

14 March 2023**REPORT OF THE TYNE AND WEAR FIRE SERVICE****1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The following report gives Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for Sunderland West Committee area from 1st April 2022 to 28th February 2023.

2 Background

- 2.1 At its November 2011 meeting Area Committee agreed that regular updates on Crime and Community Safety would be presented to each Committee meeting.

3. Tyne and Wear Fire Service Update**3.1 LI 02 Number of Deaths from all fires**

No deaths were recorded during the reporting period.

3.2 LI 14 All Deliberate Property Fires excluding Primary road vehicles

There were 10 deliberate property fires, compared to 6 in the same period as last year. Sandhill and St Annes wards had 3 each of the 10 incidents. 2 of which were dwelling fires and 1 outdoor storage unit. Incident of note - Meadow nursery lodge, property and contents severely destroyed by fire having devastating impact on local community as no longer able to provide support. The continued partnership working with Northumbria Police, Gentoo, Sunderland city council and departments within have continued to work collaboratively to reduce these incidents. Both ops crews and prevention and education department have carried out hot strikes and ran localised initiatives in conjunction with local intelligence from LMAPS.

Incidents at the former Farringdon police station continued to be monitored in conjunction with partners. This continues to produce positive results. Site security has been key to help alleviate some of problems posed to crews. The site is still a concern as the measures put in place may only deter for so long. The only way for this area to be removed from services radar is the regeneration of the site. To assist in reducing the number of deliberate property fires, crews continue to patrol and report unsecure premises in conjunction with ASB reporting, the crews also utilise the Report-It tool.

3.3 LI15 Number of primary road vehicle fires started deliberately

There were 56 incidents reported during this period compared to last year when there were 29. An increase of 93%. Sandhill had 18 vehicle fires 12 of which were cars. Investigations into these fires have not established if any incidents were linked. TWFRS continue to work with Northumbria Police regarding all suspected malicious vehicle fires and shall continue to monitor any patterns and trends.

3.4 LI16 Number of secondary fires not involving property or road vehicles started deliberately

There have been 505 deliberate secondary fires in this area over the report period compared to 294 over the same period last year. This is an increase of 71% over the same reporting period. Pandemic lock downs during some of the reporting periods last

year played a part in these figures. Silksworth Ward has had most incidents - 152 incidents. In the first two quarters the grassed area close to Primate Road, Dr's surgery and former police station site accounted for majority of incidents within the ward. Since site security improvements the incidents have migrated to around the lake and the area between Perth Road and Silksworth Lane.

St Anne's ward 114 incidents – Area in and including King George playing fields. Predominantly grass or loose refuse fires.

Sandhill ward –71 incidents, the areas of Tay road and Thorney close.

Continued partner working with local authority, Gentoo, environmental services and Northumbria police. Increased patrols, Joint social media targeting and messaging. Community engagement work with youths has been carried out by crews both following incidents and during patrols. Partner agencies providing opportunities during the school holidays have been supported by crews. Education and fire safety messaging has been given on all opportunities to engage.

3.5 LI33 All deliberate Fires (combination of LI14, LI15 and LI16)

There were a total of 558 deliberate fires in this reporting period. An increase of 71% on last Year. This is due to an increase in predominantly ASB activity. The remarkably hot dry weather during the earlier quarters played its part in the notable increase on the number of grass fires. Grass fires and loose refuse/rubbish incidents were particularly problematic across all wards. Incidents in the earlier quarters, prior to the multi-agency work to improve security of the former police station/Primate Road had significant impact on these figures.

Vehicle fire incidents year to date have seen a 93% increase. This will continue to be monitored by ourselves and partner agencies. TWFRS are working with Sunderland city council environmental department, Gentoo to tackle loose refuse fires across all areas. Fire crews continue to monitor and report uplifts in the "hot spot areas" the Report-It tool is now embedded across the service which is assisting with a faster more stream lined collaborative mechanism. Partnership work (Northumbria police) carrying out targeted patrols and estate visits continues alongside engagement work. Any information regards any type of deliberate fire setting should be reported via the anonymous fire stoppers number.

3.6 Community Involvement

Regular multiagency meetings which help ensure a joined up approach will continue to be key to any further success. Crews have attended several events put on by local community groups and partner agencies across the area. Several schools from across the East have been to Farringdon station where they have engaged with firefighters and learned valuable fire safety messages and the impact of deliberate fire setting and ASB. (Schools selected were data and intelligence lead) The events held or attended by crews are an opportunity to build good local community relations and a rapport with some of the youths in the area.

I will encourage any further work with youth provision groups, Youth almighty and together for children etc and have duty crews involvement where and when resources permit.

Our home Safe and well delivery. Targeting our most vulnerable members of our community. Operational crews from Farringdon continue to provide this service and have delivered 1129 safe and wells visits across all wards.

The Princes Trust based at Farringdon Community Fire Station is now running with a cohort of 9 young people. The programme is due to finish on the 12th April.

The latest Firefighter recruit's course which started on Monday 13th Feb and will finish 19th May 2023. 24 Probationary firefighters will be posted to stations across Tyne and Wear.

3.7 On-going Issues

Collaboration with Northumbria police and local authority partner's continues to reduce incidents as highlighted in the report. It is essential that any fire related issues are reported to myself, (Andrew Nelson, Station Manager) or using Fire Stoppers 0800 169 5558, so I can action/address with my crews. My watches continue to work close within their respective ward areas to create community links (similar to the Police). The watches continue to deliver ASB initiatives – uplifts, premises security, and educational interaction.

The educational and engagement activities are key to reduce ASB and prevent attacks on emergency services. Over this reporting period there were 68 attacks on crews across Tyne and Wear. 13 of which were in the Sunderland district. Predominantly these incidents were projectiles thrown towards firefighters and or appliances.

Any questions please feel free to contact on the details below.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Note the content of this report.

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