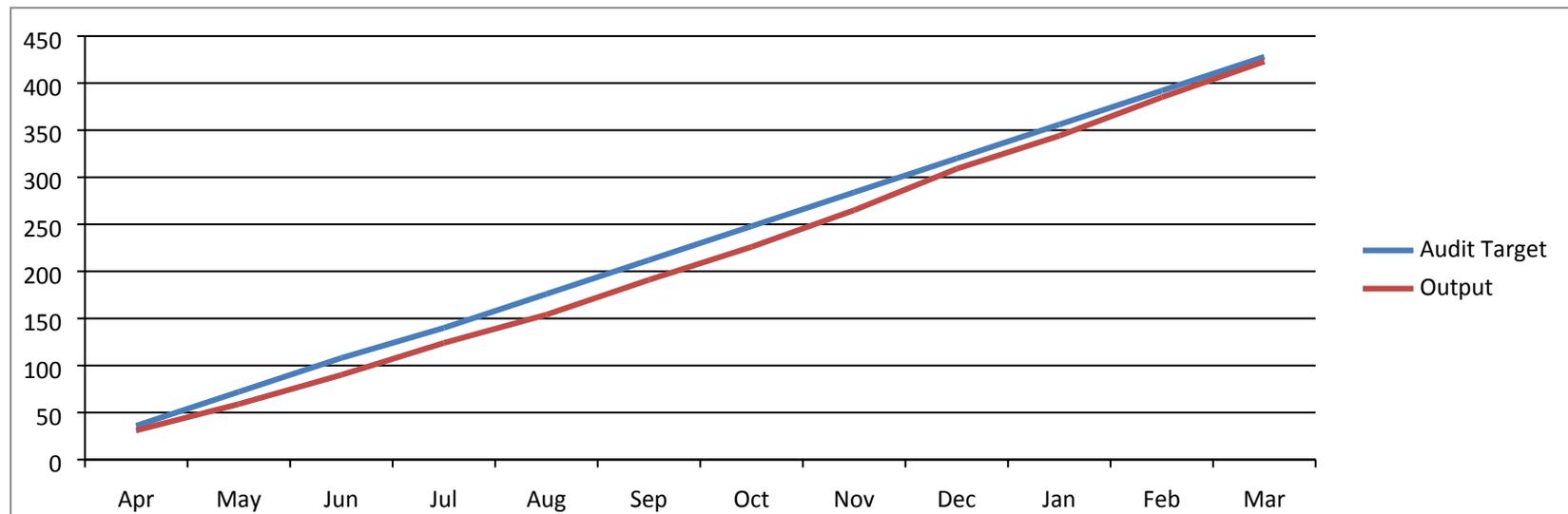


Prevention & Protection Activities

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. This quarter again saw the audit target exceeded, however the annual target was not achieved, falling short by 5 audits. One of the primary reasons for being off target has been the introduction of a new national database and recording and administrative system, which has required extensive training and familiarisation for FSEO which resulted in a loss of output at the commencement of the year.

