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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 North Lanarkshire Partnerships Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). 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 determents 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 new pieces of legislation have changed the focus for all organisations who work within the context of improving community planning and safety. The new 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 new legislation has introduced the requirement for the production of Local Outcome Improvement Plans which will better reflect the requirements of the local communities. These have replaced the Single Outcome Agreements which had previously been the main driver for community planning partnerships. The Local Outcome Improvement Plans allow for a more focused set of priorities and a fully shared responsibility across the partner agencies.

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.
A strong values driven culture which supports the Service’s strategic and local priorities and objectives is vital to the success of the organisation. SFRS has developed a set of values from the outcome of a cultural audit which took place in 2014. The values of the Service are as follows:

- **Safety**
  - We work alongside communities to keep them safe
  - We work to protect our firefighters from the high risks they face
  - We promote a culture of health, safety and wellbeing across all our staff.

- **Teamwork**
  - We work towards common goals by forging strong internal relationships
  - We approach operational incidents and emergency situations as a team
  - We work well with partners on prevention, responding to incidents and delivering common aims.

- **Respect**
  - We respect ourselves and each other
  - We respect the communities and individuals we serve
  - We recognise effort, achievement and contribution.

- **Innovation**
  - We aim to improve the way we do things
  - We look beyond current habits and policies to find new solutions
  - We will ensure human life and firefighter safety are not compromised by rigid ways of dealing with incidents.

These values will guide the SFRS in the actions and decisions that are taken to realise the ambitions and targets set out in this plan.
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 SFRS resources and activities are aligned with the Scottish Government’s Purpose and national outcomes.

The Strategic Plan 2016-19 has been designed to meet these national expectations. Set against a complex and evolving backdrop the Strategic Plan encapsulates SFRSs mission, values and strategic priorities.

These have been shaped with due regard to the challenges SFRS face and to what the requirements are to be a highly effective, sustainable public service. Operating within a climate of significant financial uncertainty and public service reform means SFRS need to transform how it operates. This will particularly include how SFRS 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 SFRS foundations. These arrangements will direct and provide assurance that SFRS comply with its statutory responsibilities. In addition, they will provide Local Senior Officers with supporting mechanisms to deliver services specifically tailored to local needs.
Local Context

North Lanarkshire Council is by population the fourth largest local authority in Scotland. The population of 338,260 equates to 6% of the Scottish population. 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 74.9 years compared to a Scottish average of 76.6 and women living to an average age of 79.2 compared to a Scottish average of 80.8. However, this becomes starker when comparing life expectancy between the most deprived and least deprived areas of North Lanarkshire. For men this equates to 70.7 compared to 75.6 and for woman 75.7 compared to 79.8.

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 Community Planning Partnership in North Lanarkshire.
The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 reinforces the statutory duty on Community Planning Partnerships (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 Local Outcome Improvement Plan 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:

- Homelessness
- Looked After Children and Young People
- Poverty
- Resilient Communities.

The Local Outcome Improvement Plan 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 is the Officer’s Group which has representatives from all partner agencies at a senior level. The SFRS Group Manager responsible for Prevention and Protection within North Lanarkshire represents the organisation on the Officers Group. This group has developed the Local Outcome Improvement Plan for the area and SFRS has chaired the Officers Group during this period.

The Local Area Partnerships (LAPS) represent the 7 Localities within North Lanarkshire. The organisation is represented at these partnerships by the local Station Managers which enables the delivery of locally focused outcomes. The 7 localities within the North Lanarkshire area are:

- Airdrie
- Bellshill
- Cumbernauld and Kilsyth
- Coatbridge
- Motherwell
- North Corridor
- Wishaw.
Sitting below the LAPS are the Local Area Teams (LATS) and Community Safety Sub Groups who deliver on a local level. SFRS is represented at the LATS by personnel based at the local fire stations. Each watch within the local stations has responsibility for a number of ward areas and allows local teams to focus on local delivery directly to the communities.

