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1. FOREWORD

Welcome to the third edition of 'SFRS Working in Partnership'. This document highlights just some of the varied and wide-ranging partnership initiatives we have collaborated on with our numerous partners over the last year to keep our communities safe and well.

Partnership working is at the core of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and its importance is recognised in our [Strategic Plan 2022-25](#) which contains a dedicated Strategic Outcome that focuses on the work we carry out with our partners. To continue to deliver efficient and effectual services to the communities of Scotland and ensure the safety of our firefighters, we must continue to deliver against this Outcome at a local, national, and international level.

The examples set out in this report highlight a key part of our contribution to the Scottish Government's approach to Public Service Reform. That approach emphasises the need to:

- Ensure public services remain fiscally sustainable by reducing costs and reducing long-term demand through investment in prevention
- Improve outcomes, which will improve lives and reduce demand
- Reduce inequalities of outcome among communities in Scotland, recognising the need not just for improved outcomes, but a focus in policy and delivery on those most disadvantaged.

By working in partnership with other public service bodies, our communities and the third sector we make strong contributions to these aspirations on behalf of Scotland.

In our Strategic Plan Outcome Seven is dedicated to partnerships, but this joint approach can be seen in practically every area of our work. To demonstrate, the examples of successful partnership working we have chosen to include in this document have all been aligned to one of our seven Strategic Outcomes.

This document illustrates that we continue to proactively seek opportunities to secure a joined-up approach to Scotland's challenges, with a diverse range of partners, through robust and transparent partnership working to ensure the best services are provided for our communities whilst keeping our firefighters safe.



MARK McATEER

Director of Strategic
Planning, Performance
and Communications

It highlights a comprehensive array of partnership and collaborative initiatives including the provision of essential water safety advice; working together to provide an emergency response at incidents; undertaking a wide range of training exercises; opening a community garden, providing bespoke educational programmes; sharing e-learning modules with our partners; hosting a youth engagement schools competition; and delivering crucial fire safety advice. We work with our blue light colleagues and other public, private and third sector partners, all of which help us deliver our fire and rescue agenda. In addition, it provides an insight of our diverse commitments towards preventative and resilience partnership arrangements.

Thank you to all our staff who are at the heart of this tremendous partnership work. These individuals and teams are talented, committed and their professionalism, dedication, engagement, knowledge and proficiency are fundamental to the success of these initiatives. We must also highlight our partners' help and support, without which the delivery of our collaborative initiatives would not be possible. It is also important we share our successes and learn from our experiences so that our partnership work achieves the best outcome for our partners, communities and stakeholders.

Partnership working is foundational in enabling us to maintain an excellent service which is effective, efficient and value for money in responding to the changing needs of communities. We will continue to place partnership working at the core of what we do and continue to collaborate with our partners to build and develop on the work set out in this report to deliver excellent services to make the people and communities of Scotland safer.

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The core purpose of the SFRS centres around partnership working, with the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2022 reiterating its importance by stating:

‘The main purpose of the SFRS is to work in partnership with communities and with others in the public, private and third sectors, on prevention, protection and response, to improve the safety and well-being of people throughout Scotland.’

In addition to this we also have a wide range of statutory duties to work with others in several aspects of our role, including but not limited to:

- preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies ¹
- community planning arrangements ²
- improving outcomes for communities to meet the needs of the people who use our services ³
- contributing to local strategic planning, monitoring and delivery of community justice outcomes ⁴
- improving outcomes and driving inclusive growth for Island communities. ⁵

At local community and national levels, we also engage in numerous voluntary partnership arrangements. At a National level we work through the Reform Collaboration Group (RCG) with Police Scotland (PS) and the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) to drive collaboration across all areas of how the three Blue Light Services work together. We also work

in partnership with a wide array of private sector partners in areas relating to community and firefighter safety. Across local areas we are also core participants in partnerships that range from delivering food security to people in need to supporting employability programmes aimed at helping young people into work. All of which adds significant value to the safety and wellbeing of local communities.

We work in this way because we know that it enables improvements in the lives of communities by reducing barriers across public services and other bodies in helping build a common focus on meeting the needs of communities.

Our approach to partnership working is an ever-evolving part of how we work to improve the safety and wellbeing of the people of Scotland. We proactively seek out and actively engage in many forms of partnership working where the level of formality varies depending on the issues we are dealing with. We always seek through partnership working to achieve common goals and agree actions for how those goals can be achieved to improve outcomes for the people of Scotland.

The combination of our skills, insight, resources and commitment with that of our partners is critical to adding value across Scotland’s many communities in this way.

Through our partnership working, we directly contribute to the National Performance Framework, and locally via our commitment to Community Planning Partnerships and through Local Outcome Improvement Plans.

In essence, as a Service we are driven to improve the safety and wellbeing of the people of Scotland, and we know that working alongside and in partnership with others is the best way to achieve this.

1 *Civil Contingencies Act 2004*

2 *Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015*

3 *Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015*

4 *Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016*

5 *The Island (Scotland) Act 2018*

3. OUTCOME 1:

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELLBEING IMPROVES AS WE DEPLOY TARGETED INITIATIVES TO PREVENT EMERGENCIES AND HARM.

During 2023/24, we continued to improve public safety through prevention and protection initiatives by jointly running a range of local and national safety awareness initiatives with partners and appropriately sharing data. We provided crucial fire safety advice, essential water safety advice, equipment, training and introduced a new scheme to provide life-saving water rescue training to businesses close to water and worked with our partners to reach as many vulnerable people as we could. These targeted initiatives helped us to maintain an efficient service whilst providing value for money and ensured our services are accessible to, and effective, for all members of our community.

OUR INITIATIVES

Reducing deliberate fire setting through Community Safety Advocates

Lanarkshire has been identified as having one of the highest areas of deliberate fire-setting within Scotland. To help reduce this anti-social behaviour, local staff have worked alongside Calderhead High School, in Shotts, to base a Community Safety Advocate (CSA) at the school.

Embedding a CSA within the High School was a proactive step towards building positive relationships and reducing anti-social behaviour and deliberate fire setting.

The CSA is present in the school for one half day a week, allowing them to establish strong relationships with students, staff, and parents, fostering a sense of trust and familiarity within the school community. Working in partnership with Police Scotland, the CSA collaborated on various initiatives and programmes aimed at promoting community safety.

The CSA, alongside partners, has delivered workshops, presentations, and curriculum-based lessons that addressed the consequences of anti-social behaviour and educated students on responsible choices. By actively engaging in this partnership working with the school and external agencies, the CSA ensured that Calderhead High School received comprehensive support and resources to tackle these issues effectively.

The CSA plays a crucial role in creating a safer and more harmonious environment for everyone involved and has helped to significantly reduce deliberate fire setting in the area.

Assisting drug and alcohol support services in West Lothian

Working with West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service (WLDAS) we have been supporting people attending addiction services in the area. Many of the people that WLDAS work with are at increased risk.

As part of the partnership WLDAS have delivered drug awareness sessions to our staff detailing the types of substances in use in the local area, how to identify them and how to refer to WLDAS. Voluntary training on the benefits of Naloxone in opioid overdoses has been delivered to our staff.

Our staff attend the needle exchange programmes alongside WLDAS to directly engage with drug users. This has helped us to identify difficult to reach people within the community who may benefit from a Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) and the issue of fire-retardant bedding where necessary.

This partnership initiative has allowed us access to offer support to a vulnerable section of the community who would otherwise be difficult to engage with. WLDAS are a Community Safety Engagement Toolkit referrer and encourage the uptake of HFSVs to clients.

Plans are in place to offer awareness sessions to our crews in West Lothian and a similar partnership with drug and alcohol support services in the Falkirk area is being explored.



Fauldhouse Initiative

We worked in partnership with Police Scotland, West Lothian Council (WLC) Fauldhouse Regeneration team, WLC Education department, WLC Community Learning and Development Youth Services, West Lothian Youth Action Project, Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Community Development Trust, and The Larder - West Lothian to form the Fauldhouse Initiative.

The Fauldhouse Initiative was formed to tackle youth disorder and improve the outcomes for the local community when it became clear that Fauldhouse was experiencing a large volume of deliberate fire-setting and anti-social behaviour, including violence to operational crews. Other issues identified included damage to property, stones thrown at buses resulting in withdrawal of services, and intimidation of members of the community due to large groups of youths gathering.

The partnership allowed for a multi-partnership approach to tackle these issues and focused on identifying those involved and engaging with them to reduce offending behaviour. Young people from the area took part in our Fireskills courses to give them an understanding of the role of the fire service and the consequences of the deliberate fire setting. An information day was held to explain to the local community the work that was being undertaken to tackle the local issues. A Fauldhouse Youth Group was established with the support of a local business to engage with young people and provide them with activities and somewhere to meet on a Friday evening.

The initiative has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of fire calls and other anti-social behaviour within the area. The success of the initiative has been recognised by community partners and similar methods will be used in other areas to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Fire Safety Educational Training

We worked in partnership with Renfrewshire Council Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) to provide Fire Safety Educational Training (FSET) to all staff within both the HSCP and the local authority. This programme is now embedded within Renfrewshire Council's annual staff education and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) syllabus for both acquisition and maintenance. The partnership arrangement is reciprocal with our local staff being able to access CPD courses via Renfrewshire Council.

Our staff train our partners in FSET to be able to identify service users who are most at risk of fire allowing them to make referrals direct to us through the established referral pathway, providing the opportunity for us to carry out appropriate interventions i.e. a Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV). Key outcomes of the FSET training are to identify indicators of people who are at high risk from fire, identification of fire risks within the home, develop greater partnership engagement and know how to refer individuals to us for HFSVs.

The course is a one-hour interactive presentation which covers a statistical overview of fatal and non-fatal fire incidents attended by us, intervention options, identifying those most at risk from fire in the home, most common causes of fire in the home, HFSV referral process and a case study.

Plans are in place to expand this approach across the remaining local authority areas within the East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde area.

Tackling anti-social behaviour in Weymss Bay and Inverkip

Alongside our partners Police Scotland, Inverclyde Council, British Transport Police and ScotRail we established a partnership approach to tackling anti-social behaviour and deliberate fire setting in Weymss Bay and Inverkip. This was developed because of an identified trend in anti-social behaviour and deliberate fire setting during the Easter period and over the summer months, which was having a detrimental impact on the safety and wellbeing of the local community.

To address this ongoing issue partners met with Wemyss Bay and Inverkip Community Council, representatives of Ardgowan Estate, elected members from Inverclyde Council and the local Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) to agree how to tackle the issues. For us this included providing reassurance to the community, offering Home Fire Safety Visits to residents, committing to delivering talks to all high schools within the ward, and engaging weekly with the local MSP around incident activity statistics.

This multi-agency partnership approach to tackling anti-social behaviour and deliberate fire setting has proved to be effective resulting in a significant reduction in incidents of this nature and will be adopted across the East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde areas, if similar trends are identified in future.

Working with Registered Social Landlords to keep tenants safe

We established a crucial partnership with 30 registered social landlords within Lanarkshire to help identify and target high-risk Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV). The aim of this partnership was to reduce the number of accidental dwelling fires and casualties and increase the safety and well-being of individuals and communities.

The partnership developed a risk recognition training package which could be delivered to all local Housing teams. The training package focused on identifying high-risk areas and individuals who are most vulnerable to fire hazards and included information on how to refer individuals to us for a HFSV.

Registered social landlords promoted the referral pathways to their tenants through newsletters, posters, and other communication channels. The crucial data including the number of referrals and HFSV made through the referral pathway is used to identify areas where additional outreach efforts are needed.

Another key component of this partnership is the analysis of fatal fires which allows the partnership to identify the root

causes of these incidents and develop strategies to prevent future occurrences. This analysis is ongoing and involves input from all stakeholders, including us, registered social landlords and other community partners. The partnership focusses on providing education and resources to individuals and communities.

By working together with our partners, we continue to make a vital and significant impact on fire safety in Scotland to keep our communities safe.

Supporting Scotland's National Drowning Prevention Strategy

Each year in Scotland there are approximately 50 accidental drowning fatalities. During 2023/24, we worked with our partners to continue to support Scotland's National Drowning Prevention Strategy by promoting crucial lifesaving water safety advice to enhance the safety of communities. Here are some examples of this critical work to prevent/reduce drownings that we carried out:

Sharing live-saving skills

As part of an innovative approach to water rescue education, we previously worked alongside the Royal National Lifeboat Institution to introduce the Waterside Responder Scheme. Targeting businesses close to rivers or canals, the scheme provides guidance on how to operate a water rescue throwline and shares steps to take in an emergency.

To widen the reach of this scheme, we have since delivered life-saving water rescue training at Edinburgh's McDonald Road Community Fire Station to several partners including Police Scotland, the Scottish Ambulance Service and Edinburgh City Council.

Our partners then rolled out the training to local businesses based along Edinburgh's Leith Shore, who had voluntarily signed up for guidance, aiming to provide confidence to safely intervene in an emergency. Providing members of the public with the skills required to intervene in an emergency can save lives and support the work of emergency responders.

This event was well received by the local community and provided reassurance that we continue to work towards enhancing the safety of everyone within the local area. The training attracted significant media attention, further helping to raise awareness.

For guidance on how to remain safe in and around water, visit Scottish Fire and Rescue Service: www.firescotland.gov.uk/outdoors/water-safety



Providing life-saving equipment in the community

In April 2023, Blairgowrie firefighters held a community water safety event with partners from Police Scotland, Tayside Mountain Rescue, Perth and Kinross Council, Community Wardens, and Blairgowrie and Rattray Community Council.

During the event, which was held to improve water safety at the River Ericht, we worked with local partners to install potentially life-saving equipment, including water safety boards and throwlines. The water safety boards, which were placed along the riverbanks at Sir William Macpherson Park, included location information, safety advice, and mental health support information.

As well as providing the new equipment, the event allowed visitors to learn how to use lifesaving throwlines safely and learn Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

Due to the success of the event, multi-agency water safety training at Blairgowrie High School for all students and teachers took place in June 2023. The event saw 600 young people take part in practical exercises to teach them how to use throwlines and what to do should they encounter someone who requires lifesaving Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. It is anticipated that this training will now become a regular feature for all new First Year pupils going forward.

Water Safety Scotland National Workshop

A Water Safety Scotland (WSS) National Workshop was held for over 300 First Year and Second Year pupils from Hermitage Academy, Helensburgh who received critical safety advice and guidance on how to remain safe when in or around water. Pupils were encouraged to be aware of WSS's Water Safety Code before entering or being around water.

The delivery of the WSS National Workshop was only possible through the strong partnership working of the Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) Group.

Due to the remarkable success of the event, Argyll & Bute PAWS partners undertook a wider roll out of the workshop throughout schools in the region to raise awareness of water safety before the end of the school year and beginning of the summer holidays.





Hundreds of Young People receive Water Safety Training

New national water safety training was delivered by a Swift Water Rescue Team from Polmadie Community Fire Station to 300 Fifth Year high school pupils at Holyrood Secondary School, Glasgow.

This event was the first of its kind in Glasgow where operational Swift Water Rescue Technician's delivered the Water Safety Scotland National Workshop. The crew passed on life-saving skills designed to develop young people's understanding of the dangers of water, the effects of cold-water shock and how to keep themselves and others safe around water and response in an emergency.

The workshop included interactive elements for young people to help to get them to talk about the dangers of water. The operational crew who delivered the training could relate real-world incidents they had attended to the information in the workshop.

The event received incredibly positive feedback, and Holyrood Secondary School requested we schedule this as an annual event for Fifth Year and Sixth Year pupils at Easter to prepare for the warmer weather.

The training was delivered as part of Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy and by us delivering this programme we can help to reduce the numbers of accidental drownings and assist in the delivery of Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy which aims to reduce accidental drowning fatalities by 50%.



4. OUTCOME 2: COMMUNITIES ARE SAFER AND MORE RESILIENT AS WE RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO CHANGING RISKS.

We have continued to ensure our teams worked effectively and safely together with partner agencies to improve our service to the public. We have supported firefighter safety by providing a wide range of training including flooding; hazard awareness; animal rescue; multi-agency and cross-border exercises; and resulting in development and learning for operational and non-operational staff to increase and expand skills and effective cross-agency work. We worked in smarter and more cost-effective ways, sharing intelligence across partner agencies and identified vulnerable people, ensuring a focus on prevention through initiative-taking interventions including home fire safety checks and social care, supported by bespoke educational programmes.

OUR INITIATIVES

Building Resilience within our Communities

Blairgowrie in Perth and Kinross was affected by significant localised flooding in 1994, 2001, 2004, 2015, 2020 and 2023, and therefore has been identified as a Potentially Vulnerable Area. Firefighters from Blairgowrie, in partnership with colleagues from Police Scotland, Blairgowrie and Rattray Community Council and Perth and Kinross Council have secured flood prevention equipment and trained residents on how to use it in times of emergency.

Working together with the Local Resilience Partnership, firefighters secured funding for a range of resilience equipment including flood sax, flood gates, pumps, wheelbarrows, and sandbags, all of which have been added to a secure container on site.

These resources are being given to the people who need them most to allow them to protect their homes from flooding.

Hazard Awareness Training

Lanarkshire Community Safety Engagement team delivered hazardous awareness training to numerous partners utilising the Safe House at our National Training Centre, Cambuslang.

The training has been delivered throughout the year to our partner organisation's front-line staff from South Lanarkshire New Carers, Police Scotland, both North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire local authorities Social Work (Adult Protection) and Housing departments, and National Health Service.

This training involves practical input sessions in the reduction of fire-related hazards and the support we can offer as a Service. Furthermore, it assists in the identification of High-Risk Home Fire Safety (HFSV) visits for the most at risk within the Lanarkshire community and has assisted in achieving an increase of completed HFSV in the high-risk category.

By working together, we can continue to make a positive impact in reducing accidental dwelling fires and ensuring the safety of our communities.

NFCC Contaminants Project Group

Our volunteers from Safety and Assurance, Health and Wellbeing, and Training functions participated in National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Contaminants key work packages. The NFCC Contaminants Project Group is responsible for monitoring, reviewing, and supporting evidence-based research to understand potential risks and inform future guidance and recommendations in relation to Contaminants.

Through this vital partnership working we benefit from increased knowledge and learnings of practices implemented throughout the United Kingdom. It provides us an opportunity to consider recommendations to demonstrate continual improvement and best practice.

The NFCC Contaminants Project Group deliver regular reports, updates, and information to the NFCC Health and Safety Committee. This work is supported through our dedicated Contaminants Group who is kept abreast of all relevant information to ensure firefighter safety.



Realistic Training Exercises

Training with our partners is crucial and there are many benefits to carrying out mock exercises at varying locations to ensure we can test our approaches and communication channels between each organisation. During 2023/24, we took part in a wide range of training activities alongside our partners:

Specialist Training for Animal Rescues

Staff at Stornoway Community Fire Station worked in collaboration with the British Horse Society Scotland (BHSS) and the University of Glasgow Weipers Centre on training aimed at handling incidents involving animals. Stornoway Community Fire Station is the first station in Scotland to undergo this specialist training.

The training equips firefighters with the necessary skills needed to handle incidents where animals become trapped, which is a frequent challenge across the Western Isles. Crews across the island participated including Scalpay and South Lochs.

The BHSS generously donated animal rescue-specific equipment. This equipment will be stored on the Stornoway appliance, ready for immediate deployment to any incidents involving animals in Lewis and Harris.

The specialist training not only improves our ability to respond to incidents involving large animals but enhances overall safety for everyone involved.

Radioactive response at Dounreay

A multi-agency training exercise took place at Dounreay Nuclear licensed site, Caithness. This joint RADS SAFE emergency exercise involved crews from Thurso and Bettyhill and our partners from Police Scotland and Scottish

Ambulance Service. The RADS SAFE scheme is a mutual aid scheme operated by the nuclear industry which is activated in the event of a radioactive transport incident.

