SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP 2025-2026



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1. Introduction

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Foreword



Mark McAteer
Director of Governance, Strategy and Change

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) exists to serve and protect our communities, and at the heart of that mission are our people.

Across Scotland, our staff, whether wholetime, retained or volunteer firefighters, support staff, or specialist teams, demonstrate an unwavering dedication to public safety. Their professionalism, compassion and commitment underpin everything we do and ensure we meet the needs of Scotland's communities every day.

From emergency response to prevention and protection, from community engagement to operational planning, our people consistently go above and beyond. They work in challenging, complex and often rapidly changing environments, bringing skill, calm and care to situations that demand the very best of them. Much of their contribution takes place quietly through acts of reassurance, dignity, kindness and practical support that may never make headlines, but which make a profound difference to those they help.

Our strategic direction is guided by the **SFRS Strategy 2025–28**, which sets out our ambition to be a leading, sustainable and modern fire and rescue service. This review demonstrates how strongly our people are already delivering against those ambitions through innovation, investment in skills, enhanced operational capability and a continued focus on evidence-led decision making. It reinforces that our greatest impact is achieved when our people are supported and when we work in close partnership with others.

Against this backdrop, this SFRS Working in Partnership highlights the breadth and impact of collaboration across the Service. It showcases not only the operational excellence our people bring to critical incidents, but also the everyday work that strengthens community resilience, reduces risk and helps build a safer Scotland. Whether responding on the front line or enabling delivery behind the scenes, every colleague plays a vital role, and every contribution matters.

Partnership working is fundamental to how we deliver for Scotland, and it is our people who make those partnerships effective. By working closely with others, we enhance firefighter safety, ensuring our crews have the training, information and support needed to operate confidently in high-risk environments. These partnerships also strengthen our prevention activity, extend our reach and improve outcomes for the communities we serve, aligning closely with local priorities and contributing to Scotland's Local Outcomes Improvement Plans.

Our partners across the public, private and third sectors play an essential role in helping us achieve these outcomes. Their expertise, resources and shared commitment significantly extend our capability and impact. We are grateful for their continued support, their willingness to innovate with us and their shared determination to improve safety and resilience across Scotland. Partnership is not an addition to our work; it is fundamental to how we deliver for the people we serve.

As you read this review, I hope it provides a clear and compelling reflection of the work taking place across SFRS and with our partners. Above all, I hope it reinforces the value of our people - their skill, compassion, adaptability and commitment to making a difference.

Together, we will continue to protect, support and serve communities across Scotland.

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], and
- improving outcomes and driving inclusive growth for Island communities. [5]



At local community and national levels, we 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

[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

in partnership with a wide array of private sector partners in areas relating to community and firefighter safety. Across local areas we are 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 Outcomes 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.



2. East Service Delivery Area Initiatives

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East Service Delivery Area (ESDA) Initiatives

Our East of Scotland Service Delivery Area covers a diverse and dynamic region, encompassing four key areas:

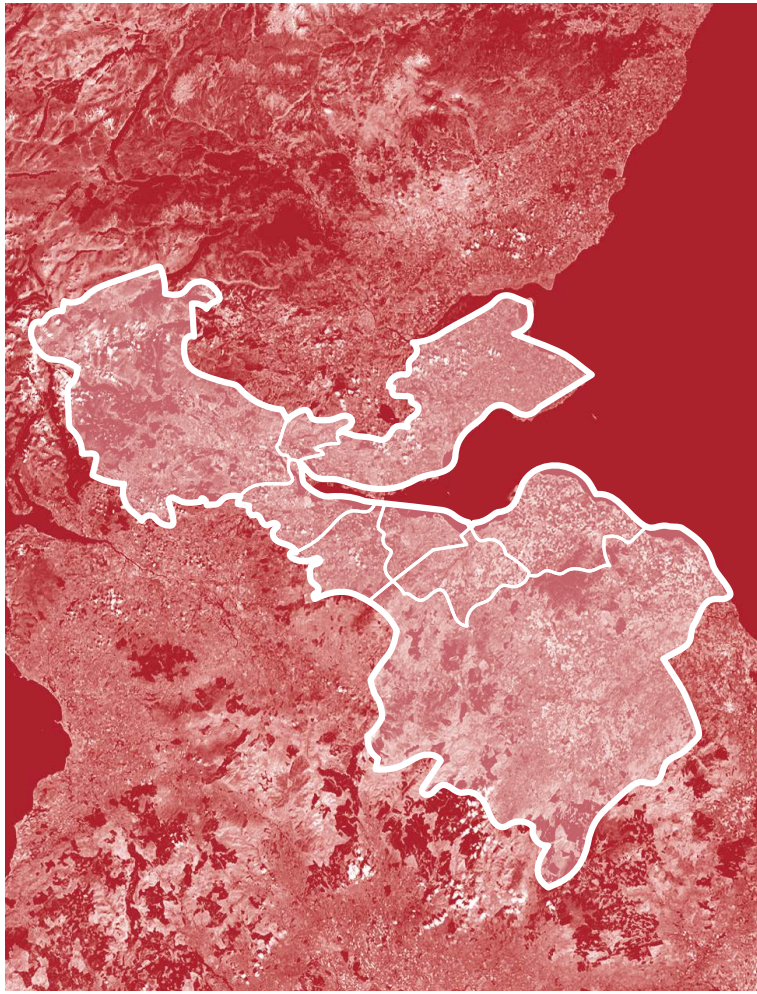
- City of Edinburgh;
- Midlothian, East Lothian and Scottish Borders;
- Falkirk and West Lothian; and
- Clackmannanshire, Fife and Stirling.

This includes a mix of urban centres, rural communities and coastal towns, home to a significant proportion of Scotland's population.

Across these communities, partnership working plays a vital role in improving safety, reducing risk and strengthening resilience. During 2025–26, our collaborative approach delivered a wide-ranging programme of activity, from targeted, data-led interventions protecting vulnerable older people, to large-scale youth engagement programmes supporting over 1,000 young people to make safer life choices. Partnerships have also driven innovation, improving access to fire safety education through inclusive resources, while enhancing community resilience through practical initiatives such as life-saving equipment provision.

Alongside this, multi-agency training and coordinated resilience planning have strengthened operational readiness, ensuring a more effective and unified response to complex and high-risk incidents. Together, these activities demonstrate how strong, sustained partnerships enable earlier intervention, better use of collective resources, and improved outcomes for communities, aligned with Local Outcome Improvement Plan priorities across the East of Scotland.





ESDA – Our Initiatives

Reducing Water Safety Risks Through Partnership

Water safety was identified as a growing priority across Midlothian, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders, reflecting a diverse risk landscape of coastlines, reservoirs and areas of high visitor footfall.

Working through established Partnership Approach to Water Safety groups, we collaborated with partners including Scottish Water, local authorities and community-led water user groups such as Take to the Water and the Coldingham Brave Bayers. This enabled targeted engagement, joint patrols and multi-agency events across high-risk coastal and inland locations.

This coordinated approach strengthened prevention activity in known risk areas, increasing public awareness and supporting safer behaviours during peak seasonal periods. Joint patrols provided visible reassurance, consistent safety messaging and earlier intervention where risks were identified.

Integrating water safety into wider community safety activity also ensured that vulnerable groups, including older adults and individuals affected by substance use, received tailored, practical advice in accessible settings.

By aligning intelligence and resources, partners were able to target high-risk locations more effectively, helping to reduce incidents and improve safety and resilience across communities. Engagement with local water user groups further strengthened this work by ensuring safety messaging reflected lived experience and local knowledge.

A key learning from this approach was the value of place-based, partnership-led prevention. Combining local insight with multi-agency coordination enabled earlier identification of emerging risks and more proactive responses.

Building on this, partners will expand coordinated patrols and increase community-led engagement across coastal and inland hotspots.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- East Lothian Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Keeping Safe; and Living Well
- Midlothian Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Individuals and Communities will have Improved Health and Skills for Learning, Life and Work
- Scottish Borders Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Good Health and Wellbeing; and Place, Community and Connectivity
- National Performance Framework: Healthy; and Connected

ESDA – Our Initiatives

Promoting Fire Safety through British Sign Language

In 2025, we worked in partnership with Fife Council's Deaf Communications Team and Methil Youth Volunteer Scheme to improve access to fire safety education for children who use British Sign Language. Through this collaboration, the children's book The Noisy Smoke Alarm, written by one of our Community Safety Advocates, Evelyn Taylor, was translated into British Sign Language and adapted into a digital resource.



Filmed at our National Headquarters in Cambuslang, the project brought together our media team and BSL professionals to create a high-quality interpretation embedded within the digital version of the book. In addition, 300 printed copies were produced, each featuring a QR code linking directly to the British Sign Language translation, ensuring the resource is accessible both in print and online formats.

This initiative has improved the accessibility and inclusivity of fire safety education, enabling children and families who use British Sign Language to engage with consistent, age-appropriate safety messaging. The resource has already been shared across our Neurodiversity network and adopted nationally through the National Fire Chiefs Council as part of fire-setting intervention work, extending its reach beyond the local area.

The partnership has also strengthened our engagement with the deaf community, supporting the development of internal skills through a Community Safety Advocate undertaking a British Sign Language qualification. This has enabled delivery of targeted engagement sessions, including Deaf Bookbug events, helping to build trust and improve communication with communities who may otherwise face barriers to accessing safety information.



A key learning from this work was the importance of co-design and partnership with specialist organisations to ensure resources are accessible, relevant and effective. This approach has demonstrated how inclusive design can enhance prevention activity and widen reach to communities at greater risk of exclusion.

For information please visit:
The Noisy Smoke Alarm

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- Fife Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Opportunities for All; Thriving Places; and Community-Led Services
- National Performance Framework: Fair; and Connected

ESDA – Our Initiatives

A Continued Commitment to Life-Saving Equipment in Our Communities

In Glenrothes, partnership working prevented the loss of vital community defibrillators, ensuring residents continue to have access to life-saving equipment when it matters most.

Working with our facilities management partner, Robertson Facilities Management, three public access defibrillators at Collydean Church, Markinch Scout Hall and Glenrothes Community Fire Station were restored after local communities were unable to secure funding for essential maintenance. Through their social impact commitment, Robertson Facilities Management replaced batteries and serviced the units, helping return them to full operational use.

This initiative has strengthened community resilience by ensuring 24/7 access to critical equipment in the event of cardiac arrest, where early intervention significantly improves survival rates. It also forms part of a wider programme that has seen 26 defibrillators installed or restored across Scotland at no cost, extending the impact beyond the local area. Ongoing management by RAYNET will help ensure the long-term sustainability of these assets within the community.

As William Heaney, Managing Director – Scotland, Roberston Facilities Management, said:

> "Working in close partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service over the past four years, we have developed a strong understanding of its estate, its efforts to keep communities safe and resilient, and the needs of local people. A key focus of our work has been creating a lasting, positive impact where we operate, including supporting the delivery of defibrillators in key locations.
>
> By ensuring these devices remain operational and accessible, we are helping to provide vital support in emergency situations and giving people the best possible chance of survival."

In the United Kingdom, Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest survival rates remain low, making immediate access to defibrillation critical. By maintaining and expanding local provision, this partnership directly contributes to improving outcomes and reducing risk for communities.

A key learning from this work is the value of leveraging partner social value commitments to deliver tangible community benefits quickly and effectively. This approach has enabled resources to be targeted where they are most needed, without placing additional burden on local communities.

Looking ahead, we will continue to work with partners including Fife Council and Robertson Facilities Management to identify further locations and expand access to public defibrillators across the region.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- **SFRS Strategy**: Safer Communities through Prevention
- **Fife Local Outcomes Improvement Plan**: Opportunities for All; Thriving Places; and Community-Led Services
- National Performance Framework: Healthy; and Connected

ESDA – Our Initiatives

Collaborative Partnership Delivers Enhanced Safety and Life Skills Programme for West Lothian Pupils

In June 2025, we worked in partnership with Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, West Lothian Council, West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service, Rural and Urban Training Scheme and Developing the Young Workforce to deliver four full-day West Drive, Fire Safety and Personal Safety events across West Lothian.

Building on the established West Drive programme, this expanded initiative supported 1,068 Senior pupils to develop practical skills, improve personal safety awareness and build confidence as they transition into adulthood. Events were hosted across four schools, ensuring young people leaving education had access to this support.

Pupils took part in interactive sessions covering road safety, emergency response, first aid, drug and alcohol awareness, personal safety, and home fire safety. Designed around real-world risks, the programme provided consistent, trusted messaging directly from emergency services and specialist partners, helping young people make safer, more informed decisions.

This partnership approach enabled delivery at scale while maintaining quality and impact. It increased awareness of personal responsibility and risk, with hands-on, scenario-based learning making key messages more relevant and memorable.

A key learning was that a multi-agency, full-day model delivers greater impact than single-topic interventions. Direct engagement with professionals and practical learning methods significantly increased participation and understanding, reinforcing the value of early and coordinated partner involvement.

We received the following feedback from pupils and partners:

> "Seeing the car crash made it real. It was not just information it showed how quickly things can go wrong."

> "Really beneficial and teaches you a lot about cars, driving, bystanders and fires. Useful to learn about things we do not normally cover at school."

> "Working together allowed us to give young people honest, practical advice that reflects real situations they will face once they leave school."

Building on this success, partners will continue the programme in 2026, with plans to enhance delivery through more practical demonstrations, expanded interactive content, and a broader focus on topics such as water safety and vehicle maintenance.

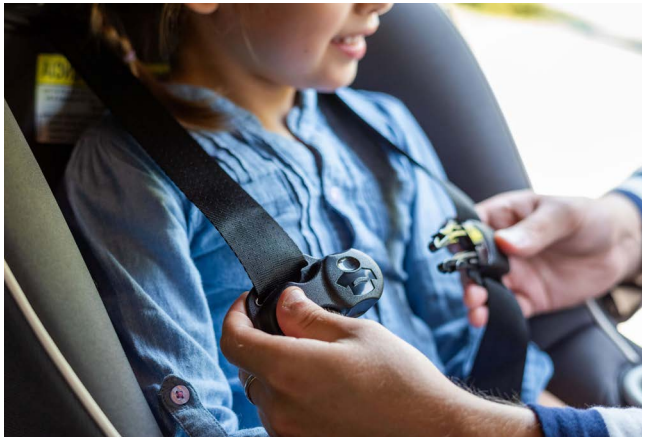
CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- West Lothian Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Creating Skills and Jobs; and Improving Health and Wellbeing
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Healthy

ESDA – Our Initiatives

Working in Partnership to Keep Children Safe

In July 2025, we partnered with Fife Council Safer Communities Team and Police Scotland to deliver a Car Seat Safety Clinic at Kirkcaldy Promenade, targeting a key preventable risk to child safety.



The clinic provided a supportive, non-enforcement environment where parents could access practical advice and reassurance. By working together and



pooling expertise, partners were able to identify risks early and provide clear, consistent guidance on correct car seat use.

During the event, 36 vehicles and 47 child car seats were checked. Only 18 were correctly fitted, with the remainder requiring adjustments or experiencing significant safety issues, including two incompatible seats. Immediate advice and corrections were provided, reducing the risk of serious injury in the event of a collision by improving correct use of car seats.

This initiative improved awareness of correct car seat installation while building trust with families, encouraging greater engagement with safety advice. The partnership approach ensured more effective use of resources and strengthened community confidence in local services.

A key learning was the value of accessible, community-based engagement, creating an environment where families feel comfortable seeking advice and taking action to improve safety.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- Fife Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Opportunities for All; Thriving Places; and Community-Led Services
- National Performance Framework: Healthy; and Connected

ESDA – Our Initiatives

Reducing Fire Risk for Older People through Partnership

In early 2025, three fatal fires in the Scottish Borders involving women over 65 highlighted a growing and disproportionate risk within this demographic. With the local population aged over 65 projected to increase by 51% by 2032, partners took a data-led approach to strengthen early intervention and prevent further harm.





Working in partnership with Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and third sector organisations, a targeted prevention model was developed to identify individuals most at risk and deliver coordinated support. This included shared data analysis, the introduction of a multi-agency referral pathway, and targeted Home Fire Safety Visits combined with wider health and wellbeing interventions.

Early activity focused on building strong local partnerships and increasing risk awareness. This included delivering Risk Recognition training to Social Services and Occupational Therapists, engaging community organisations, and delivering outreach within trusted local settings. The programme also strengthened links with health partners, including ongoing work around falls prevention.

This approach is helping to reduce fire-related harm, support safer independent living and ease demand on services. By focusing on prevention and early intervention, the partnership is improving safety outcomes and supporting more resilient communities.

A key learning was extending the programme will allow stronger coordination, improved data sharing and more robust evaluation of outcomes.

Future delivery will see the project extended to six months and expanded into East and Midlothian, scaling this partnership approach to protect vulnerable residents across a wider area.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- **SFRS Strategy**: Safer Communities through Prevention, Improving Performance
- **Scottish Borders Local Outcomes Improvement Plan**: Poverty; Good Health and Wellbeing; and Place, Community and Connectivity
- National Performance Framework: Healthy; and Connected

ESDA – Our Initiatives

Strengthening Partnerships through Integrated Emergency Training

Our Scottish Borders crews partnered with Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service in a joint training exercise at Hawick Police Station.

This exercise was part of our 'Testing and Exercising Framework', which involves crews running three or four pump multi-agency exercises throughout the year. The aim is to build and strengthen local relationships with businesses and provide our crews with opportunities to train in real risks they may encounter, while practicing effective handover procedures.

Four fire appliances from Hawick, Jedburgh, and Newcastleton along with three trainees, participated alongside three Police Scotland units and two Scottish Ambulance Service crews.

The scenario involved a chemical spill and fire within the building, which tested key skills including incident command, hazardous materials procedures, Detection, Identification and Monitoring procedures, and Breathing Apparatus search and rescue with evacuations using fire escape hoods. The live scenario supported Scottish Vocational Qualification training goals and the development of newly promoted officers across all agencies.

This joint training exercise highlighted the importance of partnership working in preparing for complex, high-risk scenarios. By training together in realistic environments, all partners strengthen their operational readiness, improve communication, and build trust ensuring a more coordinated and effective response when real incidents occur. These collaborative efforts enhance public safety and demonstrate our shared commitment to protecting communities.





Additionally, through our Framework, the following smaller exercises were held, including one in July 2025 at Galashiels Swimming Pool in partnership with the Scottish Ambulance Service. This exercise involved five of our local fire appliances and nine trainees. The scenario simulated a chemical leak within the plant room.

Similarly, over two days in August 2025 an exercise was conducted in collaboration with Police Scotland at Dalkeith Palace. It involved three of our

ESDA – Our Initiatives





local fire appliances and five trainees, simulating a fire incident with multiple persons reported.

The largest exercise within our Framework which consolidates the smaller exercises, was Exercise Crop Guard. This exercise was held in September 2025 at Crop Services Scotland Limited, Kelso, in partnership with Police Scotland and Scottish Borders Council. It involved eight of our local appliances from the East Service Delivery Area and twelve trainees. The scenario simulated a fire in a high-risk premise containing chemicals and asbestos, with multiple casualties involved.

In addition to strengthening partnerships, engaging in realistic, front-facing training scenarios that reflect actual risks enhances the skills and competence of our operational crews. This approach not only improves firefighter safety but also strengthens the quality of service we deliver to our communities.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- **SFRS Strategy**: Safe and Effective Response
- **Scottish Borders Local Outcomes Improvement Plan**: Good Health and Wellbeing; and Place, Community and Connectivity
- **Midlothian Local Outcomes Improvement Plan**: Individuals and Communities will have Improved Health and Skills for Learning, Life and Work
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected

ESDA – Our Initiatives





Joint Training at Edinburgh Airport Highlights the Power of Collaboration



A planned familiarisation visit at Edinburgh International Airport developed into a multi-agency training exercise involving our crews, the Airport Fire Service, Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service.









The session provided a realistic environment to test aviation-specific risks, including engine and cabin fires, casualty search and rescue, and coordinated emergency response. Crews worked together to extinguish simulated fires, extricate casualties and deliver immediate medical care, while partners demonstrated specialist capabilities including trauma response and incident cordon management.









This joint approach strengthened operational readiness in a high-risk environment, improving communication, coordination and understanding between services. Training in a live, complex setting ensures that when incidents occur, partners can work together efficiently to protect the public.

ESDA – Our Initiatives

A key learning was the value of early collaboration in designing joint exercises, allowing partners to maximise training opportunities and deliver more integrated, realistic scenarios.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safe and Effective Response
- Edinburgh Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: A Good Place to Live
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected





ESDA – Our Initiatives

Strengthening Resilience Through Local Partnership Working

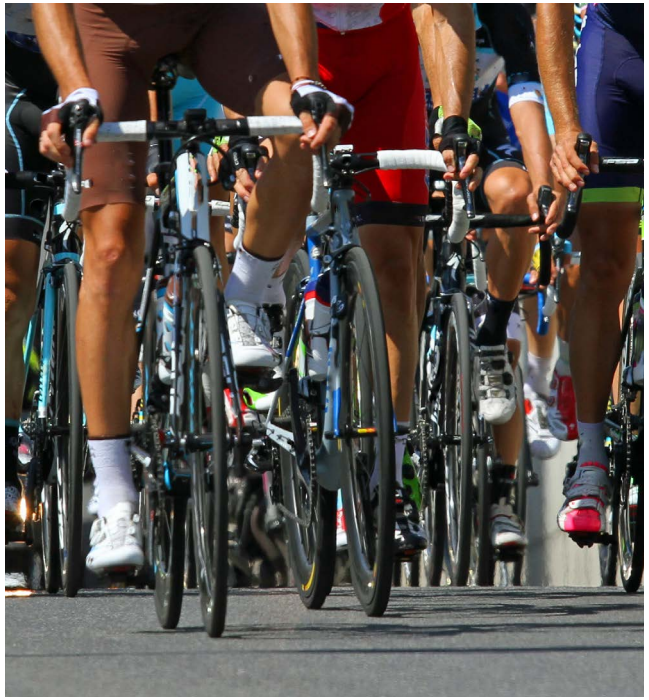
Throughout the year, we worked closely with Local Resilience Partnerships, Safety Advisory Groups and strategic partners to support the safe planning and delivery of major events across the East.



This included multi-agency planning and assurance for large-scale events such as Royal Week, the Tour de France, Edinburgh Castle Concerts and regional festivals. Early engagement ensured fire and resilience considerations were embedded from the outset, enabling partners to identify risks, coordinate mitigation measures and support safe delivery at scale.

In addition to event readiness, partners supported a programme of exercising activity across diverse environments, enhancing coordination and strengthening shared understanding of risks.

This work has improved preparedness, strengthened relationships and ensured a consistent, coordinated approach to managing risks associated with major public gatherings. A key learning was the importance of early engagement and integrated planning, ensuring that fire and resilience considerations are embedded in event design and delivery from the outset.



CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safe and Effective Response
- All nine Local Senior Officer Area Local Outcomes Improvement Plans
- National Performance Framework: Connected; and Secure

ESDA – Our Initiatives

Joint Initiative with Forth Valley College Provides Practical Skills and Safety

Working in partnership with Forth Valley College, we delivered an employability-focused initiative through the ACE Group programme, supporting young people aged 18–24 across West Lothian.

Participants attended fire stations throughout the year, gaining hands-on experience alongside operational crews and developing practical skills in teamwork, communication and responsibility. Sessions included FireSkills training alongside community safety inputs such as home and road safety, helping to build both employability and personal resilience.

This approach improved confidence, skills and awareness among participants, while strengthening engagement with young adults who may face barriers to employment. By combining practical experience with prevention messaging, the partnership delivered meaningful outcomes for individuals while contributing to wider community safety.

A key learning was the value of practical, real-world engagement, which consistently drives stronger participation and more meaningful outcomes than classroom-based approaches alone.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- **SFRS Strategy**: Investing in our People
- **West Lothian Local Outcomes Improvement Plan**: Creating Skills and Jobs; and Improving Health and Wellbeing
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected



3. North Service Delivery Area Initiatives

Read on

Skip to section 4

North Service Delivery Area (NSDA) Initiatives

Our North of Scotland Service Delivery Area spans a wide and varied geography, encompassing four key areas:

- Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray;
- Perth, Kinross, Dundee and Angus;
- Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland Islands; and
- Highland.

This includes a mix of urban centres, remote rural communities and island populations, each with distinct needs and risk profiles.

Across these communities, partnership working has played a central role in improving safety, inclusion and resilience during 2025–26. Our collaborative approach has delivered targeted, prevention-focused activity, from strengthening water safety infrastructure and improving risk recognition across partner agencies, to engaging young people to reduce fire-related harm and supporting vulnerable individuals through early intervention.

Partnerships have also driven more inclusive approaches, including accessible safety education and community-based wellbeing initiatives across island and rural communities. At the same time, highly visible multi-agency activity and coordinated resilience planning have strengthened preparedness, enabling partners to respond more effectively to complex and high-risk incidents.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate how sustained partnership working enables earlier intervention, stronger community engagement and better use of collective resources, delivering measurable improvements in safety, wellbeing and resilience in communities across the North of Scotland.





NSDA – Our Initiatives

Delivering Life-Saving Outcomes Through the Partnership Approach to Water Safety

Through the Partnership Approach to Water Safety, we worked with emergency services, local authorities, health partners and community organisations to reduce risk at high-hazard water locations across the North of Scotland.

In Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray, this included collaboration with Police Scotland, NHS Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Teams, local authorities and community partners such as Burghead Sailing Club, Outfit Moray and Braemar Mountain Rescue. Together, partners combined local knowledge and specialist expertise to deliver targeted, place-based prevention activity.

A key outcome was the installation of Water Safety Scotland's standardised signage at high-risk locations, providing clear hazard warnings and emergency information. Featuring unique location codes and mapping references linked to Police Scotland and HM Coastguard systems, the rollout of 24 signs in Aberdeenshire and 14 in Moray has improved public awareness and enabled faster, more accurate emergency response.

This infrastructure has strengthened prevention and response simultaneously, helping individuals make safer choices while supporting more effective multi-agency coordination when incidents occur. Alongside this, partners have delivered consistent safety messaging through joint engagement, media activity and coordinated training, further enhancing preparedness across the region.



A key learning is the value of combining practical interventions with coordinated messaging and data sharing, ensuring that prevention activity is both visible and supported by effective emergency response systems.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- Aberdeen Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Place; and People
- Aberdeenshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Place-Based Community Planning
- Moray Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Empowering and Connecting Communities; and Improving the Wellbeing of our Population
- National Performance Framework: Healthy; and Connected

NSDA – Our Initiatives

Bridging Gaps in Climate Change Preparedness for Deaf Communities

In May 2025, we partnered with Highlands Signing, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Scottish Flood Forum to deliver an inclusive safety and science programme in British Sign Language, improving climate change preparedness for deaf communities across the Highlands.



Workshops in Portree and Dingwall engaged 22 pupils aged 8–15 in interactive sessions on wildfire and flood awareness, fire science and environmental resilience. Activities included hands-on experiments, outdoor learning and British Sign Language-led storytelling, designed to make complex risks accessible and engaging. The programme concluded with a community event at Inverness Deaf Club, where 20 deaf adults took part in safety discussions and practical demonstrations.

This initiative improved awareness of local hazards and strengthened engagement between emergency services and the deaf community. By combining specialist British Sign Language delivery with emergency and environmental expertise, partners ensured that safety messages were accessible, relevant and trusted, supporting more inclusive approaches to prevention.

A key learning was the importance of designing programmes with, not for, communities, working alongside specialist partners to ensure accessibility is embedded from the outset. This approach is already shaping future engagement and helping to improve how safety education is delivered across diverse communities.



As this work develops, partners are exploring opportunities to expand delivery and share learning more widely, supporting a more inclusive and resilient approach to community safety.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention, Investing in our People
- Highland Outcomes Improvement Plan: People; and Place
- National Performance Framework: Fair; and Sustainable

NSDA – Our Initiatives

Empowering Young People Through Community Safety Education

In Dundee, we partnered with Dundee City Council and Police Scotland to deliver a city-wide Community Safety Roadshow, equipping young people with the knowledge and confidence to make safer decisions.

The roadshow reached every Primary 7 school in Dundee. Sessions focused on fire safety and wider community risks, including the impact of secondary fires and the dangers of derelict buildings, using interactive activities such as smoke simulation to reinforce learning. Content was shaped by Planet Youth data to reflect real challenges facing young people.

The programme improved awareness of community safety risks and empowered pupils to recognise and respond to unsafe situations. Notably, a reduction in secondary fire incidents followed the roadshow, highlighting the value of early, targeted prevention. It also strengthened trust between young people and local services through consistent, partnership-led engagement.

Children and Families Convener Stewart Hunter, stated:

> "The Community Safety Roadshow is more than just a school event; it's a city-wide effort to help our young people grow up safe, supported and ready to thrive."

A key learning was the effectiveness of data-led, interactive delivery, ensuring safety messages are relevant, engaging and capable of influencing behaviour.

Looking ahead, partners plan to expand the roadshow and explore opportunities for annual delivery with wider partner involvement.



CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- Dundee Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Reduce Child Poverty and Inequalities in Incomes; and Education and Health
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected

NSDA – Our Initiatives

Engaging Young People to Prevent Fire-Related Anti-Social Behaviour in Angus

In Angus, we partnered with Police Scotland to deliver targeted fire-related anti-social behaviour education to over 350 pupils across primary and secondary schools in Forfar.

Sessions combined input from our Community Action Team and Police Scotland, focusing on the causes and consequences of deliberate fires and wider anti-social behaviour. Designed to engage young people early, the initiative encouraged informed decision-making and increased awareness of the risks to individuals, communities and the environment.

