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POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE AND SAFER COMMUNITIES BOARD FRIDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY, 2015

A MEETING of the POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE AND SAFER COMMUNITIES BOARD will be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, NEWTOWN ST BOSWELLS on FRIDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY, 2015 at 9.30 AM

J. J. WILKINSON,
Clerk to the Council,

6 February 2015

BUSINESS		
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Order of Business	
3.	Declarations of Interest	
4.	Minute (Pages 1 - 8) Consider Minute of Meeting held on 14 November 2014. (Copy attached.)	15 mins
5.	Progress Reports Consider progress reports from:-	60 mins
	(a) Police (Pages 9 - 12) Divisional Commander (DC) Chief Supt. Gill Imery. (Copy attached.)	
	(b) Fire & Rescue (Pages 13 - 34) LSO John Dickie. (Copy attached.)	
	(c) Safer Communities (Pages 35 - 44) Safer Communities Team Manager John Scott. (Copy attached.)	
6.	Safer Communities Team Pathway Project Annual Report 2013/14 (Pages 45 - 64) (Copy attached.)	10 mins
7.	CCTV Provision in the Borders (Pages 65 - 72)	10 mins

	Consultation Paper by Service Director Commercial Services, Scottish Borders Council. (Copy attached.)	
8.	Updates on Consolidation and Sustainability (Pages 73 - 168) Updates from:- (a) Chief Supt. Imery (Police); and (b) LSO Dickie (Fire & Rescue). (i) Resources based within the Scottish Borders 2010 -14 (ii) Futures Projects. (Copies attached.)	30 mins
9.	Any Other Items Previously Circulated	
10.	Any Other Items which the Chairman Decides Are Urgent	
11.	Dates of Future Meetings	

NOTES

1. **Timings given above are only indicative and not intended to inhibit Members' discussions.**
2. **Members are reminded that, if they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any item of business coming before the meeting, that interest should be declared prior to commencement of discussion on that item. Such declaration will be recorded in the Minute of the meeting.**

Membership of Committee:- Councillors D Moffat (Chairman), S. Aitchison, B Herd, A J Nicol, R Stewart, G Turnbull, Vacancy.
J Raine, NHS Borders; J Mulloy, Scottish Borders Housing Network; F Young, Lothian & Borders Community Justice Authority; G Higgs, Voluntary Sector; H Waltl, Business Sector.

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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE AND SAFER COMMUNITIES BOARD

MINUTE of MEETING of the POLICE, FIRE &
RESCUE AND SAFER COMMUNITIES
BOARD held in the Council Headquarters,
Newtown St. Boswells on Friday, 14
November 2014 at 9.30am.

Present:- Councillors D Moffat (Chairman), S Aitchison, B Herd, G Turnbull.
Ms M Lyle, Scottish Borders Housing Network.

Apologies: Councillors A Nicol, R Stewart.
Mrs J Mulloy, Scottish Borders Housing Network; Mr J Raine, NHS Borders; Mr R
Strachan, Lothian & Borders Community Justice Authority; Mr G Higgs, Voluntary
Sector.

In Attendance: Chief Superintendent G Imery, Police Scotland; LSO J Dickie, Scottish Fire &
Rescue Service; Group Manager A Girrity, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service;
Superintendent A MacInnes, Police Scotland; Chief Inspector A McLean, Police
Scotland; Inspector J Scott, Safer Communities Team; Ms S Smith, Communities
& Partnership Manager; P Bolson, Democratic Services Officer.

WELCOME

1. The Chairman welcomed those present and introduced PC J Hood, Wildlife Crime Officer, Police Scotland and Mr R Whetton and Mr G Paterson from the Improvement Service to the meeting.

MINUTE

2. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 29 August 2014. With reference to the attendance record, it was noted that A Girrity should have read D Girrity; with reference to paragraph 5, line 23 Incident Response Unit (IRU) should have read Incident Support Unit (ISU); and with reference to paragraph 7 (b) (i) the recommendation should have stated "that LSO Dickie would provide a report on staffing levels before 1 April and after the start of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service."

DECISION

APPROVED the Minute subject to the amendments as noted above.

MATTERS ARISING

3. (a) Members were informed about the arrangements for the Board to visit Galashiels Fire Station on Friday 21 November 2014, meeting there at 10.30am.
- (b) With reference to the decision at paragraph 8 (b) the Minute of the meeting of 29 August 2014, it was noted that PC Jamie Hood was present to update Members on wildlife crime in the Scottish Borders.
- (c) With reference to the decision at paragraph 11 (b)(i) of the Minute of the meeting of 29 August 2014, Members were advised that Inspector Scott from the Safer Communities Team would provide an update to the Board in relation to the Skills for Life for Young Drivers course.
- (d) With reference to the decision at paragraph 11 (b)(ii) of the Minute of the meeting of 29 August 2014, the Chairman advised the Board that he, along with Councillor Turnbull and Mr Scott had given evidence at the Scottish Police Authority Armed Policing Scrutiny Inquiry on 3 November 2014. The Chairman reported that the session had

gone extremely well and encouraged the Board to view proceedings via the internet by searching for Scottish Police Authority Armed Policy Evidence Sessions.

PROGRESS REPORTS

4. Police

There had been circulated copies of the Police Progress report covering the period April to September 2014. The report detailed the figures for the six Priority areas to date and compared them to the figures for the same period in 2013/14. Chief Supt Imery highlighted key areas of the report and noted that there had been a reduction of 3.2% in the detection rate for Groups 1 – 5 crimes although the reduction was 0.1% compared to the previous quarter. She went on to detail the figures in the context of the report and noted that Adults at Risk referrals made to partner agencies had increased by 23.2%, from 654 to 806 compared to the same period in 2013/14. Members were advised that a new Vulnerable Persons' Database had been introduced in March 2014 to ensure that all vulnerabilities were identified and addressed at the earliest opportunity and that this had increased the number of referrals over the period. The number of Domestic Abuse initial checks that had been conducted within 24 hours had decreased and this was due to the Police being unable to contact victims within the 24 hour timeframe. Chief Supt Imery also advised Members that the number of common assaults compared to the previous year had decreased by 23.4% and that this trend was mirrored across crimes of violence as a whole in the Scottish Borders, equating to 117 fewer victims in the area compared to the previous year. The report noted that there had been an increase of 1.2% in the number of Antisocial Behaviour incidents but this was in comparison to an increase of 9.7% over the previous quarter. Work would continue in a bid to return to the previous downward trend. Chief Supt Imery reported that there had been a very welcome decrease of 21.4% in the reporting of hate crime compared to the same period in 2013/14. The report detailed the trends in relation to the type of prejudice and noted that incidents for Race crime had reduced from 30 to 22, Homophobic had decreased from 9 to 7, there had been no reports of Transgender crime and a reduction of 1 in respect of Disability. There had been an increase of 2 incidents of Religious Hatred compared to the same reporting period last year. In relation to Stop and Searches for drugs, the report noted an increase of 2% in the proportion of positive searches. It was noted that visits to Licensed Premises had reduced by 9.4% this year to date and this was mainly attributed to the focus of activity in this area in the previous year. It was encouraging that the figures in relation to making our roads safer had decreased. There had been a reduction in the number of people seriously injured from 46 to 41 and the number of people killed in road traffic incidents had remained the same as in the previous year. The report noted that no children had been killed or seriously injured and this was extremely encouraging. Members noted that there had been no change in the number of people detected for drug supply over the same period in 2014/15 and were advised that this work continued to be intelligence-led. The report identified an increase of £1,210,354 in the amount of Assets referred for Restraint and Chief Supt Imery advised Members that the process was a very complex and time-consuming one. Both housebreakings to dwelling houses and thefts of motor vehicles had decreased by 15.1% (19 fewer victims) and 9.1% (14 fewer victims) respectively. Discussion took place regarding problems that members of the public had reported in relation to using "101" to contact Police Scotland. The Board was informed that Police Scotland had been made aware of these problems. Chief Supt Imery advised that the introduction of new software had improved the situation for users and invited future feedback from Members on the results.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

Fire and Rescue Service

5. There had been circulated copies of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report covering the period June to September 2014. In summarising the report, LSO Dickie advised that with regard to Priority 1: Reduction of Dwelling Fires, the SFRS had attended 17 accidental dwelling fires during this reporting period, an increase of five from the previous

year and there were no deliberate dwelling fires during in Quarter 2. Priority 2: Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties, the report noted that there had been no fatalities during the quarter however there had been four reported casualties, all as a result of small cooking related fires. This was an increase of four from the previous year. Priority 3: Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting indicated a decrease of five from the previous year and it was noted that this included all deliberate secondary fires. Priority 4: Reduction in Road Traffic Collisions indicated that the SFRS attended 21 incidents during the quarter, a reduction of four from the same period in the previous year with five requiring intervention to release casualties. No deaths had occurred as a result of these road traffic collisions with two casualties being of a serious nature. Priority 5 related to the Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals and it was noted that there had been 227 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) during this quarter, representing a decrease of 27 incidents compared to Quarter 2 in 2014. Members noted that where an increase was shown, this related to actuation of automatic fire alarms in residential properties. It was further noted that the SFRS's new UFAS policy was due to go live in December 2014 and would be applied and enforced by Fire Safety Enforcement Teams as required. LSO Dickie noted that there had been no reported incidents of violence to staff/crews. The report detailed performance in relation to Fire Safety Enforcement Audits, noting that delivery was slightly below target for Quarter 2 but was expected to achieve the final annual target for 2015/16. Delivery of Home Fire Safety visits was allocated on a points basis to target the highest risk households in order to make best use of the resources available and SFRS had achieved their target ahead of schedule for Quarter 2. Details of community safety engagement activities were now contained in the report and this was welcomed by the Board.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

Safer Communities

6. There had been circulated copies of the Safer Communities Performance Report covering the period April to September 2014. Inspector Scott highlighted the key points in the report and it was noted that, in respect of domestic abuse, there had been an increase in the number of reported incidents, including those to the dedicated Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service (DAAS). The report explained that there had been increased focus and change in protocol response from Police Scotland and risk assessments were now undertaken at point of incident with the likelihood that more cases were now being correctly identified. This new procedure was the reason for the increase of recorded incidents. The report also explained that the percentage of self-referrals to specialist support services had decreased compared to the same period the previous year. DAAS now provided support throughout the whole court process, with the result that clients were more likely to self-refer and remain with the service than re-refer after repeat incidents and this, in turn, was a possible cause of this decrease. The report also identified a reduction of 4.2% in the number of children on the Child Protection Register where domestic abuse had been identified as a risk factor. Inspector Scott advised that, following the implementation of a homeless prevention service, there had been a considerable drop in the number of homeless assessment presentations which were due to violent or abusive dispute within the household and that the excellent partnership working with Housing Associations and the Anti-social Behaviour Unit had been a key contributory factor in the success of the new service. Other domestic abuse indicators also demonstrated encouraging results with further details included in the report. The report noted that there had been a very slight increase in the number of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents but continued to remain well below the 2 year average. Inspector Scott indicated that incidents were identified and targeted very quickly and the situation would continue to be monitored. Members were advised that youth-related incidents had decreased by 117 (12.9%) and this was due, in part, to the high level of partnership working with Social Work, Health and Education. Early interventions made by Anti-Social Behaviour partners resulted in an increase of 23% (115 cases) which demonstrated a very positive and proactive approach. In terms of alcohol and drugs, there had been 78 less incidents of reported vandalism compared to the same period last year. There was an increase of

16.1% in the number of alcohol-related ASB incidents and these figures were also reflected in the joint Alcohol Data Project. The increased rigidity and recording mechanisms contributed to the increase in the number of incidents relating to licensed premises. A rise of 38.5% in incidents involving needles/drugs paraphernalia was reported and Members noted that work was ongoing to improve reporting and identify locations for preventative activity. In terms of Home Injury Prevention, the report recorded the number of hospital admissions for people aged 75+ caused by falls had decreased by 113 (47.3%) and there were 10 less emergency hospital admissions due to a home accident of children under 5 years. The figures for Road Injuries indicated that 5 fewer road users had sustained serious injuries compared to the same period in the previous year and that no children had been killed or seriously injured in a road crash. There had also been a reduction both in the number of young drivers killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions and of passengers killed or seriously injured in cars driven by young drivers. Due to a prolonged period of good weather and the attraction of Borders routes, there had been an increase in both motor and pedal cyclists using the roads during the year and that this was seen as a major factor in the increased number of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured.

7. Discussion followed in relation to the Skills for Life Young Drivers course and the continued disappointment that young drivers were not signing up for this free opportunity. A number of suggestions were made regarding ways in which this course could be re-marketed and kept in full view of the target audience. It was agreed that re-publicising the course via Elected Members, the Community Council Network and other Community Partners on a regular basis could go some way to ensure that potential participants are targeted. Discussion followed. Officers clarified a number of points raised by Members and answered a range of questions. With regard to the deployment of Police officers, CI McLean advised that the call management system used at Bilston Glen allocated officers as required on a geographical basis. Inspector Scott confirmed that the Institute for Advanced Motorists had advocated that funding be released to enable motorcyclists to be included in the Skills for Life for Young Drivers programme. Alcohol-related incidents within private residencies were not covered by the same regulations as licensed premises and Chief Supt Imery advised the Board that for the first time nationally, a higher level of problems had been experienced within private spaces. It was noted that increasing staffing skills and understanding the roles of colleagues within partnership organisations could have a positive impact on reducing alcohol-related incidents. Members were advised that a conference on Domestic Abuse was scheduled for 4 December 2014 at Tweed Horizons, commencing at 3.00pm.

DECISION

(a) **NOTED the report.**

(b) **AGREED that information about the Skills for Life for Young Drivers course be promoted via Elected Members, the Community Council Network and Community partners on a regular basis.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10.50am for coffee and reconvened at 11.05am.

UPDATE ON WILDLIFE CRIME

8. PC Jamie Hood, Wildlife Crime Officer was present to update Members on the current status of wildlife crime within the Scottish Borders. Members were advised that nationally, there were six priorities addressed by the Wildlife Crime Unit and that locally, the main issues were those of badger persecution, bat persecution, deer and hare coursing, poaching and raptor persecution. PC Hood advised that 50% of the offences which took place in the Borders related to deer and hare coursing but there had been no prosecutions in the past six months. With regard to salmon poaching, the majority of incidents were dealt with by the Tweed Commissioners, with only one case resulting in prosecution by Police. Recent changes in wildlife legislation and increased partnership working with the Tweed Commissioners and Borders College where a range of courses in game keeping and wildlife

management were available would hopefully lead to a better understanding of the issues affecting the Borders. PC Hood went on to explain that in respect of raptors, the general licenses granted were for the control of vermin and carrion and should any licence holder have that licence revoked, it would result in a three year ban across the whole estate. Members discussed the possibility that raptors were responsible for the deaths of young lambs and requested that further information was provided regarding the current situation. Discussion took place regarding whether badger carcasses found on the roadside were all road kill and the incidence of hare coursing in some areas of Berwickshire. Inspector Scott reiterated the importance of reporting any suspicions to Police Scotland to allow proper investigations to be undertaken and PC Hood outlined the process for such investigations and prosecutions. In response to a question on whether raptors were responsible for killing young lambs, PC Hood would provide further information to the Board in due course. Chief Supt Imery added that there was evidence to link wildlife crime to organised crime on a national level. Members acknowledged the potential impact of wildlife crime on tourism and the local economy. The Chairman thanked PC Hood for his presentation.

DECISION

(a) **NOTED the report.**

(b) **AGREED to receive further information on raptor activity in relation to the killing of young lambs.**

UPDATE ON CONSOLIDATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Police Scotland

9. Chief Supt Imery provided a verbal update to the Board, noting that Police Scotland was moving into its third year of operation and in terms of local delivery, all areas across Scotland should receive a similar level of service from Police Scotland. Members noted that counter terrorism activities impacted both nationally and locally in respect of deployment of resources; and that cyber-crime included economic, fraud and sexual crimes. Chief Supt Imery highlighted areas where crimes were of significant importance, including the cannabis cultivation in Selkirk and issues relating to substance misuse in Galashiels and Hawick and advised Members that child sexual exploitation was not an organised activity in the Scottish Borders. Members were further advised of the imminent changes to the drink driving legislation and the potential impact this could have and noted that community policing and response would continue as it was in the Scottish Borders. Following discussion, Chief Supt Imery answered a number of questions. In relation to the cannabis cultivation in Selkirk, the perpetrators had used an energy bypass, obscuring the unusually high consumption and as such, this had not been identified by the power company. Bypassing energy supplies was a dangerous activity with very serious health and safety concerns to be considered. Members requested clarification regarding the new system for licensing a motor vehicle whereby no disc was displayed and were advised that the linking up of speed cameras, registration recognition and the DVLA system would ensure that offenders were identified. This link up provided Police Scotland with a complete database of information. With regard to the use and sharing of buildings, Members were advised that the national exercise to identify assets was still in progress with some way still to go. When this exercise was complete, consideration of joint use with partner organisations could proceed. Discussion took place regarding the policing of community events and Members were referred to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of the Board held on 9 May 2014. Members were advised of new management arrangements within J Division, namely Superintendent Angus McInnes and Superintendent Brian Auld were now both in post. Inspector John Scott had now taken up his role as the Safer Communities Team Leader and Chief Inspector Andy McLean was the new Local Area Commander.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

10. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service updating Members on resources based with the Scottish Borders area. The report stated that the whole time establishment at Hawick fire station had remained constant at 28 operational staff throughout the Service reform period and advised that the implementation of Resourced Based Crewing (RBC) at Galashiels in November 2014 meant that operational staff numbers would reduce from 44 to 28. The report further advised that the Retained Duty System (RDS) establishment had remained at 150 across all ranks within 12 stations, noting that this could vary slightly depending on factors such as staff turnover and recruitment difficulties. The report explained that the Day Shift Duty Service had been discontinued at Duns as part of a trial to improve strategic cover across the Scottish Borders and staff from the Duns station were relocated to whole time watches in Galashiels. A flexible resource was available from Galashiels should the need arise in any of the RDS stations in the Scottish Borders. LSO Dickie advised Members that the number of Protection and Prevention staff had increased as a result of National Reform with 10 officers now responsible for fire safety engagement and enforcement. Training and Employee Development staff had also increased to 10 across the area. LSO Dickie confirmed that the Management structure comprised an Area Manager, a Group Manager and 3 officers responsible for station command and one senior officer on call at any time. The provision of fire appliances had not been affected by Service Reform and the report noted that the availability of the Incident Support Unit had been maintained but with an amended procedure for mobilisation. Appendix A to the report gave further detail of staff numbers across stations and functions and it was noted that figures for the Safer Communities Team had been omitted. This would be corrected and reflected in the report presented to the next meeting of the Board. Discussion followed and Members requested clarification on staffing numbers within the Scottish Borders and a full explanation of the situation at Duns. LSO Dickie explained that the Day Shift Duty System (DSDS) had been implemented in the Scottish Borders over four years previously and that the staff based in Duns had been transferred to Galashiels whilst still part of Lothian and Borders Fire Service. LSO Dickie went on to explain that although the Duns station had an establishment of 10 staff, in practice there were never more than 6 officers in post due to previously reported recruitment difficulties. The remaining posts not filled at Duns were moved to Galashiels and were never subsequently used to cover retained fire duties. Members noted the response times for appliances attending incidents. Members were advised as to the procedure for deployment of the Heavy Rescue Vehicle based at Newcraighall and noted that the Incident Support Unit (ISU) currently located in Galashiels would be replaced by a new vehicle that would cover all requirements. In response to concerns that the service provided in the Scottish Borders would not be maintained in the future, Members were informed that when an ISU was required, normally not until later in an incident, this would be sent from either Newcraighall or Dunfermline. Members were advised that a national project relating to retained firefighters was in progress, but the final report would not be available for some time. It was acknowledged that better communication with the public would be beneficial, particularly in times of change.

DECISION

NOTED:-

(a) the report; and

(b) that the report presented to the Board in February 2015 would include staffing numbers within the Safer Communities Team.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE SPECIAL APPLIANCE REVIEW

11. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on the Review of Specialist Equipment being undertaken by SFRS. The report explained the background for and purpose of this national Review and included specific implications for the Scottish Borders when relevant and appropriate. LSO Dickie explained that the service currently provided by SFRS had been developed to meet the changes required by law,

regulation and operational guidance and that the range of equipment and skills training had increased accordingly. The report further explained the key principles and objectives of the Review and noted that the final report entitled the "Review of Specialist Equipment Report" was being presented to the SFRS Board for approval in November. A copy of this draft was attached for information. Following approval, a detailed implementation plan would be developed with a possible timescale of up to three years for implementation to be complete. The implications for the Scottish Borders included the High Volume Pump being removed from Hawick to Alloa whilst maintaining capability to respond to flooding incidents within the Borders; the Water Rescue service remaining in Galashiels with a dedicated vehicle able to tow permanently inflated boats ready for immediate deployment, this vehicle replacing the ISU currently based in Galashiels; and a further Water Rescue resource to be located in Hawick. The report gave assurances that these changes would not affect the staffing levels within the Scottish Borders and LSO Dickie advised Members that the service provided would remain the same regardless of the location of Special Appliance Vehicles. It was noted that a new consultation framework had been introduced by the SFRS.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

12. Future meetings of the Board were scheduled to take place at 9.30am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells on:

Friday 13 February 2015;
Friday 15 May 2015;
Friday 28 August 2015;
Friday 13 November 2015;
Friday 12 February 2016; and
Friday 13 May 2016.

DECISION

NOTED.

The meeting concluded at 12.45pm

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Policing Performance

Scottish Borders



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

REPORTING PERIOD: October 2014 to December 2014

Scottish Borders Police, Fire and Safer Communities Board

Performance Update 01/04/14 – 31/12/2014					
		YTD 2013/14	YTD 2014/15	Source	% Change
1	Detection Rate: Group 1 – 5	57.8%	52.0%	ScOMIS	-5.8%
Priority 1 – Protecting People					
2	Increase the number of Adult at Risk Referrals made to partner agencies	989	1200	ScOMIS/PPU	+ 21.3%
3	Ensure 95% of Domestic Abuse initial checks are conducted within 24 hours	96.4%	97.3%	ScOMIS	+0.9%
Priority 2 - Reducing Violence Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour					
4	Reduce the levels of common assaults	672	554	ScOMIS	-17.6%
5	Reduce the number of Antisocial Behaviour incidents	3913	4025	ScOMIS	+ 2.9%
6	Increase the reporting of Hate Crime	57	42	UNIFI	-26.3%
Priority 3 – Tackling Substance Misuse					
7	Increase the proportion of positive stop and searches for drugs	13.5%	20%	PRONTO /ScOMIS	+6.5%
8	Increase the number of licensed premise visits	2109	1434	Local Licensing	-32%
Priority 4 – Making our Roads Safer					
9	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads	65	62	ScOMIS	-4.6%
	People Killed	4	7	ScOMIS	75%
	People Seriously injured	61	55	ScOMIS	-9.8%
	Children Killed/Seriously Injured	4	0	ScOMIS	-100%
Priority 5 – Tackling Serious and Organised Crime					
10	Increase the number of cash seizures and restraints through POCA				
	Cash Seizures under POCA	£11747.74	£7061	FIU	-£4686.74
	Assets referred for Restraint	£493.500	£1,518,354	FIU	£1,210,354
11	Increase the number of people detected for drug supply	40	49	ScOMIS	22.5%
Priority 6 – Tackling Acquisitive Crime					
12	Reduce the number of housebreakings to dwelling houses	178	173	ScOMIS	-2.8%
13	Reduce the number of thefts of motor vehicles	67	48	ScOMIS	-28.4%

Scottish Borders Police, Fire and Safer Communities Board

Performance Update 01/04/14 – 31/12/2014 Context Report																									
1	The detection rate has dropped by 5.8% compared to LYTD, however when compared to last quarter it as increased by 0.1%. We will aim to improve this as the year progresses. On a positive note there are 93 fewer crimes this year to date (2013/14 – 2470 Crimes, 2014/2015 – 2377 crimes) and we will continue our preventative approach throughout the year to ensure this trend continues.																								
2	A new Vulnerable Persons Database (VPD) was implemented on the 26 th of March 2014 this has increased the levels of referral in the current year. VPD was introduced to ensure all vulnerabilities are identified and addressed at the earliest opportunity, thereby providing those most at risk with the right support. There have been 211 additional referrals in 2014/15 compared to the same period last year, which is positive.																								
3	An increase on the same time last year. The percentage relates to 2 instances where we were unable to contact the victim within the 24-hour period.																								
4	A very positive picture, common assaults continue to decline, this is mirrored in crimes of violence as a whole, this means there are a 118 fewer victims of assault in Scottish Borders compared to last year.																								
5	Last quarter our figures showed a 1.2% (33 incidents) increase in antisocial behaviour incidents this has increased to a 2.9% increase (112 more incidents than the same time last year). We will continue to target individuals and locations to reduce instance of antisocial behaviour.																								
6	<p>It is pleasing to note we have fewer recorded victims of hate crime, however we will continue to increase the confidence in reporting this type of crime with our minority groups throughout the Scottish Borders.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Prejudice type</th> <th>13/14</th> <th>14/15</th> <th>+/-</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Race</td> <td style="text-align: center;">38</td> <td style="text-align: center;">29</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Homophobic</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transgender</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disability</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Religious Hatred</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Race – Pleasing to note the drop in reported crimes. This quarter there has been 1 repeat who is the complainer in 2 race crimes which happened on separate dates. 1 of the crimes was an assault and the 2nd was a communications act crime (facebook).</p> <p>Homophobic – This quarter there have been 2 unrelated crimes reported.</p> <p>Transgender – no further reports since the last quarterly report.</p> <p>Disability – no further reports since the last quarterly report.</p> <p>Religious Hatred – no further reports since the last quarterly report.</p> <p>In addition, we have 5 reports of hate incidents. These are incidents that the complainer perceives to have a hate element attached to them but are not crimes. 4 of these were race related and 1 gender incident.</p>	Prejudice type	13/14	14/15	+/-	Race	38	29	-9	Homophobic	12	9	-3	Transgender	2	1	-1	Disability	2	1	-1	Religious Hatred	3	2	-1
Prejudice type	13/14	14/15	+/-																						
Race	38	29	-9																						
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Transgender	2	1	-1																						
Disability	2	1	-1																						
Religious Hatred	3	2	-1																						
7	Very positive to see a 6.5% increase in the number of positive stop and searches compared to the same period as last year, this is as a result of our intelligence led approach.																								

Scottish Borders Police, Fire and Safer Communities Board

8	<p>While the figures show a decrease in the number of visits this year to date, this is largely due to the real drive and focus of this activity last year. What is pleasing to note is the fact that the Borders have very rarely had a licensed premise that has been deemed problematic and this is down to the excellent working relationships both with the trade and partner agencies to improve management of premises.</p>
9	<p>Following a very successful year in 2013/14, it has been a particularly challenging to continue with a reduction in KSIs it is positive to see that after a challenging start to the year we are now showing a decrease in KSIs within the Scottish Borders. It is noted that the number of persons killed has increased by 3 compared to the same period last year, however there has been a 9.8% decrease in the number of persons seriously injured during the same period.</p> <p>1 Fatal VA where the driver and a passenger in the same vehicle were killed 2 Fatal VAs where the casualties were pedestrians 3 Fatal VAs where vehicle 1 driver error 2 of the VAs happened A6105 (3 killed) and 3 on the A7 and the other was in Market Square, Duns.</p>
10	<p>It is very pleasing to note the value of assets referred for restraint. This is a very complex and time-consuming process, however it is extremely gratifying when positive results are achieved.</p>
11	<p>It is positive to see there is a 22.5% increase in the detections for drug supply this is down to the intelligence led approach adopted in the Scottish Borders. This increase can be attributed to Operation Archerfish that ran in December this year and targeted drug dealers in the Scottish Borders.</p>
12	<p>Very positive to see we are maintaining a reduction due to the continued focus on crime prevention in respect of housebreakings. However the gap has narrowed this quarter and there is now a 2.8% reduction in housebreakings when compared to the same period last year, which equates to 5 fewer victims within the Scottish Borders.</p>
13	<p>Very pleasing to see that the positive work throughout this year has continued and we are seeing a 28.4% (19 fewer victims) reduction in theft of motor vehicle.</p>



Report to:
Scottish Borders Council
Police, Fire and Rescue & Safer Communities Board

**SUBJECT: PERFORMANCE REPORT, 1ST APRIL TO 31ST DECEMBER
2014-2015**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The attached reports provide the year to date performance report from April to December 2014 and Quarterly performance data, in addition to the performance report for Prevention and Protection activities for the same period.

2. OUTPUTS

- 2.1 The following identifies the headline outputs from 1st April to 31st December 2014-15.

Dwelling Fires

The Fire and Rescue Service have attended 108 dwelling fires in comparison to 124 for the same YTD reporting period last year; this represents a 13% decrease.

The room of origin for over 90% of these fires was the kitchen with a common cause being pans of food left unattended or microwave cooking. Most incidents have resulted in minor damage and required limited intervention by SFRS crews

There have been two deliberate dwelling fires recorded for this YTD period.

Fire Casualties/Fatalities

During this reporting period, there were no fire fatalities but 9 people were recorded as fire related casualties with most suffering from slight smoke inhalation and requiring precautionary checks by the ambulance service. This represents a 47% reduction in fire casualties in comparison to the same reporting period last year.

Deliberate Fire Setting (not including dwellings).

There was an increase of 8 in comparison to the same reporting period last year. That said the trend line per 10,000 head of population regarding this type of incidents continues to be well below that of the East Service Delivery area and Scotland as a whole.

The main causes continue to be grass/scrubland and refuse. The upward trend displayed in the first two quarters of this year is consistent with summer months and increased daylight hours, the last quarter has seen a decrease with wetter weather and shorter daylight hours.

The Fire and Rescue Service will continue to work with the Police, Safer Communities, other partners and community groups to reduce fire vandalism and other deliberate fire setting across the Scottish Borders.

Road Traffic Collisions

During this YTD reporting period, the Fire and Rescue Service attended 78 Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's). Disappointingly, this represents a 30% increase in comparison to the same YTD period last year. We have also seen an increase in comparison to the last quarter with 29 casualties recorded in quarter three compared to 22 in the previous quarter.

There have been 37 RTC related casualties in this YTD period and tragically, this includes 4 fatalities in the last quarter.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

UFAS calls consist of Equipment failure, False alarm good intent and False alarm malicious. The figure contained within the main report relates to Equipment failure only as this is the cause of the majority of UFAS incidents. The figures below represent all UFAS incidents.

Priority	Q3, 2013/14	Q3, 2014/15	+/-
Reduction of Dwelling Fires	48	41	-7
Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties	6	2	-4
Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting	14	18	+4
Reduction in Road Traffic Collisions	21	32	+11
Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	221	215	-6

Priority	YTD 2013/14	YTD 2014/15	+/-
Reduction of Dwelling Fires	124	108	-16
Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties	17	9	-8
Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting	71	79	+8
Reduction in Road Traffic Collisions	60	78	+18
Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	691	688	-3

3. PREVENTION & PROTECTION

See attached report

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Scottish Borders Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer Communities Board is invited to consider and otherwise to note the contents of the performance report.

JOHN DICKIE
Local Senior Officer
Scottish Borders
13 February 2014

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LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT SCOTTISH BORDERS



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Year to Date Report, 1st April – 31st December 2014

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



DISCLAIMER

The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness. The Scottish government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

Please ensure any external partners in receipt of these reports are aware of this.

CONTENTS

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Performance Summary
- 3 Progress on local fire & rescue plan priorities
 - Local Risk Management and Preparedness*
 - All dwelling fires*
 - All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. precautionary checkups))*
 - All deliberate fires (excl. dwellings)*
 - Special Service - RTCs*
 - Special Service - casualties (fatal & non-fatal)*
 - False Alarm - Equipment failure*

Introduction

This performance report provides information on our prevention, protection and operational response activities within the Scottish Borders area during the Year to Date period of 1st April to 31st December 2014.

The Scottish Government provides an overarching vision for public services. This vision is supported by 16 National Outcomes, which demonstrate commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable growth. The SFRS can make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes for the Scottish Borders by contributing to the Community Planning arrangements across the area.

The national priorities for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) are set out in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland. The SFRS Strategic Plan 2013-2016 outlines how the SFRS will deliver against these priorities and the outcomes against which this delivery can be measured.

The priorities contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan and our strategies for service delivery are clearly aligned to the Community Planning Structure, which supports the delivery of the Community Planning Partnership priorities and activities in the Scottish Borders. The priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan also contribute to Scottish Governments National Outcome, O9: We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.

The aims of the local Fire & Rescue Service in the Scottish Borders are to reduce fire deaths throughout the Scottish Borders area and to reduce injuries from fire and other emergencies in the community. We aim to achieve this by working in partnership, being pro-active and targeting our prevention and protection activities to where they are required, based on evidence.

Within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the Scottish Borders 2014-2017, five objectives for the local Fire and Rescue Service to work towards have been identified for 2014-17 (listed below).

1. Reduction of Dwelling Fires
2. Reduction of Fire Casualties and Fatalities
3. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting (not including Dwellings)
4. Reduction of Road Traffic Collisions
5. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Area Manager John Dickie, Local Senior Officer for the Scottish Borders

2. Performance Summary

We measure how well we are meeting our priorities using 6 key indicators, depicted below

Key performance indicator	Apr to (& incl.) Dec					RAG rating
	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	YTD
All dwelling fires	151	110	131	124	108	●
All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. precautionary	19	24	15	17	9	●
All deliberate fires (excl. dwellings)	113	93	45	71	79	◆
Special Service - RTCs	69	58	59	60	78	◆
Special Service - casualties (fatal & non-fatal)	118	95	99	114	85	●
False Alarm - Equipment failure	499	453	492	509	494	●

RAG rating - KEY

◆	RED DIAMOND	10% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
▲	YELLOW TRIANGLE	Up to 9% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
●	GREEN CIRCLE	Equal to or improved upon the previous equivalent quarter (or YTD period), or local target achieved.

