



COMMUNITY SAFETY ENGAGEMENT

EARLY INTERVENTION

Fire Safety Support and Education

Statistical Report

April 2024 – March 2025

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1. Summary

This report presents the second full year of Fire Safety Support and Education (FSSE) activity delivered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service between April 2024 and March 2025. While it remains too early to identify long-term trends, several findings align with national research, particularly in relation to the age and gender of young people engaged.

During the reporting period, 173 FSSE cases were delivered, matching the previous year, with an estimated 431 hours spent on intervention work. Delivery varied widely across Local Senior Officer (LSO) Areas, with no clear correlation between case numbers, advisor availability, time spent, or levels of secondary fires. This suggests that workload is more influenced by case complexity than incident volume.

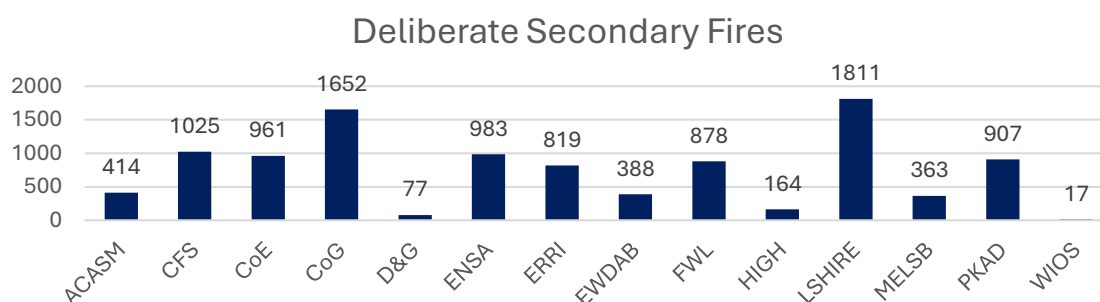
The number of trained FSSE Advisors reduced from 82 to 64, largely due to staff turnover and improved record keeping. Requests for support with FSSE were predominantly from external partners, especially Education and Youth Justice, with very few received from SFRS and none from Clinical Services.

Most young people engaged were aged 11–16, with males significantly overrepresented, reflecting UK-wide findings. A considerable number were care experienced or had additional support needs. Engagements mainly took place in homes and schools, with most cases resolved following a single intervention, supporting the programme's role in early intervention and community safety.

2. Introduction

The compliment of advisors per Local Senior Officer Area is not based on any established process and would appear to be a mix of legacy provision, availability of appropriate staff to conduct the role and those willing to do so.

Secondary fires data is broken down by LSO Area to compare secondary fires and Fire Safety Support and Education (FSSE) cases delivered. In 2023-24 the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 10,459 secondary fires, excluding chimney fires.



When comparing secondary fires, we need to take cognisance of the following:

Not all FSSE requests are a result of a fire that has been recorded on our system.

Not all secondary fires are started by young people, although anecdotal evidence suggests that they are responsible for the majority.

Those setting fires may be responsible for setting more than one fire

It was expected that those areas with higher secondary fires and/or more advisors would have more cases neither of these expectations proved to be correct.

There is no correlation between the time spent with some areas having less cases but spending more time, this may be related to the complexity of each case.

3. Update from 23-24 Report

The [FSSE report in 2023-24](#) was a combination of the quantitative data relating to the engagement and a survey of staff to gather qualitative data in terms of experience, knowledge and potential ways to support them. This then produced a series of recommendations to improve the support and professional development of advisors.

Actions from the recommendations in 2023-24.

- Created a monthly drop-in forum that advisors are free to attend, the forum provides an opportunity to discuss any issues relating to FSSE as well as inputs from external partner agencies on subjects relevant to FSSE such as Safeguarding in FSSE, Illegal Money Lending, Planning an FSSE sessions and Trauma awareness.
- Reviewed and updated existing resources and introduced new resources from sources such as Twinkl and the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC).
- Maintained links with the NFCC Fire Safety Intervention workstream
- Raised awareness among Local Authority Liaison Officer of the importance of including discussions on FSSE at Community Action Team meetings and during line management meetings. This will enable Advisors to share experiences and provide peer support.
- Provided ongoing CPD through quarterly events, this included Youth Gambling Awareness and Knife Crime.
- Provided access to online training on subjects such a neuro diversity or trauma informed practice sourced from external agencies such as YouthLink or 'TURUS' the NHS training and Learning portal.

