



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 13 NOVEMBER 2017 at 10.30 am

Present:

Councillor Forbes in the Chair

Councillors Perry and Renton.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Dodds and Harrison.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

4. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Performance Committee held on 10th July 2017 (circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Quarter Two Performance Report 2017/18

The Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive (the Clerk to the Authority), the Strategic Finance Officer and the Personnel Advisor to the Authority submitted a joint report to

provide the committee with information relating to Tyne and Wear and Fire and Rescue Service's (TWFRS) performance for Quarter Two 2017/18.

Members were advised that the Quarter Two 2017/18 Performance Report provided a comprehensive overview of the organisations performance in relation to key performance indicators for April to September 2017.

Nina Griffiths and Mark Gerrard delivered a joint presentation and in doing so advised the Committee that:-

- During Q2 14,580 emergency calls were received and the service attended 9,088 incidents, an increase of 2,635 emergency calls and 1,493 incidents compared to Q2 last year;
- Unfortunately there were three fatalities from all fires. 1 in Gateshead (in a car) and 2 in Sunderland (1 in a house – single occupancy and 1 in a car);
- There had been 25% (6) fewer injuries from accidental fires (LI03);
- There had been 10% fewer injuries from all fires (LI03);
- 69% (11) of the victims who went to hospital were living alone;
- Accidental dwelling fires had decreased by 25 (8%) compared to the same period last year with accidental fires decreasing by 31 (17%);
- There had been a 56% (1060) increase in deliberate fires and a 48% (796) increase in deliberate secondary fires.

AM Griffiths advised that a 'Task and Finish' Group had been established to understand reasons for the increase in deliberate fires and improve performance in relation to this indicator. This increase had been seen across all authorities.

Members of the Committee commented that local authority 'uplifts' to remove abandoned refuse was particularly important in helping to reduce the number of deliberate secondary fires.

- There had been an increase of 26% (25) in fires in non-domestic premises;
- False alarms in non-domestic premises had increased by one incident and false alarms in domestic premises had increased by 6% (73). 48% (642) of domestic AFAs were due to cooking or burnt toast (LI23). Strategies were in place to try and reduce this;
- 40% of false alarms in domestic premises were to a 'purpose built flat/maisonette' (LI23);
- 32% (435) of false alarms in domestic premises were to 'self-contained sheltered housing' (LI23);
- There had been a 14% (24) reduction in false alarms to 'Hospital' premises (LI22); and
- 40% (376) AFA calls to non-domestic premises were to education, hospital or medical care premises (LI22).

Members were advised that a hospital/education programme was in place and close work was undertaken with fire safety departments/officers as well as with hospital trusts to reduce the number of calls. In addition changes had been made to concierge support in housing premises and focused work was on-going with schools.

The Chief Fire Officer explained that work with schools particularly in relation to access was an emotive issue therefore a report would be submitted to the next committee outlining a different approach which would then subsequently be submitted to the Authority.

Members commented that information within the subsequent report also needed to be disseminated to each local authority to raise awareness of the various issues the Authority was faced with.

AM Griffiths referred the committee to LI (Overview) which monitored how incidents were performing against targets and forecasts for 2017/18 and the year to date (April – September 2017).

The Chairman explained that the amount of targets in the 'red' (i.e. not achieved or not forecasted to be achieved) were the highest he had ever seen and commented that this suggested that things were happening outside of the Authority's control which was likely to be a direct impact of cuts and austerity. For example, the refuse service had been reduced which resultantly led to fly-tipping and an increase in the number of deliberate fires.

In summary, of the 16 priority local indicators, it was forecasted that TWFRS would attain four (25%) targets these being LI03 (Injuries from Accidental fires in dwellings), LI08 (Accidental Dwelling fires), LI09 (Accidental kitchen fires in dwellings) and LI10 (Accidental non-kitchen fires in dwellings).

Members commented that it was extremely disappointing to learn of some recent attacks on firefighters and commented that a single attack on a firefighter was one too many. This would be discussed at the next meeting of the Authority.

The Chief Fire Officer explained how body cameras were used and evidence was then forwarded to the Police. This intelligence was then shared to see if there was any link in offenders also attacking Police Officers.

5. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) further reports be received as appropriate.

Community Risk Profile

The Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive (the Clerk to the Authority), the Strategic Finance Officer and the Personnel Advisor to the Authority submitted a joint report to seek Members approval for the 2017-2020 Community Risk Profile (CRP).

ACFO Baines reminded Members that the CRP supported the Authority's Strategic Community Safety Plan (SCSP) and provided a comprehensive and forward looking assessment of the risk within the communities of Tyne and Wear that would both impact upon, and shape, service delivery over the community years. The document was underpinned by detailed data on incidents and risks which was used in the targeting of activities both strategically and day to day.

The Community Risk Profile was first produced in 2014 and provided information and analysis on the following within Tyne and Wear:-

- Population
- Housing
- Growth and Development
- Deprivation; and
- Environmental Risks.

The following information was brought to the attention of Members:

- Comparison of the last two censuses showed that the population of Tyne and Wear was becoming more ethnically diverse: in 2001 95.4% of the population declared themselves as White British, whereas in 2011 this figure was 91.5%.
- There was a clear indication that Tyne and Wear was encountering an ageing population with regional projections indicating the 65+ age category being one of the fastest growing.
- With regard to dwellings in Tyne and Wear, 33.5% of all properties were one-person households, while 13.5% of all homes were occupied by a lone person aged 65+.
- Level of employment was a key element in the makeup of deprivation rankings. The North East region had the highest percentage of workless households in the country at 20.1%. 19.3% of households in Tyne and Wear were workless. This was higher than England as a whole which was 14.6%.
- Health in Tyne and Wear was significantly worse than the national average. A number of these factors were also directly related to risk of fires, deaths and injuries.
- It was estimated that of the 14,744 primary fire incidents attended between 2009/10 and 2016/17, 4.6% were suspected of having drug or alcohol impairment as a contributory factor.
- TWFRS was ranked 15th for % change in accidental dwelling fires from 2009/10 to 2016/17 with a 21% reduction. This ranked TWFRS third within the Mets family group.

- Whilst Tyne and Wear had the lowest population of metropolitan fire authority areas, data showed that the percentage of individuals in the population who had a long term illness or disability was one of the highest.
- The North East had a higher level of obesity than other areas than any other areas of the country; and
- Smoking remained prevalent in the North East where 17% of adults were smokers. This compared to 15.5% for England. The North East had the highest smoking attributable mortality rate per 100,000 population aged 35+ (369) compared to other regions of England. The rate for England was 238.5.

The Committee acknowledged that the CRP and its underpinning enabled the Service to better understand the diverse nature of the community and to identify, prioritise and plan for both current and foreseeable risks.

The updated CRP had been reviewed and demonstrated no significant change in the risk profile of Tyne and Wear, and therefore the current community safety strategy/targeting strategies were fit for purpose based on risk.

The Chairman commented that this was linked to the community profiling work undertaken by Local Authorities. AM Griffiths agreed and explained that a consultation exercise was undertaken with each local authority within Tyne and Wear and data sets shared. Members were further advised that the CRP was also used to inform the Integrated Risk Management Plan.

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the CRP 2017-2020 be approved for publication; and
- (ii) further reports be received as appropriate.

(Signed) N. FORBES,
Chairman

