



**Berwickshire Locality Committee 15th June 2017
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report**

(Station Manager Matt Acton)

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the Berwickshire Locality Committee on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity since the last forum meeting on 2nd March 2017.

Within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-2017 for the Scottish Borders, five priorities, and actions outcomes are identified;

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

Response & Resilience activity in the Berwickshire Area

Incident type	Occurrences	Detail	Casualties
Fire- House	3	3 x accidental	2 (carbon monoxide)
Fire- other	11	6 x grass/woodland 3 x vehicle 2 x chimney	0
Special Service	10	6 x RTC 1 x flooding 1 x water rescue 2 x effect entry	4 (RTC)
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	27	Commercial/industrial	0

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Partnership Working

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Community Action Team (CAT) within the Scottish Borders core work centres on the on-going delivery of the SFRS Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) policy. The team continues to expand its partnership working with key agencies including Police Scotland, Health, Social care and Housing in order to focus on members of local communities at High Risk from fire and achieve outcomes in helping to reduce overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires.

Command Officers within the Scottish Borders continue to attend the Safety Advisory Group meetings to ensure SFRS assist in the production of appropriate operational plans for special events taking place in the Scottish Borders.

Prevention and Protection

Fire prevention and protection activity over recent years has been key to reducing the number of fires, casualties and losses in Scotland thus minimising the economic and social impact of fire on communities. The seasonal community safety calendar provides the catalyst for a number of initiatives and schemes throughout the calendar year.

Activity which is ongoing now within the Berwickshire Ward area;

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staff in all our local stations provide Home Fire Safety Visits all year round. These free visits provide the householder with a home visit, focussing on identifying and reducing the risks of fire in the home. Smoke detectors with a 10-year battery life are provided as part of this free service.
- **Living Safely in the Home (LSITH).**

The LSITH initiative is a collaborative approach with community partners and SFRS staff, who fulfil a generic role capable of assessing all aspects of risk within the home including fire, slips, trips and falls and fuel poverty.

There have been a number of referrals made by the SFRS to community partners and an evaluation of this trial is now underway. After this evaluation, it is the aim of the SFRS and other partners within the LSITH group to rollout this work to another locality area (identity still to be confirmed) with the aspiration to have it mainstreamed throughout the Scottish Borders.

Fire crews have been trained to assess the environment of the home for signs of Fuel Poverty, looking at that persons home environment for example are they living in the one room, house is cold, size of property is it single occupancy etc. A referral process is in place for those identified as being at risk from fuel poverty where they are signposted to Heat Energy Scotland, where further support and guidance on fuel poverty is provided.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- **Farm Fire Safety**

We are currently looking at new ways to engage with the farming community to provide advice and guidance regarding farm fire safety and security. Work has taken place in partnership with Police Scotland, the NFU, NFU Mutual and the Scottish Association of Young Farmers, where we have identified a number of positive engagement opportunities.

These include farm walk and talks, attending agricultural shows, markets and auctions, and engagement with young members of the farming community.

- Firesharp is an initiative for Primary 6 pupils, providing face-to-face education within our local Primary schools on matters of fire risk and prevention.
- 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.
- We are developing a strong partnership with the local Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service and involvement in MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference). The Local Authority Liaison Officer (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.
- Road Safety Scottish Borders Community Action Team (CAT) have been delivering road safety awareness to secondary schools throughout the Scottish Borders with the support of the local Whole time personnel from Galashiels and Hawick.
- Fire crews are taking part in a multi-agency Young Drivers Initiative at Charterhall, Greenlaw. This event gives the opportunity for 14-17 year olds from across the Scottish Borders to experience the controls of a car in 'try-drive' sessions and to experience vehicle handling through braking exercises in order to educate the next generation of road users.
- Fire Safety Audits provide a targeted examination of a business premises and their relevant documents to ascertain how the premises are being managed regarding fire safety. The enforcement officer also engages with members of staff to confirm their level of fire safety awareness.
- Unwanted Fire Signals are being addressed by our phased intervention actions which identifies premises which are producing 'false alarms', provides guidance on how to reduce a reoccurrence, and can also evoke legislation if occurrences fail to reduce in number.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- **Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest trial.**

A national trial and a first for Scotland involving Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) to increase survival rate of patients who suffer out of hospital cardiac arrest went live on 29th October 2015.