Note

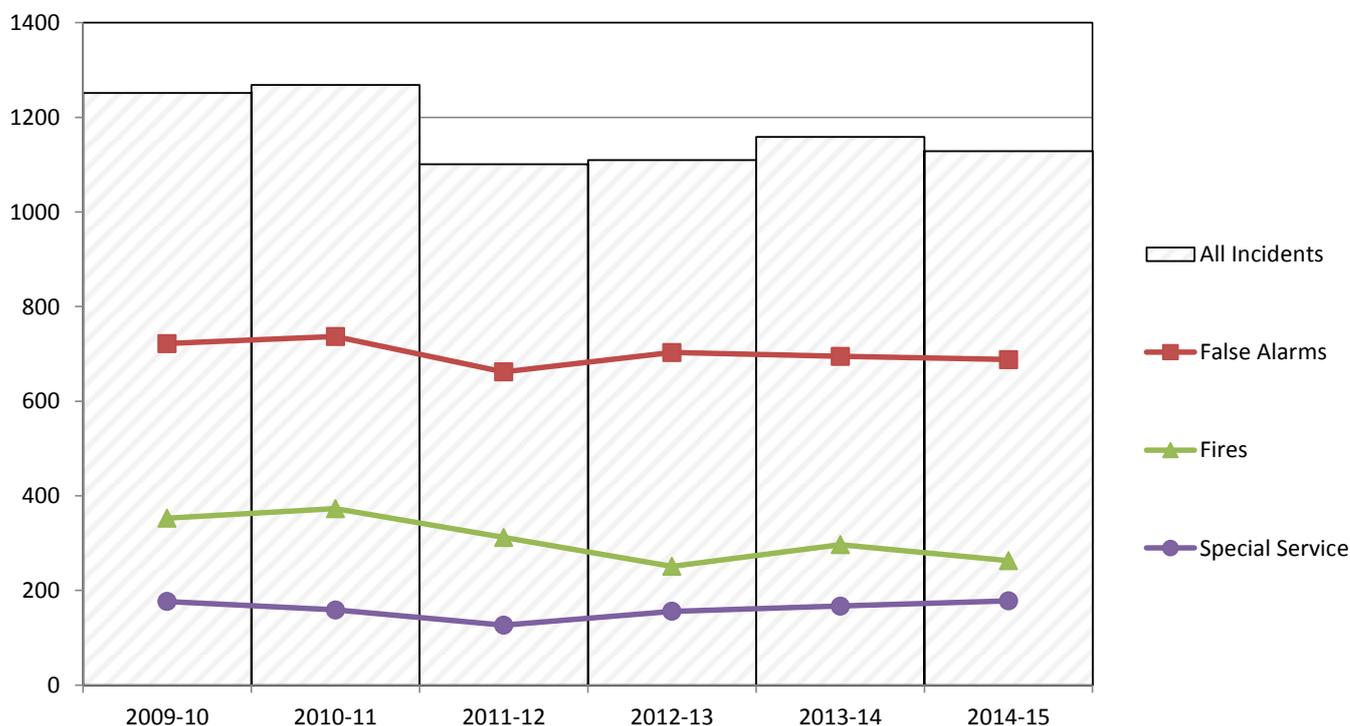
Quarterly comparison RAG rating = the reporting period compared to the average of the three previous quarterly reporting periods

Year to Date RAG rating = the cumulative total of all quarterly performance in current year compared to cumulative total of all quarterly performance in the previous year.

Incident Overview

During the Year to Date period 2014-15 (April to December) the SFRS have responded to a total of 853 incidents within the Scottish Borders, this is a reduction of 42 compared to the same reporting period last year.

The chart below illustrates incidents YTD attended within Scottish Borders council over the last 6 fiscal years



Local Risk Management and Preparedness

The Service must identify, prioritise and plan to meet the risks in each local community.

In order to achieve this we:

- train our staff to deal with local risks
- gather and analyse risk information
- work with partners to mitigate risk
- deal with major events.

Train our staff to deal with our local risks

Our operational staff have continued to undertake routine and risk specific skill acquisition and maintenance training.

During 2014-15 all firefighters in the Scottish Borders will participate within the Maintenance Phase Development Programme for firefighters. Completed modules for the year to date period include incidents on Farms, Road Traffic Collisions, Marine Incidents and understanding Fire Behaviour.

Gather and analyse risk information

Our operational staff continue to gather and analyse local risk information and operational intelligence which is used in our preparations to resolve incidents.

We conduct Post Incident Debriefs through the use of a Structured Debrief Process to identify any lessons that can be learned from our preparedness and response to emergency events.

Work with partners to mitigate risks

We continue to be an active member of the Lothian and Borders Local Resilience Partnership.

We share information with local authority partners and other key stakeholders (e.g. Police Scotland) to ensure emergency risks are mitigated.

Deal with major events

During this reporting period the Service did not deal with incidents that can be regarded as 'Major' however there were an eight pump farm fire at Hawick with the cause determined to be accidental.

Priority

Reduction of 'All dwelling fires'

Dwelling fires can have devastating effects on our community. The reduction of dwelling fires, accidental or deliberate, continues to be a priority for the SFRS in the Scottish Borders. We adopt a targeted approach whilst sharing information with partners in order to drive down the risk of fire within local communities with an emphasis on those who are particularly vulnerable through age, isolation or addiction.

Results

We will seek a year on year reduction in dwelling fires, which will contribute towards the Scottish target of a 10 % reduction, over a three-year rolling period.

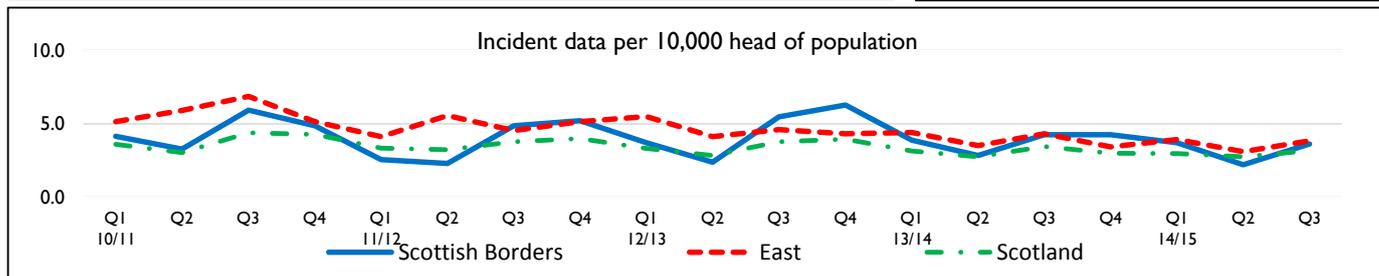
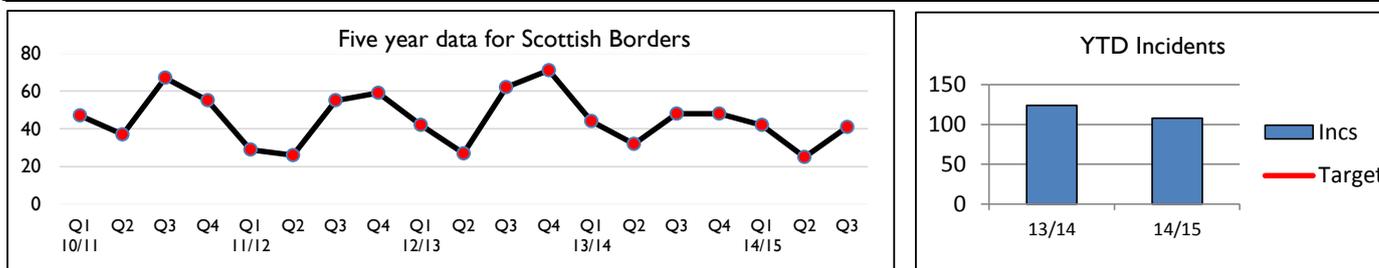
We have seen a 13 % decrease in this type of incident compared to the same Year to Date period last year. Further analysis shows that the majority of these fires have been accidental with only two deliberate dwelling fires recorded in this current reporting period.

Reasons

Analysis of cause of dwelling fires in this Year to Date period show that 95% of fires started in the kitchen due to cooking. Further analysis shows that this regularly involved pans of food left unattended resulting in minor damage and requiring limited intervention by SFRS crews.

Actions

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service conduct a Post Domestic Incident Response following all domestic dwelling fires. This involves fire crews offering reassurance and fire safety advice to all households within the vicinity of the incident immediately or soon after the incident. Figures relating to home fire safety visits completed can be found in the Prevention and Prevention activities report for this period.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	Sparkline
Scottish Borders	151	110	131	124	108	
Tweeddale West	17	9	13	18	7	
Tweeddale East	10	5	6	9	7	
Galashiels and District	16	19	19	11	15	
Selkirkshire	12	5	8	9	9	
Leaderdale and Melrose	10	10	6	12	14	
Mid Berwickshire	15	12	21	16	12	
East Berwickshire	11	8	12	9	16	
Kelso and District	13	10	6	15	3	
Jedburgh and District	11	6	14	11	6	
Hawick and Denholm	13	11	11	8	8	
Hawick and Hermitage	23	15	15	6	11	

Priority

Reduction of 'All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. precautionary checkups))'

Fire casualty and fatality rates provide an indication of the amount of serious, life-threatening injuries that occur due to fire. This can indicate not only the success of SFRS in reducing the number of life risk fires through community fire safety and similar activities, but also their success in response activity in saving lives.

Results

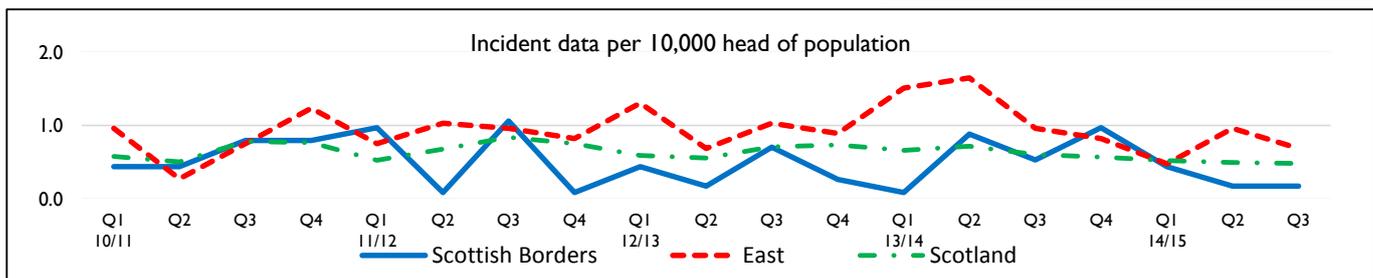
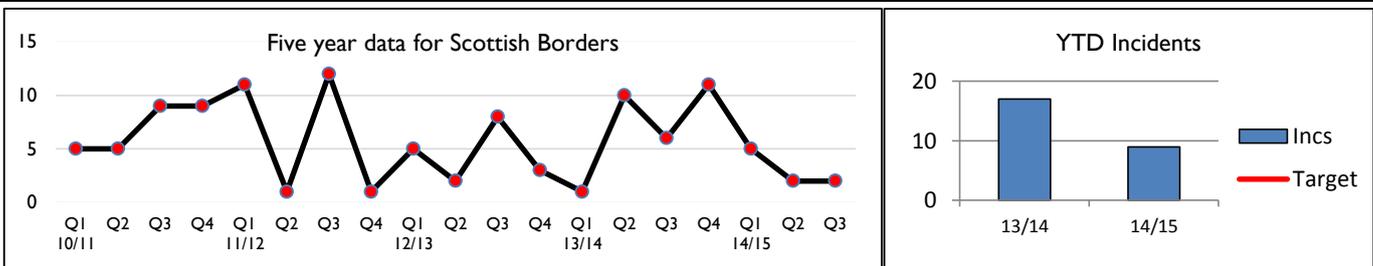
There were no reported Fire fatalities in the reporting period. We aim to reduce Fire Casualties in the Scottish Borders year on year that contributes towards the SFRS target of reducing Fire Casualties by 5% per year, over a three-year rolling period. In this reporting period SFRS dealt with nine casualties due to fire, this is a 47% reduction in comparison to the same reporting period last year.

Reasons

There is no obvious reason for the decrease in fire casualties over this reporting period although this could be due to the warmer weather and increased daylight hour and therefore less use of heating appliances and candles within the home.

Actions

Home fire safety visits are core to the SFRS prevention strategy. This includes a partnership approach targeting those most at risk from fire in the home. Figures relating to home fire safety visits completed can be found in the Prevention and Prevention activities report for this period.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - I	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	Sparkline
Scottish Borders	19	24	15	17	9	
Tweeddale West	0	1	0	1	0	
Tweeddale East	0	0	2	2	0	
Galashiels and District	3	2	1	1	0	
Selkirkshire	1	0	1	0	0	
Leaderdale and Melrose	4	3	2	3	2	
Mid Berwickshire	0	3	2	5	3	
East Berwickshire	1	7	1	0	1	
Kelso and District	3	2	0	0	0	
Jedburgh and District	3	1	4	0	1	
Hawick and Denholm	2	3	1	2	1	
Hawick and Hermitage	2	2	1	3	1	

Priority

Reduction of 'All deliberate fires (excl. dwellings)'

Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting continues to be a priority for the SFRS in the Scottish Borders. Deliberate fires of this nature typically involve grassland, refuse or derelict buildings. Evidence shows that there is a close link between deliberate secondary fires and anti-social behaviour.

Results

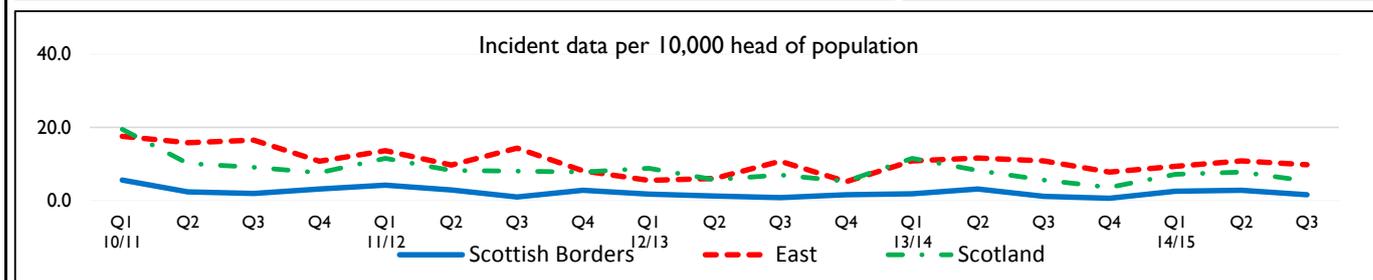
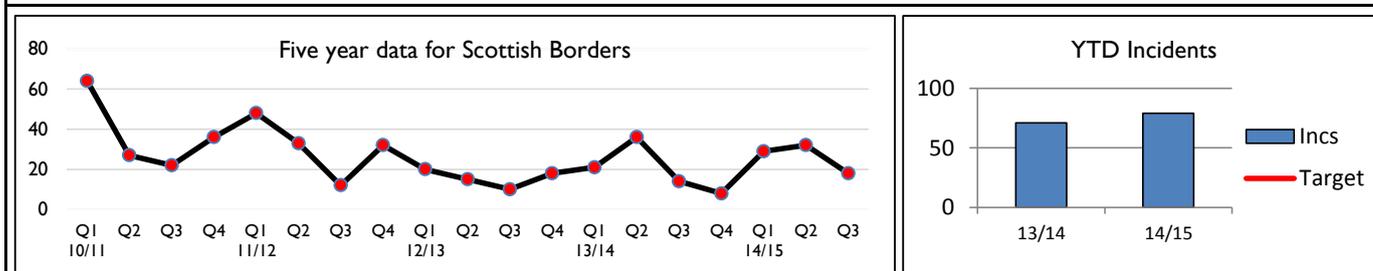
The Fire and Rescue Local Plan for the Scottish Borders 2014-17 aims to continually reduce Deliberate Fire Setting against the three-year average. Whilst we have seen an 11% increase in this type of incident in comparison to the same reporting period last year the incidence per 10,000 population continues to be lower than that of the East Service Delivery Area and Scotland as a whole.

Reasons

There is no obvious reason for the slight increase however analysis highlights a spike in this type of incidents during summer months when daylight hours are longer and weather is drier. This coincides with school holidays that could present opportunities for fire related anti-social behaviour.

Actions

These types of incidents are scrutinised and were appropriate passed onto Community Action Team (CAT) staff in the Safer Communities Unit. CAT staff work closely with partners within the unit and in cases of anti-social behaviour related fire setting can offer one to one counselling or preventative activities such as school visits.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 7	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	Sparkline
Scottish Borders	113	93	45	71	79	
Tweeddale West	15	10	7	1	6	
Tweeddale East	10	4	3	4	7	
Galashiels and District	30	24	7	11	17	
Selkirkshire	11	7	6	5	8	
Leaderdale and Melrose	8	6	1	8	5	
Mid Berwickshire	3	6	3	6	7	
East Berwickshire	7	8	1	4	4	
Kelso and District	2	6	3	12	3	
Jedburgh and District	4	8	5	7	6	
Hawick and Denholm	14	7	7	6	12	
Hawick and Hermitage	9	7	2	7	4	

Priority

Reduction of 'Special Service - RTCs'

While much of this risk is outwith the control of SFRS, responding to Road Traffic Collisions is a key part of our intervention activities. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders in order to reduce the amount of RTC's that occur in the Scottish Borders.

Results

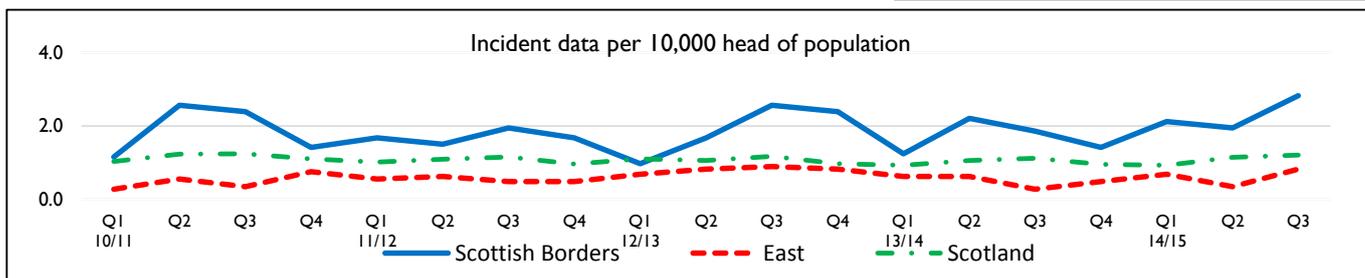
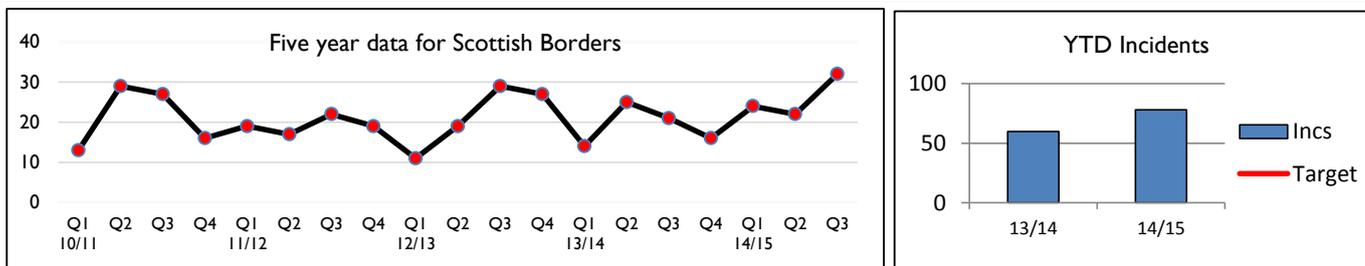
It is disappointing to note that there has been a 30% increase in this type of incident in comparison to the same Year to Date period last year. Further analysis shows that there has been a 45% increase in the last quarter compared to the same quarter last year. Tragically, four people have lost their lives due to RTC's in this Year to Date reporting period.

Reasons

A recent change in the way the SFRS responds to RTC's can be attributed to the increase in incidents attended. In an agreement with the Scottish Ambulance Service and the Police we are now mobilised to RTC's at all times persons are involved rather than being trapped which was formerly the case. It is worth noting that the four fatalities occurred in the winter months of November and December.

Actions

The SFRS are part of the Safer Communities Unit and a member of the Road Safety Working Theme Group. CAT and operational staff attend educational establishments such as schools and the Borders College to deliver inputs to young drivers regarding the consequences of RTC's. We also participate in partnership initiatives such as the Scottish Borders Young Drivers Event.



Q3 ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 7	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	Sparkline
Scottish Borders	69	58	59	60	78	
Tweeddale West	5	10	7	7	14	
Tweeddale East	5	6	3	8	12	
Galashiels and District	9	12	6	8	10	
Selkirkshire	4	6	5	3	5	
Leaderdale and Melrose	10	6	9	7	8	
Mid Berwickshire	7	4	4	7	6	
East Berwickshire	8	6	6	2	6	
Kelso and District	6	1	8	3	5	
Jedburgh and District	10	5	7	10	8	
Hawick and Denholm	4	1	4	3	2	
Hawick and Hermitage	1	1	0	2	2	

Priority

Reduction of 'Special Service - casualties (fatal & non-fatal)'

Unfortunately many RTC's result in injury or death to persons involved, the SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders in order to reduce the amount of RTC related Casualties and Fatalities that occur in the Scottish Borders. The figures below relate to all Non-Fire Emergencies casualties although this report will only focus on casualties resulting from RTC's.

Results

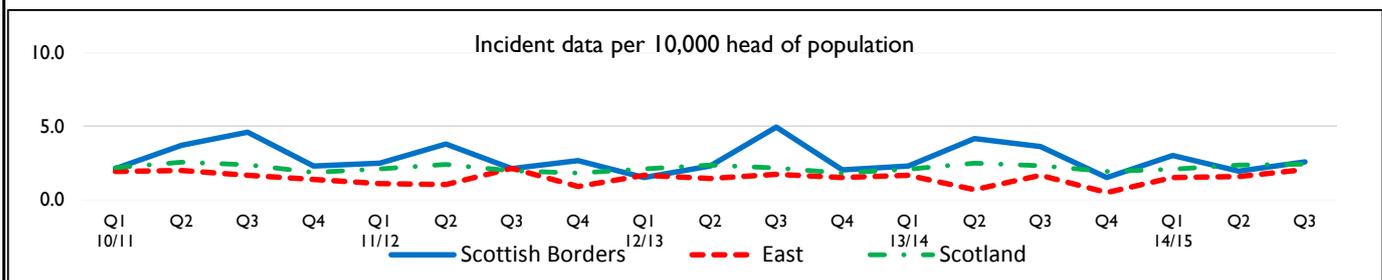
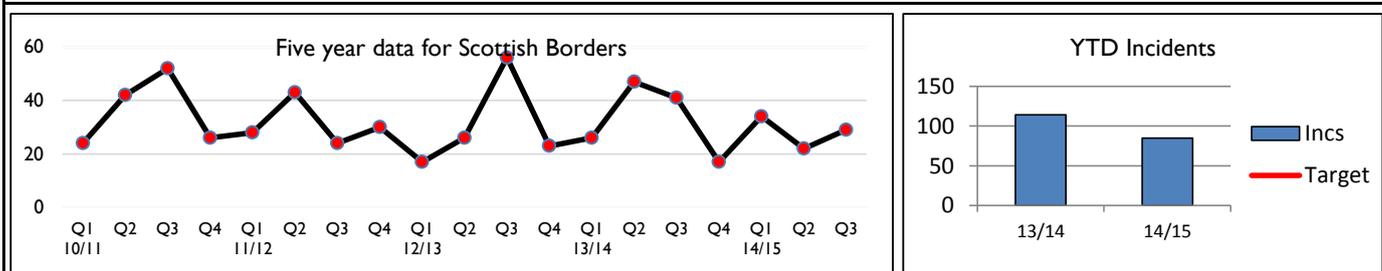
Whilst it is pleasing to note a 25% decrease in all Non-Fire Emergency related Casualties it should also be noted that RTC casualties account for 42% of total casualties. There have been thirty-seven RTC related casualties during the current Year to Date reporting period, four of these have been fatalities.

Reasons

RTC's and related casualties and fatalities continue to be slightly above the trend line per 10,000 population in comparison to the East Service Delivery Area and Scotland as a whole. As mentioned above its worth noting that the four fatalities occurred in the winter months and involved a double fatality with young drivers, a lone elderly driver and an elderly pedestrian. Increasing traffic and the rural nature of many of the Borders roads could be contributory factors.

Actions

The SFRS can only reduce the amount of RTC related casualties and fatalities by reducing RTC's in the whole. CAT staff and operational crews participate regularly in partnership initiatives that target high risk groups with the specific aim of highlighting the potential, severe and far reaching consequences of RTC's.



Q3 ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 8	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	Sparkline
Scottish Borders	118	95	99	114	85	
Tweeddale West	8	18	14	6	10	
Tweeddale East	3	9	3	8	5	
Galashiels and District	10	16	7	23	11	
Selkirkshire	5	6	9	10	3	
Leaderdale and Melrose	9	15	13	13	7	
Mid Berwickshire	18	6	7	16	6	
East Berwickshire	14	10	12	8	10	
Kelso and District	6	2	15	5	10	
Jedburgh and District	28	7	13	14	12	
Hawick and Denholm	14	2	2	6	9	
Hawick and Hermitage	3	4	4	5	2	

Priority

Reduction of 'False Alarm - Equipment failure'

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are defined as incidents where an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources, when the reason for that alarm turns out to be something other than a fire emergency. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm signals.

Results

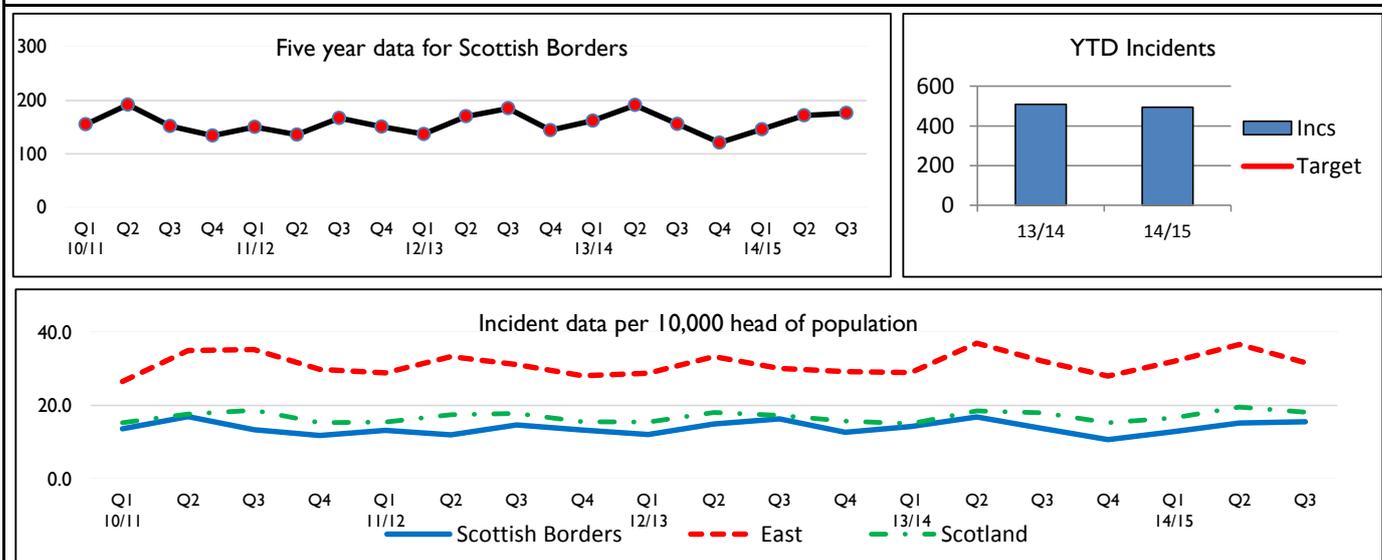
There have been 688 UFAS incidents in the Scottish Borders during this reporting period. Equipment failure accounted for 494 of these incidents with 172 and 22 the figures for good intent and malicious respectively. The figure referred to within this report is that of False Alarm equipment failures, this forms the majority of UFAS incidents recorded up to December 2014. The figures that have been excluded for illustrative purpose are those attributed to False Alarm good and malicious intent.

Reasons

Equipment failure accounted for 72% of all UFAS calls in this reporting period and this continues to be the most common cause of these types of incidents.

Actions

We continue to proactively monitor UFAS calls and our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers work closely with premises to reduce further UFAS incidents. This includes discussing technological, procedural and management solutions in order to prevent future UFAS incidents.



Q3 ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 45	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	Sparkline
Scottish Borders	499	453	492	509	494	
Tweeddale West	81	69	89	102	79	
Tweeddale East	49	33	32	31	19	
Galashiels and District	84	83	71	85	73	
Selkirkshire	42	38	71	52	67	
Leaderdale and Melrose	77	75	54	60	67	
Mid Berwickshire	24	17	16	20	42	
East Berwickshire	30	30	35	24	28	
Kelso and District	13	19	17	26	28	
Jedburgh and District	14	19	22	25	23	
Hawick and Denholm	37	23	31	35	22	
Hawick and Hermitage	48	47	54	49	46	

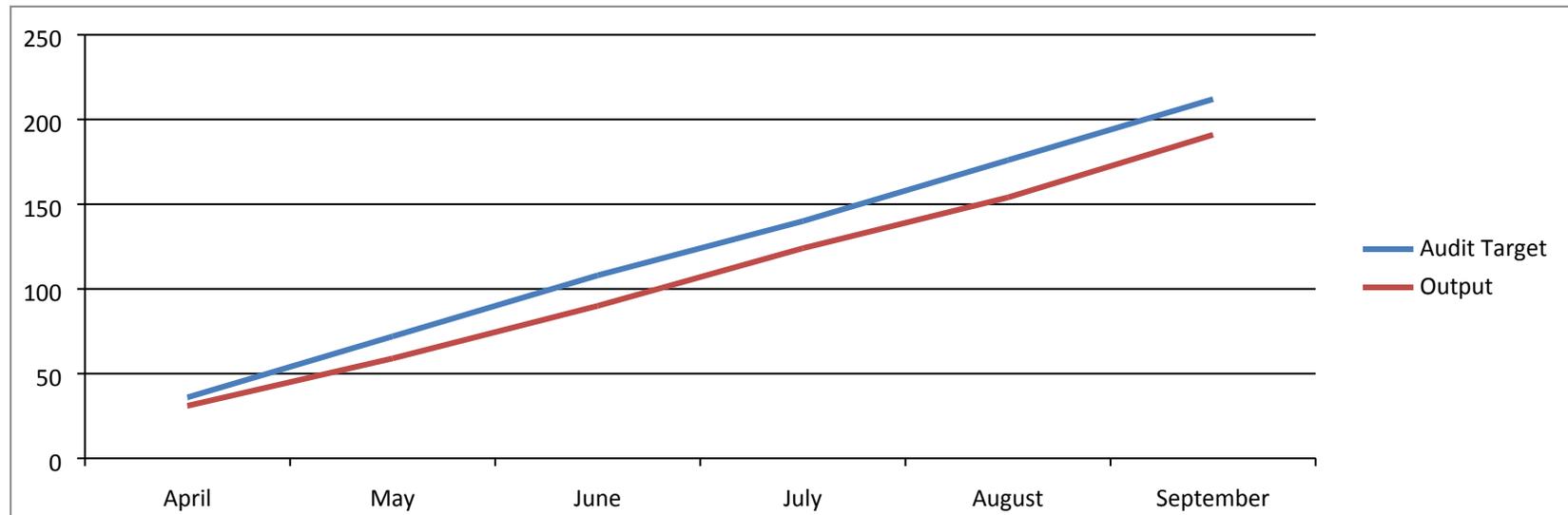
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Prevention & Protection Activities

Fire Safety Enforcement Audits

The figures represent the audit workloads delivered by the Scottish Borders Fire Safety Enforcement Officers (FSEOs). Following the SFRS Enforcement Framework, local deployment ensures compliance for relevant premises in terms of the Fire Scotland Act (2005) and associated Fire Safety Regulations. Although off target, performance is steadily improving and SFRS within Scottish Borders are confident that the annual target will be achieved. This quarter saw the audit target achieved. One of the primary reasons for being off target at this present time, has been the introduction of a new national database and recording and administrative system.

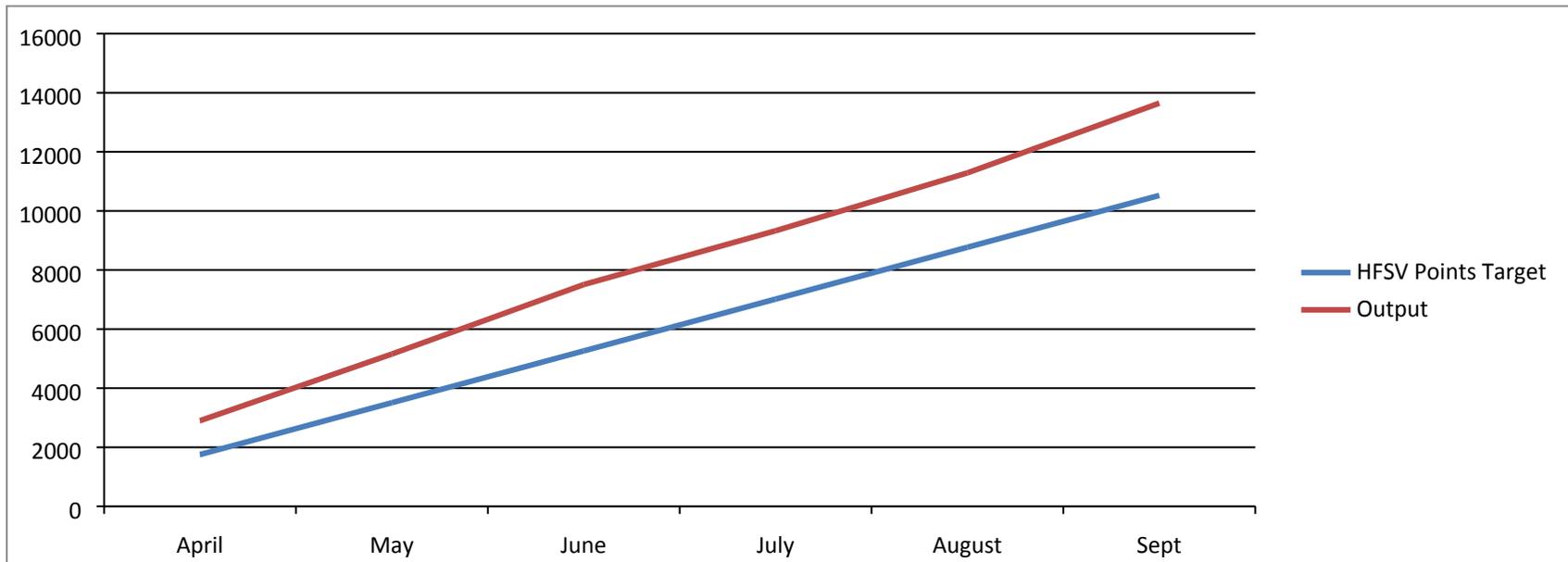
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Target:	36	72	108	140	176	212	248	284	320				
Completed:	31	59	90	124	154	191	226	265	309				



Home Fire Safety Visits

The delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) is the corner stone of the SFRS Community Safety Engagement framework. By visiting households and providing fire safety advice and smoke alarms the numbers of dwelling fires and casualties will be reduced. To target the highest risk households across the Scottish Borders a points allocation and associated targets have been set (24 points per high, 8 per medium, 4 per low risk visit). This will ensure valuable resources are put to use with greatest effect. This quarter has seen us maintain our points total ahead of target.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Target	1754	3508	5262	7016	8770	10524	12278	14032	15786				
Completed	2900	5156	7508	9328	11288	13648	16292	19348	22008				



Community Safety Engagement

ACTIVITY	SCOTTISH BORDERS
Enhanced Home Safety Visits (No. of households/occupiers visited)	15
Visits to Schools	16
Nursery Visits	9
Road Safety Education (No. of Talks)	9
Firesetters Intervention Programme (No. of sessions with youths)*	0
Community Safety Talks / Attendance at Community Events**	55
Number of students attending Crucial Crew***	684
Fire Safety Inspections (CGA) in Tenement Stairs	0

Definitions

*A one to one counselling session with a young person to discuss the consequences of being involved in wilful fire raising.

**Comprises non-school events including: appliance visits to community groups (fetes, galas etc); group visits to fire stations; specific campaigns (Stair Aware, Cooking Safety, etc); and Community Fire-fighter talks/stall events.

