existence of the choir. The continued provision of financial support from the UPG’s has traditionally provided the choir with the funds it requires to continue to practice, perform and promote Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service at events and through fundraising activities.</p>
<p>All UPG Areas - Be Safe Be Seen Morphs</p> <p><i>Contributes to raising awareness of road safety amongst cyclists and motorists.</i></p>	<p>£2900.00 – Cheshire East £2900.00 – Halton £2900.00 – Warrington £2900.00 – Cheshire West & Chester</p> <p>Funding was agreed to purchase some enhanced visibility neck morfs for road safety activities. These morfs will have the CFRS logo and the safety message ‘Be Safe Be Seen’ printed onto them. This will ensure the presence of a highly visible safety message from Cheshire Fire Rescue Service when working alongside partner groups.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p>Cheshire East – Kitchen Timers for Prevention Department</p>	<p>£1162.80</p> <p>Funding was agreed to purchase cooker kitchen timers to provide extra awareness of cooking completion time within properties. This supporting our Service kitchen safety campaigns 2020/2021. Dwellings are identified by Advocates through the H.S.A, Safe and Well</p>

2020/21 Funding Bids

<p><i>Contributes to preventing fires in the home.</i></p>	<p>process and also via post fire engagement due to fire incidents. The aim of the initiative is to reduce the number of kitchen fires within Cheshire East.</p>
<p>Cheshire East – Macclesfield Fire Station 50th Year Celebration</p> <p><i>In recognition of the history of the fire station and staff in Macclesfield who have provided a service to the community over the past 50 years.</i></p>	<p>£455.93</p> <p>A small scale celebration event involving Wholetime and On Call staff (current and retired) originally planned to recognise the 50th Year of Macclesfield Community Fire Station with attendance of Fire Authority members, Principal Officers, local dignitaries and ex firefighters from Macclesfield dating back to the 1970's. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic this event did not take place, however a commemorative plaque was purchased for the Station.</p> <div data-bbox="1055 507 1505 810" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p>Cheshire East Virtual Fire Station Open Days</p> <p><i>As a direct consequence of the restrictions on social gatherings as a result of the pandemic, the Service utilised Virtual Open Days which have enabled key safety messages and recruitment opportunities to be</i></p>	<p>£452.70</p> <p>Various items purchased for the Virtual Fire Station Open Days e.g. vouchers for competition winners, Blaze Bears, scrap cars for Road Traffic Collision demonstrations etc.</p> <p><u>Virtual Fire Station Open Days</u></p> <p>Crewe & Congleton both staged their first Virtual Open Days and found this to be a unique, but safe way of keeping the tradition of opening our doors to the community during the pandemic. Both Crewe and Congleton's Virtual Open Day events had many 1000's of online views on the day and received extremely positive feedback on the events. The online presentations covered all aspects of fire station life and sent out important fire and road safety messages.</p>

2020/21

continued throughout the year.



Nantwich hosted their very own Virtual Open Day on the 03/10/20.

Personnel at the Station recorded videos for our social media platforms which discussed the role of an On-Call firefighter, as well as promoting safety videos and including a tour of the Station and vehicles.



Knutsford Fire Station Open Day -



Halton – Runcorn Community Garden

Contributes to youth engagement and a reduction in future anti social behaviour as well as a sense of community and well being for staff and users of the community gym.

£379.28

This is an annual funding bid to purchase consumables for the Runcorn Community Garden. The garden had a lottery fund injection in 2019/20 which resulted in new raised beds, shed, tables, shelves etc. and is now fit for purpose for another 10+ years. 6 local primary schools usually visit the gardens regularly for input on how to prepare the beds, sow seed, care for and harvest the vegetables. In addition the garden is used by Gym users to relax within as part of the Healthy Hearts initiative. It is hoped in the coming months the garden will reopen to visitors as we emerge from the pandemic.



Runcorn Fire Station @... · 22 Aug 20
Many of you might have enjoyed (and hopefully can soon!) our community garden - meet Tommy, the volunteer who keeps it looking tip top!

For more info, read orlo.uk/HDFUy



182 views

Halton – Virtual Open Days

As a direct consequence of the restrictions on social gatherings as a result of the pandemic, the Service utilised Virtual Open Days which have enabled key safety messages and recruitment opportunities to be continued throughout the year.

£283.48

Runcorn Fire Station held their Virtual Open Day on the 22nd August 2020. A scrap vehicle was purchased for the watch to demonstrate their capabilities at a Road Traffic Collision. Widnes Fire Station held their Virtual Open Day on the 23rd August 2020. Firefighters set up a competition to colour in a picture and post it back to gather interest and gain interactions via social media. The duty Watch then picked a winner the following day and provided them with a new bike and safety equipment.

