

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the
POLICY AND PERFORMANCE
COMMITTEE held in the Fire Authority
Rooms, Fire and Rescue Service
Headquarters, Nissan Way, Barmston
Mere, Sunderland on MONDAY 28
JANUARY 2013 at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

Councillor Padgett in the Chair

Councillors Ahad, Mc Atominey and Mulvenna

Appointment of Vice Chairman

It having been moved and duly seconded it was:-

1. RESOLVED that Councillor Padgett be appointed as Vice Chairman to the Committee.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N.Forbes and M. Forbes.

Declarations of Interest

None.

Minutes

2. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Performance Committee held on 22 October 2012 (circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

End of Q3 (October – December) Performance Report 2012/2013)

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Fire Officer to present the end of End of Q3 (October – December) Performance Report 2012/2013). Members of the Performance and Policy Committee were requested to consider and scrutinise the contents of the report and provide comments.

The Chairman welcomed Chris Lowther, Area Manager, Nina Griffiths, Area Manager to the Committee and invited them to present the report.

The performance report was divided into Service Led Priorities and Local Priorities sections in order to provide a comprehensive overview based on national and local priorities.

The Service Led Priorities were considered in turn:-

Number of primary fires per 100,000 population (LI 29):

- The Authority attended 118.2 (1,308) primary fires per 100,000 population by the end of Quarter 3 2012/13; this was 11.5% (170) less than in the same period in 2011/12.
- The Authority was forecast to attend 160.4 primary fires per 100,000 population in 2012/13 meaning they will surpass the target by 6.3%.
- This performance sees the Authority remain in the best quartile when comparing our performance to the performance of the other Metropolitan FRS for 2011/12.
- North Tyneside District saw a 1.5% (4) increase when compared to last year.
- Newcastle District reported the greatest reduction of 26.6% (94) compared with the same period in 2011/12.
- As a result of the 1,308 incidents 160 victims received injuries.

Number of fatalities due to primary fires per 100,000 population (LI 2):

- There were no fire related fatalities by the end of Quarter 3 2012/13. There were 3 for the same period last year.
- As throughout previous years, the Authority continues to report performance below the Mets FRS average figure of 0.57 fatalities per 100,000 population and remain in the best quartile.

Number of all deliberate fires per 10,000 population (LI 33):

- The Authority recorded 28 (3,097) deliberate fires per 10,000 population by the end of Quarter 3 2012/13, a decrease of 33.2% (1,540) compared the same period in 2011/12.
- Based on this performance the Authority was forecast to surpass the target of 53.2 by 24.2% (12.9).
- Performance has improved significantly over recent years and the Authority were forecast to be below the Met FRS average for 2011/12 and for the first time have moved out of the worst quartile.
- All districts continued to report significant reductions for this indicator.
- The greatest reduction was in Newcastle District where there were 39.2% (479) fewer deliberate fires than there was for the same period last year.

Number of deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population (LI 16):

- The Authority recorded 23.2 (2,565) deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population by the end of Quarter 3 2012/13, 35.8% (1,430) fewer than in the same period in 2011/12.
- 81% (2,078) of these incidents were deliberate refuse fires, a 31% (943) reduction.
- When compared to the Met FRS performance for 2011/12 this forecast was below average and outside of the worst quartile
- All districts continued to report significant decreases for this indicator.
- Sunderland District had the greatest overall decrease with 39% (514) fewer deliberate secondary fires by the end of Quarter 3 2012/13 than there was in the previous year

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Ahad, Chris Lowther advised that organised bonfires were a huge factor in preventing secondary fires and the Authority would work with event organisers.

The Chairman commented that it was important to involve station managers in ward walkabouts to identify hot spot areas. Councillor Ahad also advised that the private sector need to be on board too.

LI 4 Number of injuries from accidental dwelling fires

- The Authority recorded 120 injuries from accidental dwelling fires by the end of Quarter 3 2012/13, 16 fewer than the same period in the previous year.
- Based on this performance the Authority was forecast to surpass our target by 7.8% (14).
- 48 of the injuries resulted in the victim going to hospital and 10 were classified as serious injuries.
- Gateshead and North Tyneside Districts saw increases during this period, the other districts reported reductions with South Tyneside recording the most significant with 11 fewer than the same period last year.

- The average age of a fire victim was 49 years old with 55% (66) female and 45% (54) male.

LI 8.1 Number of accidental fires in dwellings per 10,000 dwellings

- The Authority attended 8.9 (422) accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 dwellings by the end of Quarter 3 2012/13, 9 fewer incidents than the previous year.
- Based on this performance the Authority was forecast to meet the target of 11.8.
- The majority of such incidents occurred in the kitchen (60.4%).
- Newcastle District reported the largest percentage of accidental non kitchen fires with a total of 42.6% (52).
- Walker Ward accounted for over 5% of the Service's total accidental dwelling fires. There were 22 incidents reported by the end of Quarter 3 2012/13, 8 more than the previous year.

LI 21 Number of malicious false alarm calls attended

- The Authority attended 65 (2,040) false alarms from non-domestic premises per 1,000 non domestic premises by the end of Quarter 3 2012/13, a reduction of 15.9% (386) on last year's figure.
- Based on this performance the Authority were forecast to surpass the target of 95.7 (3,003) by 10.1% (303 calls).
- Newcastle district accounted for 40.9% (835) of all AFA but it has reported an overall reduction of 15.7% (155) compared to 2011/12. 16% (134) of AFA in Newcastle were from hospitals.
- Hospitals remain the main premises type throughout the Service accounting for 18.5% of such incidents by the end of Quarter 3 2012/13.

LI 22.1 Number of false alarm calls due to automatic fire alarms from non domestic premises per 1,000 non domestic premises

- We attended 65 (2,040) false alarms from non-domestic premises per 1,000 non domestic premises by the end of Quarter 3 2012/13, a reduction of 15.9% (386) on last year's figure.
- Based on this performance we are forecast to surpass the target of 95.7 (3,003) by 10.1% (303 calls).
- Newcastle district accounted for 40.9% (835) of all AFA but it has reported an overall reduction of 15.7% (155) compared to 2011/12. 16% (134) of AFA in Newcastle were from hospitals.
- Hospitals remain the main premises type throughout the Service accounting for 18.5% of such incidents by the end of Quarter 3 2012/13.

LI 86 % of workforce from a black, Asian minority ethnic community

- This performance reflected an increase of 0.5% (5) when compared to Quarter 2 of 2011/12.
- This performance reflected a total of 35 staff from a workforce of 1,156.85 posts.
- There were 17 operational members of staff within the organisation who are from an ethnic minority community, reflecting 2% of the operational workforce.

Councillor Ahad suggested that consideration could be given in future reporting to the percentage of employees from the Roman community or other Arab community.

LI85 % of workforce who are women

- The percentage of women working for the organisation currently stands at 21.1%, an increase of 0.3% compared against the performance reported at the end of Quarter 2 2011/12.
- Based on this performance the Authority was forecast to achieve the target of 21.1%.

LI 82 Proportion of working days/shifts lost to sickness absence by all staff

- The proportion of working days/shifts lost to sickness absence by all staff by the end of Quarter 3 2012/13 was 4.14. This reflects a reduction of 4.2% (0.18 days) when compared to Quarter 3 2010/11.
- This positive performance is reflected in the end of year forecast of 5.46 days which would mean we would exceed the target by 2.5%.
- Only Newcastle and Gateshead districts reported reductions when compared to the same period last year.

3. RESOLVED that the content of the report is noted.

Partners for Life

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Fire Officer to brief Members on the 'Partners for Life' initiative, which has evolved from the many effective partnerships in place and to seek to further ways to improve the lives of those most vulnerable in our communities.

The Chief Fire Officer advised that the ICT strategy was a key corporate

document which outlines how the Authority intends to optimise the use of ICT in order to achieve its objectives. It is underpinned by the ICT element of the Asset Management Plan which sets out in detail the ICT assets owned by the Authority and the use made of these.

Members were presented with a DVD entitled “if only we’d known about Elsie”, which was a community safety film which was a poignant account from a daughter who lost her mother in a fire, with a plea to share information with the Fire Service to help prevent a similar situation occurring.

Councillor Ahad suggested that full Council meetings would provide an ideal opportunity to present the DVD to all elected Members. Councillor Mc Atominey also suggested that Area Forums would also provide a good medium to show it.

Councillor Mulvenna commented that he would like to see such campaigns more widely disseminated including on the television.

4. RESOLVED that the contents of the Partners for Life campaign be noted.

(Signed) N. Padgett
Chairman