South Lanarkshire Annual Performance Report
2015-2016
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INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to present our South Lanarkshire Area Annual Performance Review for 2015-2016. This report illustrates how we have improved our community safety and emergency response, whilst also addressing equality of service and enhancing the wellbeing of the people of South Lanarkshire.

We are committed to ensuring the safety of our communities and Firefighters, these values remain at the heart of everything we do. Our mission is achieved through the hard work and dedication of all our staff and has allowed us to improve the level of service delivered in our communities.

We know that in isolation we cannot reduce fire fatalities and the occurrence of emergencies, which harm people and damage property; therefore cohesive, integrated working with our partners is absolutely key. We have a long and proud history of working with partners, building upon existing strong relationships and forging new ones will be fundamental to our success.

It makes sense to work more collaboratively and share resources with partners when we all seek to achieve better outcomes and address inequalities. We strive to be one of the leaders of public service reform and through the changes we make we hope to inspire others on their own change journeys.

We have worked hard to support those most vulnerable in society within South Lanarkshire and over the last year have championed initiatives such as the community partnership hub in Cambuslang and joint working with the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Success would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff and the unwavering support of the public and our partners. By facing the challenges and embracing change together, we can do even more to make a difference to people’s lives.

The intention of this review is to highlight and celebrate the work that we do, and in doing so invite all of our colleagues, partners and communities to join us in making South Lanarkshire safer.

Area Manager Alan Fairbairn
Local Senior Officer
In September 2015 South Lanarkshire Area Headquarters (SLHQ) was relocated from Lanark Community Fire Station to the recently constructed Clydesmill Fire station, Westburn Drive, Cambuslang.

South Lanarkshire Area Headquarters was initially based at Lanark following the realignment of the Fire and Rescue Service Areas with Unitary Authority boundaries in 2005. Following consultation with South Lanarkshire Officers and Clydesmill Operational staff it was identified that both operationally and strategically the Clydesmill location offered greater strengths and benefits to the area. This included consideration in relation to our key partners, particularly South Lanarkshire Council, which has the majority of its management functions based at Hamilton. Many of our partner organisations are located in close proximity to the Clydesmill location and it is therefore no coincidence that this relocation is timely when our engagement and interaction with our partners is a greater priority than ever.

Other recent developments are the Area’s Prevention and Protection restructure which has now located the Areas Community Action Team at our P&P hub based at Hamilton. In addition to this the creation of the Joint Community Safety Partnership Hub which has been established within council premises in Cambuslang. These rationalised changes now offer greater opportunity for collaboration and continuity between services.

Clydesmill Community Station, which was opened in 2011, provides a modern and energy efficient environment which can accommodate all of the Areas Management Team within the HQ environment, providing for improved working dynamics and improved capacity.

AM Fairbairn said “He is thankful to all staff, for the extremely smooth transition during this relocation and … looks forward to the many benefits anticipated, being realised”.

Relocation of South Lanarkshire Headquarters
OUR VISION, VALUES AND PRIORITIES

VISION

Our vision is bold and aspirational. Our aim is to deliver the best service we can 24 hours a day, seven days a week and to keep challenging ourselves to continuously improve it. Our staff are well trained to very high standards and we continually seek out new approaches to firefighter training so that we can adopt best practice to maintain those standards.

In addition to this, we will be innovative and creative in looking for better ways to do things, in challenging our own thinking and in challenging the thinking of our partners. We will work in partnership with our communities to develop services.

We intend to continue and develop this focus on partnerships so that we can contribute fully to the SFRS’ four Strategic Aims;

- Improved safety of communities and staff
- More equitable access to fire and rescue Services
- Improved outcomes through partnership
- Develop a culture of continuous improvement

We will strive for excellence and explore new ways to help us develop a fire and rescue service that is recognised as a world leader. We will do this, for example, by exploring how we can best use the available technology to improve our service or develop specialist skills in our workforce.

VALUES

Our values were developed from feedback we received in our first Cultural Audit which took place in 2014, and they reflect what staff from the SFRS said they valued most about working within the service.

We Value:

We can all live the values – it is about how we do things, how we treat others, what we say and how we say it, and how we expect to be treated.
Our number one priority is to work together for a safer Scotland and safety is at the core of everything we do.

We recognise the role we play working alongside communities and in partnership with others in the public, private and third sectors, to keep Scotland safe.

We are committed to keeping our firefighters, who work in dangerous and dynamically hazardous environments as an inherent part of their job, safe, but safety is not just for operational personnel. We all deal with safety in one aspect or other, and we can all take steps to promote and support healthy working lives.

If we all take steps to safeguard our own health, safety and wellbeing, a positive safety culture will flourish. And, by engaging with each other, our stakeholders, partners and our communities, we will be better equipped to work together to create a safer Scotland.

Teamwork is the foundation of what we do and what we achieve and is essential across the SFRS.

Operationally, lives depend on the ability to work effectively as a team as many pieces of equipment, along with procedures and techniques, require multiple firefighters, and in any of the other varied work contexts across the organisation we must work together to ensure we all deliver on the job we are asked to do, in the best way possible.

As such we will work as a contributing member of the team, supporting each other and sharing our own knowledge.

We will also be committed to working alongside our stakeholders and partners in pursuit of our shared prevention agenda to help keep Scotland safe.

Everyone has the right to be treated with dignity at work and respect is an important principle for our desired organisational culture.

By valuing respect, we will ensure we have an organisation where people work well together, where individuals recognise that their own attitudes and actions have an impact on others, and where we all have a shared responsibility to challenge others in a constructive way if unacceptable behaviour is demonstrated.

We will also value the individual differences and diverse communities we serve, work alongside and support. We will respect the views of our stakeholders and partners, always be honest and trustworthy, and welcome the opportunity to discuss differences.

Being innovative will help us grow, adapt, and be more responsive to change and the needs of our communities.

It does not always involve inventing completely new ways of doing things, it can also be about making small changes to current processes, systems or procedures, or applying these in a more flexible way, to be more efficient and effective in our work.

We will value innovation by looking for opportunities to improve the way we do things, by being open minded to new ideas, and by ensuring policies and procedures are not used to constrain thinking or our approach to reach successful outcomes.

In operational contexts, we will also ensure the priority to save human life and ensure the safety of firefighters is not compromised by prescriptive ways of dealing with incidents.
**PRIORITIES**

**Local Risk Management and Preparedness**

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has a statutory duty to reduce the risks to our communities and to make certain that they receive the best possible service. The management of risk within our community involves:

1. Identifying those risks to the community which fall within the scope of responsibility of the SFRS
2. Undertaking a process in order to prioritise these risks
3. Ensuring that appropriate Local and National resource capability and trained Fire Service personnel are in place to address them

**Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires**

Throughout South Lanarkshire, dwelling fires occur within a diverse variety of home types and are more prominent in several ward areas. Statistical analysis has shown that the majority of dwelling house fires occur in the social rented sector. A high percentage of these fires started in the kitchen when the occupier was cooking or had cooked food. It has also been identified that additional significant contributory risk factors include the consumption of alcohol and use of smoking materials in the fires that occur.

**Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities**

The reduction of fire casualties is clearly linked to the reduction in dwelling house fires. The reduction of fire fatalities and casualties is at the core of preventative activities carried out by SFRS in the South Lanarkshire Area. Dwelling fires can have a significant negative impact upon both individuals and the community and are financially costly to occupants and housing providers in terms of repair and the reinstatement of homes. The costs associated with fire casualties are high – with potentially significant trauma to individuals, and high financial costs to health service and housing partners. By giving safety advice and fitting smoke detectors, the SFRS can reduce the risk of fire and its associated human and financial costs as well as enhancing community safety.

