
PREVENTION
DIRECTORATE

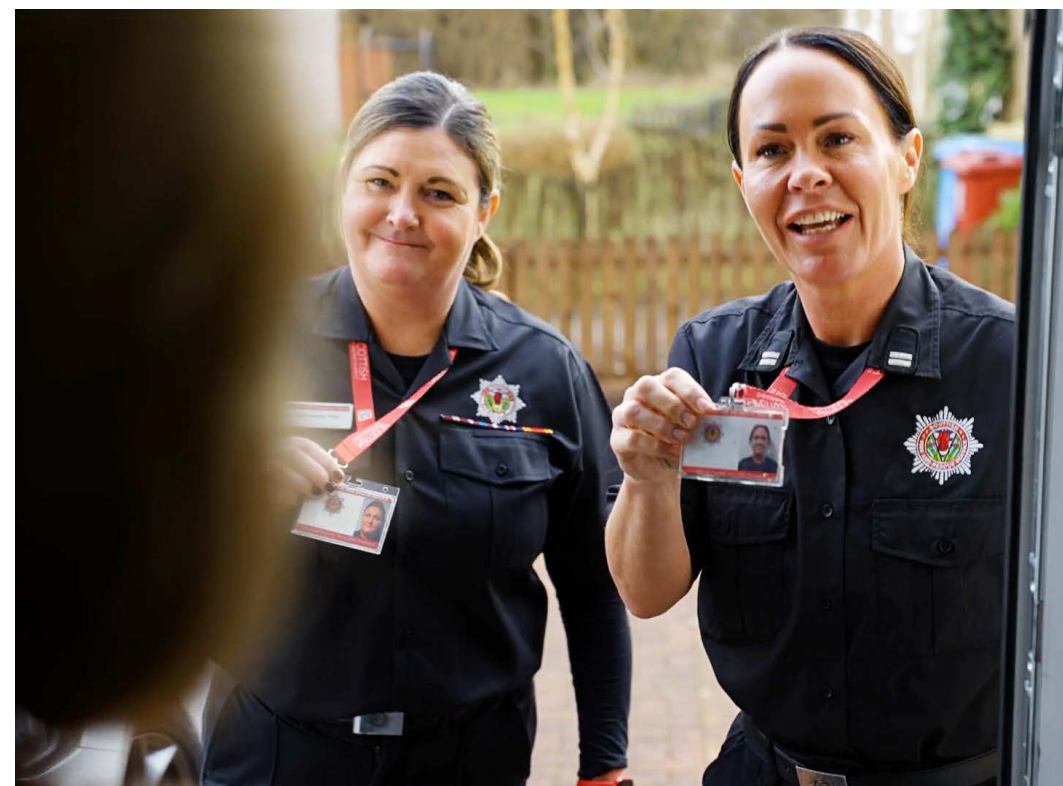
PREVENTION STRATEGY

2025–2028



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland



FIRE!

Shortly after, there were water by the wheel of a horse and engine driven at a fire. The engine, which is mounted on the four-wheeled carriage and the horse and carriage.

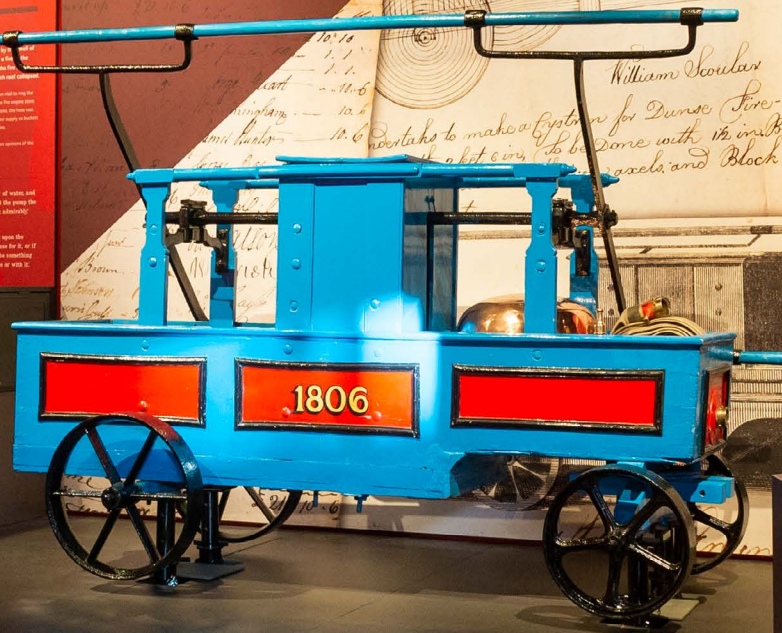
Engineer Robert Stevenson has been told to help the horse and engine driven at the fire. The engine can be used to pump water from the river into the city. The horse and carriage can be used to pump water from the river into the city.