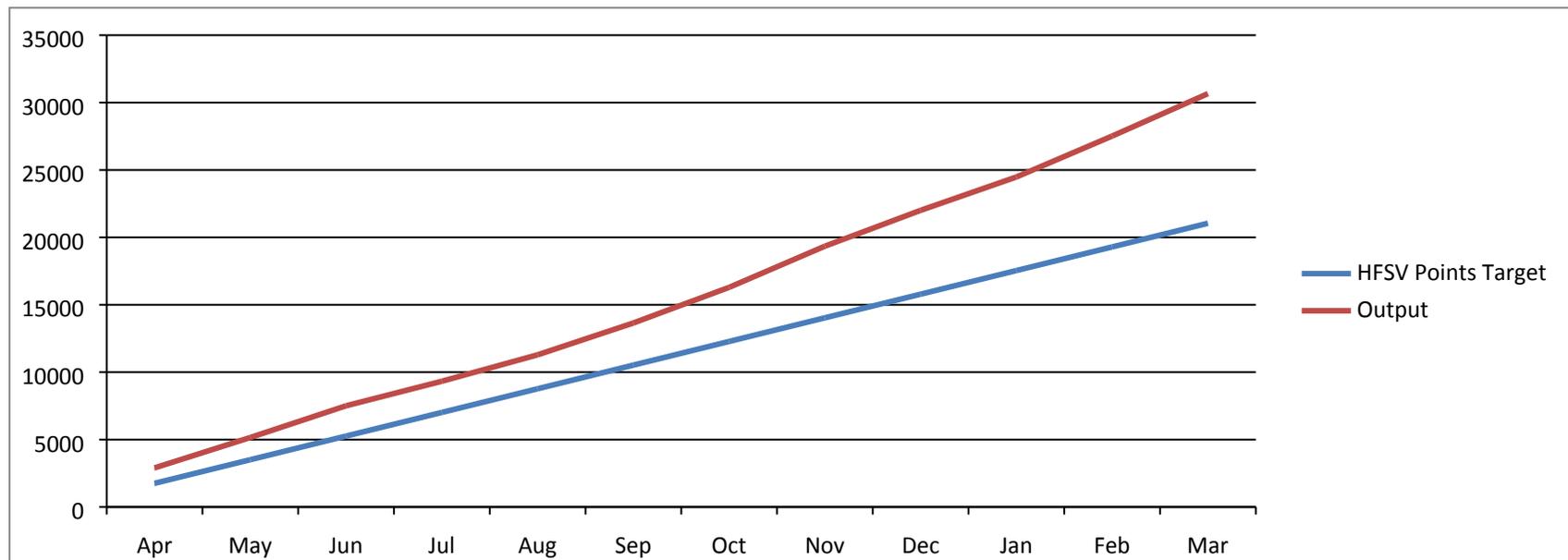
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Target:	36	72	108	140	176	212	248	284	320	356	392	428	428
Completed:	31	59	90	124	154	191	226	265	309	344	385	423	423



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 based on risk and associated target has 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, with the annual target being exceeded by almost 50%.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Target	1754	3508	5262	7016	8770	10524	12278	14032	15786	17540	19294	21048	21048
Completed	2900	5156	7508	9328	11288	13648	16292	19348	22008	24480	27516	30664	30664



Community Safety Engagement

ACTIVITY	SCOTTISH BORDERS
Enhanced Home Safety Visits (No. of households/occupiers visited)	18
Visits to Schools	17
Nursery Visits	4
Road Safety Education (No. of Talks)	2
Road Safety Education (number of pupils)	29
Firesetters Intervention Programme (No. of sessions with youths)*	2
Community Safety Talks / Attendance at Community Events**	67
Crucial Crew***	0
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

In this quarter, the Scottish Borders Community Action Team (CAT) continued to provide Firesharp inputs to P6 and P7 pupils as the underpinning information in support of the Crucial Crew event to follow later in the year. Fire safety information is provided to high school pupils by way of the ongoing Safe T roadshows which highlight the subject areas of the Winter and Spring Thematic action plans. The CAT have had several one to one Fire setters Intervention meetings with young local people in this period and we continue to liaise with Police Scotland officers to identify individuals with fire related antisocial behaviour issues in the Borders communities. In particular, the CAT, together with Hawick fire station personnel under the direction of the Station Commander, is working closely with local partners to address current antisocial behaviour events in the Burnfoot area. Although these events have not involved fire incidents so far, we are fully supporting the joint agency approach to tackle issues which have a negative or damaging impact on the local area and its residents. The CAT look forward to the opening of Burnfoot Community Hub and will take every opportunity to use this facility to engage with local residents, run fire safety initiatives and participate in joint agency projects.

The local CAT worked closely throughout this period with the Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service, Police Scotland and registered social landlords to visit households that have been subject to domestic violence including threats of wilful fire raising. These visits have provided essential fire safety information and victim centered safety planning which can help vulnerable families continue to live safely in their home. The CAT are liaising with the new member of the Safer Communities Team (Safer Housing Options Worker), whose remit is to support households affected by domestic abuse, in order to produce a fire safety information checklist. This checklist can be left with householders who, for safety reasons, cannot accept a visit by the service but will still receive important fire safety advice by this means. CAT have set up a new initiative together with Scottish Borders Criminal Justice Team to provide fire safety awareness raising sessions to offenders on community payback orders who fall into the vulnerable adults and young persons category – all participants are offered full HFSVs.

In February, members of the CAT worked in collaboration with Peebles Pensioners Association to arrange several talks at local sheltered housing complexes. These talks resulted in a number of Home Fire Safety Visits as well as visits to vulnerable elderly residents where we requested the assistance of other agencies in particular Social Care and Health. This work has greatly benefited our local partnership working and forged important links with local health and community support services for the elderly.

The Community Firefighters have been visiting local high schools to deliver a road safety powerpoint and video presentation which addresses the factors which contribute to road collisions and the serious consequences of such events. The presentation is supported by an input given by operational crew using the display crash car which encourages informative and interactive discussion with pupils on topics including speeding, drink driving and lack of driving experience. Both teachers and pupils have evaluated these inputs highly and we will progress to deliver these prevention inputs upon request from schools but also to address any local issues identified through local analysis or sources such as the Scottish Borders Road Safety Working Group. The Local Area Liaison Officer (LALO) together with the Safer Communities and the Institute of Advance Motorists has been involved in the preliminary organisation and preparations for the inaugural Motorcyclists Safety Open Day in the Borders. This event, funded by Scottish Borders Council, will run on April 4th 2015 and offers bikers road and bike safety advice as well as providing 20 places for local bike riders to complete an advanced rider skills course. The event will also be attended by Scottish Ambulance Service and Police Scotland. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have supplied Galashiels fire station as the venue for the event and fully support this multiagency approach to making our local roads safer for everyone.

The Community Action Team continued to expand its partnership working in this reporting period by strengthening existing links with key agencies including Police Scotland, Social Care and Health and housing and creating new links with agencies in the voluntary sector including British Red Cross, Penumbra.

In this way, it is hoped that we continue to increase numbers of referrals we receive for home fire safety visits that focus on all members of the local communities and especially those at higher risk from fire. Work done to promote an increase in referral numbers has included informing registered social landlords of current performance in this area and exploring ways to improve number of referrals the coming months. In March, we supported Waverley Housing Association with both their promotion day held at Asda, Galashiels and their Tenants Open Day at their main office in Hawick. At both these events, we effectively demonstrated that we work in close partnership with Waverley to deliver the home fire safety visit service to their tenants. The LALO has been negotiating with Adult Protection services, Integrated Childrens Services and Social Care and Health Team to improve the links between our agencies and set up secure on line links for referrals which can aid with efficiency of the referral process.

In January we issued a farm fire safety message to the local community using the online Scottish Borders Alert system and this was followed up by a joint initiative with Police Scotland to inform farmers about all aspects of safety for both farm property and land. Farm fire safety and security literature was posted out to farm addresses and further to this we are currently planning to work together with Police Scotland and the National Farmers Union to visit farms and provide further advice on fire prevention including hay/straw bale fires , crop fires, machinery fires as well as preventing accidents involving mechanical processes.

Work is in progress under the guidance of the Partnership unit to progress links locally and nationally with the private rented housing sector. The LALO attended a seminar in February in St Boswells held jointly by SFRS and Landlord Accreditation Scotland. The aim of the seminar was to inform local landlords of their responsibilities particularly with regard to the Housing Scotland Act 2006 and Repairing Standard 2007 which covers the requirements for the satisfactory provision of effective means for detecting and giving warning of fires. The CAT is being promoted as the main SFRS point of contact for landlords and as such will endeavour to advise and support them on how to achieve the most effective fire safety measures in their rented properties thus promoting the highest level of safety for their tenants.

As a result of a multiagency case conference held in March, we will be running a HFSV initiative together with Berwickshire Housing Association in Eyemouth in early April to address locally identified alcohol related issues. This will hopefully help to decrease the demand this issue produces on local agency services as well as the SFRS.