

7th June 2022

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 7th June 2022.

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 4 deliberate property fires, no change from last year. The continued partnership working with Northumbria Police, Gentoo, Sunderland city council and departments within have continued to work in partnership to reduce these incidents with some of the work carried out under the SARA project and similar localised targeting via LMAPS teams.

Some of the partnership work carried out to tackle the rise in incidents at the former police station was successful initially but the problem has raised itself once more. Work including enhancing site security, clearing and reporting refuse collection/uplifts and increased patrols at key times. Unfortunately this is still a continued problem which will only eliminate this long ongoing problem when the site is cleared. To assist in reducing the number of deliberate property fires crews continue to report unsecure premises in conjunction with ASB reporting, the crews have now all been trained in the operation of the Report-It tool.

3.3 LI15 Number of primary road vehicle fires started deliberately

There were 29 incidents reported during this period compared to last year when there were 43. A decrease of 33%. St Anne's and Silksworth saw 7 and 6 vehicle fires respectively over this period. During this period 3 incidents were attended in the area between Hylton road and Portsmouth road and similarly 3 vans in and around Silksworth Lane and Warwick terrace. It is believed that they were not connected in any way, however TWFRS continue to work with Northumbria Police regarding this matter and shall continue to monitor.

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

There have been 172 deliberate secondary fires in this area over the report period compared to 48 over the same period last year. This is an increase of 258% over the same reporting period. Pandemic lock downs during some of the reporting periods last year played a part in these figures. Some problematic areas have been Silksworth Ward - 43 incidents in particular the grassed area close to Primate Road, Dr's surgery and former police station site. St Anne's ward 48 incidents - areas such as King George

playing fields rear of Hampstead road, mainly grass or loose refuse fires. Sandhill ward – 33 incidents, the areas of Tay road and Thorney close. Lots of great 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. School visit and joint police and fire messaging has been arranged across schools in all of the west wards - parent mail ensuring all parents have been given the information.

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

There were a total of 183 deliberate fires in this reporting period. An increase of 266% on last Year. This is due to an increase in predominantly ASB activity. Grass fires and loose refuse/rubbish incidents particularly problematic. The continued fires around the former police station, Primate Road have taken up a large amount of time of fire service and partner resources.

The impact of a series of violent storms which the region has suffered is still evident as property fences which not only are being utilised as fire fuel also make property accessible (Springwell surgery). Vehicle fire incidents have decreased. 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 has gone live 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

The Queens Jubilee celebrations – crews attended several events across the service, Veterans in Crisis celebrated the Jubilee with a Party on 2nd June at Lakeside Club. Crews attended along with other blue responders. Our veterans can often be some of our most vulnerable. Information was gathered and safe and well appointments made. Barnes Park community days shall have fire service representation over the 3 day event. Community education and safety information is being delivered alongside our chip pan demonstration unit in conjunction with partner agencies. This will be educating approximately 30 groups of children from several local schools from the west area across the 2 days. The family day (Saturday) an appliance and crew shall be in attendance to engage and educate all ages throughout the day. Our home Safe and well delivery. Targeting our most vulnerable members of our community. Operational crews from Farringdon have already delivered 143 safe and wells visits across all wards.

TWFRS continues to be involved with the hugely successful SARA project. If there are any

All secondary schools were targeted in the build up to bonfire night with some locations having joint police and fire visits enforcing key ASB and fire safety messages. Planning for this year's activity and targeting shall be starting soon. As Covid restrictions lift, crews are available to support and attend community events.

The Princes Trust based at Farringdon Community Fire Station is now working with the second cohort of young people. Following partner support and attendance alongside our whole time fire crew recruitment campaign we currently have 10 young people from various backgrounds on the programme due to be complete end of July.

The services recruitment campaign has been busy, with personnel from Farringdon station attending several school career fairs, branching out to underrepresented members of the community to enable further representation from underrepresented groups within the fire service. The last recruit's course finished in April. 28 firefighters are now working from their posted stations. 4 of which within our wards.

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 11 attacks on crews across Tyne and Wear. All of which 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.

Contact Officer: Andrew Nelson, Tyne and Wear Fire Service,
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The graphic features three fire service crests at the bottom: Tyne and Wear Fire Service, Northumbria Fire Service, and Durham Fire Service.