In the day, the horse and engine driven at the fire.

With an abundant supply of water and plenty of willing hands at the pump the engine was found to work admirably.

... when at last it arrived upon the scene there was no more to be done. It was repaired there to be in the morning, and it was found to be in the morning.

HERITAGE



1806

HERITAGE

ABERDEEN

EARLY DAYS

1462
Act of Parliament
James I's Act tells Scottish Burghs (towns) how to prevent and fight fires.

1652
Great Fire of Glasgow
Nearly a third of Glasgow is destroyed by fire. About 1,000 people are made homeless.

GLASGOW

1703
Fire Act
Edinburgh's Fire Act attempts to bring some order to firefighting in the city. An original copy of the Act is displayed in your city.



1760s
Aberdeen
Aberdeen's first fire engine is built for the city and the first fire engine is built for the city.

1631
Edinburgh Improvement Act
The roof of every building in Edinburgh must be made of stone or wood or brick or tile. The roof must be made of stone or wood or brick or tile.



1677
Glasgow
Glasgow decides that all houses and shops must have a fire escape. The fire escape must be made of stone or wood or brick or tile.

EDINBURGH



1721
Aberdeen
After the city suffers several fires, the city decides to build a fire engine. The fire engine must be made of stone or wood or brick or tile.

1814
Edinburgh
Edinburgh's first fire engine is built for the city and the first fire engine is built for the city.



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
WHAT IS THE PREVENTION VISION?	3
WHAT IS THE PREVENTION STRATEGY?	5
OUR AMBITION FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND FIREFIGHTERS	6
COMMITMENT TO REVIEW DELIVERY	7
PREVENTION FUNCTIONS	8
PREVENTION DIRECTORATE STRUCTURE CHART	10
PREVENTION STRATEGY ON A PAGE....	12
EVALUATION	13

INTRODUCTION

Prevention lies at the core of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) legislative responsibilities, as outlined in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland.

Prevention is one of our key priorities and our commitment to enhancing Prevention is demonstrated across the Service, through activities and campaigns to prevent fires and other emergencies, protecting the public, built environment, improving community resilience and preparing for local and national events.

Prevention is critical to SFRS being a sustainable Service for the future. This strategy aims to set out the approach for a universal Prevention offering for the whole of Scotland, with dedicated efforts proportionate to the needs of our specific communities.

As a trusted Service, SFRS has an important role to play in working with key partners, including the NHS, Police Scotland, the Scottish Ambulance Service, local government, community and volunteer groups. Collectively, taking cognisance of the Marmot Principles, we will support Scotland's communities to improve, not only fire safety but the wider safety, regulation and resilience agendas that address inequalities, improve wellbeing and enhance resilience.

Over the next decade, Scotland will witness many changes and as such, SFRS needs to be adaptive. Addressing the social, health and economic conditions that lead to a safer Scotland will be key in how all public services will be designed, directed and resourced. Our prevention work will need to be evidence based, data driven and innovative, responding to emerging risk, whilst utilising technology and adopting ways of working that maximise the outputs and outcomes of our resources.