The exercise, coordinated by Dounreay Emergency Arrangements, practiced the response by local emergency services and Dounreay teams to a road traffic accident which involved a van carrying radioactive materials and a driver in need of assistance. Expert radiation protection advice was provided by Dounreay Health Physics teams who confirmed there had not been a radioactive spill. With this communication, we were able to extricate the casualty safely from the incident with support from Police Scotland and Scottish Ambulance Service.



The exercise was an excellent opportunity to practice our response to a radioactive transport incident and to enhance our working relationships with Dounreay to better understand the radiological implications and emergency response implications of such an incident. This significantly helped us and Dounreay mutually understand each other's capabilities and constraints when dealing with such an incident.

Exercises such as this are important and extremely worthwhile for our firefighters to train to protect our communities alongside emergency service colleagues in a unique and dynamic environment. As a result, more desktop exercises will be planned to further develop our partnership working.

Exercise Minifall

We worked in partnership with the Clyde Water Rescue Response Group to organise a multi-agency training exercise in Glasgow city centre. The exercise involved several of our key partners Police Scotland, HM Coastguard and Helicopter Unit, Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), Glasgow Humane Society, Glasgow City Council, University of Glasgow, and City of Glasgow College.

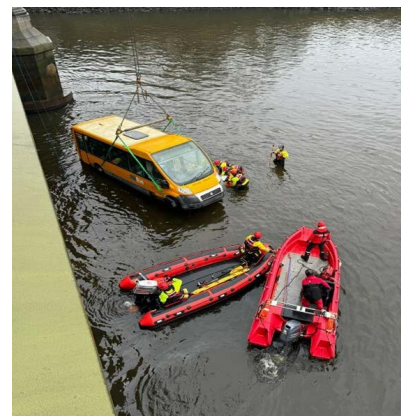
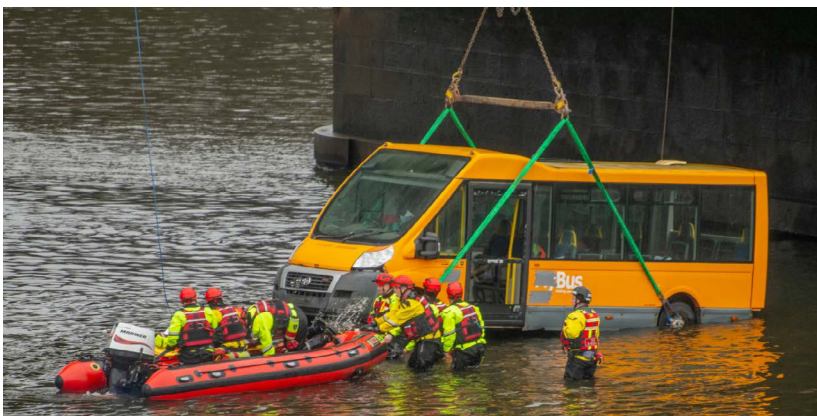
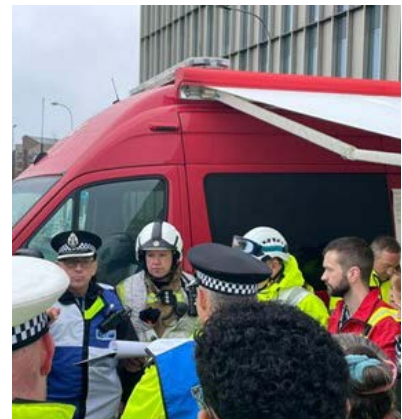
Nursing students from the University of Glasgow School of Medicine, Dentistry, and Nursing volunteered to take part to gain valuable real-world experience dealing with a major incident and to assist as live casualties in a role play.

Exercise Minifall tested the collective response to an incident where a minibus carrying children veers off a bridge and lands on a bed of rocks in the River Clyde, necessitating a swift and coordinated rescue operation.

Emergency personnel were presented with various challenges, including vehicle extrication, rescuing simulated victims from the minibus, performing water rescue operations, co-ordinating medical treatment, managing traffic and crowd control. As well as testing water rescue response within the city, multi-agency communications played an important role in the exercise with Tri-service call and multi-agency incident ground airwave channels being incorporated.

We were the lead agency for the exercise and had a central role in coordinating the response efforts, leveraging expertise in water rescue, extractions of casualties from a road traffic collision and emergency management. We remain the lead agency in the Clyde Water Rescue Response Group who continue to meet regularly to share information and organise training events.

By simulating scenarios, like a minibus accident, we can identify areas that worked well or establish where we need to refine our protocols so that we continue to work together to protect communities.



In addition to assessing operational preparedness, the exercise presented a platform for us to distribute community safety messages, including key messaging on water, road, pedestrian, and cycling safety. Whilst allowing us to contribute to promoting public safety and wellbeing.

This multi-agency training exercise allowed us the opportunity to work with our partners to test our communications, coordination, and shared situational awareness so that, in the event of an emergency we can respond together swiftly, efficiently and effectively.

Exercise Spring Puma 2

A live play multi-agency mass fatality exercise took place in August 2023 at our National Training Centre, Cambuslang. The exercise involved us, Scottish Ambulance Service and Police Scotland whose Major Incident Support and Coordination Unit delivered the exercise.

Over 400 people participated in the multi-agency response exercise to a reported explosion within a Gas Works caused by protestors who were either fixed to the Gas Work's structure requiring rescue from our and Police Scotland rope teams or trapped within the collapsed tunnelling system resulting in our Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) response. Both rescue and recovery phases were assisted by the Scottish Ambulance Service to triage and prioritise casualties.

The purpose of this collaborative exercise was to test the tri-party operational response, alongside partner interoperability and the control and management of information received, with a view to identifying best practice for sharing of information. Additionally, refreshing staff and partners in disaster victim identification, Casualty Bureau, and family liaison processes.

These multi-agency exercises with our partners allow us to develop an understanding of the needs and resources of our partners to enable us to jointly resolve mass fatality incidents and minimise the impact on our communities.





our colleagues across the border, sharing best practice and being aware of differences in equipment and processes is of benefit to us all.

It is planned to continue these cross-border exercises in the future with us inviting Northumberland FRS to our exercises to continue to build on and strengthen our ties with our cross-border partners in England.

Similarly, as part of our partnership approach, we participated in a breathing apparatus search and rescue cross-border exercise with Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service at Langholm Old Mills. This cross-border exercise provided an opportunity for both Services to get familiar with different equipment, operational procedures and train together.

The insights gained at training exercises like this will help to guide us in resolving potential issues for smoother coordination during emergencies.



Cross Border Exercise

In January 2024, Coldstream Community Fire Station took part in a joint training exercise with Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) at Ford Castle.

This cross-border exercise created an opportunity for us and Northumberland FRS to look collaboratively at differences with radio interoperability, Breathing Apparatus Boards, equipment, and use of drones - all of which can be key and critical at incidents. This allows us to align equipment and procedures to enhance our response capabilities between the two services, maintain firefighter safety, and ensure a more effective and efficient response for our communities.

Living, working, and responding to emergencies as close to the Scotland/England border as many of our stations are, it is imperative we maintain a good working relationship with





Urban Search and Rescue Multi-Agency Exercise

In January 2024 our National USAR Instructional team facilitated a multi-agency training event hosted at the National Training Centre (NTC), Cambuslang. A series of challenging scenarios took place to provide an opportunity for our crews to work collaboratively with attending partners including, 144 Parachute Medical Squadron, and NHS Doctors from Dumfries Infirmary who were undergoing international rescue medical training.

Alongside our partners, our Rope Rescue from East Kilbride Community Fire Station and USAR response from Clydebank Community Fire Station highlighted the specialist attributes provided by us for these types of incidents. Additionally, we provided a K9 Search and Rescue response.



The exercises, aimed to evaluate a multi-agency response to extremely challenging and significant incidents including a train derailment, rescues from collapsed structure, trench rescues and rescues from height. In addition to many casualty simulators, volunteer live casualties from St. Andrews First Aid attended to add a further element of realism to the scenarios.

With an emphasis on medical care and casualty handling, the exercises provided a safe learning environment for our partners to test their own procedures within environments they cannot replicate elsewhere further showcasing the excellent facilities within our NTC.

Due to the successful outcomes of this event, we are planning similar events throughout the year with various partners.





Missing Persons Joint Training on Benbecula and North Uist

We worked in partnership with HM Coastguard by undertaking a Lost and Missing Persons Search Technician training course in remote locations on Benbecula and North Uist in the Western Isles.

This training exercise involved crews learning and understanding search techniques adopted by our HM Coastguard partners when dealing with and searching for lost and missing persons on the land. This enables us to work closely together during search operations and maximise our efforts to find the missing person as quickly as possible while survival is at its most likely and life can be saved.

Our partnership work with HM Coastguard is ongoing and follows several incidents where colleagues have provided invaluable assistance to a search effort, where the HM Coastguard had primacy as the lead search agency. Our crews have benefited from skills and equipment from HM Coastguard in a variety of incidents, including wildfires.

In remote rural locations, working in partnership to understand the risks and sharing of techniques and equipment is invaluable. We will continue to work with and support our partners from HM Coastguard.

Exercise Thomas

A multi-agency response exercise took place at Bridge of Dun Railway Station, Montrose to simulate a major incident involving a train to enhance multi-agency working.

Exercise Thomas initially started off as a small explosion on board a train with several carriages being derailed with multiple casualties, including casualties trapped under the carriage's wheels and walking wounded. The exercise developed into a Marauding Terrorist Attack further up the railway line, with terrorists on board the carriages holding hostages. It included injured casualties thrown from the carriages and within the 'warm zone' to be rescued.

The exercise provided us an opportunity to identify how partner agencies work together to tackle major incidents by following the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP) for joint working. On the day, we worked with appliances, specialist appliances, Flexi Duty Officers, and Marauding Terrorist Attack response from two of our areas Perth and Kinross, Angus and Dundee and Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray. Our partners from Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service and Network Rail also participated.

These multi-agency exercises with our partners allow us to develop an understanding of the needs and resources of our partners that enable us to jointly resolve major complex incidents and minimise the impact on our communities and organisations.





Emergency Service Students Multi-Agency Training Exercises

Two multi-agency training exercises aimed at teaching students from all emergency services how to respond to a road traffic collision took place at Community Fire Stations in Galashiels and Hawick.

Students from us, the Scottish Ambulance Service and Police Scotland attended a mock exercise which involved a two vehicle high-speed head on collision which resulted in

casualties with potentially serious injuries. Twenty student paramedics attended both exercises where crews learned how to deal with a traumatic cardiac arrest and roof off extrication.

The exercises provided a fantastic opportunity to continue to improve communication and joint agency working. Exercises such as this are vitally important and hugely worthwhile for our firefighters to train to protect our communities alongside emergency service colleagues in a unique and dynamic environment.



Blue Light Driver Training

Our Driving Instructors came together with Police Scotland to hold a joint Continuous Professional Development (CPD) training event. This event was created through involvement in the Blue Light Driver Training Collaborative Group, aligned to our partnership with Police Scotland and Scottish Ambulance Service in the Reform Collaboration Group. The event, held at our National Training Centre, Cambuslang provided both organisations the opportunity to discuss:

- Best practice and value
- Quality assurance processes
- Policies, procedures, and processes
- Shared assets and collaborative initiatives
- Facilities tour and ICT infrastructure
- Practical application of ERD in Class 4 (Category C vehicles) Fire appliances
- Relationship building and support.

The day provided essential CPD and built on already strong relations for the teams to see how other organisations carry out their day job, and how similar several techniques are across both organisations.

Further joint events will be scheduled and progressed throughout the year.

St. Fergus Gas Terminal Exercise

We worked in partnership with Police Scotland, Shell, Petrofac and Aberdeenshire Council in a large multi-agency exercise at the St. Fergus Gas Terminal, Aberdeenshire, to test all on-site and off-site response plans. The exercise was a controlled simulated explosion with persons missing.

The purpose of the exercise was to test the shutting down of the Gas Terminal which would impact on oil rigs offshore and reduce national capacity by 20%. If this incident occurred, both Scottish and United Kingdom governments would require to be informed due to the impact on gas production. Our officers were stationed in the Emergency Control Room alongside our partners, whilst crews from Peterhead Community Fire Station were involved in the search for missing persons.

Following the exercise, a debrief was held to highlight learning points, areas for improvement and joint discussions for all partners involved.

The exercise was facilitated as part of a rolling programme of exercises to be held once a year across the four sites at St. Fergus to test operational response. These exercises are of huge benefit to our firefighters as it allows them to enhance their skills and gain site familiarity.



Exercise Logjam

Our wholtime, and On Call crews worked alongside a range of partners from the Scottish Ambulance Service, Police Scotland, 33 Air Solutions drone operator from the Community Asset Register and Dumfries and Galloway Road Safety Group partners Nexgen Driver Training and participated in Exercise Logjam.

The scope of the exercise was to embrace initial to short-term emergency response for the first three hours of a Road Traffic Collision (RTC) and incorporated elements of Incident Command, multi-agency interoperability, extrication techniques, live casualty care, emergency treatment. All of which was simulated within the Operational Development Centre grounds.

This was an invaluable exercise for all partners who participated and allowed us to further enhance our working relationships with our emergency service colleagues and volunteers. We will continue to build upon these relationships to enhance our response to RTCs and other joint emergency incident responses.

Stena Line Multi-Agency Exercise

We worked alongside a range of partners and attended a multi-agency Breathing Apparatus (BA) training exercise

at Stena Line Terminal, Cairnryan. Our crews participated with two appliances from Stranraer Community Fire Station, Drummore Rapid Response Unit (Volunteer Unit) and a fire appliance from Newton Stewart Community Fire Station along with partners from Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service and employees of Stena Line.

This partnership approach allowed our staff to practice their BA skills in a realistic environment whilst, supporting the development of personnel with incident command skills in the context of multi-agency partnership working principles of Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP).



5. OUTCOME 3:

WE VALUE AND DEMONSTRATE INNOVATION ACROSS ALL AREAS OF OUR WORK.

We have continued to seek new and innovative ways through partnerships to identify opportunities to engage with all communities. By holding recruitment events for our charity partnership, opened our facilities for innovative schemes, introduced local initiatives to assist with the cost-of-living crisis and opened a community garden whilst continuing to respond effectively to the changing safety needs of Scotland's communities. We are evolving and improving what we do, to deliver the best possible fire and rescue service through an innovative approach.

OUR INITIATIVES



incredible 19,000 donors over the past decade recruited to the register, with 105 of those going on to donate stem cells, the partnership achieved an immense milestone. A volunteer On Call firefighter based at Kilmelford Community Fire Station was the 100th donor in our charity partnership with Anthony Nolan. None of which would be possible without the volunteers who have consistently shown their dedication to our lifesaving traditions.

Anthony Nolan recruits people aged 16-30 to the stem cell register as research has shown younger people are more likely to be chosen to donate. Find out more about the partnership and join at www.anthonynolan.org/sfrs-and-anthony-nolan



SFRS partnership with Anthony Nolan celebrates 100th donor

The partnership between blood cancer charity Anthony Nolan and us was founded by a former firefighter Ally Boyle in 2009. During the year, we have facilitated 12 school donor recruitment events, engaged with over 1,500 pupils, recruiting 849 people to the register, and saw a further nine people donate their stem cells and potentially save the life of someone with blood cancer. On average, we recruit 70 donors per event compared to the 37 Anthony Nolan average.

The partnership has reported a record number of sign-ups to the blood cancer charity's stem cell register. As well as an



Breastfeeding Friendly Scheme

Our Woman's Champion, Head of Communications and Engagement, signed up for the Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland Scheme on our behalf. Our partners from NHS Lanarkshire, a Public Health Specialist and an Infant Feeding Development Midwife have signed up to the scheme.

This innovative nationally recognised scheme aims to help organisations, colleagues, visitors, and people who breastfeed to know their rights and responsibilities.

Several of our facilities and Community Fire Stations were identified as breastfeeding-friendly places and display the necessary certificate and stickers in prominent, easy-to-see locations.

We aim to continue supporting this scheme by playing an important proactive role in creating a welcoming environment for breastfeeding families and be fully supportive of parents and families.



Food voucher scheme to help with cost of living

With the cost of living rising, we brought local partner agencies together in Angus to produce an alternative option to food banks which often have limited opening hours.

The Community Together Partnership, supported by Angus Council, Tesco and local charities introduced the food voucher scheme. The voucher is given to a local charity to redistribute to someone who needs it. This approach empowers the people who are given the vouchers to purchase the goods they really need, including fresh produce.

To promote healthy eating, recipe cards for simple and nutritious meals are given out with the voucher, along with the estimated cost of ingredients. In times of hardship this targeted support helps those families most in need.

The local initiative, initially trialled in a supermarket in Montrose, has now been expanded to Arbroath to help even more people across Angus and has raised £1,000 a month for the local community since it started.

Collaborative working with our partners is vital, and this innovative and inspiring initiative is a positive example of how we strive to help improve people's lives and is a notable example of partners and the community working together for such a worthwhile cause.



Brew with the Crew

Blairgowrie Community Fire Station collaborated with partner organisations, including Police Scotland, The HEAT Project, Trading Standards, the Blairgowrie, Rattray and District Local History Trust, and the local health and wellbeing partnership, to ensure a comprehensive approach to community wellbeing.

Our crew at Blairgowrie Community Fire Station delivered The Fire Fighters Charity initiative, 'Brew with the Crew', to tackle the cost-of-living crisis, fuel poverty, social isolation, provide support to young families, deliver safety advice and reduce anti-social behaviour. By providing a comfortable place for the local community to enjoy warm refreshments and open discussions, the initiative helps foster a sense of belonging and community cohesion and provides increased access to vital support services. With numbers of attendees increasing weekly, crews secured free travel to and from the station for anyone who would normally struggle to get there.

The success of 'Brew with the Crew' has resonated throughout Scotland, inspiring Community Fire Stations in Dunblane, Kirriemuir, Aberdeenshire, the Western Isles and beyond to replicate the concept, adapting it to their unique community needs.

In addition to 'Brew with the Crew,' firefighters from Blairgowrie extended their warm welcome to the local 'international café' with the same objectives. This initiative aimed to further integrate the group into the community, which consists of individuals from 14 different nationalities. The 'international café' welcomes people from diverse backgrounds and cultures to forge new friendships. The crew treated the group to hot beverages and homemade treats, followed by discussions on fire safety and an insightful tour of the Community Fire Station.

Feedback from these events has been extremely positive with the local community appreciating the community involvement which means so much to so many and are immensely grateful for the hard work, dedication, and commitment of the crew at Blairgowrie Community Fire Station.

This collaborative initiative serves as a valuable platform for fostering community engagement, improving access to support services, enhancing community resilience, and aligning with local priorities, thus benefiting the community and us.



Aberdeenshire community fire station supports breakfast club

Working alongside Police Scotland, Arch (Community Alarms) and NHS Grampian, Peterhead Community Fire Station (CFS) opened its doors and hosted a series of Breakfast Clubs during the Autumn break.

During school holidays families can often endure financial hardship having to spend money on meals with the schools being closed. The Breakfast Club bridged this gap by creating a supportive environment for over 145 local children to have access to a nutritious breakfast, free of charge. Additionally, children received free dental kits.

Expanding its reach, the Breakfast Club has extended its services to Men United, Peterhead, with a dedicated crew providing breakfast provisions and fire safety guidance to

beneficiaries. Collaborating with Arch (Community Alarms), we facilitate the preparation and distribution of breakfast packs to Peterhead's elderly population aged over 65.

The Breakfast Clubs at Peterhead CFS were such a success and well-received that we are in discussion with our partners Police Scotland and Rapid Relief Team to broaden the next Breakfast Club, during the Christmas holidays, to include the over 65s age group and children.

Our staff within Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray (ACAM) take immense pride in championing this invaluable service for our local communities and look forward to hosting Breakfast Clubs during every school holiday period.



Nexgen Driving Initiative

We worked together with Police Scotland and three local driving instructors in Dumfries and Galloway who had established Nexgen Driver Training, to highlight the dangers and risks involved with driving. The main aim of the joint training is to get young people aged 14 – 16 years old to think differently from an early age to achieve good safe driving skills and attitudes towards road safety and increase the chances of safer driving for life.

