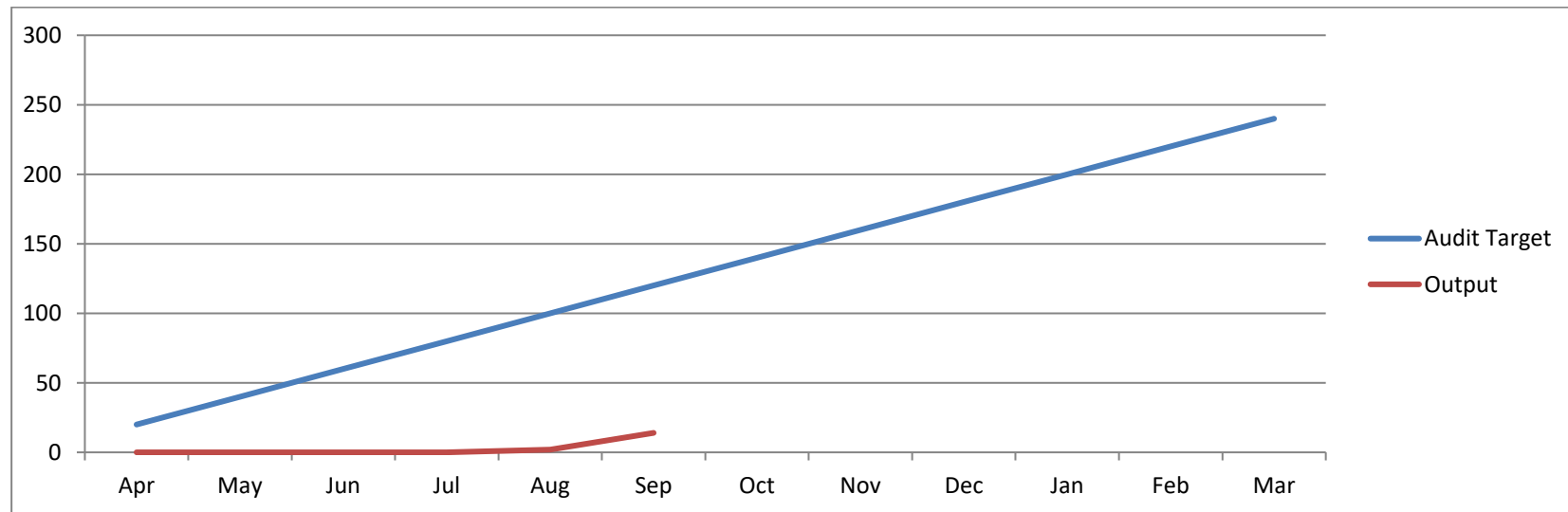


Prevention & Protection Activities

Quarter 2 2020/2021: (1st July to 30th September 2021) 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. The target has been amended to allow more resource to be allocated towards reducing unwanted fire alarm signals (UFAS) across the area. Coronavirus lockdown restrictions continued to impact our audit programme during this period with very few audits carried out. A remote audit process has recently been produced to assist with delivery of our responsibilities. When appropriate advice is provided by telephone to support duty holders with compliance and to ensure the risk of fire is managed robustly. Our FSE team continue to carry audits of regulated premises that have experienced a fire incident.

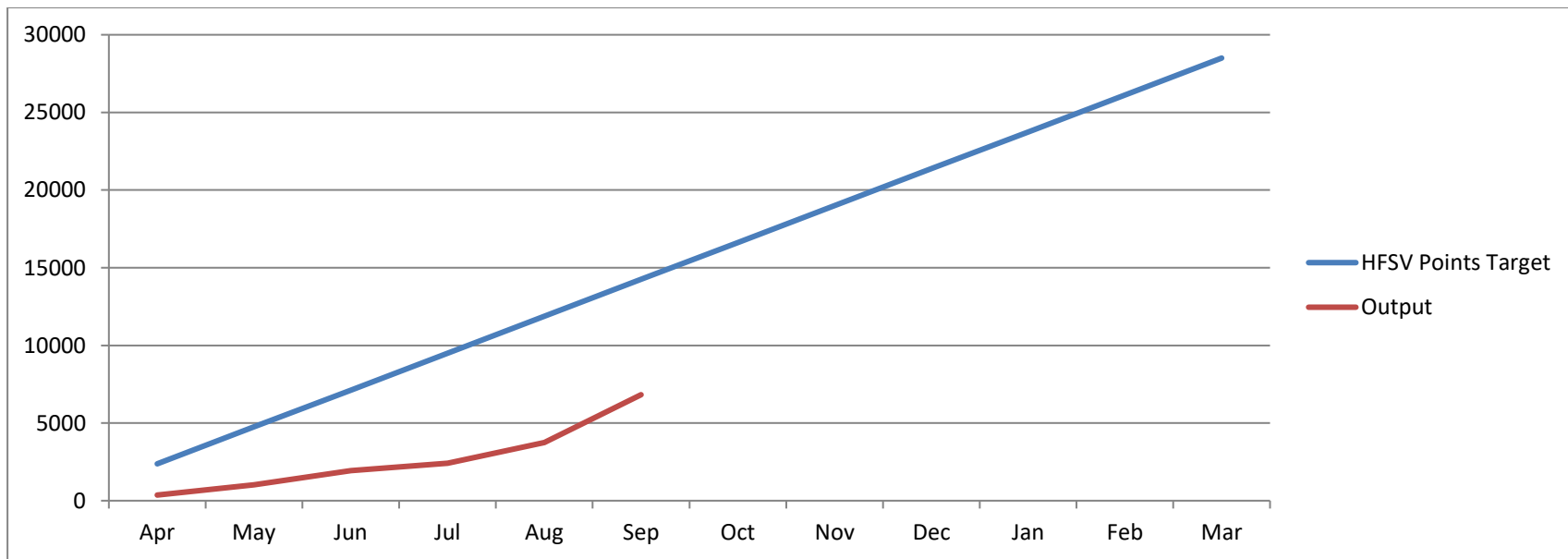
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Target:	20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	240	240
Completed:	0	0	0	0	2	14							



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 used with greatest effect. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we have had to introduce interim measures which included providing this service to high risk individuals only. As a consequence, the number of HFSVs delivered reduced dramatically during this period. **A total of 198 HFSVs** were delivered in the Scottish Borders during this period.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Target	2375	4750	7125	9500	11875	14250	16625	19000	21375	23750	26125	28500	28500
Completed	364	1032	1932	2408	3740	6824							



Total visits delivered in 2020/21 by ward area of the Scottish Borders:

The following table gives a good indication of the coverage across the Scottish Borders where the SFRS delivers Home Fire Safety Visits.

Ward Area	Visits delivered in Q1 2020/21	Visits delivered in Q2 2020/21	Visits delivered in Q3 20/21	Visits delivered in Q4 2020/21
East Berwickshire	2	22		
Galashiels and District	14	38		
Hawick and Denholm	13	24		
Hawick and Hermitage	12	34		
Jedburgh and District	4	11		
Kelso and District	4	10		
Leaderdale and Melrose	4	14		
Mid Berwickshire	2	20		
Selkirkshire	13	14		
Tweeddale East	1	6		
Tweeddale West	1	5		
TOTAL	70	198		

Partnership Working

Youth Engagement

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, our usual Youth engagement programmes have not been delivered. Engagement activities have gradually increased during this period as restrictions were lifted, however, it is fair to say that we are still not operating at full capacity or delivering what we would normally deliver at this time of the year. We have however, maintained contact with many partner groups, providing advice via social media and delivering thematic information such as summer safety and deliberate fire-setting.

Safeguarding (Vulnerable persons)

Close collaboration with our partner organisations across the public and third sector continues to generate our HFSV referrals. The local crews within the Scottish Borders continue to proactively deliver the Adult/Child protection policy and procedure and have generated **18** referrals (AP1) during this period.

The Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) continues to participate or provide information relevant to fire for the monthly Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and successful actions from these meetings have been delivered.

Referrals

The number of HFSV referrals has increased compared to the previous quarter. SFRS have provided all partners with specific guidance to support the identification and referral of those deemed at greatest risk of fire within the home. Our current HFSV campaign focuses on a particular high risk group and is titled "**MAKE THE CALL**" See page 7

Our HSFV referral systems are monitored on a daily to ensure that high risk households are contacted within 24 hours as per our policy. All referrals are risk rated with a HFSV carried out or advice provided and recorded for a visit at a later date, when safe to do so

When a HFSV is not carried out, households are offered advice on the following topics;

- Cooking and Kitchen Safety;
- Electrical and Heating Safety;
- Smoking and Candle Safety;
- Smoke and Heat Alarms;
- Night Time Routine and Fire Escape Plan.

We have carried out a total of **11 Enhanced HFSV** during this period. This particular type of visit is provided for those individuals who are exposed to a very high risk of fire within the home and may result in additional measures such as telecare or the provision of fire-retardant bedding being recommended.

Other Work Completed or In Progress

Given the impact of the Coronavirus and the necessity to introduce new working practices, this has resulted in less opportunities to deliver face to face services as detailed in previous sections of this report.

We have managed to maintain contact with partners via modern technology systems, whilst also ensuring that those individuals requiring urgent assistance, such as a Home Fire Safety Visit, safeguarding or fires-setter's concerns are addressed.

Bonfire Period

Planning has also commenced to ensure that we are prepared to deal with Bonfire night and the period leading to this. With the potential for less or no organised events this year could result in SFRS becoming busier than normal, although historically the Scottish Borders has been very quiet in relation to unsupervised bonfires or related anti-social behaviour.

Normally we would visit all Borders Schools to provide bonfire/firework safety talks, however, as you will appreciate this has not been an option this year. We have therefore provided all Schools with safety literature and a locally produced presentation which can be delivered by teachers.

Home Fire Safety; New Standards 2021

This period has seen us prepare staff for the introduction of the new smoke detection standards which were originally to be invoked as of 1st February 2020. The new standard means that all domestic households must have a combination of smoke/heat detection that is inter-linked. The system can be hardwired or wireless (Bluetooth).

Alarms required to meet the standard:

One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes

- One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings
- One heat alarm installed in every kitchen

All alarms should be ceiling mounted and interlinked. There is also a requirement for carbon monoxide detectors to be fitted where there is a carbon-fuelled appliance (such as boilers, fires (including open fires), heaters and stoves) or a flue.

At the time of preparing this report, training continues with all operational staff and members of our Community Action Team involved. Local Authorities, Housing Associations and private Landlords are responsible for ensuring the new standards are met. Scottish Government have a dedicated web page to support compliance www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes/.

We continue to support the Scottish Borders Community Planning, Public Protection and Community Justice agendas, participating and having a presence at all levels of governance and delivery.

Although the current circumstances have reduced our ability to deliver/offer all our services, we continue to work with partners on a regular basis, providing advice and reassurance, whilst also planning and considering innovative methods to achieve our goals and objectives.

Do you know someone **OVER 50** who **SMOKES?**



And do they meet
one or more of the
following criteria:

- Living alone?
- Mobility issues?
- Using medical oxygen?

THEY MAY BE AT **GREATER RISK OF FIRE!**



You could help save a life! **#MAKETHECALL**

Book a free **HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT:**

0800 0731 999