SFRS prevention work cuts across generations. Our aim is to support all of Scotland's communities, from engaging and educating children and young people, through to supporting adults and older

people to live safely and independently in their own homes. As Scotland's population becomes more diverse, we have an opportunity to build relationships with new and emerging communities, including those who are making Scotland their new home.

SFRS will also take into consideration Scotland's changing environment. We want to ensure communities are resilient and safe to new and emerging risks such as wildfires, flooding, and more extreme winters and storms. Associated with this is our work to support road and water safety. Preparedness will support such factors, ensuring staff, volunteers and communities are prepared to manage organisational and community disruption.

The Prevention Strategy is informed and influenced by a range of other strategies, both internal and external, as highlighted in this document. Resulting prevention work will evolve in response to emerging trends and priority areas.

This strategy sets out our priorities for the next three years and gives clarity and direction on how we will deliver prevention across Scotland, through the thematic areas of community safety engagement, protection and preparedness. This will require policy, guidance and tools, created within the Prevention Directorate, to support the front-line delivery of our prevention activities by station-based staff and prevention specialists within each Local Senior Officers' (LSO) Area, and community and volunteer groups.



WHAT IS THE PREVENTION VISION?

Through creating an environment that **empowers** our staff, we will continue to put Scotland's communities at the centre of all we do.

Working in **partnership** we will deliver **targeted prevention** activities that enhance the **safety** and **wellbeing** of the people of Scotland and address **emerging risks**.

EMPOWERING

- We will empower our people, ensuring competence, confidence and credibility of all our staff and volunteers through quality training, development and maintaining their specialist skills whilst considering bespoke career pathways.
- We will empower staff and volunteers by providing clarity of prevention roles and responsibilities, supporting mechanisms for local delivery and embracing innovative ideas.
- We will empower communities through listening to their needs and supporting them to develop resilience to be prepared for, and adapt to, future challenges as our environment changes.

PARTNERSHIP

- We will work in partnership to improve the safety and wellbeing of communities (or people) and businesses throughout Scotland. Through sharing data, knowledge and best practice for the good of the community, we can direct resources to individuals and areas most in need.
- We will strengthen our internal partnerships with other Directorates to share information and learn from Operational Assurance, Fire Safety Enforcement activities and involvement in major events, to improve processes and reduce risk to firefighters.

TARGETED PREVENTION

- We will use incident data, partner and open data, and utilise technological solutions to target resources. This includes creating risk profiles utilising factors that are known to increase the risk of harm from fire and a Risk Based Inspection Programme to predict the most influential factors that increase the risk of fire and the consequential impact.

SAFETY

- Safety is a core consideration in all of our business decisions, reflecting a proactive approach to meeting legislative and statutory obligations. This commitment to compliance demonstrates our dedication to continuous improvement and to maintaining the highest standards of safety across the Service.
- We are committed to protecting the safety of our personnel as they work to protect their communities. This principle will remain central to all relevant policies, procedures, and training, ensuring our people are supported, prepared, and protected in every aspect of their role.
- We will demonstrate our commitment to safeguarding, supporting vulnerable members of the community through appropriate referrals and signposting to ensure they can access the most appropriate assistance and advice.

WELLBEING

- We will foster a positive, inclusive work environment by prioritising staff wellbeing, promoting open communication, and embedding equality, diversity, and inclusion. Through leadership development, recognition, and safe working practices, we aim to support, empower, and value our people as they deliver vital services to Scotland's communities.
- Addressing the social, health and economic conditions that lead to a safer Scotland will be a key feature in how prevention services will be designed, directed and resourced.
- Understanding our diverse communities is key to ensuring we can engage effectively through a wide range of engagement activities, exploring the use of traditional and social media methods to provide information to the widest possible audience promoting behavioural changes and highlighting risks.



EMERGING RISKS

WE WILL:

- Assess the future landscape through an evolving Risk and Preparedness Assessment;
- Work with partners to ensure the maintenance of the hydrant network across Scotland;
- Manage risk through the enhancement of our Community Risk Index Model and formation of a strategic group to manage the challenges of all new and emerging risks.
- Improve our levels of preparedness through the creation of a Business Continuity Management System (BCMS);
- Analyse the impact of increased regulation such as Short Term Lets and Battery Energy Storage Systems and adapt our resourcing and delivery models as necessary.