Our Community Action Team presented a session with Virtual Reality headsets, allowing pupils to be a passenger within a vehicle and witnessing first-hand the effects of

dangerous driving. This was followed up with a discussion from our on duty watch along with a show of equipment carried on fire appliances. Our partners from Police Scotland discussed the dangers involved with drink driving before pupils are tested on their driving skills through cones wearing goggles that effect your vision which stimulates the effect of drink driving, assisted by their instructors.

The partnership approach to this training programme is beneficial in allowing various partners to work together to provide a joint message to the young people whilst providing them with an understanding of the emergency services.

Keeping Falkirk and West Lothian warm safely

Staff in Falkirk and West Lothian established a Cost-of-Living initiative for their local communities to target concerns that people were resorting to unsafe portable heating methods during the winter months, promote fire safety and reduce costs to affected individuals.

As part of the initiative, funding was received from our Chief Officer's Fund to assist with: exchanging older potentially unsafe portable heaters for oil-filled radiators; issuing remote control plugs to the elderly or those with mobility issues to allow electrical equipment to be safely isolated; and distributing hot water bottles as a safer and economical alternative to using older un-served electric blankets or other forms of potentially unsafe heating.

To deliver the initiative we worked together with West Lothian Advice Shop, West Lothian Health and Social Care, Forth Valley Health and Social Care, West Lothian Council and Falkirk Council to promote the initiative.

Additionally, our Midlothian, East Lothian and Scottish Borders (MELSB) area teamed up with Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) to create a joint referral partnership to support MELSB Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) referral process to access high risk properties, particularly in rural areas.

Where there are concerns SPEN can refer to us or vice versa should the occasion arise. Our HFSV are advertised in the SPEN Social Obligations Leaflet given to customers. SPEN have a Priority Register where they can identify vulnerabilities of specific customers and if appropriate work together with us to support those customers. SPEN have supplied us with 50 'Winter Packs' to support vulnerable people. This will be an ongoing partnership with a clear referral pathway going both ways from and to SPEN.

The initiative will be shared amongst other areas within our East Service Delivery Area to expand good practice and innovative ideas to generate referrals.



Stonehaven Christmas Community Initiative

Stonehaven Community Fire Station (CFS) worked together with Stonehaven Community Collective, Pillar Kincardine and Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership to address food insecurity and extend a supportive hand to community members over the festive period.

A meticulously planned voucher distribution scheme was executed by the dedicated team at Stonehaven CFS when gift vouchers were distributed, along with our Christmas cards throughout December. The initiative successfully provided over 30 individuals with Farmfoods vouchers valued at £20 each. These cards served as a platform for our partners to disseminate valuable information, while we promoted fire safety information.

This initiative, which helped those suffering financial hardship through the Christmas period, has resulted in invitations to various events hosted by the community, granting us invaluable access to vulnerable members of the community.

Nationwide E-learning Sharing

Our Learning & E-Development team, which is part of our Training function, creates our e-learning modules. Most of this content is aligned to the requirements of our Operational personnel and is part of the Training for Operational Competence (TfOC) Framework. The modules created are deployed on our Learning Content Management System (LCMS). Once these modules have been deployed, they are then uploaded onto the National Fire Chiefs Council Fire Learn Learning Management system for the potential use by other United Kingdom fire and rescue services. The

Fire Learn site is a repository we can access, to seek existing materials which we can re-use, instead of starting from scratch. This is an excellent resource which underpins the theme of sharing and the re-using of content.

In addition, to the Fire Learn site, we share all our content via our LearnPro LCMS which is available to other fire and rescue services who have this as their LCMS too. This gives other fire and rescue services the opportunity to re-use materials which we have deployed. We review content on this site which other fire and rescue services have created to identify materials which we could use to meet our e-learning demands.



Africans in Ayrshire

In partnership with the Africans in Ayrshire group we held an event in Kilmarnock Community Fire Station. Numerous partners were involved including Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, and the Scottish Refugee Council.

This event was held to highlight the rich cultural diversity in Ayrshire and was designed to celebrate African culture for both

African and non-Africans to foster a more cohesive community. There was an array of delicious African dishes to be sampled, lots of fun activities and dancing games for the children.

The event was a wonderful opportunity for the local community to come together to chat, learn about African culture and allowed us to share a range of safety information with those in attendance.



Dalbeattie Open Day and Community Garden

In May 2023, Dalbeattie Community Fire Station Open Day marked the opening of the Community Garden built from an area of wasteland attached to the station. The transformation was down to the arduous work of our Dalbeattie crew, our staff and our partners' generous donations of materials from local businesses including Scotlee Plant, Armstrong Renewables, BSW Timber, MKM Building Supplies, Grange Quarries, John Jardine Plant, Hoddam, Robertsons and Woodland Trust.

On the day, we promoted the installation of a defibrillator at Dalbeattie Community Fire Station which had been kindly donated by a local family on behalf of a former firefighter. Dalbeattie First Responders attended the event and promoted Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Defibrillator training with adults and children. They carried out fund raising which resulted with eight defibrillators and associated heat boxes.

Other partners who participated in the event were Police Scotland and 33 Air Solutions along with members of Dumfries & Galloway Community Action Team who chatted to members of the public and highlighted how we can all work together to protect our communities.

The Open Day was an immense success, and the local community were delighted with the community garden

which can be used by all. The garden can be used by community groups visiting the Community Fire Station for fire safety related activities and for reflection for crew members.

Welcoming members of the public and partner agencies to the station was used as an opportunity to promote On Call recruitment for us with experienced crew members on hand to answer any questions and share their experiences of the role.

West Lothian Letterbox Blocker Initiative

Our continued partnership working with West Lothian Council allows us to provide letterbox blockers to at risk individuals, with the blockers being funded by the Council.

The partnership initiative was introduced as we regularly receive requests from Police Scotland Concern Hub or from the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Team (DASAT) to carry out Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) to provide reassurance to individuals who have been threatened or where there is intelligence to suggest they are under threat from deliberate fire attack.

Whilst carrying out HFSV our staff fit letterbox blockers if required. This provides much needed reassurance to potentially vulnerable victims of domestic abuse where threats have been made. The number of blockers fitted and where is regularly reviewed with the potential to recover letterbox blockers to be reused where the threat has reduced.

6. OUTCOME 4:

WE RESPOND TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN SCOTLAND AND REDUCE OUR CARBON EMISSIONS.

We continued to work together with partners including Local Resilience Partnerships to respond more effectively to the global climate and ecological emergency by attending multi-agency response to severe weather events, opening our Community Fire Stations as communication hubs, implementing initiatives, developing the resources needed to tackle the impacts of climate change and ensuring that these are strategically located across the country. Our firefighters remain fully trained and equipped to support communities in meeting extreme weather events. We continued to work with our partners, ensuring that we are contributing to the climate change policy in Scotland.

OUR INITIATIVES



Responsible Wild Camping Initiative

Our partnership working with Police Scotland, Cairngorm National Park Rangers, Local Estate Rangers, Forestry Scotland, and Aberdeenshire Council, implemented the 'Responsible Wild Camping' initiative, in response to the alarming surge in wildfires.

Throughout the spring and summer 2023, we worked alongside our partners and organised multiple informative displays at strategic locations such as Loch Muick on the Balmoral Estate and in the village of Ballater. These events were designed to engage with the public and shed light on the adverse effects of 'Irresponsible Wild Camping' on the local environment and economy. Additionally, they highlighted the strain placed on our resources and our collaborative partners.

During periods of heightened fire risk, we joined forces with Local Estate Rangers to conduct regular patrols in popular wild camping areas. Their goal was to interact with visitors and offer guidance on the perils associated with discarded cigarettes, unattended campfires, improperly extinguished disposable barbeques, and the general litter left behind by campers.

This proactive approach has curtailed fire-related incidents and promoted responsible camping practices that benefit both the environment and the community and has had a profound impact on wildlife preservation.

Multi-Agency Winter Resilience Workshop

As a member of the Dumfries and Galloway Local Resilience Partnership, we participated in a tabletop exercise which allowed participants to gain an understanding of arrangements in place for a multi-agency response to severe weather events within Dumfries and Galloway.

Partners involved in the exercise included Dumfries and Galloway Council, NHS Dumfries and Galloway, Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Power Energy Networks, Scottish Prison Service, the Met Office, Scottish Water, Nith Inshore Rescue, Wheatley Group, Loreburn Housing, Amey, Autolink and the West of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership.

Through feedback gained on the day and the event debrief process participants could contribute to the further development of multi-agency response arrangements in Dumfries and Galloway.

This partnership is beneficial as it allows a wider understanding of partner agencies response capabilities, together with on-going work in relation to risk assessing the likelihood and impacts from severe weather utilising the wider information sources which are available across the Dumfries and Galloway region.

Building severe weather resilience in the Highland and Islands Local Resilience Partnership

Staff within Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland areas regularly contribute to the successful outcomes achieved through the Highland and Islands Local Resilience Partnership (HILRP) arrangement and that of their individual Emergency Coordination Groups (ECG). There are 12 Local Resilience Partnerships across Scotland supported by 32 local authority areas.

The challenges faced by our Island-based communities are similar in origin to those experienced on mainland Scotland, however, the impacts are often more significant due to their geographical nature.

The benefits arising from the coordinated efforts of these local groups are many, contributing to the wellbeing of our remote communities, safeguarding the vulnerable and supporting recovery. Alongside our partners in the ECG, we have throughout 2023/24 activated to respond to the numerous severe weather events, power outages and interruption to water supplies. Each ECG regularly test and exercise their readiness to respond to local, regional, and national emergency situations.

An example of a successful coordinated partnership approach to resolving major incident events was demonstrated on Shetland when a widespread communications disruption resulted in a complete internet

outage and impacts to the vital systems reliant on internet connectivity. A coordinated plan was implemented by key partner agencies to establish a temporary communications framework until repairs could be undertaken. The Airwave communications network was unaffected and served as a critical interagency communications framework until full communications had been re-established. Our local Community Fire Stations served as communication hubs and areas for agencies to collocate if required.

Through the HILRP, joint organisational learning from us and our partners from unplanned events like this are shared across the other Island Groups.

HILRP has core representation from local authorities, Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, NHS, Utilities companies, HM Coastguard, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, 3rd Sector partners and ferry companies.

Duns Community Fire Station strengthens ties with Onshore Wind Farm

Our On Call crews at Duns Community Fire Station visited the Crystal Rig Wind Farm, Lammermuir Hills, between East Lothian and the Scottish Borders to familiarise themselves with the site should an emergency situation ever occur.

During their visit, they interacted with on-site staff and shared knowledge and expertise with them. Representatives from Natural Power, who manage the site, conducted interactive sessions, sharing insights into the technology, operational procedures, and potential hazards associated with wind turbines.

This information exchange helps to facilitate smoother coordination in an emergency and strengthens preparedness.



7. OUTCOME 5:

WE ARE A THRIVING ORGANISATION, USE OUR RESOURCES RESPONSIBLY AND PROVIDE VALUE FOR MONEY TO THE PUBLIC.

During 2023/24, we continued to look for opportunities to share estates and assets with other blue light services, partners and international partners to support our services, the effective delivery of key service objectives and implement best practice across the organisation. Taking every opportunity to co-locate with our partners to ensure value to the public purse and facilitate a more integrated and effective public service with better outcomes, particularly for the vulnerable in our society. All of which are critical to the effective delivery of services to our communities across Scotland.

OUR INITIATIVES

Our National Co-location Programme has continued over the year. A key aspect of this on-going programme involves sharing workspaces with our blue light partners in promoting and supporting the sharing of space. To enable community resilience in emergencies we also share facilities with other partner agencies on a day-to-day basis. Here are some of the examples of recent co-locations:

Co-location for improved services in Ayrshire

In Ayrshire, we welcomed our Scottish Ambulance Service colleagues into Dregghorn Community Fire Station by locating a 24-hour emergency ambulance, while at Ardrossan Community Fire Station, there are two emergency ambulances, one available 24-hours with the second ambulance operating during peak times.

This partnership in Ayrshire is the result of a local collaborative group which comprises us, the Scottish Ambulance Services and Police Scotland. It was an excellent opportunity for us to further consolidate an already strong working relationship between us and the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Co-location of services brings several benefits for our organisations, but particularly in terms of the opportunities for regular joint working and interaction, all of which benefits the local community. There is now an aspect of multi-agency working and training that takes place between both services.

This partnership working brings resources closer to local communities as well as benefitting the staff of both emergency services and by sharing our facilities with the Scottish Ambulance Service it helps to build on existing relationships and protect communities.





Launch of shared facilities at Turriff Community Fire Station

Turriff Community Fire Station became a recognised shared facility with the Scottish Ambulance Service in November 2023. An additional ambulance which will provide 24/7 service has been brought into service with the Community Fire Station acting as its standby location.

This strategic co-location will be a real asset and benefit to local communities, enhancing our close working relationship with our blue light partners and allowing our staff to work and train more closely together. This means when they attend incidents together, they already know each other.

Our commitment to collaborative working and co-location has never been stronger and this co-location allows us to work towards our goal of delivering improved outcomes for our communities.

International Joint Training Facility

As well as sharing station premises with our partners, we also share training facilities. The Joint Scottish Fire Investigation Training and Research Facility, Porthlethen opened in July 2023 to support forensic scene investigation techniques used by firefighters, police and Forensic Services personnel.

We worked together with the Scottish Police Authority Forensic Services, Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science at the University of Dundee and Danish Police Special Crimes Unit to create the project.

Two purpose-built containers are made to look like domestic rooms before being set alight and extinguished by firefighters. The resulting burn scene can then be examined by us and Forensic Services as part of a training and development programme. The project provides materials for research into new and emerging technology, including the implementation of Virtual Reality as a way of viewing fire scenes, and forms part of the National Crime Scene Management training course.

Simulating a fire scene allows us to better understand how fires start, take hold, and develop. By understanding more about how things burn, and getting experience in a simulated fire scene, our teams will be able to identify important tell-tale signs following a fire to help us determine the most likely origin and cause.

The fire will be photographed in such a way as to enable it to be rendered into Virtual Reality by experts at the Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science allowing us and Forensic Services to retain a bank of scenes which can be used in a virtual environment for training purposes.

This new joint co-located training facility is a terrific addition to training for our staff and will enhance our fire investigation processes and allows for research into new technologies and emerging risks. Data from scenes collected at Porthlethen are shared with Danish Police colleagues while they, in turn, will share their own.

This joint facility represents a significant step forward which enables realistic training to enable Fire Investigators to keep up their high-level skills in one of the most complicated areas of Forensic work. Additionally, it can be utilised to support the development of our operational crews and in particular incident commanders.

This significant international collaboration between us, Forensic Services, Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science and the Danish Police Special Crimes Unit is truly innovative and will assist training which will be used to advance new technologies and provide training tools for the next generation of Fire Investigators, ensuring Scotland remains a world leader in the provision of Fire Investigation.

The Scottish Fire Investigation Training and Research facility has been awarded the Greatest Contribution to Forensic Science Services Excellence Awards. This award recognises the excellent work of the facility and the impact it will have on fire investigation, both within Scotland and internationally in the future.



8. OUTCOME 6:

THE EXPERIENCE OF THOSE WHO WORK FOR SFRS IMPROVES AS WE ARE THE BEST EMPLOYER WE CAN BE.

During 2023/24 we continued to make our roles more attractive to all members of our communities by improving our recruitment process, including holding On Call firefighter positive recruitment events. We have developed our approach to youth engagement and employment by creating the first Blue Light Youth Volunteer scheme, holding the first female Fireskills course, introducing a youth engagement schools competition, and introducing an 'Early Intervention Programme' all to create a safer and more positive environment for young people.

OUR INITIATIVES

Blue Light Youth Volunteer Scheme

We've partnered with Police Scotland to deliver an exciting new initiative for young people aged 13 – 18 years who wish to volunteer in their communities across Shetland to create the first joint Blue Light Youth Volunteer Scheme.

This combined initiative builds on the strengths of each individual service to provide Shetland's young people the opportunity to develop skills across a range of subjects whilst gaining a practical understanding of Blue Light services.

The young cadets participated in a wide range of practical and theoretical activities, including community fire safety, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, finger printing, arrest and community policing.

The scheme provides volunteering opportunities to local adults. Volunteer leaders help to plan and facilitate the sessions supported by our fulltime staff and Police Scotland colleagues.

Youth volunteers have developed positive relationships with one another, their volunteer leaders, partners and the wider Shetland communities.

Working in partnership with key partners such as the Scottish Ambulance Service and HM Coastguard has created other opportunities to learn new skills and empower young people to work together for a safer Scotland.

Bringing together a diverse group of young people from across the island has created a strong team of young people and volunteer leaders who have demonstrated dedication, energy and enthusiasm which has been critical to the success of the scheme.

This partnership provides valuable opportunities to young people making Shetland a safer community for all. Due to the success of this scheme, we are exploring further opportunities with our partners to extend this successful joint innovative partnership beyond Shetland.





Female Fireskills Course

To mark International Women’s Day 2024, we worked with Skye Youth Development, Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service to hold a Fireskills course for young women from Portree High School, Skye.

Fireskills is a flexible programme for young people aged between 12 and 18 who want to develop key skills in a practical setting. There are no pre requisites for joining this programme, however, it can be designed and developed to meet individual and collective needs of the group to focus on key topics, such as team-working and team-leading, self-discipline skills, problem-solving techniques, confidence and communication, improved physical capability, citizenship skills, health and safety awareness, basic first aid skills, and an understanding of the contribution that we and other agencies make to our communities.

The course, attended by eight young women, included simulated emergency scenarios, including the rescue of a casualty from a road traffic collision. The young people involved deserve enormous credit for their teamwork and determination in learning new skills and achieving an employability award.

This is the second Fireskills course to take place in Skye with another one planned for later in 2024 which will be open to all genders.

Dundee Schools SFRS Competition

As part of our partnership approach to youth engagement, we worked together with Dundee City Council to introduce the Dundee Schools and Fire Service Competition – an initiative that allows us to build rapport and share transferable skills with young people.

As part of the initiative, working alongside our crews over the course of several weeks, pupils at four Dundee high schools received operational training including hose-running and erecting a ladder to emphasise the importance of teamwork and discipline, as well as increasing the participants resilience and confidence.

In May 2023, we provided the pupils with a platform to showcase their firefighting skills at the final of the Dundee Schools and Fire Service Competition at Blackness Road Community Fire Station, Dundee, in front of family members, our partners and local officials. With pupils from Harris Academy crowned eventual winners.

Due to the success of the event, it will be rolled out across Dundee in 2024 and an evaluation will be undertaken.



SFRS Changing Young Lives in Partnership

City of Glasgow Community Action Team (CAT) have worked in collaboration with the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) HMP Barlinnie and Police Scotland's Campus Police Officers to tackle anti-social behaviour, reduce re-offending rates, and strive to create a safer and more positive environment for young people.

The 'Early Intervention Programme' was implemented as a pilot project in collaboration with Govan High School, with the support of the Campus Police Officer and our CAT, to provide timely intervention and support to students in need. The aim is to divert young people from criminality and anti-social behaviour using the Life Skills Group from SPS Barlinnie and their Peer Mentors.

These activities were delivered to Second Year and Third Year pupils to help educate them and to understand the consequences of their actions within the community and how this affects others. This successful model has allowed us to work in partnership with Community Justice Glasgow and in contributing to achieving their key objectives in targeting and reducing anti-social behaviour and re-offending.

As a result of this pilot, our CAT has forged a strong relationship with important partners which will build and become stronger year on year. This will help to promote inter-agency working, with the creation of learning resources which can be utilised by future individuals and developed research based on the findings of the initiatives and activities carried out.

This joint early intervention pilot has received positive feedback that as a direct result of our collective actions with our partners has improved the confidence of the individuals and provided them with important life experience.



Positive Recruitment Days

As part of the Scottish Government backed recruitment scheme, staff from East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute worked alongside Argyll and Bute Council to help identify employment opportunities in our On Call stations for Ukrainian nationals living in Scotland.

A positive recruitment day was held at Dunoon Community Fire Station which was attended by five Ukrainians. Working in partnership with Argyll & Bute Council, who provided interpreter support, we explained to the candidates what it meant to be an On Call firefighter. Three attendees are currently in our recruitment process. A further event was held at Lochgilphead Community Fire Station which provided three more possible candidates.

These open-door events have been successful in providing employment opportunities for Ukrainian nationals living in rural settings, with the added benefit of assisting integration into local communities. Further positive recruitment days are planned for Campbeltown and Oban Community Fire Stations.

Cross Justice Group on Race and Workforce

We aspire to be a world leading Fire and Rescue Service and to do this, we know that equality and diversity must be embedded in everything we do.

Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team represent us on the Cross Justice Group on Race and Workforce. The group was set up by Scottish Government's Justice Committee to explore issues around race inequality and employment within the justice sector and brings together justice partners, academics and third sector race advocacy groups.

The group has established a number of research strands with the intention of building towards agreed standards for justice sector employers in their approach to attracting and maintaining a diverse workforce representative of Scotland's communities.

Each of the employers within the justice sector have improvements to make in order that their workforce reflects Scotland's communities, and, in this regard, the group undertook research with existing employees and externally to understand the barriers, real and perceived, to gaining employment within the justice sector. The group is evaluating these results and planning how best to implement the findings.

Collating and using data about the profile of their workforce is a challenge across all justice sector partners. The group has agreed a common data set for recording race, nationality, and ethnicity to allow for better benchmarking between organisations.

While the group is focused specifically on matters of race equality and inequality, the lessons learned and recommended ways of working are expected to have application across other community groups.

[Supporting documents - Cross Justice Working Group on Race and Workforce: progress report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

9. OUTCOME 7: COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELLBEING IMPROVES AS WE WORK EFFECTIVELY WITH OUR PARTNERS.

Working with our partners is at the heart of how we work, it is a fundamental part of making a positive difference to people’s lives and keeping communities safe. We have developed several initiatives, introduced local and multi-agency partnerships, bringing the public, third and private sector partners together with communities to deliver shared outcomes that really matter to people. These partnerships are vital to ensure all partners can deliver their services more effectively and efficiently, while providing better value for money for the public.

OUR INITIATIVES

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation/ Defibrillator Initiatives

We worked with East Ayrshire Council to promote the importance of defibrillators and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) by jointly funding an initiative to purchase and install defibrillators throughout the local authority area.

As well as the provision of this life-saving equipment, we provided the relevant training to ensure the local communities knew how to perform CPR and use a defibrillator, giving them the relevant skills to help save people’s lives. Initially, we targeted local Junior football clubs to ensure their stadiums were provided with a community defibrillator.

This initiative to reduce unintentional injury and harm and make the communities a safer place to live was such a success that it has been rolled out across the whole authority area with over 130 defibrillators installed, including those in several Community Fire Stations.

Additionally, we worked together with various partners to give all 378 pupils of Eyemouth Primary School CPR Training. It has been proposed to hold this training annually, expanding the skills in later years to build on pupils learning and associated First-Aid Skills for life to ensure pupils become proficient in life-saving skills. Similarly, our crew at Lochgoilhead Community Fire Station provided CPR awareness sessions to The Ladies of Lochgoilhead Community Group and the Residents of Carrick Castle Community Group. With a further event scheduled for Lochgoilhead Primary School.





Rangers Charity Foundation

We teamed up with Rangers Charity Foundation to provide information on careers within our Service, combat anti-social behaviour, and reduce deliberate fire setting.

This partnership has been running for a few years with new groups starting continuously, allowing us to target our prevention messaging as new trends emerge. For example, the partnership has recently proven successful with the youths engaging and learning new information regarding emerging fire risks associated with lithium-ion batteries. This type of battery is found in several devices such as vapes, e-bikes, e-scooters, mobile phones, and tablets. The partnership has proved successful in helping to empower a sense of confidence in youths who predominantly do not attend school.

Govan and Pollock Community Fire Stations support this initiative through attending Ibrox stadium or chaperoning the youths at the station showing them around.

Engaging with hard-to-reach communities

In a collaborative effort that brought together Community Action Teams (CAT) in Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray along with operational crews, we have partnered with local pharmacies to reach out to individuals who may have been difficult to engage through traditional means. This proactive and preventative initiative involves the distribution of Home Fire Safety Visit postcards (HFSV) alongside medical prescriptions.

Our staff have distributed HFSV postcards to every pharmacy in the area, with a specific request for pharmacy staff to affix these postcards to prescription packets. They are encouraged to prompt individuals collecting prescriptions to peruse the enclosed leaflet and consider requesting a HFSV.

The fundamental objective driving this initiative is to focus on elderly and vulnerable members of our society who might not have been effectively reached by conventional campaigns and advertising efforts. By directly targeting

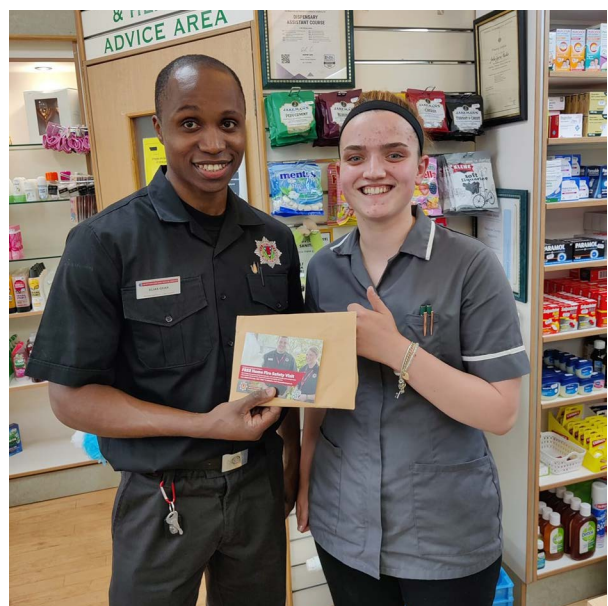


these individuals and equipping them with the necessary information to request a HFSV, we aim to enhance HFSV accessibility among this demographic.

We are actively exploring opportunities to expand this innovative initiative to include GP practices.

Additionally, in partnership with NHS Grampian, our personnel participated in a vaccination clinic at the Bon Accord Centre, Aberdeen. This unique opportunity enabled our CAT staff and crews to interact with older adults and other vulnerable community members while they await their vaccinations. During this time, we were able to impart valuable fire safety insights for their homes. On the inaugural day, our staff engaged with approximately 450 individuals. We offered comprehensive fire safety advice, addressed public enquiries, and encouraged attendees to schedule a HFSV. These clinics continued throughout 2023 and it is hoped to carry this initiative into 2024.

We continue to be committed to providing fire safety information, amplifying our reach and constantly seek out new opportunities to do so, to keep the most vulnerable in our communities safe.





Peterhead Community Fire Station Out of Hours Food Bank

In partnership with the Rapid Relief Team (RRT) and local partners, we introduced a groundbreaking project called RRT food boxes. This initiative plays a crucial role in addressing the pressing issues of child and food poverty within the community. It aims to offer essential support to individuals and families in our community during their times of greatest need.

Working closely with partner organisations such as Police Scotland, Aberdeenshire Council Social Work, and local charities, these food boxes are available outside of regular working hours, including weekends. Community members

can access these food boxes either through referrals or by visiting the Community Fire Station directly, without needing a referral. Each food box contains provisions sufficient to sustain a family of four for two days.

Our objective with this initiative is to enhance the existing process and bridge this accessibility gap by extending support beyond regular working hours, ensuring that we actively contribute to this invaluable service for our local communities.

In addition, food boxes have been distributed to all stations within East, North and South Ayrshire with double the quantity being stored on our island stations for resilience. We agreed in conjunction with the RRT that any food boxes distributed would be replenished by the RRT.



HMP Glenochil and HMP YOI, Stirling Pre-release Programme

Our Community Action Team (CAT) for Clackmannanshire, Fife and Stirling worked together with a range of partners to pilot a Prisoner Pre-release Programme for individuals soon to be released from HMP Glenochil. Once the programme was up and running it was introduced within HMP YOI, Stirling.

The aim of the programme is to aid and educate individuals on their return to the community having served a custodial sentence by providing life skills and education to help with the transition from prison to returning home/taking on a tenancy.

To support this programme, the CAT delivered road, water and home fire safety information and provided Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Defibrillator training. To enhance the learning experience virtual reality headsets were utilised.

Partners involved in the delivery of the initiative include Police Scotland, Scottish Prison Service (HMP Glenochil and HMP YOI, Stirling), Fife Safer Communities, all three local authorities Council Housing Services, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Fife Alcohol and Drug Partnership and Fife College.

The CAT will continue to support this partnership as it matures and develops to create a smoother transition from prison back into the community by breaking down barriers and building trusted relationships between services and individuals going through this journey.

Hard of Hearing Partnerships

See Hear is the national, strategic framework for sensory impairment in Scotland. It promotes a seamless multi-agency approach to the assessment, care and support to people with sensory impairment.

To support the framework, our partnership approach to the provision and fitting of smoke and heat detectors specifically to vulnerable individuals/families with hearing impairments within Fife has been in place for several years. Fife Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) purchase the necessary equipment and the local Community Action Team (CAT) fit it as necessary.

The partnership has been such a success that it has now been replicated within the Stirling and Clackmannanshire HSCP with the purchase of £10,000 worth of sensory fire detection equipment. This has resulted in several HSC partners from all three local authorities now referring into Clackmannanshire, Fife and Stirling CAT specifically for Hard of Hearing fire detection equipment to be fitted by our local CAT, a full Home Fire Safety Visit is completed at the time of the fitting.

This partnership approach will safeguard vulnerable people with hearing impairment from the potential effects of fire within their properties and will help make additional progress locally on the recommendations from the framework.