4. FSSE Background

SFRS, Fire Safety Support and Education programme seeks to enable specially trained staff to engage with children and young people who demonstrate an unsafe or concerning interest in fire. Through a programme of targeted interventions, FSSE offers a flexible approach to assist in the education of those 18 and under. It is an import prevention tool, enabling SFRS to effectively contribute towards making our communities safer.

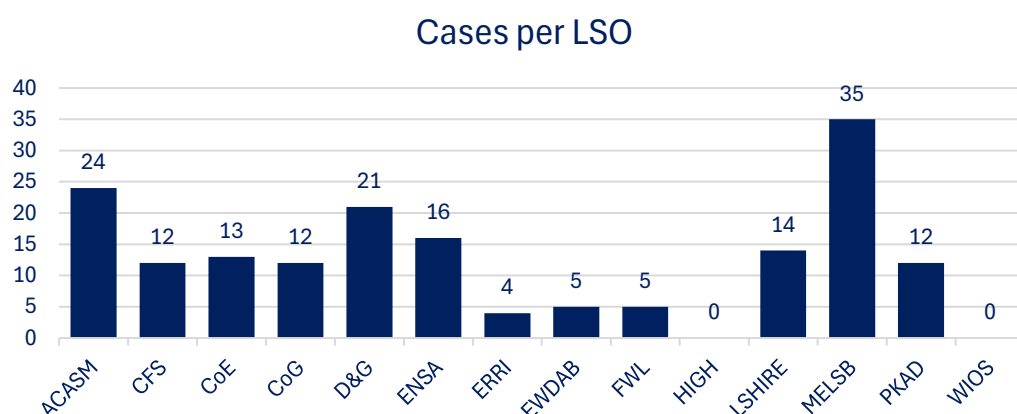
Working with children and young people, many of whom have had challenging life journeys, the FSSE programme makes a significant contribution to making our communities safer. This is delivered in line with the principles of GIRFEC (Getting it Right For Every Child) and supports national legislation including the [Antisocial Behaviour etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2004](#) and contributes to many of the outcomes of the SFRS Strategy 2025-2028

This report summarises the data collected from FSSE quarterly returns provided by LSO Area from the 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. This is the second full year of data using this data set, however at least 5 years data will be required before we can start to identify reliable trends.

NOTE: The data in this report only includes those young people that are engaged through the FSSE programme.

5. Cases and Advisors

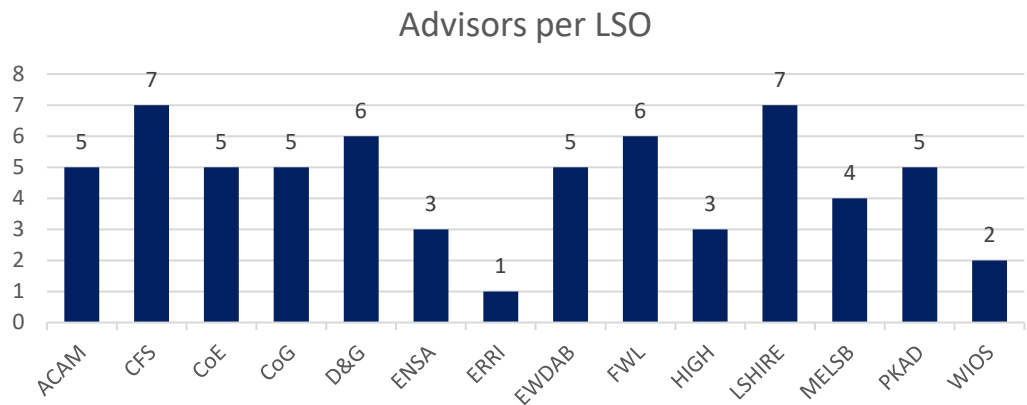
In 2024-2025 there were 173 cases, this is the same number of cases as the previous year and resulted in an estimated 431 hours spent on FSSE work.



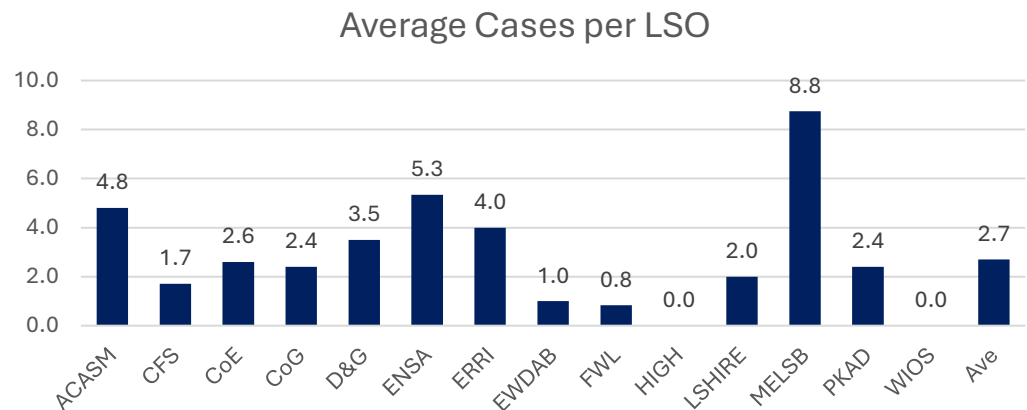
This is an average of 12 cases and 31 hours respectively per LSO Area. However, this ranged from 35 cases to 0 cases.

At the end of each case there is the potential to signpost people to either SFRS initiatives or other available services. Of the cases that were concluded during the year, 10 young people were referred to internal provision such as FireSkills and a further five young people were signposted to services provided by other agencies.

SFRS currently have 64 FSSE Advisors across the Service this was a reduction of 18 from 82 in April 2024. The drop in Advisors has been due to people leaving the service or the department and improved record keeping. Most areas have 4 or more advisors, however there is no recommended complement of advisors per area as this would depend on demand and geography. FSSE training was provided to 28 staff, over 3 courses, one in each SDA, this included those new to FSSE and existing Advisors seeking to update and refresh their skills.

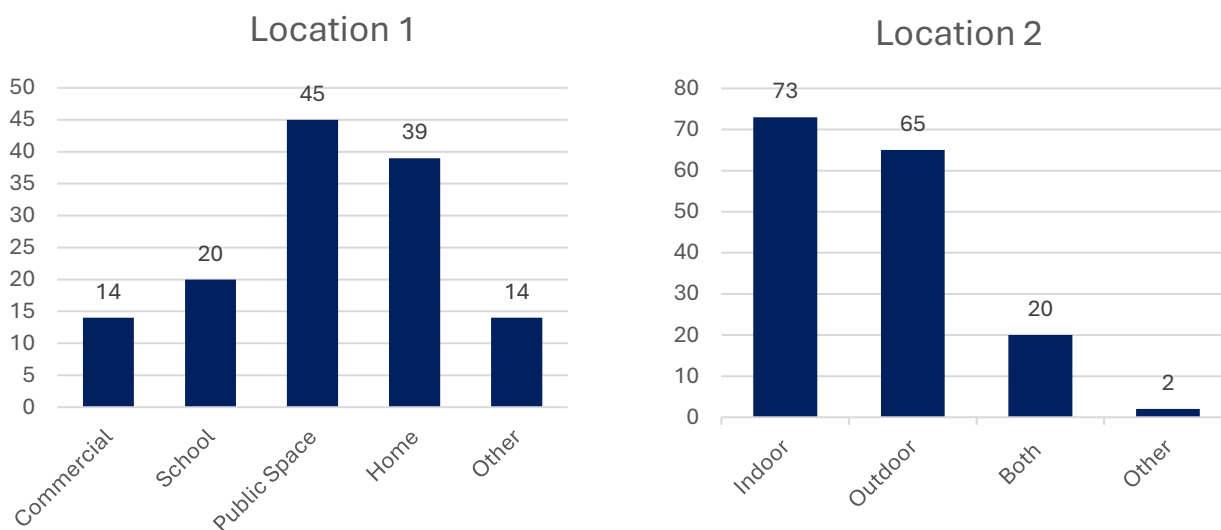


There was an average of 2.7 cases per advisor, four areas had an average of four or more cases per advisor however some advisors reporting having no cases in the last year.



6. Nature and Location of Fires

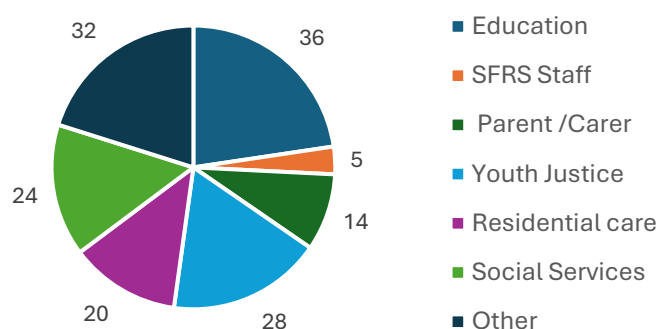
- 6.1. Public spaces were the most common location and over a third of fires took place either in the home or in a school. These figures are similar to last year. Slightly less than half, 73 fires were set indoors, with a decrease in outdoor fires from 90 to 65 from 2024-25 figures.



7. Delivering FSSE

Requests for support with FSSE predominately come from external sources with only five received from SFRS personnel. The highest requests for support were from Education with 36, followed by Youth Justice with 28. The high number of others came predominately from Police Scotland. There were no requests for support from Clinical Services.

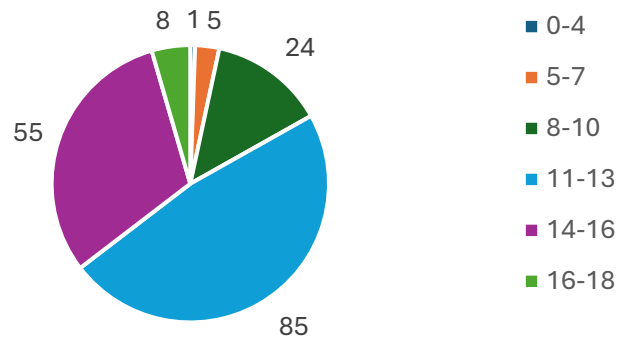
Origin of Requests for support



8. Young People

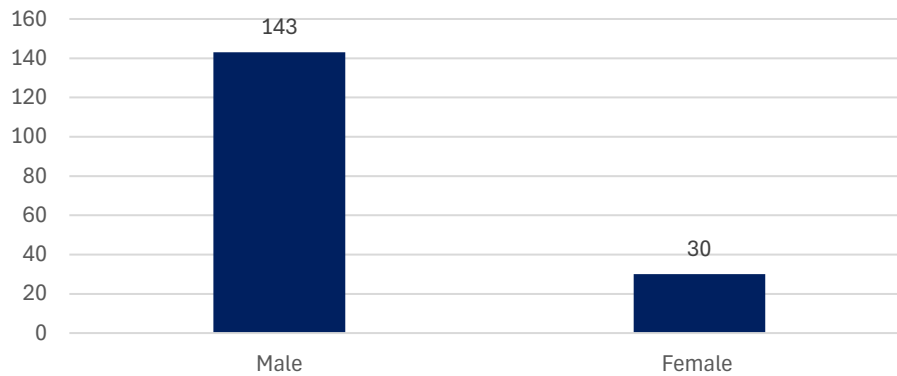
Most of the engagements conducted were with young people between the ages of 11 to 13 closely followed by 14- to 16-year-olds with significantly lower numbers either side of this.

Cases by Age

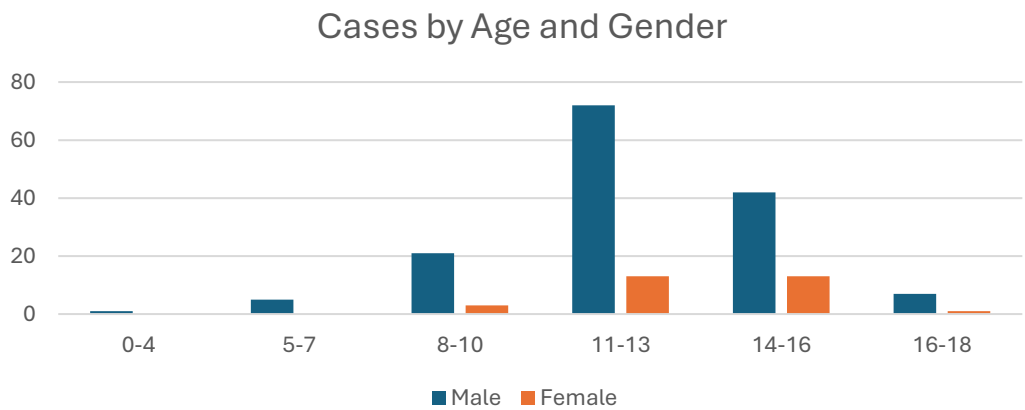


There was a greater number of males than females with 143 males, 30 females and two who identified as other. This is in line with the findings of the [National Fire Chiefs Council, Fire Safety Intervention research](#).

Cases by Gender



In each age group the number of males was higher than the number of females. The age and gender figures are in line with the findings of services across the UK.

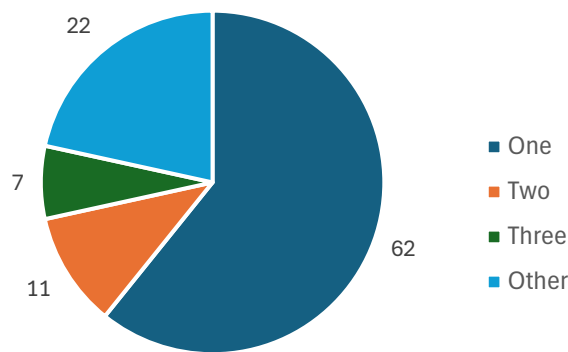


There were 44 young people who were Care Experienced and 40 known to have Additional Support Needs with one young person requiring an interpreter.

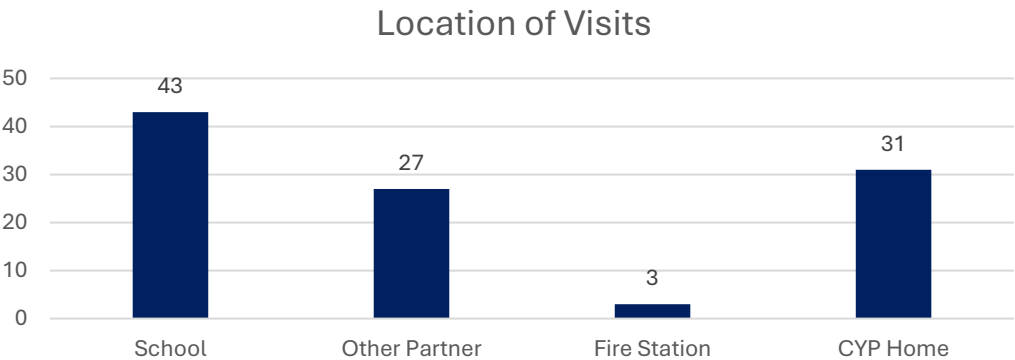
9. Engagements

9.1 Most cases required only one meeting, those included in the ‘other’ category were mainly cases where the young person refused to engage in the programme.

Visits per Case



Home was the most popular destination for the location of visits, closely followed by schools.



10. Recommendations

The following recommendations are made to support the maintenance and development of FSSE provision:

- Continue to raise awareness of the FSSE programme to internal staff, particularly crews through the WTFPP training"
- Raise awareness among external agencies and organisations, including Criminal Justice and Children and Family Mental Health Services.
- Review the FSSE administration and case handling processes with a view to making it more accessible for partners
- Update our website to ensure that agencies and members of the public have clear information on how to access FSSE support.