WHAT IS THE PREVENTION STRATEGY?

The Prevention Directorate is made up of three Functions - Community Safety Engagement (CSE), Protection and Preparedness. The three Functions work collaboratively to share information to identify and reduce risk and support LSO teams to enhance the safety of our communities across Scotland.

COMMUNITY SAFETY ENGAGEMENT (CSE)



SAFER HOMES



EDUCATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



ROAD AND WATER SAFETY



HERITAGE



ADULT AND CHILD SAFEGUARDING

PREPAREDNESS



RESILIENCE



COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT



WATER PLANNING

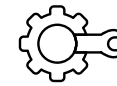


BUSINESS CONTINUITY

PROTECTION



FIRE SAFETY ENFORCEMENT



FIRE ENGINEERING



FIRE INVESTIGATION

Each Function will develop a three-year Framework which sets out in detail how this Strategy will be delivered. These will capture our core prevention activities, whilst also detailing our ambitions. These priorities will be delivered locally via Local Fire Plans and Station Plans.

Prevention activity is delivered locally and through partnerships, by a highly skilled and empowered workforce. This approach adopts innovation, detailed analysis of risk and a data driven approach to targeted intervention initiatives.

We will strengthen existing provision of prevention services through the delivery of training and support to local practitioners, reviewing delivery models, exploring opportunities to work with partners, and assessing our performance and accountability processes.

OUR AMBITION

FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND FIREFIGHTERS

- Investment in new and enhanced data-led prevention interventions where their design is led by research and working with partners to reduce risk and incidents.
- Increased collaboration in the development and influencing of national policy, legislation and direction setting.
- Improved approaches to evaluation of our prevention interventions to enhance how we and our partners work to prevent harm.
- A revised approach to fire prevention and enforcement, informed by the findings of major incident reviews, including the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Reports and the Cameron House Public Inquiry. These insights will guide improvements in policy, practice, and regulatory activity to enhance public safety and reduce risk.
- Increased preparedness that enables us to work alongside communities and our partners to build resilience to help us, and them, be better organised to meet the challenges of major incidents as well as enhancing day to day community safety.
- Continued commitment to community planning and partnership working, nationally and across all localities in Scotland, to improve community safety and wellbeing.



COMMITMENT TO REVIEW DELIVERY

The SFRS Strategic Service Review Programme (SSRP) was established in 2023 to explore how we deliver our services across the whole of Scotland. SSRP is split across three distinct programmes of work:

Enabling
Infrastructure

Corporate
Services Review

Service Delivery
Review (SDR)

The Prevention Directorate will work in tandem with all programmes across SSRP and identify opportunities where improvements to Prevention can be made. This includes our SDR Programme which has a particular focus on enhancing our prevention approach across Scotland.

Through activities proposed within the SDR Programme, a more modern approach to Service Delivery and Prevention aims to enhance resources and realise opportunities and benefits as each phase progresses. This commitment guarantees that any modifications in our Prevention activities are not just fair in response to SDR impacts, but are also enhanced through collaborative efforts with LSO areas, partners, and communities.

We will stay flexible, creative, and ambitious in our prevention efforts. We'll be prepared to take advantage of opportunities from our Strategic Service Review, aiming to use prevention and better laws as alternatives to responding to and managing operational changes.



PREVENTION FUNCTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

The Preparedness team will deliver excellent organisational and community preparedness and resilience with a risk-based approach to enhancing firefighter and community safety.



PREPAREDNESS

We will continue to develop the organisation to ensure SFRS has the ability to operate during periods of disruption and minimise their occurrence.



RESILIENCE

We will invest in resilience professionals, systems and processes to support the SFRS ability to manage prolonged periods of disruption.



RISK-BASED

We will analyse data to identify current and future risks that will support and influence decision making.



SAFETY

We will horizon scan to identify and mitigate future risk that may impact firefighter and community safety.