SFRS will produce a Locality Plan for each of the 7 areas, 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 the locality plans that will detail how the Service will work at a local level, three other North Lanarkshire wide strategies will underpin the prevention work. These are a Casualty Reduction Strategy that will detail the risk areas and the prevention work that will be carried out by the Service and our partners. The second North Lanarkshire document is the Deliberate Secondary Fire Reduction Strategy that again will highlight the risk areas and the work that will be carried out by the Service and our partners. The third is the 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:

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**North Lanarkshire Community Safety Documents and Scrutiny**

- Scottish Government National Outcomes
- Fire & Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Services Strategic Plan 2015-19

**North Lanarkshire Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan**

- North Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Board
- North Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Officers Group
- North Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Members
- Local Area Partnership Members
- Local Area Team Members

**SFRS Local Area Team Local Work Plans**

- SFRS Local Station Manager
- SFRS Watch Manager Responsible for Ward Area

**SFRS North Lanarkshire Local Delivery Plan 2017**

- SFRS Local Senior Officer for North Lanarkshire

**Deliberate Fire Reduction Strategy**

- UFAS Reduction Strategy
- Causality Reduction Strategy

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8 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
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 8.29 sits just below the Scottish average of 8.58 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.

Target Reduction for accidental dwelling fires

The target for accidental dwelling fire reductions in the North Lanarkshire area will be a 10% reduction over an average of three years.
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 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 1.12 sits below the Scottish average of 1.26 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.

Target Reduction for Fire Casualties and Fatalities

The target for Fire Casualties and Fatality reductions in the North Lanarkshire area will be a 5% reduction over an average of three years. The target for fire fatalities will be zero.
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 10.39 sits very slightly above the Scottish average of 10.34 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:**

- Producing a 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, Firesetters 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.

**Target reduction for deliberate fires**

The target for deliberate fire setting reductions in the North Lanarkshire area will be a 10% reduction over an average of three years.
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 2.75 sits slightly below the Scottish average of 2.91 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.

Target reduction for non-domestic fires

The target for reductions in non-domestic fires in the North Lanarkshire area will be a 5% reduction over an average of three years.
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. 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 3.98 sits below the Scottish average of 4.56 and below the midpoint when compared to other Local Authority areas.

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

- 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.

Target for non-fire emergencies
The target for non-fire emergencies will be to increase the number and variety of emergencies attended in the area allowing SFRS to support partner agencies in protecting the communities of North Lanarkshire. This will be subject to national agreement on any additional responsibilities for SFRS.
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 regards 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.

Target for Reduction in Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

The target for reductions in Unwanted Fire alarm Signals in the North Lanarkshire area will be a 15% reduction over an average of three years. It should be noted however, the number of false alarm good intent calls will not be included in the reduction target.
The Way Forward

SFRS has started in early engagement with both employees and partners in relation to the requirement to transform the Service. Scotland is facing new and changing risks, fires are reducing and SFRS delivery model was designed to meet the risks of the 1940s. These new risks include terrorism, emergency medical response and severe weather. The current delivery models within SFRS are not aligned to these new challenges and our Retained Duty System needs to be strengthened to ensure the continued safety of our rural communities.

All of the public sector organisations in Scotland are currently facing financial challenges and SFRS cannot ignore these financial realities. The Service has already made savings of over £53m from across Scotland and any further reductions will have an impact on ‘front line’ service delivery. The Service cannot sustain the current frontline delivery model beyond the end of this financial year. There is however, an opportunity to transform the Service, introducing a model that can better face these new risks and to ensure a more sustainable organisation going forward.

This will allow the Service to better address the risks within Scotland and provide the best service possible to communities. A full consultation on the transformation will be carried out across Scotland giving the opportunity for partner agencies, communities and SFRS staff to have a say in how to shape the future of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Therefore, it is anticipated that transforming the Service’s additional areas of prevention and response will potentially be added to the remit of the SFRS in the near future. These are likely to include some or all of the following areas:

Within the North Lanarkshire area subject to the appropriate agreements, the aim will be to increase the following:

- The number of out of hospital cardiac arrests attended
- The number of referrals to partners in relation to vulnerable persons
- The number of high risk home safety visits
- The number of Safe and Well visits
- The number of joint assessments carried out with partners.
- The number of initiatives through the Health and Social Care reform.

SFRS will work closely with North Lanarkshire Council and other relevant landlords to ensure that any new legislation or recommendations arising from the recent tragic events at the Grenfell Tower incident in London are implemented as appropriate.
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
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Phone: 01698 262222

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