

15th March 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 2021 to 1st March 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 5 deliberate property fires, a reduction of 3 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 seemed positive. 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 deliberate property fires crews have been tasked with reporting unsecure premises in conjunction with ASB reporting.

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 403 deliberate secondary fires in this area over the report period compared to 207 over the same period last year. This is an increase of 94% 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 - 83 incidents in particular the grassed area close to Primate Road and former police station site. Pallion ward 78 incidents - areas such as the land at the rear of Prestwick road. Sandhill ward – 72 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. We have even used parent mail via several schools – eg Sandhill view Academy

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

There were a total of 437 deliberate fires in this reporting period (up to and including 1st March 2022). An increase of 69% on last Year. This is due to an increase in predominantly loose refuse/rubbish incidents and additional problems which were previously seen in and around the Thornrey close area and the former police station. The impact of a series of violent storms which the region has suffered has had an impact on property accessibility (due to the large number of fences being destroyed) This has made access to wheelie bins easier and the additional timber from the destroyed fence posts and panels has made this loose material more readily available which has subsequently been used as fuel for many incidents. Vehicle fire incidents have decreased. TWFRS are working with Sunderland city council environmental department, Gentoo to tackle loose refuse fires with work in the Sandhill and Pallion areas. Fire crews continue to monitor and report uplifts in the “hot spot areas”. Continued partnership work (Northumbria police) carrying out estate and site visits to reduce the number of loose refuse incidents. Any information regards any type of deliberate fire setting should be reported via the anonymous fire stoppers number.

3.6 Community Involvement

TWFRS continues to be involved with the hugely successful SARA project. The fire service have continued to support partners as part of the ongoing COVID response. Community education and safety information is being delivered through our home Safe and well delivery. Targeting our most vulnerable members of our community. It is anticipated that operational crews from Farringdon shall have delivered over 500 safe and wells before the end of the financial year.

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 has resumed at Farringdon Community Fire Station. Numbers have been problematic but following partner support and attendance alongside our whole time fire crew recruitment campaign we are happy to welcome 12 young people from various backgrounds onto the programme due to be complete end of April. 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 January. 32 firefighters are now working from their posted stations. Six of which were females, making this the largest number of females passing out from any cohort.

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 67 attacks on crews across Tyne and Wear. 43 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 police/fire service crests at the bottom: Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire Service, and a third crest. The background is dark with a yellow flame-like shape on the left.