The Fire & Rescue Service in South Lanarkshire aims to target a reduction in these casualties by working with partner agencies and adopting a more collaborative strategy that proactively focuses on education and prevention.

**Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting**

Deliberate fire setting is a significant problem for the Fire and Rescue Service and is responsible for a very high number of all of the secondary fires that are attended in South Lanarkshire. The main secondary fire categories are refuse, grassland and derelict building incidents. Secondary fires are reportable fires that do not involve casualties or rescues, but financially impact on the services resources. Working closely with partner agencies the SFRS within South Lanarkshire has managed to reduce secondary fire activity in 2014/15 by 29% on the previous year. There is a very close correlation between deliberately set secondary fires and other forms of anti-social behaviour. By continuing to focus our attention on deliberate fires this will reduce the burden on the SFRS and partners and enhance community wellbeing.
Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Properties

All workplaces and business premises are classed as Non Domestic Fires and come under the scope of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005. Sleeping risks are seen as a particularly high fire risk as most fatal fires occur at night when people are less vigilant and at their most vulnerable. Residential care homes, student accommodation and self-contained sheltered housing make up the greatest proportion of these incidents within the South Lanarkshire area.

High fire risk properties are audited on an annual basis to ensure that the fire precautions within the property are to a suitable standard. Where appropriate some buildings require joint inspections and are carried out with other organisations such as The Health and Safety Executive, Police Scotland, Trading Standards and Environmental Health.

Reduction in Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies

A central part of the SFRS role is responding to small and non-Fire emergencies such as Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), other rescue situations and flooding. Operational Firefighters are trained to a high standard and have at their disposal the latest equipment for extricating and administering first aid to casualties. Attendance at an RTC is a core role for the SFRS but the primary responsibility for road safety lies with Transport Scotland, Police Scotland and Local Authorities.

The SFRS has a crucial role in supporting these partner organisations’ activities at a local level and can provide access to hard hitting education programmes aimed at the most at risk groups to highlight the consequences of RTCs and dangerous driving. National statistics identify that the group most ‘at risk’ is young male drivers and we therefore focus our education programme entitled “Cut it out” at S5 and S6 pupils.

Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) occur when an automated fire alarm activates for reasons other than that of a fire emergency and results in a mobilisation of SFRS resources. Every blue light journey not only impacts on financial resource but also increases the risk of collision and has the potential to make members of the community feel unsafe.

Other types of false alarm include malicious 999 calls and at times emergency calls made when a person genuinely believes that an emergency has occurred which requires the attendance of the SFRS, and it subsequently turns out that the cause is unfounded. In South Lanarkshire during 2015/2016 there has been a slight increase in UFAS activity compared to the previous year. The number of malicious 999 calls has also increased over the same period. Consequently commercial premises that have repeated UFAS are subject to preventative measures that are designed to drive down false alarms.
## OUR PERFORMANCE

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<td>160</td>
<td>122</td>
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<td>821</td>
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<td>135</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>117</td>
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### 2015 /2016 Incidents

- **All deliberate primary fires** 3%
- **All deliberate Secondary fires** 20%
- **All accidental dwelling fires** 6%
- **All accidental other building fires** 2%
- **Special Service RTC’s** 3%
- **False Alarm: AFA’s** 48%
- **False Alarm: Malicious** 3%
- **Special Service All** 15%
INCIDENT OVERVIEW

In June 2015, crews were called to a blaze involving a Road Tanker on the M74 in South Lanarkshire. Responding to a 999 call shortly before 10.25am, appliances were initially mobilised from Lesmahagow, Larkhall and Douglas to find the large goods vehicle well-alight on the hard shoulder.

On arrival, the driver of the tanker informed the first responding crews that the vehicle was carrying 36,000 litres of the highly flammable liquid ethanol. Based on this Information, the incident was quickly upgraded to a Hazmat Level 2 Incident, with a fourth appliance from Lanark and the environmental protection unit from Hamilton being mobilised to increase the resources available at the scene.

As the Incident progressed, 300 metres of grass verge caught alight and ferocity of the flames melted the tyres of the vehicle and the tarmac it was sitting on. Large volumes of water were used to try and extinguish the flames and the incident was soon upgraded to a level 4 (make pumps11).

The decision was made to carry out a bulk foam strike and although the first attempt was unsuccessful, with immediate burn back, the second strike put out the flames at 3.49pm.

Crews stayed on site until early the next morning as work continued to ensure the safety of the public.

DACO Paul Connelly stated; “The nature of the fuel involved in the fire meant it was both intense and very difficult to extinguish. Large volumes of water were deployed from multiple jets and we also conducted bulk foam strikes to smother the flames.

“Considerable resources were mobilised from right across the west of Scotland to conduct a safe and effective firefighting operation, which ultimately saw the fire extinguished.”

“It was logistically challenging, made worse by access difficulties caused by the closure of the motorway in both directions.”
**DWELLING FIRES**

Preventing dwelling fires, and the deaths and injuries associated with it, is one of the key priorities of the SFRS in South Lanarkshire. Accidental dwelling fires have decreased slightly and incidents are still caused predominantly by cooking and this is an area targeted to educate and inform the community. To help mitigate this risk, free Home Fire Safety Visits are carried out as an important part of this prevention work. Many of our most vulnerable citizens are older people who live alone and may have carers or other support agencies calling on them. The SFRS in South Lanarkshire works with a range of partner agencies, including social work and carers, so that colleagues in other services and Local Authority Departments can identify fire safety hazards and we in turn can notify other agencies of individuals in our community requiring additional support.
Safety appeal after fire at Hamilton High-Rise

Firefighters visited residents of Hamilton’s Almada Tower block after a pot left unattended on a cooker caused a fire in a high-rise flat on Thursday afternoon (21 January).

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) appliances from Hamilton and Motherwell were sent to the incident in response to a 999 call made at 4:45pm.

Crews arrived within four minutes and found the small fire had already been extinguished by the householder.

The firefighters ensured she was unharmed, confirmed the fire was fully out and worked to clear smoke from the kitchen.

Station Manager Davie Murdoch, the commanding officer of Hamilton Community Fire Station, said: “Thankfully no-one was hurt in this incident but it’s a clear reminder that we all need to act to reduce the risk of fire happening in our homes.”

“Fires start when our attention stops. It’s incredibly easy to get distracted and if that happens when something’s on the cooker then the consequences could be devastating.”

He continued: “There are very simple things everyone can do to prevent fires so our crews visited residents after this incident to reassure them and provide advice on how they can stay safe.”

The advice from SFRS is never to step away from a cooker without first removing pots and pans off the heat and making sure both the hob and grill are switched off. Items like kitchen roll and towels, which could easily catch fire, should always be kept well away from the cooker.

With most house fires starting in the kitchen people are encouraged to have a heat alarm installed in the room, where it would provide early warning of a fire without activating due to small amounts of cooking-related smoke.

Station Manager Murdoch added: “Firefighters would much rather share their expert safety advice than respond to a fire where someone is seriously injured or killed.”

“Older people, those who live alone, who have difficulty getting around and who have underlying health conditions can all be at increased risk from fire and we’re working through the South Lanarkshire Estates Partnership Group to reach potentially vulnerable residents.”

“We also need the public to put us in touch with anyone who they think could be at risk so that our crews can help them to stay safe and feel safe in their homes.”

Free home fire safety visits are available from SFRS by calling the freephone number 0800 073 1999, by texting ‘FIRE’ to 80800 or by filling in an online form at www.firescotland.gov.uk.

During a visit, firefighters check to ensure the home is protected by working smoke detection and will even provide and install smoke alarms where the life-saving devices are found to be needed.
Deliberate fires see a drop in South Lanarkshire

Firefighter’s work in the community has paid off in South Lanarkshire and led to a significant decrease in the number of deliberate fire incidents across the area, latest figures show.