The trial will run at seven fire stations across Scotland, with three of these being in the Scottish Borders: Hawick, Lauder and Coldstream.

Firefighters at these stations have received enhanced training in life-support, through a joint partnership approach with the Scottish Ambulance Service as part of a range of measures that it has in place across the country to target the condition and create a nation of life savers.

If a fire service resource with a crew who are trained to provide high quality CPR and have a defibrillator is nearer to a potential cardiac arrest than a local Community First Responder team, then Ambulance Control will dispatch them at the same time as the ambulance crew, so that they can provide these life-saving interventions while the ambulance is on it's way.

The trials are part of SFRS's commitment to supporting the Scottish Government's Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Strategy, which aims to dramatically increase patients' survival chances and save as many as 1,000 lives by 2020.

- In a pioneering partnership between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and British Heart Foundation (BHF), all 356 of SFRS's fire stations are equipped with BHF donated 'Call Push Rescue' training kit and each station will now act as a base for local people to learn vital cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills and potentially save someone's life if they go into cardiac arrest.

It takes just 30 minutes to learn CPR using the Call Push Rescue kit and community groups are able to contact their local fire station to arrange a time to go to a station, watch the training DVD, and practice with the kit.

Prior to March 2015, the survival rate from out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in the Scottish Borders was just four per cent, below the Scottish average of 7 to 10 per cent. Two years on, and through this partnership approach, the figure for the Borders has risen to 29 per cent.

Thematic Action Plan

The Spring Thematic Action Plan has recently closed and an evaluation of this is now underway. This focussed on the following areas of fire safety;

- Grass and wildland fires
- Deliberate fires

Crews will now move on to the Summer Thematic Action Plan which focusses on the following areas of fire safety;

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- Deliberate fires
- Summer Safety
- Water Safety
- Wildfire and outdoor safety

We work closely with all our partners in the Scottish Borders Council Safer Communities Team, as well as local partnerships, to promote preventative work.

The LALO is in post within Scottish Borders Council HQ in order to improve partnership working, with a particular focus on the elderly and more vulnerable members of society. 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.

Retained Duty System (RDS)

RDS recruitment is progressing well across the Berwickshire area. New firefighters have now started at Eyemouth (2), Coldstream (2) and Duns (1). Further applicants are currently being processed for Eyemouth (2) and Duns (1).

There are still vacancies, and anyone interested in joining are welcome to meet the local crews during their weekly training nights, which take place as follows:

Duns Fire Station:	Monday, 1900-2100hrs
Eymouth Fire Station:	Monday, 1830-2030hrs
Coldstream Fire Station:	Thursday, 1900-2100hrs

Further details on vacancies are available on the My Job Scotland website:

www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/emergency-services

Local Fire and Rescue Plan

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Scottish Borders 2014- 2017 sets out the priorities for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

We have a statutory responsibility to publish a Local Fire and Rescue Plan. The plan aligns to the SFRS Strategic Plan and adds local context by reflecting priorities for the Scottish Borders. We are in the process of reviewing our 2014-17 Local Fire and Rescue Plan; this review (**included below**) will inform the planning process for the 2017-20 plan, which will be produced late 2017.

We welcome your feedback on the plan as you reflect the needs of the community, as well as highlighting priorities for the SFRS.

Station Manager Matt Acton
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Duns Fire Station
Tel 01361 884504
Email: matt.acton@firescotland.gov.uk

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



Scottish Borders
Local Fire and Rescue Plan
Review 2014 - 2017



**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



Contents

1. Introduction
2. Performance Data – what the figures told us
3. Scrutiny Arrangements
4. Reduction of Dwelling Fires
5. Reduction of Fire Casualties and Fatalities
6. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting (not including Dwellings)
7. Reduction of Road Traffic Collisions
8. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
9. Service Transformation and Emerging Priorities
10. Engagement
11. Conclusions
12. Recommendations

1. Introduction

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is required under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 as amended to prepare Local Fire and Rescue Plans for each local authority in Scotland. Following the publication of our Strategic Plan in our inaugural year, our first Local Plans were published in April 2014.