Widnes Fire Station @... · 05 Sep 20
Following our poster colouring competition during our open day, Isla, aged 6 was the winner. Here she is being presented with a voucher to pick out a brand new bike and safety accessories. Well done Isla 🌞🌞🌞

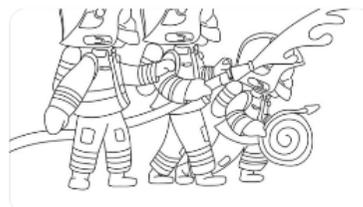


6 26

Widnes Fire Station @... · 23 Aug 20
COMPETITION TIME! To be in with your chance to win a bike (suitable age 12 and under) follow these simple steps

- Save this picture
- Colour it in!
- Take a pic of it, and attach it in the comments

Winner will be chosen on Monday 24 August - GOOD LUCK!



Widnes Fire Station @... · 23 Aug 20
White Watch have put together a mud rescue simulation - as well as being very, very messy, getting stuck in the mud is seriously dangerous. ⚠️ Spike Island is a particular problem area - stay out of the mud - only recently we were called to rescue a young male from that area ⚠️



175 views



Widnes Fire Station @... · 21 Aug 20
Make sure you follow our Twitter account on Sunday, when (due to coronavirus pandemic restrictions) we will be holding the first virtual open day in our history.

From 11am to 3pm you can find out all about the lifesaving work that we do via a range of fun and informative videos.



1 3 13



Widnes Fire Station @... · 21 Aug 20
A highlight of the day will be firefighter Matty Thornberry's attempt to complete 999 dummy drags in aid of The Firefighters Charity.

2020/21 Funding Bids

	 <p>Runcorn Fire Station @RuncornFS</p> <p>We can't wait to open our virtual doors on today's open day. Here's a few of the things we've got planned for the day...</p> <p>Runcorn Fire Station - Virtual Open Day 2020 -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.00 - Introduction from Watch Manager 10.15 - Message from Station Manager 11.00 - Road traffic collision demonstration 12:00 - On-call Watch Manager 12:30 - Breathing apparatus exercise 13:30 - Smoke tent 14:00 - Water rescue techniques <p>With loads more videos throughout the day.</p>	 <p>Runcorn Fire Station @... · 22 Aug 20</p> <p>When we're called to RTCs we sometimes have to rescue people from damaged vehicles. Here's part one of a demonstration of how we'd carry out the rescue.</p> <p>There are 5 common factors that can lead to a serious or fatal collision. #FATAL5</p> <p>Part 2 to follow...</p> <p>128 views</p>
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Cheshire West & Chester – Bunbury Green Project

Contributes to youth engagement and a reduction in anti social behaviour as well as promoting a sense of community.

£5000.00

This project is a collaboration between Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and other partner agencies to build on partnership work in the Bunbury Green area of Ellesmere Port. This work is aimed at reducing deliberate fire activity and anti social behaviour. Part of this project includes improvements to the area such as CCTV, better lighting and a community layout to encourage pride in the area, but to also make deliberate fires and anti social behaviour more difficult to undertake.

Funding of £70,000 was sought from a variety of partners including local authorities and was largely supported by funds from the Police Crime Commissioner. CWAC UPG contributed £5000 to go towards the funds to help make the improvements to the area.

Area developed and improved in 2020



Cheshire West & Chester – Prevention Items

Contributes to preventing fires in the home and ensuring our Safe

£2360.96

CWAC UPG granted funds towards a number of bids from the CWAC Prevention team to purchase Air Fryers, Slow Cookers and extensions leads:

- To reduce the risk to the most at risk groups of our community that include over 65's
- Domestic dwellings are frequently found to have unsafe electrical socket overloading & cooking practices which have been known to cause fires.
- Target households who have already suffered an accidental dwelling fire as a result of unsafe cooking practices.

2020/21 Funding Bids

<p><i>and Well offer targets and supports the most vulnerable members of our community.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High risk dwellings will be identified by Advocates through the H.S.A process as well as the 'Post Fire Advocate' and operational crews.
<p>Cheshire West & Chester – Wig</p> <p><i>A humanitarian gesture from the UPG in recognition of the impact of fire and serious injuries sustained by a victim to aid their recovery.</i></p>	<p>£434.00</p> <p>CWAC UPG agreed to purchase a wig for a resident who was involved in a fire resulting in injuries to the scalp and involving their hair. Sadly, this hair will not grow back and the UPG agreed a funding bid to purchase the wig, which has aided the individuals recovery and mental health and wellbeing since the fire.</p>

Cheshire West & Chester – Virtual Open Days

As a direct consequence of the restrictions on social gatherings as a result of the pandemic, the Service utilised Virtual Open Days which have enabled key safety messages and recruitment

opportunities to be continued throughout the year.

£1009.00

All of our Open Days took place virtually during 2020. One particular live event involved the crew at Winsford who carried out an Road Traffic Collision rescue simulation with a large goods vehicle cab procured through a UPG funding bid. Many of the stations also ran fundraising events during the day and raised much needed funds for The Firefighters Charity.

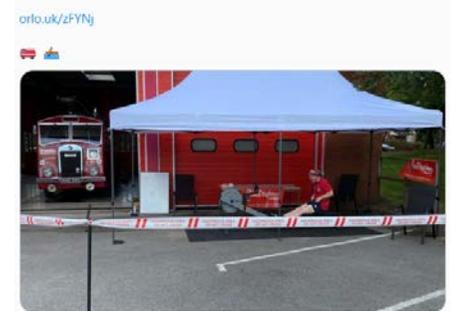
Winsford Fire Station @WinsfordFS · Aug 8, 2020
And finally the 'Space Creation' phase, this involves weakening the structure of the HGV prior to using tools to create space in the cab...



Tarporley Fire Station @TarporleyFS · 20 Sep
Good morning Tarporley, and welcome to our first-ever virtual open day! We've got plenty coming up (more on that in a few minutes), and we hope you enjoy the day 😊



Frodsham Fire Station @FrodshamFire · Aug 2, 2020
Our @firefighters999 Charity row is underway! We are aiming to row 100,000m before our Open Day finishes. We have a socially distanced tin for donations at the station or you can donate on line below.



Ellesmere Port Fire Station @EPortFS · 19 Jul
Billy's back once more to close the day – while this hasn't been how we would normally show you around your station, we've had a great time – and we hope you have too!



Chester Fire Station @ChesterFireStn · 6 Sep
Good morning Chester, and a very big welcome to our first ever virtual open day!

We're going to show you the team, our kit, important safety messages and more – we hope you'll enjoy the day 😊



Northwich Fire Station @NorthwichFS · 29 Aug
Welcome to Northwich Fire Station Virtual Open Day 29th August 2020 - 10-4pm



Malpas Fire Station @MalpasFS · 26 Sep
Good morning Malpas! It's our very first ever virtual open day today - and we've got lots to show you. Keep checking our page throughout the day for a look at your fire station, and the people that work here 😊



The engagement with our social media audience was really impressive as you can see from the number of views at the bottom right of each image. In total the Virtual Open Days held across the Service in 2020 reached over 220,000 views.

FORWARD WORK PLAN 2021-22

PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE						
Meeting Date:	8 September 2021		24 November 2021		23 February 2022	
Report Deadline	23 August 2021		8 November 2021		7 February 2022	
Agenda Deadline	31 August 2021		16 November 2021		15 February 2022	
1	AR/ WB	Q1 Finance (budget monitoring) Report	AR/ WB	Q2 Finance (budget monitoring) Report	AR/ WB	Q3 Finance (budget monitoring) Report
2	AW/ MC	Q1 Performance Report	AW/ MC	Q2 Performance Report	AW/ MC	Q3 Performance Report
3	JG	Q1 Programme Report	JG	Q2 Programme Report	JG	Q3 Programme Report
4	AL/ CA	Q1 Internal Audit Report	AL/ CA	Q2 Internal Audit Report	AL/ CA	Q3 Internal Audit Report
5	BE	Annual Equality Monitoring Report 2021-22	SB/ NW	Annual Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report	LS	Annual Bonfire Report
6	LS	Safety Central Annual Report	LS/ AG	Annual Road Safety Report	AH/ BE	Equality Monitoring - 6 Monthly Update
7	NG	UPG Annual Report 2021-22	LS/ AG	Interim Bonfire Report (Verbal)	LA/ CA	Progress Update on Internal Audit Recommendations (half yearly update)
8	LS	Annual Prosecutions Report	LS	On the Streets Project - Annual Report		
9	SB/ HC/ AL	NWFC Performance Annual Report -Call Handling	AH/ LH	Annual Mental Health Report		

FORWARD WORK PLAN 2021-22

10			LS	Annual Partnerships Report		
NOTES	Standing Items: Items 1,2,3 and 4 Annual Items: Items 5,6		Standing Items: Items 1,2,3 and 4 Annual Items: Items 5,6,7 and 8		Standing Items: Items 1,2,3 and 4 Annual Items: Items 5,6 and 7	