

Report to: **East Renfrewshire Cabinet**
Date of Report: **10 November 2014**
Report by: **Paul Tanzilli, Local Senior Officer (LSO)**
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Subject: **Scottish Fire and Rescue (SFRS) Report**

1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to apprise the East Renfrewshire Cabinet of Fire and Rescue performance and activities during the second quarter (July - September) of 2014/15, in support of Member scrutiny of local service delivery.

2. PERFORMANCE

2.1 Operational Activity Analysis

The attached Scottish Fire and Rescue (SFRS) performance report (Appendix A) provides elected members with a Ward level analysis of the key areas of Fire and Rescue operational activity in the East Renfrewshire area, for quarter 2 of the 2014/2015 reporting year.

The following is a summary of activity analysis for those Key Performance Indicators (KPI) which are identified as priorities in the East Renfrewshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17, and Annual Operating Plan 2014.

- Accidental Dwelling fires have decreased by 33% (from 18 to 12) during the reporting period as compared to previous reporting year.
- There has been an overall reduction in the total number of deliberate fires within East Renfrewshire from the same period last year. Evidence suggests that deliberate secondary fires increase during periods of schools holidays. It should be noted that there was a 10% reduction in this type incident during the school holiday period.
- There have been no fire fatalities in the reporting period. There have been no fire fatalities in East Renfrewshire in the previous five years.
- There has been one non fatal fire casualty during the reporting period, which continues to reflect very low fire casualty figures within East Renfrewshire.
- Fires in non-domestic properties which include commercial, industrial and local authority buildings continue to show a downward trend, with 5 fires occurring this year compared to a figure of 8 for this reporting period during 2013/14.
- The total number of false alarms attended has increased from 110 to 132. This is mainly due to calls of good intent, or equipment failure, and will remain a key area of improvement for SFRS in the coming months. Malicious false alarm calls continue to show year on year reduction, and currently shows a favourable 73% reduction based on a 3 year average.

- For the majority of the KPIs contained within the report there is an overall reduction in activity from the previous reporting year.

3. PRIORITIES & INTERVENTIONS (2014/15)

SFRS is committed to working in partnership with Community Planning partners in the public, private, and voluntary sectors in order to work together for a safer Scotland. Strengthening our relationship with and working in partnership to add value to our communities is critical to the success of our strategy.

The following activities are illustrative of SFRS activities in terms of educational activities and interventions:

Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) - SFRS personnel delivered 365 HFSV in East Renfrewshire in the current reporting period where SFRS staff conducted risk assessments, provided safety education and fitted free smoke alarms.

Safety in the Park – Multi-agency experiential learning programme was delivered prior to the summer holiday period. Positive reinforcement of fire safety and community safety by SFRS had an impact on the number of deliberate fires and malicious calls during this period.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals – Over the last couple of months, SFRS have been working closely with local Housing Associations to help reduce the number of unwanted fire alarm signals and equipment faults in Sheltered Housing Units, and to promote Home Fire Safety Visits to vulnerable clients in Independent Living Accommodation. SFRS will continue to carry out joint visits to offset the number of false alarms within these locations.

Cooksafe – House fires within East Renfrewshire are predominantly lower than in neighbouring local authority areas. However, Ward 1 (Neilston, Uplawmoor and Newton Mearns North) and Ward 2 (Barrhead) consistently show the highest level of incidents. 55% of accidental dwelling fires are caused by cooking and SFRS will focus resources to reduce cooking fires by providing 3 Cooksafe courses in East Renfrewshire over the coming months within the above noted target areas.

Doors Open days - Barrhead and Clarkston Community Fire Stations participated in East Renfrewshire Doors Open event on Saturday 13 September. The events were very successful with several hundred visitors in total visiting the stations over the weekend period.

Bonfire Resilience Arrangements – The weeks leading up to, and around, Bonfire Night regularly see an increase in calls about anti-social behaviour with fireworks being misused and illegal bonfires being set. SFRS in partnership with East Renfrewshire Council and Police Scotland set up joint working arrangements to reduce the number of unauthorised bonfire sites in East Renfrewshire, and to reduce ASB, fire related ASB and associated risks to Fire Crews.

Bonfire/fireworks Education - SFRS have delivered Fire Safety talks to all S1 pupils in every secondary school in East Renfrewshire. Presentations were arranged as multi-agency events and were supported by Police Scotland, who delivered safety messages from their own organisations perspective.

5 bonfire type incident's where attended by the SFRS on the 5th November 2014.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is asked to note the contents of this report and its appendices.

Appendix A- Performance Report Q2 (July-September) 2014/15