Early indications show a reduction in secondary and deliberate fire incidents in the area, alongside increased engagement and trust between young people and local services. The initiative also complements wider multi-agency work, including the Vacant and Derelict Buildings Working Group, strengthening a coordinated approach to prevention.



Constable Drane, Police Scotland, said:

> "These inputs were in response to a number of deliberately set fires in and around the town. All the pupils engaged well during the input. Both the fire service and police want to emphasise the dangers and promote safety. We have carried out a number of joint patrols with the fire service and will carry out further patrols over the summer period."

A key learning was the importance of early, joint engagement, combining education with visible partnership activity to influence behaviour and reinforce consistent safety messaging.

Future delivery of the initiative will continue with delivery across Angus, with expansion to additional schools and ongoing evaluation to improve impact.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- **SFRS Strategy**: Safer Communities through Prevention
- **Angus Community Local Outcomes Improvement Plan**: Caring for our People; and Caring for our Place
- National Performance Framework: Secure; and Connected

NSDA – Our Initiatives

Enhancing Mental Wellbeing through Partnership Working Across Scotland's Islands

Across the Western Isles (Outer Hebrides), Orkney and Shetland, we have strengthened partnership working to improve mental wellbeing in communities facing unique challenges linked to remoteness, limited services and higher levels of vulnerability.

Working with partners including Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, HM Coastguard, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, third sector organisations and national networks such as Lifelines Scotland and the Scottish Recovery Network, activity has focused on early intervention, building resilience and improving access to support.

A key example is the TINA (Talk, Involve, Notice, Act) Project in Shetland, a community-led initiative developed in response to local need. Through a network of trained listeners, the project provides compassionate, accessible support and signposts individuals to appropriate local services, helping to reduce isolation and improve wellbeing.

In Orkney, joint training and collaborative activity with emergency responders strengthened shared understanding of mental health challenges in remote communities, while reinforcing strong partnership relationships. This included Lifelines Scotland training and joint engagement initiatives supporting local services such as Samaritans.

Additional partnership work with the Scottish Recovery Network has supported learning around peer-based approaches, promoting more compassionate, person-centred engagement during incidents.

Together, this work is improving awareness, reducing stigma and strengthening support networks across island communities, contributing to better outcomes for both the public and emergency responders.

A key learning is the importance of locally tailored, partnership-led approaches, ensuring support reflects the needs and identities of individual communities, particularly in remote settings.

Building on this, work is underway to explore the introduction of Distress Brief Intervention pathways in the Western Isles, strengthening early support and creating clearer referral routes for individuals in distress.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- **SFRS Strategy**: Safer Communities through Prevention
- **Orkney Local Outcomes Improvement Plan**: Population Health; and Inequalities
- **Outer Hebrides Local Outcomes Improvement Plan**: The Outer Hebrides offers attractive Opportunities that Improve the Quality of Life, Wellbeing and Health for all People
- **Shetland's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan**: People; and Participation
- National Performance Framework: Healthy; and Connected

NSDA – Our Initiatives

Operation Respect a Partnership for Safer Communities in Inverness

Working with partners including Police Scotland, The Highland Council, Scottish Ambulance Service, NHS Highland, Inverness BID, Street Pastors and third sector organisations, we supported Operation Respect, a multi-agency initiative to enhance public safety during the winter festival period.

Running from November 2025 to January 2026, the initiative combined high-visibility patrols, licensed premises checks and targeted support for vulnerable individuals. A key feature was the Harm Reduction Vehicle, staffed by police, paramedics and mental health practitioners, providing immediate, on-street support for those affected by alcohol use, substance misuse or mental health challenges.

This coordinated approach reduced anti-social behaviour, improved early intervention for vulnerable individuals and strengthened partnership working across agencies. A visible and joined-up presence



in the city centre increased public reassurance, supported local businesses and contributed to a safer environment for residents and visitors.

Operation Respect addresses a wide range of risks, including violence, disorder, retail crime and fraud, while maintaining a strong focus on prevention and safeguarding. By bringing together statutory and voluntary partners, the initiative enables earlier intervention and more effective support for those in need.

Inspector Paul Sutherland, Police Scotland, commented:

> "The operation ensures the city's festive atmosphere can be enjoyed safely."

A key learning was the value of highly coordinated, visible partnership activity, enabling agencies to respond quickly, share information effectively and deliver consistent support in high-demand periods.

Next phase activities will focus on partners exploring opportunities to expand prevention activity, including developing a youth-focused element to strengthen early intervention beyond the festive period.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- Highland Outcomes Improvement Plan: People; and Place
- National Performance Framework: Secure; and Connected

NSDA – Our Initiatives



Community Safety Engagement in Action Across Highland

Working in partnership with Highland Third Sector Interface and Police Scotland, we delivered a programme of community engagement activity across Highland to strengthen prevention, early intervention and local resilience.

A key milestone was the Highland Community Safety and Resilience Event in January 2026, which brought partners together to address shared challenges such as anti-social behaviour, extreme weather risks and emerging threats including exploitation. Through workshops, expert sessions and networking, the event strengthened collaboration and supported a more coordinated approach to community safety.

This was complemented by targeted local engagement, including community events in Wick, Raigmore and across Beauly and Drumnadrochit. These sessions provided practical home fire safety advice, including risks associated with lithium-ion batteries, while improving awareness of wider support services available through health, housing and third sector partners.

By strengthening relationships with local organisations, this activity has enhanced our ability to identify and support vulnerable individuals, improve signposting to appropriate services and increase uptake of Home Fire Safety Visits. This early intervention approach contributes to safer behaviours and supports a reduction in accidental dwelling fires.



A key learning was the importance of consistent community presence and partnership engagement, enabling more effective prevention and stronger connections with those most at risk.

For more information visit:
SFRS Home Fire Safety Visits

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- Highland Outcomes Improvement Plan: People; and Place
- National Performance Framework: Connected; and Healthy

NSDA – Our Initiatives

Enhanced Risk Recognition Training for Police Scotland

In October 2025, our Community Action Team delivered risk recognition training to over 50 Police Scotland community officers across Perth and Kinross, Angus and Dundee, strengthening early identification of fire risk and improving support for vulnerable individuals.

The training focused on recognising those most at risk, understanding common causes of fire, and improving awareness of referral pathways for Home Fire Safety Visits. It also reinforced the importance of partnership working and effective information sharing to support prevention activity.

This approach has increased partner capability and contributed to higher-quality referrals, enabling earlier intervention and improved safety outcomes for individuals at greatest risk. Officers reported increased confidence in identifying hazards, particularly in relation to emerging risks such as emollients and lithium-ion batteries.

A key learning was the value of equipping frontline partners with practical risk awareness, ensuring prevention activity extends beyond the Service and is embedded across local agencies.

Looking ahead, work is underway to develop a condensed training package for wider rollout across response officers and partner organisations, further strengthening this shared approach to prevention.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Physical and Mental Wellbeing
- Dundee Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Reduce Child Poverty and Inequalities in Incomes; and Education and Health
- Perth and Kinross Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Reducing Poverty; and Physical and Mental Wellbeing
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected



Joint Emergency Response Exercise at RAF Lossiemouth

We participated in a large-scale multi-agency exercise at RAF Lossiemouth, bringing together military and civilian responders to test joint response to a complex, high-risk incident.

The scenario involved a Road Traffic Collision with a fuel tanker carrying aviation fuel, environmental contamination risks, trapped casualties and additional security challenges. Crews worked alongside RAF personnel, Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service and other partners to manage the incident, supported by strategic coordination through the Base Operations Centre.

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This exercise strengthened interoperability across agencies, enhancing shared situational awareness, command and communication in a highly complex environment. It provided an opportunity to test joint response to multiple concurrent risks, including hazardous materials, casualty extrication and command coordination.

Training in a realistic, high-risk setting improves operational readiness and ensures partners can respond effectively to major incidents involving both civilian and military stakeholders.

A key learning was the importance of integrated command structures and real-time information sharing, ensuring a coordinated and effective multi-agency response.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safe and Effective Response
- Moray Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Empowering and Connecting Communities; and Improving the Wellbeing of our Population
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected

Strengthening Multi-Agency Response Through Joint Exercises

We worked with a range of partners to deliver multi-agency training exercises across the North, strengthening preparedness for complex and high-risk incidents.

Scenarios included a cliff rescue at Dunnottar Castle involving multiple casualties in challenging terrain, and a large-scale aviation exercise at Aberdeen Airport simulating a major incident with

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mass casualties and multi-agency coordination requirements. These exercises brought together emergency services, local authorities and specialist responders to test command structures, communication and joint decision-making.

Phil Skingle, Operations Area Commander, HM Coastguard, said:

> "HMCG was proud to participate in the Dunnottar Cliff Exercise, which provided local emergency responders with the opportunity to work together in a realistic and challenging environment. The exercise helped teams gain a deeper understanding of partner agencies' equipment and procedures, strengthening interoperability. This collaborative approach has already proven its value during recent rescues, where coordinated responses and multi-agency incident command have been both decisive and effective."





A key learning was the value of diverse, scenario-based training, ensuring responders are prepared for a wide range of risks across different environments.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- **SFRS Strategy**: Safe and Effective Response
- **Aberdeenshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan**: Place Based Community Planning
- **Aberdeen Local Outcomes Improvement Plan**: People; and Community Empowerment
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected

NSDA – Our Initiatives

Strengthening Resilience Through Highlands and Islands Local Partnership Working

Through the Highlands and Islands Local Resilience Partnership, we have worked collaboratively with multi-agency partners to strengthen preparedness across a geographically diverse and high-risk area.

Covering remote, rural and island communities, the partnership has supported coordinated planning and response across a wide range of risks, including severe weather, infrastructure disruption and major incidents in isolated locations. Engagement through Emergency Liaison Groups and resilience forums has strengthened shared understanding of interdependencies and local risk profiles.

A sustained programme of exercising and planning activity has tested command, control and coordination arrangements, ensuring partners can respond effectively in complex environments where access, resources and communication present additional challenges. This work has enhanced interoperability and strengthened resilience across communities where partnership working is critical to effective response.

A key learning is the importance of Local Resilience Partnerships ensuring risks are proactively identified and managed through stronger inter-agency coordination.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safe and Effective Response
- All four Local Senior Officer Area Local Outcomes Improvement Plans
- National Performance Framework: Connected; and Secure

Supporting Positive Change Through Community Payback in Orkney

Working in partnership with criminal justice, community learning and social work teams, we supported a young person in Orkney to complete a Community Payback Order through a tailored programme focused on personal development and positive change.

Rather than a traditional unpaid work placement, the approach combined targeted interventions aligned to the individual's interests and future ambitions. This included road safety education, delivery of British Heart Foundation Heart Start sessions to a local rugby club, and participation in a FireSkills programme with an employability focus.

The programme helped build confidence, particularly in public speaking, while developing practical skills and encouraging positive behaviours. It also created opportunities to connect with local employers, supporting the individual's aspiration to pursue an engineering apprenticeship.

This personalised approach demonstrates how partnership working can support meaningful rehabilitation, enabling individuals to contribute positively to their community while improving their own life chances.

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A key learning was the value of tailored, person-centred interventions, creating more impactful outcomes than standardised approaches.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Investing in our People
- Orkney Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Cost of Living; and Inequalities
- National Performance Framework: Fair; and Skilled

Equipping Young People Through Fire Safety Education

Working in partnership with Police Scotland, the Scottish Ambulance Service, Sainsbury's Superstore, Tesco Woodend Superstore, Northfield Academy, Lochside Academy, St Machar Academy, Cults Academy, Aberdeen Grammar School and Dyce Academy, we delivered a FireSkills programme designed to equip young people with essential safety skills and knowledge.

The programme engaged pupils aged 12 to 17 through a series of structured courses, combining practical fire safety training, first aid awareness, crime prevention messaging and teamwork-based activities. Delivered through a multi-agency approach, the programme provided hands-on learning experiences in a supportive and engaging environment.

Partners played a key role in delivery, with schools supporting pupil selection, Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service contributing specialist knowledge, and retail partners including Sainsbury's Superstore and Tesco Woodend Superstore providing support to enhance the learning experience.

Participants developed confidence, practical skills and a deeper understanding of emergency service roles. Feedback from partners and schools highlighted improved engagement, increased motivation and a growing interest in emergency service careers among young people.

A key learning is the importance of structured, practical learning programmes, providing young people with the skills and confidence to make safer choices.

Building on its success, work is underway to expand the programme to reach more schools and communities.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Investing in our People
- Aberdeen Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Place; and People
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected



4. West Service Delivery Area Initiatives

Read on

Skip to section 5

West Service Delivery Area (WSDA) Initiatives

Our West of Scotland Service Delivery Area includes six key areas:

- City of Glasgow;
- East, North and South Ayrshire;
- Dumfries and Galloway;
- East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde;
- East and West Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute; and
- Lanarkshire.

This diverse geography includes large urban centres, rural communities, and remote coastal and island areas, each presenting different risks, priorities and opportunities for engagement.



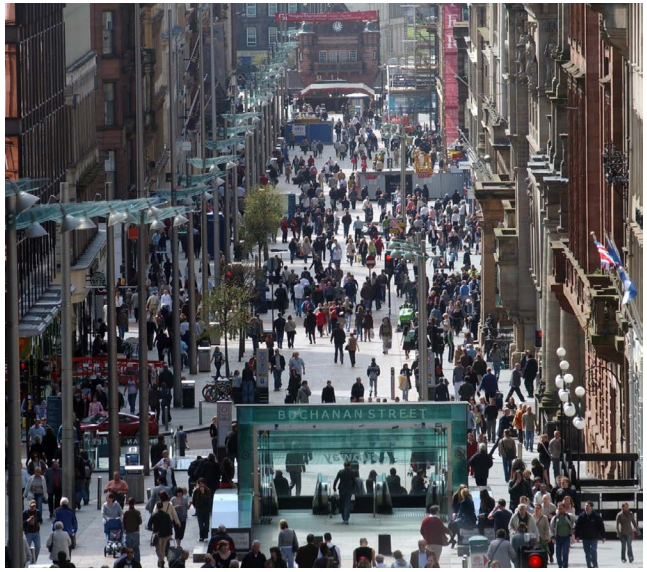


West Service Delivery Area (WSDA) Initiatives



During 2025–26, partnership working played a central role in how we supported communities across the West. Activity focused on prevention, early engagement and coordinated response, with a strong emphasis on working alongside partners to address local need and improve outcomes.

A broad programme of initiatives was delivered across the area. This included targeted road safety activity with M Group, multi-agency Operation



Safety events in Dumfries and Galloway, and youth-focused programmes such as Off the Bench, Street League engagement and Firefighter for a Day. These initiatives provided opportunities for young people to develop practical skills, explore future pathways and engage positively with emergency services.

We also worked with partners to support wider wellbeing, including initiatives linked to inequalities, falls prevention and support for New Scots. In Glasgow, community giving activity during the festive period demonstrated the value of local engagement in supporting families experiencing hardship.