In the three months leading up to 31 December 2015, South Lanarkshire witnessed a 28% drop in the number of deliberate primary fires and fall in the number of deliberate secondary fires to 136 – a five year low for the area.

Of the 31 deliberate primary fires during that period, ten involved road vehicles, four were domestic garages and seven were incidents of people setting fire to property.

Area Manager Alan Fairbairn presented the figures to members of the Safer South Lanarkshire Board (SSLB) at a scrutiny meeting earlier this week. He attributes the falling numbers to the strength in community outreach programmes, particularly towards young people in the area.

Alan said: “Deliberate fires are an unnecessary burden on SFRS resources and keep our crews away from more serious emergencies.

“Many of these incidents involve young people and intervention work is regularly undertaken by our community partners to engage with schoolchildren and encourage fire safety. “Working from the Community Safety Hub, SFRS and Police Scotland have been able to quickly address any escalation in anti-social behavior and tackle the issue of deliberate fires head on.

“By working closely alongside emergency service colleagues and our community safety analyst, we will continue to drive down instances of deliberate fires by looking at innovative ways to tackle this type of anti-social behaviour.”
Road traffic collisions account for a large percentage of operational activity in South Lanarkshire.

Firefighters used hydraulic rescue equipment to free a woman from a car following a collision in South Lanarkshire on the morning of Wednesday 24 June 2016.

The two car crash happened on Netherburn Road in Larkhall shortly before 8:55am with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) crews mobilised in response to a call for assistance from ambulance control.

An appliance from Larkhall Community Fire Station reached the scene six minutes later and it was quickly joined by a second sent from Carluke.

The Incident Commander, Watch Manager Gilbert Rowan, said: “We arrived to find the ambulance service attending to the casualty who was still inside her vehicle as well as a second casualty who had exited the other car involved.”

“Our crews were working closely with the paramedics and their advice regarding possible injuries meant we decided to extricate the casualty using hydraulic cutting equipment.”

“This created the space needed for us to safely move her from the vehicle and to the ambulance.”
Animal Rescue

East Kilbride Firefighters attended a distressed horse (named Flashdance) that had unfortunately got itself stuck in mud within an embankment at Flattmoss Farm, Strathaven Road on Tuesday 23rd February at approx. 4pm.

Firefighters used inflatable airbags, strops and rescue hose to assist the farm staff to release the horse from the mud. After a number of unsuccessful attempts, we utilised a JCB digger from a neighbouring farm to excavate the mud and soft ground from around the horse, creating a level working area. Once this was complete we were able to extricate the horse from the mud at approx. 5.45pm. Flashdance was exhausted and cold but otherwise unharmed.

Due to the location and ground conditions this proved to be a difficult rescue to undertake, however with the assistance of the farm staff and the JCB, proved to have a successful outcome.
Firefighters used handheld beaters to bring a large wildfire under control in rural South Lanarkshire.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) crews worked on three fronts to tackle the blaze, which involved around a square mile of moorland near the village of Glespin.

Around 20 firefighters were involved in the operation on Wednesday afternoon (20 April) and they were assisted by land management personnel with an all-terrain vehicle, which was used to move water up the hillside.

Group Manager Colin Martin, the senior officer at the incident, said: “This was a well-developed fire involving a large area of land and it required considerable manpower to bring it to safe conclusion.”

“The firefighting operation involved our crews working in hot conditions for around three-and-a-half hours to physically extinguish the fire using handheld beaters.”

“Thankfully this incident did not threaten homes or businesses but it shows how outdoor fires impact our communities by tying up vital resources that could be needed at emergencies elsewhere.”

“One of our team sustained slight ligament damage after turning his ankle while walking off the hillside, so it also shows that any such incident does pose a risk to the emergency responders involved.”

Many wildfires are started deliberately or are due to careless, reckless or irresponsible behaviour. With many parts of the country experiencing warm and dry weather, people have been urged to consider the conditions and take extra care to avoid inadvertently causing fires.

There are a number of things land managers can do to help prevent wildfires, including strict adherence to the Muirburn Code, which applies to the controlled burning of heather within the permitted season.

The public can help prevent wildfires by making sure they dispose of litter and smoking materials carefully while in rural areas.
EAST KILBRIDE GAS LEAK

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service attended a gas leak incident at South Lanarkshire College in East Kilbride.

The call was received at 9.29am on the morning of 26 May 2015 and three appliances initially attended, two from East Kilbride and one from Castlemilk.

Firefighters assisted college staff in the evacuation of around 1300 people from the building and they were moved to a safe area out with the inner cordon which was set up as a precaution.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service’s DIM (Detection and Identification Monitoring) vehicle and its Environmental Protection Unit were also at the scene along with a specialist from the service’s scientific advisory service.

Police Scotland also attended the incident and gas engineers from SGN arrived on site to isolate the leak. The fire service liaised with all agencies and carried out atmospheric testing. Fire crews also set up ground monitors as a precautionary measure.

Members of the public living nearby were asked to remain indoors with windows closed whilst the incident was ongoing.

A number of roads had been closed to facilitate access to the scene. The A725 Strathaven Road, Burniehill Roundabout and Torrance Roundabout were all closed while the incident was dealt with.

Our Environmental Protection Unit (EPU), which is based at Hamilton, has attended a number of incidents involving hazardous materials. The EPU attends these types of incidents along with specialist Scientific Advisors; Incidents have included materials such as ammonia, mercury, petrol and many other types of chemicals and hazardous materials.
HIGH VOLUME PUMP (Clydesmill Fire Station)

Natural Flooding

Flooding is becoming an increasing problem and causes widespread damage and disruption to areas, which can often affect a large number of locations simultaneously.

The High Volume Pump (HVP)/Hose Box Pods enhance the ability of SFR to assist in mitigating the effects of flooding, working in partnership with The Scottish Government and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) who are the lead agency for flooding.

Fire Fighting Duties

The HVP/Hose Box Pods can enhance the existing capabilities of SFRS to pump high volumes of water for fire fighting. Where incidents occur on an unprecedented scale or where several incidents occur simultaneously affecting the volume or pressure of the local water supply, the HVP/Hose Box Pods will provide additional resilience and capability to supply water to the incident ground.

Chief Officer praises response to Storm Frank

Many communities across Scotland including South Lanarkshire had been hit by devastating floods which had forced people out of their homes during the festive season. Crews worked tirelessly to ensure people’s continued safety and that fire and rescue cover was maintained during extraordinary and extremely challenging circumstances. SFRS provided enhanced resilience during the winter storm period, with resources from across Scotland available to support one another. CO Alasdair Hay said: “Storm Frank has brought misery to many of our communities over the past few days. It is impossible to find any words to describe how those affected must be feeling.

They have seen their homes and businesses destroyed by flooding but are showing incredible resilience in the face of adversity.”

“Alongside our communities many agencies and volunteers have worked tirelessly to help and support those affected. I want to pay tribute to all those who have worked so hard to support their communities. However, I want to pay particular tribute to all our SFRS staff right across the country as their efforts have, and continue to be extraordinary.”
PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

SFRS Prevention and Protection department within South Lanarkshire is responsible for ensuring that the service continues to provide support to communities with a focus on making them safer. This work will involve the merging of differing approaches to community safety engagement and enforcement, together with identifying and adopting best practice that will benefit all communities across South Lanarkshire. Prevention and Protection will implement SFRS policies and procedures in respect to community safety and demand reduction within South Lanarkshire.

ENFORCEMENT

Over the last year we have been working on the Service priority and have identified high risk premise and conducted Fire Safety Audits in line with our risk based schedule. As an area we also have set internal priorities in relation to Post Fire Events to identify premise at most risk and with the assistance of operational crews, to provide premises owners/ managers with expert advice in relation to Legislative Fire Safety matters.

