

2021



LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

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Introduction

Early in 2020 we faced an unprecedented challenge in the form of a global pandemic. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we dramatically changed how we worked so that we could continue to deliver an emergency service whilst keeping our staff and the public safe.

The pandemic is expected to have a lasting effect on society and this will change the way in which we deliver services in the long-term. The full implications are not yet known and this makes it difficult to make any far-reaching plans with certainty. As such we will keep the priorities of this Plan under regular review to ensure it remains relevant and appropriate.

To assist with the development of this plan, we carried out a mandatory review of our performance against our existing priorities as well as highlighting areas for continued improvement and opportunities for change against the growing needs of our communities. This was further supported by the outcomes of a Local Plan Development Consultation. We reached out to a wide variety of public service sectors, local councillors and to the vast network in the voluntary sector and it identified that the existing priorities firmly remain appropriate with a continued focus on collaborative partnership working.

In recognising all influencing factors, this Local Fire and Rescue Plan has been refreshed and developed to support the delivery of agreed local outcomes for South Lanarkshire's communities in conjunction with the longer-term outcomes and strategic objectives contained within the SFRS Strategic Plan 2019 - 2022. Our purpose as defined by Scottish Government in the Fire & Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016, is to work in partnership with communities and with others in the public, private and third sectors. We will continue to focus on key themes such as prevention, protection and response to improve the safety and well-being of people throughout Scotland.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on Scotland's society and economy, through the virus itself and the secondary effects of the local and national restrictions introduced. The SFRS will continually evolve to meet the needs of our communities and to meet the expectations of us in relation to public service reform. This flexibility will allow us to prepare and respond to new and emerging risks within society and to ensure, as a modern fire and rescue service, we continue to protect South Lanarkshire communities effectively.

This Local Fire and Rescue Plan, in conjunction with the statutory responsibilities placed upon the SFRS, will be used as a driver to build upon our existing partnership arrangements in South Lanarkshire whilst seeking to foster new relationships that will support our mission of "Working Together for a Safer Scotland".

Alan Fairbairn
Local Senior Officer
South Lanarkshire

National Context

Scottish Ministers set out their specific expectations of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016. This provides the outline we should follow to ensure our resources and activities are aligned with the Scottish Government's Purpose and national outcomes.

Our Strategic Plan 2019-2022 has been designed to meet these national expectations. Set against a complex and evolving backdrop our Strategic Plan encapsulates our mission, values and our strategic outcomes and objectives.



To ensure we can prevent the worst from happening and to be fully prepared to respond should we be called, we need to be aware of any new changing risks which threaten the safety of communities or the workforce. When developing our most recent plan, cognisance was given to: our changing population and the forecasted rise in those aged over 75yrs; doing what we can to balance social and economic inequality; climate change and the devastating impact the inclement weather can have on peoples' lives and livelihoods; and the threat of terrorism.

Our Strategic Plan is supported by a three-year Strategic Plan Programme which provides details on all the activities we intend to carry out to successfully achieve our ambitions. The Programme informs our Annual Operating Plan, which provides specific detail on the actions we carry out each year, and from which our performance is scrutinised.

This Plan is a statutory Local Fire and Rescue Plan. It sets local direction to meet the strategic outcomes and objectives outlined above. It also demonstrates how we will contribute to Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs).

Local Context

South Lanarkshire is the fifth largest council area in Scotland, the Local Authority boundary is split into 4 locality areas (East Kilbride, Rutherglen/Cambuslang, Hamilton and Clydesdale) consisting of 20 Wards and is served by 64 elected councillors. A strategic needs assessment was carried out by the Community Safety Partnership which identified,

- A population 316,230 comprising of 5.9% of the Scottish population. Higher proportion of females versus males across 30+ age groups; most pronounced among 75+.
- Geographical area of 1,772km² covering 20 Multi Member Wards.
- Lower life expectancy compared with the Scottish average (17% versus 17.4% male; 19.1% versus 19.7% female).
- Higher life expectancy for females although rising more rapidly among males.
- Higher death rate among 65+ compared with the Scottish average (50 versus 48.2 per 1,000 population).
- In South Lanarkshire as of April 2016, 17,600 families are in receipt of working age income-related benefits. 34.1% of those receiving out-of-work benefits affecting 10,500 children and 47.2% receiving in work benefits affecting 13,600 children.
- 20.4% of children live in poverty with levels highest in Blantyre (27.29%) and lowest in East Kilbride West (8.56%). In effect, two-fifths (43.8%, 24,100) of all South Lanarkshire children aged 0-15 years reside in households in receipt of income-related benefits.
- 13.3% of South Lanarkshire's population is ranked among the 15% most deprived communities in Scotland.
- Employment and income are the two most influential variables on multiple deprivations - 81% and 81.7% respectively being within the 15% most deprived areas in South Lanarkshire.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 introduces the requirement for Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) to develop a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and any appropriate Locality Plans (referred to as Neighbourhood Plans) which target smaller geographical areas with significantly poorer outcomes. They are seen as providing the potential to drive discussions on transformational change, focusing on targeting services at

the greatest need and shifting resources to where they are needed most. Tackling inequalities should now be a specific focus for CPP.

South Lanarkshire CPP vision is “To improve the quality of life for all in South Lanarkshire by ensuring equal access to opportunities and to services that meet people’s needs”. Under the CPP Board, four strategic boards have been established to drive improvements in the areas of community safety, the economy, health and care, and for children and young people.

- Safer South Lanarkshire Board

The fundamental aim of this partnership is to protect the lives of communities of place and interest and to enable people to live without fear and to go about their lives safe from crime and disorder and free from injury or harm.

- Economic Growth Strategic Board

The vision of this partnership is for South Lanarkshire to have one of the strongest and most dynamic and inclusive economies in Scotland, where businesses, communities and individuals achieve their full potential and prosper.

- Health and Social Care Strategic Partnership

This partnership is focused on progressing the integration of health and social care services under an agreed vision - We will work together to improve health and wellbeing in the community, with the community.

- Getting it Right for South Lanarkshire’s Children and Young People

The vision for this partnership is to ensure that children and young people and their families live in communities where they are safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, responsible and included. They should have access to good quality health, education and leisure services.

The SFRS takes an active role in the delivery of these priorities and their intended outcomes through participation and engagement across the partnership arena. Supporting the delivery of Anti-Social Behaviour, Unintentional Injuries, Adult and Child Protection, Health and Social Care including Alcohol and Drug strategies are examples of where the SFRS can collaborate in the delivery of these priorities at a local level whilst pursuing the key priorities of this Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

1	<i>Clydesdale West</i>
2	<i>Clydesdale North</i>
3	<i>Clydesdale East</i>
4	<i>Clydesdale South</i>
5	<i>Avondale and Stonehouse</i>
6	<i>East Kilbride South</i>
7	<i>East Kilbride Central South</i>
8	<i>East Kilbride Central North</i>
9	<i>East Kilbride West</i>
10	<i>East Kilbride East</i>
11	<i>Rutherglen South</i>
12	<i>Rutherglen Central and North</i>
13	<i>Cambuslang West</i>
14	<i>Cambuslang East</i>
15	<i>Blantyre</i>
16	<i>Bothwell and Uddingston</i>
17	<i>Hamilton North and East</i>
18	<i>Hamilton West and Earnock</i>
19	<i>Hamilton South</i>
20	<i>Larkhall</i>



Performance Scrutiny

Overseeing the performance of the SFRS at local level is the responsibility of the Safer South Lanarkshire Board. The Safer South Lanarkshire Board undertakes the process of scrutiny to monitor progress against the priorities within South Lanarkshire's Local Fire and Rescue Plan and engages with the Local Senior Officer on matters arising on a regional or national basis.

The current Local Area Plan for South Lanarkshire contains seven 'Key Priorities' and are summarised as;

- Domestic Safety
- Unintentional Injury in the Home Environment
- Non-Domestic Fire Safety
- Deliberate Fires
- Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
- Road Safety
- Preparing to Respond

From these seven Key Priorities, performance targets were devised and incorporated into the Local Area Plan. These performance targets consist of specific indicators which includes;

- All Deliberate Primary Fires
- All Deliberate Secondary Fires
- All Accidental Dwelling Fires
- All Accidental Other Building Fires
- All Fatal Fire Casualties
- All Non-Fatal Casualties excluding Precautionary Check-ups
- All Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)

This report is a full summary of activity and comments for each performance indicator including trend line analysis which also incorporates the previous 4 years data.

In addition to the quarterly reports submitted to the Board by the Local Senior Officer, reports of activity in each of the respective 4 Committee Areas within South Lanarkshire are presented to local elected members annually on the same format.

Local Priorities



Domestic Fire Safety

Fire safety within the home environment is a key prevention strategy for the SFRS as fires within the home can result in a range of impacts on individuals, families, landlords and communities. Domestic fires also place a large demand on the agencies who are required to respond, intervene and deal with these incidents. To reduce demand, it is essential that our prevention strategies are evidence based and outcome focussed for us to direct our resources to those most at risk of fire.

Analysis of accidental dwelling fire data identifies cooking as the most common cause of fire within the home in South Lanarkshire and also the most prevalent cause where fire related injuries are sustained by occupants. Distraction has been identified as the main contributory factor where accidental dwelling fires and/or injuries occur. Those who are deemed at risk from fire may also have multi-factorial issues such as age, health or mobility and may also be receiving support from other partner agencies. The scope therefore exists to work together to protect those most at risk from fire through effective information sharing, reciprocal training and relevant referral pathways.

To reduce the potential for fires from occurring, influencing positive change in occupant behaviours through raising fire safety awareness will be at the forefront of our preventative activities. By increasing the ownership of working smoke detection, the means of giving early warning of fire will also contribute to mitigating the severity of fires and fire related injuries within the home. By using assistive technology such as 'Telecare', the opportunity exists to further enhance the safety of those who are at risk from fire.

We will seek to reduce accidental dwelling fires and fire related injuries within the home by:

- *Promoting and undertaking Home Safety Visits to those deemed at risk from fire.*
- *Training relevant partners in South Lanarkshire to assess fire risk and by maintaining a simple and robust referral pathway to support the delivery of Home Safety Visits.*
- *Focusing engagement activities in those areas where Service demand has been identified.*
- *Supporting the provision of assistive technology within the home to increase occupant safety.*

We will monitor our progress in promoting our domestic safety strategy by:

- *Reviewing the number of accidental dwelling fires and their severity.*
- *Reviewing the number of fatal and non-fatal fire related injuries.*
- *Increasing the presence of working smoke/heat detection within domestic dwellings.*

By achieving a reduction in the frequency and severity of accidental dwelling fires and fire related injuries we will:

- *Support the safety and well-being of South Lanarkshire residents.*
- *Support the independent living of members within our communities.*
- *Reduce the social and economic cost of fires and fire related injuries.*
- *Reduce demand on the SFRS and our partners.*



Unintentional Injury in the home environment

It is not uncommon for those at risk from fire to also be at risk from injuries within the home environment, in particular from slips, trips and falls (over 65's and under 5's) and poisoning (under 5's). Unintentional injuries were identified as a risk priority by the South Lanarkshire Community Safety Partnership following a multi-partner Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA). These injuries account for a significant proportion of admissions to hospital.

Those persons injured through falls may often be affected by other medical conditions such as dementia, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, high blood pressure etc. The SFRS has a role to play in contributing to the protection of those at risk from injury within the home environment. Through operational attendances and delivery of Home Safety Visits, we can have the opportunity to identify those at risk and through an assessment of such risk, refer individuals to partner organisations for additional support.

We will seek to reduce the impact of unintentional injury and harm by:

- *Utilising our Home Safety Visit programme to assess for non-fire related risk and refer those deemed at risk from injury to partners to provide additional support.*
- *Working with the Community Safety Partnership to attract budget allocation for the purchase of specific equipment which will reduce the impact of falls or poisoning within the home environment.*
- *Training fire and rescue service personnel in relation to the factors that increase the risk of unintentional injury in the home environment.*
- *Supporting Partners by carrying out level 1 falls assessments.*

We will monitor the effectiveness of our intervention strategies by:

- *Reviewing numbers of South Lanarkshire SFRS staff trained on Level 1 falls assessment.*
- *Reviewing the numbers of Level 1 falls assessments referred to NHS falls teams.*
- *Recording and reviewing the levels of equipment which are installed in homes to prevent falls or poisoning.*
- *Reviewing the numbers of A&E admissions through unintentional injury of those aged under 5 (falls or poisoning) or over 65 (falls at home).**

By achieving a reduction in the frequency and severity of unintentional harm and injuries we will:

- *Reduce the social and economic cost of unintentional injury.*
- *Support members of our communities to live independently.*
- *Ensure the safety and well-being of those living in South Lanarkshire.*

* Progress towards this priority outcome will be reviewed and reported against within the South Lanarkshire Local Outcome Improvement Plan.



Non- Domestic Fire Safety

In general, all workplaces and business are classed as non-domestic premises and as such come within the scope of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (the Act) which places duties on persons responsible for those premises to comply with the Act and its associated regulations. The SFRS has a statutory duty to promote fire safety and where required enforce compliance with fire safety legislation. To discharge this duty and to secure compliance, the SFRS has adopted an approach utilising advice, education and where required formal enforcement powers.

Given the variety of premises which come within the scope of the Act, the SFRS has developed a fire safety enforcement framework which is based on the principal of risk combined with historical fire data across occupancy groups to create the fire safety audit programme. Those premises which present a higher degree of risk from fire are subject to regular fire safety audits to verify compliance.

The impact of fire can have a devastating impact on business, employment, the provision of critical services and our heritage. Evidence suggests that premises affected by a serious fire experience a high business failure rate following a fire. The SFRS will undertake its audit programme to support South Lanarkshire's ambition to grow its economy during this challenging period of economic recovery and seek to safeguard its culture, heritage and continuation of employment opportunities.

We will seek to reduce the instances of fires within non-domestic property by:

- *Undertaking our fire safety audit programme in accordance with the SFRS Enforcement Framework.*
- *Engaging with duty holders to promote responsible fire safety management of premises that come under the auspices of Part 3 of the Act.*
- *Working in partnership to ensure the appropriate provision of fire safety standards are incorporated in new premises under construction or premises undergoing material changes.*
- *Working in partnership with other enforcement agencies and organisations to support legislative compliance.*

We will monitor the effectiveness of reducing fires in non-domestic premises by:

- *Reviewing the number of fires in non-domestic premises and the type of premises involved in fire.*
- *Reviewing the number and types of fire safety audits carried out across South Lanarkshire.*
- *Reviewing the outcome of fire safety audits carried out in non-domestic premises.*

By achieving a reduction in fires within non-domestic premises we will:

- *Enable the industrial, commercial and service sector to maintain business continuity and employment across South Lanarkshire.*
- *Reduce the potential for loss of life and injury.*
- *Protect South Lanarkshire's culture and heritage.*
- *Protect the natural and built environment and reduce the impact of fire on our communities.*



Deliberate Fires

Deliberate fire setting accounts for a significant number of operational incidents within South Lanarkshire and takes various forms. Whilst a small proportion involve occupied buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures (primary fires), the majority of deliberate fires are classed as 'secondary fires' and on most occasions, occur in outdoor locations.

Analysis of incident data identifies deliberate secondary fires occurring throughout the year, however peak activity is noted in the spring time, during the bonfire season and when prolonged periods of dry weather occur. These acts can lead to serious consequences such as personal injury, damage to property and to the environment. Deliberate fire setting is regarded as anti-social behaviour and is also a criminal offence.

Working in partnership, we will seek to combine our information to identify those places in our communities that are being affected by anti-social behaviour in order to reduce such instances, whilst tackling the underlying causes of such behaviour. Where appropriate the SFRS will work with Police Scotland to investigate deliberate fire setting to determine the cause and if possible those responsible for such acts. Diversionary and engagement activity is regarded as an important approach in tackling anti-social behaviour and will continue to be part of our approach to raise awareness of the impact of these deliberate fires.

We will seek to reduce the instances of fire related anti-social behaviour by:

- *Identifying those places in South Lanarkshire's communities affected by deliberate fire setting and sharing this information with our partners.*
- *Utilising our Fire Reach, Firesetters and school's education programmes to raise awareness of the impact of fire related anti-social behaviour.*
- *Engaging with partners to develop joint initiatives and strategies to reduce deliberate fire setting.*

We will monitor the effectiveness of reducing fire related anti-social behaviour by:

- *Reviewing the number and type of deliberate fire setting incidents within South Lanarkshire.*
- *Evaluating the effectiveness of our engagement and intervention programmes.*

By achieving a reduction in fire related anti-social behaviour, we will:

- *Enable the SFRS to divert its resources towards other community based activities.*
- *Protect the natural and built environment.*
- *Support the promotion of active and responsible citizenship across South Lanarkshire's communities.*
- *Support our communities in feeling safe from crime, disorder and danger.*



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Fire protection within premises can be viewed as a holistic approach to safeguarding life and/or property by inhibiting the growth and spread of fire. The design and use of premises will influence the extent of the fire protection required to be incorporated within them. In developing a fire protection strategy for various premises types and for strategies to be successful, a key component is the provision of fire alarm systems. The provision of these systems enables those within premises sufficient time to exit buildings to a place of safety in the event of fire.

Whilst a small number of fire alarm signals generated are due to confirmed fire conditions being present, there are an even greater number of signals generated which when investigated have occurred when no fire conditions have been present. On such occasions these are known as 'Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals' (UFAS) and are defined as "an event which has required an operational attendance by the fire and rescue service due to the unwanted actuation of a fire alarm system".

The impact of responding to UFAS incidents causes disruption to the premises working environment and to the range of activities the SFRS undertake. Unnecessary blue light journeys to UFAS incidents also create additional risks and hazards to firefighters and to the public and have a detrimental impact on the environment through additional vehicle carbon emissions. Active and positive engagement with occupiers to take responsibility in limiting the number of UFAS incidents within their premises is integral to reducing these impacts.

We will seek to reduce the instances of Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals by:

- *Investigating the cause of alarm actuations and engaging with duty holders following an operational attendance at a UFAS incident.*
- *Analysing our attendances at those premises that frequently generate UFAS incidents to identify trends and support duty holders in developing demand reduction plans.*
- *Instigating where required, formal fire safety enforcement measures to ensure appropriate demand reduction action is taken by duty holders for premises generating unacceptable levels of UFAS incidents.*

We will monitor the effectiveness of mobilising to Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals by:

- *Reviewing the number of attendances at incidents and the types of premises generating UFAS in South Lanarkshire.*
- *Supporting and evaluating the outcomes of occupier's demand reduction plans to review progress.*
- *Reviewing our attendances at UFAS incidents to ensure our attendances are based on an assessment of risk and demand.*

By achieving a reduction in Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals we will:

- *Minimise the disruption to business and service continuity across South Lanarkshire.*
- *Increase the capacity of the fire and rescue service to carry out other activities.*
- *Reduce the risk to firefighters and public whilst responding to UFAS incidents.*



Road Safety

Outwith the domestic environment, the SFRS respond to a range of non-fire related emergencies. The most common incident of this type within South Lanarkshire is attendances at Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) which results in the majority of non-fire related injuries. Responding to RTCs is a statutory duty for the SFRS, however a collective approach is required amongst Community Planning Partners to support risk reduction measures. As a partner, the SFRS will support the education of young drivers who are considered to be an 'at risk' group and support other initiatives intended to reduce the instances and impact of RTCs within South Lanarkshire. Road Safety in South Lanarkshire has been identified as one of its top 5 priorities within the Community Safety Strategy which the Local Authority will lead with the SFRS as a key stakeholder.

We will seek to reduce the impact of Road Traffic Collisions by:

- *Working in partnership to deliver targeted road safety programmes to young drivers.*
- *Focusing resources where demand has been identified and deliver key safety messages.*

We will monitor the effectiveness of our intervention strategies by:

- *Reviewing the number of attendances at RTCs and the frequency and severity of injuries arising from RTC's.*

By achieving a reduction in the frequency and severity of Road Traffic Collisions we will:

- *Reduce the social and economic impact of RTC's.*
- *Ensure the safety and well-being of those living, working and visiting South Lanarkshire.*



Preparing to Respond

The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Fire (Additional Function) (Scotland) Order 2005 defines the duties and responsibilities for the SFRS in relation to responding to emergencies. It is essential our firefighters possess the skills, knowledge and expertise to respond to incidents which, by their nature, can be varied in both type and complexity.

It is important that our firefighters understand the risks across their communities to ensure that the level of risk is matched with an appropriate level of Operational Intelligence and associated response. In gathering this knowledge, appropriate training can be carried out to safeguard firefighter safety and to ensure any such response results in an effective and efficient deployment of resources.

Emergency response across South Lanarkshire includes firefighters operating within the Retained Duty System (RDS). Working within this duty system, RDS firefighters respond from home and/or primary work locations as part of an 'On-Call' provision. Given the dynamic nature of this duty system and to support a balance between primary employment, personal and firefighting commitments, each RDS station requires a sufficient number of RDS firefighters to ensure this vital resource is available when required.

There will also be occasions whereby the nature of an emergency will require a combined response by emergency services and other organisations to deal with such a major event. To ensure a co-ordinated response, additional duties are placed upon the SFRS under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to prepare and be able to respond to major emergencies. The scope of such preparations may include responding to adverse weather events, natural disasters, pandemics, chemical incidents or major transport incidents. The threat of terrorism also compels the SFRS to ensure it can respond alongside other partner agencies should such an event occur.

We recognise the potential for the role of the SFRS to evolve, which provides scope to further protect those members of our communities from harm in the event of an emergency. Assisting other agencies in emergency situations, such as responding to 'Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests' is one example where resources can be combined to maximise the potential for positive outcomes for those requiring assistance. Out with emergency responses the opportunity also exists to promote and support community resilience to improve the survivability rates from cardiac arrests through active engagement and education across South Lanarkshire's communities.

We will seek to ensure that we are preparing to respond within South Lanarkshire by:

- *Identifying and assessing the risk to our communities through Operational Intelligence gathering.*
- *Undertaking planned training events to support the maintenance of core skills to provide the capability to respond to emergency incidents.*
- *Continuing with RDS firefighter recruitment campaigns to support operational response across South Lanarkshire.*
- *Reviewing our operational response to incidents, to ensure firefighter safety and the protection of our communities.*
- *Working in partnership to plan, prepare and test our responses to major emergencies.*
- *Continually reviewing our Service position in relation to Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest.*

Review

To ensure this Local Fire and Rescue Plan remains flexible to emerging local or national priorities a review may be carried out at any time but will be reviewed at least once every three years. A review may also be carried out if the Scottish Minister directs it or if a new Strategic Plan is approved. Following a review, the Local Senior Officer may revise the Plan.

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