Operational preparedness remained a key focus, supported through a range of joint training and exercising activity. This included complex care home scenarios in East Kilbride, transport and hazardous materials training with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, wildfire prevention messaging in Ayrshire, and large-scale resilience exercises linked to maritime and major event risks in Glasgow.

Together, this activity demonstrates a coordinated and preventative approach, where partnership, planning and practical engagement combine to strengthen response capability and support safer, more resilient communities across the West of Scotland.

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Building Rural Resilience Through Preparing Communities to Respond When Seconds Matter

In partnership with NHS colleagues, Coll Medical Practice and local Coastguard responders, we supported the Rural Communities Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation/Trauma Awareness Collaboration on the Isle of Coll, equipping residents with the skills and confidence to respond to time-critical medical emergencies.

Developed in response to a tragic local incident, the initiative delivered practical training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, defibrillator use, trauma recognition and basic first aid. Tailored to the unique challenges of remote communities, the programme ensures residents are better prepared to act in situations where emergency response times may be longer and early intervention is critical.

This partnership approach has strengthened community resilience, improving confidence among participants and enhancing coordination between local responders, healthcare professionals and emergency services. Feedback has been highly positive, demonstrating the value of accessible, community-led training in supporting early life-saving interventions.

A key learning was the importance of locally tailored, practical training, designed around the specific needs and risks of rural communities to maximise impact.

Next phase activities will see the programme expanded across other rural areas, supporting a consistent approach to community resilience and emergency preparedness.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- Argyll and Bute Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Community Wellbeing
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected



Enhancing Partnership Working to Reduce Fire Risk for Vulnerable People

Working in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council Sensory Impairment Team and Hillhead Housing Association, we strengthened joint approaches to identifying and reducing fire risk for people with sensory impairments and those living in supported housing.

Through shared learning sessions at our National Training Centre, partners developed a deeper understanding of fire risks in the home, including electrical hazards and the challenges associated with

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hoarding behaviours. This improved awareness of how vulnerability can increase risk and how interventions can be tailored to meet individual needs.

This collaboration has strengthened early identification of risk and improved coordination between services, enabling more effective, person-centred prevention activity. By sharing knowledge and aligning approaches, partners are better equipped to support vulnerable individuals to live safely and independently.





A key learning was the value of face-to-face engagement and cross-agency learning, improving understanding of roles and strengthening referral pathways.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention, Investing in our People
- West Dunbartonshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Independent; Empowered; and Safe
- National Performance Framework: Connected; and Fair

Reducing Poverty and Inequality through Preventative Action

Throughout 2025–26, we played a key role within the Dumfries and Galloway Poverty and Inequalities Partnership, working with public, voluntary and community partners to reduce inequalities, strengthen resilience and support vulnerable individuals.

Through our frontline role, we contributed to early identification of vulnerability, using Home Fire Safety Visits and operational activity to recognise wider risks including poor mental health, addiction, mobility challenges and financial hardship. Strengthened referral pathways with social work, NHS and third sector partners ensured that concerns were escalated quickly, enabling coordinated, preventative support.

Working alongside partners, we targeted activity within communities experiencing the highest levels of deprivation, including Upper Nithsdale, Stranraer East, Lochside, Lincluden and Annan West. By aligning local intelligence with locality planning, this approach ensured resources were focused where

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they could have the greatest impact, supporting individuals and families at increased risk of harm.

Targeted youth engagement also formed part of this work, providing positive pathways and addressing fire-related anti-social behaviour in areas where inequality increases vulnerability.

This partnership approach has strengthened early intervention, improved coordination between services and supported more integrated responses to complex social challenges, ultimately supporting individuals to live more safely and independently.

A key learning was the importance of trauma-informed, person-centred approaches, recognising the complex and interconnected nature of poverty, vulnerability and risk.

Looking ahead, we will continue to build on this work by deepening our involvement in locality planning, expanding digital referral pathways and strengthening our contribution to early intervention. Opportunities exist to enhance joint training, develop shared approaches to identifying vulnerability and further embed prevention activity within the partnership's strategic priorities. As Dumfries and Galloway continue to face the long-term impacts of poverty, cost of living pressures and demographic change, we remain committed to working collaboratively to reduce inequalities and support safer, healthier and more resilient communities.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- **SFRS Strategy**: Safer Communities through Prevention
- **Dumfries and Galloway Local Outcomes Improvement Plan**: Health and Wellbeing; and Where We Live
- National Performance Framework: Fair; and Connected





Driving Safety Forward Through Partnership

Working with M Group and Police Scotland, we delivered a partnership initiative to reduce Road Traffic Collisions and improve driver safety across one of the UK's largest operational fleets.

With over 8,500 vehicles in operation, the programme focused on raising awareness of road risk, promoting safer driving behaviours and improving compliance with traffic legislation. A series of Road Risk Events engaged more than 340 staff, including a national senior leadership event attended by 120 leaders.

Interactive sessions included virtual reality collision simulations, large goods vehicle blind spot demonstrations and inputs from emergency services on legal implications and incident response, providing a practical, immersive learning experience.

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This partnership has contributed to improved driver awareness, a reduction in vehicle incidents and a stronger organisational focus on road safety. It also demonstrates the value of collaboration between emergency services and industry in influencing behaviour at scale.



A key learning was the impact of engaging leadership alongside frontline staff, supporting cultural change and reinforcing shared responsibility for safety.

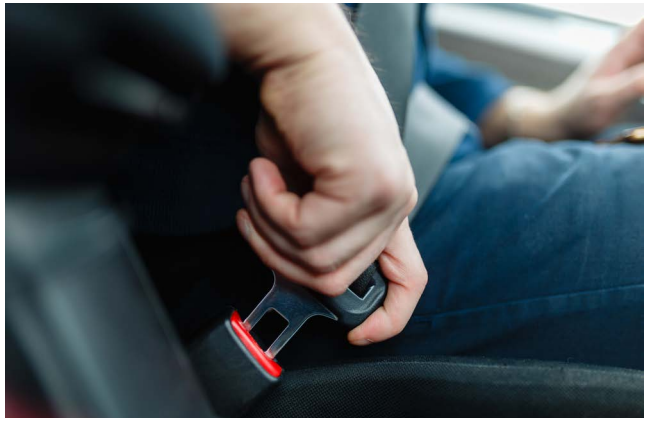
CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- The Plan for North Lanarkshire: Improve the Health and Wellbeing of our Communities; and Enhance Participation, Capacity and Empowerment across our Communities
- National Performance Framework: Healthy; and Skilled

Building Safer Roads for Young People

In September 2025, our Dumfries and Galloway Community Action Team participated in a multi-agency road safety event at SRUC Barony College alongside Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service. The day focused on promoting safe and responsible driving among young people and delivering clear, strong practical messages.

Around 130 students engaged in interactive demonstrations and workshops that highlighted



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the dangers of distracted driving, speeding, and not wearing seatbelts. They also had the chance to speak directly with emergency services and road safety professionals, gaining a clear understanding of the real-life consequences of unsafe driving.

The event gave young people valuable insights and reinforced the importance of making safe and informed decisions on the road. The collaboration demonstrated the value of partner agencies working together to deliver meaningful safety education.

Building on this success, the next steps include planning similar events in other areas and continuing to embed road safety education across schools and colleges.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- Dumfries and Galloway Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Health and Wellbeing; and Where We Live
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Healthy

Empowering Young People Through Partnership and Prevention

Working in partnership with Police Scotland, the Scottish Football Association, the Procurator Fiscal's Office and community organisations, we supported the Off the Bench programme at Greenock Morton Football Club, helping young people aged 16–25 move away from offending behaviour and towards positive futures.

The programme provided an eight-week structured pathway combining mentoring, employability support and skills development, alongside workshops addressing issues such as sectarianism, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour. Participants also gained qualifications, took part in volunteering



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opportunities and developed essential skills including first aid and Curriculum Vitae preparation.

Our involvement included engagement at Greenock Community Fire Station, where participants gained insight into the role of the Service, career pathways and the realities of emergency response, helping to build aspirations and strengthen connections with public services.

This partnership has supported improved confidence, employability and decision-making among participants, while contributing to a reduction in anti-social behaviour and increased community engagement. By providing structured support and positive opportunities, the programme helps young people make safer choices and progress towards employment or further education.

A key learning was the value of longer-term, multi-agency programmes, which provide sustained engagement and deliver deeper, more meaningful outcomes than one-off interventions.

Considering the extremely positive feedback received about the programme, partners are now exploring opportunities to expand delivery. This includes enhancing the employability elements, increasing workplace visit opportunities and strengthening the direct involvement of operational crews. We have also been invited to continue and potentially further grow our contribution to future cohorts, supporting the ongoing sustainable development of the initiative.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention, Investing in our People
- Inverclyde Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Empowered People; Working People; Healthy People and Places; A Supportive Place; and A Thriving Place
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Prosperous



Joint Initiatives Highlight the Power of Partnership in Ayrshire

Working in partnership with East Ayrshire Council, we delivered targeted initiatives to reduce risk and strengthen community safety across Ayrshire.

A key focus was improving wildfire risk awareness at Loch Doon during periods of extreme conditions. Partners developed a coordinated communications approach using QR code-enabled signage, providing accessible, real-time safety information while reducing reliance on printed materials. This improved public awareness and supported more

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effective engagement with visitors in high-risk areas. Community engagement also strengthened local resilience, with residents supported to share concerns and access coordinated responses during periods of increased risk.

Following a significant incident in Kilmarnock, partners also introduced a 'Dutyholders Advice Notice' to support businesses in managing fire risk. Delivered directly by operational crews, the initiative provided practical guidance on waste management, fire loading and maintaining access for emergency services. This proactive approach improved awareness, strengthened relationships with local businesses and supported longer-term risk reduction within a key commercial area.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate how coordinated partnership working can deliver practical, preventative solutions, improving safety outcomes for both communities and businesses.

David Doran, Health and Safety Manager, East Ayrshire Council, said:

> "Our East Ayrshire Council Health and Safety Officers and our partners in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service work together on a broad range of thematic and targeted interventions which focus on both deliberate fire raising and general fire safety."

A key learning was the value of clear, accessible communication and direct engagement, ensuring safety messages are understood, actionable and responsive to local risk.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- **SFRS Strategy**: Safer Communities through Prevention, Safe and Effective Response
- **East Ayrshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan**: Growth; Wellbeing; Fairness; and Sustainability
- National Performance Framework: Connected; and Sustainable

Strengthening Community Safety Through Partnership with HMP Kilmarnock

Working in partnership with HMP Kilmarnock, we delivered cardiopulmonary resuscitation and home fire safety training to individuals in custody, supporting safer transitions from custody to community.

Targeting those serving short-term sentences and individuals approaching release, the programme focused on equipping participants with practical, life-saving skills and improved awareness of personal and household safety.

Delivered through a series of structured sessions, the training aimed to reduce risk on release while building confidence and personal responsibility. This initiative supports rehabilitation by providing individuals with skills that can immediately benefit both themselves and their communities. By addressing known risks associated with transition from custody, the programme contributes to

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improved safety outcomes, reduced likelihood of harm, and stronger community resilience.

The partnership has also strengthened collaboration between services, aligning prevention activity with wider community justice objectives and ensuring a more coordinated approach to supporting vulnerable individuals.

A key learning was the value of early intervention at key transition points, enabling preventative support that can influence behaviour and reduce risk beyond the point of release.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- East Ayrshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Growth; Wellbeing; and Fairness
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected

Collaborative Approach to Falls Prevention

Working in partnership with East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership and NHS colleagues, we supported the East Renfrewshire Falls Referral Pathway, delivering early intervention for older residents at risk of repeat falls.

The pathway enables coordinated identification and referral to local falls services, helping individuals remain safe and independent within their own homes. By intervening early, the partnership reduces the likelihood of repeat incidents while improving outcomes for older people.

This approach also delivers wider system benefits, reducing demand on the Scottish Ambulance Service and lowering attendance at Accident and Emergency departments. By preventing avoidable hospital admissions and ongoing care requirements, the initiative supports more effective use of health and social care resources.

A key learning is the importance of coordinated, early intervention pathways, enabling partners to respond quickly and provide the right support at the right time.

Next phase activity will focus on plans to expand the pathway across Renfrewshire and Inverclyde, with potential to develop a wider model for falls prevention.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- East Renfrewshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Communities and Places Thrive; and We All Live Well
- National Performance Framework: Healthy; and Connected

WSDA – Our Initiatives

Recognising Past Service and Welcoming New Scots into Our Community

Working in partnership with Inverclyde Council, Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership and a range of local organisations, we supported engagement with Inverclyde's New Scots community, individuals and families who have recently arrived in Scotland seeking safety, stability and the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

This work forms part of a wider partnership approach to support integration, bringing together public services and community organisations to help new residents access services, build connections and feel part of their local communities.

During a fire safety session delivered at the Holiday Inn Express in Greenock, a member of the group shared that his grandfather, who was also in attendance, had previously served as a firefighter with the City of Hebron Fire Department for over 20 years.

Recognising the importance of dignity, inclusion and connection, arrangements were made with Green Watch at Greenock Community Fire Station to host a visit for the former firefighter. The visit provided an opportunity to acknowledge his previous service, reconnect with his profession and create a positive and welcoming experience within the local community.

The visit was warmly received, with the former firefighter engaging with crews, exploring appliances and equipment, and sharing stories from his career. The experience fostered a strong sense of respect and belonging, with the individual later expressing heartfelt thanks and highlighting the positive impact the visit had on him.

A key learning from this work is the importance of person-centred, inclusive engagement, recognising the value of individual experiences in building trust and strengthening community relationships.

Building on this, our East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde teams will continue to develop engagement with Inverclyde's New Scots community



through ongoing fire safety sessions, further station visits and opportunities to support integration. Future activity may also include expanded engagement with other community groups, alongside the development of training, volunteering opportunities and awareness programmes across the Service.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- Inverclyde Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Empowered People; and A Supportive Place
- National Performance Framework: Fair; and Connected

WSDA – Our Initiatives



Protecting Waste Services Through a Partnership Recycling Campaign

Working in partnership with Glasgow City Council, we supported the Take Charge Glasgow campaign to address a growing risk of fires linked to the incorrect disposal of batteries, vapes and small electrical devices.

Following a series of fires in refuse vehicles, partners raised awareness of the dangers associated with lithium-ion batteries, encouraging residents to use dedicated recycling points. The campaign responded to a wider national issue, with batteries and electrical devices linked to an estimated 1,200 fire-related incidents across the United Kingdom.

Through coordinated communications across television, radio, outdoor advertising and social media, the campaign delivered clear, consistent messaging to reach a wide audience. This helped improve public awareness, reinforced safe behaviours and reduced the risk of fires affecting waste infrastructure, frontline staff and the wider public.