To allow this to be achieved a Sleeping Risk database has been created incorporating:- Hotels, Care Homes, Houses of Multiple Occupation ,Hospitals and Operational Referral forms have been widely used interdepartmentally to allow transfer of information. We share risk critical information with stakeholders as required and appropriate thus ensuring the safety of persons.

High fire risk properties are audited on an annual basis to ensure that the fire precautions within the property are to a suitable standard. For some buildings, joint inspections are carried out with other organisations, for example Health and Safety Executive, Police Scotland, Trading Standards and Environmental Health.

Sleeping risks are seen as a particularly high fire risk as most fatal fires occur at night when people are less vigilant and at their most vulnerable. Residential care homes, student accommodation and self-contained sheltered housing make up the greatest proportion of these risks within the South Lanarkshire area.

Over the period 249 audits were conducted by South Lanarkshire Enforcement Officers. Of these audits, 205 were properties that involved sleeping risks. 53 Audits were as a result of a Post Fire Incident Audit.

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<td>Shop</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Other premises open to the public</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Factory or warehouse</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Office</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Other premises</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Enforcement Officers are continuing to work with the occupiers and other relevant enforcement agencies to bring them to the required standard. A number of joint visits were conducted with Building Control Officers and the local Enforcement Officers. There were no Enforcement Notices served on premises in South Lanarkshire during 2015/16.

Future workload for the department will also incorporate Crown Premises which were not previously under the Services legislative authority. NHS Lanarkshire Hospital Audits are arranged on a needs risk basis and we hold regular meetings with NHS Lanark estates fire safety team to ensure our approach is targeted. South Lanarkshire and North Lanarkshire LSO Areas have a Concordat of Partnership Working with NHS Lanarkshire. The aim is to promote and establish a close and harmonious working relationship between both organisations with a particular focus on Fire Safety.

Quarterly meetings are established to allow information exchange, to plan future workloads and to organise joint training events. South Lanarkshire officers have also assisted in the provision of expert advice to NHS staff whilst they have been receiving in house training form NHS trainers.

Building Control is one of our closest partners in relation to building safety, we have regular consultations in relation to new build construction and fire engineered proposals. Our Area Legislative Office is located in Hamilton, however, there is a Legislative officer assigned to meet needs of each of the council locality offices. By mirroring Building Control it allows a more efficient line of communication between the services and ensures a more dynamic working relationship between the officers. Biannual meetings have also been established between the departments to ensure skills maintenance in relation to changing legislation and to allow a joint approach to be developed.

There has been some staff changes in the department, Auditing officer Tom McKechnie retired, Michael Carrigan returned to Operational Duties in Hamilton Community Fire Station. We welcomed new staff coming in to the department, Peter Wright as Auditing Officer and Mark Conlon as Fire Safety Enforcement.

The Community Action Team

Through the findings of the Scotland Together Report, fatal fire analysis, outcomes from case studies, case conferences, and local anecdotal evidence, it is recognised that there are frequent contributory factors evident in fire fatalities and casualties. These contributory factors include alcohol consumption; smoking; prescribed medication; drug use; mobility issues, frailty and age related problems; lone occupancy; distraction and living in areas of severe deprivation.

Those individuals and groups recognised at an increased risk of fire are often difficult to engage and educate through mainstream methods. Targeted intervention and prevention activities and partnership working are therefore crucial to minimise risk and support effective Community Safety Engagement (CSE).

Targeted activity at LSO Area level is supported by both Directorate and Service Delivery Areas through the P&P Strategy, national campaigns and initiatives, SFRS Media Strategy, CSE Campaign Calendar and Seasonal Campaigns.

The Community Action Team (CAT) plays a key function to support the delivery of CSE in order to meet the objectives of the Local Fire Plan and priorities set out by the Local Senior Officer.
The CAT is made up of a Local Authority Liaison Officer, Community Firefighter and Community Safety Advocates.

Community Safety Advocates are utilised for a range of activities and initiatives determined by locally identified need. Example areas of work include the following:

- The generation and delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits
- The creation of partnership links locally to identify and engage with those most at risk, either through direct access or via appropriate referral pathways
- The delivery of presentations to a range of audiences including community groups, partner agencies and SFRS staff
- Provision of support to Station personnel to develop and deliver local activities and initiatives (working together to ensure a lasting legacy once the Advocate's work has ended and they have moved onto another project)
- Support the delivery of media campaigns and seasonal strategies
- Represent the SFRS at a range of events
- Deliver school talks and educational input to relevant groups including input on road and water safety (where relevant)
- Support the delivery of youth engagement courses and activities
- Record and monitor CSE related activities and outcomes

The role of the Community Firefighter is similar to that of the CS Advocate however these staff members provide operational expertise and knowledge to the CAT. This operational experience should be taken into account when determining the use of the CAT and how it can best be utilised to support local delivery.

Specific activities undertaken by the Community Firefighter include:

- Providing operational expertise to lead/assist with the safe delivery of youth engagement courses and activities e.g. hose running, drill ground exercises
- Provision of skills, knowledge and understanding gained from previous operational experience
- The delivery of high risk Home Fire Safety Visits, identifying fire safety concerns and considerations
- Supporting the delivery of programmes for children and young people
The Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) is influenced by the Local Fire Plan, LSO Area priorities and partnership considerations as identified via Community Planning arrangements.

The LALO is utilised to facilitate links between the SFRS, local authority, partner agencies and local communities. This role involves working within appropriate community partnership thematic groups and engagement with key partners, at tactical level, to identify and establish early intervention opportunities to secure shared outcomes.

They play a pivotal role in the delivery of improved service through joint-working, participation in Local Area Teams, Community Safety sub groups, Community Planning groups, and support the implementation of the Local Fire Plan.

In addition, the LALO co-ordinates consistent information sharing, evaluation and reporting of CSE activities, to inform potential service improvements internally and with local partner agencies.

The LALO is a key member of the CAT, working closely with the P&P Group/Station Manager, and draw upon local intelligence and performance management information to ensure resources remain focused on local demand reduction objectives and communities most at risk.
When the new National Training Centre at Clydesmill opened, the doors of the South Lanarkshire’s Technical Rescue Training Centre (TRTC), which was once a hive of activity, closed leaving only the office space being utilised. This valuable underused resource was identified by the Local Officer as a potential location that could be developed into a multi-agency resource and advertised this to local partners as an opportunity that could make a difference to the community. So, the idea of breathing life back into the building through joint venture with community partners got the creative juices flowing.

The Local Senior Officer put a development proposal to the Safer South Lanarkshire Board which was met with enthusiasm but more importantly approval. An Appreciative Inquiry (AI) quickly followed as a model that seeks to engage stakeholders in self-determined change. Subsequently partners were invited to come along to the building with their respective expertise to help unlock the building’s potential.

A strategic steering group has now been established coupled with thematic analysis and a robust project plan this gives a basis for progressing the next steps of the development of the building.

The value of having a community resource that can address a multitude of issues such as; Anti-social Behaviour, Road Safety, Integrated Health and Social Care and Voluntary Action is priceless and simply embraces the principles that inform the public services reform process i.e. Integrated service provision by working in partnership and shared services to become more efficient.

With the right vision and integrated partnership approach we can collectively achieve success in this project and ultimately improve the outcomes of the people we strive to protect.
Remember, remember – report bonfire concerns

There is a reminder that you should report any concerns over potentially dangerous bonfires as South Lanarkshire Council unveils a new weapon in the campaign to put safety first during the fireworks season.