Scottish Borders Partnership against Rural Crime

Our Scottish Borders Community Action Team (CAT) attended the Countryside Schools Day and the Border Union Show as a partner in the Scottish Borders Partnership against Rural Crime initiative which is a collaborative strategy to combat rural crime and promote safety.

We worked together with our partners Police Scotland, National Farmers Union Scotland, Scottish Land and Estates, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, River Tweed Commission and Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.



Some of these partners hold various events throughout the year. Our CAT attend these events to get the messages out to the farming and rural communities by promoting farm, home, water and road safety. Scottish Borders is primarily rural, and this partnership is integral to our communities and their safety.

Some of the farm and rural issues and hazards are unique to the area and are highlighted by our local CAT, targeting the people and children in the area, making them aware and able to recognise risks and giving valuable and useful safety advice for those in remote locations.

By working in partnership with our partners we can deliver quality input to a specific audience who are in attendance, who live and work in the area and are exposed to the hazards. Another benefit of this initiative is that we can access a demographic that can be difficult to reach, as they are typically spread throughout the rural area, this gives us opportunities that we would not otherwise have to share our safety messages. Additionally, once we have made contact with farmers, it allows us to carry out Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) and ensure they have the detection required and the most up-to-date safety information and advice.

This partnership and these events are an on-going initiative which will continue to grow as we create more opportunities within our area helping us to keep our communities safe.

Violence Against Women Partnership

We worked in partnership with numerous partners to develop a Violence Against Women partnership. Some of the 19 partners we work alongside include Police Scotland, Woman’s Aid, NHS, Social Services, Child Protection, Community Justice, Break the Silence, and Barnardo’s.

This is a multi-agency approach to deliver on ‘Equally Safe: Scotland’s strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls’ at a local strategic level. The

partnership enables all partners to promote an effective and strategic approach to reducing violence against women and its negative impact on individuals and communities.

Effective partnership working within the Violence Against Women partnership is essential to ensuring that outcomes for women, girls and children affected by violence against women are improved. Empowering local communities to challenge abusive and violent behaviour and to provide information on support services that are available.

This partnership has been enhanced with our representation within the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) throughout East, North and South Ayrshire, which involves us attending regular meetings and assisting with any potential threats of domestic abuse, helping to keep communities safe.

- [Violence Against Women Partnership](#)
- [South Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership – South Ayrshire Council](#)

Dumfries and Galloway Road Safety Partnership

Our continued partnership working with Dumfries and Galloway Road Safety partnership, involving Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Transport Scotland, NHS Dumfries and Galloway, Dumfries and Galloway Institute of Advanced Motorcyclists, Nithcree Training, Amey, Sustrans, British Horse Society Scotland (BHS) and Scottish Cycling.

This is a multi-agency partnership which brings together partner organisations together across the region with one aim: ‘To reduce the number of people who are killed or injured on the roads in Dumfries and Galloway’. The partnership has won The British Horse Society Sefton Award for 2023 in recognition of outstanding service in the field of equestrian safety.



The partnership run a variety of initiatives including where members of the local Community Action Team delivered road safety awareness to bikers prior to setting off, a multi-agency event was organised by us with the focus on a Road Traffic Collision involving a horse and rider. Our staff took the opportunity and engaged with bikers attending the NW Stena 200 biking event during the ferry crossing from Stranraer giving information on road safety, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and helmet removal. The partnership launched the 'Travel Safe Dumfries and Galloway' road safety mobile app, specifically designed to provide local road users with information that will allow them to make better informed decisions before starting their journey. The app links to the BHS Horse-i app and the partnership has worked closely with the BHS organising a range of safety and awareness events in Scotland.

This partnership working at various events allows our personnel the opportunity to engage with and inform local communities, whilst increasing partner agency working and further developing their skills.

www.dgrsp.co.uk

Boys to Men

Our personnel have been involved in a groundbreaking pilot mentoring partnership programme run by Lockerbie Academy and the University of the West of Scotland to develop a programme for young boys which combines mentorship with the principles of nurture and violence prevention.

The rationale for the Boys to Men initiative was to create a safe haven where young men get space to discuss their emotions, learn from each other and male role models. The project has had great support locally and nationally from men willing to share their life stories and skills with the boys.

Many of the boys have life experiences that have resulted in developing a unique skill set. Skills that are not often recognised in academic pathways. The Boys to Men Mentoring programme

recognises these skills and uses them to promote leadership, responsibility and encourages young men to become role models and mentors for others in the community and challenge the stereotype of what it means to be a man in society today. The boys in Senior Four (S4) use these skills to work with younger pupils in Senior One (S1) and Senior Two (S2) and with Primary Seven (P7) Boys to Men, Primary transition programme. On completion of the project, they can achieve an SQA award in Mentoring. Education Scotland have recorded a video of the "Boys to Men" project which appears on their website as an exemplar of good practice. Our personnel supported a presentation at an education inclusion festival in August 2023 to promote the project.

Pupils who participated in this mentoring partnership programme provided positive feedback stating they enjoyed the programme, learned numerous skills and were looking forward to helping others in their school community.

Due to the success of this initiative, an evaluation will be carried out to determine if this initiative could be rolled out to other schools in the area to benefit both the community and our staff.

SFRS Braemar Co-Responders

Braemar Community Fire Station's firefighters work in partnership with the Scottish Ambulance Service to support a Co-Responding delivery model to ensure swift and efficient responses to specified critical medical incidents. This model is designed to optimise resource utilisation and enhance emergency response effectiveness.

Upon receiving a call from Scottish Ambulance Service Control, with an advised Estimated Time of Arrival, our crew is promptly mobilised by our Dundee Operations Control. The crew mobilise using a patient transfer vehicle which allows the Co-Responders to transport patients to the helipad within the village, allowing for the air ambulance to attend and transfer patients to hospital for definitive care, if required.

The Braemar Co-Responders initiated a comprehensive training programme to expand their skill set which has resulted in seven Co-Responders being fully trained to date.

In addition, the village benefits from the presence of eight Wildcat responders, who collaborate with the Co-Responders to attend cardiac arrest incidents.

This partnership dual-response system, comprising both Co-Responders and Wildcat responders, significantly bolsters resilience within the community, fostering increased confidence and reassurance among local residents.

10. PARTNERS*

- Aberdeenshire Council
- Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership
- Africans in Ayrshire Group
- Amey
- Anthony Nolan
- Arch (Community Alarms)
- Argyll & Bute Council
- Argyll & Bute Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) Group
- Armstrong Renewables
- Autolink
- Blairgowrie and Rattray Community Council
- Blairgowrie, Rattray and District Local History Trust
- Blairgowrie High School
- British Horse Society Scotland
- British Transport Police
- BSW Timber
- Cairngorm National Park Rangers
- Calderhead High School, Shotts
- City of Edinburgh Council
- City of Glasgow College
- Clackmannanshire and Stirling Alcohol and Drug Partnership
- Clackmannanshire Council Housing Services
- Clyde Water Rescue Response Group
- Community Justice Glasgow
- Crystal Rig Wind Farm
- Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service
- Danish Police Special Crimes Unit
- Dounreay Nuclear Site
- Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Dumfries and Galloway Institute of Advanced Motorcyclists
- Dumfries and Galloway Local Resilience Partnership
- Dumfries and Galloway Road Safety Partnership
- Dundee City Council
- East Ayrshire Council
- Eyemouth Primary School
- Falkirk Council
- Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Community Development Trust
- Fife Alcohol and Drug Partnership
- Fife College
- Fife Council Housing Services
- Fife Safer Communities
- Forestry Scotland
- Forth Valley Health and Social Care
- Glasgow City Council
- Glasgow Humane Society
- Govan High School
- Grange Quarries
- HM Coastguard
- Hermitage Academy, Helensburgh
- Highland and Islands Local Resilience Partnership
- Hoddam
- Holyrood Secondary School, Glasgow
- Inverclyde Council
- John Jardine Plant
- Justice Partners
- Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science, University of Dundee
- Lockerbie Academy
- Loreburn Housing
- Men United, Peterhead
- Met Office
- MKM Building Supplies
- National Farmers Union Scotland
- National Health Service
- National Health Service Dumfries and Galloway
- National Health Service Grampian
- National Health Service Lanarkshire
- Nith Inshore Rescue
- Nithcree Training
- North Lanarkshire Council
- Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service
- 144 Parachute Medical Squadron

- Perth and Kinross Council
- Petrofac
- Pharmacies (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray)
- Pillar Kincardine
- Police Scotland
- Rangers Charity Foundation
- Rapid Relief Team
- Registered Social Landlords, Lanarkshire
- Renfrewshire Council
- Renfrewshire Council Health and Social Care Partnership
- River Tweed Commission
- Robertsons
- Royal National Lifeboat Institution
- Scotlee Plant
- ScotRail
- Scottish Ambulance Service
- Scottish Charity Air Ambulance
- Scottish Cycling
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Scottish Government
- Scottish Land and Estates
- Scottish Police Authority Forensic Services
- Scottish Power Energy Networks
- Scottish Prison Service
- Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- Scottish Water
- Shell
- Skye Youth Development
- South Lanarkshire Council
- South Lanarkshire New Carers
- St. Andrew's First Aid
- Stena Line
- Stirling and Clackmannanshire Health and Social Care Partnership
- Stirling Council Housing Services
- Stonehaven Community Collective
- Sustrans
- Tayside Mountain Rescue
- Tesco
- The HEAT Project
- The Larder, West Lothian
- Third Sector Race Advocacy Groups
- 33 Air Solutions
- Trading Standards
- Transport Scotland
- University of Glasgow
- University of Glasgow Weipers Centre
- University of the West of Scotland
- Violence Against Women Partnership
- West Lothian Advice Shop
- West Lothian Council
- West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service
- West Lothian Health and Social Care
- West Lothian Youth Action Project
- West of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership
- Wheatley Group
- Woodland Trust

* *The partners listed are not the full and complete list of our partners/collaborations but give an example of the wide range of organisations we work with.*

If you require further information on any of the contents of this document please email **bridget.spence@firescotland.gov.uk** who will pass on your details to the relevant individual(s).



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

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