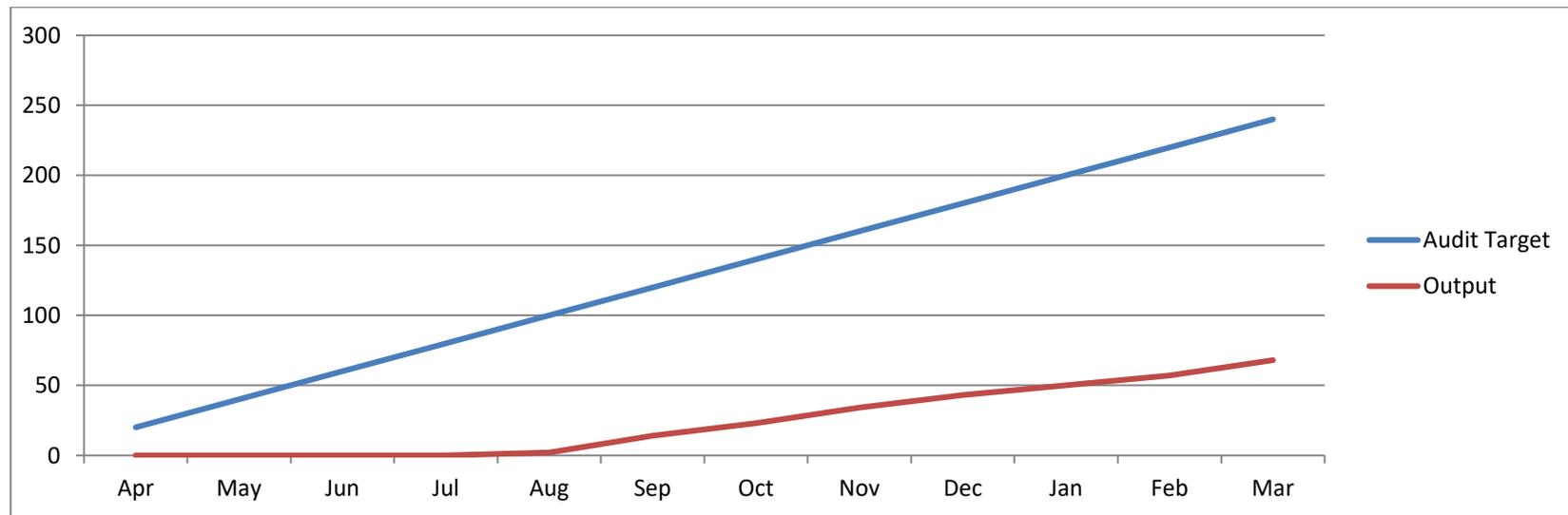


Prevention & Protection Activities

Quarter 4 2020/2021: (1st January to 31st March 2021) Fire Safety Enforcement Audits

The figures represent the audit workloads delivered by our Scottish Borders Fire Safety Enforcement Officers (FSEOs). Following the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Enforcement Framework, local deployment ensures compliance for relevant premises in terms of the Fire Scotland Act (2005) and associated Fire Safety Regulations. As can be seen usual annual targets have not been met. Coronavirus lockdown restrictions have severely impacted our audit programme during this year with a vastly reduced number audits carried out. A remote audit process has 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. All High-Risk premises, including hospitals and Care Homes have received a full audit. Our FSE team continue to carry audits of regulated premises that have experienced a fire incident.

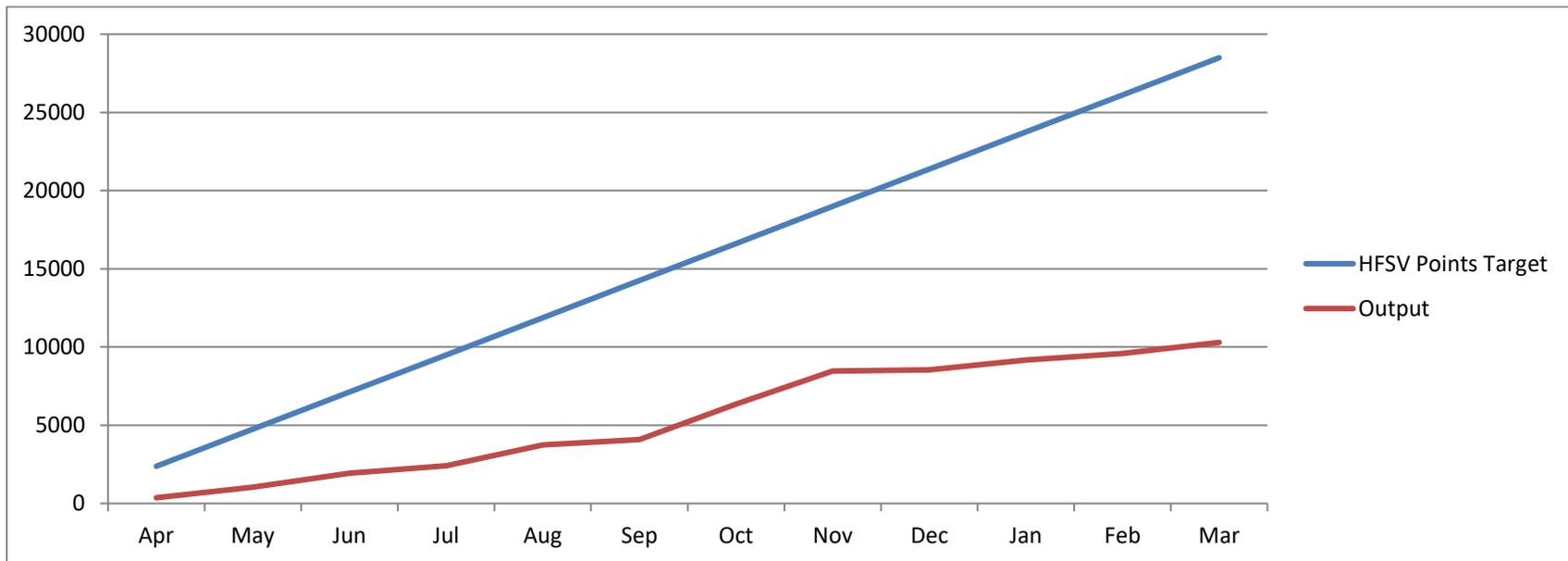
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Target:	20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	240	240
Completed:	0	0	0	0	2	14	23	34	43	50	57	68	68



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 92 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	4088	6352	8460	8549	9176	9598	10292	



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	3
Galashiels and District	14	38	43	19
Hawick and Denholm	13	24	39	13
Hawick and Hermitage	12	34	36	17
Jedburgh and District	4	11	15	7
Kelso and District	4	10	27	8
Leaderdale and Melrose	4	14	26	7
Mid Berwickshire	2	20	21	2
Selkirkshire	13	14	9	5
Tweeddale East	1	6	20	9
Tweeddale West	1	5	16	292
TOTAL	70	198	282	92

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 Road Safety and deliberate fire-setting.

Safeguarding (Vulnerable persons)

During this period our teams continued to identify and refer adults at risk of harm and/or in need of support.

The LALO continues to provide information relevant to Fire Safety at the monthly Multi Agency Risk Conference (MARAC) and support vulnerable people.

Referrals

Whilst we continue to receive referrals from partner agencies, the numbers have also reduced. 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.

Partner agencies have also requested Enhanced Home Fire Safety Visits through Police concern reports or direct requests from social services. 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.

Home Fire Safety; New Standards 2021

As reported previously, SFRS were preparing for the introduction of the new smoke detection standards which were originally to be invoked as of 1st February 2020. The new standard will now come into effect as of 1st February 2021. The new standard means that all domestic household 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/.

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.

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

Fire Safety Enforcement (FSE) Audits.

As previously detailed, the above programme has been severely impacted due to COVID 19 restrictions. Planning for 21/22 is well underway with the usual focus of ensuring high risk premises are audited and provided SFRS support and guidance when required.

Road Safety Initiative Update

Road Safety is 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 presentation and videos. 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 new qualified. The learning will be delivered remotely with a range of options offered to Schools and Head Teachers.

During this period, delivery packages and options were finalised, including participation of Scotland Rugby Captain Stuart Hogg, who provided a powerful commentary regarding his own personal experience from a Road Traffic Collison. Delivery of the programme has now commenced with very positive feedback to date.

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