

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



**SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Working together for a safer Scotland

LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN FOR PERTH & KINROSS

2017



Contents

Introduction	1
National Context	2
Local Context	3
Local Priorities	5
1. Improving Fire Safety in the Home	5
2. Improving Fire Safety and Resilience in the Business Community	6
3. Minimising the Impact of Unintentional Harm	7
4. Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	8
5. Reducing Deliberate Fires	9
6. Effective Risk Management and Operational Preparedness	10
Review	11
Contact Us	11

Introduction

It is my pleasure to introduce the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Perth & Kinross 2017. This sets out our proposed priorities for improving community safety, whilst helping to address inequalities and enhancing the overall wellbeing of the communities of Perth and Kinross.

In developing this plan, we have been mindful of the range of activities the SFRS might have to undertake in Perth & Kinross on any given day. These might include fitting a smoke alarm in the home of a vulnerable person, visiting a school to educate young people on the dangers of fire, rescuing someone involved in a road traffic collision or dealing with flooding similar to what we experienced in recent years.

The role of the SFRS is changing to meet some significant future challenges such as social and economic change, climate change and terrorism. This plan therefore outlines how we will meet the challenges ahead while delivering on making Perth & Kinross safer through improved outcomes. This includes how we will go about broadening our safety role in the community. To do this, we will build on our proven track record in prevention work and focus our attention on reducing the wider safety risks associated with unintentional harm. This is mainly driven by social changes such as an ageing population so protecting these types of vulnerable people from harm in the home, such as slips, trips and falls is a priority for us in this plan.

The SFRS does not operate in isolation and this plan supports the crucial role of Community Planning in helping to deliver the ambitions of the Perth & Kinross Community Planning Partnership through the Community Plan (Local Outcome Improvement Plan, LOIP), Outcome Delivery Groups, including the Fairness Commission and locality plans. Key to this is strong partnerships where we will continue our commitment to identify further opportunities around shared services, co-locations, operational collaborations and partnership and policy development.

All community partners must work closely together to ensure we tackle inequalities and improve the wide range of outcomes for our communities of Perth & Kinross. Building on our successes through partnership working, we believe that we can make the communities of Perth & Kinross safer and more secure, and therefore contribute towards a more vibrant society where people want to come and live, work and visit.

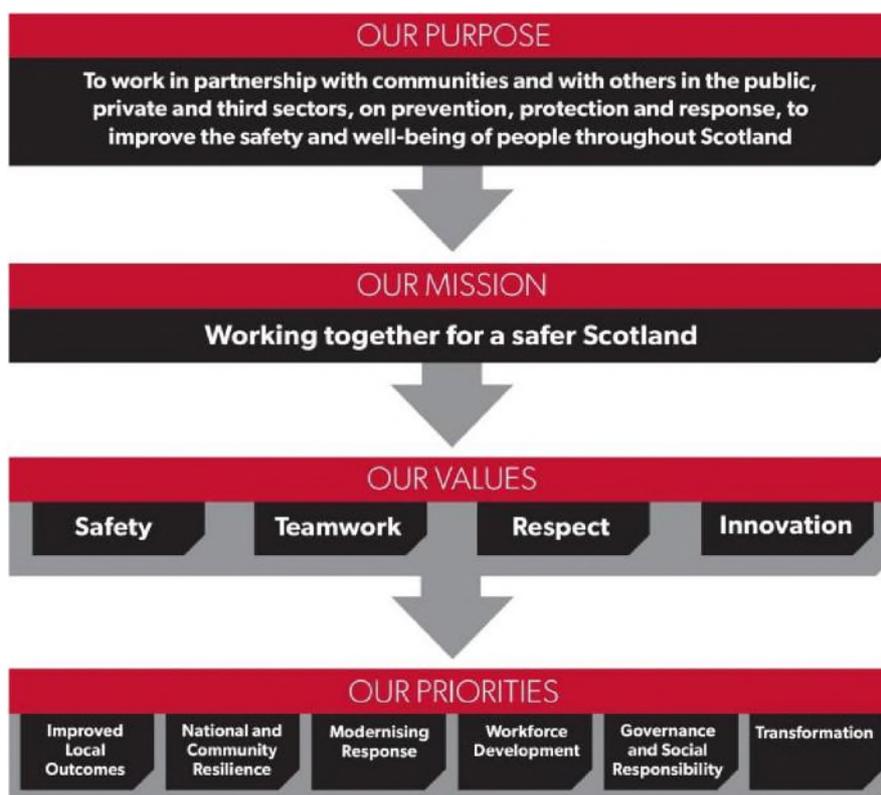
The plan will be subject to regular review. This will allow us to be reactive to local needs and the changing circumstances of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Colin Grieve
Local Senior Officer

National Context

Scottish Ministers set out their specific expectations for the SFRS 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 2016-19 has been designed to meet these national expectations. Set against a complex and evolving backdrop our Strategic Plan encapsulates our mission, values and strategic priorities.



These have been shaped with due regard to the challenges we face and to what we need to achieve to be a highly effective, sustainable public service. Operating within a climate of significant public service reform means we need to transform how we operate. This will include how we prepare for and respond to changing societal needs, the impact of climate change and the threat of terrorism.

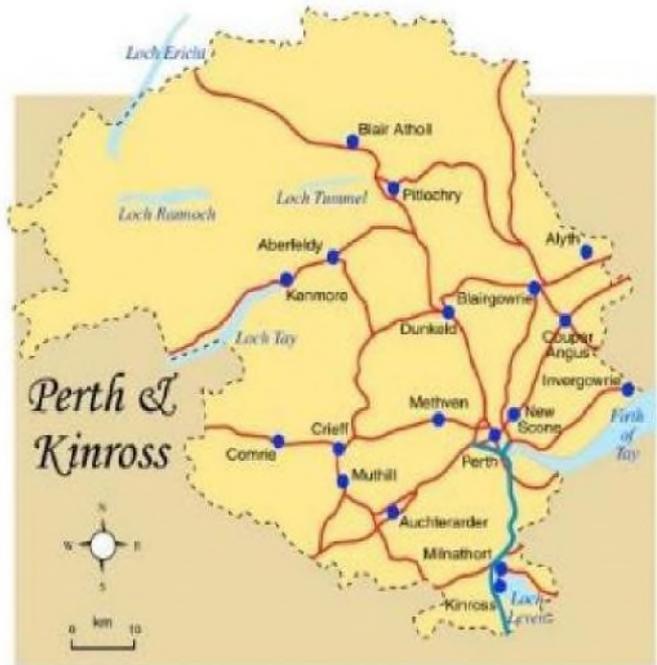
Strong leadership, supported by sound governance and management arrangements are at the very core of our foundations. These arrangements will direct and provide assurance that we comply with our statutory responsibilities. In addition, they will provide Local Senior Officers with supporting mechanisms to deliver services specifically tailored to local needs.

Local Context

About Perth & Kinross

Perth & Kinross covers an area of 2,041 square miles, has a population of almost 150,000 and 70,000 households. The population is concentrated primarily within the eight main towns and has varied geography which means that there are clearly distinct communities within our area which have their own challenges and profiles. This comprises 12 council ward areas supported by 40 Elected Members - [Councillors and Ward Areas](#).

The population is projected to increase by 32% by 2035, but the make-up of the population will see considerable change. Those aged 75+ are projected to almost double over the next 15 years, from 14,406 to 27,250, those aged 85+ are projected to more than double from 4,027, to 10,651 by 2037. We therefore face real challenges to service delivery, including an increased demand, an increase in in-migration and an ageing population. Households are predicted to rise to 89,030 households by 2033.



Perth & Kinross, while generally a prosperous and successful area of Scotland, contains pockets of relative deprivation linked to unemployment, low incomes, access to housing and services, and poorer health outcomes. However, levels of deprivation within Perth and Kinross remain very low with six areas considered to be within the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland these are located in North Perth City and Rattray in Blairgowrie.

About the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in Perth & Kinross

The SFRS has 14 community fire stations strategically located in Perth & Kinross. These stations provide prevention, protection and response services tailored to local needs and comprise of 1 Wholtime station, 10 Retained Duty System (RDS) and 3 Volunteer Duty System (VDS) stations.

Our Wholtime station is crewed by full-time firefighters who work 42 hours per week in what is their primary occupation and undertake some 20 hours plus of training and community engagement activity. In contrast, our RDS stations are crewed by part-time firefighters who primarily work in other occupations. They attend one routine training night per week and respond by pager, to provide 24/7 on call operational cover.

Delivering our services, to meet local needs, when our stations are predominantly crewed by RDS firefighters can be quite challenging. So, they are supported by a Management Team and Community Action Team, who work alongside Community Planning Partners to help plan, coordinate and deliver activities for improving the safety and wellbeing of our communities in Perth & Kinross.

About Community Planning in Perth & Kinross

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires planning partners to come together in Perth & Kinross to form a Community Planning Partnership (CPP), and focus on improving local outcomes in the Perth & Kinross area through a strong and inclusive partnership approach. The [Perth & Kinross Community Plan](#) (LOIP) sets out the outcomes which the Perth & Kinross CPP will prioritise for improvement and through 5 locality action plans, focus priorities on the geographical areas of Perth & Kinross that experience the poorest outcomes.

As a statutory partner of the Perth & Kinross CPP, we will fully contribute towards improving the local outcomes in the Perth & Kinross Community Plan (LOIP) and help take forward the priorities in the locality action plans. Our work towards supporting this, sits within the context of the Perth & Kinross Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2017 and along with other partner plans and strategies, the shared approach for improving local outcomes is illustrated in figure 1 below.



Figure 1- Community Planning

About Local Scrutiny of our Performance in Perth & Kinross

As part of the process of scrutinising local Fire and Rescue service delivery, we are required to submit quarterly performance reports to Perth & Kinross Council's Housing and Communities Committee. The basis of these reports is to present information on the performance of the SFRS against the priorities contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Perth & Kinross.

We undertook a review of our performance during 2017, and along with an assessment of the opportunities for change and future challenges we face, this information provided us with the basis for developing the priorities set-out on the following pages of this plan.

Local Priorities

1. Improving Fire Safety in the Home

Amongst the range of emergencies we attend in Perth & Kinross, fires in the home account for approximately 7% of operational demand. This however is the category of fire in which individuals are most likely to die or be injured and for that reason, improving fire safety in the home continues to be a priority for us.

There are over 70,000 homes in Perth & Kinross and on average, we attend 118 fires in these each year. High severity house fires in Perth & Kinross continue to be few, representing around 4% of all house fires and the rate of fire fatalities and casualties in Perth & Kinross is below the Scottish average. This relatively low frequency and impact of fire in the home reflects the focus on prevention and protection work and has contributed to making Perth & Kinross one of the safest places to live. Nonetheless, evidence indicates that it's the most vulnerable individuals in our communities and those that are living in certain geographical areas of Perth & Kinross, who are at higher risk from fire in the home and experience poorer outcomes. The elderly account for almost half of all fire casualties; fires in the home tend to occur more frequently in the most deprived areas of Perth & Kinross, and the rural nature of Perth & Kinross gives rise to individuals living in social isolation who may be more vulnerable to fire. Furthermore, in Perth & Kinross there is a high percentage of migrant workers, who as a community have suffered the tragic consequences of fire.

Individuals who are at higher risk from fire are, more often than not, known to other agencies such as health, social care or criminal justice. This highlights the absolute need to share knowledge and information between services about those most vulnerable in our Perth & Kinross communities and to work better together to reduce their risk from fire in the home.

A home safety visit, where firefighters and partners, particularly Community Wardens, visit people in their homes to provide safety advice and fit free smoke alarms or other appropriate safety support solutions, will continue to be our main tool to improve unintentional harm in the home. But a smoke alarm cannot prevent a fire – it can only alert the occupant that a fire may have started. The best way of reducing the potential for fires to occur is to influence and change the behaviour of residents and we will continue to concentrate our efforts on how to improve their home safety awareness.

Working with our partners and communities in Perth & Kinross we will:

- *Share relevant information and analyse data, to identify individuals, households, communities and geographical areas most at risk from fire.*
- *Target our home safety visits, and fire safety education and advice at those who are identified as being most at risk from fire.*
- *Make it easier for our partners to refer vulnerable individuals who are at risk from fire.*
- *Educate children and young people on the risks from fire, making Perth & Kinross a safer place for the future.*

Progress will be monitored by:

- *Reviewing the number of fires in the home and their severity.*
- *Identifying the number and severity of fire fatalities and injuries.*
- *Analysing the number of high risk referrals we receive from partners.*

The local outcomes we aim to improve are:

- *People will feel safe, allowing them to become confident contributors within the community.*
- *Individuals are supported in their own communities with good quality services, so reducing inequalities.*
- *Children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens*

2. Improving Fire Safety and Resilience in the Business Community

Non-domestic fires tend to involve businesses, the backbone of the Perth & Kinross economy. So ensuring businesses are better protected and more resilient to fire, and can continue to contribute to the Perth & Kinross economy is a key priority for us during these challenging economic times.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has a statutory duty under Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (the Act) to provide advice and enforce fire safety regulations in most non-domestic premises. In Perth & Kinross, over 7,000 non-domestic premises are covered by the Act, which requires the duty holders to meet certain responsibilities in relation to maintaining safe business environments.

Our approach of working with, educating and advising duty holders on how to build and maintain safe business environments, combined with enforcing our powers to ensure compliance is working effectively, whereby in Perth & Kinross we have a relatively low rate of non-domestic fires.

We aim to build on this success by operating a risk-based fire safety audit programme, which is intelligence led and focusses our resources on auditing premises with high life risk and where there is greater likelihood of fire. These will include buildings important to our heritage and critical to our local infrastructure.

Working with our partners and communities in Perth & Kinross we will:

- *Prioritise our Fire Safety Audits and Operational Reassurance Visits towards protecting non-domestic premises with the highest life risk and those where there is the greatest risk of fire.*
- *Support every business that has been affected by a fire, by undertaking a post fire audit of the premises and assisting their recovery in the quickest and most efficient way.*
- *Respond promptly to complaints over fire safety compliance in non-domestic premises.*
- *Advise on the suitability of fire safety provision in all new non-domestic premises under construction and existing premises undergoing major refurbishment.*
- *Engage with duty holders on how to meet fire safety compliance, to ease the burden on the business community.*

Progress will be monitored by:

- *Reviewing the number of fires in non-domestic premises and the type of premises involved in fire.*
- *Analysing the number and types of fire safety audits, and Operational Re-assurance Visits carried out across Perth & Kinross.*
- *Identifying the outcome of fire safety audits carried out in non-domestic premises.*
- *Evaluating the effectiveness of our responses to complaints over fire safety compliance in non-domestic premises.*

The local outcomes we aim to improve are:

- *Our natural and built environment is protected and enjoyed.*
- *Local businesses are safe and resilient from fire, creating a safe environment.*
- *We have a sustainable economy with excellent employment opportunities.*

3. Minimising the Impact of Unintentional Harm

The National Strategic Assessment of Unintentional Harm defines these types of incidents as “unintentional physical and psychological harm that could have been predicted and prevented”. Unintentional harm in Scotland is a large burden on the population in terms of death and injury, but is also a significant economic burden for public services. Annually, there are 1250-1400 deaths from unintentional harm in Scotland, and the costs to the NHS, and other services, in Scotland from physical unintentional harm alone amount to at least £200 million per year.¹

Unintentional harm in the home (slip, trips and falls) has been identified as one of the most prominent issues and the associated risk profile closely matches those people that are most at risk from fire, in particular the elderly. So it makes sense that our work goes beyond making people safer from fire. We will position unintentional harm as a local priority, and work with our partners to make the most vulnerable people in Perth & Kinross safer from experiencing unintentional harm in the home, much of which is driven by social and economic inequality.

Out with the home environment, we experience the impact of unintentional harm through our response to a range of non-fire related emergencies, and in Perth & Kinross, it is Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) which are the most significant cause of non-fire related deaths and injuries. This type of non-fire related incident accounts for 15% of our operational demand. Working with our community planning partners, we will ensure there is a co-ordinated and joined up approach to road safety prevention activity in Perth & Kinross. With a pooling of expertise and a range of activities, we will target the ‘at risk groups’ to reduce the number of deaths and injuries resulting from RTC’s.

Working with our partners and communities in Perth & Kinross we will:

- *Continue to re-focus our Home Safety Visit Programme to include the assessment of unintentional harm in the home and wider health issues.*
- *Continue to develop our firefighters to recognise and respond to the risk factors associated with unintentional harm in the home.*
- *Share key data and jointly deliver targeted interventions, to reduce the incidence and impact of unintentional harm among vulnerable people in the home.*
- *Review referral pathways in light of expanding our Home Safety Visit Programme to include unintentional harm in the home and Identify opportunities for and implement early interventions to reduce unintentional harm in partnership with Police, Safer Communities Wardens, Housing Officers and others.*
- *In partnership, target road safety activities from early years to young drivers and other ‘at risk groups’.*

Progress will be monitored by:

- *Analysing the number of unintentional harm referrals we make to our partners.*
- *Monitoring the number of attendances at RTC’s and the frequency and severity of injuries arising from RTC’s.*
- *Reviewing the number of other non-fire related emergencies and the frequency and severity of injuries arising from these incidents.*

The local outcomes we aim to improve are:

- *Reduce the social and economic cost of unintentional harm and injury.*
- *Support vulnerable members within our communities to live independently within their communities.*
- *Ensure the safety and well-being of those living, working and visiting Perth & Kinross.*

¹ The Building Safer Communities Phase 2: National Strategic Assessment of Unintentional Harm.

4. Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Around 1,100 (60%) of all SFRS attendance demand in Perth & Kinross turn out to be false alarms, and those caused by Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA) are the most frequent attendance made by us. This is a significant drain on our resources and travelling to these incidents under blue-light conditions presents an undue risk to our firefighters and other road users due to an increased likelihood of vehicle accidents occurring. On average, every Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS) from an AFA costs UK businesses £848 in lost revenue and production, resulting in continual disruptions.

As our stations in Perth & Kinross are predominantly crewed by RDS firefighters, there is also an indirect impact on the businesses who employ our RDS staff, through time lost due to them being released to respond to calls that inevitably turn out to be false alarms.

Whilst we encourage the use of AFA systems to save lives and protect buildings, more can be done to reduce the significant burden to us and businesses that UFAS cause. A marked reduction in UFAS could release significant resources to deploy on more productive work that will deliver greater public value in Perth & Kinross, including the broader range of prevention work associated with tackling unintentional harm.

Evidence indicates that properties such as care homes, sheltered housing and hospitals contribute to the majority of UFAS in Perth & Kinross. So our approach to driving down the number of UFAS we attend in Perth & Kinross will focus on encouraging ownership of the issue by property owners/occupiers.

During the past five years SFRS has received over 1,100 false alarm calls per year. A slight downward trend was reported since 2012. The vast majority are to fire alarm equipment failures whilst on average only 3% are malicious calls and 15% are good intend calls. Our crews and specialist teams continue to work with owner/occupiers to emphasise the disruption that these calls cause to ensure we provide a continued reduction in these types of calls.

Working with our partners and communities in Perth & Kinross we will:

- *Investigate the cause of every UFAS event and engage with the premises owner/occupier, to agree measures for preventing reoccurrence.*
- *Identify the premises that have persistent call outs due to UFAS, and work with the owner/occupiers to develop, implement and monitor UFAS demand reduction plans.*
- *Strengthen our relationship and focus on the owner/occupiers of premises that are generating unacceptable levels of UFAS, and are failing to take ownership of the issue.*

Progress will be monitored by:

- *Reviewing the number of UFAS and the type of premises generating them across Perth & Kinross.*
- *Evaluating the outcomes of occupier's demand reduction plans to review progress and identify and share good practice.*
- *Monitoring attendances at UFAS to ensure our attendances are based on an assessment of risk and demand.*

The local outcomes we aim to improve are:

- *Minimise the disruption to business and service continuity across Perth & Kinross.*
- *The SFRS has the capacity to contribute to a broader range of prevention work.*
- *Improved firefighter safety and community safety.*

5. Reducing Deliberate Fires

Protecting the communities of Perth & Kinross isn't just about preventing accidental fires, we also work hard, as a partnership, to tackle the problem of deliberate fire-setting.

During 2016/17, there were 112 deliberate fires in Perth & Kinross. In 2011/12, crews dealt with 184 deliberate fires. This significant drop has brought us to a point where the rate of deliberate fires in Perth & Kinross is well below the Scottish average, the sixth lowest in Scotland, but we still need to do more because these fires have a serious economic impact, can cause injury, property damage and divert firefighters from attending more serious incidents.

In Perth & Kinross, secondary fires (e.g. rubbish/bins and grass etc) make up around 71% of the deliberate fires we attend, with the remainder involving occupied buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures such as sheds (Primary Fires). Evidence indicates that youths are the biggest perpetrators of deliberate secondary fires and more often than not, it's the more deprived areas of Perth & Kinross that suffer the consequences.

Strong and effective partnership working is key to tackling deliberate fires. We will continue to work as an integrated part of Perth & Kinross Safer Communities team as a platform for engaging with a range of partners, including those in the community justice sector. We will seek to pool collective resources, to reduce deliberate fires and help improve local outcomes.

When required, we will provide advice, guidance and support to make people and properties more resilient to the risk of fires being set deliberately. As seasonal periods arise, we will provide advice, guidance and support to make people and properties more resilient to fires being set deliberately. Seasonal campaigns allow us to plan and expand our existing capabilities to a greater scale. This contributes to a reduction in secondary fires. We recognise that education is the foundation to improve outcomes along with a strong focus on youth engagement.

Working with our partners and communities in Perth & Kinross we will:

- *Share relevant information and analyse data, to identify hot spot areas most at risk from deliberate fire-setting.*
- *Target education, advice and other preventative measures at the hot spot areas identified as being most at risk from deliberate fire-setting to positively influence behaviour.*
- *Deliver effective engagement programmes and interventions to prevent children and young people becoming involved in deliberate fire-setting.*
- *Take positive action to reduce opportunities for deliberate fire-setting at insecure, vacant or derelict buildings.*

Progress will be monitored by:

- *Reviewing the number, type and locations of deliberate fire-setting incidents within Perth & Kinross.*
- *Evaluating the effectiveness of our engagement programmes for reducing deliberate fire-setting.*

The local outcomes we aim to improve are:

- *Communities of Perth & Kinross are safe from the impact of deliberate fire setting.*
- *Support the promotion of active and responsible citizenship across Perth & Kinross communities.*
- *The SFRS has the capacity to contribute to a broader range of prevention work.*
- *Prevent and reduce re-offending.*
- *Our natural and built environment is protected and enjoyed.*

6. Effective Risk Management and Operational Preparedness

Risk management and operational preparedness is absolutely vital. We work in partnerships to ensure that effective multi-agency response and recovery plans are in place to effectively deal with any event that will impact our communities.

The risks we face in Perth & Kinross depend on where people live and work. For example, risks unique to Perth & Kinross include the road network, rural countryside and extensive river network, which result in various Fire and rescue incidents. An accident at an industrial site such as recycling centres and other industries including agriculture and forestry/woodland where there is the threat of wildfires, are other risks in Perth & Kinross we need to manage through effective partnership pre-planning and responding should an event occur.

Other risks in Perth & Kinross include:

- Critical infrastructure, such as the Rail and Road networks that pass through Perth & Kinross;
- The vast amount of waterways which support the fishing and leisure industry;
- Temporary event risks such as music festivals and sports competitions
- Significant Heritage and conservation sites, such as Scone Palace.

The national risks Scotland faces are continually changing and as a key public service, we have a statutory duty to prepare for and respond to any significant national threats or major emergencies. These include being able to deal with events such as widespread flooding, major transport accidents, natural disasters and terrorism. As our role broadens, so does the variety of incidents we attend. Responding to Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests (OHCA) is an example of how our role in the community is changing. Developing greater flexibility to deploy crews, to take on a broadening prevention and response role will therefore be fully explored nationally and locally for safe and effective delivery.

Creating response plans to deal with the unique risk profile of P&K is paramount to manage and mitigate the impact of any event. Essentially fire crews are highly trained and empowered to deal with emergencies safely and effectively. Our fire stations are in a constant state of readiness working collaboratively, to deliver an integrated approach to emergency planning, contributing to overall community resilience.

Working with our partners and communities in Perth & Kinross we will:

- *Identify and assess the risk to our community through the process of Operational Intelligence (OI) gathering and active involvement in the Local Resilience Partnership (LRP) and Hubs.*
- *Implement a training programme that matches the Perth & Kinross risk profile and maintains our capabilities for dealing with local, regional and national emergencies.*
- *Strengthen community resilience by engagement, building their capabilities for managing the effects of emergencies, including OHCA.*

Progress will be monitored by:

- *Reviewing the outcomes of our OI process and engagement with LRP's/Hubs.*
- *Evaluating the effectiveness of our firefighter training programme and multi-agency emergency planning.*
- *Evaluating the effectiveness of our retained firefighter recruitment campaigns.*
- *Reviewing the number of people we train in CPR, and number of resilience hubs we engage with to enhance their capacity and capabilities.*

The local outcomes we aim to improve are:

- *Our heritage and natural environment is safeguarded and enjoyed.*
- *We will improve the safety and wellbeing of our Communities and Firefighters*

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: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Perth & Kinross, Angus and Dundee Area HQ
Blackness Fire Station
Blackness Road
DD15PA

Phone: 01382 322222

Visit our website: www.firescotland.gov.uk

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