***Crucial Crew programme runs only in school Autumn term.

Partnership Working

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), Community Action Team (CAT), under the guidance of the Mid and East Lothian and Scottish Borders Prevention and Protection management team, experienced a busy three months this quarter supporting existing local community fire safety initiatives while exploring new opportunities with external partners and core agencies. The quarter began with the continuation of Crucial Crew 2014, a multi-agency event supported by SFRS, Police Scotland, Scottish Borders Council, Scottish Power, Royal Highland Education Trust, Borders Sport and Leisure, Face2Face and British Telecom. Crucial Crew saw a final total of 1180 primary school pupils attend, all of whom were able to experience and learn from the fire safety scenario presented by the CAT.

October saw the CAT delivering numerous bonfire and firework safety presentations to local schools, working towards an overall reduction in numbers of accidents and injuries from outdoor fires and/or fireworks. We were also required to provide advice for organised public bonfire and firework displays, promoting them as a safe way to enjoy the annual celebrations with the aim of helping to reduce numbers of unsafe bonfires which the SFRS attends. Also in October, we participated in Sainsbury's Fire Safety Week, working together with local stores to raise awareness with customers and staff over both home fire safety and bonfire/firework safety.

The CAT continue to work in support of the delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the Scottish Borders 2014-2017, helping to improve outcomes for local people and reduce inequalities across the area. At the start of November, we attended the International Family Fun day at Langlee Community Centre, which promotes and celebrates the diversity of people living across the Scottish Borders and is supported by the Migrant Support Group and Langlee Health Action Group. Our work on this multi-agency project contributes to achieving both outcome one and seven of the SFRS Equality Outcomes in the Local Fire Plan and has ensured we will continue to do this through future invites to participate in similar events.

In November 2014, the Community Action Team took part in the multi-agency Violence Against Women Conference at Tweed Horizons which, together with our strong partnership with the local Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service and involvement in MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference), puts us at the forefront of delivering the agenda of outcome six of the Local Fire Plan. The LALO and Scottish Borders Station Manager for Prevention and Protection are fully involved in all local MARAC processes, attending the monthly conferences and all steering group meetings. We will also be involved the inaugural twelve-month CAADA (Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse) assessment. This work has provided the additional advantage of strengthening our partnership with external stakeholders, in particular Police Scotland, Adult and Child protection services and local housing providers.

Winter fire safety campaigns were fully under way by the month of December 2014, and the CAT addressed the following fire related issues:-

- Festive fire safety
- Safety at Home
- Fire and Alcohol
- Cooking Safety

We worked closely with all our partners in the Scottish Borders Council Safer Communities Team as well as the four registered social landlords to promote these issues. Detailed festive fire safety information was provided for the council website and home fire safety public information articles were published in both Elder Voice and Scottish Borders Connect. The LALO is delivering a second series of fire safety awareness presentations to housing officers of the aforementioned landlords to re invigorate the home fire safety visit referral process in order to continue improving partnership working, with particular focus on the elderly and more vulnerable tenants. The primary aims of this

partnership activity are to help ensure the safety and welfare of vulnerable persons throughout the community, and to seek to reduce the overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires, fire casualties and fire fatalities in homes.

From the 1st April the SFRS Safeguarding Policy and Procedure for Protection of Children and Adults at Risk Of Harm was implemented to link into adult and child protection. The introduction of this policy has created closer ties with Social Services within Scottish Borders and ensures those people and families that fire crews identify as at risk are brought to the attention of Social Services. This has resulted in joint visits to homes to reduce risk to those occupiers. This period has resulted in eight adults being referred.

Outcome 1– People from all Scotland’s community groups feel confident in contacting the SFRS for advice and information on relevant non-emergency issues

Outcome 6 –People from across all communities are enabled to live lives free from hate crime, harassment and domestic violence/abuse

Outcome 7- Gypsy travellers and migrant workers are safer, better informed and confident in SFRS engagement

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Performance Report February 2015

Period Covered: 1 April 2014 to 31 December 2014

“Making the Scottish Borders a safer place to live, work and visit”

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Strategic Objective 1: To promote and co-ordinate an effective multi-agency response to gender based violence in line with efforts to protect, prevent and provide whilst supporting effective participation

Indicator	Baseline	YTD	LYTD	Variance	Comments
Number of reported incidents of domestic abuse adults	2 Year Average (2010/11-2011/12) 789	684	615	+11.2%	It is believed we are continuing to address the significant under reporting in Police incident rates. In accordance with accepted national research, we expect there to be in the region of 1,200 victims per year in the Scottish Borders. It is hoped that this number will increase with the provision of further specialist services.
Percentage of self referrals to specialist support services	2011/12 30%	12%	17%	-5%	The reduction continues to reflect the reduced capacity to market and advertise the DAAS service. A full staff complement is now in place. The service is now providing support throughout the court process and due to this it is closing fewer cases. This may partially account for the reduction in self-referrals as clients are remaining longer with the service rather than re-referring themselves after repeat incidents.
Total Number/Percentage of Children on the CPR where domestic abuse has been identified as a risk factor	-	11	9/18%	+2/	Slight increase in the numbers identified, further work to be undertaken to understand the reasoning i.e. 1 large family placed on the register. This has been delayed due to staff illness.
Number/Percentage of Homeless Assessment Presentations due to dispute within household: violent or abusive (% of total Assessments)	3 Year Average (2008/9 -2010/11) 77	71/15%	65/13%	+6/2%	The first increase in the past two years. The new domestic abuse STEPS workers, in post from 2nd February, will work proactively with housing providers to maintain people in their own tenancies and reduce any further homelessness.
Number of cases on exit from specialist service that have a reduced risk	To Be Established – New Service	82% of surveyed clients report their safety has much improved, with 100% reporting an improvement			Safety (adult and child), relationship with children, housing situation and personal resilience are the four factors, which clients have unanimously reported as having much improved. On re-assessment at exit the client's safety rating has reduced on average by 5 points.
Service user satisfaction on exit from a specialist service	To Be Established – New Service	CYTD: 100% of surveyed clients would use DAAS again 80% of clients reported that DAAS had fully met their needs			Results of the client exit interviews undertaken to date are extremely positive. Feedback also suggests that the Service has reduced client's reluctance to report incidents to the Police.

Strategic Objective 2: To raise awareness of the impact of violence against women across communities to foster greater capacity and support for those affected

Indicator	Baseline	CYTD	LYTD	Variance	Comments
Number of calls to national domestic abuse helpline (Female)	3 Year Average (2008/09-2010/11) 230	102	158	-35.8%	Encouraging results and in alignment with all other domestic abuse indicators. Total call numbers to the National helpline have been declining over the past 3 years. Therefore the reduction may also be attributed to the general national shift from the centralised helpline support.
Number of calls to national domestic abuse helpline (Male)	2010/2011 1	0	3	-	In the same period the DAAS Service supported 15 male victims. Local support structures appears to be a more appropriate route for men experiencing domestic abuse, consideration should be given by the Board to adjusting this indicator to report on 'Number of Male referrals received by the Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support Service'.
Number of people reporting to be more informed about the dynamics of domestic abuse, also expressed as % of total awareness raising/training attendees	Not Available	112 (100%)	386 (100%)	-70%/0%	Data provided for Quarter 2 (April to Sept), Quarter 3 (April- Dec) update yet to be provided although requested in early January 2015. Training numbers are considerably reduced, this has been noted and further reasoning for this drop has been sought. Encouragingly effectiveness of the training and the increase in knowledge remains consistent.
Shift in attitude towards violence against women: No of respondents reporting to strongly agree/agree that alcohol and drugs cause men to be violent to their partners No of respondents that strongly agree/agree that it is a woman's responsibility to leave if she is in an abusive relationship	80% 33%	77% 36%			The baseline data shows the results of the 2013 national white ribbon campaign survey results.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Strategic Objective 1: Reduce the level and impact of antisocial behaviour

Indicator	Baseline	YTD	LYTD	Variance	Comment
Number of recorded ASB incidents per 1,000 population	2 Year Average (2010/11 – 2011/12) 134	87.15	87.42	-0.27%	Minor reduction recorded, routine work continues with mentoring support from the central ASB team being provided to our Registered Social Landlord partners.
Number of youth related incidents	2 Year Average (2010/11 – 2011/12) 2437	1220	1422	-14.2%	Very positive reduction. Should the trend continue the end of year position is projected to result in the lowest number of incidents for the past five years.
Percentage of people who think the following is very or fairly common:	2010 Survey				All indicators are recording drops over the last 6 years.
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	14%	11%		-3%	Very positive results.
People being rowdy in public spaces	22%	18%		-4%	
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage	10%	7%		-3%	
People using or dealing drugs	22%	19%		-3%	
Groups or individuals intimidating or harassing others	10%	7%		-3%	

Strategic Objective 2: Embed a prevention approach to antisocial behaviour by ensuring a robust and effective partnership response

Indicator	Baseline	YTD	LYTD	Variance	Comment
Number of early interventions made by ASB partners	2010/11 918	811	772	5%	An encouraging continued increase in early interventions work, which illustrate the continued drive by the partnership to address ASB at the earliest opportunity.
Percentage of staff across partnership agencies that have excellent/very good knowledge of antisocial behaviour legislation and local policies/procedures	To Be Established	83%/78%	N/a		Excellent results. 10 sessions held with 108 participants from eight different partners.

Strategic Objective 3: Increase public confidence in the way in which the partnership deals with antisocial behaviour

Indicator	Baseline	YTD	LYTD	Variance	Comment
Percentage of people who have witnessed antisocial behaviour who had reported it	2010 Survey 41.7%	41%		0	The three main reason for people not reporting were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear of reprisal • People feeling they shouldn't report it • Didn't think anything would have been done about it/not a priority/not a serious issue

ALCOHOL & DRUGS

Strategic Objective 1: Encourage prevention activities that are delivered to maximise community wellbeing and reduce the negative impact of substance misuse

Indicator	Baseline	CYTD	LYTD	Variance	Comments
Number of reported vandalism	3 Year Average (2009/10- 2011/12) 1112	600	645	-6.98%	Very positive reduction.
Percentage of ASB incidents which are alcohol related	2 Year Average (2010/11-2011/12) 21%	19%	20%	-1% points	A one percentage point reduction in alcohol related ASB incidents in the current quarter when compared to the same period last year.
Number of incidents relating to a licensed premises (ILP)	2 Year Average (2010/11-2011/12) 911	223	222	+0.4%	Licensing is currently an area of increased focus for Police Scotland. Figures are comparable to last year. However, the number of alcohol related incidents has reduced by 50% compared to the same period last year (60 currently, down from 118)
Number of incidents involving needles/drugs paraphernalia	2 Year Average (2010/11-2011/12) 65	21	20	+5.0%	Performance is now very similar to the same time period last year and a significant improvement on the previous quarter.
Percentage of 15 year olds drinking on a weekly basis (once a week, twice a week or daily)	2010 Survey 17%	14%	17%	-3%	Good reduction in the frequency of drinking, although 15 year olds have not reported to have dropped the volume of what they drink with the average weekly consumption reported as being 17 units per week.
Percentage of 15 year old pupils who usually take illicit drugs at least once a month	2010 Survey	2%	1%	+1%	Regular drug use reported to be slightly higher than the previous survey.
Percentage of 15 year olds who report to have used drugs in the last month		10%	6%	+4%	
Number of residents reporting that people being drunk or rowdy in a public place is very common or common in their area	2010 Survey 22%	18%		-4%	9% drop since survey in 2007.
Number of residents stating that drug use or dealing was very common or common in their area	2010 Survey 22%	19%		-3%	1% drop since survey in 2007

Strategic Objective 2: Encourage positive attitudes towards substance misuse

Indicator	Baseline	CYTD	LYTD	Variance	Comments
Percentage of 13 & 15 years old who said their family don't mind them drinking alcohol – Question removed from survey. Parental attitude question as follows: Percentage of 13 & 15 years old who said their parents/guardians 'always' allow them to drink at home	13yrs – 40% 15yrs – 57%	13 yrs – 4% 15 yrs – 10%	13 yrs – 2% 15 yrs – 8%	+2% +2%	Slight Parental attitudinal shift appears to be reported.
Proportion of individuals drinking above daily and/or weekly recommended limits	Scottish Health Survey	43%	-	-	Combined total for 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011. Comparative total for Scotland for same period is 43%
Proportion of individuals drinking above twice daily (binge drinking) recommended limits	Scottish Health Survey	19%	-	-	Combined total for 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011. Comparative total for Scotland for same period is 21%
Percentage of young people who think that young people who take drugs are stupid	2010 Survey	13 yrs – 68% 15 yrs – 53%	13 yrs – 74% 15 yrs – 62%	-6% -9%	Slight reduction in the reported perception.
Percentage of young people who think that taking drugs is exciting	2010 Survey	13 yrs – 6% 15 yrs – 16%	13 yrs – 4% 15 yrs – 15%	+2% +1%	Minor change suggesting the attractiveness of drug use to young people.

INJURY PREVENTION (HOME)

Strategic Objective 1: Encourage uptake of prevention service, in particular those which target falls to older people

Indicator	Baseline	CYTD	LYTD	Variance	Comments
Number of emergency hospital admissions for 75+ where a fall has been recorded as the main reason	3 Year Average (2011/12-2013/14) 640	246	425	-42.1%	Figures for the period 1 April to 31 October 2014. A good reduction has been recorded. The largest factor attributable for this was a reduction in recorded senility, followed by slips and trips.

Strategic Objective 2: Raise public awareness on the dangers and causes of home injuries in children under 5 years old

Indicator	Baseline	CYTD	LYTD	Variance	Comments
Number of emergency hospital admissions to children under 5 due to a home accident	2 Year Average (2012/13-2013/14) 56.5	37	44	-15.9%	Figures for period 1 April to 31 October 2014. Good reduction recorded. Due to the small numbers at this point in time there is no significant pattern or factors that can help to understand the reduction.

INJURY PREVENTION (ROADS)

Strategic Objective 1: Ensure a robust and effective partnership response to road safety issues to achieve Scottish Government targets for reductions in the number of road users killed or seriously injured by 2020

Indicators	Baseline	CYTD	LYTD	Variance	Comments
Number of road users killed	5 year Average (2006/07-2010/11) 11	7	4	+75%	Following a very successful year in 2013/14, it has been a particularly challenging to continue with a reduction in KSIs. It is positive to see that after a challenging start to the year we are now showing a decrease in KSIs within the Scottish Borders. It is noted that the number of persons killed has increased by 3 compared to the same period last year, however there has been a 9.8% decrease in the number of persons seriously injured during the same period.
Number of road users seriously injured	5 year Average (2006/07-2010/11) 86	55	61	-9.8%	
Number of children killed or seriously injured in a road crash	5 year Average (2006/07-2010/11) 9	0	4	-100%	

Strategic Objective 2: Target interventions in accordance with key risk groups i.e. young/inexperienced drivers, motorcyclists

Indicators	Baseline	CYTD	LYTD	Variance	Comments
Number of young drivers aged 17 to 25 years killed or seriously injured in road crashes.	5 year Average (2006/07-2010/11) 9	8	8	0%	Positive results for the year to date. A young driver training programme "Skill for Life" is currently being rolled out. The programme aims to create positive driving behaviour in young people. This has been shared throughout the CPP and businesses are encouraged to take advantage of this free driver training for their employees.
Number of passengers killed or seriously injured in cars driven by young drivers aged between 17 and 25 years of age.	As above 7	3	4	-25%	
Number of motorcyclists killed and seriously injured in road crashes.	As above 20	19	15	+26.7%	

SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM PATHWAY PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

Providing support to adults and children experiencing domestic abuse in the Scottish Borders



2

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FOREWORD

The Scottish Borders Pathway Project is a pioneering project with crucial foresight and dedication from the staff and volunteers to those who need support. Domestic Abuse is possibly our culture's last taboo, still to a large extent hidden and still affecting the lives of many women and their children, and our society as a whole.

Some of the main obstacles for a woman in such a situation can be a sense of shame that (wrongly) they have brought it on in some way, as well as a worry that no one will listen or believe them. As a woman who has experienced domestic abuse, the Pathway Project has given me a voice to openly talk about these issues, the chance to interact with professionals and to be listened to.

I took part in the Hear Your Voice research in 2010 and by doing so was given the chance to meet other brave women and then go on to be involved in transforming the research in to a DVD, Hear Our Voice.

I was asked to sit on the Pathway Project Joint Advisory Board (PJAB) to provide a voice of experience, and was also part of the interview panel for appointing members of staff to the new domestic abuse services. Being involved in PJAB allowed me to feel I could be open and sometimes quite blunt in my views of services provided and what survivors of domestic abuse really need.

My role within the Pathway Project has therefore become part of my healing process, installing self-worth and allowing me to move on emotionally. I have met the professionals and seen their dedication, determination, but also their humanity; showing there are people who care, who will listen, who will show there is another way to rebuild, not only my life, but that of my children. All of us have returned to education and are not allowing the past to haunt our futures.

It is with much admiration and thanks to all involved for allowing my voice to be heard in the hope of reaching others.

I wish to leave a message to all survivors/victims of domestic abuse in the Scottish Borders - *"I know you will be in the thoughts of all within the Pathway project, and they will do their utmost to keep you forever moving forward to a safe and happier future"*.

Wendy, survivor

SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM: PATHWAY PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

Providing support to adults and children experiencing domestic abuse in the Scottish Borders

INTRODUCTION

What is the Pathway Project?

The Pathway Project (Pathway) is designed to provide a coherent pathway and accessibility of services for victims of domestic abuse and their children. This Annual Report details the first full year of operation and highlights the outcomes, targets and benefits achieved for users across all three services.

In order to bring together the key services required to develop a co-ordinated community response to addressing domestic abuse in the Scottish Borders, Pathway is split into three operational services:

Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support (DAAS) Service

Scottish Borders Council's Safer Communities team deliver the DAAS service which is a specialist service designed to provide short-term crisis intervention and support to both male and female high risk victims of domestic abuse. Victims and their families are supported following the initial incident through risk assessment, safety planning, any court proceedings and are referred on to support services, such as the DACS service. All adult victims who have children are offered the DAAS Children and Young People's service.

Domestic Abuse Community Support Service (DACCS)

CHILDREN1st deliver the Domestic Abuse Community Service (DACCS) offering medium to long term practical and emotional support to those victims of domestic abuse who are assessed as not at high risk of further abuse. Support can be offered on a medium to long-term basis if this is needed. Support is available to adults (both men and women), including victims of abuse within a same sex relationship, parents, single adults without children, as well as children and young people up to the age of 18 years.

Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery (CEDAR) group work programme.

CEDAR is a 12 week concurrent group work programme for children and their mothers to support their recovery from Domestic Abuse. Families taking part should be living in a safe place with low risk of further incidents of Domestic Abuse.

These three new services work alongside existing service provision to achieve improved outcomes for victims of domestic abuse and their children.

How is Pathway funded?

Pathway is funded until 30 September 2015 by a combination of BIG Lottery Becoming a Survivor grant of £791,764, Scottish Government funding of £330,000 and match funding of £105,000 from partner agencies (Police Scotland, NHS Borders, Borders Housing Network and Scottish Borders Council). In-kind contributions of £83,130 are being provided by Scottish Borders Council.

WHAT HAS PATHWAY ACHIEVED WITHIN THE FIRST YEAR?

The aim of Pathway is to develop a coordinated, community response to domestic abuse in the Scottish Borders in order that the following outcomes are achieved. A brief summary is given to illustrate how this has been accomplished across the three services.

Outcome 1

More individuals who are affected by domestic abuse in the Scottish Borders have increased access to a more comprehensive range of support services.

- 433 victims were referred to and received support from the Pathway services.
- Analysis has shown that repeat victim incidents has reduced by 12% over a six month period.
- Adults and children supported by DACS identified the positive changes they wanted to make for themselves and their children for the future.

Mother (60's) "Meeting with another adult and leaving the house a lot more has made me realise that I can change things."

- Survivors and their children were involved in service feedback through taking part in exit interviews. For adults who accessed the DAAS service it was revealed that all clients had reported their housing situation and safety had much improved. Clients also reported improvements in other areas ranging from physical wellbeing to improved relationships with children.
- All clients reported high levels of satisfaction with the DAAS service, would use the service again and would recommend to others.

Boy, aged 12 years "I kept thinking that I needed to protect my mum but now in group we are getting other help, CEDAR shows you how."

- Formal evaluation of CEDAR showed that children and young people had benefitted from enhanced knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse and how to keep themselves safe in the future. The mothers' feedback illustrated that they had achieved considerable improvement in their relationship with their child.

Outcome 2

Communities and agencies in the Scottish Borders have a greater understanding of the difficulties faced by individuals and children affected by domestic abuse and are more able to respond to their needs.

- 847 staff members participated in domestic abuse awareness and risk assessment training.
- Over 20 community groups engaged in awareness raising sessions.
- The White Ribbon campaign teamed up with a corporate partner, www.rugbystore.com to promote the campaign in the area.
- Hear Our Voice (a short film where women told their personal stories about domestic abuse in rural Scotland) was used in over 86 different training sessions and community engagement activities. A further 200 copies were distributed across Scotland for this purpose.

Outcome 3

More children affected by domestic abuse in the Scottish Borders feel less isolated and more able to cope with their family's circumstances.

- A total of 118 children received support and safety and were involved in the development of their own support and safety plans.

Girl, aged 7 years *"Your job must be to make children happy because you make me happy."*

Outcome 4

More families affected by domestic abuse in the Scottish Borders feel safer and better supported.

- Over a six month period there was a 17% reduction in the number of people presenting as homeless due to a dispute within a household: violent or abusive.
- Fifty one families engaged with the DACS service.
- Clients who had completed their work with a service reported that they felt safer as a consequence of the service and support they had received.
- There has been a 50% reduction over a six month period in the total number of children registered on the Child Protection Register under domestic abuse.

Mum (CEDAR) *"We are recovering together now as a family."*



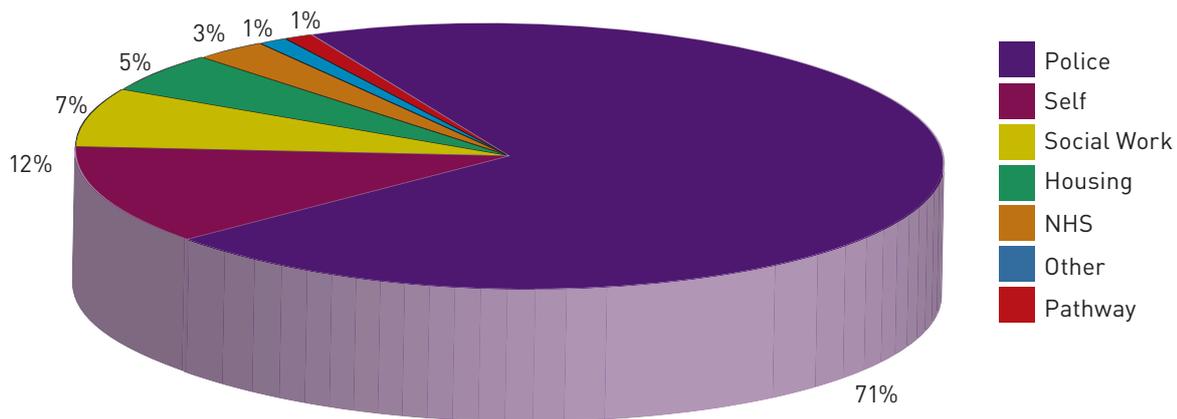
DOMESTIC ABUSE ADVOCACY SUPPORT (DAAS) SERVICE

The DAAS service is staffed by a Service Manager, Administrator, two Adult Advocates and one Children’s Support Worker. The service is designed to provide short-term crisis intervention delivered through risk assessment, safety planning and ensuring a partnership approach is taken to identify risk and increase victim safety. Additionally, all adults referred that have children are offered support from the DAAS Children’s Service.

DAAS – Adult service

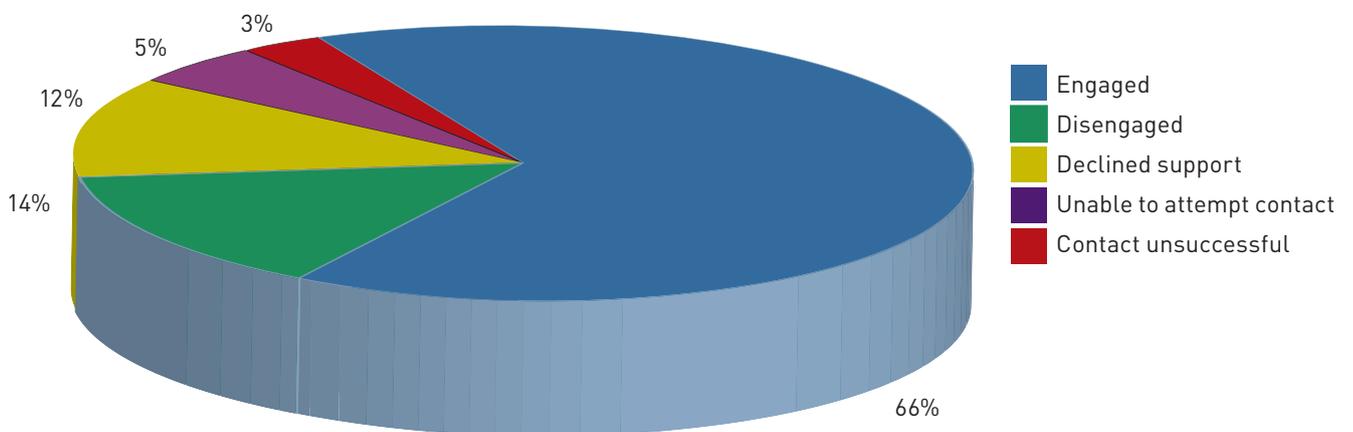
The graphs below illustrate which agencies have made referrals to DAAS, how many of those victims engaged with the service and the age range and relationship to the abuser.

Referring Agencies (Oct 12 - Sept 13)



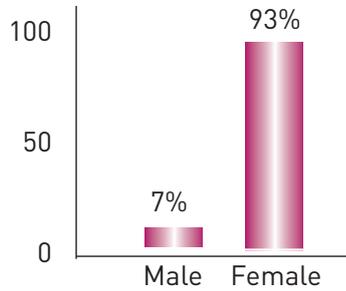
During the first year of operation, 555 adult referrals were made to DAAS. Out of that number, 364 engaged with the service.

Percentage of engagement (Oct 12 - Sept 13)

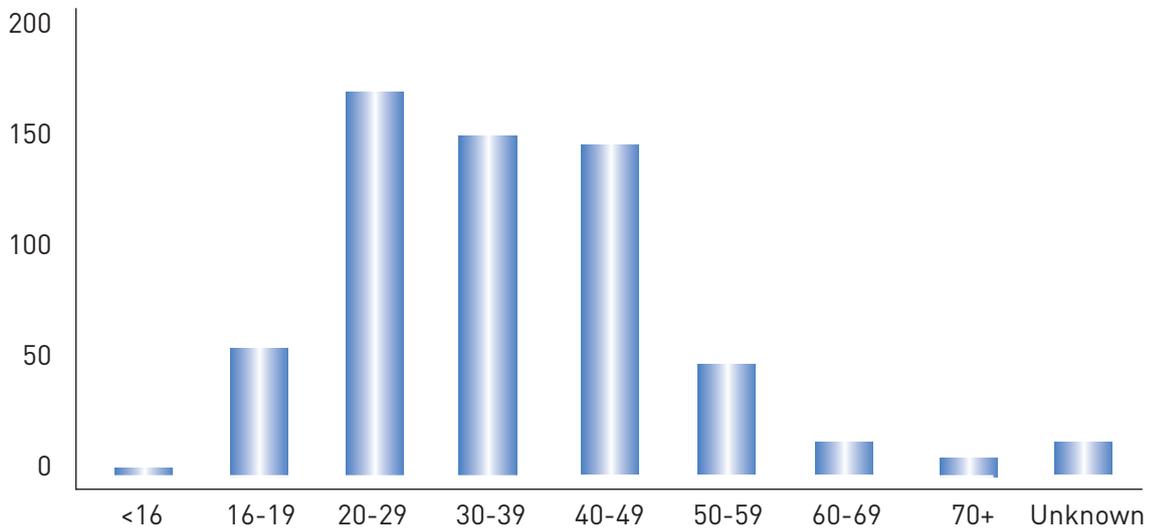


The percentage of engagement with clients illustrates how the very nature of domestic abuse ie the secrecy, shame, fear, denial and danger makes it very difficult for services to engage with victims but also for victims to feel it is safe enough for them to get help and support.

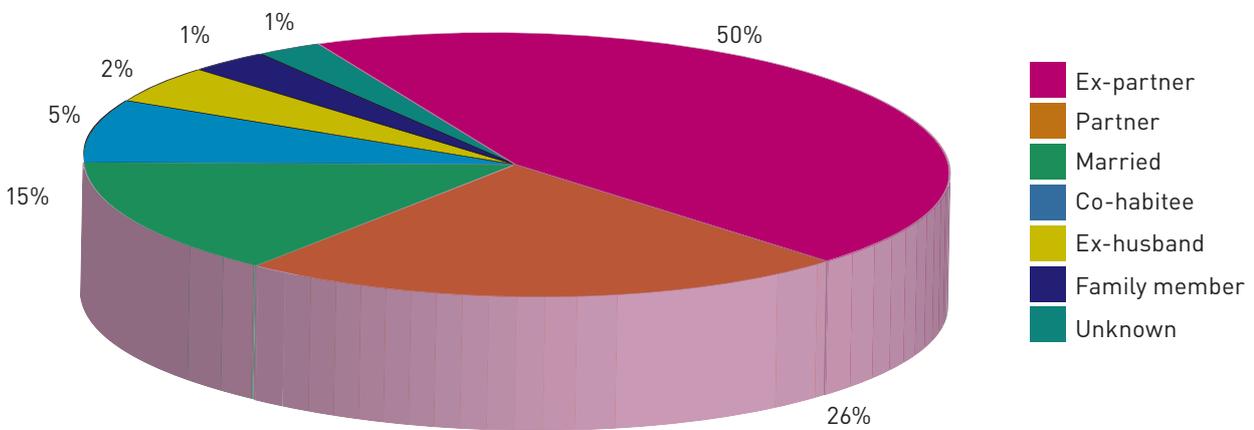
Gender split of referrrals



Age range of victims



Relationship between the victim and their abuser



“To be honest my self esteem is so low I’m not sure I do deserve more, I married him after all, but my children deserve more, I would hate for them to grow up thinking it’s ok for someone to treat you like that.”

These figures highlight and reinforce the evidence in national statistics that domestic abuse perpetrators are predominately known to their victim, either being in a relationship with them or as an ex-partner.

By working alongside existing service provision to achieve improved outcomes for victims of domestic abuse and their children DAAS has worked in partnership with Police Scotland, Fire & Rescue Service, social work, schools, housing providers, NHS Borders, court and related services as well as other specialist domestic abuse services.

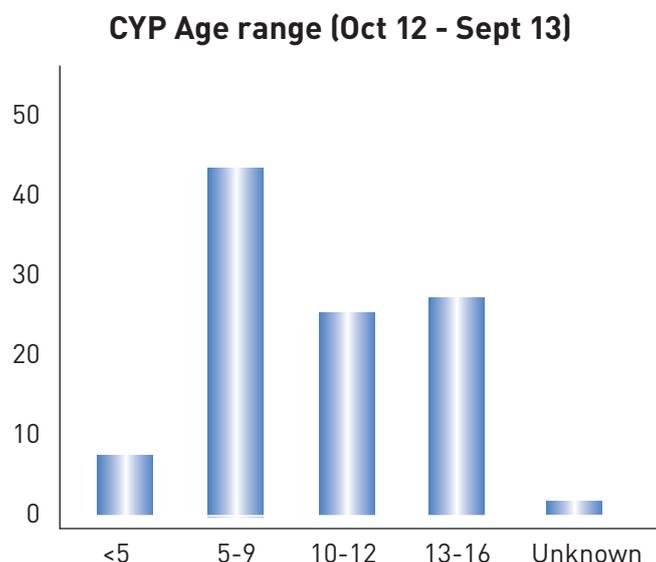
Mother 30s. *“It was such a relief that you were able to tell the school what was going on, I wanted them to know, but couldn’t face going through it all again, and I didn’t know how to bring it up.”*

DAAS – Children/Young People’s service

During the first year, 103 children were referred to the service with 77 children/young people engaging (75%). These figures however do not include the amount of children who witnessed domestic abuse (190) or have been affected by it (534).

Mother 40s. *“My son’s ok, he’s coping I think, but my daughter is on the verge of a breakdown. She isn’t sleeping, she just looks worried all the time. She needs more support than I can give her.”*

The age range of children/young people that the DAAS Children’s and Young People’s service worked with is detailed below:



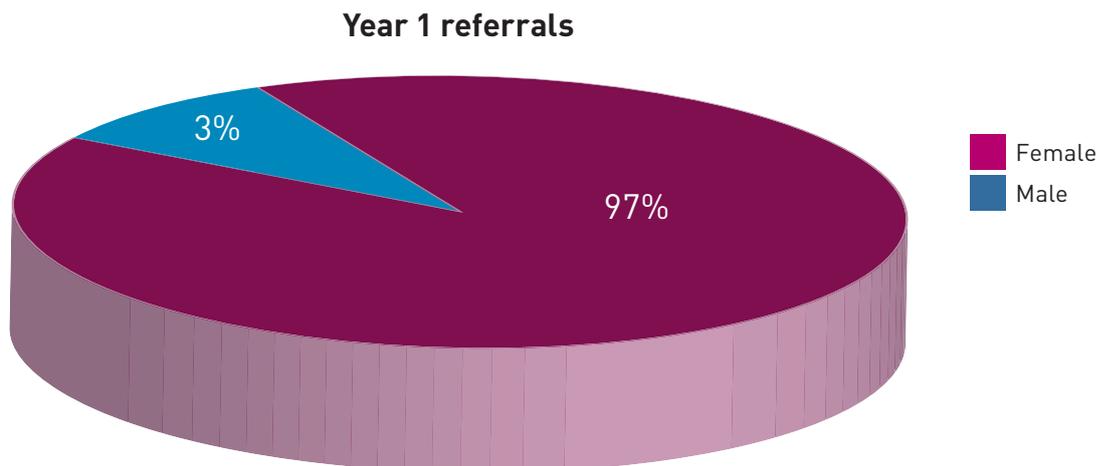


DOMESTIC ABUSE COMMUNITY SUPPORT (DACS) SERVICE

Scottish Borders Council commissioned CHILDREN1st to deliver the DACS service. CHILDREN1st deliver DACS with three adult workers and three children/young people’s workers to provide a service across the five Scottish Borders locality areas – Berwickshire, Tweeddale, Teviot, Cheviot and Eildon. The DACS service works closely with DAAS which refers adults, in particular, to receive ongoing support on a medium to long term basis, to aid their recovery from domestic abuse.

The kind of support that is required in order for victims to recover and move on with their lives after the initial risk and threat of domestic abuse has been reduced is different to what is required by high risk victims. This difference in the type and level of support offered to victims from DAAS and DACS, means that it is not possible to offer comparable areas of statistics.

DACS Adults Service



The total number of adults supported by DACS in the first year was 62.

Female adult, late 50’s *“I felt desperate and alone... but the thing that helped me most has been the fact that support was not time limited. Seeing the same person was really important as I did not have to tell my story many times over.”*

Adults are supported in the process of identifying the things that are most important for them and the changes that they want to achieve. From the outcomes that were chosen a high percentage reported improved emotional health, increased emotional resilience and that they were living in a safer environment. All adults who had chosen the outcomes of being more active within the community; being happier; having increased access to mainstream services; improved family relationships and were more involved in decision making about matters that affected them had achieved them.

Mother (20’s) *“I’ve been able to reflect on previous relationships and understand what has been wrong.”*

Housing information

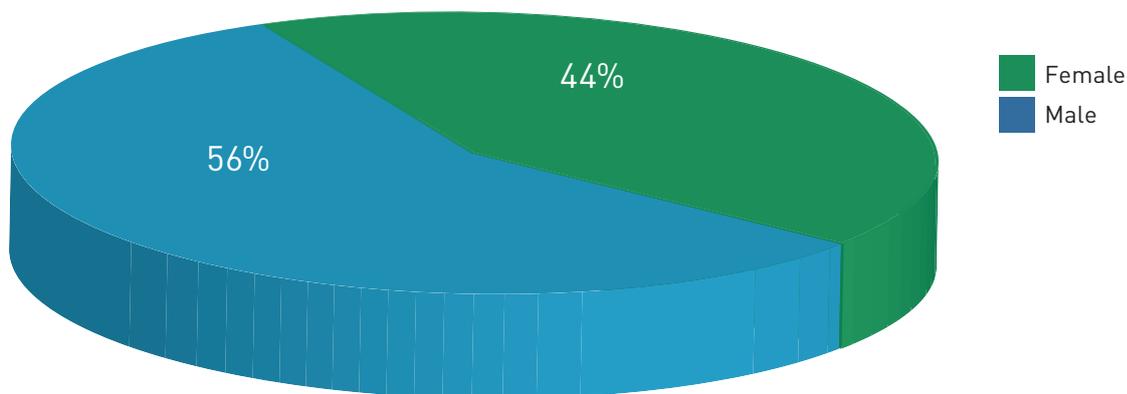
Of all the adults that were supported in the first year: 20% owned their own homes; 48% were social housing tenants; 16% were private tenants; 10% were in emergency accommodation due to domestic abuse and 6% were unknown.

Employment status

Of all the adults supported in the first year: 52% were in employment; 7% were seeking employment; 7% were students; 7% were on incapacity benefit due to domestic abuse and 28% were unknown.

DACS Children and young peoples' service

Children and young people supported



The total number of children and young people who were supported in the first year was 33.

Parent of a 13 year old male *“He talks to me more about how he’s feeling and he gets on better with men since he worked with you.”*

From the outcomes that were chosen, nearly all of the children and young people had improved emotional health and all reported that they were happier, had increased resilience, had wider social networks, improved family relationships, were more involved in decision making about matters that affected them and were living in a safer environment.

Girl, aged 7 yrs *“Its good to have someone to trust, you’re a nice man.”*

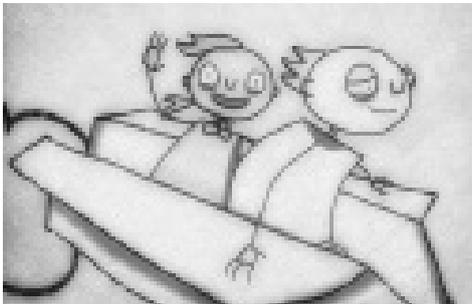


CHILDREN EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC ABUSE RECOVERY (CEDAR)

CEDAR is a 12 week concurrent group work programme for children and their mothers to support their recovery from Domestic Abuse. Families taking part should be living in a safe place with low risk of further incidents of domestic abuse.

CEDAR has one full time Co-ordinator and a team of 17 voluntary co-facilitators, who between them, deliver the women's and the children's groups. The recruitment and training of the co-facilitators was delivered in partnership with the National CEDAR project. To date, nine different facilitators have delivered two groups alongside the Co-ordinator. They come from a diverse range of backgrounds including; Project Management, Integrated Children's Services, Housing Officers and Children's workers. They have been able to take the learning from CEDAR back to their own communities and workplace and as a result, this has increased knowledge and understanding of the impact of domestic abuse on women and children.

Any agency or school can make a referral to CEDAR and self referrals are also accepted.



At the end of each group a fun day evaluation event is held to which all mothers, children and facilitators are invited. This gives the group a chance to reflect on what they have learned both from each other and the group work. It also provides an opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of the CEDAR graduates by way of a presentation.

Group 1

The first CEDAR Borders group ran March- June 2013 with 5 children and 4 mothers completing the full programme. The completion rate was 80% (both for mothers and children).



Group 2



The second group ran from Aug – Nov 2013 and was an all male group aged 11 to 15. Five young people and four mothers completed this group and the attendance rate was almost 100%.

In the first year, 37 referrals were received for CEDAR and all families were offered an assessment meeting to discuss their needs. Many of the referrals were signposted to other agencies following the assessment meeting such as the Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support (DAAS) Service and CHILDREN1st.

The following quotes are from both mothers and children who have completed CEDAR:-

"All the other kids were told they were not allowed to play with me because of him, I thought it was my fault but I have made friends in CEDAR now who had the same happen to them, I'm feeling better."

"I have my own safety plan and we learned how to call police and what would happen when we spoke to them and they would help, it was also good to see what everyone else in group has put."

"My child has been to CEDAR and they have encouraged us to speak, we are and things are getting better, couldn't believe it when my child starting talking about an incident they had witnessed as I had no idea they had seen this but I was able to reassure them that it would never happen again and my child needed to hear this."

"When I watched the DVD I could see it was exactly what happened to me and my sister and we couldn't tell, well if it happened now I would know what to do."

"I had my eyes shut until I spoke to you, it is true the impact on the children and they didn't speak about it properly until CEDAR, think they were trying to protect me and I didn't talk about it trying to protect them."

"I used to tell my son, you are just like your dad, I would never do that now, I tell him you are not to blame as he thought it was all his fault, he said he feels he has things under control now."

MULTI AGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE (MARAC)

In February 2014 the development phase of implementing Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) for high risk victims of domestic abuse was started, in partnership with Police Scotland. The first MARAC took place on 10 April 2014 and meetings are scheduled to take place every 4 weeks thereafter.

A MARAC is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local Police, Health, Adult Protection, housing providers, Education, Children and Families Social

Work, specialist domestic abuse Advocates, Criminal Justice, and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

Monitoring and evaluation of the MARAC process will be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Steering Group by the MARAC Co-ordinator and will also feed into national statistics. An evaluation of the process in the Scottish Borders will be undertaken by the governing body CAADA (Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse) after 12 months.

PARTICIPATION

The Pathway Project recognises that effective services must be designed with and for people and communities. Working closely with individuals and communities to meet their needs, maximising their talents and resources, supporting self reliance, and building resilience is key to the success of the project. We recognise the need to fit services to people, not people to services.

Pathway continues to keep participation of adults, children and young people as a key aim, recognising the valuable contribution they make to developing effective services. The feedback from service users across the three Pathway services is used to shape policy and practice, and to ensure that partner agencies understand the experiences of domestic abuse survivors.

A three year Participation Plan (2012-15) directs the actions to project managers and services to ensure that services users are

involved at all levels of the project. Examples of this include:

- Children and young people on interview panels for recruitment of children's service worker.
- Adult survivors of domestic abuse on interview panels for recruitment to adult services.
- Children and young people direct the CEDAR Graduation ceremonies.
- Mothers attending CEDAR give feedback using CEDAR Talk Back forms, re-connector sessions and are responsible for choosing external speakers for their session.
- Adult survivors consulted on the development of Early Years Centres.
- Adult survivors consulted on the production of the booklet "Domestic Abuse and Parenting" – this became a national resource.

- Adult survivor of domestic abuse sits as a full member on the Pathway Joint Advisory Board.
 - Hear Our Voice – the award winning film about the experiences of domestic abuse survivors in rural Scotland continues to be used to raise awareness across the Scottish Borders.
 - Fortnightly DAAS Bulletin contains feedback from service users.
 - Exit interviews with those leaving the DAAS service asks for feedback in relation to service improvements.
 - All adults and children leaving the DACS service have a review and any suggested improvements to the Pathway project are collated at Contract Monitoring meetings.
 - Community Participatory Appraisals garner the views of those living in Scottish Borders communities on how services can reach all those who need them.
 - Scottish Borders Young People's Survey contains questions to inform communication methods with young people regarding support services.
 - Scottish Borders Youth Summit included a workshop on gathering feedback from young people on how they would get support for themselves or others.
- of the organisation. Wendy, a domestic abuse survivor, has volunteered throughout the course of the Pathway Project, being a key player in the film Hear Our Voice and a member of the Pathway Joint Advisory Board.

In October 2014, the Pathway was recognised for its commitment to service user involvement and volunteering when Wendy was awarded the Voluntary Action Fund's Volunteer of the Year Award. She was recognised as the volunteer who had made a significant contribution to the work

ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

COSLA Excellence Award for Service Innovation and Design

In February 2013 the Pathway Project won the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) Excellence Award for Service Innovation and Design.

DACS Support group

Service users who have accessed DACS services have created their own support group, facilitated by DACS project workers, as a direct result of women wishing to come together and provide mutual support.

Ministerial visit

Derek McKay, Scottish Government Minister visited the Pathway Project services on 3 September 2013 to hear about the innovative way in which the Scottish Borders responds to domestic abuse.

Scottish Government consultation

Service users from across the Pathway Project services met on 3 September 2013 and took part in a focus group to provide direct

feedback to the Scottish Government on the new Violence Against Women Strategy. Their feedback, thoughts and ideas were reflected in the final document.

Hear Our Voice

In December 2011 'Hear Our Voice' was launched. The short film was funded by Scottish Borders Council and the Scottish Government and made available nationally as a training resource about the experiences of women in the Scottish Borders seeking support for domestic abuse. In their own words, they describe the stigma, shame and barriers to getting help and their journeys to recovery.



USEFUL NUMBERS

Local Support Services

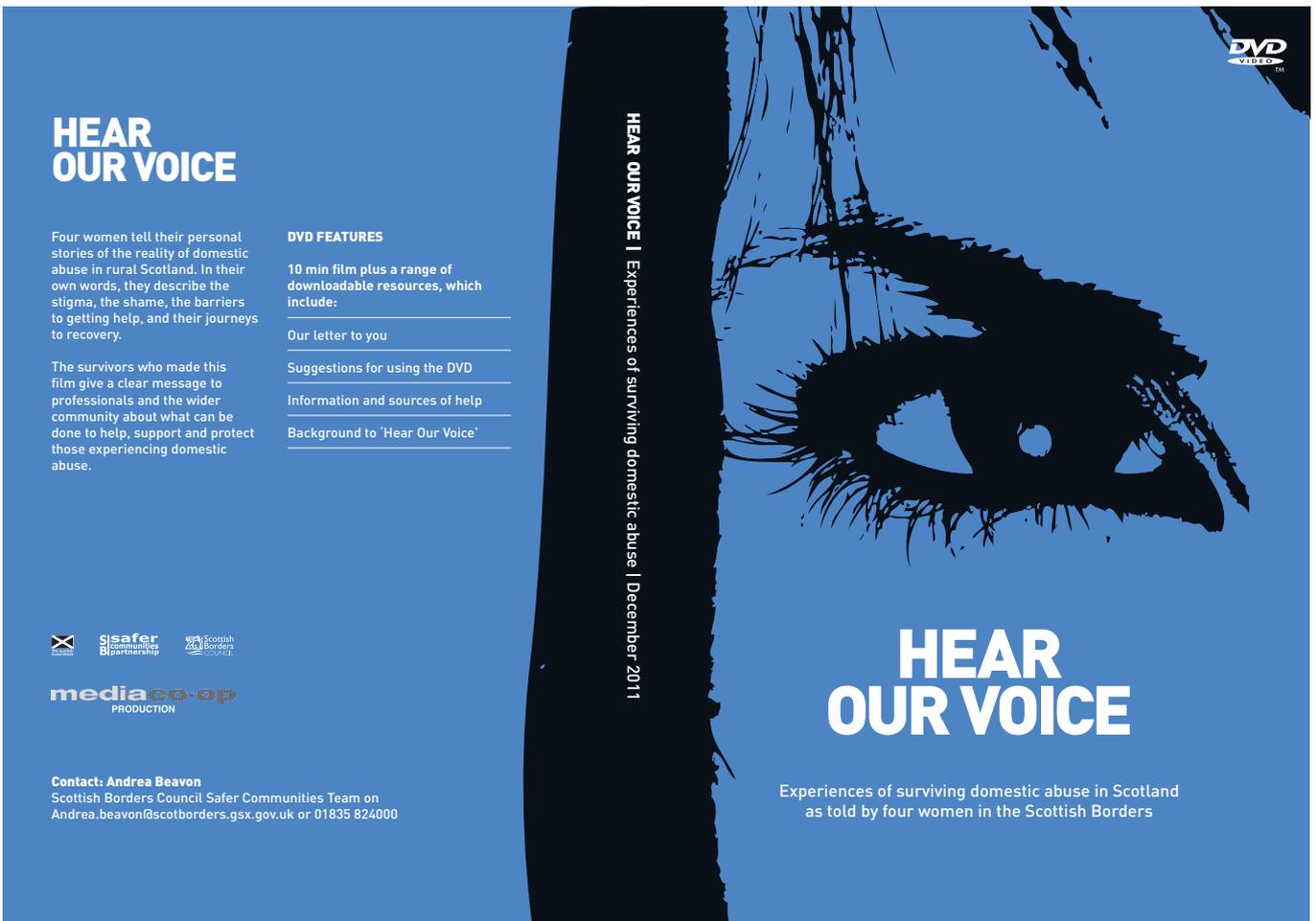
Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support Service	01835 825024
CHILDREN ^{1st} Borders - Domestic Abuse Service	01750 22892
Domestic Abuse Investigation Officer (Police Scotland)	01896 664590
Police Scotland (non emergency)	101
Borders Women's Aid	01835 863514
Scottish Borders Rape Crisis Centre	0800 054 2445
Victim Support Scottish Borders	01896 751212
SBC Homelessness Service	0800 376 1138
Emergency Duty Social Work	01896 752111
Shakti Women's Aid	0131 475 2399

National Helplines

National Domestic Abuse Helpline	0800 027 1234
National Rape Crisis Helpline	08088 01 03 02
Childline	0800 1111
MALE helpline	0808 801 0327
Abused Men in Scotland	0808 800 0024
The Samaritans	01750 2000
National Stalking Helpline	0808 802 0300
NHS 24	0845 424 2424
RESPECT helpline (for male perpetrators)	0808 802 4040

All contact numbers valid as at December 2014

The Pathway Project Board and Team wishes to thank BIG Lottery 'Becoming a Survivor' fund, the Scottish Government, Police Scotland, Border Housing Network, Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders for their commitment, funding support and in-kind contributions from SBC, without all of which a co-ordinated, community response to domestic abuse in the Scottish Borders would not be possible.



HEAR OUR VOICE

Four women tell their personal stories of the reality of domestic abuse in rural Scotland. In their own words, they describe the stigma, the shame, the barriers to getting help, and their journeys to recovery.

The survivors who made this film give a clear message to professionals and the wider community about what can be done to help, support and protect those experiencing domestic abuse.

DVD FEATURES

- 10 min film plus a range of downloadable resources, which include:
- Our letter to you
- Suggestions for using the DVD
- Information and sources of help
- Background to 'Hear Our Voice'

HEAR OUR VOICE | Experiences of surviving domestic abuse | December 2011

HEAR OUR VOICE

Experiences of surviving domestic abuse in Scotland as told by four women in the Scottish Borders

mediaco-op
PRODUCTION

Contact: Andrea Beavon
Scottish Borders Council Safer Communities Team on
Andrea.beavon@scotborders.gsx.gov.uk or 01835 824000

DVD VIDEO

You can get this document on audio CD, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

Safer Communities Team
Council Headquarters
Newtown St Boswells
TD6 0SA

safercommunities@scotborders.gov.uk

ITEM NO. 7

CCTV PROVISION IN THE BORDERS

Consultation Paper by Service Director Commercial Services

**Scottish Borders Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer
Communities Board**

13 February 2015

1 BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council currently operates a number of CCTV systems in towns across the Borders. Questions have arisen as to the viability of the Council continuing to provide and fund the service, particularly since the prime reason for having them installed is to assist the Police with investigations into criminal activity. There is an argument therefore that CCTV provision is a Police Scotland matter and the Police should at least fund these systems.
- 1.3 The paper therefore proposes that the Council withdraws from the direct provision of CCTV systems and instead works with the Police to assist local communities that wish to have CCTV systems to retain and install them. In doing so, the local communities would have to arrange and pay for installation and future maintenance and follow the advice of the Police and the Council with respect to the management and use of their CCTV system. In addition the Council would assist with providing accommodation for CCTV monitors where practicable.
- 1.4 With recent technological advances CCTV systems have reduced very substantially in price and therefore for those communities that wish to, the installation and maintenance of CCTV systems are much more affordable. In this context Hawick has decided to extend its CCTV system.

2 CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 The Board is asked to consider the Paper forming Appendix 1 which seeks their comments, prior to the matter being considered by the appropriate Council Committee.**

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CCTV PROVISION IN THE BORDERS

Report by Service Direct Commercial Services

Police, Fire and Rescue, and Safer Communities Board

13 February 2015

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 CCTV systems are a vital tool in relation to town centre management, community safety and counter-terrorism. These policy issues are vital in the Scottish Borders particularly given:
- The significance of promoting the use of towns and town centres both during the day and in evenings.
 - The importance of safety and security to attracting visitors and to supporting the quality of life of local people.
 - The establishment of the Borders Railway which could lead to a step change in the number of additional visitors and people coming in to Scottish Borders.

1.2 The Council currently operates a number of CCTV systems in towns across the Borders. Questions have arisen as to the viability of the Council continuing to provide and fund the service, particularly since the prime reason for having them installed is to assist the Police with investigations into criminal activity. There is an argument therefore that CCTV provision is a Police Scotland matter and the Police should at least fund these systems.

1.3 Generally the systems are analogue and with recent technological advances they are becoming out of date. The systems are in various states of repair as summarised in the table below:-

1.4

Town	Comments
Duns	1 camera needs replaced. System beyond life expectancy (over 14 years old). Wiring in working order.
Eyemouth	Some cameras have corrosion. Wiring in good order. Estimated cost of replacement of affected cameras £12.5k.
Gala	System and wiring in working order. Upgraded in 2008.
Hawick	Cameras all new following an insurance claim. Wiring in working order but needs upgrading. Hawick community want to extend the system.
Kelso	System requires replacing. Kelso community want to replace the system. Estimated cost with a similar type of analogue system £75k. This cost may substantially reduce if more recent technology is adopted.

Melrose	System and wiring in working order.
Peebles	Cameras beyond life expectancy (10 years old). Wiring in working order but needs upgrading.
Selkirk	1 camera needs replaced. Wiring in working order.

- 1.4 The revenue running cost of the systems is around £40,000 per annum and there is provision of £23,000 in the capital programme for CCTV replacement.
- 1.5 Replacing analogue systems with the same technology is very expensive. For example, the estimated cost of replacing Hawick's CCTV system with a replacement analogue system is £75,000. However with recent technological advancements and access to broad band and WIFI systems, CCTV costs have dramatically declined. This has made them affordable to businesses and for domestic use for security purposes where before, they were beyond the means of most parties. This development potentially makes CCTV systems viable for communities to fund without dedicated financial support from the Council.

2 CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 I recommend that the Board considers putting forward a view on whether the Council withdrawing from the direct provision of CCTV which would mean the Council:-**
- (a) Ceasing to install new CCTV equipment or replace life-expired systems.**
 - (b) Re-allocating the £23,000 for CCTV replacement in the capital programme to other projects.**
 - (c) Continuing to maintain current CCTV systems within the existing revenue budget until they are beyond reasonable economic repair.**
 - (d) Along with the Police, working with communities that wish to install, extend or replace CCTV systems to help them find CCTV solutions fully funded by those communities. Funding to include the cost of installation and subsequent maintenance and monitoring. The protocols around the use, management and monitoring of any CCTV system would have to be agreed by the community with the Police.**
 - (e) Where appropriate and viable, offering the use of Council premises for the siting of CCTV monitoring equipment provided the requirements of the Police are met.**

3 POLICE POSITION

- 3.1 The Police see CCTV as a Community Safety tool to offer far more than simply the prevention and detection of crime. It provides public reassurance, protects the most vulnerable members of the community and “keeps people safe”. CCTV contributes towards the Police and Local Authorities meeting Single Outcome Agreement, in particular outcomes 9, 11 and 15, ensuring that members of the community live their lives free from crime, disorder and danger. It also supports Local objectives around tackling antisocial behaviour, violence and drug / alcohol related incidents. It is a critical tool in Scotland’s infrastructure used to counter Terrorism.
- 3.2 Unfortunately the Police are not in a position to fund CCTV systems, though they are happy to advise communities about CCTV installation. This includes advice on the protocols around CCTV management to ensure that it can be used for Police investigation purposes and it would be essential for communities to meet these requirements.
- 3.3 In the Borders, the Police monitor CCTV on a reactive basis. They have 24 hour access to where the CCTV monitors are sited and gain access to review the recordings when investigating incidences.
- 3.4 The Police have not collated data on the historic usefulness of the CCTV systems in the Borders, though they are very supportive of CCTV as an effect tool for their work. In particular they have advised that generally anti-social behaviour in Borders town centres is an issue (breach of the peace, vandalism, urinating, minor assault and shoplifting) and CCTV helps act as a deterrent and with investigations into incidents. However in not having data to support their position, the Police do not have a strong body of evidence to back their case for the retention of CCTV.

4 LOCALITY POSITION

- 4.1 The communities in some Borders towns value their CCTV systems and see it as a positive contribution to creating safe neighbourhoods. In particular Hawick and Kelso are keen to ensure that they retain good CCTV coverage.
- 4.2 If the Council were no longer in a position to fund CCTV systems and the Police are not in a position to do so either, then with the benefit of recent technological advances, those communities could arrange for CCTV to be installed and maintained using their own resources. The Police would assist them with advice and where appropriate, the Council could offer use of their premises for CCTV recording facilities. With the advent of new technology it may be possible for communities to use WIFI technology to allow such monitors to be located on Police premises. Any CCTV installation and its monitoring and management would have to comply with appropriate legislation, making it essential for communities wishing to install CCTV to consult with the Police and reach agreement with them on these issues.

- 4.3 Local communities may be able to have access to the Scottish Wide Area Network (SWAN) broadband infrastructure, however this may only be viable if the monitoring of cameras were to be centralised. If local storage of the images is required (as is current practice in the Borders) it is likely to be more cost effective to link into locally based storage through cable, wifi or radio link.

5 PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

- 5.1 In light of the above it is proposed that the Council:-
- (a) Ceases to install new CCTV equipment or replace life-expired systems.
 - (b) Re-allocates the £23,000 for CCTV replacement in the capital programme to other projects.
 - (c) Continues to maintain current CCTV systems within the existing revenue budget until they are beyond reasonable economic repair.
 - (d) Along with the Police, work with communities that wish to install, extend or replace CCTV systems to help them find CCTV solutions fully funded by those communities. Funding to include the cost of installation and subsequent maintenance and monitoring. The protocols around the use, management and monitoring of any CCTV system would have to be agreed by the community with the Police.
 - (e) Where appropriate and viable, offer the use of Council premises for the siting of CCTV monitoring equipment provided the requirements of the Police are met.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As previously explained the revenue running cost of the systems is around £40,000 per annum and there is provision of £23,000 in the capital programme for CCTV replacement.
- 6.2 If the proposed way forward were to be adopted, the revenue running cost would gradually reduce as the current systems become beyond economic repair to be replaced as required with community funded systems (installation and ongoing maintenance costs). The Police would continue to monitor systems on a reactive basis (as with current practice).
- 6.3 The £23,000 capital would be re-allocated for other works in the capital programme.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and

their comments have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Andrew Drummond-Hunt

Service Director Commercial Services Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Andrew Drummond-Hunt	Service Director Commercial Services

Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: None

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Andrew Drummond-Hunt can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA. 01835 824000

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SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

Report to:
**Scottish Borders Council Police, Fire & Rescue and
Safer Communities Board**

***SUBJECT: SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES RESOURCES BASED
WITHIN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS 2010-14***

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides members of the Scottish Borders Council Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board with an overview of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) resources that are based within the Scottish Borders area.
- 1.2 The figures included within this report covers the five-year period 2010 -14 and are reflective of legacy Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service pre Service reform and the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service post reform 1st April 2013.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1 The report includes uniformed staff, Wholetime and Retained Duty System (RDS) as well as Fire Station locations and appliance provision. The report also provides analysis of call outs for the Incident Support Unit (ISU) based at Galashiels Fire Station.

3. STAFF

- 3.1 The table included in Appendix A provides comparative staffing levels over the period 2010 -14.

4. STATIONS AND APPLIANCE PROVISIONS

- 4.1 The table included in Appendix B details stations and fire appliances within the Scottish Borders 2010 -14. **Please note Stations and appliance provision in the Scottish Borders has not changed because of, or since reform April 2013.**

5. CALL OUT ANALYSIS

- 5.1 The table included in Appendix C provides analysis of call outs relating to the ISU based at Galashiels Fire Station for the period 2010-14.

6. SUMMARY

- 6.1 The wholetime establishments at Hawick fire stations remained constant for the period 2010 -14. Implementation of Resourced Based Crewing (RBC) at Galashiels has meant that from early November 2014 operational staff reduced from 44 to 28.

Retained Duty System (RDS) establishment has remained constant however, it should be noted that this figure can vary slightly depending on a number of factors including staff turnover and recruitment difficulties. On occasion and where required the Service will over-establish RDS stations.

The Day Shift Duty System (DSDS) based at Duns fire station was discontinued during 2013 with staff being relocated to wholetime watches at Galashiels fire station. Staff at Galashiels act as a flexible resource and when required are deployed to all Scottish Borders RDS stations in order to maintain fire cover to local communities.

Protection and Prevention staff numbers have increased in the Scottish Borders since Service Reform with 10 officers now responsible for carrying out fire safety engagement and enforcement activities throughout the area. The post of Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) was introduced in 2013; this is a Watch Manager who is embedded in the Safer Communities Unit at St Boswells. The amount of Training and Employee Development (TED) staff has also seen an increase in officers from 6 to 10, these officers support our operational crews in all aspects of training and development with the primary aim of firefighter safety.

The number of senior officers has increased with three officers responsible for station command at Duns, Gala and Hawick, a Group Manager oversees these officers. The Service also introduced a Local Senior Officer as part of the reform process; this is an Area Manager who has strategic responsibility for Midlothian, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders.

The provision of fire appliances throughout the Scottish Borders has not been affected by Service reform. This includes the introduction of RBC at Galashiels fire station, which maintains the availability of the Incident Support Unit. The introduction of RBC has only changed the way the service staff the appliances based at Galashiels, both appliances are still available for deployment throughout the Scottish Borders 24/7.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The Police, Fire and Safer Communities Board is invited to:
- Note the contents of this report,
- Make comments on this report.

John Dickie

Local Senior Officer

Date: 23rd January 2015

Appendix A

Date	Station	Duty system	Watch Manager	Crew Manager	Firefighter	Comments
2010	Galashiels	Wholetime	4	8	44	
2011			4	8	44	
2012			4	8	44	
2013			4	8	49	5 staff transferred from DSDS (Duns)
2014			4	4	20 (24)	Reduction in establishment due to Resourced Based Crewing (interim number)
2010	Hawick	Wholetime	1	1	5	
2011			1	1	5	
2012			1	1	5	
2013			1	1	5	
2014			1	1	5	

Appendix A (cont..)

2010	Duns	DSDS	1	1	5	This was optimum staffing figures that were never achieved for various reasons
2011			1	1	5	
2012			1	1	5	
DSDS staff redeployed to wholetime watches at Galashiels during 2013 and DSDS at Duns discontinued.						

Retained Duty System (RDS)

Date	Station	Duty system	Watch Managers	Crew Managers	Firefighters	Comments
2010- 2014	All (13)	RDS	13	28	109	Figures reflect agreed establishment but this regularly has minor +/- variances

Appendix A (cont..)

Functional Support & Managers

Strategic Management Local Senior Officer (Area Manager)							
Function	Date	Group Manager B	Group Manager A	Station Manager	Watch Manager	Crew Manager	Comments
Response & Resilience	2010	1	3	0			
	2011	1	3	0			
	2012	1	3	0			
	2013	1	2	1			Role of station manager introduced into legacy LBFRS area 2013
	2014	1	1	2			

Appendix A (cont..)

Function	Date	Group Manager B	Group Manager A	Station Manager	Watch Manager	Crew Manager	Firefighter	Comment
Prevention & Protection	2010	0	0	0	1	0	4	
	2011	0	0	0	1	0	4	
	2012	0	0	0	1	0	4	
	2013	1	0	1	4	0	4	GMB responsible for MEL & SB 3 WM's based at Galashiels LALO (WM) introduced
	2014	1	0	1	4	0	4	

Function	Date	Group Manager B	Group Manager A	Station Manager	Watch Manager	Crew Manager	Firefighter	Comment
Training & Employee Development	2010	1	1	0	4	0	0	
	2011	1	1	0	4	0	0	
	2012	1	1	0	4	0	0	

Appendix A (cont..)

	2013	1	0	1	2	4	0	GMB & SM responsible for MEL/SB's
	2014	1	0	1	2	4	0	

Note: one member of staff (non –uniformed) provides Administration Support for all three functions above

Appendix B

Stations and Fire Appliances in the Scottish Borders 2010-14				
Station	Duty System	Pump/Special		Comments
Galashiels	WT/RDS	2	1	Incident Support Unit at Gala
Hawick	WT/RDS	2	1	High Volume Pump at Hawick
Coldstream	RDS	1		
Duns	RDS	1		
Eyemouth	RDS	1		
Innerleithen	RDS	1		
Jedburgh	RDS	1		
Kelso	RDS	2		
Lauder	RDS	1		
Newcastleton	RDS	1		
Peebles	RDS	2		
Selkirk	RDS	1		
West Linton	RDS	1		
Totals	13	17	2	

Note: Gala WT staff trained in Swift Water Rescue
Hawick WT staff trained in High Volume Pump Operation. Gala and Hawick RDS staff trained in Flood Response

Appendix C

Type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total	5 year average
Water Rescue	1	4	5	9	8	27	5
RTC's	2	8	9	11	10	40	8
Fires, structural and non-structural	6	5	10	7	13	41	8
Chemical	0	5	5	2		12	2
Grain Dryer	0	2	1	4	1	8	2
All other incidents	18	25	28	43	20	134	27
Totals	27	49	58	76	52	262	52

Note: The above figures relate to the number of times the Incident Support Unit from Galashiels was mobilised to an incident, it is not reflective of when personnel or equipment were deployed from this appliance.

The ISU was removed from the Pre-Determined Attendance response to chemical incidents in 2014.

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SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

Report to:

**Scottish Borders Police, Fire
& Safer Communities Board**

***SUBJECT: POLICE, FIRE & SAFER COMMUNITIES BOARD MEMBERS
BRIEFING REPORT ON SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE FUTURES
PROJECTS***

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report is presented to the Scottish Borders Police, Fire & Safer Communities Board to provide an awareness of key projects the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is undertaking in the short, medium and long term.
- 1.2 Where relevant and appropriate, specific implications for the Scottish Borders area communities, partners and stakeholders have been included in this report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The creation of the SFRS, which replaced eight antecedent Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs), has provided an opportunity for the new service to review its legacy service delivery arrangements, working practices and all aspects of how an efficient emergency service is delivered to the whole of Scotland.
- 2.2 Whilst there are many drivers for change, the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and the Scottish Governments, Fire and Rescue

Framework for Scotland 2013 provide a legislative framework around how the SFRS designs and delivers its services.

- 2.3 As part of the ongoing journey that the SFRS is on in bringing together 8 legacy FRSs arrangements, a vast range of transformational and transactional projects and initiatives are currently being designed, developed and implemented which support the SFRS Strategic Plan 2013-16 and the SFRSs annual Operational Plans.
- 2.4 In addition to delivering projects that support the current Strategic Plan and the Operational Plan/s, the SFRS is currently looking into the future to develop projects and initiatives that will support future Strategic Plans and Operating Plans. This ensures the Service is a forward thinking organisation that continues to deliver an efficient and effective emergency service that is fit for purpose, secures best value and delivers a world class fire and rescue service to all communities, partners and stakeholders across Scotland.

3. SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE

- 3.1 The SFRS has made significant strides in developing a management structure that supports a single, national organisation. To ensure the SFRS continues to demonstrate that it is effectively operating as a national organisation which delivers at a local level, a review of the structure of the Strategic Leadership Team and the role of Service Delivery Directors has taken place. This review led to a cost neutral restructure which allows the SFRS to continue to focus on the consolidation of the fire reform aims and objectives as well as the integration of the Service.
- 3.2 The coterminous approach remains the same with the three service delivery areas reflecting their local authority and ward areas. Embedded local senior officers will continue to drive down risk through prevention and protection activities and emergency response in their areas.
- 3.3 However, at service delivery level the SFRS will introduce a new senior management level of Deputy Assistant Chief Officers (DACOs). Once the new structure is in place, Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) Dave Boyle, currently Director of the West SDA, will become Director of Service Delivery for

Scotland. ACO Robert Scott, currently Director of Service Delivery for the North SDA, will become Director of Strategic Planning, Performance and Communications. ACO Peter Murray, currently Director of the East SDA, will take on the role of Director of Service Transformation.

- 3.4 These changes will release capacity for the Directors and the Deputy Chief Officer to focus on future planning and implementation to ensure the SFRS reform journey remains on course to deliver the benefits of fire reform and that the Service can respond effectively to the inevitable challenges that will occur during that process.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SCOTTISH BORDERS AREA

- 3.5 The newly appointed DACO for the East SDA is John Miller, who reports to the Director of Service Delivery for Scotland and will be the most senior officer directly responsible for the East Service Delivery Area. DACO Miller in addition to the Local Senior Officer will be a key contact point for partners and stakeholders in the Scottish Borders area. A structural diagram has been included in Appendix 1 of this report, which details the National/East SDA/Scottish Borders area senior management structure.

4. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT/APPLIANCE REVIEW

- 4.1 The SFRS delivers an emergency service within a complex framework of law, regulation and operational guidance. As the role of the fire service has developed over the years beyond just firefighting, the range of activities undertaken has continued to expand and widen. Correspondingly, the range of equipment and skills training required to meet this developing role has increased greatly.
- 4.2 The deployment of specialist resources (appliances and equipment) was reviewed to ensure continued conformity to the needs of community and firefighter safety across Scotland now that historical geographical boundaries have been removed.

4.3 This review commenced in May 2013, with the aims of delivering on the SFRS' key objectives of delivering operational services efficiently and equitably across the communities of Scotland.

4.4 In undertaking the review a number of key principles were acknowledged, notably:

- The underlying expectation was of delivering improved outcomes for Scotland's communities, with greater equity of access to a standardised range of resources.
- Recognition of the fact that 'Resilience' assets such as Urban Search & Rescue (USAR), High Volume Pump (HVP), Mass Decontamination (MD), Detection, Identification & Monitoring (DIM) are not devolved matters to Scottish Government, therefore cognisance was required to be taken of our contribution to UK security.
- An imperative to assure competency in our crews by reducing the present overburdening of certain specialist resources at fire stations.
- In this regard, wherever possible, only whole-time crews will be utilised due to the availability of sufficient training time.
- In addition to the restrictions encountered through training requirements, stations were selected based on their strategic locations and the surrounding risk profile.
- Where services are, or can be, delivered by partner agencies, this is reflected in future approaches.
- Capital costs for appliance and equipment replacement will be factors in the final delivery timeline of these changes.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SCOTTISH BORDERS AREA

4.5 The 'Review of Specialist Equipment Report' was developed by the Response and Resilience Department of the SFRS. The report is currently in draft format and awaiting approval by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board (SFRB). It is envisaged that the SFRB will approve the report at its next meeting (January 2015). On approval by the SFRB a detailed implementation

plan will be developed to implement the recommendations contained within the report. A copy of the Review of Specialist Equipment Report has been previously circulated and discussed with members of the Police & Fire Safer communities Board and is attached to this report in Appendix 2.

4.6 In recognising that the 'end state' of the Review of Specialist Equipment may take up to 3 years to implement, and that there may be changes in the final status of some of the recommendations due to the dynamic nature of the environment the SFRS works in, the implications for the Scottish Borders are;

- The Incident Support Unit (ISU) at Galashiels Fire Station would be decommissioned. The equipment currently stored on the ISU will form part of equipment termed as 'Logistical Support' equipment and stored at Dunfermline Fire Station in Fife. A prime mover will be used to transport the equipment to incident when required;
- The Water Rescue/flood equipment held on the ISU at Galashiels Fire Station will be retained at that location and upgraded. The upgrade will take the format of a dedicated Water Rescue vehicle and boat permanently mounted on a trailer;
- Introduction of a new Water Rescue Team based at Hawick Fire Station.
- Removal of the High Volume Pump (HVP) from Hawick Fire Station.

5. EMERGENCY COVER REVIEW

- 5.1 The SFRS delivers a core emergency service of responding to, and dealing with fire incidents through the historical disposition of fire stations and fire appliances (fire tenders). The disposition of fire stations and fire appliances is based on antecedent Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) Integrated Risk Management Plans and was largely designed around the historical locations of resources and took cognisance of antecedent FRS boundaries.
- 5.2 With the introduction of the SFRS, antecedent FRS boundaries no longer exist and to ensure the SFRS is able to respond appropriately to the risk of fire in Scotland, whilst ensuring the service that is delivered is effective and efficient, an Emergency Fire Cover Review has commenced.
- 5.3 In developing the Emergency Cover Review cognisance will be taken of the reduction of fire activity across Scotland in the last few years. However, cognisance will also be taken of the need to ensure communities, stakeholders and partners across Scotland have ready access to core SFRS services when they are need of them.
- 5.4 The principles of the review are;
- Undertake a national strategic assessment of current Emergency Fire Cover.
 - Utilise a variety of risk modelling tools to design future Emergency Fire Cover modelling.
 - Develop options and options appraisals on future Emergency Fire Cover modelling.
 - Incorporate agreed options into the SFRS Strategic Plan 2017-19.
- 5.5 The Emergency Cover Review is currently at the early stages of development and at present there are no indications of the outcomes of the review, therefore it is not possible to identify any implications for the Scottish Borders area at this time.

6. EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE AND THE SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

- 6.1 In October 2014, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service laid a report before the Scottish Parliament in relation to a recent inspection of SFRS. The report focussed on the opportunities for the SFRS to undertake additional activities in the field of emergency medical response and promoted an enhanced level of partnership working with the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS). A copy of the HMCI report is attached to Appendix 3 of the report.
- 6.2 The main concept outlined within the report was that a significant number of Scottish citizens suffer fatal cardiac arrests each year and SFRS resources could be used to assist and augment the resources of the SAS.
- 6.3 The report contained a number of recommendations that the HMCI has urged the SFRS to consider.
- 6.4 The SFRS is currently considering the HMCI report and initial indications are that the Service recognises the potential to increase their holistic role in building safer communities through activities such as delivering an enhanced level of care to citizens whose life is in danger due to cardiac arrests .

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SCOTTISH BORDERS AREA

- 6.5 The delivery of an enhanced level of medical care to citizens in the Scottish Borders area can be regarded as a relatively new concept and a move away from the traditional role of the SFRS. Initiative has such as this is an enhancement of service provision and can be seen to support the Scottish Borders community planning partnership single outcome agreement.
- 6.6 Taking cognisance that any decisions to engage in the provision of enhanced levels of medical care will be taken by SFRS at a national level and will be agreed upon by key strategic partners, from a local perspective local implementation plans and service delivery plans will require to be developed with key local community planning partners and stakeholders.

7. RETAINED DUTY SYSTEM PROJECT

- 7.1 The SFRS has commissioned a project to review all aspects of the current Retained Duty System (RDS) delivery model. The SFRS recognises that a wide range of factors have led to difficulties in attracting citizens to become RDS firefighters and then retaining them. It is also recognised that in situations where staff can be retained, external pressures such as primary employer commitments, availability of staff to allocate time to be available to respond to incidents and the pursuit of a work life balance can all have a detrimental effect on the ability of the Service to deliver a consistent service to local communities. This service includes both prevention and intervention activities.
- 7.2 To address these concerns a root and branch review of the RDS delivery model is currently underway. The project has been divided into two main themes with the first being 'consolidation and standardisation'. This part of the project will look at identifying areas of best practice in how things are done throughout the eight antecedent FRs and seeks to standardise and harmonise working practices based on best practice and organisational and individual imperatives.
- 7.3 The second part of the project will consider "Future Options". This element of the project will involve an innovative look forward to identify the best way that the SFRS can continue to perform in the future. This piece of work will ensure that contributions are made towards shaping every aspect of being an RDS firefighter; from initial recruitment and training through to remuneration and duty systems.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SCOTTISH BORDERS AREA

- 7.4 There are 13 RDS stations within Scottish Borders boundary staffed by RDS firefighters. It is likely that the outcomes of the project will have an impact on these staff members and on the delivery model used to provide prevention and intervention activities to the communities in the area.
- 7.5 At this time it is too early to predict with any certainty the outcomes and recommendations of the RDS project.

8. **CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

- 8.1 The SFRS recognises that organisations can make better decisions and can provide improved service design and delivery if key stakeholders are involved in the decision making process. The SFRS also recognises that there are legal and moral imperatives in seeking user's views on the services it provides.
- 8.2 To this end, the Service is currently drafting a 'Consultation and Engagement' Framework and 'Consultation and Engagement' Guidance that will be used to inform staff within the service on the requirements to consult and engage with key stakeholders and how to adopt best practice in consultation and engagement.
- 8.3 With specific reference to the Consultation and Engagement Framework, the framework will provide a focus for the SFRS to establish the principles of good consultation and engagement, establish methods to properly evaluate the effectiveness of these activities and provide SFRS's partners and communities a better understanding of what SFRS is trying to achieve.
- 8.4 With reference to the Consultation and Engagement Guidance, the guidance will support the framework and aims to assist staff responsible for designing and delivering public consultations at both national and local levels. The application of the guidance will demonstrate that when SFRS intends to consult with partners, stakeholders or communities, it is committed to ensuring processes are fit for purpose, they enhance its reputation as a listening organisation and provide evidence that discussions are informed because of consultations.
- 8.5 It is anticipated that the SFRB will be presented with the Consultation and Engagement Framework and Guidance for approval in early 2015

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SCOTTISH BORDERS AREA

- 8.6 Once the Consultation and Engagement Framework and Guidance are approved by the SFRB, it will become the duty of all staff within the SFRS to determine, through the application of the guidance, which issues or initiatives would benefit from consultation or engagement. In some cases consultation or engagement may be undertaken at a national level whilst others may benefit from a local process.
- 8.7 Where it is determined local consultation or engagement is the most appropriate methodology to inform local decision making or to influence strategic decision-making, it will fall to the Local Senior Officer for the Scottish Borders to undertake local consultation or engagement processes.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 A wide range of future projects and initiatives have been outlined in this report that currently do not have definitive outcomes, end products or options for consideration or debate. The primary purpose of this report is to provide members of the Police, Fire & Safer Communities Board with an awareness of issues that the SFRS is actively progressing.
- 9.2 It is envisaged that with approval of the Consultation and Engagement Framework and Guidance, clarity will be provided on which initiatives and projects contained within this report will enter into a process of consultation and engagement.
- 9.3 It is anticipated that the Local Senior Officer for the Scottish Borders will keep members of the Police, Fire & Safer Communities Board updated on the progress of the projects and initiatives outlined in the report.
- 9.4 It is the intention of the Local Senior Officer to circulate this report to Community Councils in the area to keep the members of these communities and community groups aware of the future activities and plans of the SFRS.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The Scottish Borders Council Police, Fire & Safer Communities Board is invited to:

- Note the contents of this report,
- Make comment on this report,
- Make specific comment on the Special Appliance/Equipment Review and the implications for the Scottish Borders area.

John Dickie
Local Senior Officer
Scottish Borders
13 February 2015

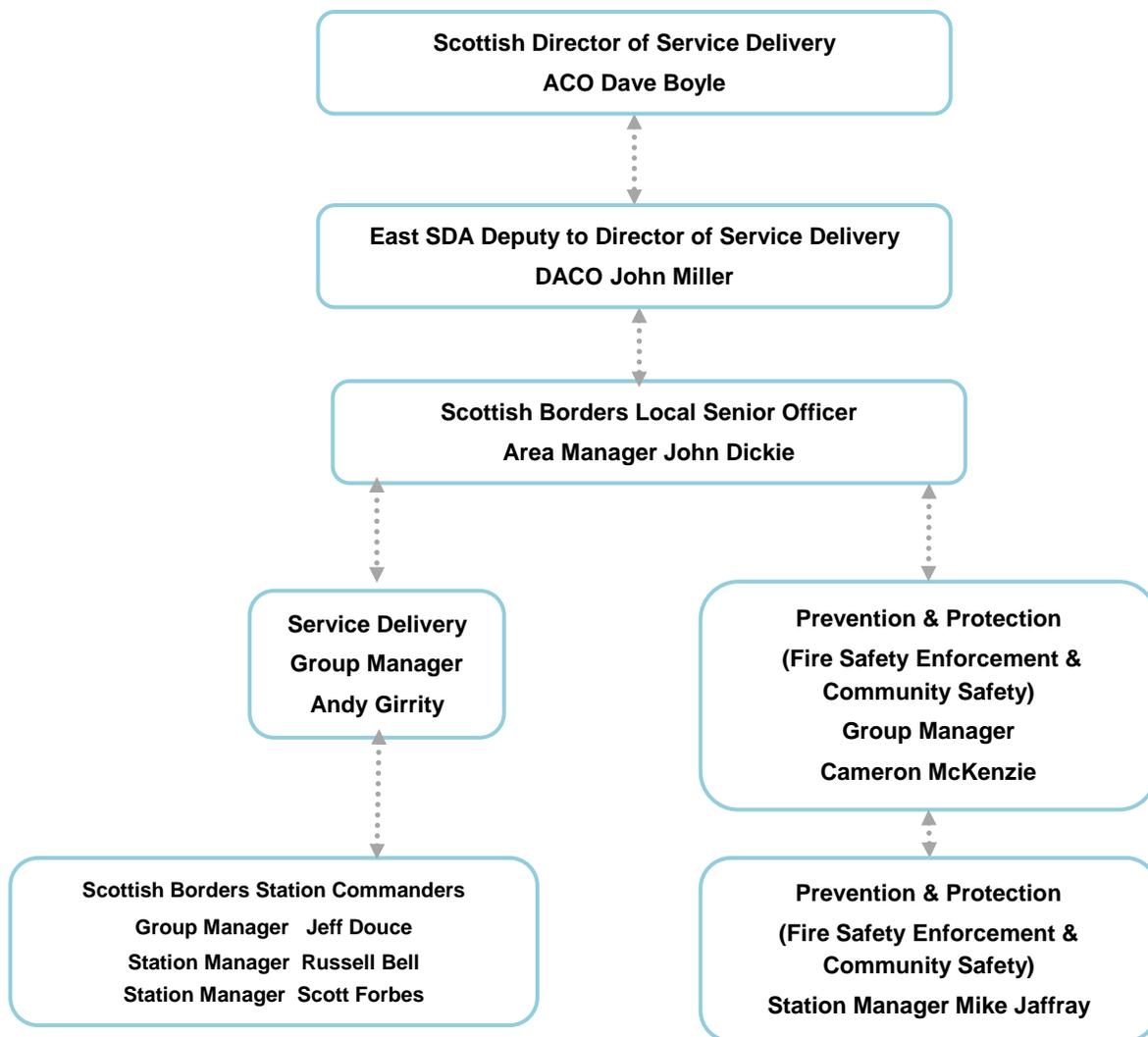
Appendix 1 SFRS Management Structure (National/East SDA/Scottish Borders);

Appendix 2 SFRS Review Of Specialist Equipment Final Report;

Appendix 3 HM Fire Service Inspectorate, Emergency Medical Response,
and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report.

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SFRS Management Structure (National/East SDA/Scottish Borders)



STATION	CREWING	STN COMMANDER
GALASHIELS FS	WHOLETIME & RDS	GM DOUCE
INNERLEITHEN FS	RDS	GM DOUCE
PEEBLES FS	RDS	GM DOUCE
WEST LINTON	RDS	GM DOUCE
HAWICK FS	WHOLETIME & RDS	SM BELL
JEDBURGH	RDS	SM BELL
NEWCASTLETON	RDS	SM BELL
SELKIRK	RDS	SM BELL
COLDSTREAM FS	RDS	SM FORBES
DUNS FS	RDS	SM FORBES
EYEMOUTH	RDS	SM FORBES
KELSO	RDS	SM FORBES
LAUDER	RDS	SM FORBES

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RESPONSE & RESILIENCE

REVIEW OF SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT FINAL REPORT



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

Draft

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Draft

1. Executive Summary

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service inherited a wide array of specialist equipment from the eight legacy fire and rescue services in Scotland. As the demands on services progressively increased over the years, the deployment of additional equipment was undertaken on a local basis, using existing geographical boundaries without any real attempts at mutual aid or cross-border cooperation. A clear imperative to review this position has resulted in the publication of this report, which recommends a range of changes designed to enhance service delivery from a more strategic viewpoint.

From an initial mandate of improving equity of access to fire and rescue resources and delivering efficiencies, this review makes a number of recommendations which will ensure a more balanced disposition of specialist resources across Scotland, based on risk and activity. These improvements will see some resources increased in number where gaps have been identified; or decreased in number where clear overlap and unnecessary over-provision exists.

It is worthy of note that the existing position is falsely overstating the actual capabilities across Scotland. Many examples have been identified where the resources do not meet the desired or necessary standard, either in terms of equipment or skills training. A key objective of this review is to produce a standardised approach to each specialist attribute, ensuring that the declared ability is in fact accurate and reliable; and more importantly, safe and effective.

In the vital areas of water rescue and line rescue, additional teams will be created to provide the necessary balance and geographical spread of these resources. Equally important as the simple increase in numbers, a standard delivery model for each resource will see great improvements in training, standard of equipment, stowage of equipment and deployment of resources.

Some current practices, such as the stowage of rescue boats deflated and carried on a range of vehicles not specifically designed for the purpose, will cease. The loss of vital minutes in a rescue environment to inflate and equip boats is unacceptable and must be stopped as quickly as possible.

In areas where some rationalisation is recommended such as Urban Search and Rescue, Mass Decontamination or Command and Control vehicles, reassurances are given that, not only is this a safe and efficient way forward, but will result in an improved service with dedicated resources being delivered competently and by better trained and better prepared crews. These recommendations have been made following close consultation with appropriate stakeholders such as the Scottish Government, local authorities and representative bodies. Our ability to declare available assets for UK-wide support at major incidents will actually be enhanced by these measures, as many of our existing resources do not currently meet the required standard.

Unnecessary overburdening of some stations will be removed, with an improved standard of training delivered in all instances. This welcome approach will reduce risk, to communities and firefighters alike, by allowing crews to concentrate on a manageable range of equipment and procedures, ensuring confidence and competence in the use of complex equipment at the time of need.

Acceptance and implementation of these recommendations is key to delivering an efficient and effective model of specialist rescue resources across Scotland; identifying and addressing the substantial risks which exist, and providing an appropriate level of cover for each of our major cities where the perceived risk is greatest. This forms a fundamental step in the creation of a single fire and rescue service for Scotland, the safety of communities being addressed without historical boundaries restricting service delivery.



KEEP BACK
10 METRES

HEAVY
RESCUE

Emergency One

JACK HERE

2. Introduction

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) delivers an emergency service within a complex framework of law, regulation and operational guidance. As the role of the fire service has developed over the years, beyond just firefighting, the range of activities undertaken has continued to expand and widen. Correspondingly, the range of equipment and skills training required to meet this developing role has increased greatly.

Prior to the creation of the single national service, all 8 legacy Scottish fire and rescue services had developed and implemented a range of specialist resources based on their individual assessment of risk as described within their Integrated Risk Management Plans. This historical deployment requires to be reviewed to ensure it conforms to the needs of community and firefighter safety across Scotland now that the historical geographical boundaries have been removed.

This review commenced in May 2013, with the aims of delivering on the SFRS' key objectives of delivering operational services efficiently and equitably across the communities of Scotland. Recognising the wide range of specialist resources involved, this review was divided into 16 separate strands, namely:

- Water Rescue
- Offshore Firefighting and Support
- Line Rescue
- High Reach
- Rescue Pump
- Heavy Rescue
- Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)
- High Volume Pump (HVP)
- Mass Decontamination (MD)
- Detection, Identification and Monitoring (DIM)
- Hazardous Materials
- Prime Mover Strategy
- Command and Control
- 4x4 Vehicle
- Wildfire
- Incident Logistical Support

All individual reports were collated at the end of 2013, with a 2 day workshop involving staff from the Response and Resilience Directorate of SFRS and the Fire Brigades Union. This final report presents the outcome of this work, and sets the strategy for implementation of the final delivery of specialist fire and rescue equipment and resources across Scotland. Final timelines for delivery of this project are discussed in a later section, based on a range of limitations including the requirement to procure and deploy equipment, and train staff accordingly.

A number of key principles were acknowledged in the development of the review, notably:

- The underlying expectation was of delivering improved outcomes for Scotland's communities, with greater equity of access to a standardised range of resources
- Recognition of the fact that 'Resilience' assets (USAR, HVP, MD, DIM) are not devolved matters to Scottish Government, therefore cognisance taken of our contribution to UK security. Ongoing national reviews of Resilience assets are acknowledged and considered in this report where changes are known
- An imperative to assure competency in our crews by reducing the present overburdening of certain stations. In this regard, wherever possible only wholetime crews will be utilised due to the availability of sufficient training time
- In addition to the restrictions encountered through training requirements, stations will be selected based on their strategic locations and the surrounding risk profile
- Where services can be delivered by partner agencies, this is reflected in the future approach recommended. SFRS is developing a register of such assets which will greatly assist in mitigating risk
- Cost, whilst considered within the individual resource reviews, cannot be fully developed within this report as the full implications of training and crewing arrangements will become apparent as the project to implement these changes progresses. Capital costs for appliance and equipment replacement will be factors in the final delivery timeline of these changes

3. Objectives

This review will assist in achieving the ultimate aims and objectives of the SFRS. Ultimately these aims are to work towards the Scottish Government’s Performance Management Framework and principally those National Outcomes to which we are most closely aligned.

The Fire and Rescue Framework 2013 outlines more clearly how we as a service should address these ultimate goals, by setting out 58 priorities under the headings of partnership working, prevention, protection and response. This report aims to address a number of the priorities set against our response service.

In reviewing the disposition and deployment of specialist resources, SFRS recognises a statutory duty to reduce the risks to our communities whilst delivering Best Value; making certain that the communities we serve receive the best possible service, and at the same time providing the greatest possible value for money. The risk management approach to ensuring this, under the heading of Integrated Risk Management Planning, requires us to identify the risks to the community, undertake a process to prioritise these risks, and ensure an appropriate blend and distribution of capabilities to address them.



A specific priority in this regard is set out in Chapter 3 of the Fire and Rescue Framework, which requires more equal access to specialist resources and national capacity. Within this requirement, we have been given a mandate to clarify and communicate the parameters of our operational functions with local community partners, whilst explicitly recognising the need to adapt and improvise in unusual and difficult to define circumstances. A clear expectation is stated that areas with similar risk profiles should normally have similar provision, and that SFRS should develop a leading role in specialist rescue, engaging with the other emergency services and relevant voluntary groups to understand and manage the risk across Scotland.

In attempting to achieve all of these objectives, the twin principles of community and firefighter safety will also be addressed in this regard. Improving equality of access has a clear impact on community safety, whilst also affecting firefighter safety. Existing arrangements see specialist resources deployed on historical legacy service grounds. These were predicated on a positive desire to ensure all services were available to all areas, but restricted by geographical boundaries. This had the result of some stations across Scotland requiring to be resourced with several specialist functions simultaneously, potentially compromising the ability of crews to devote the necessary training time to be entirely competent in the necessary procedures and use of the full range of equipment associated with these disciplines. Removal of these boundaries and ensuring a better distribution of these resources will enhance the safety of the firefighters undertaking these specialist rescues, and the communities who require them.



4. Special Rescue Activity in Scotland

Scotland has a land mass of approximately 31,510 square miles, and a population of more than 5.2 million people. Our population is as diverse in its distribution as it is in its culture, with the Central Belt of Scotland being very densely populated, whilst some Highland communities are amongst the most remote in Europe. There are 96 inhabited islands, 34,000 miles of road network, 1520 miles of railway, 3 major international airports and an incalculable number of lochs and other inland waterways.

This varied profile means that the fire and rescue service must prepare for and respond to a significant number of different types of emergency. Recent changes to legislation have given the SFRS additional statutory duties to deal with certain types of emergency other than those that are fire related.

Any incident that is not specifically fire related is known as a 'special service', and these include water rescue, line rescue and confined space rescue, as well as all types of transport incidents, responding to terrorist threats and many more specialist rescue types of incident. In a typical year, the SFRS will attend more than 90,000 incidents in total, with at least 10% of these incidents being recorded as special services. Ensuring equitable access to specialist rescue resources for the communities of Scotland is challenging, and this review of specialist equipment seeks to achieve this goal as far as possible in terms of the distribution of SFRS resources.

Partner Agencies

In making recommendations regarding changes to the scale or distribution of resources in Scotland, cognisance is taken of partner agencies and voluntary organisations that also provide some rescue capability.

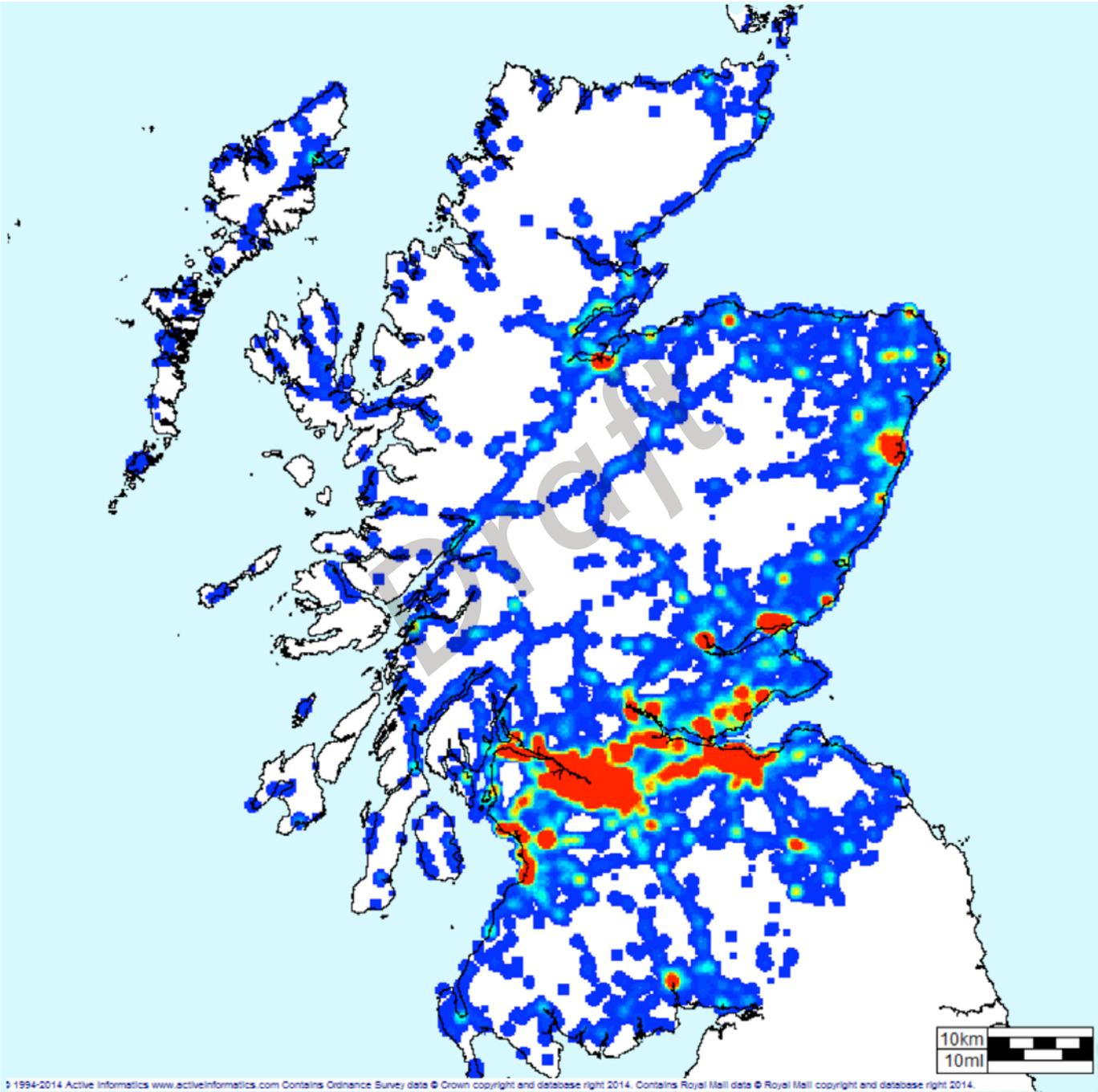
Legacy arrangements demonstrate a wide range of partnership working which already exists between SFRS and our major partner agencies such as Police Scotland, the Scottish Ambulance Service, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Local Authorities Emergency Planning. A number of formal agreements and arrangements are already in place to share premises such

as at Greenock and Kinloch Rannoch. Work is currently ongoing across all Local Senior Officer (LSO) Areas of the SFRS to investigate opportunities to progress and extend these arrangements.

Complementing these arrangements, a number of formal agreements made under 'Memoranda of Understanding' or 'Service Level Agreements'; as well as a large number of less formal and local agreements currently exist to engage the services of voluntary or private sector partners where there are recognised attributes and abilities available to provide additional or specific expertise and support. Examples of these include arrangements with Lochaber Mountain Rescue, Trossachs Search and Rescue, the Salvation Army and Rescue Three (water rescue on the River Tay).

In order to secure a consistent and transparent approach to the provision of additional and expert support, the SFRS is creating a comprehensive register of accredited specialist services across Scotland. This register, once fully operational by early 2015, will give a central database of willing and suitable providers of specialist rescue, welfare, communications, transport and supporting services; detailing the organisations' names, locations, capabilities and limitations. The database will be designed to provide a searchable register of assets without creating an administrative burden which outweighs its benefits.

This register will assist us to deliver the best and most efficient rescue capability possible, utilising local knowledge and skills whilst helping to avoid unnecessary duplication. Given the significant challenges posed by the geographical diversity of the Scottish mainland and inhabited islands, this development will assist in meeting the objectives of the SFRS, the Scottish Government and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Fire and Rescue; by ensuring the most equitable access possible to fire and rescue and specialist resources for all communities across Scotland.



Key	Incidents per 1km square
Dark Blue	0 - 19.9
Light Blue	20 - 29.9
Yellow	40 - 59.9
Red	60 and over

This diagram details special service incident activity across Scotland over a period of three years (2010/11 – 2012/13) As can be seen from the key, the colour of the shaded areas are coded to represent the number of special service incidents per 1km square over the three year period.

5. Existing Provision of Special Rescue Resources

The provision of special rescue resources in Scotland has evolved in an abstract manner over several decades. Up until the introduction of the Fire (Scotland) Act in 2005, there was not even a statutory duty for fire services to attend road traffic collisions, let alone perform water rescues or deal with chemical incidents or building collapses. Where there is no statutory requirement, there is no funding, and the initial introduction of rescue equipment was achieved from within existing fire service budgets and with minimal guidance available in terms of the standardisation of equipment or capabilities to be achieved.

In addition, prior to the launch of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in 2013, individual Chief Officers had a specific responsibility to address risk within their own areas of responsibility, and had understandable reluctance to rely on resources from neighbouring services to provide an emergency response that was not within their direct control.

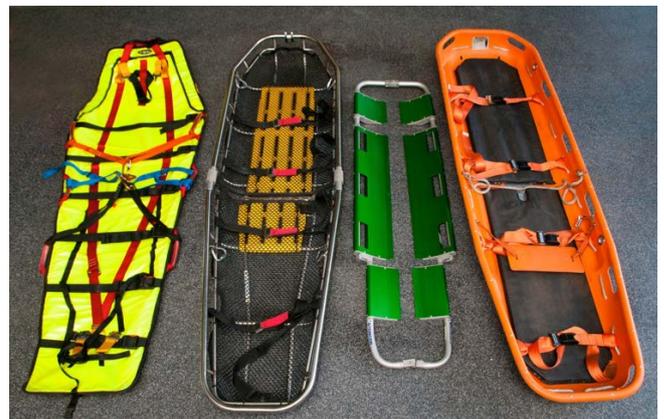
The result of these legacy arrangements is a collection of special resources across Scotland that differ greatly in terms of the type and standard of equipment provided, the crewing arrangements, training requirements and mobilising arrangements. The strategic location of these

resources is also flawed and inconsistent when looked at in a Scotland-wide context, with similar resources often located in relatively close proximity to one another, making other areas of Scotland appear under-resourced by comparison. The lack of standardisation also means that supposedly similar resources from different legacy services are often completely incompatible with one another if required to operate jointly at a single incident.

The desire for legacy fire services to be fully self-contained in terms of special rescue operations has placed a very heavy burden on certain stations, particularly those that are the only wholetime station within a legacy area. Inverness for instance, has water rescue, USAR, foam, mass decontamination, heavy rescue, hazardous materials and command & control resources as well as a high reach appliance within one station. With only a finite number of training hours available per person per year, it is impossible to maintain genuine competency in all of these areas. Put in perspective, there are approximately 300 dedicated training hours available per annum to a wholetime firefighter. It takes 222 hours of training to maintain basic competency in the role of a firefighter, and a further 80 hours just to maintain competence in water rescue, before going on to look at the other attributes that each firefighter must train for.



Line rescue equipment



Using the example of Inverness, it is impossible to maintain competency in such a wide range of skills, and any gaps in training or competency have potential serious implications for firefighter and community safety. There are additional challenges to maintaining a very high number of special resources within a single station. Inverness fire station has 16 different vehicles operating from this one central point, in an attempt to provide a complete fire and rescue response for the Highland region, an area of more than 11,000 square miles. In addition to the training burden associated with each resource, there is a significant testing and maintenance regime that accompanies each vehicle, each item of clothing and every item of equipment.

Another legacy issue associated with special resources is the great variety of equipment that has been procured by each of the legacy services. Budget limitations, and in some cases limited capacity for research and development, have resulted in some equipment being below an acceptable standard for a national fire and rescue service. One example of this is the various types of boat provided for water rescue, and indeed the methods used to mobilise and deploy such resources. In the legacy Dumfries and Galloway area, rigid inflatable boats are stored in a deflated state, and mobilised within plastic containers attached to a gantry system on top of a rescue pump. The outboard motor is located within a separate locker on the appliance, and this arrangement precludes carriage of a 13.5 metre ladder; a standard item of life saving equipment.



On arrival at an incident, the boat requires to be removed from its transit location, carried to the launch site, inflated by use of compressed air cylinders and have the motor attached before any rescue can be attempted.

In direct comparison, water rescue boats in many other areas are stored fully inflated, on a road-going trailer, with the outboard motor and all other equipment permanently attached, ready to be transported by a dedicated 4-wheel drive vehicle to allow ready access at a launch site.

Other resources have equally disparate methods of stowage and transportation. A number of heavy rescue resources around the country are combined with a USAR

resource and carried in pods that are transported by a prime mover chassis. This method of transportation is reliable enough, but very slow. The pod requires to be mounted onto the chassis before leaving the station, and always requires to be dismantled at the incident before any equipment can be accessed. The prime mover also needs a very large area of hard standing to accommodate the process of dismantling the pod. Whilst this arrangement allows many areas to claim the availability of a heavy rescue resource, in reality the resource is a much diluted version, with a far slower response time than that provided by a dedicated heavy rescue vehicle such as the vehicle currently located in Easterhouse.

Draft



The current USAR provision across Scotland falls far short of the UK national standard. It would appear on the surface that Scotland is very well provided for in terms of USAR teams and equipment, with resources that appear to greatly exceed Government recommendations. However, on closer inspection, none of the teams operating in Scotland has the correct range of equipment, standardised tools or stowage arrangements that would allow us to declare the SFRS with a UK national USAR resource. Apart from the obvious shortcomings in capability that this means for the SFRS, not being a UK standard resource also precludes the SFRS from entering into reciprocal arrangements with fire and rescue services in England, potentially leaving Scotland vulnerable.

Concentrating the existing SFRS USAR assets into key sites around Scotland would serve as the first step towards developing a fully competent USAR response that would stand up to scrutiny and match those resources currently established elsewhere in the UK.

The removal of borders between legacy fire and rescue services, the requirement for more efficient and effective working practices, and the wealth of knowledge that exists across the SFRS must all be factors that are used to ensure a better, more robust and resilient special rescue provision for the communities of Scotland.



6. Water Rescue



Description

This term refers to incidents involving rescue of persons from inland waterways, floodwater and unstable ground. There are a range of water rescue levels within this incident type: shore-based rescue where crews operate from a safe area; wading techniques in flood waters; specially qualified crews entering swift-water or flood environments to affect rescues using tethered swimming techniques; or use of powered boats and associated equipment. The expectation within SFRS is to have the vast majority of crews trained and equipped to carry out shore based rescue, however this report is aimed at the more specialist attributes of rescue from swift water by swimming or powered boat.

Current Position

Water rescue incidents have become more common in recent years, although it is hard to establish whether this is an overall increase in the number people finding themselves in distress in a water environment, or simply an increased awareness by the public and partner agencies of the fire and rescue services' capabilities in this area.

A great disparity currently exists between the training, equipment, storage and deployment methods, and the naming conventions used across Scotland. Powered boats are often carried deflated to incidents, by vehicles designated for a range of uses such as prime movers or standard fire appliances, without any crew welfare provision and with a built-in time delay.

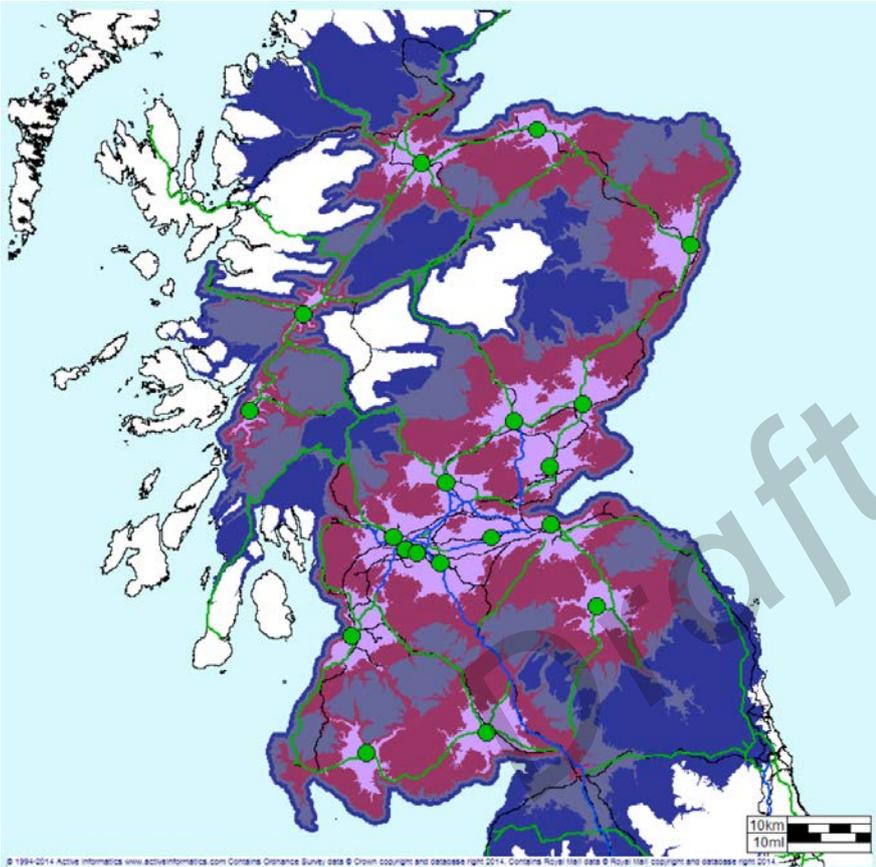
As a result of this, it would be inaccurate to describe all of our existing resources as truly providing a water rescue capability. Of the 16 declared resources, only around 50% are to the standard we would hope and expect; able to provide a rapid response in a range of water-based environments, utilising the full range of approved equipment.

What we plan to do

We recognise an increasing demand for water rescue resources across Scotland, highlighted by some of the tragic events that have occurred on our inland waterways, particularly during summer months; and the likelihood of increased rainfall with associated flood potential during wetter winters. Our objective of ensuring equity of access to our resources across the communities of Scotland is a challenging and demanding target in this area. To achieve our targets and to improve our strategic coverage in this field we will deliver the following:

- All resources will have dedicated vehicles with crew welfare facilities, towing permanently inflated boats ready for immediate deployment.
- We will increase the number of fully equipped water rescue stations to 20.
- New resources introduced to Aberdeen, Oban, Fort William and the Scottish Borders to address existing gaps in coverage.
- The existing resource crewed by RDS staff at Annan will be moved to Dumfries to improve strategic deployment and training competence utilising wholetime crews.
- Ensure all crews trained to nationally recognised "team-typing" standards.

Water Rescue - Proposed End State



The adjacent diagram shows the coverage for Scotland following the introduction of new water rescue capabilities in Aberdeen, Fort William and Oban.

*There will also be one further water rescue resource located in the Scottish Borders area.



WATER RESCUE
Elgin
Central (Aberdeen)
Glenrothes
Perth
Kingsway East (Dundee)
Inverness
Oban
Motherwell
Ayr
Polmadie (Glasgow)
Knightswood (Glasgow)
Clydesmill (Cambuslang)
Dumfries
Stirling
Bathgate
Galashiels
Marionville (Edinburgh)
Fort William
Newton Stewart
*Hawick

7. Offshore Firefighting and Support



Description

Our duties and responsibilities on the mainland of Scotland are relatively clear, either statutorily or through custom, practice and community expectation. Our duties in the marine environment are less distinct, but nevertheless require consideration due to the number of inhabited islands and the volume of water-borne traffic around our shores. There are a number of approaches to delivering a response within the marine environment.

The Marine Operations Group (MOG) is the term used to describe trained fire crews that fulfil the SFRS statutory responsibility to deal with incidents on vessels ‘alongside’ in harbours, ports and terminals. These crews receive enhanced training and some additional equipment to assist them in this task.

Fire and Rescue Maritime Response (FRMR) involves teams with advanced training and specialist equipment responding to fires on ships and vessels at sea, being transported by helicopter or watercraft as appropriate.

Only one remaining FRMR group (previously MIRG) currently operates, from Greenock, and responds to fires on ships at sea, with personnel trained in air and sea transport techniques. Whilst initially funded by Government through the Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA), if continued, this provision now requires to be supported fully from within the SFRS budget.

What we plan to do

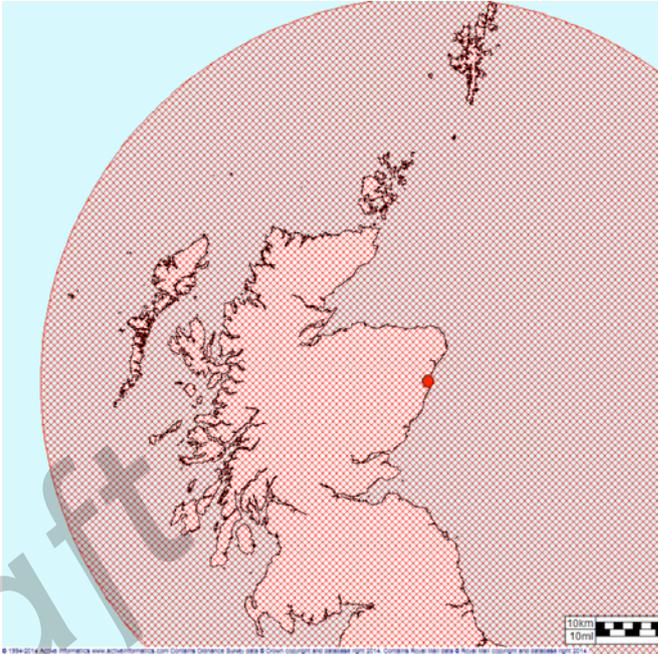
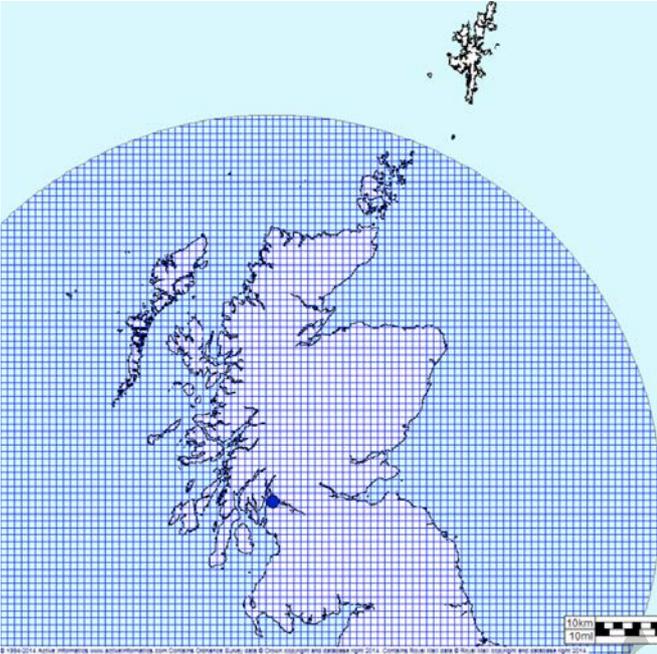
12 stations around Scotland will be selected to carry out the MOG role. A MOG station may be expected to attend incidents outwith its own area of responsibility and will require only limited additional equipment in addition to that carried on a standard rescue pump. MOG teams will only attend incidents in ships that are:

- moored alongside.
- in dry dock.
- under repair.
- under construction.

A separate project team consisting of representatives from the Response and Resilience Directorate and Service Delivery Areas will determine the locations of the 12 MOG stations.

The FRMR team will also be used in the delivery of operational support for remote, rural and island communities, by providing senior officers for incident command and additional firefighting crews for larger or more complex incidents in locations where this is otherwise difficult or impossible to achieve. This will include gaining water or airborne access to remote and island communities, and is part of a wide ranging policy addressing such issues.

A feasibility study is currently ongoing looking into creating a second team, based in the North East of Scotland, to provide the same level of cover for the North and North East coasts, Orkney and Shetland Islands.



The diagrams above show the coverage afforded by Coastguard Helicopter from bases in Greenock and Aberdeen. All Coastguard helicopters have ranges in excess of 200 miles (400 round trip with 30 minutes operating time on site) which allows for marine firefighting teams or support teams for remote incidents to be transported anywhere on the Scottish mainland and to any of our inhabited islands.

8. Line Rescue



Description

Line or Rope Rescue is a form of technical rescue from height or below ground level, which involves the use of ropes, harnesses, anchoring and hauling devices. For SFRS purposes this is principally limited to urban and structural locations as the other categories of wilderness, mountain and cave rescue are largely the domain of other agencies.

Expectation within the SFRS is that the majority of our crews will be trained and equipped to Safe Working at Height (SWAH) standard, which equips crews to operate safely in such environments, including gaining access to casualties, but provides limited scope for the rescue and retrieval element. This report considers the need for an enhanced level of strategically placed resources, trained and equipped to handle the more complex rescues where height is a factor.

Current Position

SFRS inherited a position whereby seven of the eight legacy services provided some form of rope rescue facility. However, the levels of training, the terminology and the equipment used differ significantly across the country.

The upper end of the capability includes teams trained and equipped to deal with complex technical rescues including from open structures such as tower cranes; or involving horizontal and vertical stretcher lowers and raises. An enhanced SWAH capacity forms the lower end of the capability, which allows simple top-down access in order to stabilise the casualty until a full technical rope rescue team arrives, or if the situation dictates the possibility may exist to carry out a simple snatch rescue.

At present only teams in Edinburgh, East Kilbride and Lochgelly could be formally considered to be technical rope rescue teams available at all times. Additionally, Perth and Kingsway East (Dundee) are trained to a standard somewhere between the higher and lower ends of this capability, specifically to augment and enhance their water rescue provision. Other teams are either at the lower ends of the range, or operate the retained duty system (RDS) which severely compromises the ability to maintain competency under existing training and attendance regimes for RDS crews.

Large parts of Scotland, therefore, presently have limited or no access to technical rope rescue teams, other than through a disparate range of contracts and memoranda of understanding with external companies or agencies.

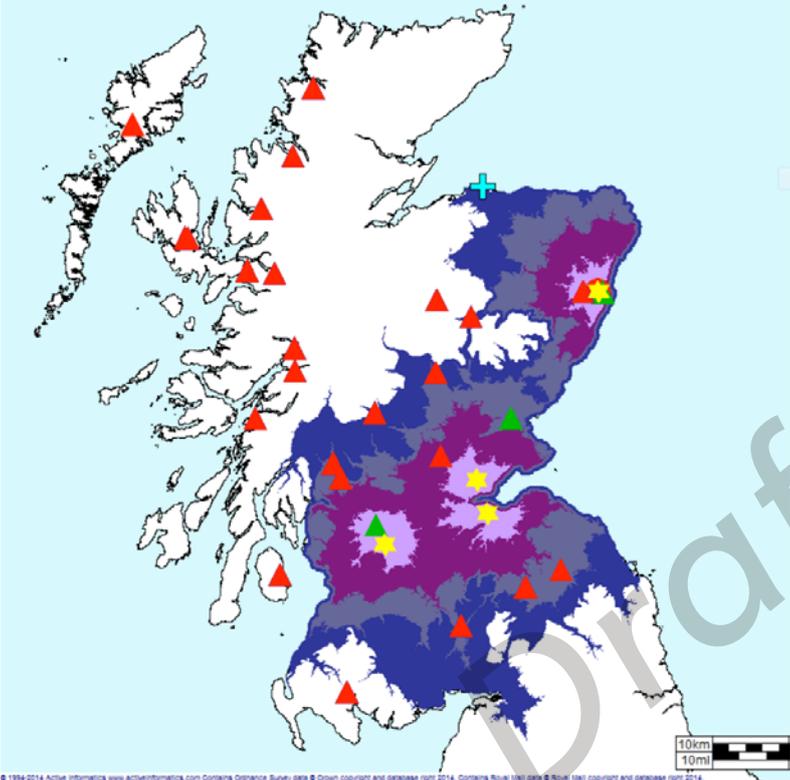
What we plan to do

The key objective for this attribute is to ensure we have competent crews, suitably trained and supported to carry out these complex tasks safely and successfully. This requires the implementation of a number of basic principles:

- Line rescue will be deployed from wholetime, multi-appliance stations to ensure the best use of resources in maintaining the onerous training requirements and thereby improving resilience.
- Where possible, with the exception of high-reach appliances, no competing specialist attribute will be deployed from a line rescue station.

The resultant recommendation is that 4 dedicated line rescue stations will be created. Teams will be maintained at East Kilbride, Lochgelly and Tollcross (Edinburgh), whilst a new team will be introduced at Altens (Aberdeen), giving a more strategic distribution of line rescue resources with much improved coverage for the whole of Scotland. In addition Perth and Kingsway East (Dundee) will continue with their limited line rescue resource, principally aimed at supporting their key water rescue capability. Newcraighall (single pump) and Falkirk (Recall To Duty staff) will be removed once Altens is fully operational.

Line Rescue - Proposed End State



Key - Travel Time

Light purple	20 minutes
Dark purple	40 minutes
Grey	60 minutes
Blue	90 minutes

Resource Key

Yellow star	SFRS dedicated line rescue teams
Red triangle	Scottish Mountain Rescue Teams and Search and Rescue Teams
Green triangle	Police Mountain Rescue Teams
Blue cross	RAF Mountain Rescue Team

LINE RESCUE
East Kilbride
Lochgelly
Tollcross (Edinburgh)
Altens (Aberdeen)

This map shows the coverage for line rescue in Scotland that is achieved by introducing a new SFRS team in Aberdeen. A register of external rescue agencies including Scottish Mountain Rescue will be kept and will assist in providing a resilient line rescue response in more remote areas.

9. High Reach



Description

A standard fire appliance carries a number of ladders with a maximum reach to the 4th floor of most buildings. Dedicated ‘high reach’ appliances are used to address the need for firefighting and rescue in the taller buildings that are common in urban environments

A diverse range of high reach appliances are available; including turntable ladders (TL), hydraulic platforms (HP) and aerial ladder platforms (ALP). In recent years combination appliances known as aerial rescue pumps (ARP) or combined aerial rescue pumps (CARP) have become a viable alternative, offering the capability of performing conventional pumping appliance tasks whilst also having a high reach capability.

Current Position

There are currently 27 ‘high reach’ appliances available across Scotland, a combination of ALPs, ARPs, HPs and TLs. Data Analysis and risk modelling have shown that the ideal spread of high reach appliances is broadly in line with the actual current distribution, although there are small gaps worthy of further consideration, and some appliances that are no longer considered fit for purpose.

The existing spread of appliance types, however, is based on historical preference and taste, and includes little acknowledgement of the most suitable type for individual risks or concentration of risk. In some areas, Edinburgh, for example, the existing fleet is predominantly turntable ladders and all elderly and at risk of becoming obsolete. ARPs are mostly clustered in the West at the moment, and those located at Dumfries and Stranraer are deemed unfit for purpose due to design issues.

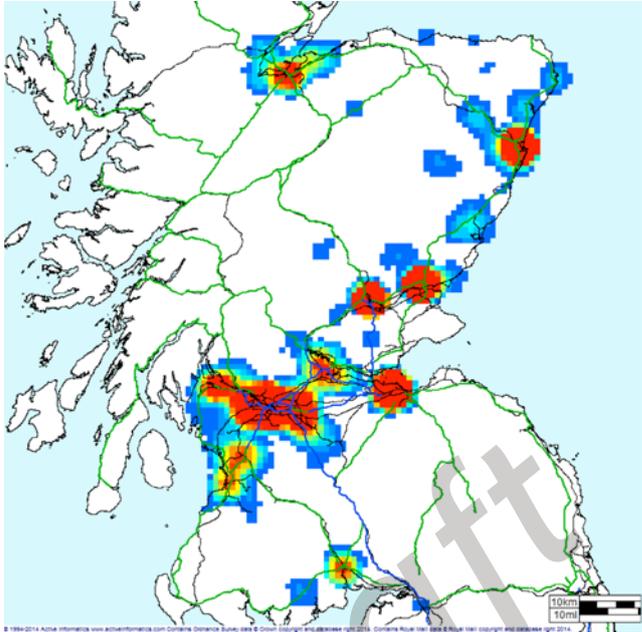
What we plan to do

A replacement strategy has commenced with the procurement of 6 new chassis to be built as high reach appliances. These will be distributed as necessary to replace older appliances as they reach ‘end of life’. The overall number of high reach appliances available across Scotland will not change initially, although there will be an overall increase of one additional height appliance once the new build vehicles become available. Nationally, there will be changes to locations in some cases, and an improved distribution of vehicle types.

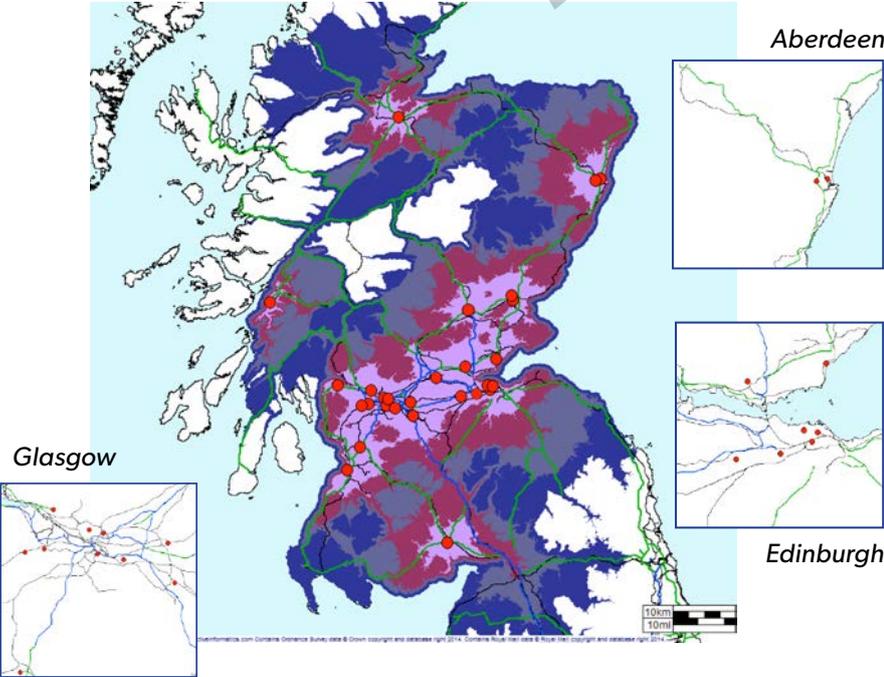
Specific changes at present will be:

- The existing ARPs in Dumfries and Stranraer will be removed, with a replacement vehicle reintroduced immediately to Dumfries only. Risk profiling and historical activity demonstrates limited added value in siting a high reach appliance in Stranraer.
- Replacement of the existing Turntable Ladder at Sighthill with an Aerial Rescue Pump, allowing disposal of one vehicle which is close to ‘end of life’.
- Potential allocation of a high reach appliance to Livingston when one becomes available following delivery of the new build appliances.
- Redistribution of some appliance types to meet longer term distribution model (plan includes having at least one ARP and one ALP in each of Scotland’s 4 largest cities).

The adjacent diagram shows incident activity over a 4 year period (2009/10 – 2012/13) where high reach appliances were mobilised.



Height Appliance - Proposed End State



Key - Travel Time

Light Purple	20 minutes
Dark Purple	40 minutes
Grey	60 minutes
Blue	90 minutes

The above diagram shows the coverage across Scotland achieved with the proposed distribution of height appliances.

HEIGHT APPLIANCES	
Central (Aberdeen)	
North Anderson Drive (Aberdeen)	
Blackness Road (Dundee)	
Macalpine Road (Dundee)	
Inverness	
Perth	
Oban	
Kilmarnock	
Ayr	
Dumfries	
Clydebank	
Maryhill (Glasgow)	
Polmadie (Glasgow)	
Springburn (Glasgow)	
Greenock	
Motherwell	
Coatbridge	
Clydesmill (Cambuslang)	
Johnstone	
Paisley	
Tollcross (Edinburgh)	
McDonald Road (Edinburgh)	
Crewe Toll (Edinburgh)	
Sighthill (Edinburgh)	
Falkirk	
Dunfermline	
Kirkcaldy	
Livingston	

10. Rescue Pump



Description

This is now considered the standard fire appliance in Scotland, carrying a full crew of firefighters providing the first response to all emergency incidents. The term “rescue pump” is used to indicate that these appliances carry an enhanced range of equipment to deal with the wider array of activity now expected of the service.

A traditional firefighting appliance was equipped with breathing apparatus, hose, water, ladders and incorporated a firefighting pump to allow rapid intervention in the event of fire. Over recent years this has been gradually developed to now also include a range of rescue equipment such as airbags, hydraulic cutters, spreaders and rams to provide a capability to effect rescue from road traffic collisions and other emergency incidents.

Current Position

The majority of appliances in the SFRS fleet are already fully equipped rescue pumps. This carries the distinct advantage of ensuring at least one rescue pump is mobilised in the first stages of the vast majority of incidents across Scotland; and further negates the requirement to routinely send specialist vehicles unless requested by on-scene incident commanders.

Having said this, some significant gaps exist in the distribution of these appliances, notably in the Highlands and Islands areas. Although these areas historically experience very low activity, they are also often very remote and difficult to support with additional crews or specialist equipment. Priority requires to be given to upgrading the fleet in these areas to ensure a better spread of available rescue pumps.

Efforts to deliver these improvements however, are not assisted by the incredible range of configurations and specifications inherited in the existing arrangements. Differences in equipment, stowage, vehicle charging and radio installation etc, make the task of standardising and rotating the fleet, to plug these gaps, very time consuming and expensive.

What we plan to do

The SFRS has developed a rescue pump programme which will deliver on a number of key objectives:

- To ensure that fully equipped rescue pumps are allocated to those stations that do not have such a provision at present, with priority going to achieving at least one rescue pump in all multi appliance stations.
- To standardise the wide range of appliance configurations and specifications inherited across Scotland.
- To deliver a rolling programme of vehicle replacement to maximise the use of all of our fleet and ensure an efficient and effective servicing and maintenance regime. This involves rotating the fleet around different stations, rather than permanently assigning a vehicle to a single station which often results in massive discrepancies between appliance workloads and mileages and is not an efficient use of our resources.

In order to achieve this, a total of 48 new appliances are currently under construction, with 16 already delivered as of March 2014. A target of 30 new appliances per year has been set, which although challenging, will deliver a first class fleet of emergency vehicles across Scotland.

As can be seen in the image below, a standard SFRS rescue pump carries a considerable amount of dedicated rescue equipment. Whilst full standardisation of this equipment will take some time to achieve, the list of equipment that follows is typical of rescue pumps across all areas of Scotland:

- Hydraulic cutters, spreaders, rams and pedal cutter
- Tirfor winch and wire rope
- 2 x high pressure air bags (20 and 40 tonne capacity)
- Vehicle stabilisation equipment (blocks and chocks)
- Casualty protection and sharps protection
- Rescue board (stretcher)
- Trauma kit (first aid and oxygen therapy equipment)
- Defibrillator
- Lifejackets (crew safety)
- Throw lines and hose inflation kit (shore based water rescue)

This equipment provides a comprehensive rescue capability for shore based water rescue, road traffic collisions, incidents where persons are trapped and all incidents where casualties require immediate trauma care.





11. Heavy Rescue/Urban Search and Rescue

Description

Although the standard equipment carried on a rescue pump allows us to successfully deal with the vast majority of incidents, there remains a small number of occasions which require the use of a wider range of heavy duty rescue equipment. Such incidents include multiple vehicle road traffic collisions; large transport incidents involving commercial vehicles, trains, trams or aircraft; and industrial work place entrapments. Traditionally these types of incidents were categorised as 'Heavy Rescue'. In response to the threat of terrorist attack in the UK, principally following the 09/11 bombings in the USA, a New Dimensions programme was set up to equip emergency services to conduct Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) operations in collapsed buildings, and to respond to major non-road traffic transportation incidents such as rail or air incidents.

The UK Government's National Security Strategy identifies and categorises areas of greatest risk, typically declaring major cities as model response sites with agreed minimum response levels. These sites require dedicated resources, including USAR, to be available and ready for use in the event of a relevant incident and within specific time limits. Glasgow, Edinburgh, and to a lesser extent Aberdeen, feature within the planning assumptions for USAR response at the present time. However there is a review of UK-wide USAR resources which may have an impact on equipment and location requirements in the future.

The two categories of Heavy Rescue and USAR are not identical, but can have significant similarities in the skills and equipment required. In this regard this report will consider both within a single section which, when taken together with the previous section on Rescue Pumps, will present an overall package of rescue capability.

Current Position

Most legacy fire and rescue services in Scotland, prior to the establishment of the SFRS, were supplied with vehicles, equipment and training by the Scottish Government to undertake USAR activities. The existing position inherited by SFRS is a confusing mixture of these resources together with dedicated heavy rescue vehicles or demountable pods which can be uplifted to scene by a prime mover vehicle.

Activity levels for these types of incidents are thankfully low, commonly following the major road networks where RTCs involving commercial vehicles account for the majority of activity, as shown in the map overleaf. Genuine USAR related incidents are rare, with only approximately 15 partial building collapses over the period of 2010-2013, of which the Clutha Bar incident was most notable.

The current position reflects the individual deployment and risk profiling of each of the 8 legacy services in Scotland, set against the constraints of the local geographical boundaries. It does not currently satisfy the UK model response sites planning assumptions; nor the strategic, risk-based requirements of Scotland as a whole. It also does not adequately consider the training requirements and capacity of the crews currently providing these resources

The relatively random nature of resource disposition at present gives an impression of an over-provision for this type of high impact but low occurrence activity. The disparity of procedures, equipment, training and qualifications of USAR personnel in Scotland, however, has prevented the declaration of full resource availability in support of UK-wide planning assumptions. For example, SFRS inherited a position whereby we have over 500 personnel trained to "tool operator" standard, with only 100 trained to the higher level of "technician". A requirement exists to redress this balance of skills, to provide a smaller cadre of better qualified personnel to fully meet interoperability expectations. Furthermore, a structured approach is required to provide, in a strategic and efficient manner, the wide range of equipment necessary and available to deal with USAR and Heavy Rescue incidents.

What we plan to do

The future strategy for SFRS sees a “package” of rescue capability, encompassing rescue pumps, heavy rescue vehicles and USAR resources. Including increasing our footprint of rescue pumps, as already outlined, we believe that altogether this package will ensure an optimum coverage to meet the inherent risk and anticipated demand.

Dedicated heavy rescue vehicles will be stationed in the following areas, to give cover to specific risks and also to provide a strategic footprint across Scotland:

- Inverness – in recognition of the A9 trunk road corridor and the relative remoteness from supporting resources.
- Stirling – due to its strategic central location and good access to major trunk roads heading north.
- Glasgow (Easterhouse) – recognising the major transport links of the Central Belt and the particular risk presented by the Underground system.
- Edinburgh (Sighthill) – again in recognition of the greater demands and activity levels of the Central Belt, and specifically the new Edinburgh tram system.

In addition, USAR resources will be deployed from:

- Clydebank, Kilmarnock and Cumbernauld to satisfy model response planning for Glasgow and Central Belt.
- Newcraighall/Dalkeith to satisfy model response planning requirements for Edinburgh and Central Belt.
- Aberdeen and Dundee to provide suitable equity of access balanced against our capacity of stations and crews to maintain competency.

These USAR resources will also be mobilised as heavy rescue attributes should the incident location dictate, resulting in an overall picture of heavy rescue cover which satisfies all anticipated risks and demand levels.

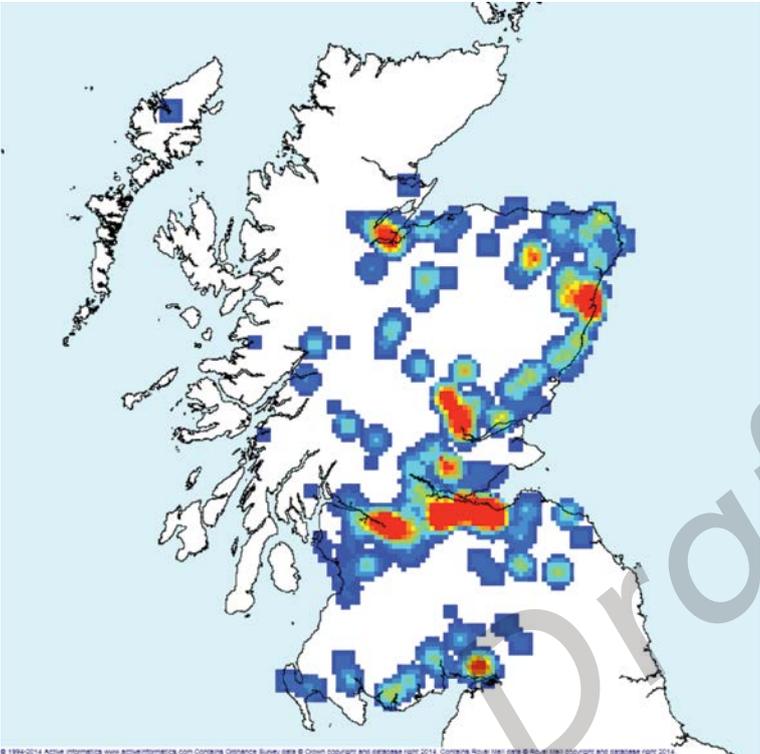
These heavy rescue resources and USAR resources are sent as a supplement to well-equipped Rescue Pumps already in attendance. Taken together with the full package of rescue pumps, this represents a significant improvement in current arrangements, with a proportionate distribution of these assets across all areas of need in Scotland.

This will ensure a balance of the provision of national coverage in line with Scottish Government expectations in relation to the communities of Scotland having equity of access to specialist resources, and also allows Scotland the capacity to respond to a USAR event within and outwith Scotland whilst ensuring resilience.

This recommended level of resilience ensures capacity for major events such as the Commonwealth Games, whilst also allowing these units to provide support for the rescue pump and heavy rescue package previously outlined, without compromising the USAR resource declaration.

These units will all be deployed using a dedicated vehicle, as opposed to the current range of deployment methods such as demountable pods. Crews will be trained to technician level as demanded by UK national resilience policy, and the resources will be deployed from stations which are not overburdened with a number of specialist resources, as at present, and can therefore devote the necessary time for training to ensure competency in this complex arena.

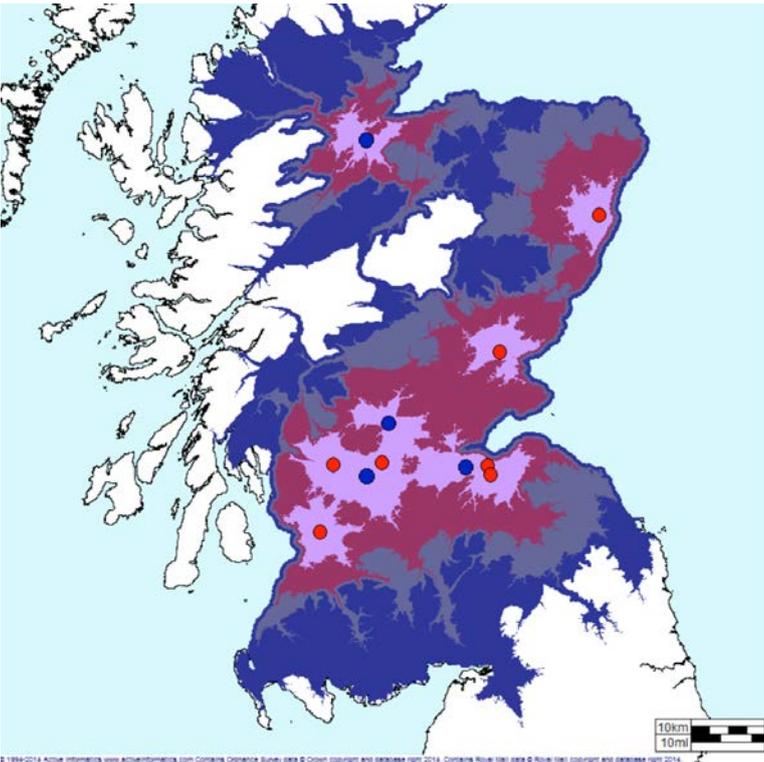
Combined Urban Search and Rescue and Heavy Rescue incident activity



The adjacent diagram shows the incident activity for large vehicle RTCs and partial building collapses across Scotland in the period 2010-2013. As the key below demonstrates this is a map of very low activity levels.

Key	Range – Incidents per 2km grid
Blue	0 to 1
Light Blue	1 to 2
Medium Blue	2 to 3
Dark Blue	3 to 4
Cyan	4 to 5
Light Green	5 to 6
Yellow-Green	6 to 7
Yellow	7 to 8
Orange	8 to 9
Red-Orange	9 to 10
Red	10 and over

Combined Urban Search and Rescue and Heavy Rescue resource coverage



The adjacent diagram shows the coverage across Scotland that is achieved when heavy rescue resources and USAR resources are both made available for such incident types.

HEAVY RESCUE VEHICLE	
Inverness	
Sighthill (Edinburgh)	
Easterhouse (Glasgow)	
Stirling	
USAR	
North Anderson Drive (Aberdeen)	
Kilmarnock	
Clydebank	
Cumbernauld	
Newcraighall and Dalkeith combined	
Macalpine Road (Dundee)	

Key - Travel Time			
Light Purple	20 minutes	Grey	60 minutes
Dark Purple	40 minutes	Blue	90 minutes

12. High Volume Pumps



Description

High Volume Pumps (HVP) and their associated equipment are capable of pumping vast quantities of water over large distances. These highly specialist resources, provided under the New Dimensions programme like Mass Decontamination, DIM and USAR, were to deal primarily with mass flooding which has shown itself to be an increasing problem in recent years, but are also effective at delivering very large quantities of water for firefighting purposes when required. The HVP and hose carrying/ laying equipment that complements it, is carried on a Prime Mover chassis to the incident ground where the crew will generally remain at the incident to operate the equipment and ensure continued reliable pumping operations for the duration.

Current Position

There are four HVPs in Scotland, located at Elgin, Clydesmill (Cambuslang), Falkirk and Hawick. Elgin is already a prime mover station, and is also in an extremely good strategic location to cover the oil industry risk in Aberdeen as well as flooding risks in the Speyside and Inverness area. Clydesmill (Cambuslang) and Falkirk provide cover for the majority of Scotland’s heavy industry including major sea ports, ship building yards and oil and chemical production. Both of these stations are also located near to the motorway network that allows rapid access to all of Scotland’s trunk roads heading across the Central Belt and to the North, Ayrshire and the Borders. Hawick is a rural and relatively remote location to the South of Scotland, located only 15 miles from the border with England. Whilst there is a recognised flood risk in the Borders area as with most other areas, the siting of an HVP in Hawick, one of only 4 in Scotland, is closer to Carlisle, Penrith and Newcastle than it is to Glasgow, Stirling or Dunfermline.

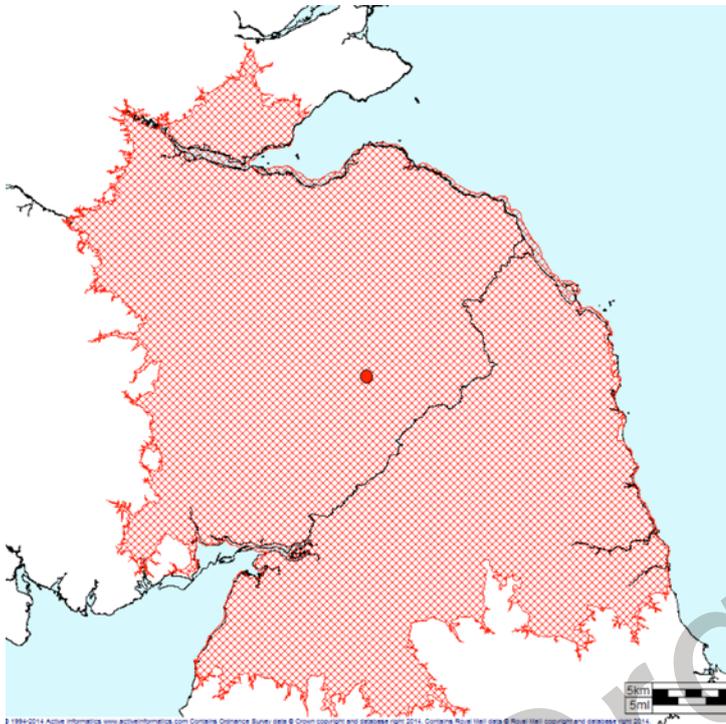
What we plan to do

Similar to all resilience assets provided under the New Dimensions programme, the anticipated use of HVPs is classed as being low frequency but high impact. Originally provided to respond to major flooding events, their abilities to add considerable value to certain firefighting operations has widened their expected use, and are now considered a vital resource for controlling fires and to allow the cooling of large oil storage tanks such as those found at the Grangemouth oil refinery, Finnart oil terminal and Dalmeny tank farm.

The requirement to provide an HVP in response to major flooding can generally be expected as part of a long term solution to a protracted event, whereas the use of HVPs at a tank fire would require as swift a response as possible to ensure rapid intervention and reduce the risk of the incident escalating. At Grangemouth in particular, the ‘domino’ effect is recognised in emergency planning scenarios due to the close proximity of several large plants and high risk processes in a single site. A fire in one plant can quickly spread to neighbouring plants if rapid intervention cannot be achieved.

To reflect this, the following plans are considered to provide the best utilisation of these resources across Scotland:

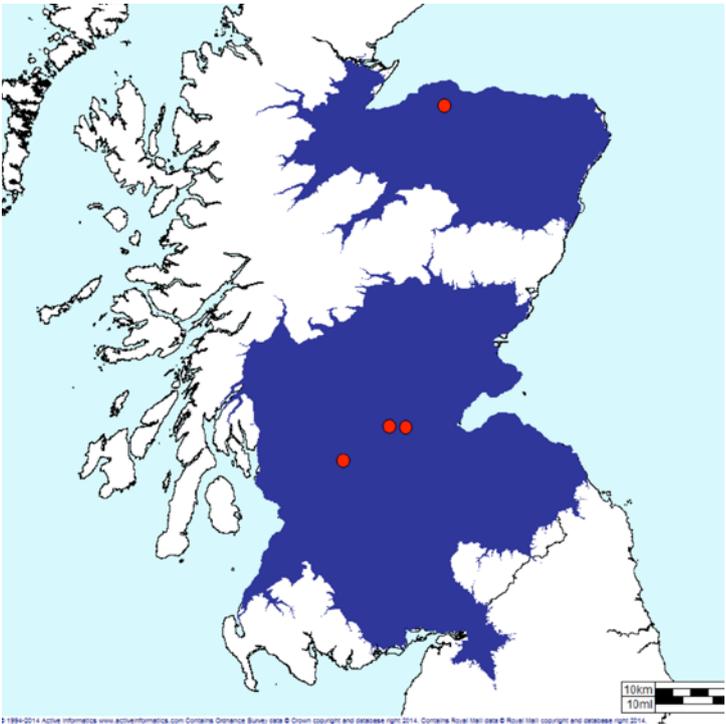
- All HVPs will be located in wholetime stations, and where possible, stations without additional special resources.
- In recognition that a large tank fire at any of the above locations would require more than one HVP to successfully mount a firefighting attack and prevent a major explosion or boil over scenario from occurring, strategic locations will be used.
- The existing HVP at Hawick will be relocated to Alloa to ensure its availability to address the significant industrial risk within this area, whilst maintaining the capability to respond to flooding incidents in the Borders as required and within reasonable timescales for this type of incident.
- The remaining HVPs will be maintained in their current locations which are considered suitably placed to address the anticipated risks and with good access links to all areas.



The diagram on the left shows the coverage currently achieved by a High Volume Pump located in Hawick with a 90 minute mobilising time. It can be seen that a significant part of this area is outside of the SFRS service area.

The adjacent diagram shows the coverage that can be achieved for Scotland with HVPs located at Elgin, Clydesmill (Cambuslang), Falkirk and Alloa. This distribution gives very good coverage to address Scotland’s flood risk, whilst ensuring the availability of HVPs close to our major industrial fire hazards.

HIGH VOLUME PUMPS
Elgin
Clydesmill (Cambuslang)
Falkirk
Alloa



13. Mass Decontamination



Description

Mass Decontamination (MD) is the procedure used to remove contaminants from very large numbers of people in the event of industrial, accidental, or intentional contamination; by chemicals, biological, radiological material, or other substances potentially damaging to health. As with USAR and others, this equipment was supplied under the New Dimensions programme. These resources, again like USAR, form part of a UK-wide response capability which is focused on our major cities as being the greatest risk.

Current Position

As previously discussed for USAR, the position inherited by SFRS is the legacy desire and requirement of each previous service to provide these resources within their geographical boundaries. This position takes little account of risk or overall planning. In addition, the current situation presents additional risks in terms of community and firefighter safety as crews in some areas are overburdened with complex specialist equipment which compromises their ability to train adequately for each attribute. Once again, these resources are stowed and deployed using a range of methods which lack any consistency and gives cause for concern regarding actual availability and competency.

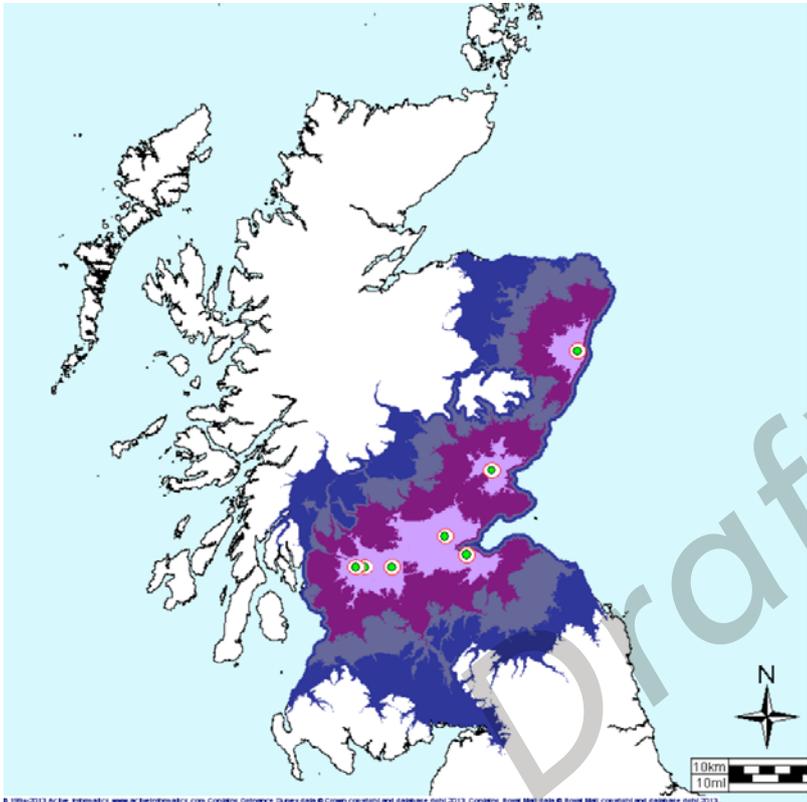
Further, the inherited position was based on a set of planning assumptions contained within a UK Government concept of operations which have recently been updated to include "interim decontamination" which places a lower expectation on the numbers of affected casualties and subsequently eases the necessary response arrangements. Interim decontamination involves the use of standard fire service equipment, including hoses and ladders, to provide a simple but effective method of decontamination for smaller numbers in the early stages of an incident. Every fire appliance and crew in Scotland already has the means to provide this form of decontamination prior to the arrival and set-up of full Mass Decontamination equipment. As already stated within the section on USAR, an ongoing review of UK-wide planning assumptions could have an impact on future resourcing and location requirements.

What we plan to do

In line with the recommendations in the previous section under USAR, this report identifies a requirement for 7 stations to be fully trained and declared Mass Decontamination units in Scotland, in line with requirements to contribute to UK-wide planning and support. Basic principles will be adopted:

- All MD assets will be deployed using dedicated vehicles as opposed to the range of deployment options currently provided.
- Recognition is given to the implications of interim decontamination.
- Once again, training for competency is a fundamental criterion upon which the following recommendations are based, with a clear desire to avoid the existing position where stations across Scotland are expected to operate a range of specialist attributes, such as USAR and MD, together. Alternative stations have been identified to ensure an appropriate distribution model can be achieved which will provide the necessary, risk-based cover delivered by competent crews:
 - ◆ Glasgow and the Central Belt will be covered by Coatbridge, Springburn (Glasgow) and Maryhill (Glasgow).
 - ◆ Edinburgh and the Central Belt will be covered by Dunfermline and Crewe Toll (Edinburgh).
 - ◆ Central (Aberdeen) and Blackness Road (Dundee) will have units to complement and support the USAR resources strategically placed to cover the risks within Scotland's remaining cities.

Mass Decontamination - Proposed End State



The adjacent diagram shows the proposed distribution of Mass Decontamination resources across Scotland and the coverage that will be achieved.

MASS DECONTAMINATION	
Central (Aberdeen)	
Crewe Toll (Edinburgh)	
Coatbridge	
Dunfermline	
Blackness Road (Dundee)	
Springburn (Glasgow)	
Maryhill (Glasgow)	

Key - Travel Time	
	20 minutes
	40 minutes
	60 minutes
	90 minutes

14. Detection, Identification and Monitoring Vehicles (DIM)



Description

In conjunction with USAR and MD above, the purpose of a DIM capability is to provide enhanced detection support, via mobile laboratory, in the event of serious chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological incidents. It also has a significant part to play in any mass decontamination incident and can support USAR, Hazmat and flooding incidents.

Current Position

There are 4 DIM vehicles in the SFRS, all provided by Scottish Government resilience. They are currently located at North Anderson Drive (Aberdeen), Blackness Road (Dundee), McDonald Road (Edinburgh) and Springburn (Glasgow). These resources are currently deployed in a range of methods, most often by utilising flexi-duty officers to provide the vehicle and to act as Hazardous Material advisers. This commonly requires officers to travel considerable distances to uplift the vehicle and proceed to the incident, with resultant delays in deployment.

What we plan to do

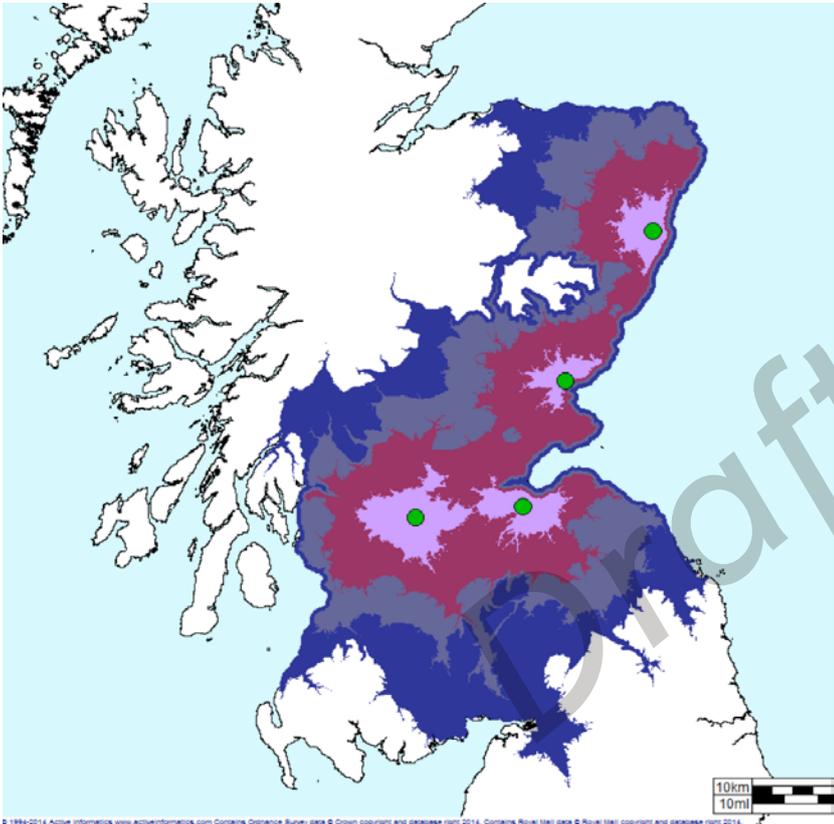
The plan is to maintain the same number of DIM vehicles, but to increase and formalise the role they play within the wider hazardous materials context, as will be discussed in the next section. The plan will follow the basic principles of:

- Retain a good geographic spread across Scotland, but follow the overarching principle of this report to ensure the vehicles are not located at stations which are potentially overburdened.
- Operate from stations with wholetime crews who will be responsible for weekly testing and maintenance of the DIM vehicle and its associated equipment. They will also be tasked with transporting the vehicle to the incident ground and providing necessary assistance in setting up equipment.
- As a result, move 2 vehicles to new locations: Springburn to Bishopbriggs and Blackness Road to Balmossie.

Detection, Identification and Monitoring Vehicles
- Proposed End State

The adjacent diagram shows the coverage that will be achieved with the proposed distribution of DIM resources.

DETECTION, IDENTIFICATION AND MONITORING
North Anderson Drive (Aberdeen)
Balmossie
McDonald Road (Edinburgh)
Bishopbriggs



Key - Travel Time	
Light purple	20 minutes
Dark purple	40 minutes
Grey	60 minutes
Blue	90 minutes

15. Hazardous Materials and Environmental Protection



Description

The term Hazardous Materials (Hazmats) refers to incidents involving any item or agent (biological, chemical, physical) which has the potential to cause harm to humans, animals, or the environment, either by itself or through interaction with other factors. Fire services have for many years adopted plans and systems to manage such incidents through identifying the substance where possible, neutralising the hazard and protecting the environment as far as possible. This approach now overlaps substantially with the DIM arrangements detailed above, particularly where the hazardous material involved is unknown or has not been identified.

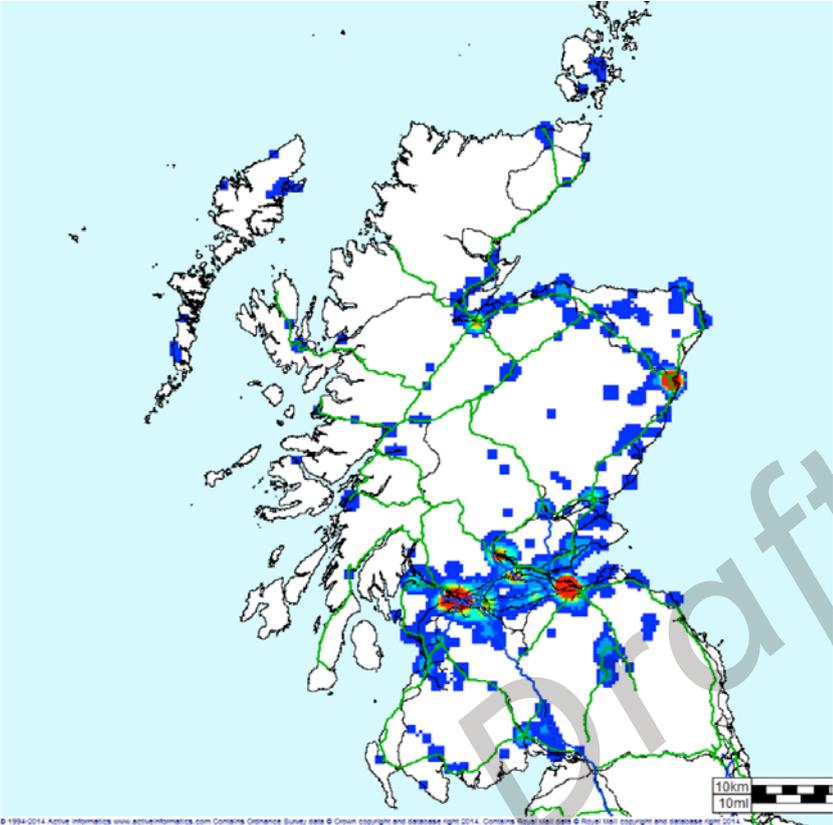
Current Position

Again the inherited position is widely varied across Scotland, ranging from formal arrangements with external scientific advisers to provide 24/7 support on the incident ground; to less formal supporting arrangements or total reliance on service personnel with Hazmats training. The existing 4 DIM vehicles are currently supported by a total of 11 Hazmat/Environmental resources across the SFRS. Of these, 8 are demountable pod systems.

What we plan to do

The recommendation is to formally merge the DIM and Hazmat attributes, providing an attendance which includes suitably trained officers supported by external advice where deemed necessary, to all relevant incidents. In addition to the 4 DIM vehicles already discussed, we plan to retain the 3 dedicated vehicles at Forfar, Kilsyth and Hamilton. The remaining 8 demountable pods will be rationalised to 4, strategically sited at Elgin, Perth, Dunfermline and Renfrew fire stations, to be transported as required by Prime Movers which will be fully detailed in the following section. We believe this approach will provide more than adequate cover for the risk profile and expected activity, standardising and improving our ability to manage these incidents.

This diagram shows the levels of 'Hazmat' incident activity in Scotland over 4 fiscal years (2009/10 – 2012/13).



Key	Incidents per 2km square
Blue	0 - 7.9
Yellow	8 - 15.9
Red	16 and over

HAZMAT
Elgin
Perth
Dunfermline
Renfrew

16. Prime Movers



Description

A 'Prime Mover' is a vehicle which is able to transport a range of demountable pod units, dependent on the requirements of a particular incident. This arrangement allows us to accommodate and mobilise a number of different attributes from a single location.

Current Position

A wide array of resources across Scotland has been configured in this manner, including: High Volume Pumps, environmental support units, welfare units and incident support equipment. Additionally, a number of the previously detailed resources such as USAR, MD, Command and Control and Heavy Rescue equipment have been mobilised using this arrangement in some areas.

In some situations this has been borne out of necessity given the range and number of activities within the remit of the fire and rescue service; and the capacity, resources and geographical boundaries of the legacy services. Compatibility issues also prevail between the differing types of chassis and pod equipment. A key benefit of the creation of the SFRS is the removal of many of these constraints, and the opportunity to review the deployment of all specialist resources. As outlined in previous and subsequent sections, this report recommends a number of resources such as USAR, MD, Water Rescue and Command vehicles are no longer deployed in this manner.

What we plan to do

This report recommends strategically locating a number of sites which will adopt the prime mover and pod arrangement, with a consistent methodology applied to the type of resources to be included. There should be 4 key prime mover sites in Scotland located at:

- Elgin
- Perth
- Renfrew
- Dunfermline

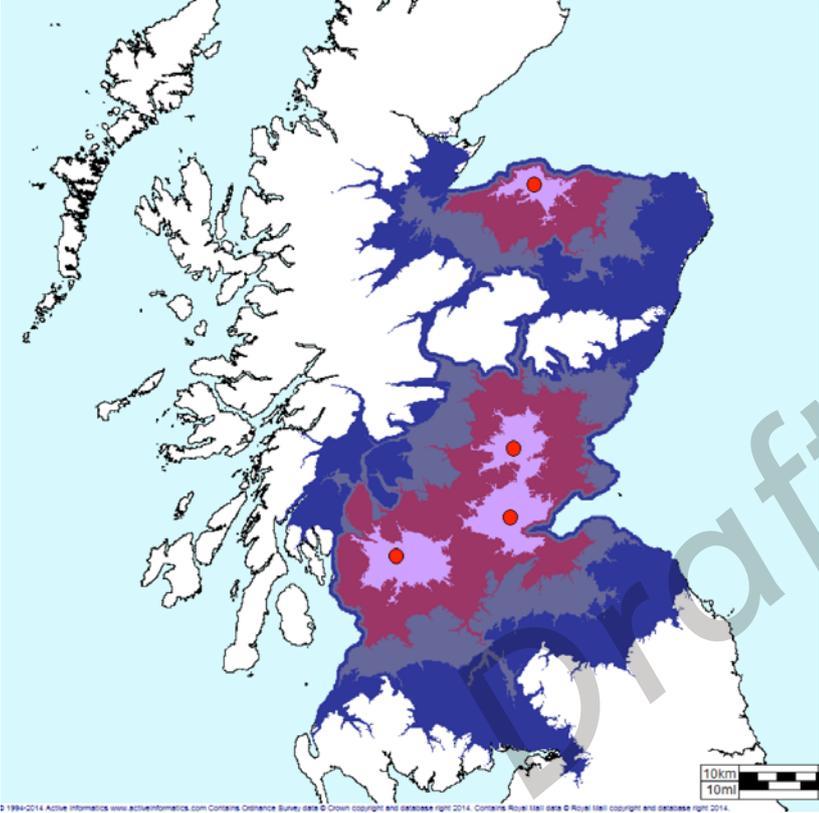
Each of these stations should be allocated prime mover chassis that are compatible with the New Dimensions pods. Each of these stations will also be allocated the following pods:

- Foam
- Welfare
- Environmental Protection
- Flood Response
- Incident Response

This arrangement will create a standard model across Scotland which will enhance the services available in all areas, and improve the safety of communities across the country.

Prime Movers - Proposed End State

The diagram adjacent shows coverage across the SFRS area that can be achieved with prime movers within 90 minutes.



PRIME MOVERS	
Elgin	
Perth	
Renfrew	
Dunfermline	

Key - Travel Time	
	20 minutes
	40 minutes
	60 minutes
	90 minutes

17. Command and Control



Description

The provision of enhanced command and control support on the incident ground is essential to securing community and firefighter safety at incidents which are large, protracted or complex. Incident Command ensures that effective spans of control are maintained and that effective communications are in place between individuals and teams from the SFRS and from partner agencies. Command Units are a method of providing this enhanced command and control support on the incident ground, by transporting communications equipment and trained personnel to the incident location, and creating a hub for command activities. This assists the incident commander to gather information and create plans, to document necessary information, and to record key decisions and actions throughout the incident.

Current Position

There are currently 11 operational command and control units in Scotland, with a further vehicle build recently completed, but not yet allocated to a station. Of the 11 operational units, some are pods, some are dedicated vehicles, and one is based on a trailer which is towed by a tractor unit and requires a class 1 licence to drive.

Command and Control vehicles enhance our management of incidents but are not themselves considered to be first line, vital elements of ensuring community safety. As such, there is a wider scope for future deployment arrangements and appliance positioning.

What we plan to do

The total number of command and control units will be reduced, with the use of conventional vehicle chassis models being preferred and pod based units and trailers being removed from service.

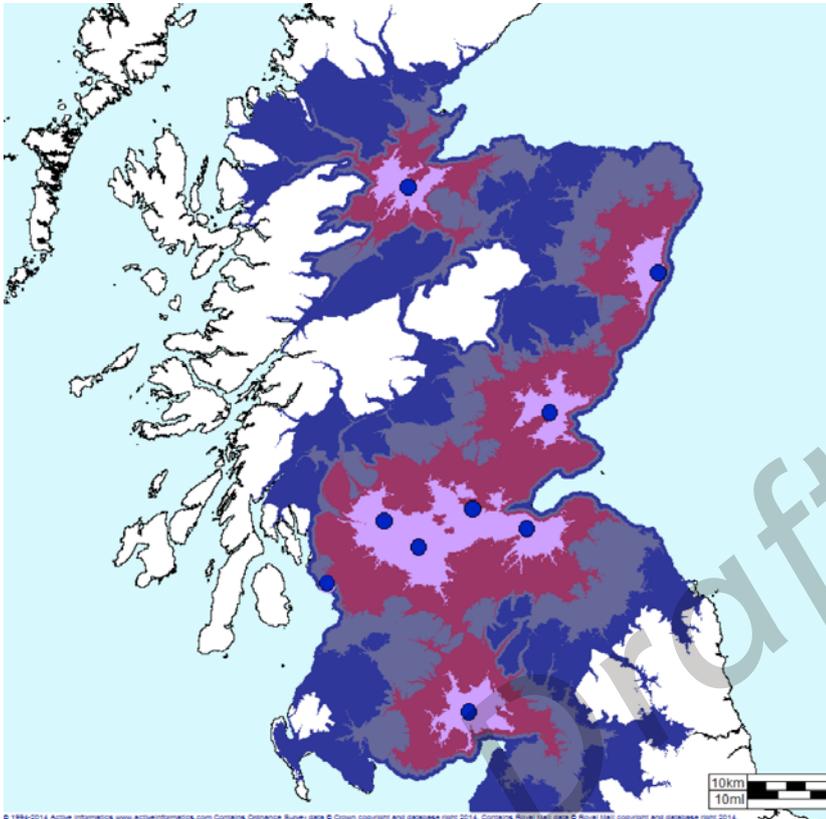
The distribution of command and control vehicles across the Service Delivery Areas will be as follows:

North SDA: Inverness, Altens (Aberdeen) and Blackness Road (Dundee)

West SDA: Dumfries, Milngavie, Bellshill and Dreggorn

East SDA: Bo'ness and Liberton (Edinburgh)

Due to the comparatively compact geography of East SDA and the readily available support from command units in the North (Dundee) and West (Bellshill), it is deemed sufficient to have 2 command units covering this area.



COMMAND AND CONTROL
Inverness
Altens (Aberdeen)
Blackness Road (Dundee)
Bo'ness
Liberton (Edinburgh)
Dumfries
Milngavie
Bellshill
Dreghorn

Key - Travel Time	
	20 minutes
	40 minutes
	60 minutes
	90 minutes

The adjacent diagram shows the coverage that can be achieved with the proposed distribution of command and control vehicles.

18. 4 X 4 Vehicles



Severe weather conditions including flooding and heavy snowfall can hamper emergency response in Scotland as has been witnessed in recent years. Although mention is made of this within the scope of the overall review, this final report does not propose to detail a precise deployment plan for these resources. A strategic overview of 4x4 availability will ensure that an appropriate, risk-based distribution of the limited vehicle numbers will be achieved, which will then be managed locally by Service Delivery Areas. This approach will allow vehicles to be moved to areas of greatest need on a short term basis as part of severe weather planning and preparation.

19. Wildfire



Wildfire is a generic term used to describe incidents that cover a large area and that may involve any or all of the major vegetation types found in Scotland i.e. moorland, heather, gorse, grass, forestry, farmland and natural woodland.

Wildfire was initially considered as part of the special resources project. However the way in which wildfire resources are distributed, stored, crewed and operated is entirely different to the other key special resources incorporated within the project, and for this reason it was decided that Wildfire resources would form part of a separate policy and procedure regarding the general approach by the SFRS to such incidents. The Fire and Rescue Wildfire Operational Guidance document was issued in 2013, having been commissioned by Scottish Government, and a new project has been initiated in the North SDA to look at the future SFRS approach to wildfire incidents. The Scottish Wildfire Forum (SWFF) will be looking into all aspects of wildfire management in order to raise awareness, encourage public responsibility, improve firefighter safety and reduce the demand on SFRS resources during wildfire season.

20. Incident Logistical Support



Large or protracted incidents require additional logistical support to be brought onto the incident ground to allow operations to be maintained over an extended period. Such support can involve welfare provision for crews including food, water, shelter and toilet facilities. In terms of the maintenance of firefighting operations, BA set servicing facilities and spare BA cylinder packs are required, along with enhanced command and control provision.

For large incidents, these resources will be supplied by our prime mover stations in Elgin, Perth, Renfrew and Dunfermline through delivery of an incident support pod and/or a welfare pod as required. Additional support can be provided through the provision of a Command and Control vehicle or through the attendance of a Salvation Army catering vehicle. However, there may be times where the attendance of such resources cannot be justified due to the limited scale of the incident, or where these resources are stretched as a result of simultaneous incidents.

To ensure the availability of basic logistical support, all SFRS Mass Decontamination vehicles and Urban Search and Rescue vehicles will have a logistical support 'cage' provided on them. This cage will contain spare BA cylinders, BA servicing packs, food and water to ensure that basic support can be provided to maintain operations and allow crew welfare considerations to be met.

21. Delivery timescale

Complete implementation of the recommendations contained within this report will potentially take up to 3 years, and is dependent on a number of factors; notably including capital funding planning to improve and standardise the emergency vehicle fleet, and the delivery of the extensive training programme necessary to fully declare the desired competencies in the wide range of specialist attributes concerned.

Having said that however, it is important to commence implementation immediately in order to realise the desired benefits; of improving safety, improving services and improving efficiency. Some elements of the plans can be achieved relatively quickly, within a matter of weeks. These include altering the water rescue storage and deployment configurations at Elgin and Newton Stewart; and the redeployment of command and control vehicles.

Some areas will take a little longer, for example the redeployment of high reach appliances or prime movers with their associated pods will require alterations to stations for storage and charging systems, in addition to the training requirements. Understandably, the introduction of new line and water rescue teams will take the longest, due to the extensive and complex training requirements for these disciplines.

In addition to these requirements, some personnel issues are likely to arise which may affect the availability of suitable staff at each designated station. These are not anticipated to be insurmountable but need to be factored into the overall delivery timescale. Specific arrangements for crewing specialist vehicles are outwith the scope of this report and are being addressed within other work packages.

Detailed implementation plans will be produced for each Service Delivery Area. These plans will be routinely available for scrutiny through the Service Transformation programme.

22. Engagement and Consultation

Engagement and consultation have been ongoing throughout this review process. Officers and colleagues from all legacy services were involved in compiling individual reports on each aspect of specialist rescue, identifying the existing picture and the recommendations for future delivery. Representatives from the Fire Brigades' Union were involved in each of these workstreams, and have further been involved in the compilation of this final report.

Discussions have also taken place with Scottish Government colleagues who showed a keen interest in all areas of this report, but specifically wanted reassurances around National Resilience assets (Urban Search and Rescue, Mass Decontamination, High Volume Pumps and Detection, Identification and Monitoring vehicles).

The draft final report was circulated amongst all relevant partner agencies, including Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, Maritime Coastguard Agency, Ministry of Defence, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, Regional Resilience Partnerships, Business Engagement Forum and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire (Scotland). Views and responses have been considered and acted upon where appropriate.

Whilst local effects have been considered throughout this process, it has always been the main focus to concentrate on the overall strategic impact of these recommendations. Specialist resources by their very nature are limited in number and availability, and have to be deployed in a manner which fits the overall risk profile within Scotland. Historical arrangements within legacy services must be recognised as such, with the creation of the SFRS bringing an opportunity to develop a more appropriate and risk-based approach which will result in the most favourable footprint of these valuable resources across the communities of Scotland.

Appendix 1 - Table of stations with special resources

Proposed end state

Multi (Wholetime) Pump Station	Special Resource			
Clydebank	USAR	High Reach		
Motherwell	Water Rescue	High Reach		
Coatbridge	High Reach	Mass Decon		
Cumbernauld	USAR			
Hamilton	Hazmat			
East Kilbride	Line Rescue			
Clydesmill (Cambuslang)	Water Rescue	High Reach	High Volume Pump	
Kilmarnock	USAR	High Reach		
Ayr	Water Rescue	High Reach		
Paisley	High Reach			
Greenock	High Reach	MIRG		
GLASGOW				
Maryhill	Mass Decon	High Reach		
Knightswood	Water Rescue			
Easterhouse	Heavy Rescue			
Springburn	Mass Decon	High Reach		
Polmadie	Water Rescue	High Reach		
Dumfries	Water Rescue	High Reach	Command and Control	
ABERDEEN				
N.Anderson Drive	USAR	High Reach	DIM	
Central	Water Rescue	Mass Decon	High Reach	
Altens	Line Rescue	Command and Control		
Inverness	Water Rescue	High Reach	Heavy Rescue	Command and Control
DUNDEE				
Blackness Road	Mass Decon	High Reach		Command and Control
MacAlpine Road	USAR	High Reach		
Kingsway East	Water Rescue			
Perth	Water Rescue	High Reach	Prime Mover	
Stirling	Water Rescue	Heavy Rescue Unit		
EDINBURGH				
McDonald Road	High Reach	DIM		
Tollcross	Line Rescue	High Reach		
Sighthill	Heavy Rescue	High Reach		
Crewe Toll	Mass Decon	High Reach		
Dunfermline	Mass Decon	High Reach	Prime Mover	
Glenrothes	Water Rescue			
Lochgelly	Line Rescue			
Kirkcaldy	High Reach			

Appendix 1 continued

Single (Wholetime) Pump Station	Special Resource		
Oban	Water Rescue	High Reach	
Milngavie	Command and Control		
Bellshill	Command and Control		
Johnstone	High Reach		
Renfrew	Prime Mover		
Dreghorn	Command and Control		
Balmossie	DIM		
Elgin	Water Rescue	High Volume Pump	Prime Mover
Livingston	High Reach		
Bo'ness	Command and Control		
Falkirk	High Reach	High Volume Pump	
EDINBURGH			
Liberton	Command and Control		
Newcraighall	USAR		
Marionville	Water Rescue		
Dalkeith	USAR		
Galashiels	Water Rescue		
*Hawick	Water Rescue		
Bathgate	Water Rescue		
Bishopbriggs	DIM		
Alloa	High Volume Pump		

RDS Station	Special Resource
Fort William	Water Rescue
Newton Stewart	Water Rescue
Forfar	Hazmat
Kilsyth	Hazmat

* Water Rescue resource for the Scottish Borders area. Exact location to be confirmed.

Draft

Draft



HM Fire Service Inspectorate

**Integrity, Objectivity,
and Fairness.**

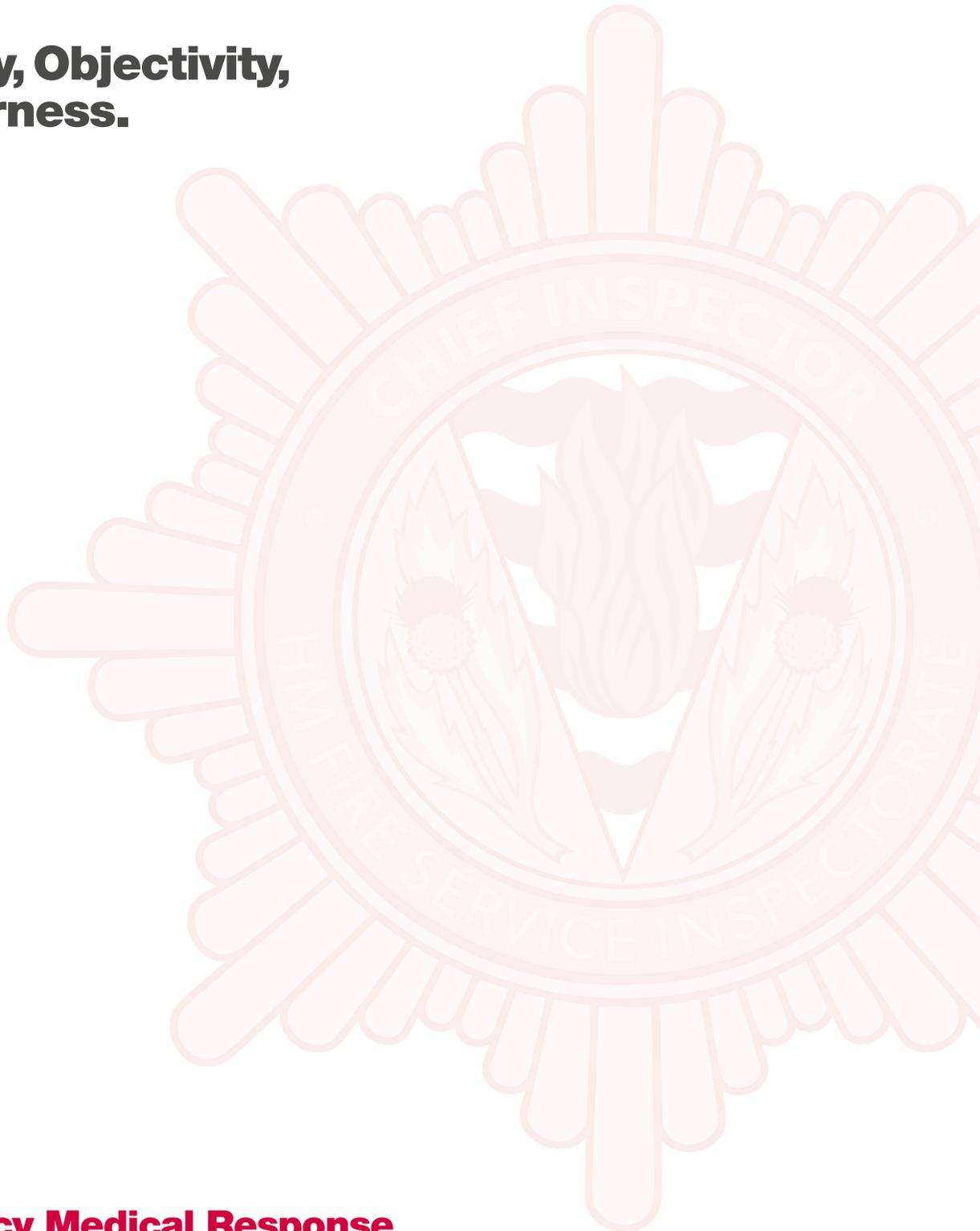


Emergency Medical Response and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Arrangements for Scottish Fire and Rescue Service involvement with medical emergencies and partnership working with the Scottish Ambulance Service.

HM Fire Service Inspectorate

**Integrity, Objectivity,
and Fairness.**



Emergency Medical Response and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Arrangements for Scottish Fire and Rescue Service involvement with medical emergencies and partnership working with the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the SFRS Strategic Leadership Team and those members of staff who provided us with information, helped us to organise visits, hosted us and contributed constructively to interviews.

The Inspection team members were:

Steven Torrie QFSM
Paul Considine
Brian McKenzie

Professor Andy Newton QAM provided the team with advice and acted as a critical friend.

A Quality Assurance Panel helped us by challenging a draft of the report. The team was:

Peter Holland CBE, Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser for England
Lee Howell QFSM, Fire and Rescue Adviser to the Welsh Government
Christina Yule, Lead Inspector, HMIC Scotland

All the members of the inspection team contributed to the development of this report and the quality assurance panel provided a professional challenge to the contents, assumptions and conclusions made. However, the Chief Inspector takes sole responsibility for the report, its contents and conclusions.

Laid before the Scottish Parliament by HM Chief Inspector of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service under section 43C(5) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 October 2014 SG/2014/178

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1 Introduction

‘Over 1,500 Scots died from an out of hospital cardiac arrest last year. Currently, only 5% of people who have a cardiac arrest in the community survive and every minute that they wait for a ‘shock’ cuts their chances.’

Source: Scottish Ambulance Service website, April 2014

The above quote from the Scottish Ambulance Service website¹ highlights a fact well-known to practitioners of emergency medicine – that people who have a cardiac arrest away from a hospital environment have only a few minutes in the absence of life support before their chance of survival reduces dramatically.

Not everyone who suffers a cardiac arrest is saveable. But a proportion of cardiac arrest patients initially have what is called a ‘shockable rhythm’ – if they receive medical assistance by way of electric shock from a defibrillator, a normal heart rhythm can be restored.

But every minute that passes, counts. Doctors recognise the importance of what is known as the ‘chain of survival’ in cases of cardiac arrest. Someone needs to recognise that the patient has had a cardiac arrest, and call for help. CPR (chest compressions and rescue breaths) need to start as soon as possible. A defibrillator needs to be used as soon as possible. And advanced life saving drugs need to be administered by a health professional, and the patient transported to hospital, in the shortest possible time.

All of this presents a great challenge to emergency medical services, particularly ambulance services, because the time involved is just a few minutes. The ambulance service in Scotland responds as quickly as possible to medical emergencies, including cardiac arrests. And the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) recognises the importance of having a defibrillator immediately available if a cardiac arrest occurs – more than half of Scotland’s fire appliances are equipped with defibrillators, which were acquired for use in the event that a firefighter has a cardiac arrest while on duty (a recognised hazard for firefighters). In addition, many of Scotland’s firefighters are trained in enhanced first aid and are experienced in applying those skills in emergency situations.

But with only a very few exceptions, SFRS personnel do not respond routinely to calls for help to members of the public who have had medical emergencies. Elsewhere in the UK and overseas, some fire services have become involved in responding to time-critical medical emergencies – supporting and enhancing the work of their ambulance service colleagues: a number of fire and rescue services in England and Wales do so, and major metropolitan fire brigades such as Toronto and Melbourne provide emergency medical response. There is good evidence of the benefit joint working can bring.

It is an ambition of the Scottish Government that public services should work effectively together:

‘The Scottish Government is pursuing a comprehensive and transformative programme of reform to protect and improve public services. Services must be consistently well designed, based on the best evidence and delivered by the right people to the right people at the right time. Continuous improvement of the national outcomes can be achieved when public sector organisations work effectively in partnership with each other to design and deliver excellent public services which meet the needs of local people.

¹ <http://www.scottishambulance.com/NewsDesk/NewsItem.aspx?NewsID=88> retrieved 26 Aug 2014



Supporting people and communities to build and use their own assets, including their skills and networks, can also help to deliver improved outcomes.’

Scottish Government Public Bodies and Public Services Reform Division

We decided to look at the approach the SFRS is taking to medical response in light of the Scottish Government’s ambitions, existing capability within the SFRS, the experience from overseas, the renewed interest in fire and ambulance joint working in England and Wales, and the overarching life-saving potential. A significant investment has already been made in equipment and training to allow firefighters to carry out defibrillation and advanced first aid in appropriate cases. We wished to explore whether there is capacity that could be used for the public benefit and what the benefits and costs of doing so may be.

A summary of our findings

- **Discussions are under way to improve co-operation and joint working between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS). We think that this is very important but we believe that the benefits which could be achieved and the lives which could be saved will not happen unless there is a major change in the way the two Services work together.**
- There is strong UK and international evidence to show that the introduction of formal emergency medical response schemes where fire and rescue services respond with emergency ambulance services to time-critical medical emergencies improves patient outcomes in the case of cardiac arrest.
- We are aware that the themes of this report potentially tie in with broader strategic thinking about resuscitation capability in the community. We believe that a new and close working relationship between the SFRS and the SAS could offer a key component of that capability and is a fundamentally sensible thing to do in any case.
- SFRS recognises the value of defibrillators. It owns about 380 defibrillators, around 350 of which are on fire appliances and 30 of which are at stations or are held as spares. However, at the time these were acquired, they were intended primarily for use on FRS staff if required – not the public.
- There are very few instances where SFRS personnel are turned out *as a matter of routine and as part of a formal arrangement* to medical emergencies in their area. The only examples we are aware of are schemes inherited from the former Grampian Fire and Rescue Service at Braemar and Maud – and the Braemar unit has had limited utilisation recently.
- The memorandum of understanding between Grampian Fire and Rescue Service and the SAS was designed to allow for the addition of further co-responder schemes but there was no expansion beyond the inception of the first two schemes in 2007. Every indication is that the scheme in Maud is of great benefit to the local community – which raises the question as to why this partnership has never progressed beyond the two original sites.
- On an *ad hoc* basis, SFRS assets are sent to medical emergencies at the request of ambulance control, to provide emergency first aid until an ambulance is able to attend. This occurred around 130 times in 2013-14. There is very little formal underpinning of this activity and an absence of standard operating procedures, memoranda of understanding or clinical protocols. If SFRS is going to respond to medical calls, formal structures and procedures (including procedures for crew safety and welfare) ought to be in place.
- About a third of the 46 fire and rescue services in England and Wales operate co-responder schemes. The arrangements vary rather than being uniform, with marked differences in the equipment which is carried and the range of calls which might be attended. However, where these schemes are in existence, they might well be described as operating a long way beyond anything which is currently happening in Scotland.
- While arguably the highest profile benefit of a fire and rescue service emergency medical response scheme is the opportunity to save lives in cases of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA), beyond that, there is anecdotal evidence that co-responder crews are valued by the community simply for the reassurance their early attendance offers.

2 About the inspection

Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate in Scotland (HMFSI) is a body that operates within, but independently of, the Scottish Government. Inspectors have the scrutiny powers specified in section 43B of the 2005 Act. These include inquiring into the state and efficiency of SFRS, its compliance with Best Value, and the manner in which it is carrying out its functions.

The purpose of this inspection is:

To consider the extent to which the SFRS is maximising opportunities to contribute to community safety by its acquisition and use of defibrillators and other medical equipment and by collaborating with the Scottish Ambulance Service in providing support to emergency medical response.

An inquiry by the Inspectorate can be self-directed or can be subject to direction by Scottish Ministers. This inquiry into the SFRS is self-directed by the Chief Inspector. The decision to carry out this inspection was influenced by recent reports and debate in England over greater collaboration between blue-light services, ongoing initiatives in emergency medical provision within Scotland, and the potential for improved survival.

The Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013 sets out a number of things which support the subject of this report:

- The purpose of the SFRS, defined in the Framework 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 wellbeing of people throughout Scotland'.
- The Framework identifies a subset of the National Outcomes which are particularly important to the shared aspirations of the Scottish Government and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Outcome 6 being: '**we live longer and healthier lives**' and outcome 15 '**our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs**'.
- Paragraph 15 of the Framework includes this statement: '*The new SFRS must not work alone. It should build on the existing partnership work with the other emergency services and category one responders to enhance Scotland's resilience. It should build on existing partnerships with a range of local organisations to drive down risks in the community, and continue to build on its partnerships with a range of other justice sector bodies in its focus on the vulnerable and most at risk.*' This principle of partnership working is defined as a strategic priority for the SFRS.

The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 sets out a number of powers for the SFRS. One of those is to:

'... take ... action ... in response to an event or situation that is ... likely to cause a person to die ... or become ill ...'

Taking all of this together, and in the context of this report, it is our view that closer working between the SFRS and the SAS, to the benefit of the public in Scotland, is clearly within the expectation of the Scottish Government.

Methodology

This inspection has largely been carried out on the basis of a desk top data review, complemented by field visits to the two co-responder schemes currently operated by the SFRS, and a number of face-to-face discussions with stakeholders in Government, the SAS, and elsewhere.

As well as visiting the two Scottish co-responder schemes, we travelled to Lincolnshire to find out about the well-established co-responder arrangements in place in that Fire and Rescue Service, and to speak to staff involved in delivering the service there. We also spoke to people from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service to develop an understanding of arrangements in its area.

We reviewed national and international literature on OHCA events, with a view to better understanding the evidence for rapid intervention in OHCA cases, and the effect that the introduction of fire-based emergency medical response schemes can have both on the rapidity with which patient care can commence, and survival rates of OHCA patients.

We discussed with the SFRS the rationale behind the original acquisition of defibrillators by the predecessor fire and rescue services, the costs involved in that acquisition and staff training, and the financial implications for the Service in the event that it provided an increased level of emergency medical response.

During the course of our work we had helpful assistance from Professor Andy Newton QAM, Consultant Paramedic and Clinical Operations Director at South East Coast Foundation Ambulance NHS Trust, as a critical friend to inform the direction of our work and to point us in the direction of relevant, peer-reviewed scientific research.

The conclusions of this report remain the sole responsibility of HM Chief Inspector of the SFRS.

3 Our findings

In this, the main section of our report, we start by looking at things which the Service has inherited from its predecessor organisations (for example, defibrillators, co-responder schemes and partnership working). We then reflect on these things in the context of what has been happening in the UK and abroad and in the light of research and data.

3.1 The inherited position

Equipment held by SFRS

The SFRS already has a substantial amount of medical equipment, including defibrillators and oxygen administration packs, both on its appliances and at SFRS premises across Scotland.

The provision of defibrillators has arisen primarily through considerations of firefighter safety – and the way that this has evolved has not in our view been unreasonable. It has been recognised for some time now in the international literature² that firefighting carries with it an elevated risk of cardiac arrest, particularly in the highly physical and stressful environment of an emergency scene. For this reason, fire and rescue services in Scotland (with the exception of the former Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service) acquired defibrillators for deployment on front-line appliances and in some fixed locations.

At the latest count, over 330 SFRS vehicles carry defibrillators on a routine basis and their distribution across the emergency vehicle fleet varies. To date, no appliances in the former Highlands and Islands FRS area have defibrillators as that service did not acquire them. Despite the inevitable investment that will be required in acquisition of these units and training staff in their use, we do not think that this position is equitable in a single national service and steps should be considered to standardise distribution across Scotland.

When defibrillators were issued by the predecessor fire and rescue services, instructions outlining their use were provided. These instructions made it clear that the reason for issuing defibrillators was for increased firefighter safety, not to provide a capability to respond to 999 calls for medical emergencies. They could, however, be used where firefighters encountered someone in need of assistance whilst they were at an incident, or whilst they were travelling in a fire appliance. Those instructions were reasonable, in the context of the acquisition of this equipment for firefighter safety rather than as part of a formal emergency medical response scheme.

We have encountered in the course of our inspection anecdotal suggestions that some firefighters may believe that they are not permitted to use the defibrillators they carry on members of the public. We have no evidence that this has ever had any adverse effect on the availability of defibrillators to members of the public in appropriate circumstances. We consider, however, that the SFRS should put the matter beyond doubt by issuing a national standard operating procedure for use of this equipment, to include advice that it may be used on a member of the public in the same way as other first aid equipment carried on fire appliances.

² For example *NIOSH Alert: Preventing Firefighter Fatalities Due to Heart Attacks and Other Sudden Cardiovascular Events* US Department of Health and Human Services, 2007

We also note that the SAS does not have information on where SFRS defibrillators are located, and the numbers of SFRS staff trained in defibrillator use and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Provision of this information would be a starting point for discussions between the SFRS and SAS to identify the locations in which SFRS assets could potentially be used as part of a joint strategy and we suggest that the SFRS makes this information available to the SAS.

Existing medical response schemes

The SFRS inherited a programme from the former Grampian Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS), in which members of the Maud and Braemar fire stations will respond to medical calls in their station area. These are the only two instances in Scotland where a formal memorandum of understanding exists between the fire and ambulance services allowing for the routine dispatch of fire service resources to medical emergencies.

A dedicated vehicle at Maud was provided by GFRS and a vehicle at Braemar by the SAS. Initial training was provided by SAS and costs for staff attendance were covered by GFRS. GFRS also covered annual revenue costs. This ongoing cost, which averages just over £5000 per year, has been inherited by the SFRS.

In the course of our inspection we visited the crews at Maud and Braemar to gather information about their experience of these schemes. Recently, the level of activity in Braemar has been very low. In contrast, over the last three years, Maud responded on average to over 50 calls to medical emergencies each year – around half their total number of calls. There are currently five members of staff who provide an on-call rota and this is managed together with the fire and rescue part of their responsibilities.

The pilot scheme at these locations has been successful in demonstrating the ability of SFRS resources to respond to medical emergencies without compromising fire cover in their area, or overburdening retained duty system staff who deal with these calls. Outcomes for the communities served by these fire stations have also been positive in terms of enhancing community safety. While complex issues, including compatibility of ICT systems, exist around the exchange of information and management of knowledge sharing between the SFRS and SAS, the Maud and Braemar schemes have demonstrated that it is possible to overcome these issues.

This raises the question what has been done to build on these pilot schemes and to expand the number of locations from which the SFRS provides emergency medical response. Although we have seen some limited documentation around post-implementation review of the Maud and Braemar schemes, so far as we know there has been no detailed evaluation of their effectiveness. Given that the SFRS provides emergency response from more than 350 fire stations across Scotland, many of which are in areas demographically similar to Maud that could be expected to generate a similar number of calls for emergency medical assistance, we think that a formal evaluation of this initiative is overdue. In January 2009, the Westminster government published a review of co-responder work in England³. Amongst other things, the report asked why the existing schemes in England had not been rolled out across the country as a whole.

³ *Current Practice and Prospects for FRS Co-responding. Fire Research Series 14/2008 CLG, 2009*



It is not the role of the Fire Service Inspectorate to decide whether the SFRS should provide emergency medical response services or not – we recognise that is a matter for government policy. We do, however, consider that there is an obligation on the SFRS to use the information gathered from these pilot schemes to inform strategic thinking about future service provision, and we wish to encourage the Service to see that is done.

SFRS ad hoc response to medical calls

We requested information from the SFRS about the number of times, apart from the schemes at Maud and Braemar discussed above, that a fire appliance is responded to a medical emergency to provide medical treatment pending the arrival of an ambulance. This is to be distinguished from the relatively common situation in which fire and rescue service resources are mobilised to assist with the movement of a patient.

We were told that for a number of years, some fire and rescue services in Scotland (and since April 2013, the SFRS) have received calls from the SAS requesting their attendance to provide first aid to a critically ill patient. This has usually been where all ambulance service resources in the area have already been committed to other calls. We understand that occasionally, a fire appliance with a defibrillator has been dispatched to provide emergency first aid until an ambulance can attend. Unlike the formal schemes at Maud and Braemar, this is arranged on a case-by-case basis.

This kind of *ad hoc* mobilisation is unusual – there are approximately 130 recorded instances in the financial year 2013-14 across Scotland (SFRS responds to nearly 90,000 emergency calls each year, while the SAS responds to 600,000 emergency calls). As will be clear from this report, we think that joint working of this kind has the potential to significantly improve outcomes for some patients, and we do not want to discourage initiatives of this kind. We do, however, have some concerns about the nature of these arrangements as they have operated in the past.

Attendance at a medical emergency involves considerations for which specific training is desirable, over and above the simple mechanics of operating a defibrillator. Also, it is important that both fire and ambulance control rooms understand when it is, and is not, appropriate for a fire appliance to be sent to a medical emergency. We have been advised that an interim memorandum of understanding between the SFRS and SAS is being developed to govern the circumstances in which a fire appliance can be requested to respond to a medical call outwith the formal co-responder schemes in place. In our view, there should be an accompanying analysis of the training that is required for responding fire crews to operate safely and effectively at the scene of a medical emergency, and provision of that training to SFRS crews who might respond to these calls.

3.2 Experience elsewhere in the UK and overseas

Elsewhere in the UK and worldwide, the idea of fire services providing emergency medical response to the communities they serve is widespread. It is notable, however, that there is no single consistent model applied internationally, and in many cases, the evolution of fire-based emergency medical services has occurred for historical reasons of local relevance.

Broadly speaking, it is possible to describe two types of fire-based emergency medical response model. The first of these is the co-responder model, in which fire services are responded, always at the same time as an ambulance, to certain types of medical call.

There are variations on this model: in one, the fire service may co-respond to a wide range of medical emergencies where ambulance response times are likely to be extended. This is often associated with rural areas where there may be no ambulance stationed nearby, but in some locations, particularly in the United States and Canada, fire services in urban areas provide a comprehensive co-response service accounting for up to 80% of their emergency calls.

In another approach to co-responding, fire services respond to life-threatening medical emergencies on the basis that, no matter how comprehensive ambulance coverage may be, a fire appliance can still be expected to arrive on scene before (perhaps only a minute or two before) an ambulance on a significant number of occasions. In emergencies such as cardiac arrest, that small time advantage may make a difference to patient survival rates. The Emergency Medical Response (EMR) programme in metropolitan Melbourne, Australia is an example of that approach.

The second model of fire service medical response is where the fire service is itself responsible for managing ambulance and paramedic provision in a location. The cities of New York and Washington DC in the United States are examples of this model, as are Dublin in Ireland and Berlin in Germany. The fire service will dispatch a unit to a medical emergency, and that is the only response provided – there is no separate ambulance service. This model is as much an organisational one as an operational one.

Of 46 fire and rescue services in England and Wales, there are currently at least 18 who currently provide some sort of medical response⁴. The criteria and operating procedures differ from service to service, and so it could fairly be said that the approach varies rather than being uniform. There are, however, a good number of examples of partnership working between fire and ambulance services which go a long way beyond anything that can be found in Scotland.

At least one service in England, Lincolnshire, has obtained funding to acquire ambulances to allow it to expand its long-standing medical response arrangements, by offering urgent care patient transportation in appropriate circumstances. We visited Lincolnshire to discuss the medical response scheme with senior officers and front-line crews, and it was apparent to us that medical response was seen as an important and integral part of the Service's operations in rural areas and is valued by the ambulance service. Although the crews involved still saw themselves very much as firefighters who went to medical calls, of the 21 stations in Lincolnshire that provide emergency medical response services, all but two attend more medical emergencies than fire calls.

⁴ Communication from Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser, Department for Communities and Local Government, September 2014

Case study – Hampshire FRS

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service has operated a co-responder scheme since 2004 and is recognised as delivering a well organised and mature partnership. The scheme operates out of 21 fire stations and the Service is planning to increase this to 22. Staff take on this additional role on a voluntary basis. Volunteers are trained by the Ambulance Service.

Hampshire FRS has been responding to the most urgent ‘Category A’ calls but discussions are taking place with the Ambulance Service for the FRS to take on less urgent calls (and thereby free up Ambulance Service assets to deal with more urgent ones). The original intention was to use FRS mobilisation in areas where the Ambulance Service was having difficulty in meeting its attendance targets (and therefore, amongst other things, reducing the likelihood of people surviving an OHCA).

Dedicated vehicles are used by the FRS for responding to emergency medical calls. These vehicles are deployed directly by Ambulance control. South Central Ambulance Service provides about £500k funding each year to cover the cost of RDS mobilising fees.

The FRS co-responders in Hampshire achieve target attendance times on about 80% of occasions and fire stations average around 500 emergency medical calls per year. Across Hampshire, the FRS attends approximately 10,000 calls annually and contributes to 5% of the Ambulance Service’s overall performance in attending the most urgent category of calls.

Benefits and costs of co-responding

The science around the ‘chain of survival’ and the importance of providing early defibrillation in OHCA cases is well-understood. The Resuscitation Council (UK) advises that for every minute of delay, the chances of successful defibrillation decrease by about 10%⁵ and ‘...recommends strongly a policy of attempting defibrillation with the minimum of delay in victims of VF/VT cardiac arrest.’⁶

A significant amount of research has taken place to establish the benefits of medical intervention in OHCA cases, and to examine the contribution that fire service intervention can make.

Peer-reviewed research was published into the impact of the EMR programme in Melbourne – an urban and suburban environment in which the ambulance service was already using mobile paramedics in fast response vehicles to minimise attendance times. In a study of the first seven years of the Melbourne EMR project, significantly shorter response times at the 50th and 90th percentiles were identified for fire service response, with a fire response being on average some three minutes quicker than the ambulance response⁷. Whether similar results would be replicated elsewhere would depend on the distribution of fire stations, availability of crews to respond, and duty system in operation: but in principle it can be demonstrated that a fire service response can significantly improve average response times to cases of OHCA.

⁵ Resuscitation Council (UK), *National Resuscitation Guidelines 2010*

⁶ *ibid.*

⁷ Boyle et al, *The first seven years of the metropolitan fire brigade emergency responder program – an overview of incidents attended*, Open Access Emergency Medicine, 2010

Provision of continuous, good quality chest compressions is important to maximise the chances of a positive outcome for OHCA patients⁸, and that poses a significant challenge to paramedics who may be working singly or in pairs when they have other tasks to attend to such as defibrillation, establishing and maintaining an airway and administering life-saving drugs. Providing chest compressions is also physically demanding, with fatigue rapidly degrading the quality of compressions by a single rescuer over time⁹, and the assistance of firefighters may maximise the chances of good quality, continuous compressions being provided in tandem with other interventions.

In our discussions with fire and rescue service staff who respond to medical incidents both in Scotland and elsewhere, it was apparent that the benefits of fire service response may sometimes be intangible: for example, the additional reassurance and first aid that can be given to a patient in advance of an ambulance arriving, even if their condition is not life-threatening. Communities can be made to feel safer in the knowledge that trained medical assistance is available from their local fire station regardless of the availability of an ambulance.

It is beyond the scope of this report to place a financial value on the potential benefits to the community of establishing an emergency medical response capability in the SFRS. There are a number of variables that would have to be taken into account. For example, a scheme might not extend to all fire stations in Scotland (only rural, or only urban stations, or only stations where there are identified issues with ambulance response times, might be selected). The benefits of a scheme are closely tied to the number of time-critical medical incidents that occur in the area affected.

What we can say, however, is that there are facts that weigh strongly in favour of at least considering the provision of fire-based emergency medical services in both urban and rural communities:

- For some categories of medical call there is a direct correlation between time taken for initial medical interventions, and patient survivability.
- No matter how comprehensive ambulance cover is in an area, there will always be circumstances in which ambulances and paramedics are occupied elsewhere and are therefore unavailable to respond immediately.
- It is not just the time taken by initial responders, but the total number of trained responders at a scene, that is relevant to successful outcomes in cases of OHCA.
- In many communities, there is a fire station with firefighters trained in emergency response who could provide initial first aid until an ambulance or paramedic can arrive, and could then provide assistance to the paramedic team as required.
- The fire and rescue service provides an existing cohort of disciplined people, trained in emergency response, and a management and supervision structure to allow their activities to be monitored and supported.

⁸ Edelson, Abella, Kramer-Johansen et al *Effects of compression depth and pre-shock pauses predict defibrillation failure during cardiac arrest* Resuscitation 2006 71:137-45

⁹ Hightower, Thomas, Stone, Dunn and March, *Decay in quality of closed-chest compressions over time*, AnnEmergMed 1995 26, 300-3

- In terms of the volume of fire calls attended, SFRS has, generally speaking, the capacity to undertake additional medical response work.
- The SFRS might also be able to use its 350-plus fire stations around the country, and qualified staff from its training department, to offer training to community members in CPR and first aid techniques.

Costs

Co-responding comes with attendant costs, both one-off and ongoing. It is important, when considering the implementation of a scheme, that these costs are understood and consideration given to what can be absorbed within existing budgets, and what may require additional funding. Costs include:

- Training and skills maintenance of responders.
- Acquisition and maintenance of defibrillators, oxygen packs and enhanced first aid kits.
- Coordination of dispatch systems to allow simultaneous dispatch of fire and ambulance resources.
- Marginal costs of response, for example staff costs to cover mobilisation payments, fuel, wear and tear on vehicles – for the year 2013-14, the average incident cost for the Maud co-responder scheme was in the order of £120 per call.
- Provision of vehicles and personal protective equipment, where this is considered necessary in addition to existing fire service resources.
- Addressing the administrative requirements of clinical and cross-organisational governance.

Although the costs of a fire-based emergency medical response scheme are relatively small, they should not be ignored – particularly when fire and rescue services are being urged to reduce their budgets. If the fire service is to be asked to support medical response activities, appropriate resourcing would need to be identified to allow this to be implemented properly and supported effectively by managers.

3.3 An opportunity for Scotland

The creation of the single Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has provided a key opportunity for the Service to take stock of the steps that have been taken towards providing medical response using fire and rescue service assets.

Notably, defibrillators have been widely acquired across the predecessor services (with the exception of the former Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service) and so firefighters are knowledgeable about this equipment and how to use it.

Two medical response schemes have been operating in the former Grampian Fire and Rescue Service locations of Maud and Braemar. There is some evidence to suggest that these schemes have added value to their local communities, yet there has been no detailed review or evaluation of their effectiveness and no consideration of expanding the number of stations providing medical response.

The SFRS has more than 350 fire stations across Scotland, many of which are located in rural or remote communities where ambulance or paramedic attendance may be delayed. Equally, numbers of SFRS fire stations with 24 hour staffing are located in urban centres, and may be available to provide an emergency response at times when ambulances in the area are busy on other calls.

We think that the SFRS should now consider in detail whether it could establish partnership working with the SAS so as to provide an emergency medical response from some or all of these locations, and increase the benefit that the SFRS provides to the community.

We have commented elsewhere¹⁰ on the challenges facing the retained duty system (RDS) and volunteer units in Scotland. Occasionally, the required minimum of four crew are not available to attend a retained or volunteer fire station to go to a fire or other emergency – in which case an appliance from a nearby station will go instead. It has been put to us in the course of this inspection that this might act as a barrier to providing emergency medical response from RDS and volunteer stations. In relation to this point we think that the following factors are relevant:

- Typically only two crew are needed to mount an effective medical response – meaning that this service may be available even when the more traditional fire engine response is not.
- Failure by the SFRS to make crews available to respond to a known medical emergency call and deliver potentially life-saving assistance, in case a more traditional fire and rescue call came in, would not in our view be acceptable to the public. In our visits to Maud and Braemar we found no evidence that conflict between medical calls and traditional fire calls is an issue in practice.
- The experience in England has been that the introduction of emergency medical response increases (sometimes, significantly increases) the number of calls being attended by a station. This can have the effect of increasing the availability of a station – because staff are more prepared to make themselves available for emergency calls if there is a greater chance of them dealing with emergency work.
- Even if a crew is not available 100% of the time it would still be providing a life-saving service for the times that it was available.

Existing first responder provision

We are aware of the existing community first responder schemes administered by the SAS in many areas of Scotland and we are also aware of the British Association for Immediate Care (BASICS) scheme which trains and equips local doctors to undertake emergency pre-hospital work. Where an existing community scheme is operating effectively and providing initial medical response to its community, we would not see an imperative for the SFRS to consider basing a parallel scheme in a local fire station. In other words, this report does not suggest that the SFRS is uniquely well-placed to provide these services. We do however offer the following observations based on evidence gathered in the course of our inspection:

- An SFRS-based response could complement (not replace) existing community schemes, securing the attendance of additional personnel to assist in the critical early stages of an emergency.

¹⁰ *Equal Access to National Capacity*, HM Fire Service Inspectorate, 2014

- We have been advised of instances where RDS firefighters are reluctant to participate in non-fire-based first responder schemes as this would make them unavailable to crew the local fire appliance. By undertaking emergency medical response within the SFRS, it is possible to manage these potential conflicts.
- The SFRS provides a ready-made management and command structure for its stations across the country, and the SFRS is experienced in the management of a large, on-call emergency services workforce.
- In many cases the SFRS currently has a trained workforce in an area where there is no community first responder scheme, that with little extra expenditure could be used for emergency medical response as well. To develop a parallel community first responder capability in these areas may represent an unnecessary duplication of effort.
- Although it is not a significant issue in many rural areas, fire service personnel are trained in emergency driving and are able to respond to emergencies under 'blue light' conditions, which community volunteers cannot.

The SFRS has already indicated a willingness to make its fire stations available for training sessions for community first responder groups, and this represents another opportunity to promote closer working between the SFRS and SAS that we endorse.

Joint working

We think that it is fundamental to all of this that future developments are considered in the context of joint working between the SFRS and SAS. Fire-based emergency medical response is not a substitute for an ambulance service – rather, it should complement that service and allow for the delivery of better outcomes to the community. In the past, there has been good work done between the fire and ambulance services in Scotland to work co-operatively and pursue joint initiatives.

It is, however, our view that the proper consideration of fire-based emergency medical response in Scotland requires a transformational change in that relationship. Instead of viewing their respective response activities as separate from each other and requiring only to be co-ordinated at the boundaries, we believe that fire and ambulance services should increasingly see themselves as jointly contributing to attending certain emergency incidents to provide the best possible outcomes for the public, regardless of the nature of the incident.

That does not mean merging the services or attempting to train all responders as experts in all types of incident. There needs to be specialist intervention by trained paramedics at a medical incident just as there needs to be specialist intervention by trained firefighters at a fire. But if fire and rescue service personnel, trained in initial emergency interventions, can attend at medical incidents before the ambulance service is able to get there – and save lives by doing so – then in our view the public would not expect traditional views of what a firefighter does to stand in the way of that.

4 Issues for the SFRS to consider

We recognise that how and to what extent the SFRS and the SAS work together is a matter for those organisations and, primarily, for the Scottish Government. Our role is only to look at and make comment on how effectively the SFRS is performing.

Bearing that in mind, we present the following issues for SFRS to consider:

1. We believe that there is strong evidence that close working between fire and rescue services and emergency ambulance services can provide great benefit to the public. We therefore strongly encourage SFRS to consider how its relationship with SAS can become much closer and to engage with the Scottish Government and the SAS to that end.
2. We think that if best advantage is to be delivered through a new working relationship between the two public services (and by that we mean better services to the public) then a transformational change in the relationship between the two organisations needs to take place.
3. A starting point for the SFRS should be to carry out a formal evaluation of the schemes at Maud and Braemar, to quantify the costs of setting up and managing those schemes, and the benefits that the community has obtained from them.
4. The SFRS should form a view, based on the evidence both from its own experience and available elsewhere, as to whether it will or will not expand the provision of emergency medical response by its staff. In doing so, we acknowledge that the SFRS will need to consider how this fits into its broader strategic assessment of how to provide response services to meet identified risks to the community.
5. We suggest that SFRS sets out a national policy for the distribution and use of AEDs, and that a database of the locations of the equipment and numbers of trained personnel is maintained and shared with the SAS.

Glossary and abbreviations

Throughout this report, at the risk of some repetition, we have minimised the use of abbreviations in the interests of readability. There are some exceptions, particularly where an abbreviation is used so widely within or outside the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service that spelling it out on each occasion would look unnatural. An example is ‘SFRS’ for Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. An explanation of abbreviations used can be found below.

AED	Automated External Defibrillator
BASICS	British Association for Immediate Care
Co-responder	We use ‘co-responder’ in this report to mean a formal arrangement whereby a disciplined service (usually the fire and rescue service) will, as a matter of routine, provide a simultaneous response together with the ambulance service to defined classes of medical emergency.
CPR	Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation
EMR	Emergency medical response
First responder	We use ‘first responder’ in this report to refer to community-based schemes where volunteers from the community will respond on receipt of a call for assistance to defined classes of medical emergency, on the basis that they can reach a patient more quickly than the ambulance service and begin to provide emergency care.
FRS	Fire and Rescue Service
GFRS	Grampian Fire and Rescue Service
OHCA	Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest
Predecessor organisations	The eight fire and rescue services in Scotland, and the Scottish Fire Services College, that were combined into SFRS.
RDS	Retained duty system. Firefighters live and work away from their fire station and are alerted to attend emergency calls by means of a pager.
SAS	Scottish Ambulance Service
SFRS	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
VF/VT	Ventricular fibrillation/ventricular tachycardia; the two heart conditions that may be successfully treated with defibrillation.
2005 Act	The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005



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