

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 7 NOVEMBER 2022 at 10.30am

Item 3

Present:

Councillor Dodds in the Chair.

Councillors Kilgour, Usher and Woodward.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Burdis and Wood.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

3. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Performance Committee held on 13 July 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

2022/2023 Quarter Two YTD Performance Report

The Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive (Clerk to the Authority), the Finance Director and the Personnel Advisor to the Authority submitted a joint report to provide the Policy and Performance Committee with information relating to Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service's (TWFRS) performance for Quarter 2 2022/23.

Members were advised that the report presented a different type of information to make it more user friendly.

Members were advised of the following information within Quarter 2 performance report:-

The Service had achieved, or were within 10% of achieving 5 of the priority Operational targets:

- LI08 – Number of accidental dwelling fires.
- LI09 – Number of accidental kitchen fires in dwellings.
- LI10 – Number of accidental non kitchen fires in dwellings.
- LI21 – Number of malicious false alarm calls attended.
- LI35 – Number of fires in a non-domestic property.

Year to date (YTD) Q2 2022/23 Operational performance highlights were compared with YTD Q2 2021/22:

- Two deaths from accidental dwelling fires.

Members were advised that there would be a case conference to see if these could be prevented.

- 11,092 incidents attended (LI32), this was an increase of 20% (1878).
- Injuries from all fires (LI05) reduced by 21% (17).
- Injuries from accidental dwelling fires (LI03) increased by 4.
- 35% (6) injuries from accidental dwelling fires were caused by cooking appliance – cooker incl. oven. (LI03).
- Males aged 50-79 accounted for 35% of the injuries from accidental dwelling fires.
- 2% (4) decrease in accidental dwelling fires (LI08).
- In 14% (32) of accidental dwelling fires (233) no smoke alarm was fitted.
- In 28% (57) of accidental dwelling fires where a smoke alarm was fitted (201) the device did not activate. The most common reason for non-activation was the fire not being close enough to the detector.
- 36% (1,138) increase in deliberate fires (LI33).
- False alarms in domestic premises (LI23) have increased by 15% (193).
- False alarms in non-domestic premises have increased by 13% (94).

YTD Q2 2022/23 Corporate performance highlights compared with YTD Q2 2021/22:

- A total of 11,114 Safe and Well visits carried out, an increase of 7,777 (233%).
- 395 Fire Safety Audits carried out, 20% of yearly target.
- 91% of staff have a completed PDR.

- Critical training compliance rate of 96%.
- Staff sickness 4,602 shifts lost, 517 more compared to Q2 2021/2022.
- The average response time was 5 minutes 50 seconds, this was 15 seconds quicker than in Q2 2021/22.
- The average response time for the first appliance to a Risk Level 1 incident was 5 minutes 17 seconds, this was seven seconds quicker than in Q2 2021/22.
- 17 accidents to TWFRS personnel, a reduction of five from Q2 2021/2022.
- 29 attacks on Firefighters, a reduction of four.
- 11 vehicle accidents, a reduction of eight from Q2 2021/22.
- Total of 20,913 Emergency Calls, a 25% (4,228) increase on Q2 2021/2022, of the 20,913 calls 82% were answered within seven seconds.

The Committee was then advised of the Lifesavers Campaign which encouraged members of the public to help their vulnerable family members and neighbours to get the support they needed with all aspects of fire safety and an opportunity for a referral to the education team.

Councillor Woodwark referred to the incidents by time of day and commented that they were worse early evening.

Councillor Woodwark then referred to the graph per district and questioned what could be done in terms of reducing figures and prevention and was advised that in future reports the heat map would take account of population given that Newcastle was more highly populated.

In response to a question from Councillor Usher in relation to the number of calls received, the DCFO assured Members that there had been no reduction in the number of call handlers and that sufficient cover was in place.

In relation to false alarms, which had seen an increase, the use of smoke alarm detectors was showing a positive impact.

In response to a question from Councillor Dodds in relation to the fire fatalities, the Committee was advised that confirmation was awaited from the Coroner to understand whether any lessons could be learned.

Councillor Kilgour referred to the staff sickness which had increased from the previous year and asked for assurance that staff were being supported.

ACFO McVay responded by advising that there had been an increase in cases of mental health therefore the Service was looking at what more they could do and what further measures could be put in place. There was a Trauma Support provision in place, also the opportunity for a referral to OHU from Sunderland City Council, and wellbeing sessions, however further support was being considered. In addition, there

was also information on the portal to signpost employees to the relevant help that they may need and also information from the Trade Unions.

Councillor Dodds queried whether verbal attacks on Firefighters were recorded and was advised that all attacks whether physical or verbal were reported and that the collaboration work with the Police and Local Authorities was fantastic.

Councillor Usher welcomed the collaborative work which had been undertaken between the Fire Brigade and the Police and offered his support.

The DCFO responded by advising that there was a multi-agency approach in place for example the Darker Nights Campaign and that the support from Local Authorities was welcomed especially in relation to refuse collection, where support was really needed.

Councillor Kilgour agreed with the comments and commented that further information in relation to districts would be useful.

4. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

(Signed) K. DODDS
Vice-Chair