Councillor Laura Doherty, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets, said:

> "We have seen at close hand in Glasgow the dangers posed by disposing of batteries and vapes, in ordinary bins. We have a responsibility to speak up and warn against failing to recycle batteries properly. Our staff, vehicles and depots can be put at enormous risk by one careless action. Lithium-ion batteries are a particular danger if they are crushed within a refuse vehicle or other waste processing equipment. I am extremely grateful for the backing we have received from the Scottish Fire and Rescue for the 'Take Charge Glasgow' campaign. The Fire Service clearly recognises the gravity of this issue, and I hope creating this united front has an impact on how people dispose of their batteries, vapes and electrical devices."

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This partnership demonstrates how joint action and targeted communication can prevent avoidable incidents, protect critical services and improve safety outcomes for communities.

A key learning was the importance of clear, high-visibility public messaging, ensuring people understand both the risks and the actions required to reduce them.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- Glasgow Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Family Poverty, Reducing Poverty and Inequalities in Glasgow's Communities
- National Performance Framework: Sustainable; and Connected



Multi-Agency Effort to Prevent Bonfire Related Harm

Working in partnership with Glasgow City Council and Police Scotland, we supported Operation Moonbeam, a coordinated multi-agency initiative to reduce the risks associated with bonfire-related anti-social behaviour.

Across two days in November 2025, partners worked collaboratively to identify and safely remove bonfire materials from across the city. This proactive approach helped prevent unsafe bonfires,



reduced demand on emergency services and minimised disruption within communities during the Bonfire Night period.

The initiative resulted in a significant increase in the number of hazardous sites addressed compared to previous years, demonstrating the impact of early intervention and coordinated partnership working. By acting ahead of peak risk periods, partners improved community safety and reduced the likelihood of fire-related incidents.

A key learning was the value of proactive, multi-agency planning, enabling partners to act early, share information effectively and deliver a more coordinated response to seasonal risks.

WSDA – Our Initiatives









CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- Glasgow Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Family Poverty, Reducing Poverty and Inequalities in Glasgow's Communities
- National Performance Framework: Secure; and Connected

Building Resilience Through Maritime Collaboration

Working in partnership with BAE Systems, Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service, we participated in a large-scale exercise at the Scotstoun shipyard, testing response to a fire onboard HMS Cardiff.

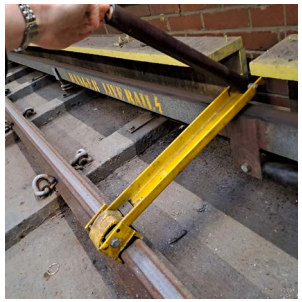
The complex, multi-casualty scenario provided a realistic environment to test mobilisation, incident command and communication across civilian and industrial partners. Crews deployed in a staggered

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response, enabling the exercise to replicate real-world conditions and pressures.

This training strengthened interoperability, improved understanding of site-specific risks and validated emergency procedures within a high-risk maritime and industrial setting. It also enhanced shared situational awareness and coordination across agencies.

A key learning was the importance of integrated multi-agency planning and realistic simulation, enabling partners to identify risks, test capabilities and improve readiness for complex incidents.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safe and Effective Response
- Glasgow Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Family Poverty, Reducing Poverty and Inequalities in Glasgow's Communities
- National Performance Framework: Connected; and Skilled

Strengthening Multi-Agency Response Through Targeted Training

We worked in partnership with Enhance Healthcare, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service to deliver a programme of multi-agency training exercises across transport and community environments.

Scenarios included a care home evacuation involving vulnerable residents and incidents within the subway network, including hazardous materials and lithium battery fires. These exercises

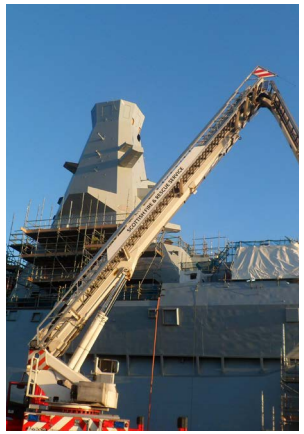
WSDA – Our Initiatives

provided realistic opportunities to test evacuation procedures, communication and joint decision-making across agencies.

By training in operationally relevant environments, partners improved interoperability, strengthened relationships and increased confidence in responding to complex incidents.

Andy Jamieson, Chief Executive Officer of Enhance Healthcare, said:

> "We were more than happy to facilitate this unique exercise which provided an opportunity to test our own procedures as a company, collaborate with Scotland's emergency services and strengthen emergency response and safety for everyone in our care."





Tony Grove, Senior Operations Officer – Subway, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, said:

> "It was great working with you. I am looking forward to the next one!"

A key learning was the importance of diverse, realistic training environments, ensuring responders are prepared for a wide range of risks across different settings.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- **SFRS Strategy**: Safe and Effective Response
- **Glasgow Local Outcomes Improvement Plan**: Family Poverty, Reducing Poverty and Inequalities in Glasgow's Communities
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected



Ready, Resilient and Working Together

Working in partnership with Police Scotland (Counter Terrorism Policing), Argyll and Bute Council, Scottish Ambulance Service and a range of local resilience and health partners, we supported Exercise Shopboard to strengthen multi-agency preparedness for a potential terrorist incident.

Delivered as a structured tabletop exercise, the initiative brought together local and national partners to test joint arrangements across response and recovery phases. It provided a safe environment to explore decision-making, information sharing and coordination, helping to build a shared

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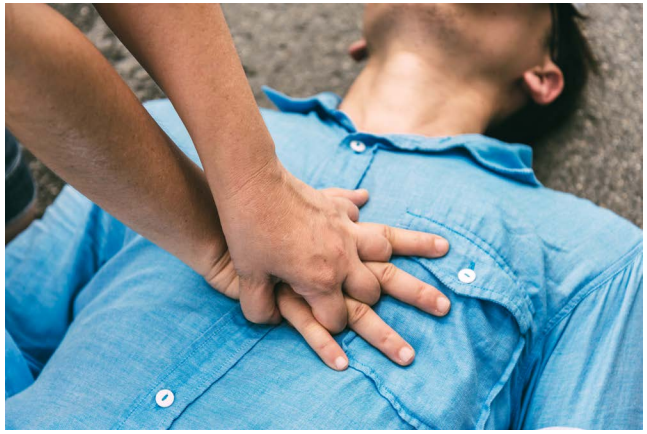
understanding of roles and interdependencies during complex incidents.

This collaborative approach improved shared situational awareness, strengthened professional relationships and increased confidence in collective capability to respond effectively to high-impact, low-frequency events. It also supported the identification of good practice and areas for improvement, informing future planning and multi-agency exercising.

A key learning was the value of structured, multi-agency discussion and early engagement, enabling partners to test assumptions, strengthen communication pathways and improve readiness for complex scenarios.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safe and Effective Response
- Argyll and Bute Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Community Wellbeing
- National Performance Framework: Secure; and Connected



Heart Start Training Strengthens Community Resilience in Campbeltown

On Call crews at Campbeltown Community Fire Station partnered with J & A Mitchell & Company Limited to deliver Heart Start training for staff, strengthening local preparedness through practical lifesaving skills.

The initiative was led by an On Call Firefighter who also works as Warehouse Manager at Springbank Distillery, demonstrating strong links between local business and emergency services. Training took place at Campbeltown Community Fire Station, making full use of its facilities to support learning.

Sessions were delivered throughout November 2025 on Friday afternoons, providing participants with the confidence and skills to respond effectively in emergencies. Training focused on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and other essential techniques, equipping staff with knowledge that can be critical in time-sensitive situations.

The partnership strengthens local relationships while improving workplace and community safety, supporting shared priorities around health, wellbeing and preparedness.

Participant feedback was very positive, highlighting the value of gaining practical skills that can be applied both at work and in everyday life.

This activity reflects wider collaborative working in the area, including joint training with the Scottish Ambulance Service. Colleagues demonstrated equipment used at incidents, enhancing

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understanding of patient care and inter-agency working. These shared experiences improve coordination, strengthen relationships and contribute to safer outcomes for the community.





CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safe and Effective Response, Investing in our People
- Argyll and Bute Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Community Wellbeing
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected

Glasgow Local Resilience Partnership

The Glasgow Local Resilience Partnership plays a central role in coordinating multi-agency arrangements to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies across the city.

During the reporting period, we worked closely with partners across a broad programme of activity, including planning, exercising, risk assessment and operational coordination. This ensured readiness to manage a wide range of risks affecting communities, infrastructure and major events.



Key activity included a series of multi-agency exercises, such as a transport-focused scenario, a university-based exercise, and joint activity linked to the Clyde Tunnel and Tidal Weir. These provided assurance around command and coordination arrangements, while identifying areas for improvement.

Further work included review of the Blochairn Market risk assessment in relation to the Multi-agency Incident Response Group, contribution to National Stadium contingency planning, and event planning for Scotland fixtures. Engagement with Glasgow City Council licensing meetings supported safe delivery of events across the city.

Operationally, partners worked together on incidents and emerging risks including the Union

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Street fire, the Petershill Road waste site, and disruptions linked to M8 infrastructure works. These examples highlight the importance of established relationships and shared awareness in managing complex situations.

Additional engagement included energy resilience planning with SP Energy Networks and liaison with Police Scotland relating to football fixtures and associated activity.

This work strengthens preparedness, supports coordinated decision-making and underpins effective response arrangements across Scotland's largest city. Learning from both exercises and incidents continues to inform improvements in information sharing and joint working.

Looking ahead, we will maintain a strong focus on partnership, planning and preparedness to ensure an effective response to emerging risks.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safe and Effective Response, Safer Communities through Prevention
- Glasgow Local Outcomes Improvement Plan
- National Performance Framework: Connected; and Skilled

West Local Resilience Partnership

Across East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde, the West Local Resilience Partnership supported a wide range of planning, training and contingency activity.

This included multi-agency event planning with local authorities and participation in Safety Advisory Group meetings with Greenock Morton Football Club, contributing to event safety arrangements.

Partnership development also included collaboration with East Renfrewshire Council to establish asbestos register information sharing, improving awareness of risk and enhancing responder safety.

Additional activity included supporting a Council Incident Officer training event, engagement with the Port of Greenock through the Contingency Planning Liaison Group, and input to the Scottish Ambulance Service Event Lead course.



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This coordinated approach supports effective emergency arrangements and ensures risks linked to infrastructure, events and operational activity are well managed.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safe and Effective Response, Safer Communities through Prevention
- All three Local Senior Officer Area Local Outcomes Improvement Plans
- National Performance Framework: Connected; and Skilled

Working Together to Inspire Future Careers

Through partnership working with Street League and local employability networks across East and West Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute, we delivered Fire Service Visibility Workshops for young people.

The initiative supports individuals aged 16 to 24 who are not in education, employment or training, helping them explore future opportunities, build confidence and gain practical awareness of fire safety.

Participants attended sessions as part of the Own Your Future programme in Helensburgh, Balloch and Dumbarton, which also provides support with Curriculum Vitae development, job applications and interview skills.

Workshops included fire safety discussions, equipment demonstrations and an introduction to the range of roles within the Service. The informal setting encouraged engagement, helping participants connect with crews and gain insight into emergency service careers. This approach



helps reach groups who may be less engaged with traditional services, providing meaningful interaction while supporting employability and awareness.

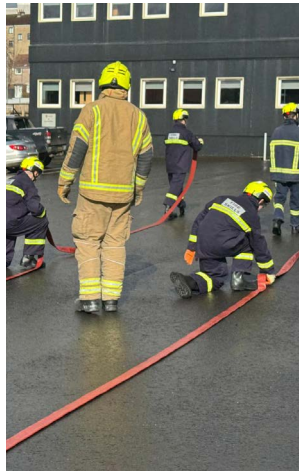
Iain Cameron, Street League Coordinator, commented:

> "The fire station workshops are always a highlight. The young people leave with increased confidence and a clearer sense of the opportunities available to them."

Future development will include more practical elements and opportunities for follow-up engagement, supporting those with an interest in pursuing a career in the Service.

For more information visit: Street League

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CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Investing in our People
- East Dunbartonshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Employment and Skills, Children and Young People; and Safer and Stronger Communities
- West Dunbartonshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Flourishing; Nurtured; Empowered; and Safe
- Argyll and Bute Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Community Wellbeing
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Prosperous

Empowering Young People with Skills for Life

Firefighter for a Day is delivered in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council's Education, Learning and Attainment department, offering secondary pupils an opportunity to experience the role of a firefighter.

Delivered at Dumbarton and Clydebank Community Fire Stations, the programme provides small groups with hands-on experience, including the use of Personal Protective Equipment and participation in practical activities alongside operational crews.

Participants explored the station environment, learned how firefighters prepare for incidents, and gained experience using equipment such as hoses on the drill ground. Sessions also included basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation training, road safety messages and an introduction to Breathing Apparatus procedures.

The programme was delivered across several schools, including St Peter the Apostle High School, Clydebank High School, Our Lady & Saint Patrick's High School, Dumbarton Academy, Vale of Leven Academy, Kilpatrick School (Assisted Special Needs) and Choices School (Assisted Special Needs).

Participant feedback included:

> "It was great" and "Course was excellent."

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Geraldine McAdam, Developing Young Workforce School Coordinator, St Peter the Apostle High School, said:

> "Really valuable and enjoyable experience for the young people."

The programme provides practical learning, introduces young people to emergency services and supports engagement with education and employability pathways.

Key learning highlighted that short, focused sessions allow tailored delivery and meaningful interaction.

This model will continue to shape future delivery, with opportunities to expand reach and introduce more specialised follow-up sessions.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- **SFRS Strategy**: Investing in our People
- **West Dunbartonshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan**: Flourishing; Nurtured; Empowered; and Safe
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Prosperous

Building Confidence, Skills and Safer Pathways Through FireSkills

The FireSkills Programme is delivered by our East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Community Action Team in partnership with local authorities and key agencies, supporting young people who may be vulnerable or at risk.

The programme combines classroom learning with practical activity, covering fire safety, first aid, teamwork and decision-making. Participants work with operational crews and partners, developing practical skills and awareness in a structured setting.

In East Renfrewshire, a programme supported by East Renfrewshire Council concluded in February 2026, delivered with Police Scotland and the Council's Development Team. In Inverclyde, a further programme concluded in March 2026 with support from Inverclyde Council, Police Scotland and Medics Against Violence.

Feedback from both participants and partner agencies has been positive, highlighting the value of the programme and the benefits of regular, high-quality delivery.

Partners will continue to develop the programme to extend its reach and strengthen outcomes for participants.

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CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Investing in our People
- East Renfrewshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Children and Young People Flourish; and We All Live Well
- Inverclyde Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Empowered People; Working People; Healthy People and Places; and A Supportive Place
- Renfrewshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Well; Fair; and Safe
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected

Bringing Joy to Children across Glasgow Through Community Giving

Firefighters from all 11 Glasgow Community Fire Stations supported a public appeal for toy and gift donations, working in partnership with Spirit Aid to assist children and families during the Christmas period.

Fire stations acted as drop-off points for new, unwrapped toys, with donations distributed directly to families through the charity. The initiative helped ensure children across the city received gifts at Christmas while supporting wider efforts to address hardship.

Spirit Aid's Patrick Rolink said:

> "Spirit Aid are delighted to have the practical support from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in our efforts to give children living in poverty a good Christmas. We are delighted to enjoy this partnership, and we are confident that this will benefit many in our communities. We also acknowledge the generosity of the people of Glasgow and welcome this additional resource to enable their continued support."

The initiative strengthened local engagement and demonstrated a wider community role beyond emergency response, supporting families and encouraging public involvement.

Learning from this activity highlighted the benefits of partnership with the third sector and will inform future community-based initiatives across the city.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Investing in our People, Safer Communities through Prevention
- Glasgow Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Family Poverty, Reducing Poverty and Inequalities in Glasgow's Communities
- National Performance Framework: Fair; and Connected





5. National Initiatives

Read on

Skip to section 6



Our National Initiatives

Across Scotland, we strengthened national partnerships to improve community safety, prevention, wellbeing and operational capability. Working collaboratively with public, private and third sector organisations, we delivered coordinated activity that enhanced resilience, supported vulnerable people and ensured effective, joined-up services at both local and national levels.

Our partnerships enabled a more targeted and data-driven approach to prevention. This included improving intelligence and learning through national water safety arrangements, reducing road harm through coordinated behaviour-change campaigns and strengthening referral pathways through the introduction of a new Home Fire Safety Visit application. Collaboration with housing and health partners also enhanced early identification of risk, ensuring support reaches those most vulnerable at the earliest stage.

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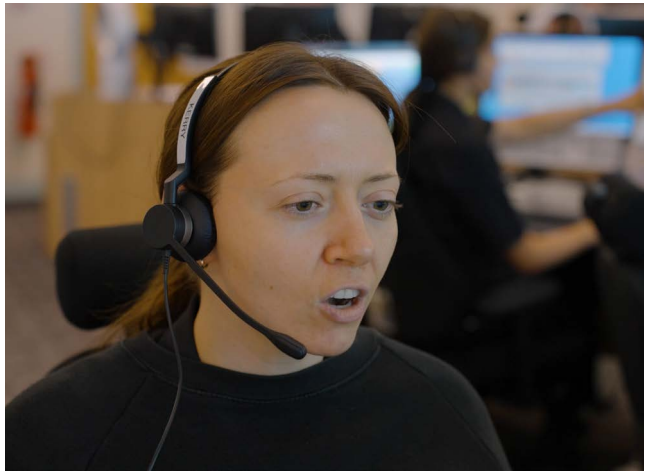
We continued to invest in innovation and capability through partnerships that combined frontline expertise with research and technology. This included work with academic institutions to strengthen understanding of emerging risks such as wildfire, alongside digital innovation projects developed through the CivTech programme to support incident command and firefighter safety. Multi-agency collaboration also strengthened operational readiness, with joint exercising and shared capability development improving collective response to complex incidents.

Partnership working has also supported our commitment to developing future generations and strengthening communities. Through national mentoring and employability programmes, including work with MCR Pathways and Career Ready, we supported young people to build confidence, skills and positive pathways into education and employment. Wider youth engagement activity has provided practical learning opportunities, helping young people develop resilience and contribute positively to their communities.

Supporting the wellbeing of our workforce remains central to our national approach. Collaboration with specialist partners have strengthened access to mental health support, promoted awareness of health conditions and reinforced a culture of openness and care. Alongside this, investment in systems and partnerships to reduce workplace risks has supported a safer and healthier working environment for our people.

Together, these partnerships demonstrate how a coordinated, national approach enables smarter use of resources, earlier intervention and improved outcomes. By combining innovation, prevention and collaboration, we continue to strengthen resilience, protect communities and ensure our people are equipped to deliver safe, effective and modern fire and rescue services across Scotland.





Our National Initiatives



Building Stronger Partnerships to Save Lives

Working in partnership with Save a Life for Scotland, the British Heart Foundation and the Scottish Ambulance Service, we continued to strengthen a national approach to improving readiness and survival from Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA).

This collaboration combines clinical expertise, national strategy and frontline insight to improve Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation awareness and target support where it is most needed. A key milestone was the launch of the British Heart Foundation Report Bridging the Survival Divide: Strategically Improving OHCA Outcomes at the Scottish Parliament, reinforcing a shared commitment to improving survival rates across Scotland.

Through joint working, partners have strengthened understanding of risk and need, enabling more effective targeting of prevention activity. Initiatives such as CAREzones, developed in partnership with Save a Life for Scotland, use local intelligence to identify communities with lower access to defibrillators and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation knowledge. This approach supports the targeted placement of defibrillators and delivery of community training, ensuring resources are directed where they can have the greatest impact.

This partnership has improved coordination across agencies, enhanced evidence-based decision making and strengthened community resilience by increasing the likelihood of early intervention in cardiac emergencies.

A key learning is the value of combining national expertise with local intelligence, enabling a more targeted and effective approach to improving outcomes.

Building on this work, partners will continue to expand joint activity, including public engagement and training initiatives, ensuring a consistent and coordinated national approach to improving Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest survival.

For more information visit:

- British Heart Foundation: Bridging the Survival Divide
- Save a Life for Scotland: Cardiac Arrest Rescue zones (CAREzones)

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- National Performance Framework: Healthy; and Connected

Our National Initiatives

Driving Change Together Safer Roads for Scotland

Working in partnership with Transport Scotland, Road Safety Scotland, local authorities and community safety partners, we continue to play a central role in a national effort to reduce Road Traffic Collisions and fatalities across Scotland.

Through this collaboration, targeted campaigns such as Slow Down, Save Lives and Don't Risk It address key risks including speed, distraction and impairment. Our crews and Community Safety Engagement Officers work alongside partners to deliver interactive sessions in schools, communities and high-risk locations, supported by coordinated national and local communications.

This approach combines national strategy with local delivery, ensuring consistent messaging while targeting those most at risk. Data-led interventions, including engagement along high-collision routes and with vulnerable road users, have strengthened awareness and encouraged safer behaviours. By pooling expertise and resources, the partnership achieves wider reach, improved efficiency and greater impact.

A key learning is the importance of combining national campaigns with targeted local engagement, ensuring prevention activity is both consistent and responsive to community needs.

Moving forward, partners will expand the use of immersive learning approaches such as virtual reality simulations, strengthen data sharing and continue to target interventions in high-risk areas, supporting Scotland's ambition of Vision Zero.

For more information visit:

- Road Safety Scotland

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- National Performance Framework: Healthy; and Connected



Modernising Referral Pathways Through Collaboration

Working with a wide range of partner organisations, we have delivered a coordinated programme of engagement and training to support the rollout of a new Home Fire Safety Visit application, strengthening referral pathways and improving prevention outcomes across Scotland.

More than 971 partner organisation staff and 345 of our employees have taken part in training, including group and one-to-one sessions delivered via Microsoft Teams. This has ensured users are confident in accessing the system, understanding referral processes and operating within the Data Sharing Framework.

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This collaborative approach has strengthened how partners identify and refer individuals at risk, improving the speed, accuracy and consistency of referrals. Enhanced information sharing and more efficient processes support earlier intervention, enabling those most vulnerable to receive timely and appropriate support.

As a result, prevention activity is now more coordinated and targeted, improving outcomes for individuals while increasing confidence and capability across partner organisations.

A key learning is the importance of consistent engagement and training, ensuring new systems are fully embedded and used effectively across all partners.

With the partner-facing element of the application now progressing towards full rollout, ongoing support and monitoring will ensure continued improvement, informed by user feedback and referral activity.

Together, we are building safer homes and brighter futures one referral, one visit, and one life at a time.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention, Improving Performance, Investing in our People
- National Performance Framework: Connected; and Healthy

Creating Safer Futures for Vulnerable Communities

Working in partnership with Dolby Vivisol, a key provider of home oxygen services across Scotland, we strengthened our approach to protecting individuals at increased risk of fire in the home.

Through this collaboration, Home Fire Safety Visit postcards are included in every oxygen equipment pack, ensuring vulnerable service users receive essential safety information and are encouraged to



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access support. In addition, Dolby Vivisol notifies our Operations Control when oxygen is installed, improving operational awareness and enabling earlier, targeted prevention activity.

This approach supports early identification of high-risk households, improves access to prevention services and enhances safety for individuals using home oxygen. By combining healthcare provision with fire safety intervention, the partnership strengthens coordination across services and ensures consistent support for some of the most vulnerable people in Scotland.

Key benefits include improved identification of vulnerable individuals, increased referrals for Home Fire Safety Visits, enhanced operational intelligence and strengthened links between health and emergency services.

A key learning is the importance of integrating prevention activity within healthcare delivery, ensuring safety interventions are embedded at the point of need.

Building on this work, partners are exploring further joint initiatives, including awareness campaigns, enhanced data sharing and targeted activity in areas of higher demand.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- National Performance Framework: Healthy; and Fair

Strengthening Fire Safety Across Scotland's Housing Associations

Working in partnership with the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, we have strengthened collaboration to improve fire safety and reduce risk across housing communities throughout Scotland.

Through regular engagement, including quarterly meetings and shared communications, the partnership has improved early identification of fire



risks and strengthened referral pathways, ensuring vulnerable tenants receive timely Home Fire Safety Visit support.

The Scottish Federation of Housing Associations represents a wide network of housing providers, giving this partnership significant national reach. By combining insight and expertise, partners are improving access to vulnerable households and supporting more consistent fire safety practices across the housing sector.

A key outcome of this collaboration is the development of a standardised Home Fire Safety Visit Checklist, designed for use across housing associations. This shared tool aims to improve the consistency of risk identification, enhance referral quality and support more targeted intervention for those most at risk.

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This coordinated approach strengthens prevention activity, improves tenant safety and supports safer, more resilient communities across Scotland.

A key learning is the value of shared tools and consistent approaches, enabling partners to deliver more effective and coordinated prevention at scale.

Next phase activity will focus on rolling out the checklist, supported by guidance, communication and ongoing partnership engagement to ensure effective implementation.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention, Improving Performance
- National Performance Framework: Connected; and Healthy

Social Housing Cladding Oversight and Assurance Group

Working in partnership with the Scottish Government Cladding Remediation Directorate, local authorities, registered social landlords and specialist stakeholders, we contribute to the Social Housing Cladding Oversight and Assurance Group, supporting a coordinated approach to managing fire risk in Scotland's social housing sector.

The group provides national oversight of cladding-related risks, bringing partners together to monitor progress on assessments, mitigation and remediation, while identifying emerging challenges and risks. Through this collaborative forum, partners share intelligence, align activity and ensure that risk to life remains central to decision-making.

A key benefit of the partnership is the early identification of fire safety concerns. Through the group, partners provide early sight of emerging risks, enabling our Fire Safety Enforcement function to support timely advice, enhance operational preparedness and engage proactively before issues escalate.

This coordinated approach strengthens prevention by improving consistency in how risks are assessed and managed across Scotland. It also enhances links between national policy and local delivery, ensuring fire safety considerations are embedded throughout remediation activity.

A key learning is the importance of early engagement and shared intelligence, enabling partners to act proactively and reduce reliance on reactive interventions.

Looking ahead, ongoing collaboration will continue to strengthen national assurance arrangements and reduce risk to life across Scotland's housing stock.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- National Performance Framework: Secure; and Connected

Our National Initiatives

National Risk Steering Group Supporting Risk Preparedness

Working in partnership with the Scottish Government, emergency responders and supporting agencies, we contribute to the National Risk Steering Group, a key multi-agency forum at the centre of Scotland's risk and preparedness framework.

The group provides strategic oversight and coordination for national risk assessment, supporting delivery of the Risk Preparedness Assessment and ensuring a consistent, collaborative approach across organisations. Through regular engagement, partners align activity, monitor progress and address emerging risks collectively.

This partnership improves shared understanding of national risks and strengthens coordination between agencies, ensuring preparedness activity is aligned and outcomes focused. By bringing together insights from planning, exercising and response, the group supports continuous improvement and reinforces confidence in Scotland's resilience arrangements.

A key learning is the value of clear governance, shared accountability and early engagement, enabling partners to respond effectively to complex and evolving risks.

We will continue to work with partners to build on this collaboration, ensuring that national risk arrangements remain responsive, coordinated and effective.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- National Performance Framework: Connected; and Skilled

Strengthening Major Event Preparedness Through Partnership

Working in partnership with Glasgow Life, alongside wider resilience and event partners, we have strengthened preparedness for major events, including the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games.

Early and proactive engagement with Glasgow Life enabled the identification of key venues across its extensive estate, supporting the timely development of Operational Intelligence. This collaborative approach improved shared understanding of risk, allowing partners to plan effectively and implement proportionate mitigation measures ahead of high-profile events.

Through this partnership, we have enhanced visibility of complex and nationally significant venues, strengthening preparedness for both routine operations and periods of increased demand. A structured programme of Operational Intelligence gathering and maintenance is now being implemented, ensuring that risk information remains current and accessible to operational crews, supporting firefighter safety and informed decision-making.

We also worked closely with Glasgow Life to deliver dedicated Continuing Professional Development, improving understanding of building risk, intelligence requirements and operational considerations. This has strengthened relationships,

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increased confidence and reinforced a shared commitment to risk-based planning.

This partnership has improved intelligence quality, strengthened coordination and enhanced preparedness across agencies, contributing to safer public events and increased community confidence.

The wider contribution of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to Glasgow 2026 was recognised by Phil Batty OBE, CEO of Glasgow 2026, who said:

"The support of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service throughout the planning and delivery of the Games was greatly valued. Your response to the major Union Street fire in the months before the Games was also a powerful reminder of the professionalism and resilience on which the city depends. With Glasgow Central such an important arrival point for visitors, the work undertaken in the aftermath of the fire mattered enormously as Glasgow prepared to welcome the Commonwealth."

A key learning is the importance of early engagement, shared risk ownership and structured intelligence management, enabling partners to plan proactively and respond effectively.

We will continue to build on this partnership by embedding the structured Operational Intelligence programme for Glasgow Life premises and maintaining regular engagement as Games planning progresses. Opportunities to extend this approach to other strategic partners and high-risk estates will be explored, ensuring a consistent and resilient intelligence led preparedness model that extends beyond the Games and supports long term community safety.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- National Performance Framework: Connected; and Skilled

Building Resilient Communities through Connecting Community Assets

Working in partnership with local authorities, resilience partners, voluntary sector organisations, businesses and private individuals, we have strengthened community resilience through the development of the Community Asset Register.

This national initiative provides a shared database of volunteers, resources and specialist skills that can be mobilised to support emergency responders and communities during incidents. The register includes contributions from businesses, voluntary organisations and individuals, enabling a coordinated, community-based response when additional support is required.

A key development has been the transfer of the Community Asset Register to ResilienceDirect, the Cabinet Office's secure platform. This has significantly improved accessibility for all resilience partners, enhancing visibility of available assets

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and enabling quicker, more coordinated decision-making during incidents.