These plans were developed to direct the Service through its initial transformation journey and have helped to forge our place as a national organisation with a strong sense of local accountability. Against the drive of public sector reform, the local planning landscape continues to evolve to provide a greater focus on protecting the most vulnerable, and improving community outcomes through collaborative working.

The publication of our new Strategic Plan 2016-19 in October 2016 has instigated a timely requirement to carry out a mandatory review of all Local Fire and Rescue Plans. This review will provide us with information on how well we are performing against our existing priorities as well as highlighting areas for continued improvement and opportunities for change against the diverse needs of our communities.

2. Performance Data – what the figures told us

Over the past five years within the Scottish Borders, the SFRS responded to 7538 incidents, which is an average of 1508 incidents each year. The indicators below relate to our reduction priorities within the 2014-17 Local Fire and Rescue Plan. They do not include certain data such as non-domestic, non-dwelling accidental fires and non-fire related Special Services, this data however does form part of the overall incident totals above.

Dwelling fires accounted for 7% of our operational activity over the five-year period and resulted in 96 fire casualties including five fatalities. Deliberate fires, other than dwellings, accounted for 6% of our operational activity over the five-year period. Special Service, Road Traffic Collision's (RTC's) also accounted for 6% of our operational activity for the same period.

Disappointingly, Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) accounted for 59% of our operational response activity.

Green figures indicate we have met our performance target, a red figures indicate we have failed to reach our performance target.

Key performance indicator	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Dwelling fires	108	110	84	109	89
All fire casualties and fatalities	18	28	15	18	17
All deliberate fires excl. dwellings	63	79	92	100	97
Special Service - RTCs	86	76	92	107	94
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	878	919	878	905	870

3. Scrutiny Arrangements

Scrutiny arrangements in the Scottish Borders require SFRS to report local performance on a quarterly basis to the Scottish Borders Police, Fire and Safer Communities Committee. Performance reports are presented to the Committee by the SFRS Local Senior Officer with the following Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) scrutinised.

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 All Special Service Casualties
6. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

It should be noted that the term "Special Service" relates to a range of incident types including RTC's, rescues from height, water and confined space, medical emergencies and effecting entry. Whilst not captured as a priority in our 2014-17 Local Fire and Rescue Plan, our attendance at medical emergency related calls continues to increase and accounted for 8% of our operational activity over the last two years.

HM Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI) inspection 2016

To support this formal review, the outcomes from HMFSI's Local Area Inspections that examine the development and delivery of Local Fire and Rescue Plans, have also been considered.

By undertaking inspections of our service delivery within local authority areas, HMFSI can provide independent assurance to Scottish Ministers and the public that adequate provision for local service delivery is being made, there is equal access to specialist resources, service provision and partnership working is of sound quality and strong scrutiny arrangements are in place. This allows HMFSI to maintain a good awareness of how well we are functioning and builds intelligence to inform future inspections.

By the end of the period 2016/17 it is planned that the SFRS service provision will have been examined in nine local authority areas. These areas included Aberdeen City, East Renfrewshire, Western Isles, West Lothian, Dundee, South Ayrshire, Scottish Borders, Moray and Glasgow City. Once prepared, these inspection reports are published by HMFSI on their website.

On examining the published Local Area Inspection Reports, we noted that HMFSI generally felt that there was a need to identify unique characteristics for each local area and provide clearer use of risk-based evidence to identify and shape priorities across our Local Plans. HMFSI would also like to see a stronger emphasis made on specific local priorities and contribution supported by an appropriate level of local performance measures. Local priorities and measures should be balanced against our national needs as well as aligning to the collaborative partnership working requirements of Local Outcome Improvement Plan delivery.

4. Reduction of Dwelling Fires

We will contribute towards the Scottish target of a 10% reduction over a three-year rolling period

What the figures told us

Dwelling fires can have devastating effects on our communities. The reduction of dwelling fires, accidental or deliberate, continues to be a priority for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in the Scottish Borders.

The incidence of Dwelling Fires in the Scottish Borders has seen minor increases and decreases over the last five years. Consistent with other areas of Scotland there is a higher incidence of Dwelling Fires in our larger populated towns for example Galashiels and Hawick.

Over 50% of these fires started in single occupancy dwellings involving persons 18-64 years old. Most fires occurred during the day between 1600-2100hrs with human behaviour rather than equipment faults being a common cause.

Not surprisingly, the kitchen and cooking continues to be the most common room of origin and cause for Dwelling Fires.

The Scottish Borders has generally charted just below the Scottish average over the last five years with 2.5 people in every 10,000 in the Scottish Borders requiring the attendance of the SFRS to a fire in their home.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Scottish Borders	108	110	84	109	89
Tweeddale West	11	9	4	6	6
Tweeddale East	7	10	4	5	4
Galashiels and District	22	17	16	18	14
Selkirkshire	3	9	3	4	10
Leaderdale and Melrose	7	11	15	8	4
Mid Berwickshire	11	11	10	11	11
East Berwickshire	8	7	7	20	12
Kelso and District	3	14	5	10	7
Jedburgh and District	9	7	3	7	3
Hawick and Denholm	15	9	8	9	7
Hawick and Hermitage	12	6	9	11	11

What are we doing to help prevent Dwelling Fires?

Over the last three years, we have conducted over 5000 home safety visits and fitted just over 10000 smoke detectors in the Scottish Borders. We continue to work alongside our community partners to identify and engage with those most at risk from fire.

5. Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities

We will contribute towards the Scottish target of a 5% reduction, over a three-year rolling period in relation to fire casualties and fatalities

What the figures told us

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.

Figures relating to fire casualties have averaged 17 over the last five years with exception of 2013/14 when we experienced a sharp rise in casualties. There have been five fire fatalities for the same period, one each year. The wards of Lauderdale & Melrose, Mid Berwickshire, Hawick & Denholm and Hawick & Hermitage collectively accounted for 58% of all fire casualties in the Scottish Borders over the five-year period.

Casualty figures include those who have received a precautionary check-up and no further treatment. Many non-fatal casualties suffered minor injuries such as slight smoke inhalation, very few required hospitalisation.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Scottish Borders	18	28	15	18	17
Tweeddale West	0	2	1	2	2
Tweeddale East	2	2	0	0	0
Galashiels and District	2	2	0	3	1
Selkirkshire	1	0	1	0	3
Leaderdale and Melrose	2	5	4	2	0
Mid Berwickshire	2	6	3	2	4
East Berwickshire	1	0	1	1	1
Kelso and District	0	2	0	1	1
Jedburgh and District	4	0	1	3	0
Hawick and Denholm	2	5	1	2	2
Hawick and Hermitage	2	4	3	2	3

What are we doing to reduce Fire Casualties and Fatalities?

During home safety visits, SFRS staff discuss fire safety measures with occupants and fit smoke detectors if required. Knowing what to do in the event of a fire is crucial to maintaining your safety and others within the home. Smoke detection gives early warning of fire and it is this warning that not only allows quicker intervention but also gives occupants the opportunity to leave the affected premises earlier thus reducing the chances of serious and life threatening injuries.

SFRS also work in partnership with other public services such as Police Scotland, Scottish Borders Council and Health and Social Care in order to identify, and reach, those most at risk from fire in our communities.

6. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting (not including Dwellings)

Our target against the 3-year average is to continually reduce the number of deliberately set fires

What the figures told us

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 often a close link between deliberate secondary fires and anti-social behaviour.

Deliberate fires can often be of a sporadic nature although increases in operational response activity generally coincide with the spring and summer months.

There have been 431 deliberate fires in the Scottish Borders over the last five years. Galashiels and District has consistently seen the greatest incidence of deliberate fires accounting for 19% of the five-year Borders total. Hawick & Denholm and Jedburgh & District are next highest accounting for 12% and 10% of the Borders total respectively.

East Berwickshire, with 4%, has seen the least amount of deliberately started fires.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Scottish Borders	63	79	92	100	97
Tweeddale West	10	3	8	14	5
Tweeddale East	5	4	9	16	9
Galashiels and District	8	11	18	23	23
Selkirkshire	6	5	9	5	7
Leaderdale and Melrose	2	9	6	6	7
Mid Berwickshire	7	6	8	4	8
East Berwickshire	3	4	4	2	4
Kelso and District	3	14	4	6	6
Jedburgh and District	6	8	6	11	12
Hawick and Denholm	8	7	14	11	11
Hawick and Hermitage	5	8	6	2	5

What are we doing to reduce Deliberate Fire Setting?

Due to the sporadic and random nature of many deliberately started fires, prevention activities are often reactive. The Church Square area of Galashiels and District is a good example of this and has seen a number of partnership approaches to reduce deliberate fire setting whilst attempting to detect and apprehend the individuals responsible.

The SFRS also offer a range of diversionary and educational programmes for younger people such as Cooldown Crew and Crucial Crew that highlight the consequences of starting fires deliberately. The recent SFRS led TD1 initiative was not only innovative but popular and this format, where younger people's personal and team skills are developed to boost employment chances and encourage good citizenship, will be developed for potential use across the Scottish Borders.

7. Reduction of Road Traffic Collisions

Our target against the three-year average is to continually reduce the number of Road Traffic Collisions on the roads in the Scottish Borders

What the figures told us

Responding to Road Traffic Collisions is a key part of our intervention activities within the Scottish Borders. 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. It is worth highlighting that Police Scotland is responsible for investigating the cause of RTC, because of this the SFRS retain only general information relating to the figures below.

SFRS intervention at RTC's can include extricating persons using Hydraulic Rescue Equipment (HRE), rendering medical assistance, or making the vehicle or scene safe. In total, we attended 455 RTC's within the five-year period, on 125 occasions we utilised HRE to remove trapped occupants from vehicles.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Scottish Borders	86	76	92	107	94
Tweeddale West	12	8	18	11	8
Tweeddale East	5	12	13	13	8
Galashiels and District	10	10	13	14	12
Selkirkshire	7	5	6	7	6
Leaderdale and Melrose	13	8	8	16	11
Mid Berwickshire	4	9	8	5	10
East Berwickshire	8	3	8	12	6
Kelso and District	9	3	5	8	8
Jedburgh and District	13	13	8	13	15
Hawick and Denholm	4	3	2	6	5
Hawick and Hermitage	1	2	3	2	5

What are we doing to reduce Road Traffic Collisions?

The SFRS are part of the Scottish Borders Safer Communities unit and a member of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Road Safety Working Group. Community Action Teams (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 and more recently, the Police Scotland led initiative "Drivewise". Reduction of RTC's also forms part of the SFRS action plan regarding the Reducing Inequalities Group within the CPP.

8. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Our target against the three-year average is to contribute towards a continued reduction in UFAS within the Scottish Borders

What the figures told us

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.

UFAS is categorised into Equipment Failure, Good Intent and Malicious Intent. The figure below relates to all three categories however, our quarterly performance report presented to the Police, Fire and Safer Communities Committee focuses on Equipment Failure. Equipment Failure accounted for around 70% of all UFAS calls and just over 50% of our total operational response activity.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Scottish Borders	878	919	878	905	870
Tweeddale West	123	130	93	84	111
Tweeddale East	40	41	28	30	54
Galashiels and District	92	103	92	104	116
Selkirkshire	85	60	81	59	89
Leaderdale and Melrose	73	79	92	78	81
Mid Berwickshire	29	25	52	33	63
East Berwickshire	44	33	41	34	54
Kelso and District	25	29	36	25	76
Jedburgh and District	24	29	33	28	62
Hawick and Denholm	37	41	30	31	68
Hawick and Hermitage	65	60	67	60	96

What are we doing to reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals?

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. This forms part of planned approach with the aim of educating duty holders whilst reducing UFAS calls and ensuring they meet their legislative requirements.

The SFRS has a Policy for dealing with UFAS calls which has been implemented in the Scottish Borders to ensure this is managed appropriately and consistently.

9. Emerging Priorities

Last year the SFRS published its 2016-2019 Strategic Plan. Six Strategic Priorities were identified including “Improving Local Outcomes” and “Modernising our Response”, the plan can be accessed here, http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/media/1005163/scottish_fire_and_rescue_service_strategic_plan_2016_19.pdf

Both of the aforementioned priorities will form key parts of our 2017-20 Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the Scottish Borders. Indeed, whilst not included in our 2014-17 Local Plan, over the last 18 months we have contributed to both priorities through pilot projects in the Scottish Borders.

In terms of “Improving Local Outcomes”, the SFRS lead a multi-agency initiative that targets those most at risk from Unintentional Harm and Injury in the home. The project has seen the role of a local Firefighter expand beyond traditional activities and include holistic home safety such as assessing risk from slips, trips and falls in the home and referring to partner agencies when cases of fuel poverty are identified. The pilot, in the Cheviot locality, is currently being evaluated with expansion to another area of the Borders anticipated in the summer 2017.

With regard to “Modernising our Response”, the Scottish Borders also feature heavily in a national project with the aim of increasing survival rates when an individual suffers an “Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest” (OHCA). Initially seven Community Fire Stations were chosen across Scotland to take part the in pilot, this included Coldstream, Hawick and Lauder. The pilot, which has been running for 18 months, has expanded and now involves 16 stations across Scotland providing a medical response to OHCA in conjunction with Scottish Ambulance colleagues when requested.

The SFRS has taken a lead role in the Scottish Government “Unintentional harm” work stream of the Building Safer Communities Programme. The Scottish wide Strategic Assessment has now been published and will be considered as part of the next Local Fire Plan. (<http://www.bsc.scot/publications.html>)

The SFRS will continually aim to develop, evolve and improve as we look to provide a service that is fit for purpose, effective, efficient and takes cognisance of changing risk profiles and associated community needs.

10. Engagement – what our stakeholders told us

Building on the intelligence we gathered during engagement and consultation of the SFRS Strategic Plan 2016-19 we re-engaged with our key stakeholders to seek further views on our local service delivery.

Feedback identified that in terms of local communities, the majority of people residing within the Scottish Borders are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the service and information provided by the local Fire and Rescue Service. Community partners have acknowledged the importance of maintaining our “core business” however also recognise our contributions to wider Community Planning Partnership (CPP) themes such as Reducing Inequalities. Comments suggest that our CPP partners view the SFRS as a committed member in terms of resource and prevention and they are keen to see us develop some of our innovative projects in relation to Community Justice, youth engagement and holistic community safety.

Opportunities have also been highlighted where we can improve our community engagement whilst making our community fire stations more accessible for the general public and community partners. These opportunities also include wider information sharing regarding persons at risk and strengthening ties with Third and voluntary sector organisations.

11. Conclusions

In reviewing the progress against the priorities within the Scottish Borders Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014 – 2017, it pleasing to note the decrease in dwelling fires and associated casualties. We will continue to prioritise this type of incident whilst strengthening our links with community partners and the public to allow us to reach those most at risk from fire in our communities.

On a less positive note, Road Traffic Collisions and other Special Service incidents continue to rise. Improvements in this area will only be achieved by innovative and concentrated collaborative working with key stakeholders. As a statutory partner within the CPP but also as an emergency response service to RTC's, the SFRS will continue to prioritise the reduction of this type of incident and associated casualties.

It is clear that opportunities exist to improve our engagement with the communities we serve. Only by listening to our communities will we accurately identify their needs, which in turn will direct our prevention activities to the people and places that need them most. We will not do this in isolation and we will look to strengthen and improve our excellent relationships with Community Partners such as Police Scotland and the Local Authority whilst establishing links with other partners from the private and third sectors.

The SFRS has undergone significant change since its inception in 2013. Examples of this have been the expansion of the role of a Firefighter into holistic community safety whilst shaping a Fire and Rescue Service that meets the needs of modern day society and its associated risks. We are keen to ensure that the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2017-20 recognises and reflects some of the key transformational

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

changes which we have implemented and continue to develop in the Scottish Borders.

The review of the Scottish Borders Local Fire and Rescue Plan for 2014 – 2017 has considered the progress that has been made to date and supported the development of key priorities for the next plan. As mentioned previously, meeting the challenges in the new plan will not be achieved in isolation but through effective partnership working and as such, the new Local Fire and Rescue Plan will seek to compliment and contribute to the integrated approach to Community Planning within the Scottish Borders.

12. Recommendations

It is recommended that the following priorities are taken forward in the new Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the Scottish Borders area:

Priority 1: Reduction of Dwelling Fires

Priority 2: Reduction of Fire Casualties and Fatalities

Priority 3: As part of a Community Partnership approach, contribute to the reduction of Unintentional Harm and Injury in the Home for those groups most at risk.

Priority 4: Reduction of Road Traffic Collisions

Priority 5: As part of a Community Partnership approach, contribute to the reduction of all Special Service Casualties

Priority 6: Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm