

2021



LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN

North Lanarkshire



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Foreword

I am pleased to support the publication of the Local Fire & Rescue Plan for North Lanarkshire.

In North Lanarkshire there is a long history of effective partnership working and this plan provides an opportunity to further develop these positive relationships to continue to deliver approaches aimed at improving the safety of our communities.

Existing links between Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, North Lanarkshire Council, Community Planning partners and local communities have been further cemented through a commitment to community safety as a cross cutting theme underpinning the delivery of The Plan for North Lanarkshire. This represents recognition of the important role of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in working with partners across all shared priority areas to address the wider deterrents of community safety and ultimately improve outcomes for our most vulnerable communities.

An effective working relationship has been maintained between the local fire and rescue team and North Lanarkshire Council, based on a shared understanding that community safety is at the heart of building resilient communities. I welcome the localised nature of the priorities contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan in ensuring that national guidance is translated into meaningful actions relevant to the circumstances of those living in North Lanarkshire.

The Council supports and shares the priorities set out in this plan and will continue to effectively engage with local fire and rescue services through our strategic and local Community Planning arrangements and the Community Safety and Partnership Governance Sub Committee in its scrutiny role. The role of the Local Authority Liaison Officer operating across the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and North Lanarkshire Council has been pivotal in embedding shared approaches and preventative initiatives with key organisations.

I am looking forward to continued collaboration between North Lanarkshire Council, the local fire and rescue team and the wider partnership in implementing this plan to ensure that North Lanarkshire continues to prioritise and develop collaborative, effective approaches to community safety.

Councillor Jim Logue

Leader of North Lanarkshire Council

Introduction

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is required under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 as amended, to prepare Local Fire and Rescue Plans for each local authority in Scotland.

The Scottish Government published the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016 which sets out the Scottish Ministers' expectations of the SFRS. The Framework provides SFRS with strategic priorities and objectives, together with guidance on how the delivery of its functions should contribute to the Scottish Government's purpose.

The main purpose of the SFRS is to work in partnership with communities and with others in the public, private and third sectors on prevention, protection and response, to improve the safety and well-being of the people of Scotland. The Service's Strategic Plan was produced to ensure that the Service delivers the requirements of the Framework on a national level. The Local Delivery Plan for North Lanarkshire will ensure that the aims of the Framework and the Service's Strategic Plan are delivered at a local level whilst taking full cognisance of local requirements and priorities.

These plans have been developed to ensure that as a national service, local priorities and accountability can still be delivered within each local authority area in Scotland. This plan sets out how the Service will be delivered in a local context ensuring local accountability set against a set of targets that have been developed for the North Lanarkshire area. Against the drive of public sector reform, the local planning landscape continues to evolve to provide a greater focus on protecting the most vulnerable and improving community outcomes through collaborative working.

These changes have been considerable within the community planning arena and a number of pieces of legislation have changed the focus for all organisations who work within the context of improving community planning and safety. The legislation includes the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016. The integration of health and social care has also had an impact on the partners across the community safety arena.

The legislation has introduced the requirement for the production of Local Outcome Improvement Plans which will better reflect the requirements of the local communities. North Lanarkshire have developed ['The Plan for North Lanarkshire'](#) which sets out the direction for the council and partners. Its purpose is to communicate the shared priorities and provide a focus for activities and resources.

It is noted that SFRS cannot make a difference across our communities without working in partnership with other agencies and the communities themselves. The North Lanarkshire Partnership is a key delivery mechanism for community safety and the Service has and continues to work closely with North Lanarkshire Council and the other agencies that make up that partnership.

Covid -19

Early in 2020 we faced an unprecedented challenge in the form of a global pandemic. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we dramatically changed how we worked so that we could continue to deliver an emergency service whilst keeping our staff and the public safe.

The pandemic is expected to have a lasting effect on society and this will change the way in which we deliver services in the long-term. The full implications are not yet known and this makes it difficult to make any far-reaching plans with certainty. As such we will keep the priorities of this Plan under regular review to ensure it remains relevant and appropriate.

National Context

Scottish Ministers set out their specific expectations for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016. This provides the outline we should follow to ensure our resources and activities are aligned with the Scottish Government's Purpose and national outcomes.

Our [Strategic Plan 2019-22](#) has been designed to meet these national expectations. Set against a complex and evolving backdrop our Strategic Plan encapsulates our mission, values and our strategic outcomes and objectives.

Working Together for a Safer Scotland



To ensure we can prevent the worse from happening or to be fully prepared to respond should we be required, we need to be aware of any new changing risks which threaten the safety of communities or the workforce. When developing our most recent plan, cognisance was given to: our changing population and the forecasted rise in over 75s; doing what we can to balance social and economic inequality; climate change and the devastating impact the inclement weather can have on peoples' lives and livelihoods; and the threat of terrorism.

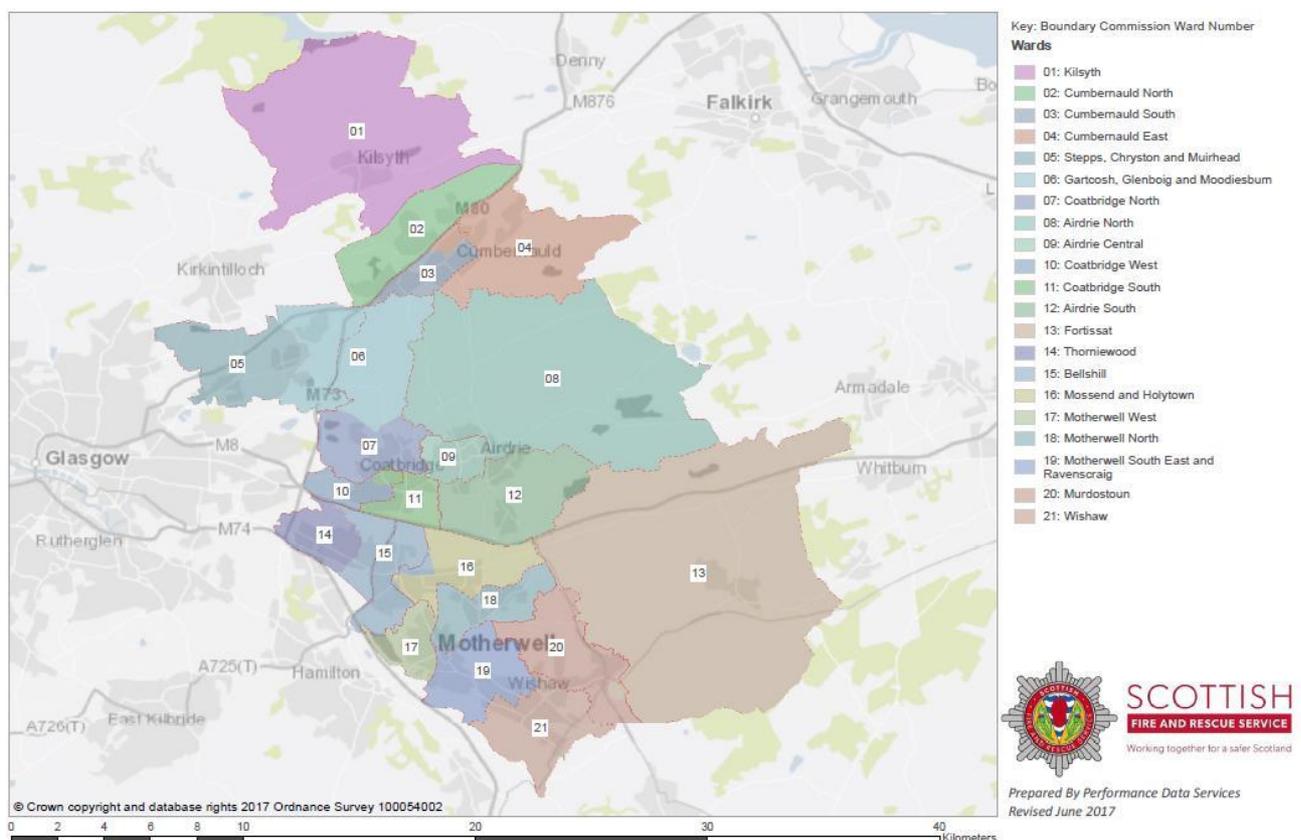
Our Strategic Plan is supported by a three-year Strategic Plan Programme which provides details on all the activities we intend to carry out to successfully achieve our ambitions. The Programme informs our Annual Operating Plan, which provides specific detail on the actions we carry out each year, and from which our performance is scrutinised.

This Plan is a statutory Local Fire and Rescue Plan. It sets local direction to meet the strategic outcomes and objectives outlined above. It also demonstrates how we will contribute to Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs).

Local Context

North Lanarkshire Council is by population the fourth largest local authority in Scotland. The latest population figure for North Lanarkshire is from the 2019 mid-year estimates which show a population of 341,370, this is an increase of 1,190 people since 2018. It is also the largest social housing landlord in Scotland and has the lowest percentage of older people who live in care and therefore, has the highest percentage living independently in the community. The share of adults with intensive needs receiving care at home is 70.1%. The Council is the fifth most densely populated area of Scotland with only 1% of the population living out with the main urban areas.

Life expectancy within the area is below the Scottish average with men living to an average of 75.2 years compared to a Scottish average of 77.1 and women living to an average age of 79.6 compared to a Scottish average of 81.1. However, this becomes starker when comparing life expectancy between the most deprived and least deprived areas of North Lanarkshire. For men this equates to 69.6 compared to 82.7 and for woman 75.6 compared to 85.4.



Map: showing North Lanarkshire Council Ward Areas.

To make an impact on any reduction strategy, partnership working is key. SFRS cannot effectively tackle issues such as reducing inequalities in isolation. The Service has considerable experience of reducing risk through a partnership approach and has been and continues to be a key partner in the CPP within North Lanarkshire.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 reinforces the statutory duty on CPPs and broadens responsibility to all statutory partners including SFRS through a set of guiding principles focusing on:

- Strong, shared leadership
- Governance and accountability
- Community participation and co-production
- Understanding of local community needs, circumstances and opportunities
- Focus on key priorities
- Focus on prevention tackling inequalities, and
- Resourcing Improvement
- Effective performance management.

At a strategic level, there is an expectation that CPPs will develop a set of focused strategic partnership priorities, articulated in 'The Plan for North Lanarkshire' to provide a focus for all work delivered by the partnership. The Service will align to the shared priorities of the CPP which are as follows:

- Climate Change
- Mental Health
- Community Empowerment.

'The Plan for North Lanarkshire' is key to how partners in the North Lanarkshire area deliver better outcomes for the communities within the area. The plan brings together all the partner agencies and community representatives and aligns all partners to shared priorities. This enables the co-production of safety initiatives and ensures that there is a community led focus where all partners are working to the same agenda.

The Service will deliver the shared objectives through working at both local and strategic levels. The partnership agenda is delivered through the following mechanisms, at which the SFRS is fully represented. The North Lanarkshire Partnership Board has strategic leadership representation from all partners. The SFRS Local Senior Officer represents the organisation on the Board within North Lanarkshire.

Sitting below the North Lanarkshire Partnership Board are 9 Community Boards. These Boards will enhance and support community involvement and will provide a single approach to governance for local community led decision making. The Boards will be trusted and embraced by local communities and very importantly be accountable to the wider community. The full participation of local community groups in these boards is vital in securing this. The 9 Boards are:

- Airdrie – Wards 8, 9 and 12
- Bellshill – Wards 14, 15 and 16
- Coatbridge – Wards 6, 7, 10 and 11
- Cumbernauld – Wards 2, 3 and 4
- Motherwell – Wards 17, 18 and 19
- Wishaw – Wards 20 and 21
- Kilsyth – Ward 1
- Shotts – Ward 13
- Northern Corridor – Ward 5

SFRS locally, will produce a Locality Plan covering the 9 Boards, which will include a breakdown of local activity and provide a depth of information which will enable a more detailed local scrutiny. Ward performance reports will also be published giving a local context to performance and scrutiny and allow for benchmarking against other areas in the West of Scotland.

In addition to these plans that will detail how the Service will work at a local level, four other North Lanarkshire wide strategies will underpin the prevention work. These are:

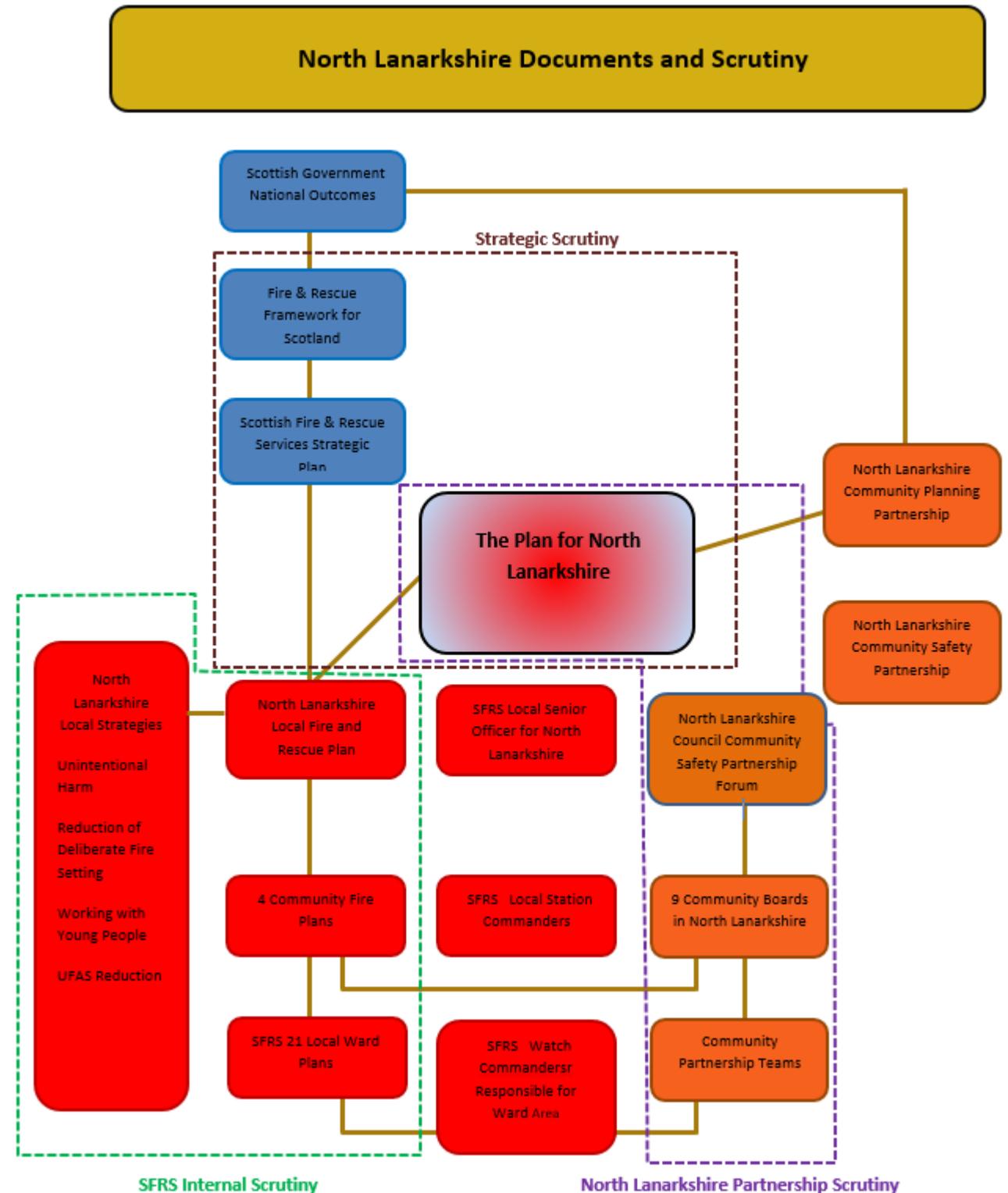
- Unintentional Harm Reduction Strategy where, by supporting other partner agencies, we can expand our prevention focus, providing a more holistic approach to how we work to prevent unintentional harm among the most vulnerable in our communities.
- Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting Strategy to identify areas of high operational activity and put in place measures to reduce demand and where possible.
- Working with Young People Strategy that will build upon the current Youth Schemes currently run within North Lanarkshire.
- Unwanted Fire Alarm Strategy which will aim to reduce the number of unnecessary mobilisations to premises with automatic fire alarm systems. This will decrease the risk to the community and fire crews by reducing the number of journeys taken under 'blue light' conditions and free up time for further prevention work.

Whilst SFRS is fully committed to the priorities that have been identified by the community planning partners there is still a statutory responsibility to ensure that the more traditional reduction activities continue. In this context the next section of the document will cover the areas that would be more normally associated with the Fire and Rescue Service. Notwithstanding the above, however, these areas are very much associated with building resilient communities.

Performance Scrutiny

The performance for the area will be scrutinised by the North Lanarkshire Council Community Safety Partnership Forum. The Forum is made up of elected members from across the Council area. Scrutiny meetings are held on a quarterly basis and SFRS will report on each of the performance targets. The information that will be provided will include targets based on a three-year average, performance for the reporting quarter and the previous year's performance will be utilised as an indicator of current performance.

The diagram below indicates the scrutiny and relationship between national and local plans/documents:



Local Priorities

Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires

Throughout North Lanarkshire, dwelling fires occur within a wide variety of home types. Statistical analysis has shown that the majority of dwelling house fires occur in the social rented sector. A high percentage of these fires start in the kitchen when the occupier was cooking or had cooked food.

In North Lanarkshire, dwelling house fires are more prominent in several ward areas. Additional significant contributory risk factors are the consumption of alcohol and/or drugs allied to the use of smoking materials in the fires that occur.

The severity of domestic fires has been greatly reduced which can be attributed to the early warning provided by fitted smoke alarms. Due to the level of automatic smoke detection within domestic dwellings, SFRS is mobilised to a significant number (51%) of domestic dwelling fires which have been extinguished by the occupants before the arrival of SFRS operational resources. These are known as Code 4 fires; which are minor in nature due to the early detection and intervention by the occupier.

Dwelling fires can have a significant negative impact upon both individuals and the community and are financially costly to house holders and housing providers in terms of repair and the reinstatement of homes. By giving safety advice and fitting smoke detectors, SFRS can reduce the risk of fire and its associated human and financial costs as well as enhancing community safety.

When compared to the rest of Scotland on a per 10,000 head of population basis, North Lanarkshire at 6.69 sits just below the Scottish average of 7.93 and slightly above the midpoint when compared to other Local Authority areas.

SFRS will seek to reduce accidental dwelling fires by:

- Promoting and undertaking Home Fire Safety Visits to those deemed at high risk from fire
- Working with partners in North Lanarkshire to share information where fire risks within the home have been identified and to provide solutions to protect those who are vulnerable
- Focusing engagement activities in those areas where service demand has been identified.

SFRS will monitor progress in promoting domestic safety by:

- Reviewing the number of accidental dwelling fires and their severity
- Increasing the presence of working smoke/heat detection within homes at high risk of fire.

By achieving a reduction in the frequency and severity of accidental dwelling fires SFRS will:

- Support the safety and well-being of North Lanarkshire residents
- Support the independent living of vulnerable members within North Lanarkshire communities
- Reduce the social and economic cost of fires and fire related injuries
- Reduce demand on the SFRS and its partners.

Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities

The reduction of fire casualties and fatalities is directly linked to the reduction in dwelling house fires. The reduction of fire fatalities and casualties, for which the biggest contributory factors are cooking and the use of alcohol/drugs, is at the core of preventative activities carried out by SFRS in the North Lanarkshire area.

Vulnerable people within our communities continue to be those most at risk from fire. Older people, those with disabilities, those who live alone and those with alcohol and drugs dependencies provide SFRS with serious challenges in relation to engagement and reduction strategies. Closer working with partner organisations with regards to single shared assessments and signposting of vulnerable persons proves an effective method of identification and engagement. Fire casualties are more likely to occur in the areas with highest operational demand.

Within the North Lanarkshire area Home Fire Safety Visits are carried out by operational station based crews and specialist Community Action Team members. During the visits smoke detectors are fitted where necessary to every level of the accommodation to ensure that early warning is given in the event of fire. Whilst there has been a drive to increase the number of visits there has also been a focus on trying to reach the most vulnerable in our communities. This has been done by working in partnership with other organisations and there have been an increasing number of referrals from partners.

When compared to the rest of Scotland on a per 10,000 head of population basis North Lanarkshire at 2.39 sits above the Scottish average of 1.88 and slightly below the midpoint when compared to other Local Authority areas.

SFRS will seek to reduce fire related injuries within the home by:

- Producing a Casualty Reduction Strategy
- Promoting and undertaking Home Fire Safety Visits to those deemed at high risk from fire
- Working with partners in North Lanarkshire to share information where fire risks within the home have been identified and to provide solutions to protect those who are vulnerable
- Focusing engagement activities in those areas where service demand has been identified
- Supporting the provision of assistive technology within the home to increase occupant safety.

SFRS will monitor progress in promoting domestic safety by:

- Reviewing the number of accidental dwelling fire casualties and fatalities
- Reviewing the number and the severity of fatal and non-fatal fire related injuries
- Increasing the presence of working smoke/heat detection within homes at high risk of fire.

By achieving a reduction in the frequency and severity of fire related injuries SFRS will:

- Support the safety and well-being of North Lanarkshire residents
- Support the independent living of vulnerable members within North Lanarkshire communities
- Reduce the social and economic cost of fires and fire related injuries
- Reduce demand on the SFRS and its partners.

Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting

In the North Lanarkshire area, deliberate fire setting has historically been a significant problem and can be closely linked to antisocial behaviour. Secondary fires (refuse and grass) account for a high percentage of our operational activity and place a huge strain on SFRS ability to effectively provide its operational response to real emergencies and other prevention activities.

SFRS work with partners to identify areas of high operational activity and has put in place measures to reduce demand and where possible, hold those responsible to account. Police Scotland provides key support in identifying those responsible for deliberate fire setting. The use of Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) cameras has also been utilised to assist in identifying where deliberate fires are set and by whom.

When compared to the rest of Scotland on a per 10,000 head of population basis North Lanarkshire at 38.36 sits above the Scottish average of 21.10 and slightly above the midpoint when compared to other Local Authority areas.

SFRS will seek to reduce the instances of fire related anti-social behaviour by:

- Implementing our Deliberate Fire Reduction Strategy
- Identifying those parts of North Lanarkshire's communities affected by deliberate fire setting and share this information with partners
- Utilising Fire Reach, Fire setters and school's education programmes to raise awareness of the impact of fire related anti-social behaviour
- Working with partners to develop joint strategies to reduce the risk posed by deliberate fire setting and to mitigate its impacts.

SFRS will monitor the effectiveness of reducing fire related anti-social behaviour by:

- Reviewing the number and type of deliberate fire setting incidents within North Lanarkshire
- Evaluating the effectiveness of youth engagement programmes.

By achieving a reduction in fire related anti-social behaviour SFRS will:

- Enable SFRS to divert its resources towards other community based activities
- Protect the natural and built environment
- Support the promotion of active and responsible citizenship across North Lanarkshire communities
- Support communities in feeling safe from crime, disorder and danger.

Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Properties

Fires in workplaces and business premises are classed as Non-Domestic Fires and come under the scope of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006. There will be a focus on High Risk Buildings and SFRS will work with businesses to enable compliance with the Legislation.

Sleeping risks are premises grouped within the High-Risk Premises bracket since most fatal fires occur at night when people are less vigilant and at their most vulnerable. Residential care homes, student accommodation and other sleeping premises make up the greatest proportion of these premises within the North Lanarkshire area.

The focus is an emphasis on high risk properties that will be audited yearly to ensure that the fire safety arrangements within these properties are to a suitable standard. For some buildings, joint inspections are carried out with other organisations e.g. Health and Safety Executive, Police Scotland, Trading Standards, Local Authority Licensing Department and Environmental Health.

These audits are carried out by either a legislative Fire Safety Enforcement Officer or an Auditing Officer. These officers are specially trained in relation to the enforcement of the legislation within the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Any fire within relevant premises will result in a Post Fire Audit to fully identify the required assessment of risk in the event of the fire and the reasonable fire safety measures to secure the safety of persons resorting to the premises. When compared to the rest of Scotland on a per 10,000 head of population basis North Lanarkshire at 2.92 sits slightly below the Scottish average of 3.54 and slightly above the midpoint when compared to other Local Authority areas.

SFRS will seek to reduce the instances of fires within non-domestic property by:

- Undertaking a fire safety audit programme in accordance with the Service's Enforcement Framework engaging with duty holders to promote responsible fire safety management of premises that come under the auspices of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 as amended
- Working in partnership to ensure the appropriate provision of fire safety standards are incorporated in new premises under construction or premises undergoing material changes
- Working in partnership with other enforcement agencies and organisations to support legislative compliance
- Undertake post fire audits in all premises that come under the auspices of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 as amended, that have had an incident occur within the North Lanarkshire area.

SFRS will monitor the effectiveness of reducing fires in non-domestic premises by:

- Reviewing the number of fires in non-domestic premises and the type of premises involved in fire
- Reviewing the number and types of fire safety audits carried out across North Lanarkshire
- Reviewing the outcome of fire safety audits carried out in non-domestic premises.

By achieving a reduction in fires within non-domestic premises SFRS will:

- Enable the industrial, commercial and service sector to maintain business continuity and employment across North Lanarkshire
- Reduce the potential for loss of life and injury
- Protect North Lanarkshire's culture and heritage
- Protect the natural and built environment and reduce the impact of fire on North Lanarkshire communities.

Casualties from Non- Fire Emergencies

A central part of SFRS's role is responding to non-fire emergencies such as Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), building collapse, water rescue incidents and flooding. These are referenced locally as Unintentional Harm incidents.

Operational Firefighters are trained to a high standard and have at their disposal the most modern equipment for extricating people in rescue situations and administering first aid to casualties. SFRS also works closely with other emergency responders such as the Scottish Ambulance Service Special Operations Response Team (SORT), to ensure that medical interventions are provided with minimum delay.

SFRS has in recent years increased its working with the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) in a number of areas. This has included attendance at incidents where there is a medical emergency within lock fast premises and the SAS cannot gain entry. SFRS personnel will attend the incident to gain entry and to assist the SAS when any casualty is located in the premises. In more recent times SFRS has been carrying out a pilot involving co-responding to out of hospital cardiac arrests. These additional activities will inevitably cause a rise in casualty numbers as SFRS strives to ensure that the local communities have the most efficient emergency response possible.

When compared to the rest of Scotland on a per 10,000 head of population basis North Lanarkshire at 7.16 sits above the Scottish average of 6.63 and below the midpoint when compared to other Local Authority areas.

SFRS will seek to reduce the impact of non-fire emergencies by:

- Developing an Unintentional Harm Strategy
- Ensuring that training is carried out for all types of non-fire emergency attended in North Lanarkshire, therefore potentially reducing the time it takes to carry out rescues
- Ensuring that the equipment carried within the North Lanarkshire area is suitable for the non-fire emergencies attended, therefore potentially reducing the time it takes to carry out a rescue
- Ensuring that there is adequate emergency cover within the North Lanarkshire area to ensure that response times are kept to a minimum, therefore potentially reducing overall rescue times.

SFRS will monitor the effectiveness of our response to non-fire emergencies by:

- Reviewing the number and the type of non-fire emergencies attended
- Reviewing the number of specialist resources available within the area including water rescue, urban search and rescue and mass decontamination.

Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are those occasions when an automated fire alarm activates and results in a mobilisation of SFRS resources when the reason for that alarm turns out to be something other than a fire emergency. These can be categorised as either UFAS incidents from relevant premises under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 or from dwellings. In terms of relevant premises, the SFRS has statutory powers and bespoke policies to ensure reductions from poorly maintained, managed or installed fire alarm systems are achieved. Relevant premises that have repeated UFAS are subject to preventative measures that are designed to drive down false alarms.

Every unnecessary blue light journey increases the risk of road accidents within North Lanarkshire, has an impact on available resources and has the potential to make members of our communities feel less safe. In regard to dwellings, SFRS employs an engagement strategy to try and reduce the impact from UFAS.

A high number of UFAS can be attributed to residential accommodation which is inclusive of sheltered housing. SFRS continued focus on prevention and demand reduction has identified areas of action and strategic partnership groups have been formed over the reporting years to jointly analyse and take appropriate actions to reduce UFAS activity across North Lanarkshire.

Other types of false alarm include 999 and emergency calls made when a person genuinely believes that an emergency has occurred which requires the attendance of SFRS, and that belief subsequently turns out to be unfounded. These are categorized as false alarm good intent incidents. When compared to the rest of Scotland on a per 10,000 head of population basis North Lanarkshire at 32.97 sits below the Scottish average of 45.41 and well below the midpoint when compared to other Local Authority areas.

SFRS will seek to reduce the instances of Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals by:

- Producing an UFAS Reduction Strategy
- Investigating every cause of alarm and engaging with those responsible for fire warning systems following an operational attendance at a UFAS incident
- Analysing UFAS attendances at those premises that give cause to frequent generation of false alarms to identify trends and support occupiers to develop demand reduction plans
- Instigating where required, formal fire safety enforcement measures to ensure appropriate demand reduction action is taken by those responsible for premises generating unacceptable levels of false alarms.

SFRS will monitor the effectiveness of mobilising to Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals by:

- Reviewing the number of attendances at non-domestic premises and the type of premises generating unwanted false alarm signals across North Lanarkshire
- Evaluating the outcomes of occupier's demand reduction plans to review progress and identify and share good practice
- Reviewing attendances at UFAS incidents to ensure attendances are based on an assessment of risk and demand.

By achieving a reduction in Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals SFRS will:

- Minimise the disruption to business and service continuity across North Lanarkshire
- Increase the capacity of the fire and rescue service to carry out other activities
- Reduce the risk to firefighters and public whilst responding to UFAS incidents.

North Lanarkshire Local Strategies

Unintentional Harm

In Scotland, unintentional injury is a common cause of emergency admission to hospital for adults and children. In the financial year ending 31 March 2018, unintentional injuries accounted for approximately 1 in 9 emergency hospital admissions for children and 1 in 10 for adults. Another possible outcome of unintentional injury is death. This was the case for approximately 1 in 16 child and 1 in 25 adult deaths during the calendar year ending 31 December 2017. ([Unintentional Injuries in Scotland](#), National Statistics 5th March 2019)

By supporting other partner agencies, we can expand our prevention focus, providing a more holistic approach to how we work to prevent unintentional harm among the most vulnerable in our communities.

Through our Community Safety work, we will continue to build on our partnerships with individuals and groups to support work; addressing inequality, helping to tackle anti-social behaviour, reduce reoffending and work in partnership to tackle domestic violence.

Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting

In the North Lanarkshire area, deliberate fire setting has historically been a significant problem and can be closely linked to antisocial behaviour. Secondary fires (refuse and grass) account for a high percentage of our operational activity and place a huge strain on SFRS ability to effectively provide its operational response to real emergencies and other prevention activities. Together with Fly-tipping which is the illegal and unauthorised disposal of waste and unfortunately is something our fire crews can be called to extinguish if it has also been deliberately set on fire.

We will work with partners to identify areas of high operational activity and has put in place measures to reduce demand and where possible, hold those responsible to account. Police Scotland and the Local Authority provides key support in identifying those responsible for deliberate fire setting and areas of Fly-tipping.

Working with Young People

Currently, North Lanarkshire run a full time Fire Reach program that delivers the Fire Skills award to 26 High Schools within North Lanarkshire. The program also delivers to various third sector organisations, for example Barnardo's and Community Alternatives. The ambition is to roll this program out further and have specific courses for 'Care Experienced Children and young People'. In doing so, we will continue to demonstrate our statutory responsibilities as a Corporate Parent. We will take our guidance from; Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014: Statutory Guidance on Part 9: Corporate Parenting.

The area also aims to introduce a 'Youth Volunteer Scheme' program, to further support our focus on working with young people. The dedicated Fire Reach building within Coatbridge Community Fire Station has been adapted and is set up for the program to run on a voluntary basis. This scheme will develop an inclusive and progressive youth programme. In collaboration with key partners we will create opportunities to improve life chances and empower young people to work together for a safer Scotland.

Another way in which we will focus on working with young people is through education. The North Lanarkshire LSO Area are committed to working in partnership with all local Primary and Secondary schools as well as with Police Scotland. We will aim to deliver Fireworks/Bonfire Presentations to all Primary schools on the lead up to bonfire night and Deliberate Fire Setting messages prior to the Easter Holidays.

In partnership with Police Scotland we will deliver Anti-Social behaviour talks in schools that are identified within areas of high deliberate fire setting instances. The aim will be to reduce incident activity through education.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Reduction

False alarms continue to account for more than half of the incidents we attend. The majority of these calls are generated by automatic fire alarm systems directed to the Fire Service from Alarm Receiving Centres (ARC).

In the fiscal year 2020/21 we intend to implement a key strategy in partnership with NL Education where schools at specific times will be disconnected from an ARC. UFAS calls at these specific times account for 75% of calls to education premises. Positive steps have been taken in recent meetings with officers from NL area and the NLC Director of Education to achieve this.

We continue to engage positively with NHS Lanarkshire on a regular basis to reduce UFAS. This will be achieved by speaking to NHS staff at NHS safety hubs and continuing ongoing discussions on the proposed reduction of the predetermined attendance in the area to NHS premises where UFAS has occurred.

We will work to reduce both UFAS and associated blue light journeys and the inherent risks involved and its detrimental impact on the environment. As an area we remain committed to Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan 2018-2032 and our requirements to comply with the Scottish Government's carbon reduction targets in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and meet our strategic priorities.

Review

To ensure this Local Fire and Rescue Plan remains flexible to emerging local or national priorities a review may be carried out at any time but will be reviewed at least once every three years. A review may also be carried out if the Scottish Minister directs it or if a new Strategic Plan is approved. Following a review the Local Senior Officer may revise the Plan.

Contact Us

We are fully committed to continually improving the service we provide to our communities and recognise that to achieve this goal we must listen and respond to the views of the public and our partners.

We use all feedback we receive to monitor our performance and incorporate this information into our planning and governance processes in order to continually improve our service. We are proud that the majority of feedback we receive is positive and we are keen to hear examples of good practice and quality service delivery that exemplifies the standards of service that we strive to provide for the communities of Scotland.

If you have something you'd like to share with us or you would like more information, you can get in touch in a number of ways:

Write to: North Lanarkshire Area HQ
 Dellburn Street
 Motherwell
 ML1 2SE

Phone: 01698 262222

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