This shared approach strengthens preparedness and response by improving access to local resources, supporting more effective multi-agency collaboration and reducing the impact of incidents on communities.

A key learning is the importance of shared visibility and maintained data accuracy, ensuring that resources are reliable, accessible and ready for use when needed.

As this work develops, partners will continue to expand the register, improve data quality and embed its use within local and national resilience planning.

For more information visit:

- Community Asset Register

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention
- National Performance Framework: Connected; and Skilled

Supporting National Resilience Through ResilienceDirect

Working in partnership with a wide range of resilience partners, we support the ResilienceDirect Scottish User Group, a multi-agency forum established to promote consistent and effective use of ResilienceDirect across Scotland. The group is chaired by our Resilience Group Commander, reflecting our leadership role in strengthening national resilience arrangements.

Membership includes agencies from across Scotland, working collectively to improve awareness, accessibility and confidence in the use of ResilienceDirect as a shared platform for planning, response and recovery. Through this partnership, responders are better able to access information, collaborate effectively and support coordinated decision-making during incidents.

The group has worked closely with the ResilienceDirect Helpdesk and the Civil Contingencies Liaison team to deliver a programme of training, supporting responders to build practical skills and confidence in using the platform. This has improved consistency in how ResilienceDirect is used across organisations and strengthened multi-agency coordination during both preparedness and response activity.

This collaborative approach has enhanced information sharing, improved interoperability and increased confidence in the use of shared systems, enabling a more coordinated and effective response to emergencies.

A key learning is the importance of joint training and shared ownership of national systems, ensuring consistent adoption and effective use across all partners.

Going forward, the group will explore opportunities to broaden engagement with additional responder agencies and embed ResilienceDirect use more fully into routine planning and exercising activity across Scotland.

For more information visit: ResilienceDirect

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention, Safe and Effective Response
- National Performance Framework: Connected; and Skilled

Our National Initiatives

Advancing Safety Through Lithium-Ion Battery Research and Partnership Working

Working in partnership with the Faraday Institution, Newcastle University, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service, we are leading a national multi-agency collaboration to improve understanding of lithium-ion battery fire behaviour and associated risks.

This partnership brings together academic research, regulatory expertise and operational experience to explore hazards such as thermal runaway, off-gassing and post-fire damage. Controlled testing at our Joint Scottish Fire Investigation Training and Research Facility in Portlethen has provided valuable insights into fire development, gas emissions and environmental impact in realistic conditions.

The Faraday Institution and Newcastle University have led research into volatile organic compounds produced during battery failure, while the Scottish Environment Protection Agency has supported analysis of fire gases and validated monitoring equipment using the Minerva carbon capture system. Our Fire Investigation teams have contributed operational expertise, improving understanding of fire behaviour and supporting future incident investigation.

The programme has also enabled wider partner learning, with Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service supporting improved scene safety awareness and operational decision-making.

This collaborative approach strengthens the evidence base for managing risks associated with emerging energy technologies, informing operational response, investigation and regulatory practice. It also supports safer communities by improving preparedness for incidents involving lithium-ion batteries, which are increasingly present in domestic and commercial settings.

A key learning is the importance of early collaboration between research, operational and regulatory partners, enabling shared understanding of emerging risks and supporting proactive prevention.

As work develops, partners will expand collaboration to include Trading Standards and explore further testing of new battery technologies, ensuring continued development of guidance, training and public awareness.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention, Innovation and Investment
- National Performance Framework: Sustainable; and Connected

Supporting Inclusive Access to Heritage through Partnership

Working in partnership with Deaf Action, our Museum of Scottish Fire Heritage contributed to the Edinburgh Deaf Festival, an accessible celebration of deaf culture, language and heritage.

As part of the festival, British Sign Language guide Babs Brown delivered dedicated tours of the museum, providing deaf participants with inclusive access to Scotland's firefighting history.

Our National Initiatives



The sessions enabled attendees to engage fully with the collections before exploring the museum independently.

Two sessions were delivered, offering 24 places in total, with strong demand demonstrated through a fully booked event. This highlights the importance of accessible provision and inclusive engagement in widening participation.

This partnership has improved access to heritage, strengthened relationships with the deaf community and supported a more inclusive approach to public engagement. It also demonstrates how collaboration can remove barriers and ensure that cultural experiences are accessible to all.

Looking ahead, plans are underway for continued involvement in future festivals, further strengthening inclusive access and engagement.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safer Communities through Prevention, Investing in our People
- National Performance Framework: Fair; and Connected

Operation Portaledge

– Multi-Agency Fire Investigation and Serious Crime Partnership: Supporting Criminal Justice Through Fire Investigation Partnership

Operation Portaledge demonstrates effective partnership working between our Fire Investigation function, Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority in response to linked wilful fire-raising offences across Scotland.

Fire Investigation Officers supported Police Scotland throughout the enquiry, from initial scene examination to court proceedings, providing specialist technical expertise to establish origin and cause. This included the deployment of a Fire Investigation Search Dog to detect accelerants, supporting evidential development at key locations.

This collaborative approach ensured clear, robust evidential findings aligned with Police Scotland's investigative work. The strength of this partnership was reflected in successful court outcomes, with three individuals pleading guilty to multiple charges of wilful fire-raising with danger to life.

The operation highlights the critical role of Fire Investigation in supporting serious crime investigations, contributing directly to public safety and justice outcomes. By removing ongoing risk and reinforcing the consequences of deliberate fire-setting, the partnership supports safer communities and strengthens public confidence.

A key learning was the importance of early integration and professional trust, ensuring expertise is embedded at the outset to strengthen

Our National Initiatives

evidence, improve efficiency and support effective progression through the justice process.

Learning from Operation Portaledge continues to inform joint approaches to serious and organised fire-related crime, supporting ongoing collaboration, capability development and preparedness for future incidents.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safe and Effective Response
- National Performance Framework: Secure; and Connected

Wildfire Danger Assessment in Scotland: Strengthening Wildfire Resilience Through Research and Partnership

Working in partnership with the Scottish Government and the University of Edinburgh, we are supporting the development of a new Wildfire Danger Assessment system to strengthen Scotland's resilience to increasing wildfire risk.

Led by Professor Rory Hadden and Dr Zach Campbell-Lochrie at the University of Edinburgh, the project brings together academic expertise and operational insight to develop both short- and long-term wildfire risk forecasting. This work responds to the growing impact of climate change, highlighted by the unprecedented 2025 wildfire season, including Scotland's largest recorded wildfire at Dava/Carrbridge.

The system will support a wide range of stakeholders. For SFRS, it will enhance operational planning and inform the development of a new wildfire risk layer within the Community Risk Index Model. For land managers and partners, it will provide long-term insight to support mitigation and land-use decisions, while improving public awareness through clearer, evidence-based risk communication.

By automating assessment processes and aligning with existing risk modelling systems, the initiative will improve the consistency and accuracy of wildfire risk forecasting, supporting more effective resource planning and response across Scotland.



This partnership strengthens the evidence base for managing wildfire risk and supports a more coordinated, data-driven approach to resilience across agencies.

A key learning is the importance of integrating research and operational expertise, ensuring emerging risks are understood early and addressed proactively.

Partners are exploring further collaboration with organisations such as the James Hutton Institute, supporting continued development of national wildfire knowledge and long-term resilience planning.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safe and Effective Response, Innovation and Investment
- National Performance Framework: Sustainable; and Connected

Our National Initiatives











Firefighters Join Forces with British Army to Test Medical Response Skills

In January 2026, we hosted Exercise Tartan Serpent at our National Training Centre, working in partnership with the British Army, Police Scotland, Disaster Victim Identification, the Scottish Ambulance Service, United Kingdom International Search and Rescue teams and The Salvation Army to test joint response to a large-scale, multi-casualty incident.

The exercise simulated a gas explosion involving a collapsed structure and multiple casualties, enabling our Urban Search and Rescue and Rope Rescue teams to operate alongside Army medical personnel delivering care through a fully functioning field hospital. Approximately 70 of our personnel and 30 casualty role players contributed to a realistic and high-pressure training environment.

This collaboration tested interoperability across emergency and military partners, including casualty extrication, medical handover and coordinated incident command. It strengthened command



and control arrangements, communication and decision-making in complex, high-risk scenarios.

Officer Commanding 144 (Parachute) Medical Squadron, Major Josh March, said:

> "Soldiers and officers in 144 (Parachute) Medical Squadron are trained to treat the injured from the first minutes, through evacuation and into damage control surgery."
>
> "As Army Reservists, many of us also work in the NHS and other emergency services. Collaborative training brings those skills together and keeps our medics sharp on the basics; while ensuring we are ready to provide care in the most complex environments."

This exercise enhanced operational readiness, strengthened relationships between civilian and military responders and improved collective capability to deliver effective medical care in complex environments.

Our National Initiatives

A key learning was the importance of integrated training across specialist capabilities, ensuring seamless coordination between rescue, medical and command functions.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safe and Effective Response
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected

Enhancing Resilience Through Collective Effort

Working in partnership with the Scottish Ambulance Service, Police Scotland, British Transport Police, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, British Armed Forces, Local Resilience Partnerships, private organisations, third sector partners and BlackBerry, we have strengthened national preparedness for high-impact and terrorist-related incidents.

Through our National Interagency Liaison Officer and Marauding Terrorist Attack Special Responder cadre, we supported a programme of joint training, exercises and policy development across agencies, enhancing coordination and shared operational understanding.

A key development was the implementation of BlackBerry AtHoc, enabling rapid identification and mobilisation of responders to incidents involving terrorism. This supports a reduction in the 'Care Gap' - the critical period between incident occurrence and delivery of life-saving medical intervention.

Following the Manchester Arena Inquiry, we also worked in partnership with Police Scotland Authorised Firearms Officers and the Scottish Ambulance Service to implement Ten Second Triage. This rapid assessment method enables responders to prioritise casualties quickly during mass casualty incidents, improving the speed and effectiveness of medical response.

In addition, collaboration with the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency has enhanced access to information on sites with radioactive sealed sources, supporting informed decision-making and firefighter safety during hazardous incidents.

This coordinated approach strengthens interoperability, improves response capability and enhances preparedness for complex, high-consequence events across Scotland.

A key learning was the importance of shared capability development and rapid deployment systems, ensuring that partners can act quickly and cohesively during major incidents.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Safe and Effective Response, Innovation and Investment
- National Performance Framework: Secure; and Connected

Our National Initiatives

Advancing Fire Investigation Through National Partnership and Research

Working in partnership with the Scottish Police Authority Forensic Services, Police Scotland, the University of Dundee (Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science) and international partners including the Danish Police, we continue to develop the Joint Scottish Fire Investigation Training and Research Partnership at Portlethen.

Based at our training facility, this nationally significant partnership provides a shared environment for training, testing and research, bringing together operational, forensic and academic expertise to strengthen fire investigation practice across Scotland.

Through joint training, live fire exercises and collaborative research, partners are improving investigative capability, evidential standards and consistency in decision-making. Purpose-built training environments allow scenario-based learning with known outcomes, supporting controlled and repeatable development of skills.

The facility has hosted complex multi-agency simulations, including organised crime and illicit drug laboratory scenarios, alongside live burn training that enables partners to study fire development, behaviour and post-incident evidence.

This collaborative approach has strengthened competence, improved consistency in investigative practice and enhanced inter-agency working, contributing directly to improved justice outcomes and public confidence. It has also created a shared national resource, reduced duplication and enabling more efficient use of specialist capability.

A key learning is the value of early co-design and shared learning environments, enabling partners to better understand roles, align approaches and improve outcomes in complex investigations.



The partnership continues to evolve, with plans to expand multi-agency scenarios, increase research activity and develop virtual learning tools to support consistent, high-quality training.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- **SFRS Strategy**: Safe and Effective Response, Innovation and Investment
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected

Our National Initiatives



Celebrating Five Years of Transformative Mentoring

Working in partnership with MCR Pathways, we have supported young people across Scotland through a mentoring programme that helps build confidence, resilience and brighter futures.

Over five years, more than 100 members of our workforce have volunteered around 3,000 hours to mentor 140 young people. Through weekly sessions in schools, mentors provide guidance, encouragement and a consistent, trusted presence as young people navigate education and career pathways.

The impact of the programme extends beyond career advice, supporting confidence, wellbeing and self-belief among participants.

Oliver said:

> "The word 'mentoring' feels safe, like someone you can rely on. It can be easier to open up to someone outside your family."
>
> "We connected through sports and games, and that helped me become more confident. Having that hour every week to talk about anything without judgement is a massive relief and helps in feeling better about yourself."

Ben said:

> "Mentoring is one of the best things for getting through the senior phase of school. It's great having someone you can talk to every week. We connected through honesty and getting to know each other. Being a teenager means having lots of ideas, and school can rush you."
>
> "Mentoring helped me figure out what I want to do. It's amazing to have a trustworthy adult who always has your back."

Mentors also highlighted the mutual benefits of the programme.

Ryan Howie said:

> "There's so much pressure on young people to have their lives mapped out so early. Giving an hour a week to support someone's confidence and opportunities felt like time well spent. I've seen Oliver's confidence grow from me steering the conversation to now having a balanced, natural chat."

Our National Initiatives

Craig Connolly said:

> "The SFRS has a course called FireSkills and I was an instructor teaching young people teamwork, communication and problem-solving. Seeing them unlock potential they didn't know they had was incredible. Mentoring felt like the perfect next step to help another young person grow. I build connections by being true to my word, showing up, remembering what matters to them, and letting trust grow naturally."

Sharon MacIntyre, Chief Executive of MCR Pathways, said:

> "Mentors like Craig and Ryan, who show up every week despite demanding roles as firefighters, are crucial to helping young people find paths to brighter futures. A trusted adult who turns up unconditionally can transform a young person's life."
>
> "That power of having one trusted adult unconditionally in your corner, who consistently turns up for their young person, no matter what, can be truly transformational and life changing. We are truly grateful for all that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are doing in supporting young people through MCR Pathways and in championing the power of mentoring and encouraging more staff to come forward in becoming mentors."

Activities such as visits to our National Training Centre have further strengthened engagement, giving young people insight into careers while building aspiration and awareness.

This partnership demonstrates how sustained, relationship-based intervention can support positive life outcomes, helping young people to develop confidence, skills and ambition.

A key learning is the importance of consistent, trusted relationships, enabling meaningful and lasting impact beyond short-term interventions.

For information about becoming a mentor please visit: **MCR Pathways Become a Mentor**

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- **SFRS Strategy**: Investing in our People
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected

Building Futures Through Our Partnership with Career Ready

Working in partnership with Career Ready, we support young people across Scotland to develop skills, confidence and career opportunities through a structured mentoring and internship programme.

The 18-month programme connects S5 and S6 students with mentors and provides a four-week paid internship at our National Training Centre in Cambuslang. This experience combines practical and classroom-based learning with structured development in areas such as Curriculum Vitae writing, interview skills and communication.

Our National Initiatives

This partnership enables young people to gain valuable insight into the world of work while helping us engage directly with future talent and support workforce diversity and development.

Rose King, Regional Manager for Career Ready, said:

> "As a social mobility charity Career Ready are passionate about helping young people, who do not have access to workplace opportunities and networks, achieve their career and life goals no matter their background, connecting them with employers through mentoring and paid internships in the workplace, a unique programme in Scotland."

Leanna Sinclair, Partnerships Manager (Scotland), said:

> "Career Ready love to work with partners who understand the transformative impact that mentoring paired with paid internships can have for the social mobility of a young person, and who provide meaningful workplace experiences that allow young people to build their knowledge, network, confidence and social skills in the world of work, no matter what sector or size of workplace that may be."

Participants also shared their experiences:

A 2025 Career Ready Intern said:

> "Surreal, once in a lifetime experience. Loved every moment of this experience and wish I could do it longer."

Another 2025 Intern said:

> "This has been the best experience of my life!"

The programme also delivers significant benefits for mentors, supporting the development of leadership, communication and coaching skills while providing a meaningful opportunity to make a positive impact.

This partnership contributes to wider organisational and national priorities, including improving social mobility, supporting young people's wellbeing and delivering long-term workforce sustainability.

A key learning is the value of structured, long-term engagement combining mentoring with real-world experience, ensuring meaningful and lasting outcomes for participants.

Next phase activity will see the programme continue to expand, with increased mentor provision and ongoing recruitment to support future cohorts.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Investing in our People
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Prosperous

Protecting Our People from Contaminants

April 2026 marked one year since the introduction of the Fire Contaminants Standard Operating Procedure, representing a major step forward in

Our National Initiatives





protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of our workforce.

The Standard Operating Procedure was developed in partnership with the Fire Brigades Union through the work of our Contaminants Group, ensuring a collaborative approach that supported shared ownership and effective implementation. Backed by an investment of approximately £3 million, the programme has delivered significant improvements across fire stations and training centres nationwide.

Key developments have included the provision of 2,200 sets of reserve Personal Protective Equipment across 36 locations, the rollout of contaminated Personal Protective Equipment storage and handling systems, and the introduction of improved tracking and laundering processes. Enhancements to firefighter decontamination facilities, including shower upgrades and zoning plans, have further strengthened protection measures.

This work aligns with national developments, including the National Fire Chiefs Council's position on contaminants in fire and rescue activities, demonstrating a coordinated approach to reducing exposure to harmful substances.

The implementation of these measures has improved operational practices, strengthened workforce confidence and reduced the risks associated with long-term contaminant exposure.

A key learning is the importance of sustained partnership working, investment and workforce engagement, ensuring that safety improvements are embedded effectively and consistently across the Service.

This initiative demonstrates a clear commitment to protecting our people, supporting a safer and healthier working environment now and into the future.

Our National Initiatives



CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Investing in our People, Innovation and Investment
- National Performance Framework: Healthy; and Connected

Promoting Health Awareness and Inclusive Support Through Partnership

Working in partnership with Blood Cancer UK, Endometriosis UK and Menopause Warriors, we continue to raise awareness of health conditions and strengthen support for our workforce, promoting a more inclusive and understanding workplace.

Through collaboration with Blood Cancer UK, we supported awareness activity across our wellbeing calendar, including participation in wellbeing roadshows and engagement at our Women in the Fire Service event. These activities helped to promote understanding of blood cancer, which is one of the United Kingdom's most common cancers, while providing access to information, lived experiences and support resources for employees.

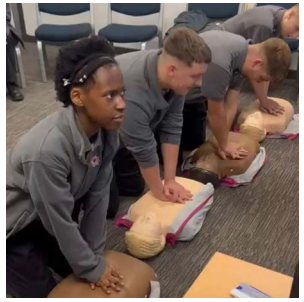
Our partnership with Endometriosis UK has further strengthened awareness of conditions that can significantly impact physical and mental wellbeing. As an Endometriosis Friendly Employer, we are committed to supporting employees affected by the condition and improving understanding across the organisation. This has included educational sessions, workshops and engagement at wellbeing roadshows and Women in the Fire Service events.

Similarly, our work with Menopause Warriors has supported open conversations around menopause and women's health. Through event participation, resource sharing and awareness activity, this partnership has helped improve understanding and provide practical support for employees managing menopause-related challenges.

Together, these partnerships have improved awareness of health conditions, reduced stigma and strengthened access to support across the workforce. By signposting to trusted organisations and creating opportunities for engagement, we are helping to build a more inclusive environment where employees feel supported to manage their health and wellbeing.

A key learning is the importance of partner-led awareness and lived experience, ensuring that support is credible, accessible and meaningful to those who need it.

Our National Initiatives











For more information visit:

- Blood Cancer UK
- Endometriosis UK
- Menopause Warriors

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Investing in our People
- National Performance Framework: Healthy; and Connected

Partnership Working within the Youth Volunteer Scheme

Working in partnership with organisations including Police Scotland, St Andrew's First Aid, Police Scotland Youth Volunteers and a wide range of community and third sector partners, our Youth Volunteer Scheme continues to provide young people with valuable opportunities to develop skills, support their communities and engage with multi-agency activity.

Through joint initiatives, Youth Volunteers have expanded their understanding of emergency services, contributing to activities such as multi-agency demonstrations, community safety events and national awareness campaigns including World Drowning Prevention Day.

Collaboration with partners have supported the development of practical skills, including first aid and public safety awareness, while strengthening relationships across agencies.

Our National Initiatives

Young people have also made a significant contribution to local communities through volunteering activity, including supporting community events, working with local groups such as Wimpy Park Community Group and contributing to initiatives tackling inequality, including breakfast club provision. Seasonal activity, including partnerships with organisations such as the Rotary Club of Buckhaven and Methil, has further strengthened community connections and engagement.

Participation in wellbeing initiatives and residential programmes, including work with 999 RE:SET and Landed, has supported young people to build confidence, resilience and awareness of key issues such as mental health, substance use and personal safety.

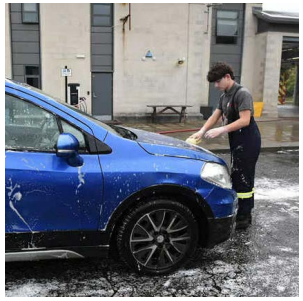
This partnership approach has had a positive impact on young people, helping them develop confidence, teamwork and communication skills while promoting positive engagement with communities and partners.



















Our National Initiatives

A key learning is the value of youth-led, partnership-based engagement, enabling young people to contribute meaningfully while developing skills that support positive life outcomes.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Investing in our People
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected

Excellence in Partnership Award for the Learning and E-Development Team

Working in partnership with LearnPro, our Learning and E-Development team continues to enhance digital learning across the Service, supporting operational competence, firefighter safety and workforce development.

This strong collaboration was recognised at the LearnPro User Group Conference at the Fire Service College in Moreton in Marsh, where the team received the Excellence in Partnership Award. LearnPro, as the supplier of core training platforms including LCMS, pdrPro, Workforce Pro and XVR, plays a key role in enabling high-quality, accessible learning across the organisation.

Through sustained engagement, the partnership has supported the optimisation and effective use of these systems, ensuring that training content remains innovative, relevant and aligned with operational requirements. This has strengthened the delivery of training, improved accessibility and supported ongoing professional development for frontline personnel.

The award reflects the Service's commitment to innovation and highlights the value of strong partnership working in delivering effective and modern learning solutions.

A key learning is the importance of continuous collaboration with technology partners, ensuring digital learning systems evolve to meet operational needs and support workforce capability.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Innovation and Investment
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected

Enhancing Firefighter Safety Through Partnership

Working in partnership with SP Energy Networks, our Learning and E-Development team has strengthened firefighter safety through enhanced understanding of electrical risks and hazards.



Our National Initiatives

Through collaborative engagement, the team accessed specialist case studies covering significant electrical incidents, including those involving pylons, domestic environments and Battery Energy Storage Systems. These resources have been incorporated into our digital learning repository, supporting the continued development of training content and improving awareness of complex operational risks.

The partnership also involved a site visit to SP Energy Networks' training facility, enabling deeper insight into electrical infrastructure and hazard management. This has strengthened knowledge transfer and supported the development of more realistic and informed training materials.

By integrating real-world case studies into digital learning, the partnership enhances operational awareness, supports safer decision-making and improves preparedness for incidents involving electrical risks.

A key learning is the value of specialist partner expertise, ensuring training content reflects real-world risks and supports continuous improvement in firefighter safety.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Innovation and Investment, Investing in our People
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected

Innovating for Digital Solutions to Support Incident Command and Firefighter Wellbeing

Working in partnership with the Scottish Government through its CivTech Challenge programme, Rowden Technologies and FireHaz Research, we are developing digital solutions to enhance incident command, operational decision-making and firefighter wellbeing.

The CivTech partnership brings together software development expertise and frontline operational insight to design an Analytical Risk Assessment tool for incident commanders. This tool is intended to improve situational awareness, communication and risk-based decision-making, while reducing cognitive burden during complex incidents.

Through the CivTech accelerator model, rapid prototyping and iterative design have enabled the development of a solution shaped directly by operational users. This collaborative approach strengthens digital capability, enhances commander confidence and supports safer outcomes for both firefighters and communities.

John Murray, Product & Solution Strategy, Rowden Technologies, said:

> "What has made this partnership stand out is the consistency of ambition and openness across SFRS. The spirit that drove the CivTech Challenge comes through in the way frontline teams engage with us and shape the work. That collaboration gives Rowden the clarity we need to build capability that genuinely supports those who will use it."

In parallel, work with FireHaz Research is developing innovative, data-driven tools to assess and reduce firefighter exposure to toxic contaminants. These

Our National Initiatives

advanced monitoring and assessment capabilities will support safer operational practices and reduce long-term health risks.

This partnership demonstrates how innovation, technology and frontline expertise can combine to deliver practical solutions that improve safety, wellbeing and operational effectiveness.

A key learning is the value of co-designed digital innovation, ensuring new technologies are shaped by real operational needs and deliver meaningful impact.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Innovation and Investment, Investing in our People
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Healthy

Innovative Partnership Advancing Multi-Agency Capability

Working in partnership with Airbox Systems, Police Scotland, the Scottish Ambulance Service, British Armed Forces, United Kingdom Special Forces and HM Coastguard, we are enhancing multi-agency interoperability through the introduction of advanced situational awareness technology.

This digital platform provides a comprehensive suite of tools designed to support planning, real-time incident management and post-incident review. It enables shared access to mapping, operational data and intelligence, supporting coordinated decision-making across agencies during complex and high-risk incidents.

The system supports the application of Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles, improving communication and collaboration between responders. Its capability to operate without internet connectivity further enhances resilience and usability in dynamic incident environments.

Adoption of this technology also addresses recommendations from the Manchester Arena Inquiry, strengthening national preparedness and ensuring that partners can respond more effectively to major incidents.

By integrating this system into training and operational activity, the partnership strengthens shared situational awareness, improves coordination and enhances safety for responders and the public.

A key learning is the importance of shared digital platforms across agencies, ensuring consistent information access and enabling truly coordinated multi-agency response.

CONTRIBUTING TO:

- SFRS Strategy: Innovation and Investment, Investing in our People
- National Performance Framework: Skilled; and Connected



6. Additional Information

Our Partners; and Index of Initiatives

Read on

Our Partners

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.

- 999 RE:SET
- Aberdeen City Council
- Aberdeen Grammar School
- Aberdeen International Airport Fire and Rescue Service
- Aberdeenshire Council
- Age Scotland
- Airbox Systems
- Argyll and Bute Council
- BAE Systems
- Blood Cancer UK
- Borders Older People's Forum
- Braemar Mountain Rescue
- British Armed Forces
- British Heart Foundation
- British Transport Police
- Burghead Sailing Club
- Capita Fire and Rescue
- Career Ready
- CivTech
- Coldingham Brave Bayers
- Coll Medical Practice
- Community Justice Partnership
- Community Learning and Development
- Criminal Justice
- Cults Academy
- Danish Police
- Deaf Action
- Developing the Young Workforce
- Disaster Victim Identification
- Dolby Vivisol
- Dumfries and Galloway Poverty and Inequalities Partnership
- Dunbartonshire Council Sensory Impairment Team
- Dundee City Council
- Dyce Academy
- East Ayrshire Council
- East Renfrewshire Council
- East Renfrewshire Health and Social CarePartnership
- Edinburgh Airport
- Eildon Housing
- Endometriosis UK
- Enhance Healthcare
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal
- Faraday Institution
- Fife Council
- Fife Local Resilience Partnership
- Fire Brigades Union
- Fire Fighters Charity
- FireHaz Research
- Forth Valley College
- Forth Valley Local Resilience Partnership
- Glasgow City Council
- Glasgow Life
- Glasgow Local Resilience Partnership
- Grampian Local Resilience Partnership
- Highlands & Islands Local Resilience Partnership
- Highlands Signing to Know & Survive in British Sign Language Team
- Hillhead Housing Association
- HM Coastguard
- HMP Kilmarnock
- Inverclyde Council
- Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership
- Inverness BID Limited
- J & A Mitchell & Company Limited

Our Partners

- LearnPro
- Lifelines Scotland
- Live Borders
- Lochaber High School
- Lochside Academy
- M Group
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency
- MCR Pathways
- Medical Emergency Response Team (Highland)
- Medics Against Violence
- Menopause Warriors
- Methil Youth Volunteer Scheme
- Mikeysline
- Moray Council
- Newcastle University
- NHS Borders
- NHS Highland
- Northfield Academy
- Outfit Moray
- Police Scotland
- Procurator Fiscal's Office
- RAYNET
- Registered Social Landlords
- Renfrewshire Council
- Road Safety Scotland
- Robertson Facilities Management
- Royal Air Force Police
- Royal Air Force Lossiemouth
- Royal National Lifeboat Institution
- Royston Youth Action
- Rural and Urban Training Scheme
- Sainsburys Superstore, Aberdeen
- Save a Life for Scotland
- Scottish Ambulance Service
- Scottish Borders Council
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Scottish Federation of Housing Associations
- Scottish Flood Forum
- Scottish Football Association
- Scottish Government
- Scottish Police Authority
- Scottish Professional Football League Trust
- Scottish Recovery Network
- Scottish Water
- SP Energy Networks
- Spirit Aid
- St Andrew's First Aid
- St Machar Academy
- Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
- Street League
- Street Pastors
- Take to the Water
- Tesco Woodend Superstore
- The Highland Council
- The Rotary Club of Buckhaven and Methil
- The TINA (Talk, Involve, Notice, Act) Project
- Transport Scotland
- UK International Search and Rescue Teams
- United Kingdom Special Forces
- University of Dundee Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science
- University of Edinburgh
- West Dunbartonshire Council
- West Local Resilience Partnership
- West Lothian Council
- West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service
- Wimpy Park Community Group
- Youth Justice

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

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SFRS Working in Partnership Report 2025/26

Version 1.0
September 2026