

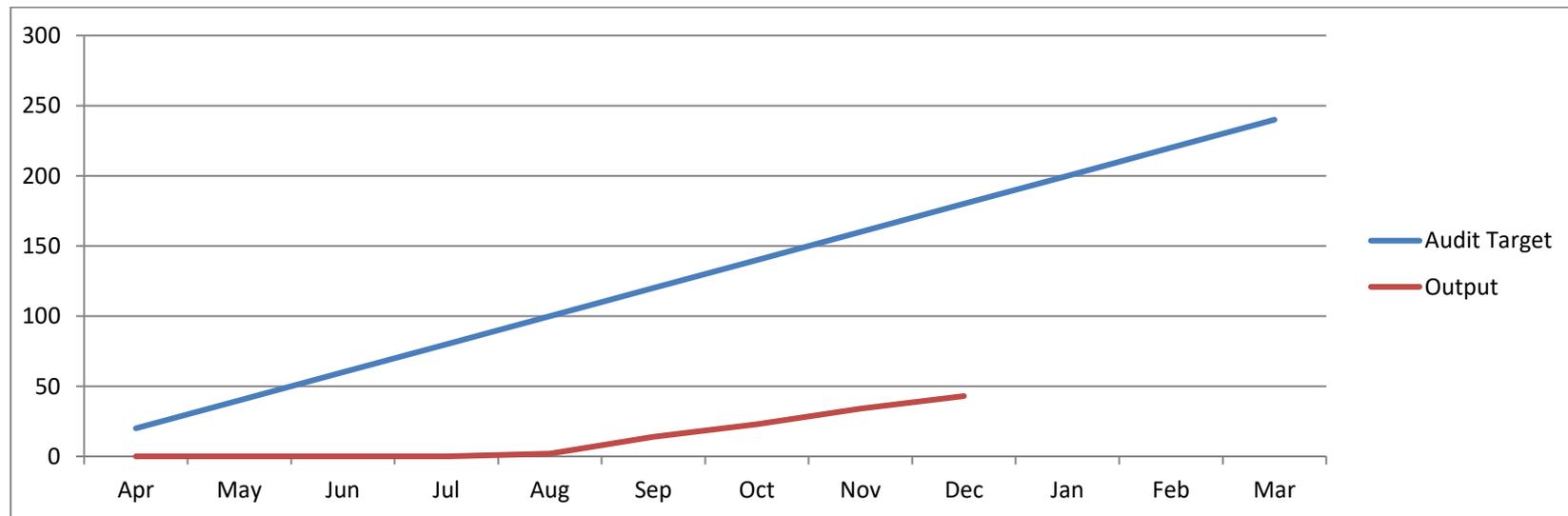
# Prevention & Protection Activities

## Quarter 3 2020/2021: (1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020) Fire Safety Enforcement Audits

The figures below 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 a reduced number of audits completed. Our remote audit process has assisted 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 continued to carry audits of regulated premises that have experienced a fire incident.

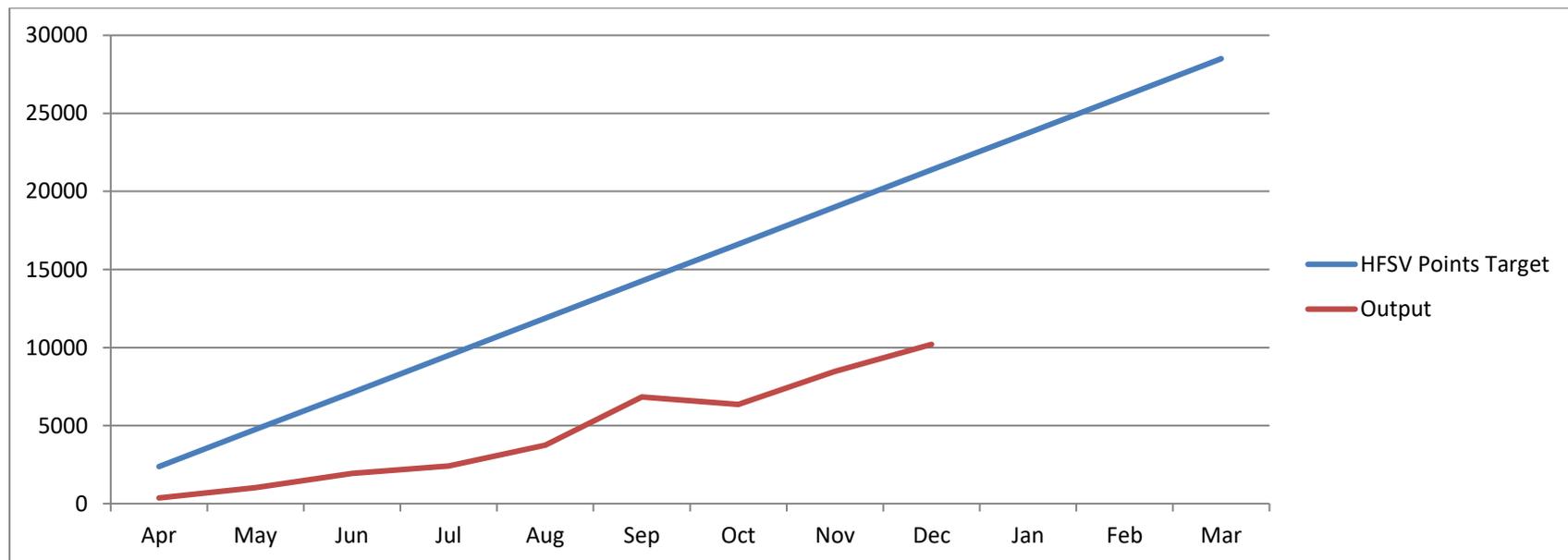
|            | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Total      |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Target:    | 20  | 40  | 60  | 80  | 100 | 120  | 140 | 160 | 180 | 200 | 220 | 240 | <b>240</b> |
| Completed: | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 14   | 23  | 34  | 43  |     |     |     |            |



## 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 282** 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 | <b>28500</b> |
| Completed | 364  | 1032 | 1932 | 2408 | 3740  | 6824  | 6352  | 8460  | 4692  | 10200 |       |       |              |



**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                             | 30                           |                                |
| Galashiels and District | 14                             | 38                             | 43                           |                                |
| Hawick and Denholm      | 13                             | 24                             | 39                           |                                |
| Hawick and Hermitage    | 12                             | 34                             | 36                           |                                |
| Jedburgh and District   | 4                              | 11                             | 15                           |                                |
| Kelso and District      | 4                              | 10                             | 27                           |                                |
| Leaderdale and Melrose  | 4                              | 14                             | 26                           |                                |
| Mid Berwickshire        | 2                              | 20                             | 21                           |                                |
| Selkirkshire            | 13                             | 14                             | 9                            |                                |
| Tweeddale East          | 1                              | 6                              | 20                           |                                |
| Tweeddale West          | 1                              | 5                              | 16                           |                                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>70</b>                      | <b>198</b>                     | <b>282</b>                   |                                |

## 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 restriction 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 **14** referrals (AP1) during this period.

The Local Area 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

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 continued to focus on a particular high-risk group and is titled "**MAKE THE CALL**" See page 6

Our HSFV referral systems are monitored on a daily basis 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 **30 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.

## **Road Safety**

Road Safety is a priority within the Scottish Borders and features within our Local Fire Rescue Plan. The aim of reducing road traffic accidents, injuries and fatalities is shared by many organisations and agencies. A great example of this partnership approach to achieving objectives is the successful Drivewise initiative. As we all know, Covid restrictions has prevented face to face delivery of programmes, including Drivewise.

To ensure that we maintain focus and continue to contribute to Road Safety, we have been developing other options as an alternative to direct face to face engagement. Local P&P staff members are currently drafting presentations and videos which we hope to have ready for April 2021. Partners including Police Scotland will be consulted and invited to contribute to ensure that we maintain a multi-agency approach to this objective.

The main audience will be Secondary School pupils who are about to start driving and those that are newly qualified. The learning will be delivered remotely with a range of options offered to Schools and Head Teachers. Whilst we appreciate the constraints and current workloads faced delivering the School curriculum, we feel that this initiative is very important and will look for cooperation from SBC Education leaders, Head Teachers with the support of the Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee.

An update will be provided at future Committee meetings.

## **Bonfire Period**

Normally we would visit all Borders Schools to provide bonfire/firework safety talks, however, as you will appreciate this was not an option this year. We therefore provided all Schools with safety literature and a locally produced presentation which was delivered by teachers. A total of **9** Secondary and **60** primary schools were contacted. Over **700** responses from teachers and pupils were received as part of our feedback and evaluation process.

We are pleased to report that Bonfire night, and the preceding week, was very quiet in relation to deliberate/accidental fires and associated anti-social behaviour. Numbers relating to this type of activity are historically very low within Scottish Borders. During the aforementioned period, SFRS responded to **3** incidents compared to **8** the previous year (2019).

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**