Around this period firefighters attend an average of 40% more incidents than during the rest of October and November. On 5th November Scottish Fire and Rescue attend approximately four times as many call outs as on any other night, taking them away from other incidents with potentially tragic consequences.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Manager Alan Fairbairn, the local senior officer for South Lanarkshire, stated that: "Everyone has their part to play in protecting our communities and preventing tragedy. " “Having to attend an unsafe bonfire makes a crew unavailable if a real emergency happens, meaning others would have to be sent from further away.”

“If someone is trapped in a house fire or after a collision on the roads it is vital firefighters can get to them as quickly as possible, so we want the public to help ensure they aren’t tied-up at needless incidents.”

“By alerting the council to any build-ups of bonfire materials people can help them act to prevent illegal and unsafe bonfires potentially delaying firefighters getting to people in a life-threatening situation.” “We want people to have a great time without risking tragedy or horrific injuries, so we’re asking anyone who is thinking of holding their own bonfire or fireworks display to attend an organised event instead."Official bonfires represent a far greater risk of accidents and injuries than organised firework displays; they can cause damage to property and are often a magnet for anti-social behavior including deliberate fire-raising.

South Lanarkshire Council works closely with the fire service and local partner agencies to raise awareness of the risks and dangers associated with bonfires and fireworks. A dedicated bonfire ‘hit squad’ is assigned to each of the four areas that make up South Lanarkshire to safely dismantle and remove unauthorised fires built on Council land.

In 2016 they will be assisted by the Community Wardens new mobile CCTV van which will be out and about helping spot potentially dangerous bonfires early enough to have them removed.

In addition the Community Wardens, Police and Council workers going about their duties in the community will also be on the lookout for potential problems for the ‘hit squads’ to tackle and known hot spots will be closely monitored.
Community Learning

A recent event run by the Community Learning and Home School Partnership Service allowed Community Safety Advocates to promote the importance of knowing how to reduce the chances of fire starting in the home.

The Family Man Fun Day which was held at Hamilton Racecourse on Father’s day was a well-attended event and proved to be an excellent opportunity to engage with residents from South Lanarkshire area and beyond.

The Fire Service joined forces with other organisations such as RegenFX, Machan Trust, Universal Connections, South Lanarkshire Libraries and VASLan, to name but a few, to promote the safety message.

A selection of fire service literature was distributed to all families who approached the Fire Service information stand, this also included the recently published Pictorial booklet to a few families who were non English reading.

The opportunity to receive a Home Fire safety Visit was appreciated by many families with significant

Parent Café

A recent event at Whitlawburn Community Resource Centre saw a South Lanarkshire Community Action Team engage with a group of new mums.

The Parent café is a drop in centre within a relaxed and friendly environment where parents can meet other parents of new babies and enjoy light refreshments while getting practical help, support and ideas on enjoying their new born baby. Parents are invited along for taster sessions with guest speakers.
Community Safety advocate Shona Scott provided the mums with valuable fire safety information including the importance in knowing how to reduce the chances of a fire happening in your home and if it does how to protect yourself and your family. The opportunity to receive a Free Home Fire Safety Visit was appreciated and all the new mums signed up at the time of the event.

The Parent café is run by ‘Healthy ‘n’ Happy’, the community development trust for Cambuslang and Rutherglen. Their vision is for Cambuslang and Rutherglen to be the healthiest and happiest place to live in Scotland. They work towards this by providing opportunities for people to actively improve their lives and the places where they live, work and play. They are a community owned organisation, governed by local people and all the work is directed by local priorities.

You can follow ‘Healthy n Happy’ via their website http://www.healthynhappy.org.uk/ and also the usual social network platforms i.e. Facebook, Twitter & Flickr.

Positive Choices Event

The Community Action Team recently attended an event organised by Phil Wilson Director of Community Liaison for ‘Prison Me No Way’ which is a national educational charity set up by prison officers in 1995. Their main aim is to raise awareness among young people about the causes, consequences and penalties of crime and anti-social behaviour.

This event was held over three days and covered three secondary schools in the South Lanarkshire Area. This was a great opportunity for the Fire Service in South Lanarkshire to engage with over 365 secondary S3 pupils to deliver our anti-social behaviour presentation which covers the costs of juvenile fire setting including death, serious injury, and other serious consequences for children, families and communities.

The event was also attended by Police Scotland and other partner agencies increasing awareness of crime related anti-social behaviour. There was also a workshop on domestic abuse making pupils aware of how widespread domestic violence is and what impact it has on physical and mental health of the victims and on children.

It was a pleasure for the Fire Service to engage with this fantastic charity working in partnership to educate children and young people stay safe, make the right choices and lead a law abiding positive lifestyle.
South Lanarkshire partnership takes potentially life-saving message fire safety message to older people.

South Lanarkshire firefighters have teamed up with ‘Seniors Together’ to ensure every one of the group’s 300 members is offered a free Home Fire Safety Visit.

The project, which is run by South Lanarkshire Council, aims to improve the lives of older people and the partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) comes as crews engage in a week of action to prevent tragedies.

Group Manager Graeme Binning, the SFRS head of prevention and protection for South Lanarkshire, said: “This week of action is a real opportunity to re-visit existing partnerships and forge new ones.

“We are engaging with our local communities to let everyone know the role we can play in keeping people safe in their homes.”

He continued: “Factors like living alone, having health conditions or finding it difficult to move around make many older people more vulnerable to fire, but by offering a little support and reassurance we can help them be safe and feel safe.”

“During this week of action our crews have been working to provide free home fire safety visits and arrange for people to get them in the days and weeks ahead.”

“We want everyone who could benefit from this great service to get in touch with us. It really could save lives.”

People over the age of 60 have accounted for almost two-thirds of those killed in fires in Scotland this year and statistics show those aged 65 and over are more than twice as likely to die in a fire as others.

Christine Calder, the manager of Seniors Together, added: “We are delighted to support the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service’s campaign to promote fire safety for older people. During the week of action we will be promoting home fire safety visits among our members and will also be encouraging them to promote the visits to their friends and neighbours too.”

“We know from our Partnership work with the fire service that in particular older women are vulnerable to fire accidents at home and we want to work with them to eradicate this.”

Smoking in bed or while tired and sitting in a chair are known causes of many fire tragedies and SFRS has appealed for people to understand the danger and choose not to put themselves at such risk. If someone is simply unable to stop doing so then firefighters can work with them to find solutions to lower the chance of a fire starting.

It should be highlighted that most house fires begin in the kitchen and the advice from SFRS is never to step away from the cooker without first removing all pots and pans from the heat and making sure the hob and grill are switched off.

Therefore, early warning is crucial to people escaping fires and when SFRS crews visit households they check to ensure smoke alarms are placed where they will be effective. The firefighters even provide and install free smoke alarms where these are needed.
South Lanarkshire Community Action Team were invited along to a breakfast networking event at Stonelaw High School, Rutherglen, which was organised by the S3 Business Management Class.

The event was attended by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, NHS Lanarkshire and a number of other organisations and small local businesses.

The event was one of a number of activities arranged to help support developing the young workforce within the school.

Stonelaw High School is one of 3 learning communities within an area which is included in the most deprived data zones for education, employment, health and income*.

By attending the event it provided the opportunity for the team to engage directly with the pupils from the community and strengthen the partnership ties already in place with other organisations.
Partnership Working with NHS Lanarkshire Falls Team

Falls represent a major national public health issue and are the leading cause of elderly mortality and the largest cause of elderly injury and hospital admission in the UK and Europe. There is approximately 36000 people over 65 who fall in Lanarkshire each year. There is reliable evidence that a quarter to one third of these falls could be prevented, with lives saved, suffering and avoided costs reduced.

Prevention and safety is our key priority and sometimes we look beyond the obvious. By broadening our skills set and having a clearer and integrated understanding of the needs of individuals, and the important referral pathways, we can improve the safety and wellbeing of the people we strive to protect.

Therefore In order to enhance our partnership, the Community Action Team embarked on a Falls Screening Training programme with NHS Lanarkshire Falls Team.

This falls screening is now an integral part of our Home Safety Visits but it was important that some reciprocal training formed part of the new partnership in order that we have a holistic view of the needs of our vulnerable members of the Community. Community Safety Advocates delivered Hazard Awareness training to the Falls Team allowing for a joined-up approach to safety.

Most falls among older people are caused by an interaction of a number of risk factors, with personal risk factors – such as weak muscles, poor balance and walking difficulties – commonly playing a part. Left unmanaged, these can significantly increase the risk of falling.

With a person centred focus staff are now empowered to identify more effectively the risk factors and how to take more timely action, leading to a coordinated response following a fall, with faster access to specialist falls assessment and falls clinic.

Falls don’t need to be an inevitable part of getting older and the Fire Service serving South Lanarkshire continues to identify those most at risk and who would benefit from being on the Falls Register.
RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE

RESPONSE

South Lanarkshire Area encompasses a wide and varied range of operational risks from the urban areas of Rutherglen and Cambuslang to the rural communities of Clydesdale, this in turn requires the ability to respond to a variety of incidents in all locations which is achieved from strategically positioned stations at the following locations

Wholetime – Hamilton, East Kilbride, Clydesmill and Lanark

Retained – Larkhall, Strathaven, Lesmahagow, Douglas, Abington, Biggar and Carluke

Volunteer – Leadhills.

Within South Lanarkshire Area, our fleet of appliances benefitted from continued investment through the rescue pump replacement programme with new appliances being located at Hamilton, E Kilbride and Lanark, these replace older, higher mileage appliances and “balance out” the appliance usage across the fleet.

Following the “Review of Special Appliances and Capabilities” South Lanarkshire also forms part of the range of specialist resources, strategically placed not only within South Lanarkshire but throughout Scotland which are immediately available to assist with incidents such as rescue from height, severe flooding, wildfires, hazardous material incidents etc.

The table below indicates the location of each resource within S Lanarkshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Station</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Appliance</td>
<td>XX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerial Rescue Pump</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Rescue Resource</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Volume Pump</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Protection Unit</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rope Rescue Unit</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildfire Unit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Support</td>
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X = One Appliance, XX Two Appliances
RESILIENCE

The full description can be found in “Preparing Scotland – Scottish Guidance on Resilience” which details the responsibility placed on Category 1 and 2 responders in order to ensure compliance with the legislative requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

The term “Resilience” is a very wide ranging description which includes a number of areas ensuring that our communities and National Infrastructure are protected by having the correct resources, properly trained and equipped, situated in suitable locations and that proper pre-planning, testing and contingency planning has been undertaken in order to respond to the risks and hazards which may present. This is achieved by the following

Serious Organised Crime/Counter Terrorism

In 2004 the UK Government produced the first revised version of a strategy to tackle counter terrorism (CT) issues on a national scale entitled “Contest”. This document was followed in 2009 when the Scottish Government produced a national strategy for tackling Serious & Organised Crime (SOC) in Scotland entitled “Letting Our Communities Flourish”.

Both documents identify the key issues facing the UK, Scotland and our local communities by raising awareness of emerging threats and identifying the methodology by which Scotland’s various regulatory bodies can tackle these issues head on. These strategy documents identified key work streams which are commonly referred to as the “4Ds” and “4Ps”

Within Lanarkshire, both strategies play an integral role in directing the work being carried out by a range of agencies that all have responsibilities in these areas. As a result, a Lanarkshire SOC/CT Multiagency Strategy Group was established to bring together these key partners, to coordinate resources and eliminate duplication of effort in pursuance of the strategic objectives of the group.

During the 2014/15 reporting period, the initial work of the Multiagency Group concentrated on setting up structures and processes. However, even during these formative stages, a number of successes, including the identification of a national best practice, were achieved. To maintain focus, the strategic objectives were reviewed and agreed for the current reporting period 2015/16, which has resulted in SFRS contribution to achieving the SOC and CT objectives of the group

Local Strategic Assessments

In order to ensure the Local Area Plan is fit for purpose and accurately identifies the risk profile of the Local Authority Area it is necessary to subdivide the information sources which inform this into smaller “chunks”. This ensures that the wide variance of risks within such a diverse Local Authority Area are accurately identified and assessed ensuring the correct preplanning and availability of responding resources in the event of an emergency incident occurring.

This information, when compiled into a station plan and finally an area plan will ensure that an accurate picture exists within the Local Authority Area of our risks, hazards and resources and to ensure that these are the correct resources trained to the correct level.

These continue to be a “work in progress” as the risks and environment changes, so does the need to continually evaluate risks within the area to reflect local circumstances resulting in a live set of plans and information available for pre-planning and response. South Lanarkshire Area has now established a small working group to develop the processes and outcomes required
**Operational Intelligence**

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has an obligation under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 Section 9.2(d) to make arrangements for obtaining Operational Intelligence (OI) required or likely to be required to maintain the safety of personnel attending incidents at any location within a station ground. The requirement on employers to provide specific information on risks has been further reinforced by subsequent legislation such as the COSHH Regulations (2002); Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. These procedures help meet Corporate Objectives of actively addressing, identifying and reducing risks to personnel.

This is achieved by means of a regular inspection process of identified risks, the collection of information, hazards, plans etc. which is held in a database accessible from the data terminal on appliances both for training purposes and for briefing en-route to an incident ensuring crews have the latest information available.

Currently within South Lanarkshire there are almost 800 premises in the system, in addition contingency plans are held for other risks such as COMAH sites and specific locations such as the State Hospital, John Dewar and Sons and Multi Agency Response Guide for Douglas Park football ground.
Rural Risk Project Launched

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) have been working with the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) to develop a rural risk survey to encourage members to take precautions to protect their farms. The initiative, which was initially rolled out to the South Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway regions, could help protect farms and firefighters if a fire was to ever happen and assist in restricting any damage.

Farmers are encouraged to fill out a ‘rural risk form’ with basic details, after which they will be contacted by SFRS who will visit the farm and map out a plan of the farm. Pictured is an example map drawn up for regional chairman for NFU Scotland Forth and Clyde Region,

Not only does this help firefighters assess any risks, but also to know where livestock is likely to be kept, as well as identifying dangerous substances such as slurry and chemicals. SFRS has seen an increase in farm fires in Scotland, with 635 primary fires involving farm buildings and nearly 2,800 secondary fires, involving outdoor areas, from 2013 to 2015. On many occasions entire buildings have been destroyed. Isolated farm locations can be particularly vulnerable, both to wilful fire raising and for the time it can take for the fire service to reach the property. When the fire service responds to an incident, every minute counts.
Completing this survey could be the difference between saving and losing property, livestock, and even lives. All fire appliances use a computerised system called Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) that stores information on risks. While the crew are en route to an incident they use the MDT to brief themselves about potential hazards. This information is held securely and only authorised fire service personnel will have access to this data. This also includes a highly detailed plan of the location, with sufficient details presented to firefighters to support a rapid, effective response to incidents.

NFU Scotland President Allan Bowie commented: “A fire on a farm can have devastating consequences, and can happen so quickly. We’re delighted to be involved with this rural risk initiative to assist firefighters if they ever have to attend your property. “We would encourage as many members as possible to take up this offer of a free survey as it could help mitigate any effects of a fire restrict the damage that could be done, helping firefighters to attend a fire more quickly. Don’t wait until a fire happens to contact them – fill out this questionnaire today.”

Regional Chairman Tom French welcomed the SFRS on to his farm to trial the initiative. Tom commented: “Having previously experienced a fire on our farm, I was keen to be involved to show how a tool like this could have helped to get firefighters onto our farm quicker, which could have prevented some of the extensive damage that was done.

“All members are encouraged to take up this offer, you may regret it otherwise.” Area Manager Alan Fairbairn, the local senior officer for South Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway, has overseen the development of this partnership. He commented: “As firefighters we have a duty to serve and protect everyone in our community. For many years we have developed and refined safety practices to tackle fires in the home and in the workplace. “We want to ensure that farms are given similar attention. Quite simply, it is our aim to offer the same high standard of protection for farms.

“Working togetherr with NFU Scotland and its members, we believe that we can reduce the damage caused by farm fires. But we need the support of the farming community. Together we can make a difference. We are starting this partnership in South Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway, but it is our aim to roll it out across Scotland.”
PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) have since February been operating out of Clydesmill Fire Station. The team of 9 are split over 4 groups and provide 24 hour cover utilising the station as their base.

The crews are delighted with their new working environment and have a very positive working relationship with all SFRS personnel.

A programme of join training will commence in the near future which will further assist in the service delivery of both SFRS and SAS

Risk Preparedness Assessments (RPA)

The RPA process forms part of the National Risk Assessment (NRA) process and is cited by Scottish Government using the local risk assessment guidance process (LRAG). This requires almost 70 risk assessments for the Lanarkshire area to be reviewed and updated to reflect the current threat levels and capabilities affecting the region and to plan the LRP workload for the next 3 years. SFRS are the lead agency for this and as such has had to involve a range of partners ranging from South Lanarkshire Council to the Met Office and other Government agencies.

The 2015 – 2016 process has been completed and now features in the latest Community Risk Register (CRR) for the West of Scotland. This has been achieved through a series of meetings coordinated by the Civil Contingencies Officer utilising a carefully designed and managed process that has now been adapted for the West of Scotland through the West of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership (WoSRRP).
Business Continuity Plans

The reform of the Fire and Rescue Service within Scotland to a single service has resulted in a restructuring of South Lanarkshire Service delivery Area including staff locations, department restructuring and changes in roles and responsibilities. This has led to a full and comprehensive review of Business Continuity arrangements for the area. Business continuity plans have been produced for all fire stations and area headquarters within the South Lanarkshire Area. These business continuity plans ensure that should an event occur, which puts delivering our service at risk then plans and guidance are in place with partner agencies to allow the service to continue service delivery, whilst meeting the statutory requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

Local Resilience Partnership

The LRP is made up of a range of partner agencies as part of the Scottish Government’s Integrated Emergency Management system (IEM see diagram below) and meets on a quarterly basis. This allows a cross matching of ideas on resilience and encourages the sharing of ideas and good practice.

The work of the LRP includes organising major multi-agency exercises and improving major emergency plans from lessons learned in previous exercises or emergency events to caring for people in an emergency crisis.

Civil Contingencies Activities

Civil Contingencies activities in the South Lanarkshire Area include:

• Ensuring all contingency plans are up to date
• Ensuring business continuity plans are up to date and exercised to ensure compliance
• Horizon scanning for new threats and risks to communities within the area footprint
• Liaison and monitoring of the major road works project concerning the M74, M73, M8 and A8 upgrades through warning and informing our personnel and other partners through briefing notes and weekly updates.
• Organising, designing and coordinating multi agancy exercises in the area footprint
• Attending professional development courses, training events and seminars
• Advising and supporting SFRS area officers on civil contingencies matters
Multi Agency Exercise

White Label Poneil Whisky Maturation Site, Douglas South Lanarkshire

This table top exercise was intended as a means to validate the multi-agency off-site plan for the Poniel Maturation and Blend Centre by testing:

- Knowledge of responders’ roles, responsibilities, capabilities and actions in responding to an incident at this site
- Knowledge and application of plan content relevant to site layout, hazards and multi-agency co-ordination arrangements
- Exercise consisted of a number of scenario with several designed challenging injects that posed problems for all agencies attending and to work together in resolving the incident. Injects included fire, explosion, weather, motorway closures and criminal aspects of an incident
The M74, M73, M8 and A8 are a critical part of Scotland’s National Critical Infrastructure, which carries upward of 100,000 vehicle movements per day within the areas of Lanarkshire and the outlying areas of Glasgow.

The aim of the project is to improve journey times and reduce congestion at peak times on the A8 Baillieston to Newhouse, the M73 at Baillieston and at Raith, Hamilton on the M74 at Strathclyde Park and the Bellshill bypass routes. The lifetime of the project is forecast over a period of 3 years (36 months) from start to completion.

The project has been split into 3 schemes consisting of 8 phases over 36 months, through the use of a traffic management plan and works schedules.

**Scheme 1:** M8 Baillieston to Newhouse including upgrade of the A8 to Motorway standard.

**Scheme 2:** M74 – A725 Bellshill bypass, Raith Junction and Whistleberry Roundabout, Hamilton for Network improvements.

**Scheme 3:** M8 Junction 8 – M73 Junction 3 Baillieston to M73 Maryville Interchange North and Southbound – M74 Junction 2 Carmyle to Junction 5 Raith, Northbound and Southbound incorporating Network improvements.

There will also be demolition works and rebuilding works being conducted at many of the sites, and these include railway bridges and other bridges with the potential for construction site accidents and fires from hot works, faulty plant and equipment etc and has been assessed and graded accordingly by the CCO.
AREA TRAINING

TRAINING IS ALWAYS A KEY PRIORITY WITHIN SOUTH LANARKSHIRE AREA AND THE DIVERSE RISKS REQUIRE CREWS TO UNDERTAKE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT IN A RANGE OF CORE AND SPECIALIST SKILLS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

Fire Behaviour

South Lanarkshire Area is in the enviable position of having the state of the art National Training Centre within its area at Cambuslang and this affords crews an excellent facility where we can replicate numerous real fire behaviour conditions as seen below.

Scottish Fire and Rescue personnel participating within realistic live fire training at the National Training Centre, Glasgow. As the new training standards rolled out on the April 1st 2016, it sets out priorities to ensure frontline fire fighters receive appropriate training by exposing them to a hot wear on a three year rolling programme, the programme is set out on an annual basis meeting the learning outcomes covering Carbonaceous Fire Behaviour Training, Breathing Apparatus Search and Rescue and Tactical ventilation.
Breathing Apparatus Training Events

SFRS and South Lanarkshire Council have continued with their partnership working in 2016 allowing SL Training Department the extended use of a realistic training environment at Ridgepark School in Lanark.

The use of this training site has saved us some travel time and allowed us to complete BA module 1&2 training with all our RDS employees over several evenings. Our RDS trainees have also had great use of the facility with developing their skills and carrying out phased assessments.

Water Rescue

Whole-time and RDS staff in South Lanarkshire received Shore Based Level 1 Water Rescue Training with the help of our instructional staff based at Clydesmill fire station. This was to improve the confidence and skills needed at the early stages of any water rescue incident when shore based rescuers are awaiting the arrival of our specialist water rescue teams.

With the weather not always in our favour on the river Clyde we were lucky enough to use the facilities at Pinkston Water sports where there was always plenty of water.
Safe Working at Height

Crawford Castle Estate near Abington has one of our SWAH training sites. The site has been used on several occasions in 2016 by both our Whole-time and Retained staff. In this natural environment personnel from all of our 8 RDS stations came along to refresh and maintain their SWAH skill. The training days that were held at the weekend were enjoyed by all who attended.
TRAINING IN THE COMMUNITY

East Kilbride rope rescue team reaches new heights

The Rope Rescue Team at East Kilbride recently staged the dramatic rescue of an injured crane operator - 115 feet off the ground when crews seized the opportunity to use a crane at the construction site of the new East Kilbride Health Centre, Lanarkshire to hone their skills.

During the exercise, the eight-man team was tasked with reaching a crane operator suffering back injuries and safely lowering them to the ground.

Firefighter Mark McDonald is pictured lowering the ‘casualty’ with assistance from colleagues.

Station Manager Eddie Kelly said: “We continually train for all scenarios to ensure we deliver the highest standard of fire and rescue service to our communities.

“IT was a great opportunity to recreate a realistic scenario which allows firefighters to refresh their skills and use the specialist and technical equipment.

“If a crane operator was injured then that is exactly how we would do it – the whole team did a great job out there.”

Area Manager Alan Fairbairn was delighted with the outcome of the exercise and thanked Graham Construction for the opportunity to carry out the vital training.

Best seat in the house at Fir Park

Group 2 from East Kilbride Community Fire Station got a spectacular view of Fir Park recently when they got to put their rope rescue skills to the test during a training event.

SM Eddie Kelly said: “I’d like to thank the management at Fir Park for allowing us to use the open and complicated construction at the spectator stands for training.

“Realistic training like this is invaluable and allows the crews to refresh their skills, using a whole a wide range of specialist technical equipment.”


Chatelherault Exercise

This exercise was arranged by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and South Lanarkshire Council to allow us to carry out training on a historical building within the South Lanarkshire Area and to test their emergency response plan.

The Scottish Ambulance Service also played a role dealing with casualties and by providing training in life support. The scenario tested our search and rescue techniques and was invaluable for SLC staff who tested their evacuation and salvage plans.
COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

LSO signs Lanarkshire Information Sharing Protocol

AM Alan Fairbairn, LSO for South Lanarkshire, recently signed the Lanarkshire Information Sharing Protocol (ISP), the joint agreement between NHS Lanarkshire, North Lanarkshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council, Children’s Reporters Administration, Police Scotland and SFRS which supports the sharing of information. The above agencies are focused on safeguarding the most vulnerable members of our local communities.

Helen Edment, in her role of Data Sharing Programme Manager for the Lanarkshire Data Sharing Partnership (LDSP), has co-ordinated the drafting of the protocol and ensures all partner agencies work within the defined parameters of the ISP.

The ISP exists to ensure that information can be shared in a way which satisfies both the legal and professional obligations of the agencies and their respective staff, and also protects the legitimate expectations of service users. It extends to all types of information sharing relevant to the provision of adult and children’s health, social care, housing and child educational services. The protocol also covers legitimate information sharing arrangements for dealing with the protection of children and vulnerable adults and public safety. This partnership supports the SFRS Safeguarding Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Children and Adults at Risk of Harm.
ENVIRONMENT

Clydesmill Community Garden

Work is currently well underway to create a community garden and apiary project at Clydesmill Fire station. The project once complete will create an environment which will enhance both the bio diversity and aesthetics of the Community Fire Station site allowing an unmanaged area to be utilised for both educational and small scale food production.

All funding for the project will be sought from external sources and the labour for the creation and on-going maintenance will be provided by South Lanarkshire Community Payback Team, local community and support groups along with schools nurseries and other identified partners.

Utilising the garden as a catalyst will create opportunity allowing interaction with members of our community whom at present access to such a resource may not be available.

Justice Minister Michael Matheson visited the project on the 15th June 2016 and stated he was delighted with the projects innovation and the community partnership involvement.
**OTHER AREA NEWS**

**Opening of Biggar Museum**

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) crews took part in a Demonstration Day in South Lanarkshire to raise awareness of dangers and help prevent emergencies. The family-friendly event at the Biggar and Upper Clydesdale Museum saw firefighters take the opportunity to help people make serious incidents, including road traffic collisions and fires, much less likely to happen.

Easter Sunday saw a parade of vintage fire engines, the chance to try on historic fire service uniforms and give today's crews the chance to share potentially life-saving advice. The vintage fire engines paraded through the town to kick-start an event where firefighters take life-saving messages to the public. They were accompanied on the short journey by a local pipe band, before serving firefighters demonstrate how modern appliances operate.

It also launched the museum's latest exhibition, which celebrates 75 years of rural firefighting.
Visitors were able to try on historic firefighters’ uniforms and climb aboard fire engines from the 1970s and 80s. Visitors were able to look around the SFRS Mobile Fire Museum but the most exciting part of the day for kids – and maybe even their parents – was getting the chance to meet Fireman Sam and Blaze Bear.

Station Manager Davie Murdoch, said: “This area has a strong firefighting history and the demonstration day gave people the chance to get an up-close look at how today’s crews work to protect our communities.”

“It was a fun day and everyone had a great time, but it also gave us the chance to share potentially life-saving advice.”

Davie added: “Crew Manager John Bryan and the team here at Biggar have been instrumental in putting this event together and hopefully lots of people will turn out to enjoy it.

“Our crews will be raising awareness of common dangers to help people reduce the risk of being involved in a crash or experience a house fire.

“We will also be helping people to prevent wildfires from starting and encouraging farmers to sign-up for the pilot Rural Risk Project that’s ongoing both here in South Lanarkshire and down in Dumfries and Galloway.”
In 1892 the first Lanimer Procession was held and has now grown to be one of the largest processions of its type in the United Kingdom and is renowned for its scale, energy and entertainment value. Traditionally Over 1,000 participants, young and old, parade with spectacular ‘Lanimer Lorries’ to a soundtrack of Pipe, Silver and contemporary marching bands. It is truly a magnificent event.

Lanimer week is an annual festival held in the early June, which celebrates the history of the Royal Burgh of Lanark, when the Lord Cornet inspects the boundaries of the town.

This task has been undertaken annually since 1140 AD when Lanark was granted its Royal Charter by King David I.

The Thursday which is the “Big day” sees well over 1500 people taking part in colorful parade down the High Street in a fantastic pageant.

The Town shows great community spirit to organise this event every year and provides a great opportunity for our staff to engage with the local community too. Lanark Fire Station are responsible for the risk assessment and safety planning of this large scale event which was a huge success in June.
SFRS staff from South Lanarkshire donned their walking boots to take part in their annual St Andrew's Hospice Charity hill climb at Tinto Hill.

The climb which took place from the 23rd to the 26th May which saw volunteers from the Hospice, Army Cadets and South Lanarkshire College join SFRS staff along with two thousand S1 pupils from North and South Lanarkshire Secondary Schools.

As well as fresh air, fun, exercise, teamwork and a sense of achievement they also raised money for a fantastic cause.

St Andrew's Hospice is Lanarkshire's hospice which provides specialist care services to patients from across Lanarkshire with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses. It is a very special place which recognises the need to provide support for patients, their families and carers.

To maintain these vital care services their fundraising team has to raise £57,000 each week. St Andrew's Hospice sent a letter of thanks to SFRS and Andrew Flynn the hospice's Schools Manager said: “Our thanks go to the fire service for your continued support - we couldn't do it without you”.
SOCIAL MEDIA

South Lanarkshire Management Team continues to communicate and engage with their communities with the use of Twitter.

The use of Twitter has allowed SFRS to send out fire safety messages to the general public, whether they have been related to specific incidents within local communities or corporate seasonal safety messages.

It has also allowed SFRS staff to communicate to the public in terms of what activities and initiatives have been running their local area.

CONTACT US

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service would like to hear from you about your views or any questions you may have no matter how trivial they seem.

The Service can be contacted via our website on [www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk)

Enquiries can be made via the electronic feedback forms on the site. You can keep up to date and comment or ask questions regarding fire service activity on social media through our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

You can phone or write a letter to us at:

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters
Westburn Drive
Cambuslang
G72 7NA
Tel: 0141 646 4501

Local South Lanarkshire enquiries can be made via phone or letter at:

South Lanarkshire Area Headquarters
Clydesmill Community Fire Station
Westburn Drive,
Cambuslang, G72 1AA
Tel: 01555 667000