We will do this by delivering three Policy and Operational Guidance (POG) documents that will underpin the Preparedness Framework:

Resilience

- Business Continuity Management System
- Enhance access to the Community Asset Register
- Event Planning
- Identify opportunities to build community resilience
- Develop a Risk Preparedness Assessment

Community Risk Management (CRM)

- Operational Intelligence
- Community Risk Index Model

Water Planning

- Hydrant Planning and Maintenance

Functional

- Change to New and Emerging Risks Group

COMMUNITY SAFETY ENGAGEMENT

Over the duration of the Strategy CSE will focus on the following areas:

- Utilise incident data, knowledge and partner intelligence to identify those most at risk to direct resources and evaluate resulting outputs and outcomes.
- Lead and support public and third sector partners to address wider safety issues and consider how SFRS can add value to Scotland's communities through targeted initiatives and interventions. This includes road and water safety, children and young people, our ageing population, health and social care priorities, and related impacts of climate change.
- Train and support staff and volunteers to ensure SFRS fulfil its safeguarding duties, engaging with partners to ensure those most at risk are identified and support is provided.
- Provide resources, training and invest in our staff and volunteers to deliver interventions across the areas of fire, road and water safety. This includes using online platforms and new technologies to deliver impactful messages and affect behavioural change.
- Use SFRS's unique history and heritage to share community safety messages with people of all ages across the country.



PROTECTION

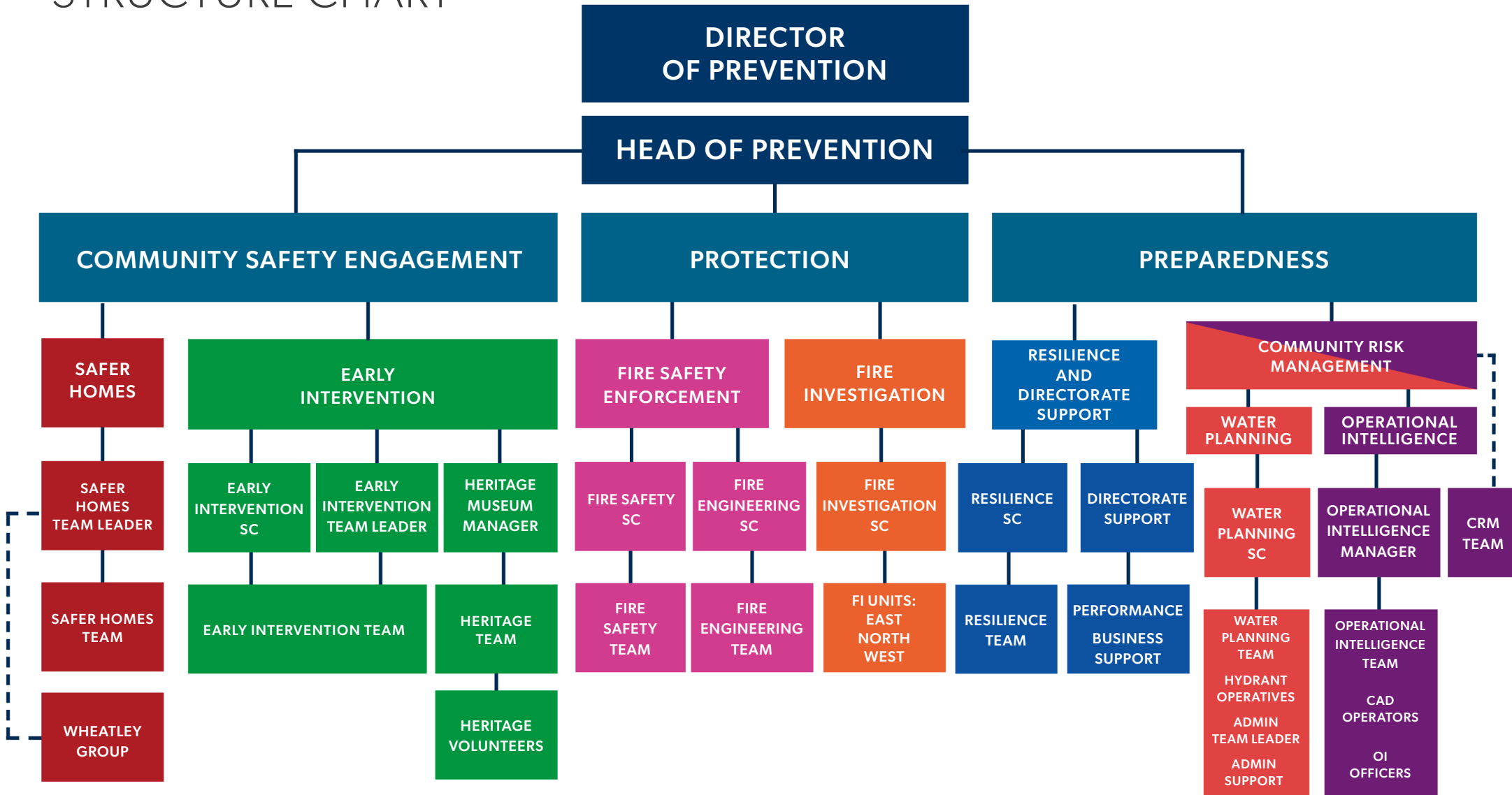
The Protection Function encompasses some of the most specialised subject matter experts within the Service and this strategy intends to ensure that those skills are developed, maintained and retained at the highest level and deployed appropriately and effectively to reduce community and firefighter risk.

WE WILL:

- Review our approach to protection and enforcement to include consideration of findings from major incident reviews, such as Grenfell, and focus on effectively resourcing its delivery, including options for operational crews to deliver this approach within the diverse geography and communities in Scotland.
- Develop our strategy to recruit, develop and retain competence for all protection activities in line with a dedicated career pathway.
- Implement a competency-based Framework that aligns with national Fire Standards which will maintain competence, demonstrate excellence and contribute to a more consistent national approach in reducing risk and maximising effective delivery.
- Engage with academia and key partners to consider how we further enhance the skills and training abilities of our Specialist Fire Safety Enforcement, Fire Investigation and Fire Engineering teams, considering legislative changes, modern technology and innovative practices.
- Seek to enhance our Fire Investigation capabilities and utilise new technologies and practices for more informed investigation outcomes, whilst further developing our close relationships with partners to learn from incidents and inform prevention efforts to meet current and emerging challenges.
- Assess the role that SFRS undertakes in responding to consultations with Local Authorities and other key agencies, including assessing potential for recovering costs where appropriate.

PREVENTION DIRECTORATE

STRUCTURE CHART



PREVENTION STRATEGY ON A PAGE

A universal prevention offering for the whole of Scotland, with dedicated efforts proportionate to the needs of our specific communities.



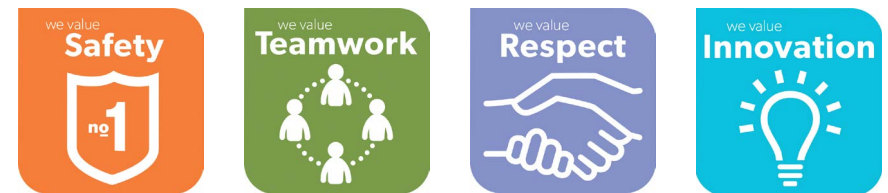
OUR VISION

"To be a leading, sustainable, modern and technologically advanced fire and rescue service that is fit to meet the challenges of Scotland's future."

OUR MISSION

"Working Together for a Safer Scotland."

OUR VALUES



OUR AMBITION

To achieve our ambitions, we have identified five strategic objectives for the Service. Each objective holds equal value in driving our Strategy forward. As a collective, they define our overall direction and will be central to how we plan our activities and our budget over the next three years.



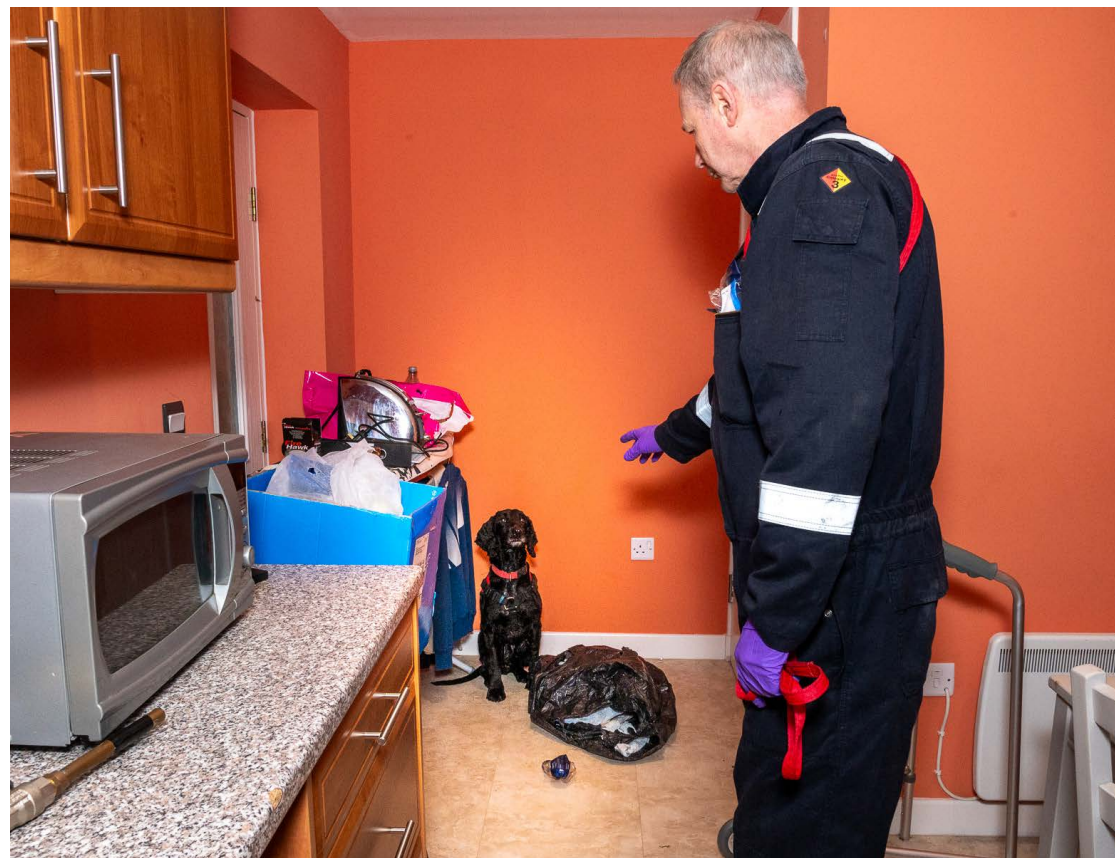
EVALUATION

Before commencing any prevention activities, the measurement of outcomes and outputs will be considered. Where relevant, more in-depth analysis, using evaluation methodologies should be carried out, sharing effective practice internally and externally.

Investment in prevention activities will have a positive impact not only for SFRS but partner organisations. A joint approach to delivering community outcomes and reducing inequalities benefits service providers and users, decreasing budgetary requirements and streamlining support and interventions.

Prevention related Key Performance Indicators will be included within the Service's Performance Management Framework. Prevention expectations will be agreed with LSOs and reflected in both Local Fire Plans and Station Plans, underpinned by a Prevention Performance and Evaluation Framework.

Whilst we intend to continually measure and evaluate this strategy over the next three years, it's recognised that the benefits from some of the prevention work, may not be realised for an extended period of time. Longer-term outcomes and behavioural change may require engagement with academic partners and investment in evaluation methods to evidence the outcomes of our work.



FIRESOTLAND.GOV.UK

Prevention Directorate
Prevention Strategy
Version 2.0 – September 2025



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland