



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
POLICE, FIRE and COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY 13 MAY 2021  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON**

**1**

---

**Committee Members Present:**

Councillor J Goodfellow (Convener)  
Councillor L Bruce  
Councillor F Dugdale  
Councillor J Findlay  
Councillor N Gilbert  
Councillor C Hoy (Items 2 – 7)  
Councillor C McGinn  
Councillor K McLeod

**Police Scotland**

Chief Superintendent J McKenzie  
Chief Inspector N Mitchell  
Superintendent S Mertes (Items 1 and 2)

**East and Midlothian Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

Mr S Gourlay, Area Commander  
Mr A Anderson, Group Commander

**Council Officials Present:**

Mr D Proudfoot, Executive Director for Place  
Ms S Saunders, Head of Communities  
Mr P Vestri, Service Manager – Corporate Policy and Improvement  
Mr K Black, Safer Communities Team Leader  
Ms B Crichton, Committees Officer

**Clerk:**

Ms F Currie

**Apologies:**

None

**Declarations of Interest:**

None

NOTE: Initial internet connection issues resulted in the meeting being paused for a short period while participants disconnected from and reconnected to the digital meetings system. The meeting resumed at 2.40pm.

**1. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 14 NOVEMBER 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2020 were approved.

**2. POLICE SCOTLAND SCRUTINY REPORT, QUARTER 3 AND 4 – 2020/21**

Chief Superintendent McKenzie provided opening comments prior to the report and presentation. He reflected on the previous 6 months highlighting positive outcomes from partnership working within the community and continuing challenges faced by officers on the frontline. He reminded Members that they were about to enter a busy period with increased visitors to the area during the summer and the resulting implications for resources. He also referred to the impending COP26 summit in Glasgow which would place a resourcing burden on officers within the area.

Superintendent Suzie Mertes gave a presentation on the Criminal Justice Services Division Remodelling Programme and proposed amendments to the National Custody Operating Model. She explained that the purpose of the reforms was to achieve better outcomes for people in custody and to return more police officers to frontline duties. Superintendent Mertes advised that Dalkeith Police Station's custody suite was to be reclassified from a Primary to an Ancillary Custody Centre – meaning it would move from a 24 hour resource to part-time - and she outlined how this would impact officers working within East Lothian. She assured Members that the reclassification did not mean that the Centre was to be closed or decommissioned. She added that, following consultation, any agreed changes would be implemented from July 2021.

Superintendent Mertes responded to questions from Members. She did not anticipate the change of location resulting in any negative impact on legal representation for those in custody. She provided further detail on how the changes would affect operational resources within East Lothian, such as additional travelling time and backfilling of officers when on custody duty. She advised Members that a range of factors had been included in the analysis of options and she offered to provide figures to Members on travelling times to and from Edinburgh from various locations in the county.

In response to further questions, Superintendent Mertes explained that some officers who may previously have worked in the custody suit in Dalkeith may opt not to undertake the same role in Edinburgh and may stay in the local area thereby increasing frontline officer numbers. She also confirmed that the ancillary centre at Eyemouth could be activated if required.

The Convener thanked Superintendent Mertes for her presentation but acknowledged that there may be some concern about movement of custody services towards the centre of Edinburgh.

Chief Inspector Neil Mitchell provided a detailed summary of the performance report. He outlined the performance results for each of the seven groups compared with the previous year and advised that these figures continued to be impacted by COVID-19. He highlighted prevention, intervention and enforcement activity in relation to older/vulnerable people affected by acquisitive crimes, domestic abuse, antisocial behaviour, road safety, drug crimes and serious and violent crimes. He commended the work of local officers who he said

had shown remarkable resilience during the past year and also community partners who had given such strong support to frontline services.

In response to questions from Members, Chief Inspector Mitchell provided further information on the police response to local drug crime, and the outcomes from Operations Juneau and County Lines. He acknowledged continuing concerns about possible under-reporting of domestic abuse incidents and described some of the continuing efforts to support and encourage victims as well as tackling offenders. He also advised Members of a new Problem Solving Partnership set up to deal with the dangers posed by motorised bikes. Replying the further questions, he advised that while there were no major concerns at present in East Lothian regarding puppy farming or dog thefts, this would be kept under review. He also highlighted ongoing prevention work in relation to speeding and explained that while speed monitoring was 24/7, resources were focused in the areas of greatest concern.

Chief Superintendent McKenzie acknowledged the forthcoming impact on resources from COP26 and responded to concerns about the implications for staff welfare and training. He also responded to a question on the backlog in court cases and the impact on officer time.

Councillor Bruce wished to place on record his thanks to the Local Community Police Officer in his ward who would shortly be moving to new duties.

*[Sederunt: The Convener lost connection at this point but re-joined the meeting during Item 3.]*

Councillor Findlay offered his thanks to Chief Superintendent McKenzie and Chief Inspector Mitchell for a comprehensive report. He said he looked forward to the next 6 monthly report which, he hoped, would reflect the end of the pandemic and a return to more normal times.

## **Decision**

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and presentation

Agenda Items 3 and 4 were taken together.

### **3. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES, LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR EAST LOTHIAN, QUARTER 3 AND 4 2020/21**

### **4. EAST LOTHIAN LOCAL FIRE & RESCUE PLAN**

Stephen Gourlay, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Area Commander, summarised the key points of the performance report and gave a brief overview of the issues which had affected his officers over the past 6 months and those with implications for the future of the Service more generally.

He drew attention to generally positive figures contained in the report but noted that numbers may increase as restrictions lifted and the country returned to normal. He advised that prevention work continued although fire home safety visits had been impacted by the need for increased PPE, as had delivery of staff training. However, he hoped that these issues would also see a return to more normal levels in the months ahead.

Referring to the future vision for the Service, he noted strong Scottish Government support to push forward with modernisation which would broaden the role of firefighters. He also updated Members on the current position with pay discussions.

He reported that a consultation exercise would shortly take place on 'Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals' (UFAS), with a number of options being proposed which would have implications for businesses, offices, schools and other public buildings.

Mr Gourlay then presented the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for East Lothian, reminding Members that draft proposals for the Plan had been outlined at the Committee's meeting in November 2020. He advised that many of the previous priorities remained fit for purpose and formed part of this refreshed Plan. He added that the incoming Scottish Government would shortly outline new priorities which would form part of the Plan for next year. In the meantime, he invited the Committee to approve the Plan put before them.

Mr Gourlay responded to questions from Members providing further details of prevention and protection work on residential and non-residential premises and on the challenges faced in accessing schools to promote the Tomorrow's Driver Programme.

The Convener thanked Mr Gourlay for his report and for bringing forward the new Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

The vote on the recommendation to approve the Plan (Item 4) was taken by roll call:

Councillor L Bruce	Agreed
Councillor F Dugdale	Agreed
Councillor J Findlay	Agreed
Councillor N Gilbert	Agreed
Councillor J Goodfellow	Agreed
Councillor C Hoy	Agreed
Councillor C McGinn	Agreed
Councillor K McLeod	Agreed

### **Decision**

The Committee agreed to:

- i. note the performance report at Item 3; and
- ii. approve the Local Fire and Rescue Plan and note that it would also be presented for approval at full Council.

## **5. TACKLING ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director for Place advising of the number, type and geographical breakdown of antisocial behaviour complaints received by the Council during the reporting period and to advise of actions taken in response.

Kenny Black, Team Manager - Safer Communities Team, presented the report. He advised that there had been a 32% increase in antisocial behaviour complaints compared to the same period last year, with a total of 887 complaints received. However, this figure also demonstrated a decrease compared with the figure of 1295 for the first 6 months of this reporting year. He drew Members' attention to the linear analysis of the figures and the breakdown by location contained in the appendices of the report. He stated that there were

18 live ASBOs in place in East Lothian and 2 live eviction cases. The moratorium on ASBO cases had been lifted but court action would only proceed in eviction cases where the antisocial behaviour was deemed “serious”.

Mr Black reported that street-based outreach work had recommenced during the past 6 months with the Community Warden Team maintaining a high-visibility street presence throughout the period. However, the Community Housing and Antisocial Behaviour Officers had continued to work from home.

In reply to a question from the Convener, Mr Black advised that he was in discussions regarding commencement of the Night Time Noise Service as soon as circumstances would allow.

Councillor McLeod said this was an excellent report and he commended the work being done, particularly in the Tranent area.

The Convener concurred, adding that on the two occasions when he had contacted the Warden Team he had received an excellent service.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to note the report.

**6. PFCSSC DRAFT ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22**

The work programme was approved, and there were no items added.

Referring back to Agenda Item 2, the Convener asked Chief Inspector Mitchell for an update on the consultation regarding the use of body cameras by officers in Police Scotland. Chief Inspector Mitchell advised that bodycams were not used by officers in Scotland at present but that a pilot exercise would take place during COP26. He said that, personally, he welcomed their use as it aided transparency, but the consultation was still ongoing and it would be sometime before they might be worn by officers in East Lothian.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021, 2.00PM**

The Committee noted the date of the next meeting.

Signed .....

Councillor Jim Goodfellow  
Convener of the Police, Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee





# LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR EAST LoTHIAN



**SCOTTISH  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**  
Working together for a safer Scotland

**Performance Report, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Working together  
for a safer Scotland**



### DISCLAIMER

The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.

The Scottish government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

Please ensure any external partners in receipt of these reports are aware of this.

1	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
2	<b>Performance Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
3	<b>Progress on local fire &amp; rescue plan priorities</b>	
	<i>Local Risk Management and Preparedness</i>	<b>5</b>
	<i>All accidental dwelling fires</i>	<b>7</b>
	<i>All fire casualties (fatal &amp; non-fatal (incl. p/c's))</i>	<b>9</b>
	<i>All deliberate fires excl. dwellings</i>	<b>11</b>
	<i>Special Service - RTCs</i>	<b>13</b>
	<i>Special Service - Casualties</i>	<b>15</b>
	<i>False Alarm - UFAs</i>	<b>17</b>
4	<b>Appendices</b>	



## Introduction

This performance report provides information on our prevention, protection and operational response activities within the East Lothian for year 2021-2022 (1st April 2021 – 30th September 2021).

The Scottish Government provides an overarching vision for public services. This vision supported by 16 National Outcomes, which demonstrate commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable growth. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) can make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes for East Lothian by contributing to the Community Planning arrangements across the area.

The national priorities for the SFRS are set out in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland. The SFRS Strategic Plan 2019-2022 outlines how the SFRS will deliver against these priorities and the outcomes against which this delivery can be measured.

The priorities contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for East Lothian contribute towards the priorities within the East Lothian Plan - Single Outcome Agreement 2013 - 23.

The aims of the local Fire & Rescue Service in East Lothian are to reduce fire deaths and to reduce injuries from fire and other emergencies in the community. We aim to achieve this by working in partnership, being pro-active and targeting our prevention and protection activities to where they are required, based on evidence.

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for East Lothian identifies the following five priorities as the main focus for service delivery locally:

### Local Priorities:

- As part of a Community Partnership approach, we will make people safer in their homes.
- We will promote Community Resilience whilst contributing to improved outcomes for people involved in non-fire emergencies.
- Together with our Community Partners, we will contribute to making roads in East Lothian safer.
- As part of a Community Partnership, we will challenge anti-social behaviour.
- In partnership, we will aim to reduce the occurrence and impact of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

Area Commander Stephen Gourlay

Local Senior Officer for East Lothian, Midlothian and the Scottish Borders.

[stephen.gourlay@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.gourlay@firescotland.gov.uk)

## Performance Summary

We measure how well we are meeting our priorities using 6 key indicators, depicted below

Key performance indicator	Apr to (& incl.) Sep					RAG rating
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	YTD
All accidental dwelling fires	35	37	23	20	41	◆
All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))	3	4	3	3	4	◆
All deliberate fires excl. dwellings	160	170	116	90	152	◆
Special Service - RTCs	25	24	16	11	18	◆
Special Service - Casualties	23	24	15	13	12	●
False Alarm - UFAs	263	252	289	218	262	◆

### RAG rating - KEY

◆	RED DIAMOND	10% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
▲	YELLOW TRIANGLE	Up to 9% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
●	GREEN CIRCLE	Equal to or improved upon the previous equivalent quarter (or YTD period), or local target achieved.

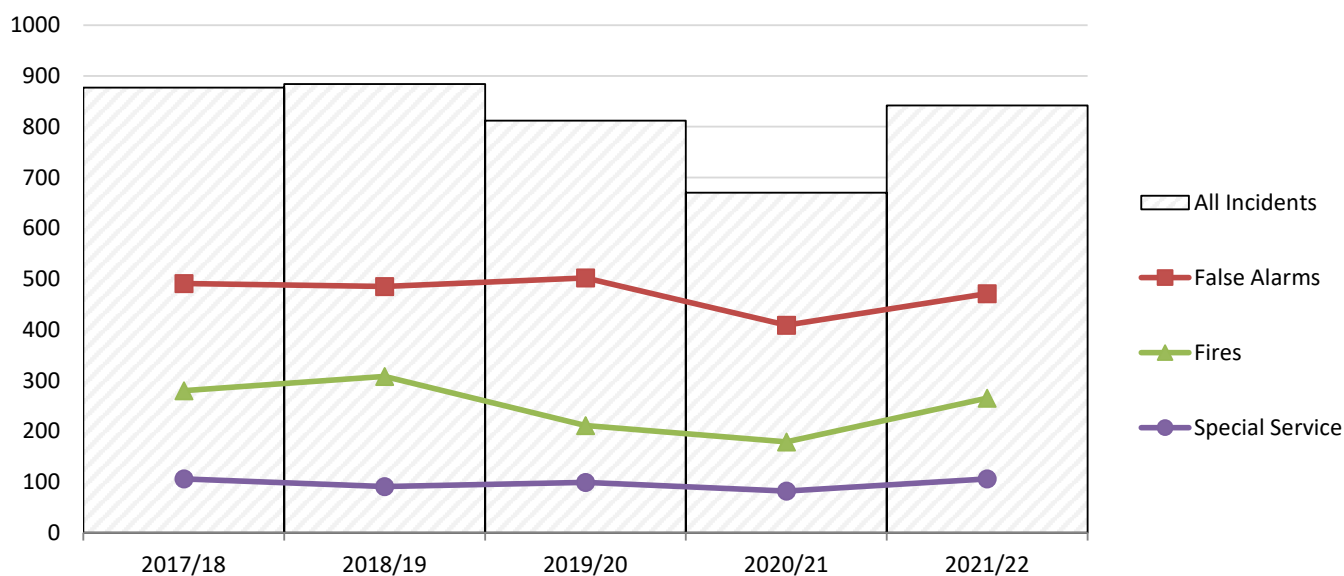
### Note

Quarterly comparison RAG Rating = the reporting period compared to the average of the three previous quarterly reporting periods.  
Year to Date RAG Rating = the cumulative total of all quarterly performance in current year compared to cumulative total of all quarterly performance in previous year.

### Incident Overview

During this financial year to date, SFRS responded to 842 incidents in East Lothian, an increase of 172 incidents when compared to the YTD figure for 2020-2021.

The chart below illustrates incidents YTD attended within East Lothian council over the last 5 fiscal years



**Progress on local fire & rescue plan priorities**

**Local Risk Management and Preparedness**

The Service must identify, prioritise and plan to meet the risks in each local community.

We said we would:

- train our staff to deal with our local risks
- gather and analyse risk information
- work with partners to mitigate risks
- deal with major events

Train our staff to deal with our local risks

All of our operational staff undertake routine and risk specific skill acquisition and maintenance training.

Gather and analyse risk information

All of our operational staff gather and analyse local risk information and operational intelligence, used in our preparations to resolve incidents.  
We conduct Post Incident Debriefs to identify any lessons that can be learned from our preparedness and response to emergency events.  
We use Urgent Operational Intelligence Briefings to inform our operational staff of any safety critical information.

Work with partners to mitigate risks

We continue to be an active member of the East Local Resilience Partnership. We share information with local authority partners and other key stakeholders (e.g. Police Scotland) to ensure emergency event risks are mitigated.

Deal with major events

There were no major fire events or significant emergency events in this reporting period.



## Reduction of 'All accidental dwelling fires'

Accidental dwelling fires can have devastating effects on our community. The SFRS is committed to keeping people safe in their homes. We share information with partners to make sure that the right people get the right information they need, particularly those who are vulnerable due to age, isolation or addiction. Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires contributes to the East Lothian Plan - Single Outcome Agreement.

### Results

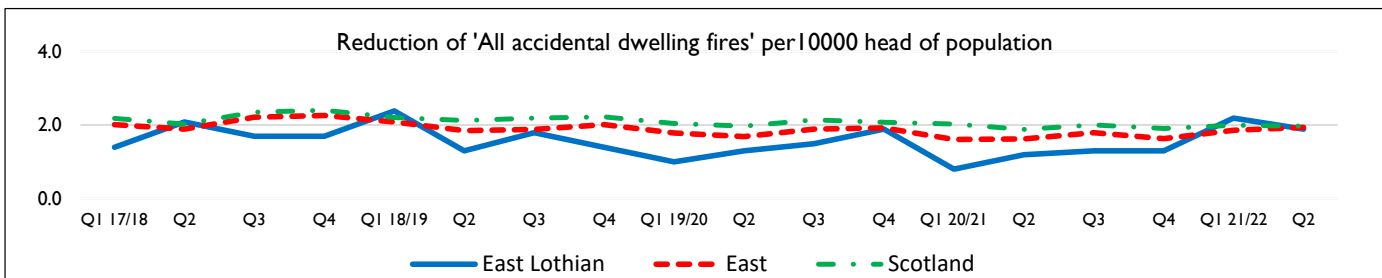
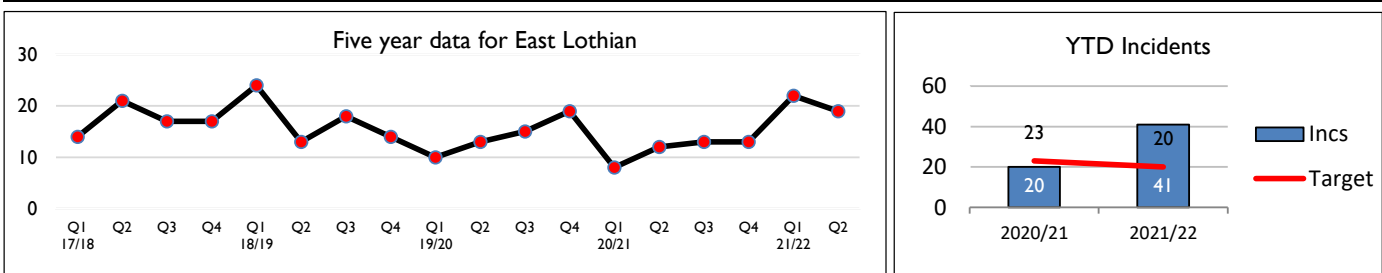
We aim to reduce Accidental Dwelling Fires in East Lothian by contributing towards the SFRS target of 10% reduction per year, over a three-year rolling period. During this period, we responded to 41 Accidental Dwelling Fires, which is a increase of 21 incidents from the same period last year. The long-term trend based upon incidents/10,000 population is performing in line with the Scottish and East Delivery Area trends.

### Reasons

Of these 41 accidental dwelling fires, 56% occurred in single occupancy households. 39% involved the over 65 age category. The main cause of fire was cooking (36%). 90% of the fires had no fire/smoke damage, were confined to the item first ignited or the room where the fire started. Houses involved have benefited from our SFRS Post Domestic Incident Response services. Only 27 of the 41 (66%) dwellings involved had working smoke detectors. It is clear we need to target those at risk in single occupancy households, ensuring those properties have working smoke detection.

### Actions

During this reporting period, 295 Home Fire Safety Visits were carried out within East Lothian. A number of initiatives and events aimed at reducing accidental dwelling fires were conducted.



YTD ward ave. for East Lothian - 7	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
East Lothian	35	37	23	20	41	
Musselburgh	7	10	6	6	7	
Preston, Seton & Gosford	9	4	6	5	9	
Tranent, Wallyford & Macmerry	2	6	5	1	7	
North Berwick Coastal	7	7	1	2	8	
Haddington & Lammermuir	6	7	5	5	8	
Dunbar & East Linton	4	3	0	1	2	



## Reduction of 'All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))'

Fire casualty and fatality rates provide an indication of the amount of serious, life-threatening injuries that occur due to fire. This can indicate not only the success of SFRS in reducing the number of life risk fires through community fire safety and similar activities, but also their success in response activity in saving lives.

### Results

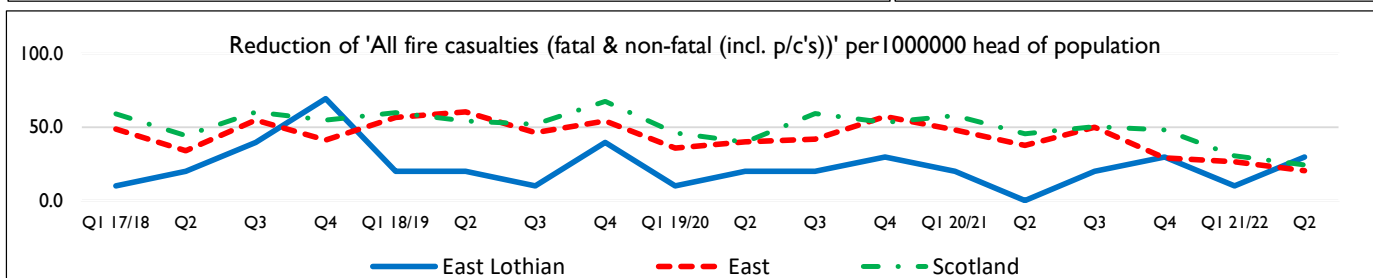
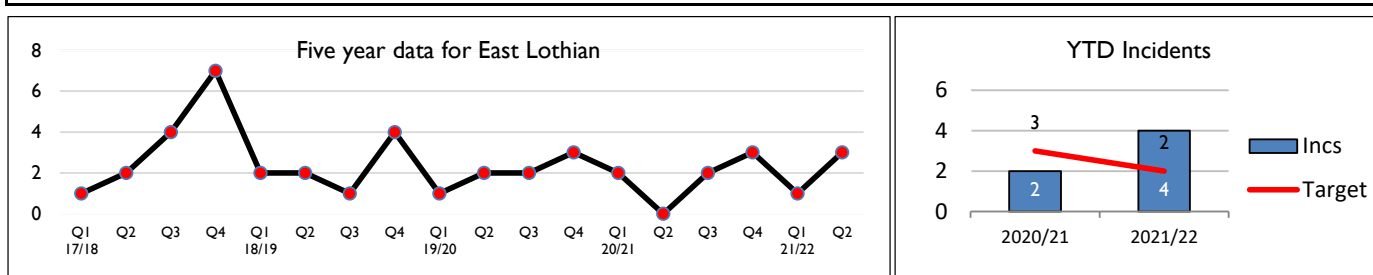
There are no reported fire fatalities, in this 6-month period. We aim to reduce Fire Casualties in East Lothian each per year, which contributes towards the SFRS target of reducing Fire Casualties by 5% per year, over a three-year rolling period. In this reporting period, SFRS dealt with 4 casualties. This is an increase by 1 compared with the same period last year. The long-term trend based upon casualties/10,000 population shows East Lothian is performing in line with the Scottish and East SDA averages.

### Reasons

Historically East Lothian has had low numbers of casualties from fires and that trend continues to remain relatively low.

### Actions

During this reporting period, 295 Home Fire Safety Visits were carried out within East Lothian. We continue to work with our partners in East Lothian Council and seek opportunities with social work and NHS to target those most vulnerable and at risk from fire. We have provided 20 referrals for support to partner agencies.



YTD ward ave. for East Lothian - I	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
East Lothian	3	4	3	3	4	
Musselburgh	0	1	0	0	1	
Preston, Seton & Gosford	0	0	2	0	2	
Tranent, Wallyford & Macmerry	0	0	0	1	0	
North Berwick Coastal	1	2	0	1	0	
Haddington & Lammermuir	1	1	1	1	1	
Dunbar & East Linton	1	0	0	0	0	





## Reduction of 'All deliberate fires excl. dwellings'

Although deliberate fire setting, historically, has not been a significant problem for the SFRS in East Lothian there has been an increase in recent years and is closely linked to other forms of anti-social behaviour. In the main, deliberate fires are secondary fires categorised into refuse/bins, grassland or derelict building incidents. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting contributes to the East Lothian Plan Single Outcome Agreement.

### Results

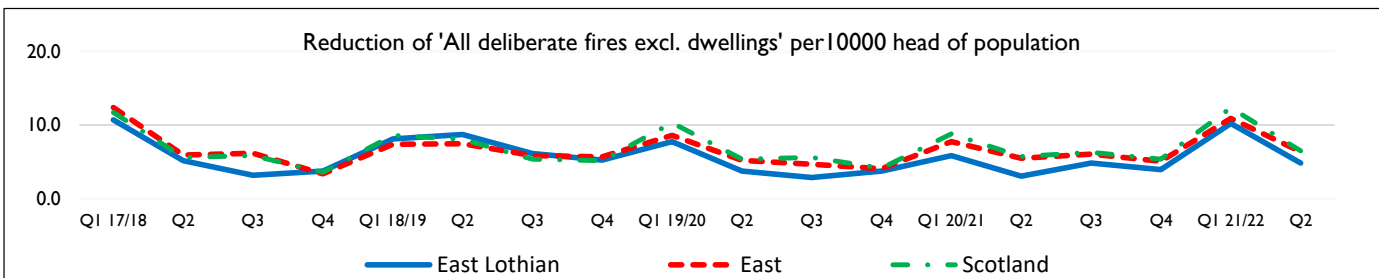
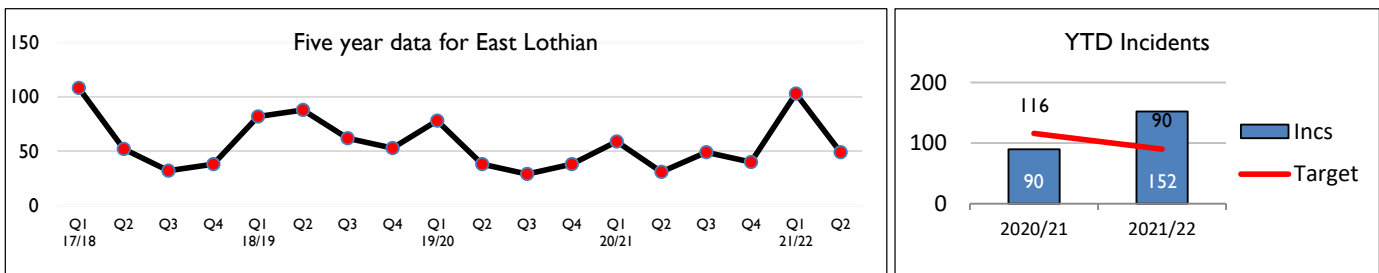
There were 152 deliberate fires during this reporting period.. The areas mostly likely to suffer from this type of fire behaviour are Prestonpans, Tranent, Haddington and Musselburgh. This is a increase of 62 deliberate fire incidents on the same period last year. The long-term trend based upon Deliberate Fire Setting /10,000 population identifies East Lothian is performing below the Scottish and East Service Delivery area averages.

### Reasons

During the reporting period, deliberate ignition to grass, scrubland/woodland fires (72%), refuse and bins (22%) and vehicle fires accounted for 5% of deliberate fires within East Lothian. There were 2 deliberate building fires (A bowling club and a retail shop unit).

### Actions

A multi-agency approach was taken when the incident trend was identified through the TACG. There has been a coordinated approach to the identified trend areas and intervention work has been undertaken with youth groups in Musselburgh, Haddington and Preston Pans. Further information is available in Appendix I.



YTD ward ave. for East Lothian - 25	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
East Lothian	160	170	116	90	152	
Musselburgh	26	26	48	24	42	
Preston, Seton & Gosford	37	41	20	11	33	
Tranent, Wallyford & Macmerry	53	49	18	37	26	
North Berwick Coastal	1	7	4	3	7	
Haddington & Lammermuir	23	32	11	8	31	
Dunbar & East Linton	20	15	15	7	13	



## Reduction of 'Special Service - RTCs'

Whilst much of this risk is out with the control of SFRS alone, responding to Non-Fire Emergencies such as Road Traffic Collisions is a key part of our intervention activities. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to drive continuous improvement in this area. Reduction of Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies contributes to the East Lothian Plan Single Outcome Agreement, number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents.

### Results

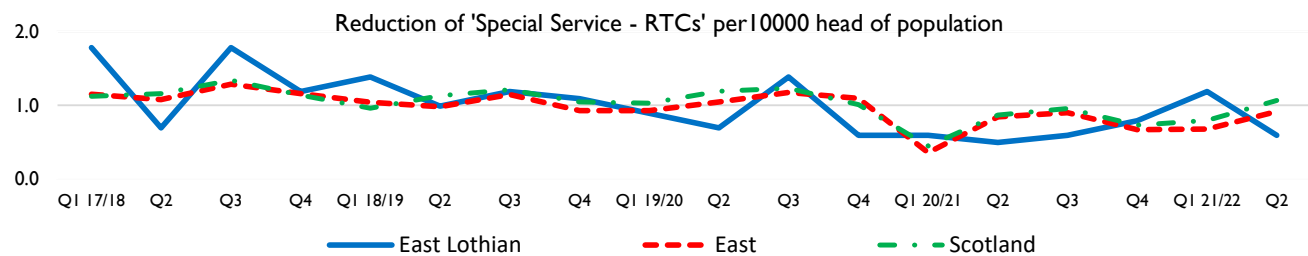
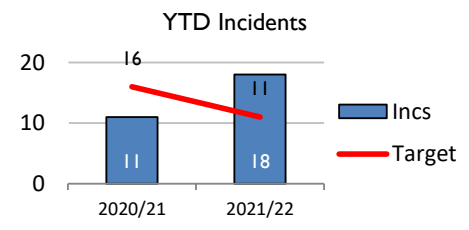
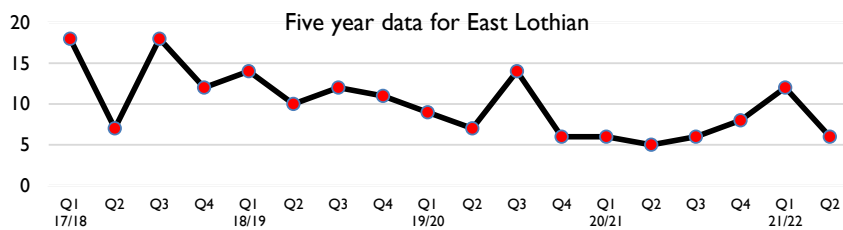
SFRS attended 18 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) during this reporting period. This is an increase of 7 incidents from the same period last year. Per 10,000 head of population, East Lothian is performing below the Scottish and East Service Delivery area trend.

### Reasons

The SFRS only attend those RTC's they are requested to attend and this number does not reflect the total number within East Lothian.

### Actions

The SFRS continues to be a member of a multi-agency approach to reducing Road Traffic Collision's and the associated casualties and fatalities. The continued delivery of Tomorrow's Driver programme targeting young people is an excellent partnership approach in our drive to reduce road traffic collisions. We continue to seek opportunities to educate local communities in support of reducing the number of RTCs and resulting casualties.



YTD ward ave. for East Lothian - 3	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
East Lothian	25	24	16	11	18	
Musselburgh	4	3	6	2	2	
Preston, Seton & Gosford	3	3	4	1	0	
Tranent, Wallyford & Macmerry	6	5	2	1	1	
North Berwick Coastal	4	6	0	0	4	
Haddington & Lammermuir	5	1	3	1	4	
Dunbar & East Linton	3	6	1	6	7	



## Reduction of 'Special Service - Casualties'

Whilst much of this risk is out with the control of SFRS alone, responding to Non-Fire Emergencies is a key part of our intervention activities. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to drive continuous improvement in this area. Reduction of Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies contributes to the East Lothian Plan Single Outcome Agreement.

### Results

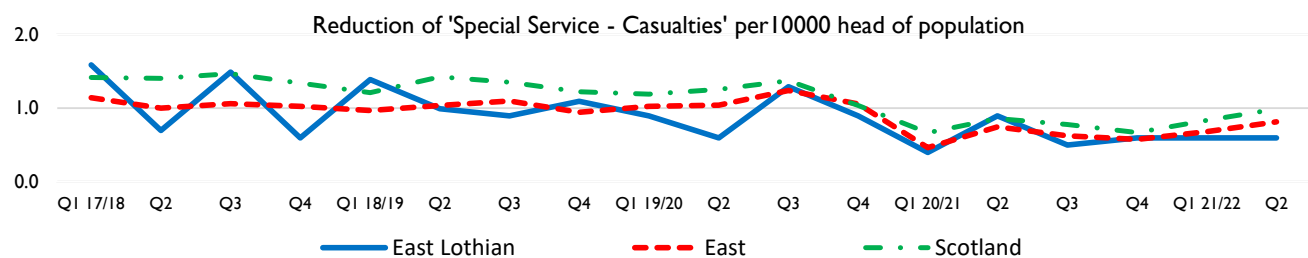
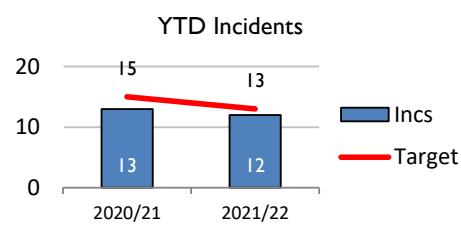
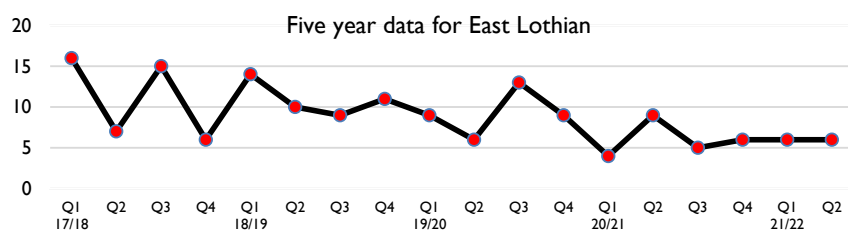
We attended to 12 casualties from non-fire emergencies in East Lothian, which is a reduction of 1 compared with the same period last year. The trend per 10,000 head of population is performing well below the Scottish and East service delivery areas averages.

### Reasons

We attended RTCs that resulted in 0 fatalities and 8 non fatal casualties in East Lothian. The SFRS helped a further 4 non fatal casualties at a range of incidents including medical response and effecting entry to assist other partner agencies. As the SFRS continue to assist with medical emergencies as co or first responders, the incident figures are likely to increase.

### Actions

The SFRS is a member of a multi-agency approach to reducing Road Traffic Collision's and the associated casualties and fatalities. The continued delivery of Tomorrow's Driver programme targeting young people is an excellent partnership approach to reducing road traffic collisions. We continue our full commitment to the Scottish Government Strategy relating to Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) and significantly increasing survivability rates through co responding and education. We will also continue to respond to the communities needs in terms of other non-fire emergencies.



YTD ward ave. for East Lothian - 2	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
East Lothian	23	24	15	13	12	
Musselburgh	6	2	4	5	1	
Preston, Seton & Gosford	2	3	2	0	2	
Tranent, Wallyford & Macmerry	2	3	1	1	0	
North Berwick Coastal	5	5	4	0	1	
Haddington & Lammermuir	3	3	3	1	3	
Dunbar & East Linton	5	8	1	6	5	



## Reduction of 'False Alarm - UFAs'

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are defined as incidents where an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources, when the reason for that alarm turns out to be connected with faulty or defective alarm equipment. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

### Results

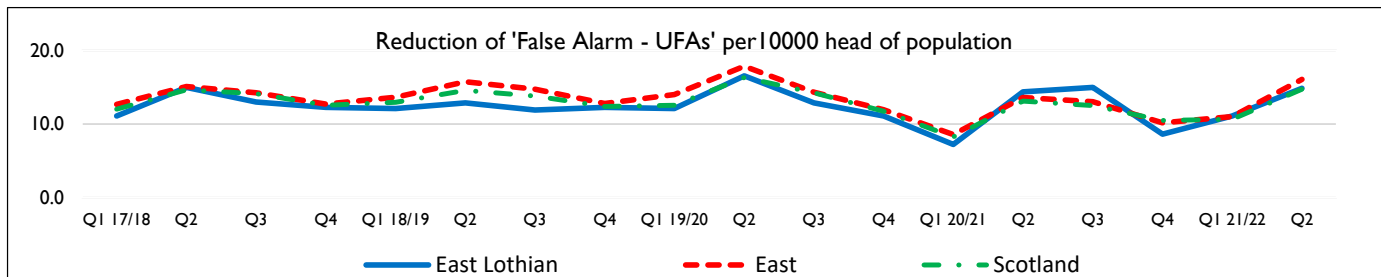
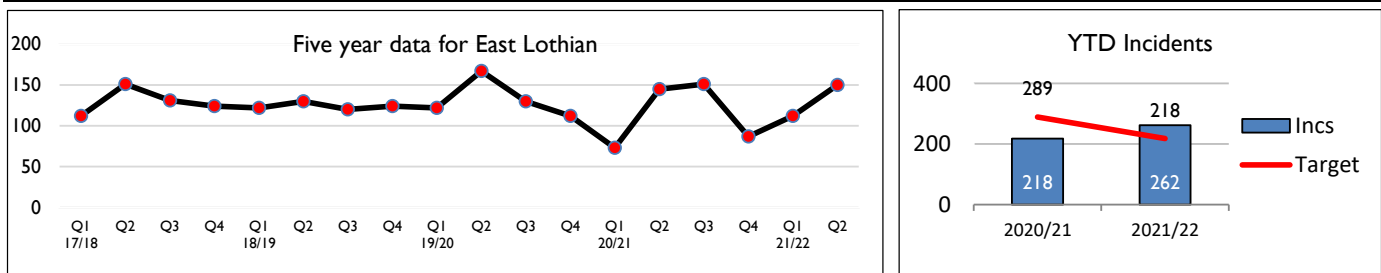
SFRS attended 262 UFAS incidents during this reporting period. This is an increase of 44 incidents compared with the same reporting period last year. East Lothian trend is performing in line with that of Scotland and East Service Delivery area averages.

### Reasons

Of the 262 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals incidents we attended, 80% were caused by system and human errors (Testing, faults, cooking/burnt toast, aerosols etc.), 11% were good intent calls and 9% were malicious.

### Actions

We continue to monitor UFAS calls and our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers work closely with premises to reduce further UFAS incidents. This includes discussing technological, procedural and management solutions in order to prevent future UFAS incidents. These proactive actions are clearly having a positive impact in reducing the number of calls to premises.



YTD ward ave. for East Lothian - 44	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
East Lothian	263	252	289	218	262	
Musselburgh	74	71	72	55	79	
Preston, Seton & Gosford	37	19	29	23	27	
Tranent, Wallyford & Macmerry	47	46	36	26	34	
North Berwick Coastal	30	44	45	31	41	
Haddington & Lammermuir	55	45	71	53	48	
Dunbar & East Linton	20	27	36	30	33	





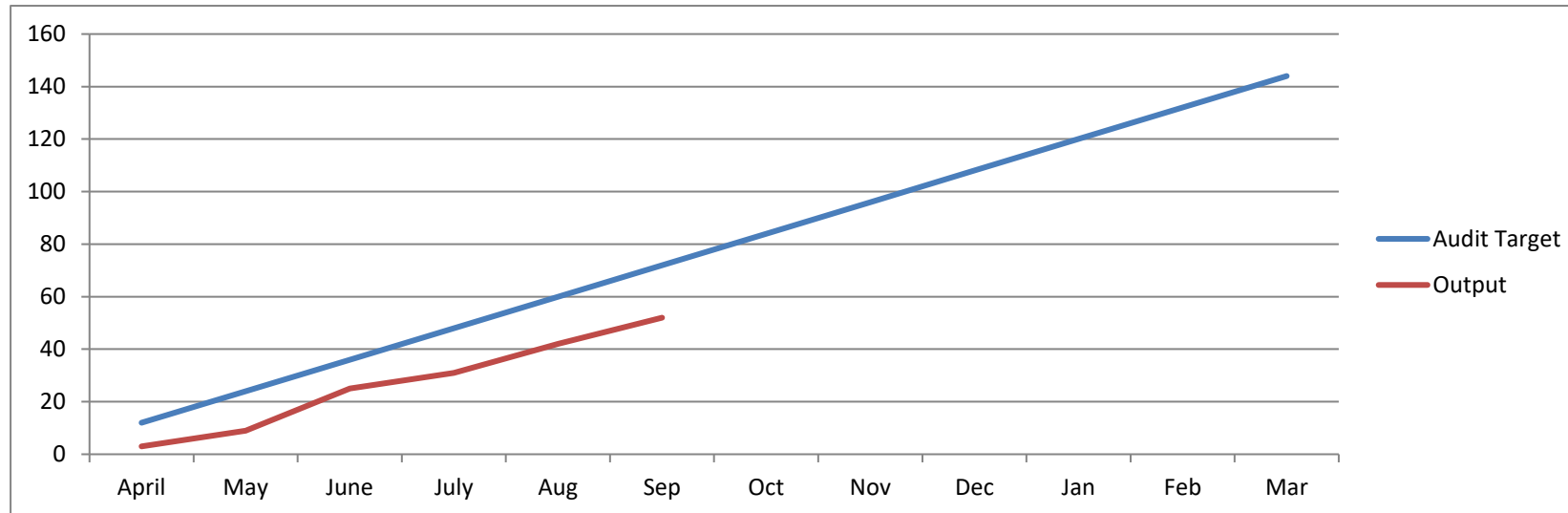
# Prevention & Protection Activities

Year to date April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 – September 30<sup>th</sup> 2021

## Fire Safety Enforcement Audits

The figures represent the audit workloads delivered by the East Lothian Fire Safety Enforcement Officer (FSEO). 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, we are currently below YTD targets as we continue to experience the consequences of the COVID 19 lockdowns, however, we are attending an increased number of premises for audit. This can be seen in improved output, which should continue as we progress through this year.

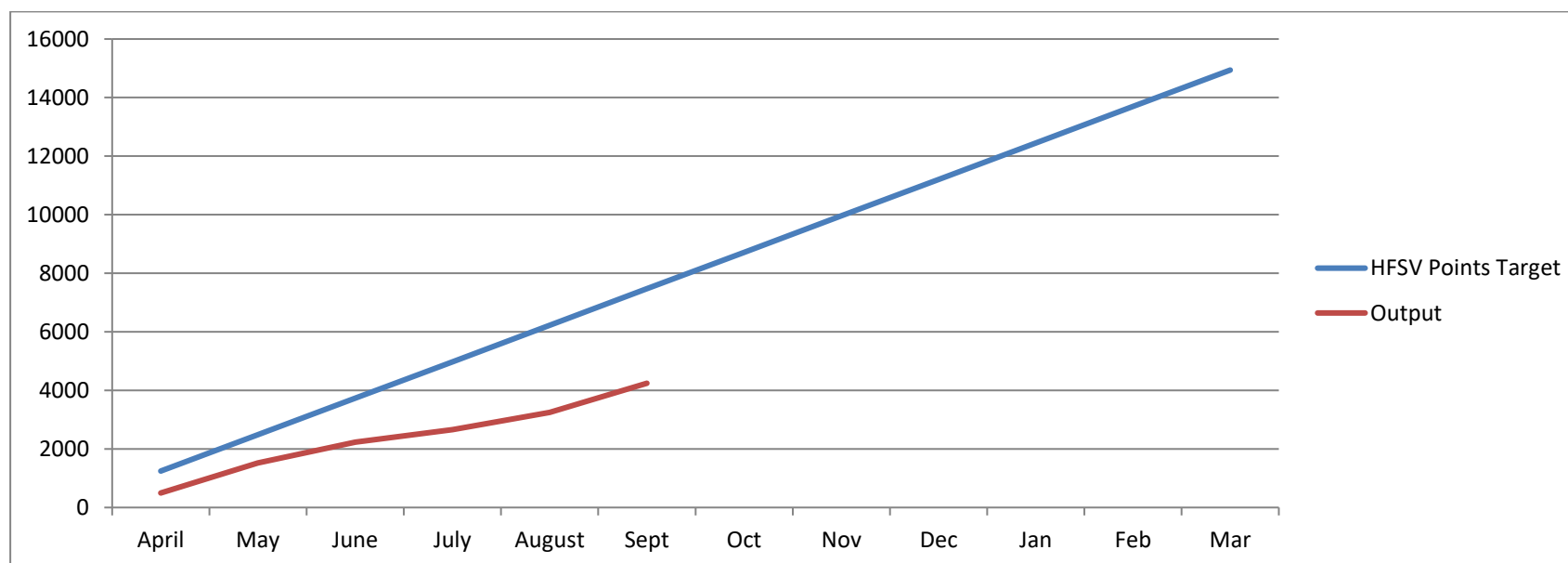
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Target:	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144	<b>144</b>
Completed:	3	9	25	31	42	54							



## 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 free smoke alarms the numbers of dwelling fires and casualties will be reduced. To target the highest risk households across East Lothian, a point's allocation based on risk and an associated target has been set (24 points per high, 8 per medium, 4 per low risk visit). During this period, our full HFSV programme recommenced and this has resulted in a total **295** HFSVs were delivered in East Lothian.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Target	1245	2490	3735	4980	6225	7470	8715	9960	11205	12450	13695	14940	<b>14940</b>
Completed	496	1524	2228	2664	3252	4244							



## Total visits delivered in April 2021 to September 2021 by ward area of East Lothian:

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

Ward Area	Visits delivered QRTs 1&2 2020/21
Dunbar and East Linton	18
Fa'side	53
Haddington and Lammermuir	38
Musselburgh East and Carberry	49
Musselburgh West	37
North Berwick Coastal	33
Preston/Seton/Gosford	67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>295</b>

## **Partnership Working**

### **Youth Engagement**

Over the last six months we have we have been busy adapting to the changing working environment and the easing of restriction during the COVID pandemic. In the early months we were preparing our Thematic plans for Spring and Summer periods. Our method of delivery was predominately via social media, YouTube and providing presentations to schools and other groups. Deliberate fire-setting and water safety being the main topics. As we moved towards Autumn our focus moved to Road Safety. I please to report that although once again most of the delivery was facilitated remotely, we have started to have face to face engagement with many Groups and Schools across East Lothian.

During this period our local teams also commenced preparing for Bonfire activities, developing videos to be delivered across East Lothian These presentations have been created in partnership with Police Scotland and SBC.

### **Safeguarding**

During this period our teams continued to identify and refer adults at risk of harm and/or in need of support. This has resulted in **20** referrals being processed to Social Services.

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

### **HFSV Referrals and advice**

In addition to our HFSV programme and services, we continue to provide information regarding the requirements of new Fire and Smoke Alarm Standard (Scotland), which is due to be implemented February 2022 after being postponed from Feb 21. The responsibility for meeting the standard is placed upon home owners, including Councils, Housing Associations and Private Landlords.

SFRS will fit detectors to the new standard for privately owned occupiers who are deemed to be a High risk of fire.

Scottish Government has recently delivered an awareness campaign with TV, Radio adverts and Social Media.

Full information can be accessed using the following link;

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-tolerable-standard-guidance/>

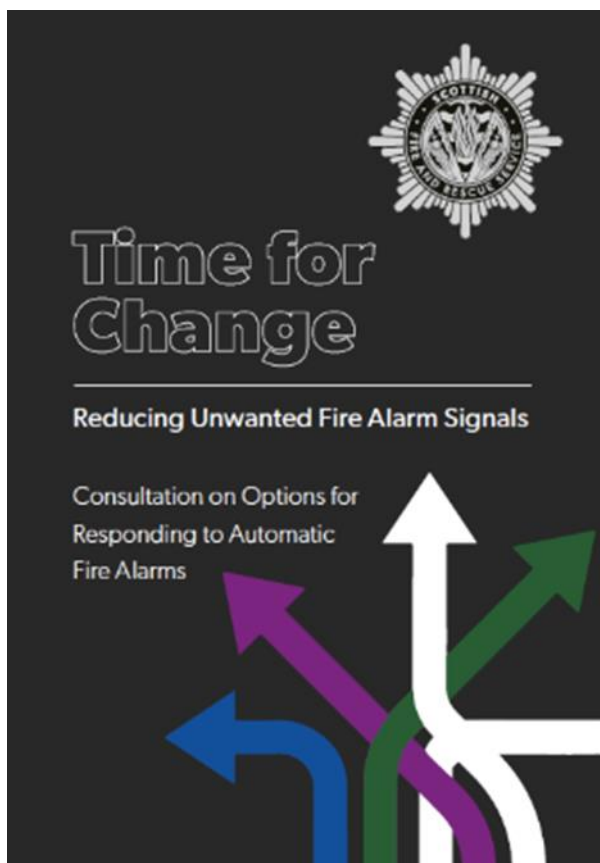
## Other Work Completed or In Progress

As COVID work restrictions have eased, normal services have begun to recover. Most of our Prevention and Protection staff do however continue to work from home and are not yet fully engaged with external partners and service users.

## Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)

Last year SFRS commenced a review of how we respond to Automatic Fire Alarms. Most of these calls are False Alarms and are classed as UFAS. Part of the review included public consultation. At the time of preparing this report, findings from the public consultation are being assessed, with findings and conclusion being shared early New Year. An update will be provided in the next report. Full details of the review can be found following this link;

<https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/consultations/previous-consultations/ufas-consultation/>





**REPORT TO:** Police, Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

**MEETING DATE:** 2 December 2021

**BY:** Executive Director for Place

**SUBJECT:** Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland

**3**

---

**1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To present the opportunity to comment on the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland published by the Scottish Government in September 2021.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the Fire and Rescue Framework and consider whether it wants to submit any comments in response to the consultation on the Framework.

**3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland ('the Framework') sets out Scottish Ministers' expectations of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). The Framework provides SFRS with strategic priorities and objectives, together with guidance on how the delivery of its functions should contribute to the Scottish Government's purpose. The Scottish Government has asked for responses to the consultation on the Framework to be submitted by 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021.

- 3.2 The Framework sets out 7 strategic priorities for SFRS which are outcome-focused and set within the context of the Scottish Government's purpose. Many of these priorities are overarching and are relevant to several aspects of SFRS's role. The strategic priorities set out in the Framework are:

1. Prevention and Protection
2. Response
3. Innovation and Modernisation
4. Climate Change
5. Effective Governance and Performance
6. People
7. Partnership

3.3 Annex 1 (page 36) of the Framework provides a short summary of each of these strategic priorities, whilst more detailed explanation is provided in the main text of the Framework (pages 8 – 35).

3.4 The consultation asks whether the 7 priorities are the right ones to be included in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland, and whether there is anything that is missing that should be included.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no policy implications for East Lothian Council

#### **5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Financial - None

6.2 Personnel - None

6.3 Other - None

#### **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Paolo Vestri
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Service manager Policy, Improvement and Partnerships
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	<a href="mailto:pvestri@eastlothian.gov.uk">pvestri@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>
<b>DATE</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2021



# Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland

## **Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland**

### **Ministerial Foreword**

People across Scotland have had to come to terms with the impact of Covid-19 on every aspect of our lives. Some have faced and had to deal with the ill health or death of a relative, friend or colleague, everyone with the impact of lockdown and restrictions and a daily life which continues to be different from normal.

Against the backdrop of a global pandemic we have seen incredible examples of individuals and families, public and community services, organisations and businesses coming together to respond, with a spirit of collaboration, resilience, creativity and compassion.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) was a key partner in responding to the pandemic and contributed greatly to meeting needs of local communities. SFRS staff are to be commended for stepping up and taking on new roles and adapting to new ways of working.

All organisations need to adapt to their operating context which continually shifts around them, creating new and ever more complex demands on them. This Framework advocates further evolution because the context in which SFRS operates and the challenges that it faces are continuing to evolve.

In addition to the challenges which Covid recovery and EU Exit bring, Scotland is facing changes in our climate, our population and in the expectations the public holds for all public services. While the resultant challenges that Scotland is facing are ever more complex, they also serve to foster opportunities for dynamic public sector organisations like SFRS to flourish.

We are publishing this new Fire and Rescue Framework 10 years on from the Christie Commission - a powerful, inclusive vision which SFRS has embraced in adopting an outcomes-based approach when formulating proposals on the future role of the Service. Its central tenets of empowering, of shared systems that focus on prevention, and of equitable partnerships still hold true but they are yet to be delivered in full. It is more important than ever that we revisit Christie's principles and hold to them as we look to renew.

Fuelled by the ethos of Christie our aspiration is not to produce a 'top down' blueprint for SFRS to strictly adhere to. Indeed, the Service continues to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to creatively deliver the strategic priorities, many of which still hold, set out within the 2016 Fire and Rescue Framework.

Underpinned by Scotland's National Outcomes, the strategic priorities set out within this Framework serve to collaboratively drive forward how the Service can do more for the people of Scotland, while adapting to the changing nature of risks facing communities across the country.

### **Minister for Community Safety**

# Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland

## Contents

Introduction.....	3
1. Introduction and Context.....	3
2. Strategic Priority 1 - Prevention and Protection.....	8
3. Strategic Priority 2 - Response.....	12
4. Strategic Priority 3 - Innovation and Modernisation.....	16
5. Strategic Priority 4 - Climate Change.....	20
6. Strategic Priority 5 - Effective Governance and Performance.....	24
7. Strategic Priority 6 - People.....	27
8. Strategic Priority 7 - Partnership.....	31
9. Annex 1 - SFRS Strategic Priorities.....	36
Responding to this Consultation.....	37
Respondent Information Form.....	39
Consultation Questions.....	41

## Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland

### 1. Introduction and Context

The **Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland** ('the Framework') sets out Scottish Ministers' expectations of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). The Framework provides SFRS with strategic priorities and objectives, together with guidance on how the delivery of its functions should contribute to the Scottish Government's purpose.

#### Legislative basis

SFRS was established as a single national organisation by the [Police and Fire Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2012](#) ('the 2012 Act') to provide fire and rescue services across Scotland. The 2012 Act also amended the [Fire \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#) ('the 2005 Act') to take account of fire reform and further modernise and update the functions of SFRS.

The [Scottish Parliament's Justice Committee's Report on its post-legislative scrutiny of the 2012 Act](#) recognised significant SFRS achievements, including the creation of national capabilities in fire and rescue, which have improved the service to Scottish communities.

Scottish Ministers have a [statutory duty](#) to prepare a Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland setting priorities and objectives and providing guidance to SFRS on the execution of its functions. SFRS has a statutory duty to have regard to the Framework when preparing its Strategic Plan which sets out how it will deliver its functions as well as setting out the outcomes which will be used to measure its performance in doing so.

#### Contribution to the Scottish Government's Purpose and National Outcomes

The [National Performance Framework](#) (NPF) sets out a purpose, values and 11 National Outcomes for Scotland, showing the kind of country we want to be. It is Scotland's wellbeing framework, and reflects the issues that affect people in Scotland now and for future generations. The 11 National Outcomes are aligned with the [17 UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) which set out the major global challenges to be achieved by all nations by 2030.

Progress towards the vision in the NPF is tracked through 81 National Indicators covering a broad range of social, environmental and economic measures.

#### Purpose

The NPF is for all of Scotland. We aim to:

- create a more successful country;
- give opportunities to all people living in Scotland;
- increase the wellbeing of people living in Scotland;
- create sustainable and inclusive growth; and

- reduce inequalities and give equal importance to economic, environmental and social progress.

### National Outcomes

SFRS’s delivery of the priorities and objectives set out in the Framework will also help to achieve the Scottish Government’s purpose by contributing to the delivery of our National Outcomes, which are:

- we grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential;
- we have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- we have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone;
- we are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally;
- we live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe;
- we are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society;
- we are healthy and active;
- we tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally;
- we are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely;
- we value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment; and
- we respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination.

### **SFRS’s Purpose**

SFRS’s purpose, was defined by Scottish Ministers in the [2013](#) and [2016](#) Frameworks and is reaffirmed in the [insert year] Framework as below:

“The main purpose of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is to work in partnership with communities and with others in the public, private and third sectors, on prevention, protection and response, to improve the safety and well-being of people throughout Scotland”.

SFRS’s purpose embodies the Scottish Government’s aspirations for the Service to achieve better outcomes for the people of Scotland. In carrying out its purpose SFRS should work with its partners to identify and focus on mitigating the wide range of risks facing communities in order to keep communities and citizens safe and promote their well-being.

SFRS should be alive to the broader challenges facing our communities and evolve to meet new risks, to adapt to social change, to improve effectiveness and efficiency and to grasp the opportunities offered by technological advances.

### **Christie Commission – 10 Years On**

The Framework is published 10 years after the Christie Commission published its [report](#) on the future delivery of public services in Scotland, and the Scottish Government produced its [response](#) which sets out our commitment to Public Service Reform (PSR). The Christie Commission report and our subsequent PSR agenda

share the same underpinning purpose: to improve outcomes, reduce inequalities and empower people in sustainable ways. Our commitment to reform is built on five pillars: a focus on prevention; partnership working; empowering staff and communities; outcomes-based performance, and an emphasis on the distinctive needs of Place.

A decade on, the need for continuous improvement and the value of these pillars are stronger than ever, not least as we pursue recovery and renewal from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and address the challenges of Climate Change. While we continue to strive and reinforce these principles - by engaging with citizens, promoting open government and empowering individuals and communities – there continues to exist an opportunity for Scotland to be a world leader in developing evidence based approaches for policy with a prevention, co-production and outcomes focus. SFRS should continue to embrace the principles of asset-based working, co-production, community empowerment and participation to drive change.

SFRS should explore how it will continue to change what it does; how it operates; how it works with communities and partners in achieving success and how it will further develop its people to drive better outcomes for the communities of Scotland.

There is an opportunity for SFRS to take a lead in developing some of the emerging methodologies associated with participative, joined up, preventative and outcomes focused policy and practice. For example co-produced research can help ensure that evidence is user focused, relevant and understandable to communities and partners seeking to take a more active role in improving public safety/health outcomes.

## **Strategic Priorities**

The Framework sets out 7 strategic priorities for SFRS which are outcome-focused and set within the context of the Scottish Government's purpose. These priorities form the basis for the narrative of the following sections of the Framework. Many of these priorities are overarching and are relevant to several aspects of SFRS's role. The strategic priorities for SFRS are summarised at **Annex 1**.

## **Covid Recovery and Renewal**

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed our lives on a dramatic scale. The direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic have been devastating for individuals and communities across the whole of Scotland.

The Scottish Government acted quickly to support people and communities, doing all it could to protect people's jobs, homes, living standards and access to necessities. In doing so, the Scottish Government invested more than £1 billion of additional resource to support people impacted by the pandemic and to build resilience in public services. Covid recovery is a priority for the Scottish Government and will be embedded in wider and accelerated public sector reform.

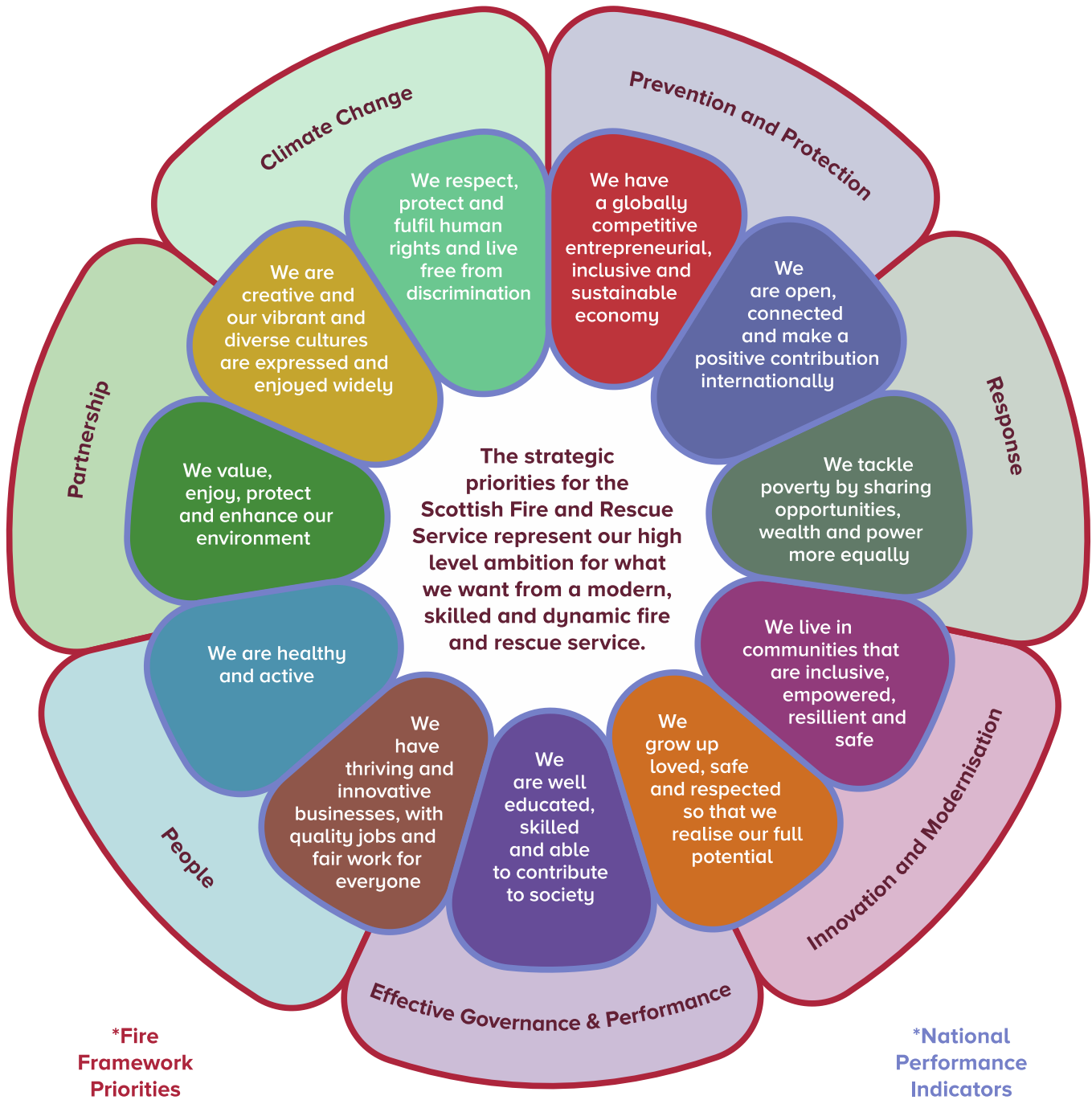
Like many Scottish public services SFRS rose to the numerous challenges posed by Covid-19 and has shown compassion, ingenuity and innovation in how it maintained service delivery whilst harnessing its 'can do' outlook to aid both partners and

communities alike, as well as looking after its own staff. The pandemic has demonstrated that real change can happen at scale when we work together at pace, with flexibility and passion to deliver positive outcomes for our communities.

Another lesson from the collective response to Covid-19 has been that professional, local teams that have more flexibility and freedom to prevent or solve problems can quickly build trust in communities and deliver impressive results. These frontline teams are often best placed to help individuals, families and communities. In particular during the pandemic, in some health board areas, SFRS was able to offer fire stations as community testing premises with SFRS staff assisting the process by carrying out 'meeting & greeting' and 'exit interviews' whilst also tending to important administrative work.

As Scotland undertakes the long, necessary and challenging process of Covid-19 recovery, SFRS should explore the implications and opportunities for the Service going forward.

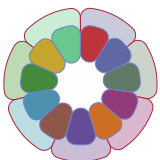
# Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland



The National Outcomes will help to achieve

**Our Purpose:**

To focus on creating a more successful country with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increased wellbeing, and sustainable and inclusive economic growth.



The Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland (“The Framework”) sets out Scottish Ministers’ expectations of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The Framework provides SFRS with strategic priorities and objectives, together with guidance on how the delivery of its functions should contribute to the Scottish Government’s purpose.



## 2. Strategic Priority 1 – Prevention and Protection

The overriding purpose of SFRS remains to improve the safety and well-being of communities. A priority for SFRS is preventing fires and reducing their human, social and economic impact. SFRS should use an evidence-based approach to target groups and individuals according to risk, and universal population wide activities, to improve fire and wider community safety. These should contribute to reducing inequality and encouraging sustainable and inclusive growth. SFRS should work with public, private and voluntary organisations; communities and individuals where they can add value and contribute to outcomes.

### Introduction

Keeping communities safe from harm is a core principle of SFRS. Fire safety is therefore a priority. The ambition is to drive the incidence of fires, casualties and fatalities towards zero.

There is a continuing commitment by the Scottish Government and SFRS to act on the learning from the Grenfell Tower fire that resulted in the death of 72 people on 14 June 2017. Given the scale, background to, and impact of, the fire and the work of the Public Inquiry, addressing the implications will remain a priority for SFRS and the Scottish Government.

Building on the 2016 Framework, SFRS should continue to contribute to the wider safety and well-being of communities in Scotland.

Continuous improvement is integral to all Prevention and Protection work, including fire safety, for the effective use of resources and to achieve impact. This will involve, in partnership, on-going data gathering, analysis and use, to drive improvement to reduce fatalities and casualties and to swiftly identify new risks and trends which need addressed.

### Approach to Fire Safety

Effective fire safety comprises measures to prevent fires and to reduce and mitigate risk. It requires individuals, communities, businesses, services, government and SFRS to work together and take action. SFRS has a key role in continuing to fulfil its statutory duty to promote fire safety and as an enforcing authority for fire safety legislation.

### Statutory Duties

[The 2005 Act](#), and associated regulations, provide the legislative basis for SFRS's fire safety work. It establishes the duty to promote fire safety and appoints SFRS as an enforcing authority for relevant premises. It comprises:

- The requirement to promote fire safety by providing information, publicity and encouragement to prevent fires and protect life, as well as giving advice on fire prevention, restricting fire spread and means of escape.

- Enforcement of fire safety legislation, that generally applies to non-domestic premises (“relevant premises”), to protect employees, residents and the public (“relevant persons”). Responsibility for compliance in these premises is with employers and others with control of the premises (known as dutyholders).
- Informing and encouraging people to be responsible for fire safety in their own homes on a voluntary basis, since domestic premises as defined in the 2005 Act are not “relevant premises”.

As set out in Strategic Priority 7, SFRS should work in **partnership** with communities and organisations in the public, private and third sectors, on fire prevention, protection, response and wider community safety.

### **Promoting Fire Safety**

SFRS should continue to work in partnership to prevent fires. The priority is to protect people most at risk from fire whilst also contributing to reducing inequalities. In particular the longer term effects of fires can worsen people’s social and economic situation where it causes homelessness that prevents continuing in employment.

The rate of dwelling fires and fire related casualties are strongly associated with deprivation. According to the [Fire safety regime for existing high rise domestic buildings - review: Fairer Scotland Duty summary](#), domestic fires are 4.2 times higher and fire related casualty rates are 4.9 times higher in the 20% most deprived areas compared to the 20% least deprived. As evidenced in the [SFRS Strategic Plan 2019-22](#), increased risk of harm, including from fire, is related to such factors as poorer health, lower education attainment and disability. By prioritising these communities, inequalities between households and individuals can be reduced. This targeted prevention should happen in conjunction with proportionate and impactful population wide prevention activities.

Partnership working with individuals, families and friends, other public, voluntary and private organisations is essential, so that individuals and households at risk of fire are identified.

SFRS should continue to use and develop a range of tools and initiatives for community-based fire prevention. The aim is to improve people’s knowledge and understanding so positive fire safety behaviour is embedded. It is likely it will incorporate information, publicity campaigns, guidance, bespoke advice and, where necessary, enforcement action. Central to this is SFRS’s work with communities and organisations to produce and disseminate information effectively. This should be informed by evidence and learning from activities to drive improvement and ensure the intended impact is being achieved. Learning from what does and does not work should be shared across the organisation. Advances in technology can help improve fire safety in communities and the Service should continue to keep abreast of developments and use these to achieve better outcomes by reducing fires to a minimum.

The longer term ambition should be for individuals, communities, services and businesses to be confident and capable in taking responsibility for fire safety for their homes, premises and environment. Only when this is achieved can SFRS apply a

lighter touch focused on maintaining this, with less direct active involvement in education, supporting and enforcement activities.

SFRS should continue to contribute to the strengthening of general Prevention and Protection policy and practice. This includes contributing and advising Scottish Government on policy developments to maintain and strengthen fire safety via building standards and housing policy, notably prompted by the consequences of the Grenfell Tower fire and the associated Public Inquiry.

### **Improving Wider Community Safety**

SFRS already contributes to the wider safety of communities. SFRS should continue to work with partners, as under Strategic Priority 7, for targeted, integrated public safety campaigns that raise awareness not only of fire safety, but of other community safety matters, to be effective.

By gathering and sharing information on other community risks with relevant agencies, more can be done to address those risks. SFRS can, with other public and voluntary services, build community capacity to respond to changing risk profiles (for example aging population, climate change) utilising a broad assessment of safety and wellbeing. SFRS should expand its contribution to improving wider community safety e.g. the prevention of avoidable injury of older people at home, to minimise avoidable demand on SFRS and on health and care services.

SFRS should continue to work to progress the Scottish Government's commitment to building safer communities with partners and develop a co-ordinated and strategic approach to reducing unintentional harm. This should prioritise understanding the risks and support the wide range of initiatives and actions that are already taking place locally across Scotland and to share good practice as enabled under the 2005 Act. This will prioritise groups most likely to experience unintentional harm: people in Scotland's most deprived communities, those aged over 65 and children under 5 ([Scottish Government Unintentional Harm website](#)). Partnership working to reduce fireworks misuse is another priority area that should be continued and built on.

### **Fire Safety Enforcement for Relevant Premises**

SFRS should deliver its statutory duties by providing information, guidance and advice and fire safety audits of relevant premises.

SFRS is an enforcing authority for the [Fire \(Scotland\) Act 2005 Part 3](#) to ensure dutyholders comply with legislative requirements. In line with the [Scottish Regulators' Strategic Code of Practice](#), SFRS should continue a positive enabling approach in pursuing outcomes; facilitating compliance where possible but using formal enforcement where necessary. This involves working collaboratively with dutyholders and other regulators.

The findings from fire investigations should be used to enhance community and firefighter safety, to inform community safety engagement initiatives, fire safety enforcement strategies and inform improvement. SFRS should work with Police

Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and those affected where required.

Where audits need to be prioritised, this must be based on evidence where the risk to life is greatest. By reducing the number, and severity, of incidents in premises SFRS should contribute to reducing the economic impacts of fire.

SFRS should ensure that relevant information from Prevention and Protection and Operations functions is shared in a timely way. This should be two way and includes, for example, Prevention and Protection staff notifying operational personnel of operational risk information which could impact on firefighter safety or operational crews informing Prevention and Protection staff of potential fire safety concerns.

### **Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals**

SFRS should continue to pursue effective action to reduce the number of Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals and the weight of SFRS resources that respond to them. Automatic Fire Alarm systems (AFAs) are a vital fire safety measure in many premises, providing early warning of fire for occupants, but they can be susceptible to false alarms. In 2019-20 false alarm attendances from detecting apparatus comprised 45.0% of all incidents attended by SFRS, a significant use of resources. Driving down these unwanted actuations is beneficial to all those involved by, for example: avoiding disruption to businesses and the public, and maintaining confidence in automatic fire alarm systems. Reducing the occasions fire appliances have to mobilise under “blue light” conditions, will decrease the risk to fire crews and other road users.

SFRS will gather and publish data on the outputs from these activities, including via its Performance Management Framework, and use it to track and report on progress on improving outcomes.

### 3. Strategic Priority 2 - Response

In conjunction with effectively addressing risk, SFRS should ensure that the capability of its assets and staff, combined with technological improvements, enable it to respond to incidents with the right resources at the right time across communities in Scotland. The Service should embrace a flexible, innovative and inclusive approach to its service delivery and resilience planning, ensuring its response resources and crewing arrangements are aligned to current and future risks.

#### Introduction

SFRS strives to provide the highest possible standards of emergency response in all 32 of Scotland's Local Authority areas. Its work is guided by the Scottish Government's [National Performance Framework](#) and bound by the key legislation cited within this Framework's introduction.

SFRS need to continue to adapt to the changing nature of risks facing communities across the country to achieve better outcomes for the people of Scotland. SFRS should continue to analyse and understand the broad range of community risks across Scotland to ensure it has the right resources in the right places at the right time in order to deliver the right service.

SFRS should strategically decide how best to locate its operational resources based on where the greatest risk exists, making certain that the greatest possible improvement in public safety can be assured across all of Scotland. The Service should look ahead, working in partnership with other agencies, to make sure that emerging risks are identified early, and actions required to mitigate and address these emerging risks can be implemented before our communities are exposed to them. This strategic management of risk will enable a consistent approach to achieving an optimal balance between prevention and response and should inform the operational policies and decisions of SFRS.

#### Maintaining Operational Response, Firefighter Safety, Learning and Localism

SFRS continues to have a statutory duty, under the [2005 Act](#) and [The Fire \(Additional Function\) \(Scotland\) Order 2005](#), to make provisions for firefighting and a range of other emergencies including road traffic collisions, flooding, search and rescue, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents, as well as having the power to respond to other incidents at its discretion.

SFRS should provide the most effective operational response possible at times of emergency, whilst maintaining firefighter safety. These two key requirements are inherently linked, as it is only when firefighters have the correct procedures, training and equipment available to them that they can operate to their potential in challenging circumstances.

SFRS should review on an ongoing basis all aspects of the operational performance of its crews, to enable it to monitor compliance with requirements, but more importantly, in an attempt to identify opportunities for improvement, ensuring it takes

action to immediately rectify any identified shortfalls. SFRS should, where appropriate to do so, share lessons learned (positive and negative) nationally through recognised protocols and also with local partners where appropriate.

SFRS should maintain robust systems, processes and procedures that build upon national guidance, supporting the identification and management of operational risk. This will enable the Service to provide a safe, effective and efficient response to operational incidents.

SFRS should review at appropriate intervals its operational resources and working practices in light of emerging issues, equipment, programmes and practices against UK and international best practice and advances in technology, enhancing its operational capability and the safety of its firefighters. SFRS should ensure firefighter safety is enhanced through the provision of robust procurement, evaluation, monitoring and maintenance of all operational assets and equipment.

SFRS should maintain the enhancement of its resilience and emergency call handling capability, providing efficient, effective, highly resilient and dynamic appliance mobilisation.

SFRS's delivery model must be flexible to reflect the differing needs of local communities. In accordance with the 2012 Act, it must produce a local fire and rescue plan for each local authority area. These local plans should present profiles which reflect the risks to the specific local authority area, as well as setting out local solutions to local issues and detail local activity.

### **Resilience – Operational Readiness and Capability**

SFRS should continue to play a key role in the wider resilience agenda. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 requires SFRS to work with other responders to plan for emergency incidents. Together with its partners, SFRS should assess risks, prepare for and be able to respond to any significant threats or major emergencies.

National and regional resilience partnerships, in which SFRS has an integral role, coordinate the preparation of risk registers and response plans and arrange vital joint training and exercising events. SFRS should also play a key role in building community resilience more generally by working in partnership with other responders, and continue to help protect both Scottish and UK critical infrastructure assets.

### **Increasing Threat of Terrorism – Preparing and Responding Appropriately**

The nature and sophistication of the terrorist threat to the country continues to evolve. SFRS should use shared best practice and research to ensure that the Service's preparedness and response continues to keep firefighters and communities safe, in partnership with emergency service partners.

SFRS should continue to work closely with its partners in Scotland and across the UK, to understand current threats and to ensure it has robust multi-agency and Service plans in place should an attack happen. SFRS crews should be prepared to

respond appropriately to prevent further harm to life or infrastructure. As a national service, SFRS should continue to evolve to meet new and emerging risks across communities, including Marauding Terrorist Attacks. Going forward, SFRS firefighters should be appropriately trained and equipped to be deployed as part of a coordinated multi-agency response to such attacks.

## **Service Delivery – Embracing Future Opportunities**

Building on the evidence-based scenario setting outlined within its [‘Vision’](#), SFRS should ensure that it understands what changes it may need to make to be able to respond to any new or changing demands.

New challenges and risks continue to emerge for SFRS; for example, the continuing and ever-changing terrorist threat mentioned above, climate change (discussed separately within section 4 of this Framework) and the impact of an ageing population. Such changes present challenges and opportunities for SFRS and all are set against public sector budgets, in an ever more demanding economic climate.

While its response arrangements are a core element of the Service’s role, it should be recognised that SFRS’s response to communities is, and has the potential to be, much broader than operational firefighters responding to traditional fire service related emergencies. From emergency pre-planning of major events to providing opportunities for young people through its Youth Volunteer Scheme, SFRS’s involvement and contributions in a range of settings should be viewed in a holistic way.

Collectively, SFRS’s operational approach, in which the principles and dynamics of prevention, protection, response and resilience are embedded, should serve as an overarching intervention strategy which enhances public safety across Scotland and supports improved wider outcomes for communities.

SFRS should expand the use of its extensive and strategically placed resources across all communities in Scotland to better support partner organisations, in particular the Scottish Ambulance Service and the wider NHS. SFRS has the opportunity to increase life chances in numerous ways such as responding to Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests and other emergency medical events. SFRS has the opportunity to significantly contribute to improving a wider range of community outcomes. Working closely with its people, partners and staff representative bodies SFRS should consider how it is able to save more lives in different ways. This is explored further within section 3 of the Framework, ‘Modernisation and Innovation’.

## **Utilising Technological Advances**

While the Service has already made some advances in changing the types of appliances and firefighting technology it utilises, the increasing availability of information and new technologies offers SFRS huge potential to improve how it delivers fire and rescue services.

The use of technology in society sets new expectations about the services SFRS provides, how data from such technology is appropriately accessed and its levels of

transparency in making use of data in improving outcomes for people. Digitisation also offers significant opportunities to accelerate business processes, manage risk more effectively, revolutionise how SFRS reduces risk, and improves safety outcomes. SFRS should utilise such technology to help safeguard the most vulnerable people in their homes and to enhance its interactions with the public more widely.



#### 4. Strategic Priority 3 – Innovation and Modernisation

SFRS should continually improve and modernise the service it provides so that it can do more to improve outcomes for communities across Scotland. Modernisation proposals should be considered, developed and delivered using sound evidence and should include but not be limited to ensuring SFRS is using its people, assets and financial resources in the most efficient and effective manner and that the role of firefighters is modernised to allow the Service to address new and emerging risks in our communities.

##### Introduction

SFRS has successfully delivered full integration into a single national service and is becoming increasingly involved in more non-fire related prevention and rescue activities. This has provided an opportunity for the Service to explore innovative approaches to flexible public service delivery whilst maintaining its core services.

Modernisation of the Service should include, but not be limited to:

- how the Service responds to changing community risks;
- the breadth of SFRS support to communities in pursuing improvements in their safety and wellbeing;
- the use of new technology in both operational and support functions;
- more modern and fit-for-purpose facilities shared with other public partners;
- improving how, why and when SFRS engages and communicates with the public; and
- a full contribution to the Scottish Governments Net Zero emissions targets.

The capability and the skills of SFRS should be increasingly used to improve outcomes by promoting the broader safety and well-being of individuals and communities, as well as continuing to improve fire safety and promote fire prevention.

Recovery and renewal from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic has demanded radical action. This has also offered an opportunity for some evaluation and reflection on how public services operate and work in partnership and the tools (including digital) that help us to do this.

SFRS should ensure it fully evaluates *what has worked well* and consider stopping or changing what does not work; so it builds on those experiences, making sure it can integrate them into new ways of working.

Full and meaningful engagement with all stakeholders but in particular staff, unions and the public is essential on developing and delivering proposed improvements to the way SFRS delivers its services.

## Context

The success of SFRS in delivering its traditional operational activity provides an opportunity to explore where it can add further value to the broader public service outcomes that we are working to deliver across Scotland. Since 2016 SFRS carried out extensive planning and consultation as part of service transformation. SFRS should build on the work already undertaken in relation to broadening the role of firefighters to ensure the Service can better contribute to positive outcomes in Scotland's communities.

## Research and Development

Advances in technology mean that new and innovative solutions are being developed which greatly improve firefighting and rescue operations and help the Service pursue improved levels of efficiency and productivity. SFRS should research and develop, and where feasible introduce, new technology and ways of working that improves firefighter and public safety. This might for example include greater use of fire suppression systems, where SFRS could work with communities to widen the appropriate installation of such systems. In the introduction of any new technology or way of working it is essential for SFRS to fully evaluate the change to ensure it is delivering the planned benefits.

SFRS should keep its digital strategy under review to ensure its systems and information technology is making best use of the technology and innovation which is available.

At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic SFRS relied more heavily than ever on critical digital technologies as increased numbers of staff worked from home. Increasing reliance on technology is likely to continue therefore Cyber resilience is central to SFRS delivering a secure and resilient service.

SFRS should have robust, efficient and effective safeguards and processes in place, that should be well rehearsed, tested regularly and can be enacted with ease should a cyber-attack occur.

In considering how it should develop its systems and services, SFRS should take into account the Scottish Government's Digital Strategy, ["A Changing Nation: How Scotland will thrive in a digital world"](#).

In considering innovation, SFRS should work with academics, universities and fire engineering experts. As one of the largest Fire and Rescue Services of its type in the world, SFRS should consider a greater emphasis on global horizon scanning, testing the market to see what innovation it can offer in terms of new technologies and in looking at other organisations on how they are developing.

## **Future Development of the Service**

SFRS should ensure that any changes or improvements to the service it provides are carried out on the basis of sound research and evidence, in particular through a thorough and robust assessment of the risks facing communities.

## **Effective Use of Resources**

Through a thorough risk based approach, SFRS should consider if its physical and people resources are situated in the right place and available at the right time. This should include using risk based evidence to ensure that fire stations are situated in the best place and firefighters are available at the right time.

## **Retained and Volunteer Duty Systems**

Retained and Volunteer Duty Systems (RVDS) play a vital role in ensuring communities are safe and protected outside our major towns and cities. The large areas of Scotland which rely on RVDS means it is essential that SFRS ensure that there are sufficient Retained and Volunteer firefighters to provide an effective service. In recognition of the ongoing challenge of recruitment and retention of RVDS firefighters for fire services across the UK and beyond SFRS has already carried out significant work in this area. SFRS should link this work with its wider modernisation objectives to formulate and deliver a plan to address those challenges, particularly around recruitment, retention and availability.

## **Modernisation and Expansion of the Firefighter Role**

SFRS should continue to consider all options on how the service can deliver better outcomes in communities including developing the skills and abilities of the workforce to meet present and future risks and threats. Fire and Rescue Services across the UK are also considering the role of firefighters and SFRS should remain vigilant to the development of the role in other parts of the UK.

The NHS was under sustained pressure throughout the Covid-19 emergency and the recovery from that will require a sustained period of activity for some time. The expansion of SFRS emergency medical response and prevention activities offers the opportunity for SFRS to contribute to Scotland's recovery effort.

SFRS should also give consideration to integrating emergency response provision, including medical response, in a holistic way taking into account the broader aims and aspirations of the Scottish Government to integrate public service provision.

SFRS should aim for any changes to the Service, including widening the services it provides to produce better outcomes in communities, to be delivered without significant increase in the medium to long term financial resources needed in running the Service. The Scottish Government will work closely with the Service to ensure it has the resources it needs, within the context of meeting all the demands on the Scottish budget, and it should continue to build on the efficiencies it has already delivered to make maximum use of the funding it receives.

As reflected in the People section of this framework, SFRS should deliver all the improvements set out in this section as a Fair Work employer. This means it should fully consult and consider the views of staff and trade unions on workplace matters, including in relation to developing and delivering fundamental change and improvements to the Service.

### **Emergency Services Mobile Communication Programme**

ESMCP is a major UK wide programme led by the Home Office to replace the Airwave and Firelink mobile communication systems. SFRS should continue to engage at Strategic and operational levels to aid the roll out of this important programme and must ensure that its other ICT systems can dovetail with ESMCP for the transfer and use of data.

## 5. Strategic Priority 4 – Climate Change

SFRS should continue working with other public sector partners and communities to support action to address the climate emergency including the challenges of more extreme weather events. SFRS should do so by preventing and reducing its own greenhouse gas emissions and working to ensure Scotland's communities are resilient and safe in response to the changing climate. SFRS's corporate response to the Climate Emergency should include, for example, commitment towards transitioning over to ultra-low emission fleets, renewable energy and heat; low carbon buildings and materials; and wherever possible, maximising the positive impact procurement can have on addressing the Climate Emergency.

### Introduction

In April 2019, Scotland's First Minister declared a Global Climate Emergency. SFRS must continue to address and prepare for new challenges as Scotland faces more extremes of weather. SFRS must be sufficiently equipped to deal with the effects from wildfires and flooding in particular. Scottish Ministers require SFRS to continue to work in collaboration with partners and communities to ensure collective resources jointly tackle issues caused by the climate emergency, that relate to inequality and to protect those citizens at greatest risk.

### SFRS and the Climate Emergency

Scottish Ministers require two things from SFRS in this regard:

1. Provision of an efficient and effective operational service from SFRS to all Scottish communities, with particular regard for the distinct impacts the climate emergency is having and will continue to have on those communities, with the lowest impact upon the environment; and
2. Action regarding what more SFRS can do as an organisation to reduce its emissions, and increase Scotland's climate resilience in our just transition to net zero.

In February 2020, SFRS published its '[Climate Change Response Plan 2045](#)' and this work should continue at pace. A key focus within each SFRS Strategic Plan should continue to be delivering a world class and sustainable Service, enhancing partnership working and responding to the increasing climate emergency.

### Climate Mitigation

There is no doubt that the global climate emergency is impacting every aspect of our Scottish communities. SFRS must do its part to mitigate the adverse impact of the climate emergency and help to keep our communities even safer. This can be achieved by structuring responses to climate policies, fostering collaborative and global discussions, reducing direct and indirect emissions, reducing its carbon footprint, incorporating climate action in its business strategies, procuring and constructing zero or low carbon buildings, utilising renewable energies such as including solar, wind, hydro, biofuels and others, prevention of wildfires, and procuring zero emission electric vehicles whenever possible. These green initiatives

are at the centre of the transition to a less carbon-intensive and more sustainable SFRS, which supports Scotland's just transition to net zero emissions by 2045.

### **Increased Wildfires**

Wildfires in the UK already cause substantial ecological and environmental damage and demand considerable and costly fire-management resources and different capabilities to address them. SFRS should continue to invest in the provision of specialist resources, technological advancements and forward thinking operational practices to enhance its response to wildfire events. SFRS should continue to make use of local assets available to bolster its response during prolonged or widespread incidents such as wildfire.

The Scottish Ministers require SFRS to continue to place a strong emphasis on partnership working and engaging with various agencies and groups in the rural and land management sectors to capitalise on its existing networks, expertise and influence (such as the Scottish Wildfire Forum, the [Dynamic Coast project](#)). This will not only continue to enhance any intervention required, but will provide a strong platform for preventative work.

### **Increased Flooding**

Flooding is a natural occurrence which can have devastating consequences on individuals, businesses and communities across Scotland. Climate change is predicted to increase Scotland's rainfall resulting in more severe and widespread flooding. Surface water flooding events, as seen in recent summers, can have a devastating impact in only a matter of hours. The Scottish Government is committed to reducing flood risk and working with relevant organisations to deliver actions that protect communities and businesses.

In Scotland an estimated 284,000 homes and premises are at risk of flooding; with an additional 110,000 properties at risk by the 2080s<sup>1</sup>. Flooding can occur from a number of sources including coastal, water courses and surface water.

According to the latest Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk for the UK's third [Climate Change Risk Assessment \(CCRA3\)](#), "The risk of flooding to people, communities and buildings remains the most severe risk for Scotland, and is the costliest hazard to businesses."

SFRS should have regard to the '[Living with Flooding: Action Plan](#)' to help promote property flood resilience in Scotland and should stand ready to respond to any flooding event efficiently providing the right resources at the right time to the right place.

SFRS should continue to strategically place specialist resources in areas where there is a greater risk of flooding (that is flood response stations, swift water rescue units, high volume pumping appliances which divert huge volumes of flood water),

---

<sup>1</sup> National Flood Risk Assessment, SEPA, (2018)

and ensure firefighters are prepared, fully equipped and ready to support and protect communities, whatever the weather.

SFRS should also ensure that the construction of any new buildings and new development undertaken by the Service is avoided in areas at risk from flooding. Where development must be located in these areas it, should be designed to be capable of remaining operational and accessible during extreme flood events.

## **Leading the Response to Climate Change**

SFRS should continue to be accountable and respond appropriately using a risk based approach that prioritises already vulnerable communities and individuals. SFRS should ensure that its actions are fair and equitable, taking account of existing social vulnerabilities and maintaining a strong focus on the summary of [Climate Projections for Scotland](#) and the UK's third [Climate Change Risk Assessment \(CCRA3\)](#), which was published in June 2021. SFRS must lead by example and act as enablers through its response to the global climate emergency.

SFRS should prioritise and take account of climate change mitigation and adaptation and report ongoing progress against these commitments in its annual reports, demonstrating how the Service is supporting Scotland's response to the global climate emergency.

## **Procurement**

Since 2011, SFRS has had a legal duty to contribute to the delivery of Scotland's national emissions reduction targets, and the importance of procurement activity in this by public bodies has been enshrined in Scotland's climate law. The Scottish Government is committed to leveraging the £12.6 billion in annual public procurement spend to contribute towards the transition to a more resource efficient, lower zero carbon economy, through world leading climate change legislation. The Scottish Government is committed to supporting Scotland's Green Recovery and a just transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. Achieving Scotland's emissions reduction targets will require transformational actions across society, including by SFRS.

SFRS should continue to provide its innovative leadership and support this national endeavour through the strong action that it can take in relation to the £12.6 billion annual public procurement spend. In all its investment decisions, such as buying new fleet, repairing and constructing buildings, SFRS should ensure that it complies with public bodies' sustainable procurement duty obligations to consider and act on opportunities to improve economic, social and environmental wellbeing in the course of its procurement activity, including ensuring a minimum burden on suppliers whilst ensuring robust consideration is given to this matter both with primary suppliers and throughout the supply chain. The net zero transition is at the heart of procurement decisions, with low carbon solutions given full consideration on an equal scale with operational requirement.

To enable traction and make the best use of scarce resources, SFRS should ensure that its teams are working collaboratively across traditional functional and

professional boundaries to align climate-related policies, targets, milestones and supporting activities.

SFRS should set out in its Annual Procurement Strategy how it will prioritise and take account of climate change and the circular economy in its procurement activity and, report ongoing progress against these commitments in its annual procurement reports, demonstrating how the Service is using procurement to support Scotland's response to the global climate emergency. This needs to explicitly address climate change and circular economy obligations.

To boost a green recovery and longer term climate ambitions, SFRS should stimulate action in public sector supply chains. Where SFRS decide to buy goods, services or works, it must champion innovative solutions, adopting a sustainable procurement approach to drive additional social and economic value throughout supply chains to reduce inequalities; enable Scottish businesses and the Third Sector to engage in supporting its climate ambitions; and work with the market to stimulate the development of new and emerging circular economy and low emission supply chains and solutions. This focus needs to extend beyond procurement activities and in to the wider policy initiatives that SFRS lead or fund through other means.

### **Future Direction**

As Scotland continues to emerge from Covid-19, SFRS has an opportunity to contribute towards a greener, fairer and more equal society and economy. An evolving and ever improving green recovery, in alignment with both existing and all future Scottish statutory frameworks, taking cognisance of all regulations and innovations being developed both now and in the future, will deliver economic, social and environmental wellbeing and respond to the twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss.



## 6. Strategic Priority 5 – Effective Governance and Performance

SFRS should ensure it has an effective approach to performance management to support robust scrutiny of the Service at national and local levels. This approach should be regularly reviewed and evaluated in pursuit of continuous improvement. SFRS should also collect, produce and analyse data and other intelligence to inform actions to promote the safety and well-being of communities, support operational efficiency and performance improvements (including its partnership contributions) and enable effective public reporting of performance.

### Introduction

Effective governance, strong accountability and resilient performance are at the heart of good public services. SFRS should contribute to [Scotland's National Outcomes](#).

SFRS must ensure that it meets the requirements of its governance and accountability arrangements as set out in the agreed [Scottish Government and SFRS Governance and Accountability Framework](#). It is also essential that SFRS effectively monitors and evaluates its performance in delivering the strategic priorities set out in this document. A key factor in achieving that delivery will be continued investment in maintaining the health, safety and well-being and improving the capabilities, capacity and performance of its workforce.

### Context

SFRS should ensure it has an effective approach to performance management to support robust scrutiny of the Service at national and local levels. This approach should be regularly reviewed and evaluated in pursuit of continuous improvement. SFRS should also collect, produce and analyse data and other intelligence to promote the safety and well-being of communities, support operational efficiency and performance improvements (including its partnership contributions) and enable effective public reporting of performance.

Good service performance and effective accountability, both nationally and locally, is reliant on the ability to demonstrate the delivery of continuous improvement through comprehensive, timely performance reporting arrangements and a robust approach to analysis and evaluation. SFRS should continue to develop its performance systems to ensure the data collecting is still the most appropriate and it should report publicly on its key indicators on a regular basis. Reports should be open and transparent, and provide the Scottish Government and key stakeholders with accurate, timely and consistent data and information, from which they can assess whether SFRS's management arrangements are effective in ensuring it is performing well, providing value for money and delivering all across Scotland.

As set out in the Modernisation and Innovation section, all proposed changes and improvements to the service SFRS provides should be made on the basis of sound evidence. SFRS performance management systems should therefore play a critical

role in providing that evidence and in turn driving improvement across the organisation.

SFRS should continue to develop methodologies and systems to collect, collate and analyse data in order to understand future trends and enable resources to be targeted where they are needed most and where they can add the greatest value. SFRS should ensure that it makes appropriate use of comparable data to benchmark its performance.

SFRS must, in discussion with the Scottish Government, specify appropriate performance measures to support its Strategic Plan, for the delivery of outcomes relating to the strategic priorities and objectives set out in this Framework.

SFRS should base its Annual Performance Review report on the priorities set out in this Framework in addition to the evidence obtained through its performance management systems. In order to ensure its activity is making a positive impact on outcomes for communities, SFRS should also monitor and report on its performance over a 3-5 year period.

SFRS should continue to ensure it is accountable to the communities it serves through its network of Local Senior Officers, local scrutiny committees and the involvement of Local Authority elected officials.

## **Best Value**

[The 2005 Act](#) (as amended by [the 2012 Act](#)) sets out the duties of SFRS in securing Best Value for the people of Scotland. The delivery of an effective and efficient service is set within the context of establishing appropriate governance structures by which the organisation is directed and controlled to achieve objectives. SFRS's '[Governance and Accountability Framework](#)', sets out the governance structures within which SFRS will operate and defines the key roles and responsibilities for SFRS and the Scottish Government. As set out in the Governance and Accountability Framework, SFRS should follow the guidance set out in the [Scottish Public Finance Manual](#) and be able to demonstrate fulfilment of its Best Value duty to secure continuous improvement in the performance of the organisation's functions.

To respond effectively to the changing public sector environment in Scotland and to meet the expectations set out in this Framework SFRS should maintain its strong commitment to strategic and financial planning to assure the long term sustainability of the functions it delivers. SFRS should clearly communicate to internal and external stakeholders the outcomes it is working towards, what the intended objectives and goals of those outcomes are, and how its resources will be used efficiently and effectively to achieve those outcomes.

## **SFRS's Role as a Public Body**

SFRS must follow the expectations and requirements set out in the Scottish Government [Public Bodies Guidance](#). As one of the larger public bodies in Scotland SFRS should be an exemplar organisation in terms of following good governance

and assurance, board members' and staff codes of conduct, succession planning and strategic engagement with government, other bodies and the third sector.

The SFRS Board provides strategic leadership for SFRS, which includes ensuring the highest standards of governance are complied with; that SFRS complies with all Ministerial guidance, its agreed Framework documents (including this document) and legislation; and that prudent and effective controls are in place to enable risks to be assessed and managed. The Chief Officer with operational responsibility gives the Board assurance on delivering its stated outcomes and objectives, as set out in the Strategic Plan. The Board, as the legal entity of SFRS, gives further assurance to Scottish Ministers that its outcomes and objectives have been realised by the Service.

The SFRS Board has responsibility to take into account the local needs, including the views of Local Authorities when providing governance and oversight of the response the Service provides.

SFRS should ensure its Board meetings are accessible to the public across the whole of Scotland and are carried out in the spirit of openness, including the publication of Board papers and minutes of proceedings.

SFRS's planning should ensure clear alignment of priorities and objectives as a national organisation while being flexible enough to respond to differing local needs across Scotland. It is essential to recognise the changing risks and threats facing communities in terms of the demands of its operating environment. SFRS should ensure its employees fully understand their individual and collective contribution to the organisation's objectives and know what is expected of them as part of its planning and operational delivery processes.

## 7. Strategic Priority 6 - People

SFRS should continue to be a Fair Work employer and develop as an employer of choice. It should promote the equality, safety and physical and mental health of all its staff. SFRS should continue to maximise the effectiveness of its approach to workforce and succession planning and should be a learning organisation with equal opportunities for all. SFRS should ensure it enables innovation and change through its People Strategy. SFRS should actively strive to be an organisation that is more representative of the people and communities of Scotland that it serves.

### Introduction

SFRS should aim to have in place an appropriate workforce structure and systems which will prepare all those working in the Service, through robust and tailored development programmes, to develop its capability to meet current and future needs. SFRS should continue to actively develop the culture of the organisation to embrace the values of being inclusive, diverse and fair and ensure these are fully embedded across the whole workforce. To do this, the Service must invest in its current workforce and plan for the type of workforce it will need in the future.

### Scotland's Fair Work Approach

The Scottish Government's vision, shared by the Fair Work Convention, is for Scotland to be a leading Fair Work Nation by 2025. The strategic ambitions for Fair Work are set out in the [Fair Work Convention's Framework](#), which underpins the government's Fair [Work Action Plan](#). As a public body, SFRS is expected to take a leading role in adopting and promoting Fair Work, by applying, First criteria, to drive improvement, namely: appropriate channels for effective voice, such as trade union recognition; investment in workforce development; no inappropriate use of zero hours contracts; action to tackle the gender pay gap and create a more diverse and inclusive workplace; and continued payment of the real Living Wage.

SFRS adapted quickly to the need for staff to work from home whenever possible during the Covid-19 pandemic including making best use of technology to facilitate this change. It should build on the lessons learned from the flexible working arrangements and use of technology which were developed during this period in considering future flexible working patterns for staff.

SFRS will also be expected to adopt further criteria that the Scottish Government may introduce to address particular labour market challenges as the economy evolves.

### Skills and Changing Needs

SFRS should consider what skills its workforce may need to acquire or develop further in order to maximise their contribution to the Service's modernisation and to meet the changing needs of local communities. SFRS must ensure that the workforce maintains competence to deliver core duties in addition to developing

skills to meet the changing requirements of the services it delivers, thus maximising its ability to contribute to improved outcomes for the communities and people of Scotland. It should consider the right mix of expertise in firefighting and corporate functions to best deliver a forward looking 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fire and Rescue Service.

SFRS should only expect its operational firefighters to undertake duties to which they have been properly trained and equipped. It is therefore essential that SFRS regularly reviews training capacity against demand. SFRS should ensure there is sufficient training capacity and investment in people and resources to ensure staff are competent in any new or adapted roles they will be expected to undertake.

To maximise the impact of training whilst minimising the time spent away from operational duties, SFRS should ensure its whole workforce, wherever in Scotland that are based, have full access to the training and development they need to deliver their role.

In adapting and developing services, the skills needed by staff will change over time, and it is therefore crucial that SFRS considers future needs as it evolves its learning and development functions.

## **Learning**

As a learning organisation, SFRS must identify opportunities for learning from its past actions, including operational incidents, and ensure that lessons learned are shared across the organisation and become embedded in future behaviour.

SFRS should work in partnership with other organisations to maximise learning and sharing of best practice, including joint multi-agency debriefing and training for responding to a range of incidents. It is crucial that SFRS not only identifies learning but also integrates that learning into long term change and improvement. It therefore needs to embrace a culture of openness to learn from past actions, particularly with a focus on the outcomes of those actions.

## **Succession and Workforce Planning**

Succession plans, acknowledging the skills, experience and knowledge that it will require in the future should be developed in the context of SFRS's own Strategic Plan and the Strategic People and Organisational Developments Plan and should provide value in wider organisational business planning than just recruitment. SFRS is facing an aging workforce and must ensure it does not lose expertise and corporate memory when staff retire. As a fair work employer, SFRS must engage with trade unions and directly with staff along with utilising appropriate internal and external expertise in designing and delivering its succession plans. The Service should set out what it will do, how it will do it and how it will monitor progress, recognising existing strengths.

## **Health, Wellbeing and Safety**

Operational fire and rescue activity does come with risks to firefighter safety and in carrying out those activities, firefighters can be exposed to dangers and traumatic

experiences. In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic has added additional stress and anxiety to everyone's lives, with many people suffering from bereavement. SFRS should continue to give the highest priority to the safety, physical and mental health and well-being of its staff and those they serve and protect by encouraging a culture of health and well-being; and by providing and maintaining systems to support and enhance well-being and safety at work.

SFRS should ensure that it takes a collaborative approach on matters of staff safety, health and mental well-being, and that participation and involvement of employees and their representatives is undertaken when identifying, resolving and improving policy and related practice. This should ensure that workforce development, promoting health and well-being and harmonious industrial relations remain priorities.

## **Equalities and Human Rights**

SFRS must, in terms of its obligations under the [Human Rights Act 1998](#), act in accordance with the [European Convention for Human Rights](#). SFRS must also comply with the [Equality Act 2010](#) and the [Equality Act 2010 \(Specific Duties\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2012](#). Under the general duty within the Equality Act 2010, SFRS must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people that do not share it. The regulations further specify the actions public bodies are expected to take in meeting this duty. SFRS should ensure that its decision making and reporting demonstrates how equality issues are considered, including as an element of SFRS's improvement processes.

SFRS must ensure that equality is mainstreamed across all functions of the Service. SFRS must set, review and report on progress to equality outcomes designed to meet the aims of workforce and board diversity and service provision. Information on the profile of personnel across the protected characteristics must be monitored and reported on, together with other relevant information such as the gender pay gap. SFRS must ensure publication of a statement outlining policies on equal pay between men and women, persons who are disabled and who are not, and persons who fall into a minority racial group and persons who do not. SFRS should also continue to develop systems and processes that will ensure that the equality performance of suppliers is assessed through the procurement process. As part of its work to address equality issues, SFRS should remain an accredited Living Wage Employer and encourage the uptake of Modern Apprentices across the organisation in recognition of wider Scottish Government aspirations.

Building on SFRS Equality and Diversity Charter and the Scottish Government's Fair Work principles, SFRS should work towards achieving the Scottish Government's ambition of a fairer society with a diverse operational workforce. SFRS should promote workforce diversity through positive action on recruitment, retention and promotion to encourage greater involvement of under-represented groups to develop a workforce that greater reflects the population of Scotland in terms of characteristics such as sex, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, disability and gender

reassignment. Support and engagement should also be shown with organisations that support youth employment.

SFRS should continually benchmark against other Fire and Rescue Services and similar emergency services along with other public bodies and private organisations to ensure it is leading the way on equality of outcome along with making sure learning and initiatives are taken on board.

Historically firefighters were predominately male and SFRS has already worked towards the aim of a balanced workforce with an increase in the number of female firefighters. There is clear consensus that increasing diversity in the Boardroom and in senior leadership roles encourages new and innovative thinking, maximises use of talent and leads to better business decisions and governance. The Scottish Government encourages public, private and third sector organisations to sign up to the [Partnerships for Change](#). Succession planning is critical to ensure that Boards have the skills and diversity of contribution they need to address future challenges and priorities. A key challenge for SFRS is to identify its Board's skills and diversity requirements over the medium and long-term as part of its corporate planning process, and develop a strategy for meeting these. Aligning the profile of skills of the Board members with the Strategic Plan will ensure that the Board has the right skills to deal with planned business as the work of the Service evolves; and importantly how the Service plans to ensure that happens.



## 8. Strategic Priority 7 - Partnership

Working with others such as other blue light emergency services, public, private and voluntary organisations and Scotland's communities should be ingrained throughout SFRS. This includes but goes beyond the important and statutory work undertaken through the established Community Planning Partnerships. Partnerships should develop joined up policies to multidimensional problems. Innovative leadership should be provided to facilitate the identification of collaborative opportunities, making the best use of public resources. The aims should be to achieve community safety, drive out inefficiencies, where possible, whilst achieving operational efficiencies and effectiveness to ultimately improve outcomes for our Scottish communities.

### Introduction

The main purpose of SFRS is to work in **partnership** with communities and with others in the public, private and third sectors, on prevention, protection and response, to improve the safety and well-being of people throughout Scotland. This section sets out the context, the future vision and strategic direction from Scottish Ministers for SFRS in relation to partnership working. Collaboration and partnership working are interchangeable terms used frequently throughout this Framework.

### Context

SFRS must consider how it best designs and delivers services, how it successfully operates in partnership with other public services and with communities and how it will achieve financial efficiencies. Further collaboration with partners should provide the opportunity to establish new working practices that deliver the public safety priorities of our communities across prevention, protection, response and resilience activities. Use of effective and innovative partnership working, helping people to work across organisational boundaries to achieve positive results should continue.

### Legislative Responsibilities

Public Service Reform is founded on the benefits of working collaboratively, across organisational boundaries, ensuring services are shaped around the needs and demands of individuals and communities – with a clear focus on prevention and early intervention to achieve outcomes.

On-going reform within SFRS should continue to reflect the underpinning aim of [Christie](#) and the Scottish Government's Public Service Reform agenda which is about improving outcomes, tackling inequalities and empowering communities in sustainable ways and building up the strong pillars of Christie which includes a robust focus on partnership working.

SFRS has a statutory duty to work with others in the community planning arrangements under section 4 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. SFRS also has a statutory duty to work with partners to prepare for and respond to and recover from emergencies under the [Civil Contingencies Act 2004](#) and associated regulations. SFRS is listed as a public authority in relation to the



[Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) and as such, will continue to play its part in improving outcomes for communities by enhancing the process of community planning and ensuring that local service providers work with communities to meet the needs of the people who use its services.

SFRS is also a statutory Community Justice Partner under the [Community Justice \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#). As such, SFRS contribute to the local strategic planning, monitoring and delivery of community justice outcomes and is jointly accountable for this.

[The Island \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#) provided for the creation of a National Islands Plan and a duty to island-proof future government policies, strategies and legislation. Since then, a [Local Governance Review](#) has created further opportunities for SFRS, its local partners and communities across the country to work together in partnership to propose alternative governance arrangements which can improve outcomes and drive inclusive growth for communities. SFRS should fulfil all of these partnership obligations to best effect.

### **Data Innovation to Deliver Better Outcomes**

SFRS should use data to drive continuous performance improvement. Positive use of data improves people's wellbeing and saves time, money and lives (e.g. during the Covid pandemic, the Scottish Government's Digital Directorate used data to ensure the optimal locations for Covid testing and vaccination centres). It helps to see patterns that are not immediately obvious, which enables getting to the real causes of problems. It allows understanding of how life is experienced by people from different backgrounds and design services to be equitable, and enables examination of the impact that services are having so that adjustment and reform leads to improvement. Consistent flows of information and data innovation to deliver better outcomes are also essential for achieving effective collaboration.

SFRS should continue to develop, accelerate and encourage the use of common digital and data standards across the public sector which will facilitate the joining up of services for the benefit of the people who use them. Therefore clear processes and systems for working with partners such as the NHS, specifically on how data can be used to improve services, are required to identify the most vulnerable communities, and most vulnerable individuals within communities, to target activity where it is most needed and to make an effective contribution to tackling inequalities. However there are known challenges and barriers that exist in relation to cross public service data sharing. The Service should endeavour to work against these barriers to ensure potential resistance to sharing data is both recognised and overcome.

### **Future Vision – Working with Others**

There is much to be achieved by working collaboratively and utilising effective partnerships, by further use of multi-agency working, research collaborations, networking and joint working; all of which should take into account the specific and unique risks facing Scotland, including those that are outwith SFRS's direct control.

SFRS and the Scottish Ambulance Service Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest co-responding trials are an excellent example of public services working together to achieve a common aim. SFRS should continue to work together to help those in Scotland who suffer a cardiac arrest and to develop new ways of working together to achieve further enhancements to delivery of emergency medical response.

More partnership working by SFRS with the Scottish Ambulance Service, the NHS and other partners will be important in ensuring people's safety and wellbeing. We know from other UK-wide trials between 2015 and 2017, and longstanding international experience, that a swifter emergency medical response can yield better outcomes and significant savings in terms of less need for prolonged hospitalisation or dependence on long-term care. There may also be scope for firefighters to respond to other types of emergency medical cases (such as opioid related incidents), subject to further consideration of the clinical evidence, engagement with relevant healthcare professionals, and meeting relevant training and welfare requirements for firefighters. SFRS should aim to make maximum use of the specific skills and capabilities that firefighters have to secure better health outcomes and the more efficient and effective use of resources.

SFRS should continue to work in partnership with the Reform Collaboration Group partners to provide a strategic approach to looking at ways in which shared outcomes, and delivery of services to our communities can be improved and achieve better value for the public purse. SFRS should work with the partners to continue to provide strategic direction and guidance on the development of opportunities for effective collaborative working. Increased and focused collaboration at an early stage in the strategic planning process is required so that more integrated and innovative approaches to collaboration can be identified.

The ongoing establishment, maintenance and development of engagement with, for example, Better Homes, Building Standards and Scottish Government Digital Directorate, local authorities, emergency responders, other community planning agencies, voluntary organisations and businesses remains key to the successful delivery of SFRS's objectives and priorities.

In all decisions involving new investment of capital resources, particularly on buildings and fleet, consideration of any collaborative opportunities must be explored in sharing assets with others. SFRS already has a strong record of working closely with Scottish Ambulance Service to share fire station space and this should continue to be developed.

SFRS should continue undertaking collaborative procurement opportunities with all of its partners, wherever possible, especially considering interoperability requirements. The development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and the procurement of electric vehicles is a good example of this collaborative work with other emergency services and local partners.

### **Partnership Working in Emergencies**

SFRS is defined as a Category 1 responder in the [Civil Contingencies Act 2004](#). The guidance around that, to assist to collaboratively assess, plan, respond and recover

from emergency events, is set out in [‘Preparing Scotland’](#) which contains established good practice based on professional expertise, legislation and lessons learned from previous emergencies. Partnership working around emergencies is at the centre of the resilience arrangements in Scotland and SFRS is well embedded in existing Resilience Partnership structures. SFRS continues to play a significant part in discussions at the established multi-agency resilience forums at all levels – nationally, at the Strategic Resilience Partnership, regionally, at all three Regional Resilience Partnerships in the North, East and West partnership areas of Scotland and more locally at the Local Resilience Partnerships, as well as at relevant individual resilience subgroups, as required.

SFRS should continue developing a shared understanding with both local and national partners of their relative roles, responsibilities and capabilities, to ensure that when emergencies do occur, they are responded to and concluded as effectively and efficiently as possible, and in an interoperable manner. Furthermore, when working with partners and understanding the dynamics of those partnerships, lessons should be learned in the spirit of continual improvement when better ways of working are identified as a result of working together. Community Planning Partnerships, local scrutiny arrangements and the Voluntary Sector Resilience Partnership, which brings category 1 responders together with the Scottish Government, Resilience Partnerships and key Voluntary and Community sector colleagues provide ideal forums for such discussions and the process should ensure that decisions are informed by local engagement. However it is equally important that local partners also own their commitments and methods of working together and do not simply collaborate together because they are being encouraged to do so; it must also make good business sense to collaborate where partners choose to do so. SFRS should view community planning as an opportunity to engage with a range of partners and pool collective resources in order to drive improvements in outcomes in which it has an interest. These may be both shared and interdependent, and can contribute to the achievement of their own organisational objectives.

SFRS should work in partnership with City Regions and Community Wealth Building Projects in support of its Future Vision and Strategic Planning requirements. These packages of funding and decision making powers, agreed between the Scottish Government, the UK Government and local partners, are designed to bring about long-term strategic partnership approaches to improving regional economies, aiming to help harness additional investment, create new jobs and accelerate inclusive economic growth. They are implemented by regional partners and overseen by the [Scottish City Region Deal Delivery Board](#). Each deal is tailored to its city region, reflecting its individual economic strengths and weaknesses, and comprises a programme of interventions to support positive, transformative change.

There is clearly a strong need for effective leadership, governance and performance management in developing and maintaining partnerships. SFRS should provide innovative leadership, good governance and should relay the clear joint ambitions of increased and focused collaboration when setting up all partnership initiatives. SFRS should actively drive new and existing collaboration forward.

## **Partnerships Across the Wider Scottish Public Sector**

SFRS should aim to work with its partners towards achieving a Digital Scotland in which geography, background or ability is no barrier to getting online, in which public services are reinvented to make them more personal, accountable, adaptable, efficient, sustainable and worthy of public trust, and in which businesses and third sector partners are empowered and supported to embrace the advantages of digital technology. In order to deliver a citizen focussed Service, SFRS should continue to develop its interaction and communications with the public. For example, when developing its website, its social media presence, any interactive applications and engaging with young Scottish citizens, SFRS should look to put the user at the heart of its service design.

SFRS should look to develop opportunities for new partnerships as well as continuing to build on the strong links it has already developed with its partners, including building upon more integration with voluntary sector resilience partners in order to identify and tackle national and local risk-based priorities. SFRS should also continue its collaborative work, including its participation in and contribution to work focused on reducing unintentional physical and psychological harm that could have been predicted or prevented. SFRS should continue to implement agreements for sharing premises, assets and services with emergency service partners, including with Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service where it could help protect public service provision within a community or contribute to better local or national outcomes.

SFRS should continue to be innovative in its thinking and should continue to consider new approaches to improving the safety of Scottish communities. SFRS should continue to work closely with individuals and communities to gain a much deeper understanding of their needs, to maximise talents and resources, to support self-reliance and build resilience across the organisation. A key asset SFRS should factor in when doing this is the positive relationship and trust it continues to enjoy with the public. When considering what additional tasks firefighters might undertake in the future, both collaboratively and in partnership with other emergency responders and partners, as well as separately as firefighters in their own right, SFRS should maintain effective relationships with trade unions and their partnership approach with employees, negotiating bodies and the Scottish Government.

## **9. Annex 1 – SFRS Strategic Priorities**

### **Strategic Priority 1 – Prevention and Protection**

The overriding purpose of SFRS remains to improve the safety and well-being of communities. A priority for SFRS is preventing fires and reducing their human, social and economic impact. SFRS should use an evidence-based approach to target groups and individuals according to risk, and universal population wide activities, to improve fire and wider community safety. These should contribute to reducing inequality and encouraging sustainable and inclusive growth. SFRS should work with public, private and voluntary organisations; communities and individuals where they can add value and contribute to outcomes.

### **Strategic Priority 2 – Response**

In conjunction with effectively addressing risk, SFRS should ensure that the capability of its assets and staff, combined with technological improvements, enable it to respond to incidents with the right resources at the right time across communities in Scotland. The Service should embrace a flexible, innovative and inclusive approach to its service delivery and resilience planning, ensuring its response resources and crewing arrangements are aligned to current and future risks.

### **Strategic Priority 3 – Innovation and Modernisation**

SFRS should continually improve and modernise the service it provides so that it can do more to improve outcomes for communities across Scotland. Modernisation proposals should be considered, developed and delivered using sound evidence and should include but not be limited to ensuring SFRS is using its people, assets and financial resources in the most efficient and effective manner and that the role of firefighters is modernised to allow the Service to address new and emerging risks in our communities.

### **Strategic Priority 4 – Climate Change**

SFRS should continue working with other public sector partners and communities to support action to address the climate emergency including the challenges of more extreme weather events. SFRS should do so by preventing and reducing its own greenhouse gas emissions and working to ensure Scotland's communities are resilient and safe in response to the changing climate. SFRS's corporate response to the Climate Emergency should include, for example, commitment towards transitioning over to ultra-low emission fleets, renewable energy and heat; low carbon buildings and materials; and wherever possible, maximising the positive impact procurement can have on addressing the Climate Emergency.

### **Strategic Priority 5 – Effective Governance and Performance**

SFRS should ensure it has an effective approach to performance management to support robust scrutiny of the Service at national and local levels. This approach should be regularly reviewed and evaluated in pursuit of continuous improvement.

SFRS should also collect, produce and analyse data and other intelligence to inform actions to promote the safety and well-being of communities, support operational efficiency and performance improvements (including its partnership contributions) and enable effective public reporting of performance.

### **Strategic Priority 6 – People**

SFRS should continue to be a Fair Work employer and develop as an employer of choice. It should promote the equality, safety and physical and mental health of all its staff. SFRS should continue to maximise the effectiveness of its approach to workforce and succession planning and should be a learning organisation with equal opportunities for all. SFRS should ensure it enables innovation and change through its People Strategy. SFRS should actively strive to be an organisation that is more representative of the people and communities of Scotland that it serves.

### **Strategic Priority 7 – Partnership**

Working with others such as other blue light emergency services, public, private and voluntary organisations and Scotland's communities should be ingrained throughout SFRS. This includes but goes beyond the important and statutory work undertaken through the established Community Planning Partnerships. Partnerships should develop joined up policies to multidimensional problems. Innovative leadership should be provided to facilitate the identification of collaborative opportunities, making the best use of public resources. The aims should be to achieve community safety, drive out inefficiencies, where possible, whilst achieving operational efficiencies and effectiveness to ultimately improve outcomes for our Scottish communities.

## Responding to this Consultation

We are inviting responses to this consultation by 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021.

Please respond to this consultation using the Scottish Government's consultation hub, Citizen Space (<http://consult.gov.scot>). Access and respond to this consultation online at <https://consult.gov.scot/safer-communities/fire-and-rescue-framework>. You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open. Please ensure that consultation responses are submitted before the closing date of 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021.

If you are unable to respond using our consultation hub, please complete the Respondent Information Form to:

Fire and Rescue Unit  
Scottish Government  
1W  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG  
[Fire\\_Rescue\\_Framework@gov.scot](mailto:Fire_Rescue_Framework@gov.scot)

## Handling your response

If you respond using the consultation hub, you will be directed to the About You page before submitting your response. Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are content for your response to be published. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

If you are unable to respond via Citizen Space, please complete and return the Respondent Information Form included in this document.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy: <https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

## Next steps in the process

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public at <http://consult.gov.scot>. If you use the consultation hub to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email.

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us. Responses will be published where we have been given permission to do so. An analysis report will also be made available.

### **Comments and complaints**

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact address above or at [Fire\\_Rescue\\_Framework@gov.scot](mailto:Fire_Rescue_Framework@gov.scot).

### **Scottish Government consultation process**

Consultation is an essential part of the policymaking process. It gives us the opportunity to consider your opinion and expertise on a proposed area of work.

You can find all our consultations online: <http://consult.gov.scot>. Each consultation details the issues under consideration, as well as a way for you to give us your views, either online, by email or by post.

Responses will be analysed and used as part of the decision making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. We will publish a report of this analysis for every consultation. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.





## Respondent Information Form

### Next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland

**Please Note** this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy:

<https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Individual

Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Phone number

Address

Postcode

Email

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

Publish response only (without name)

Do not publish response

#### Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

No

## Consultation Questions

1. Do you agree with the text set out in the section for **Strategic Priority 1** of the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland in relation to **Prevention and Protection**? (Please provide comments in the space provided)

Yes  No

Comments

2. Do you agree with the text set out in the section for **Strategic Priority 2** of the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland in relation to **Response**? (Please provide comments in the space provided)

Yes  No

Comments

3. Do you agree with the text set out in the section for **Strategic Priority 3** of the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland in relation to **Innovation and Modernisation**? (Please provide comments in the space provided)

Yes  No

Comments

4. Do you agree with the text set out in the section for **Strategic Priority 4** of the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland in relation to **Climate Change**? (Please provide comments in the space provided)

Comments

5. Do you agree with the text set out in the section for **Strategic Priority 5** of the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland in relation to **Effective Governance and Performance**? (Please provide comments in the space provided)

Yes  No

Comments

6. Do you agree with the text set out in the section for **Strategic Priority 6** of the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland in relation to **People**? (Please provide comments in the space provided)

Yes  No

Comments

7. Do you agree with the text set out in the section for **Strategic Priority 7** of the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland in relation to **Partnership**? (Please provide comments in the space provided)

Yes  No

Comments

8. Do you think these are the right 7 priorities to be included in the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland? (Please provide comments in the space provided)

Yes  No

Comments

9. Do you think there is anything that is missing from the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland that should be included? (Please provide comments in the space provided)

Yes  No

Comments



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

© Crown copyright 2021

**OGL**

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit [nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3) or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-80201-280-4 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, September 2021

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA  
PPDAS904746 (09/21)





## East Lothian Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders



### Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

Quarter 2 – 2021/2022

The data provided in this report is for information purposes only and is not official crime statistics. This report has been generated to allow Partnership Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities. Due to delayed reporting or recording of crimes, incidents or road accidents and the management of crime enquiries, there is likely to be differences between the information in this report and the final Police Scotland statistics. It would not be appropriate to refer to, quote or use any data in this report as official statistics.



## **Our Vision**

Sustained excellence in service and protection.

## **Our Purpose**

To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland.

## **Our Values**

Integrity, Fairness and Respect.



## Contents of Report

Lothian and Scottish Borders Division Policing Priorities	4
Introduction	5
<i>Performance Summary Report</i>	6
<b><i>Executive Summary</i></b>	7
<b><i>Protecting the most vulnerable people</i></b>	
<i>Missing Persons</i>	8
<i>Domestic Abuse Incidents</i>	10
<i>Hate crime</i>	12
<i>Sexual Crime (Group 2)</i>	13
<i>Drugs supply, Production &amp; Cultivation</i>	15
<b><i>Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour</i></b>	
<i>Crimes of Violence (Group 1)</i>	16
<i>Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour</i>	17
<b><i>Reducing Acquisitive Crime</i></b>	
<i>Dishonesty &amp; Housebreaking (Group 3)</i>	18
<b><i>Improving Road Safety</i></b>	
<i>Road Safety</i>	19
<b><i>Tackling Serious &amp; Organised Crime</i></b>	
<i>Tackling Serious &amp; Organised Crime</i>	20
<i>Complaints About the Police</i>	21
Appendix	
<i>East Lothian Crime Overview</i>	22
<i>Lothian and Scottish Borders Divisional Crime Overview</i>	24

Lothian and Scottish Borders Division Policing Priorities

### Your local policing priorities across THE LOTHIANS AND SCOTTISH BORDERS

**Our vision**  
Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland

**Our values**  
Fairness, Integrity, Respect, Human Rights

**Our purpose**  
Working in partnership for the safety and wellbeing of communities in the Lothians & Scottish Borders

**Protecting the most vulnerable people**

Protect vulnerable people to prevent abuse, neglect & exploitation.

Implement a delivery model supporting a Violence Against Women & Girls Prevention Strategy.

Implement the National Missing Persons Framework for Scotland.

Proactively target domestic abuse offenders.

Develop partnership approaches to improve public confidence to report incidents of harm & abuse.

**Reducing violence & anti-social behaviour**

Work collaboratively to identify and target violent offenders.

Increase awareness of the impact of violence & antisocial behaviour.

Work in partnerships to reduce alcohol related criminality.

Collaborate to capture the under reporting of violence & explore preventative approaches (i.e. Navigator).

Develop night time economy plans with licensed premises & promote participation in 'Best Bar None'.

**Reducing acquisitive crime**

Focus on domestic housebreaking.

Raise awareness of current crime trends & prevention tactics.

Tackle emerging acquisitive crime patterns to identify & target prolific offenders.

Work to prevent acquisitive crime.

In partnership, maximise support for victims of acquisitive crime.

Work with Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC).

Use Police Scotland Youth Volunteers to deliver crime prevention information.

**Improving road safety**

Collaborate on the engineering of the roads through our communities to improve road safety.

Detect offenders who disregard road traffic laws & endanger others.

Support partnership driver education programmes.

Raise awareness of the consequences of speeding, not wearing a seat belt, drink or drug driving & using a mobile phone while driving.

**Tackling serious & organised crime**

Work to divert people from becoming involved in serious & organised crime & using its products (drugs, counterfeit good etc).

Use social media to raise awareness and educate about human trafficking.

Work to prosecute those involved in serious organised crime, including online, 'cuckooing' & 'county lines'.

Maximise the disruption of serious organised crime groups.

Target the production, cultivation & supply of illegal drugs.

OFFICIAL

**POLICE SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe  
POILEAS ALBA

#### Police Scotland Strategic outcomes

- Threats to public safety and wellbeing are resolved by a proactive and responsive police service
- The needs of local communities are addressed through effective service delivery
- Public, communities and partners are engaged, involved and have confidence in policing
- Our people are supported through a positive working environment, enabling them to serve the public
- Police Scotland is sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges

## **Introduction**

Crimes and offences are grouped under recognised categories for statistical purposes. The Scottish Government defines these categories, as follows;

- Group 1 – Non Sexual Crimes of Violence
- Group 2 – Sexual Crimes
- Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty
- Group 4 – Fire-raising, Malicious Mischief etc.
- Group 5 – Other (Pro-activity) Crimes
- Group 6 – Miscellaneous Offences
- Group 7 - Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles

Police Scotland publishes management information on an annual and quarterly basis by local authority and police division, as well as at a national level. These reports are produced to demonstrate Police Scotland's commitment to transparency. Police Scotland publishes all of these reports on the 'Our Performance' section of the Police Scotland website. The reports can be accessed here:

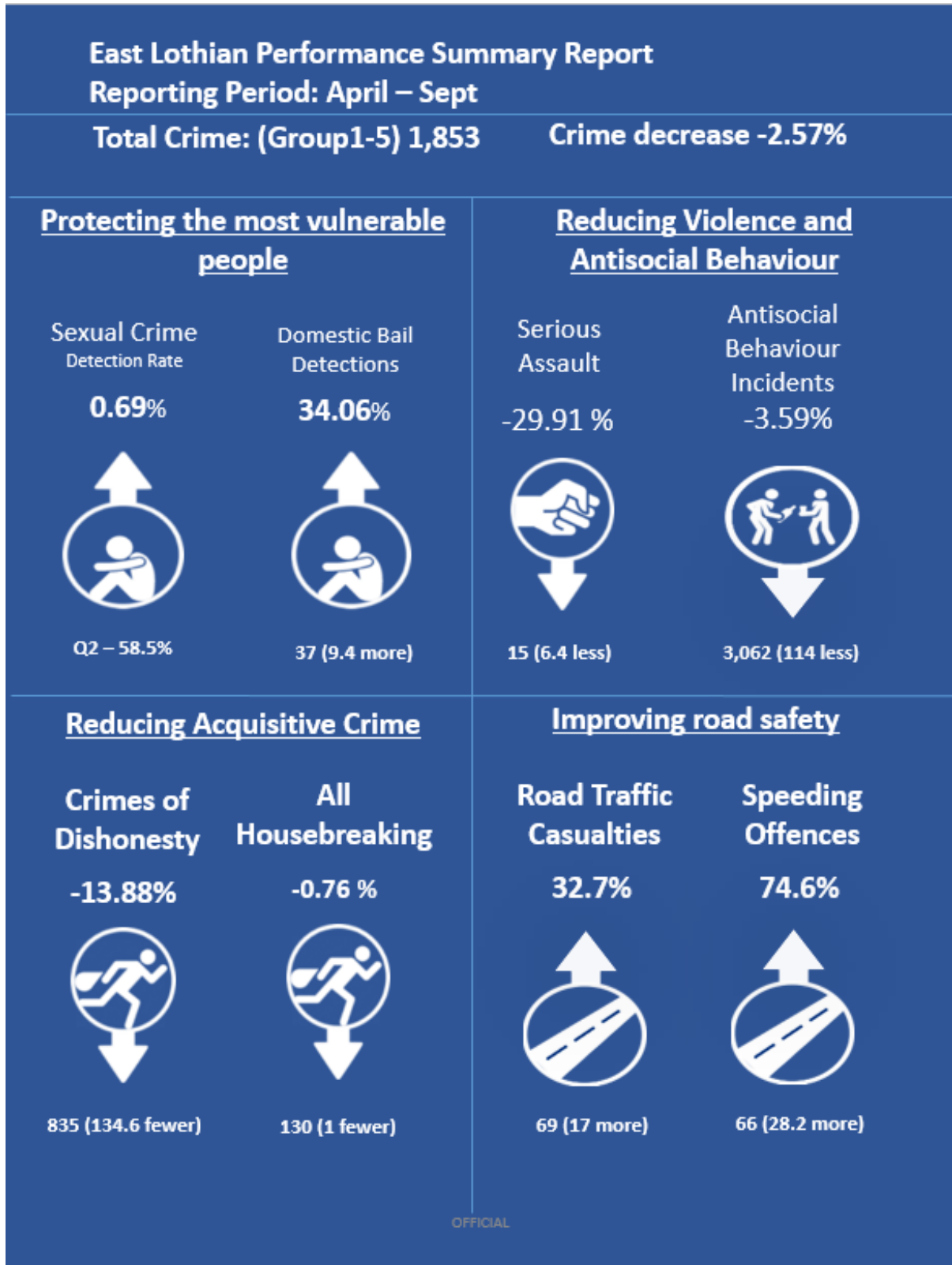
<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>

The East Lothian Policing Plan uses the following Police performance indicators, and these have been mirrored in the Scrutiny Report to maintain parity of understanding:

1. Protecting the most vulnerable people;
2. Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour;
3. Reducing acquisitive Crime;
4. Improving road safety;
5. Tackling Serious and Organised Crime.

All figures quoted in this report are for the period April to September 2021 and are compared against the same reporting period from the previous year. Where figures are quoted on rate per 10,000 population, these are based on East Lothian's population of 107,090 in **2019** (Scottish Government figures, published April 2020).

East Lothian Performance Summary



**Executive Summary**

I am delighted to present this Police scrutiny report relating to our activity within quarter 2, covering March 2021 to September 2021. This has been slightly delayed owing to the commitments required to resource the 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties in Glasgow (COP26). At the time of writing COP26 is coming to an end, this was the largest and most significant event since the formation of Police Scotland and the largest conference involving world leaders ever held in the UK. The demand on policing throughout Scotland and in East Lothian has been significant and I am proud of the professionalism and commitment shown by my officers in ensuring that the communities in our county have continued to receive the service they rightly expect.

It is now 18 months since our lives were first impacted on significantly due to the pandemic, and as we continue to move towards the new “normal”, protecting the most vulnerable remains an absolute focus for Police Scotland and my officers in East Lothian.

In this reporting period we have seen a significant reduction in Covid related calls and a return to more normal crime levels and demand on our service. Across this reporting period we received 191 calls which were Covid related however this is a just a fraction of what was previously being received. We have continued to host our ‘Pop up’ police events in the outlying towns, encouraging residents to visit and preventing them having to travel should they require police support or advice in person. Throughout the pandemic we kept our front counters open and prioritised those calls from people with vulnerabilities.

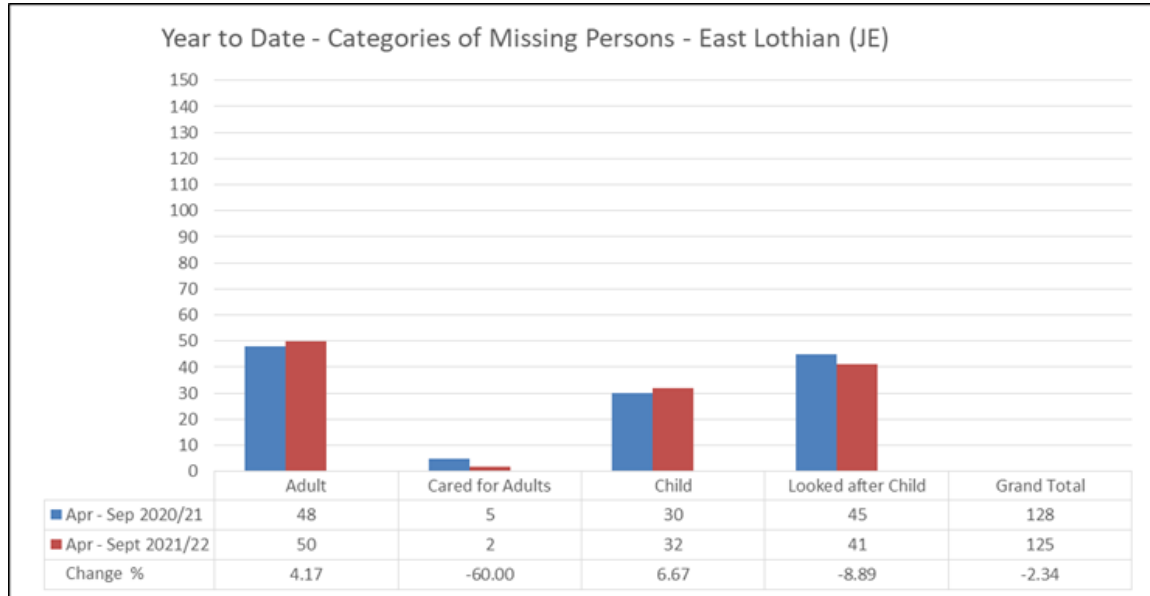
The summer months across the county brought the expected increased tourism footfall and we worked very closely with partners to keep everyone safe, minimise the disruption to the local communities and protect the coastline. We undertook initiatives with partners around wild camping, water safety and speeding and this was very well received. We held pop-up events at the beaches during warm and busy days and provided reassurance to visitors and local communities. Our officers continue to attend the Haddington farmers market and have carried out a large number of bike marking events which always go down well and help prevent thefts. As we recover from the pandemic and events and gala days return we will expand these initiatives and ensure we have a greater presence to engage with our communities.

We continue to supply and fit shed alarms for free for vulnerable people and have carried out a great deal of crime prevention visits across the county, both for businesses and homes.

During recent school term time we had some youth related issues involving tensions building between schools in East Lothian and Edinburgh. Due to our well established partnerships and relationships, a multi-agency group was formed to tackle this and in a reasonably short period of time the issue was dealt with but will continue to be monitored.

Within this report you will find that in most occasions we have compared Q2 figures with the 5 year average, however where appropriate both the 5 year average and last year’s figures have been provided. This is down to the Pandemic and the effect it had, not only on society but on how we recorded certain types of calls so it is not possible to accurately compare year on year data.

<b>Protecting the most vulnerable people.</b>	<b>Missing Persons</b>
---	------------------------



The Lothians & Scottish Borders Division and the communities of East Lothian recognise that protecting people, particularly those considered vulnerable, is a policing priority. Within the remit of protecting people is the work and investigations carried out to trace people who are reported missing. To put the scale of this work into context:

- Police Scotland, on an annual basis undertake over 22,000 investigations into missing people;
- In the Lothians and Scottish Borders Division this equates to the following;
  - Year 2017 / 2018 – 2390 missing person investigations;
  - Year 2018 / 2019 – 2581 missing person investigations;
  - Year 2019 / 2020 – 1786 missing person investigations.
  - Year 2020 / 2021 – 1468 missing person investigations.

Recognising the vulnerability associated with missing people, particularly those that are young or suffering from mental health challenges, Police Scotland has adopted a rigorous investigation structure and management approach to incidents involving missing people.

Across the reporting period we utilised local officers, national specialist resources and partners to search for several missing persons deemed at high risk of harm such as those with suicidal ideations or vulnerabilities. Our continued collaborative approach is vital to ensure the safety of these people and is a great strength of our approach in East Lothian.

As part of our Local Policing Plan 2020-2023 commitments, we implemented the Herbert Protocol across East Lothian and the wider division. This is a nationally recognised protocol which encourages carers, family and friends to provide and put together useful information that can then be used in the event of a vulnerable person going missing. The scheme is designed to help those caring for someone with dementia and is named after George Herbert, a War veteran of the Normandy landings, who had dementia and sadly died while he was ‘missing’ on his way to his childhood home.

We also launched our 'Missing Persons Autism Protocol' which is very similar and is a great tool in assisting us to trace those vulnerable people with autism.

Across East Lothian we continue to have excellent relationships with our young person units and support them to maximise opportunities to support our young people and prevent them from absconding. This quarter there has been a further drop in instances of looked after children going missing of 8.89% and this builds upon the work done last year which saw a 49.4% reduction from 2019. Across two years the drop of over 50% in reports of looked after children going missing is an excellent achievement and reflects the work of the Police and the staff within the units to support our care experienced young people and reduce the opportunities for them to be exposed to risk behaviour.

The other categories of missing people are relatively stable from the previous reporting period with a total reduction of missing person reports of 2.34%, however the combined reduction of 35.9% in instances of missing people across all categories in East Lothian across the last two years has been very welcome.



<b>Protecting the most vulnerable people.</b>	<b>Domestic Abuse</b>
---	-----------------------

	Q2 2020/21	5yr Average	Q2 2021/22	% Change from 5 yr average
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents	631	556.8	588	5.60
Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	342	301.8	339	12.33
Percentage of Domestic Incidents that result in a crime	40.1	41.06	39.63	-1.43
Total crimes and offences detection rate	70.5	69.67	71.09	2.05
Total Detections for Domestic Bail Offences	43	27.6	37	34.06

**Domestic Abuse definition**

Any form of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse can be committed in the home or elsewhere, including online.

**Domestic Abuse Scotland Act.**

The introduction of the Domestic Abuse Scotland Act 2018, has been welcomed as it recognises the multiple ways in which people are affected by domestic abuse. It has expanded the definition of what domestic abuse is in Criminal Law in Scotland and how police and the courts investigate and prosecute this crime. These crime types are recorded as a group 1 offence (serious crimes).

In East Lothian for the reporting period we have recorded 9 group 1 Domestic Abuse Scotland Act offences all of which have been perpetrated against a female victim. This is 2 less than the same reporting period last year which was 11 crimes with 1 of these perpetrated against a male and 10 against females. Due to the act only coming into force in the last few years we cannot give the 5 year average for this crime type.

As stated in the executive summary it is difficult to quantify the effect that the COVID pandemic has had across society and it may be some years before we can get an accurate assessment of this. The figures provided in the table above give the Q2 figures from 12 months ago as well as the 5 year average. The % change is against the five year average.



**Reported domestic abuse incidents**

The total number of domestic abuse incidents for this reporting period is 588 which is 32 incidents more than the 5 year average but a reduction of 43 incidents on last year.

**Reported domestic abuse crimes**

The total number of domestic abuse crimes for this period is 339 which is 3 less than the last reporting period however is 37 more than the 5 year average.

**Domestic Incidents which result in a crime being recorded.**

When a domestic abuse incident is recorded and then investigated we record the percentage of these incidents which result in a crime being recorded. In this reporting period 39.63% of incidents reported resulted in one or more crimes being recorded, this compares to 40.1% last year and 41.06% for the 5 year average. In the Lothians and Scottish Borders Division the conversion rate for Q2 is 45% and for the Force it is 43.1%.

Domestic abuse is a priority for Police Scotland and for us in East Lothian. We work very closely with our statutory partners and third sector to tackle it at all levels and provide the best support we can to victims and robustly pursue offenders. Solvency for Domestic abuse crimes is 71.09% which is 0.59% higher than last year and 1.42% higher than the 5 year average. Our commitment to pursuing offenders and preventing more crimes and victims of domestic abuse has seen a 34% increase in domestic bail offence detections from the 5 year average.

**Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS)**

One of the preventative tools we regularly use in East Lothian to prevent domestic abuse is the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS), which gives people the right to ask about the background of their partner. It also allows concerned relatives and friends the right to ask about someone's partner and if they have been abusive in the past. DSDAS also gives Police Scotland the power to tell people that they may be at risk. This information can be given even if it is not asked for.

Where we have information that a person may be at harm of domestic abuse by their partner, we have the power to tell them. DSDAS allows people to make the choice on whether to remain in the relationship. Police Scotland and our partners can then help and support them.

<b>Protecting the most vulnerable people.</b>	<b>Hate Crime / Incidents</b>
---	-------------------------------

East Lothian				
	Q2 2020/21	5 year average	Q2 2021/22	Q2 Per 10,000
Hate Incidents	73	50	74	6.9
Hate Crimes	64	48.6	60	5.6
Hate Crime Detection Rate	82.4%	81.48%	61.67%	

**Hate Incident definition**

Any incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated (wholly or partly), by malice and ill-will towards a social group but which doesn't constitute a criminal offence.

**Hate Crime definition**

A hate crime is a crime which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated (wholly or partly) by malice and ill-will towards a social group.

**Social Groups**

There are currently five social groups protected under hate crime legislation; Disability or presumed disability, race or presumed race (including Gypsy traveller groups), religion or presumed religion, sexual orientation or presumed sexual orientation and transgender identity or presumed transgender identity

This period has seen an increase of 1 additional hate incident and 4 less hate crimes compared to last year, however this represents an increase of 24 incidents and 11 crimes compared to the 5 year average. These reports have been scrutinised and assessed and there is no pattern or emerging threat to identify the reason for the increase across the five years and may be down to an increased confidence to report these types of crimes.

9 of the 60 crimes recorded have been for crimes perpetrated against a police officer whilst dealing with an incident. The detection rate for hate crime is currently 61.67% with a number of enquiries still actively under investigation and the expectation is that the detection rate for this will improve.

Every reported hate crime or incident is subject to intrusive daily scrutiny at Inspectorial level. Repeat victims are identified, offered additional support and protection whilst repeat offenders are dealt with robustly. All avenues of enquiry are explored and all evidential and prevention opportunities taken.

**Breakdown of crimes.**

- Race: 20 crimes
- Sexual orientation: 31 crimes
- Disability: 3 crimes
- Religion: 1 crime

<b>Protecting the most vulnerable people.</b>	<b>Sexual Crimes (Group 2)</b>
---	--------------------------------

Crime Type	5 Year avg	Q2 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10k population	Q2 2021/22 Detection Rate
Group 2	93.4	147	57.39%	13.73	58.50%
Rape & Attempt Rape	16.8	31	84.52%	2.89	67.74%
Indecent/Sexual Assault	38.8	63	62.37%	5.88	47.62%
Other Group 2	37.8	53	40.21%	4.95	66.04%

**Group 2**

This reporting period has seen an increase in overall Group 2 crime, by 53 crimes compared to the 5 year average and an increase of 37 against last year’s figure of 110. The overall detection rate for group 2 crimes is 58.5% which is slightly down on last year’s detection rate at Q2 of 61.8% however is 0.7% above the 5 year average detection rate which is 57.8%

**Rape and Att Rape**

There has been 31 recorded crimes of rape or attempted rape which is 14 more than the 5 year average and 11 more than what was recorded at Q2 last year. Of these recorded crimes 50% are relating to historical enquiries (more than 1 year old when reported). We actively encourage victims to report crimes, including those of a historic nature and have a number of live enquiries currently under investigation. The current detection rate for this crime type is 67.74%.

**Indecent / Sexual Assault**

Reported crimes of indecent assaults have risen by 16 crimes compared to the same period last year and this represents an increase of 24 crimes on the 5 year average with a 47.62% detection rate.

**Other group 2**

53 other group 2 crimes were recorded which is 15 more than the 5 year average and 9 more than 2020/21 at Q2. These figures include 17 offences committed through indecent communications and 7 threats to disclose indecent photos/material. The solvency for these other crimes is 66.04%.

**Summary**

Tackling criminality that poses the greatest threat and risk is, and will always be, a priority for officers in East Lothian. Rape and Sexual Crime is an area of focus in terms of providing confidence to report, undertaking professional investigations, providing victim support, pursuing perpetrators and managing offenders. The investigation of rape and sexual crime, alongside the management of offenders is achieved through close partnership working.

We actively encourage and support people to report sexual crime and welcome the increase in reported sexual crime as this can evidence an increase in confidence to report these types of crime.

This week we launched the national 'THAT GUY' campaign. Men must take responsibility for ending sexual violence by changing their attitudes and behaviours towards women as well as challenging those of their peers. This is our latest sexual crime prevention campaign and continues to put the cause of sexual offending where it belongs – with men.

The 'THAT GUY' campaign builds on previous Police Scotland #GetConsent campaigns, targeting men aged 18–35 years who are most likely to commit sexual offences. Its aim is to urge men to take responsibility for their actions and language to help affect a culture change to tackle sexual crime against women. The campaign features a new advert which will run on several online platforms, including social media.

On launching the new campaign our Deputy Chief Constable Malcolm Graham said:

“It’s time that we men reflected on our own behaviours and attitudes – and those of our friends, family and colleagues - towards women in order to prevent rape, sexual assault and harassment. We want all women to be free to live their lives without worrying about their safety. Women are not responsible for the sexual offences committed against them and should be able to go about their daily lives without worrying about being sexually harassed, assaulted or raped. It’s up to men to step up, to not be 'that guy' and to stop sexual offending before it starts.”

<b>Protecting the most vulnerable people.</b>	<b>Drug Supply, Production &amp; Cultivation</b>
---	--

Drugs Supply	5 year average	Q2 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q2 2021/22 Detection Rate
Drugs Supply, Production and Cultivation	24.6	14	-43.09%	1.31	71.43%

The number of drug supply offences has dropped by 9 compared to the 5 year average to 14 which is 6 less than last year’s figure at Q2 of 20. There were 172 crimes recorded for the possession of drugs which is just short of the 5 year average of 179. The detection rate for drug supply is 71.43% and for possession is 99.4%. As of week 32, drug supply figures had increased to 20.

The Non-fatal Overdose process implemented following a recommendation during the Op Juneau review is now an established part of partnership working, resulting in significant improvements in people being able to access effective and early support at a time of crisis. This process has now been replicated across the whole of the division as best practice.

Tackling substance misuse remains a priority and local policing teams continue to respond to intelligence in relation to drug misuse.

To ensure Police Scotland remain focused on tackling substance misuse the following activities take place;

- Daily briefings are circulated to all response and community officers to keep them up-to-date with recent intelligence.
- Uniformed officers engage with members of the community to gain additional intelligence re illegal drug activity.
- Intelligence is tasked out for further development to make it actionable.
- We work with our partners in the Alcohol and Drug Partnership to ensure we have the most up-to-date information to circulate to our officers regarding drug trends in our area.
- Our schools officers maintain regular contact with our schools to ensure we are aware of any concerns regarding drug activity amongst our youths.
- Our Antisocial Behaviour Unit monitor all reported incidents and collate data on areas where it is suspected drug activity is taking place, this informs patrol matrix tasking for officers.
- We participate in the Drug Deaths Review group which considers any learning points for all agencies involved.

We use social media to encourage reporting of criminal behaviour through 101, 999 or Crimestoppers.

Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour	Crimes of Violence (Group 1)				
<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>5 year average</b>	<b>Q2 2021/22</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>YTD Per 10,000 population</b>	<b>Q2 2021/22 Detection Rate</b>
Group 1	44	55	25.00%	5.14	78.18%
Serious Assault	21.4	15	-29.91%	1.4	60.00%
Robbery	8.6	11	27.91%	1.03	100.00%
Common Assault	361	419	16.07%	39.13	57.76%

\*Common assaults are not recorded as group 1 crimes.

**Group 1 crime**  
 There has been an increase of 11 group 1 crimes compared to the 5 year average or 7 more compared to 2020/21 Q2 figures. It is worth noting that the 5 year average does not include all the Domestic Abuse Scotland Act offences (DASA) which only began in 2019. There have been 9 of these recorded this period. It also does not include any Threats and Extortion crimes which was only last year changed to be recorded to the location where the victim resides rather than the perpetrator. Previously these crimes which are generally perpetrated from abroad would not have been recorded as an East Lothian crime. These crimes account for 10 group 1 crimes and can be attributed to the increase in the group 1 figures.

**Serious assaults**  
 Whilst common assaults have increased, serious assaults have seen a very welcome drop by 4 crimes compared to last year and 6 crimes compared to the 5 year average. Detections for this crime type is 60% with many investigations still ongoing.

**Robbery**  
 In this reporting period there has been a small rise in robberies or attempted robberies with 4 more than last year and 2 more than the 5 year average. Solvency for this crime is 100%.

**Common assaults**  
 There have been 419 common assaults recorded which is an increase of 16% on the 5 year average. Whilst last year we saw an 11.2% reduction in recorded common assaults compared to 2019/20 this has been offset by an increase of 15.4% this year. The 419 crimes are made up of 386 common assaults and 33 assaults on emergency workers. Detection rate for Common assault is 57.76%.

**Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour**

**Reducing Antisocial Behaviour**

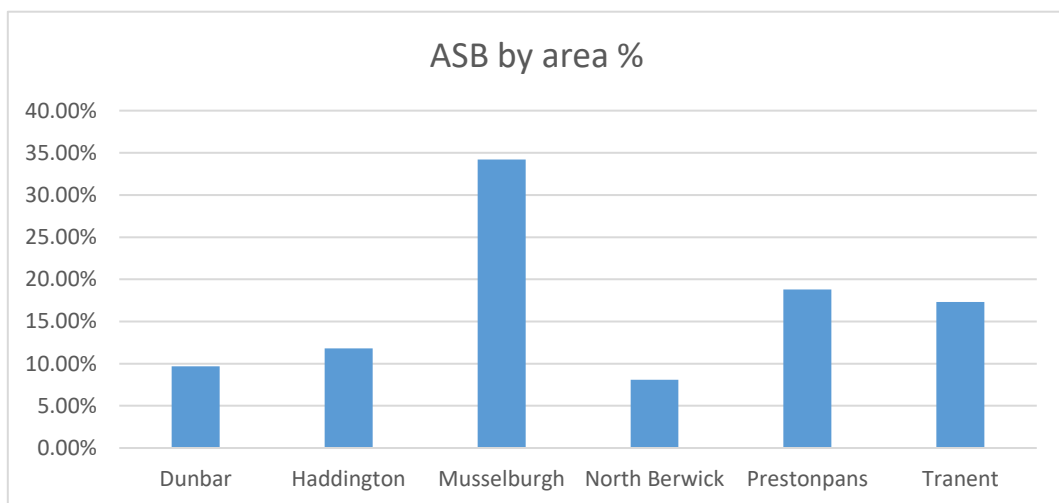
Indicator	5 Year Average	2021-22 Q2	Change	TYTD Per 10,000 population	Q2 2021/22 Detection Rate
Antisocial Behaviour Incidents	3176	3062	-3.59%		
Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)	355.4	348	-2.08%	32.5	22.41%
Fire-raising	23	19	-17.39%	1.77	26.32%
Breach of the Peace and S38 CJ&L(S) A 2010	356.4	349	-2.08%	32.59	77.08%

As detailed in previous scrutiny documents, we saw a significant increase in ASB calls during the height of lockdown due to how we code Covid related calls on our IT systems. It was not possible to completely separate ASB calls from Covid related calls which gave the impression there was a steep rise in ASB. As a result it is not an accurate method to compare last year's ASB calls with those recorded this year so the 5 year average has been used.

As the table above shows, there has been a marked reduction in ASB related calls across all categories with a total reduction of 3.59% compared to the five year average which equates to 114 fewer incidents. This is a very welcome reduction and reflects all the outstanding partnership work ongoing across all agencies to collectively tackle ASB and the root causes of it.

At this time, we do not have any live Problem Solving Partnerships other than a pro-active one to tackle off-road bikers across the county. This is being progressed to tackle the issue and divert youths away from this activity.

To compare the figures to last year there is a 21% reduction in ASB calls which reflect the demand placed upon us through the Covid pandemic. The chart below breaks down all ASB call into localities during this period.



<b>Reducing Acquisitive Crime</b>	<b>Dishonesty &amp; Housebreaking (group 3)</b>
-----------------------------------	---

Crime Type	Q2 2020/21	5 yr avg	Q2 2021/22	Change 5 yr avg	TYTD Per 10,000 population	Q2 2021/22 Detection Rate
Total Group 3	721	969.6	835	-13.88%	77.97	25.39%
Dwelling HB	19	43.6	49	12.61%	4.58	46.94%
Non Dwelling	22	44.2	48	8.59%	4.48	2.08%
Other (Business)	23	43.2	33	-23.61%	3.08	30.3%
All HB	64	131	130	-0.76%	12.14	26.15%

**Group 3**

Group 3 crimes are down by 13.88% which equates to a reduction of 135 on the 5 year average to 835. Detections for this group is 25.39%. It is acknowledged that following the easing of lockdown restrictions we have seen a gradual return to more normal levels of acquisitive crime, particularly housebreakings.

**Housebreaking - Dwelling**

Theft by housebreakings to domestic properties continues to be priority for us as we understand the impact these crimes have on victims and families. The crimes have risen by 12.61% on the 5 year average however detections have risen from 42.1% last year to 46.94%.

**Housebreaking Non-dwelling**

Thefts by housebreakings to non-dwelling, which include sheds, garages and outbuilding has increased by 3 crimes on the 5 year average to 48.

**All Housebreakings**

Across all housebreakings there is a small decrease on the 5 year average of 1 crime with detections at 26.15%.

**Other crimes of dishonesty**

These crimes include common theft, shopliftings, fraud, and theft from and of motor vehicles and shows a reduction in many areas. Shoplifting is down by 42.8% and common thefts are down by 18.8% from the 5 year average. Fraud, mostly perpetrated online continues to be an issue with a 121% increase on the 5 year average.

**Theft from and of Motor vehicles**

Theft of motor vehicles is down by 1 crime whilst theft from a motor vehicle is down by 31.6%. The total motor vehicle group 3 crimes are down by 38.4%



<b>Improving road safety</b>	<b>Road Casualties</b>
------------------------------	------------------------

	Q2 2020/21	Q2 2021/22	Change
Fatal	1	1	-
Serious	19	18	-5%
Slight	32	50	56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>32.7</b>

	5 year avg	Q2 2020/21	Change
<b>Total group 7</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>47.45%</b>
Dangerous driving	24.8	41	65.32%
Speeding	37.8	66	74.60%
Disqualified driving	10.8	5	-53.70%
Driving Licence	53	52	-1.89%
Insurance	129.6	104	-19.75%
Seat Belts	6.2	3	-51.61%
Mobile Phone	7.6	10	31.58%
Drink/Drug Driving Detections	48.4	54	11.57%

The Covid pandemic continued to affect our roads and coastal areas with significantly increased footfall. This brought additional challenges for all partners. The multi-agency approach to this demand continued successfully with shared information and resources to manage this influx and prevent serious disruption to our local communities. Across the peak summer months local officers were supplemented by national specialist resources and departments, including the Force Reserve, Motorcycle unit and Mounted Branch. Road and speed checks were consistently carried out which contributed to making our roads safer but has resulted in continued increases across our group 7 figures. These figures reflect the pro-active work of officers.

There was unfortunately 1 fatal collision in this period which is the same as the last reporting period, a small decrease in serious collisions and an increase in minor or slight collisions. Crimes of dangerous driving, speeding, using mobile phones when driving and drink/drug driving detections all increased with small reductions in disqualified driving, no insurance and seat belt offences.

The efforts to combat speeding on our county roads is reflected in the significant increase in speeding offences which is up 74.6% on the 5 year average.

**20mph speed limits.**

We will continue to focus our speeding activity and road checks on an evidenced based approach. There has been demand from local communities for increased activity however we will always only carry out checks and enforcement in the interests of casualty reduction with the exception being at schools.

Tackling Serious & Organised Crime	Tackling Serious & Organised Crime
------------------------------------	------------------------------------

The National Threat Level is **SEVERE**. This has just been updated following the terror attack in Liverpool.

Threat levels are designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack. They are a tool for security practitioners working across different sectors and the police to use in determining what protective security response may be required. They also keep the public informed and give context to the protective security measures which we all encounter in our daily lives.

The threat level for the UK from international terrorism is set by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC).

**Threat Level Definitions:**

<b>Critical</b>	An attack is highly likely in the near future
<b>Severe</b>	An attack is highly likely
<b>Substantial</b>	An attack is likely
<b>Moderate</b>	An attack is possible but not likely
<b>Low</b>	An attack is highly unlikely

**County Lines**

County Lines refers to drug dealers from large cities who expand their operations into smaller towns. They endeavour to exploit young and vulnerable people to sell drugs, carry cash and weapons – bringing violence, coercion and abuse. They may also take over a vulnerable person’s house – known as ‘cuckooing’. This activity does take place in East Lothian and across Scotland in general. We have had days of action and more are planned. Some victims have been identified from the county and we are actively supporting them and targeting those who exploit the vulnerable.

Our officers continue to disrupt organised crime groups by targeting drugs supply offences, gathering intelligence and generating enforcement opportunities. An emerging trend in Serious and Organised Crime is the ordering of drug related packages online. We have been working with partners in an effort to proactively target persons involved in the distribution and supply of drugs and continue to use the Operation Juneau banner.

**East Lothian Partnership Against Rural Crime**

Inspector Fletcher currently chairs the ELPARC and a significant amount of work was done across the summer with days of action and awareness and training sessions carried out. Areas of concern such as Hare coursing and cockle picking have been subject to activity. These crimes can often be related to organised crime groups.

**OFFICIAL**

<b>Complaints</b>	<b>Executive Summary</b>
-------------------	--------------------------

April 2021 – September 2021				
	Number of Complaints about the Police	Previous year	Number of Complaints per 10,000 Police Incidents	
Complaints about Police	50	51	39.06	
	On Duty Allegations	Off Duty Allegations	Quality of Service Allegations	Total Number of Allegations
Total Allegations Recorded Q2	42	4	33	79
Previous year	30	0	37	67

The breakdown above details the total number of complaints about the police, received in relation to the East Lothian area command as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

The breakdown below provides further detail on the Allegation Category and Type. As can be seen there has been a 17.9% decrease in the overall number of complaints about the police when comparing LYTD and YTD.

Area	Allegation Category and Type	LYTD	YTD	% change
<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>Off Duty - TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>x</b>
	Incivility	0	1	x
	Other	0	3	x
	<b>On Duty - TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40.00%</b>
	Assault	0	1	x
	Excessive Force	1	6	500.00%
	Incivility	10	14	40.00%
	Irregularity in Procedure	16	16	0.00%
	Oppressive Conduct/Harassment	1	1	0.00%
	Other - Criminal	1	0	-100.00%
	Other - Non Criminal	1	1	0.00%
	Traffic Irregularity/Offence	0	3	x
	<b>Quality Of Service - TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>-10.80%</b>
	Policy/Procedure	10	6	-40.00%
	Service Delivery	8	8	0.00%
	Service Outcome	19	19	0.00%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>17.90%</b>	

## East Lothian Recorded Crime Overview Q2

East Lothian	5 Year Average	2021/22 Q2	Per 10,000 Q2 2021/22	Detection Rates 2021/22
<b>GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>5.14</b>	<b>78.18</b>
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0	0	-	-
Culpable homicide (at common law)	0	0	-	-
Culpable homicide (under statute including RTA, sec. 1)	0.2	0	-	-
Attempted murder	1.2	1	0.09	100
Serious assault	21.4	15	1.4	60
Robbery and assault with intent to rob	8.6	11	1.03	100
Domestic Abuse (of female)	x	9	0.84	111.11
Domestic Abuse (of male)	x	0	-	-
<b>Domestic Abuse (Total)</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>111.11</b>
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	3.4	4	0.37	100
Threats and extortion	2	10	0.93	20
Other group 1 crimes	3.2	5	0.47	120
<b>GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES</b>	<b>93.4</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>13.73</b>	<b>58.5</b>
Rape	16.6	31	2.89	67.74
Assault w/i to rape or ravish	0.2	0	-	-
<b>Rape and attempted rape - Total</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2.89</b>	<b>67.74</b>
Sexual assault (pre-SOSA 2009)*	1.8	5	0.47	0
Sexual assault (SOSA 2009)*	26.6	45	4.2	51.11
Lewd & libidinous practices*	10.4	13	1.21	53.85
<b>Indecent/Sexual Assault - Total</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>5.88</b>	<b>47.62</b>
<b>Prostitution related crime - Total*</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Taking, distribution, possession of indecent photos of children	4.8	5	0.47	100
Communicating indecently (SOSA 2009)*	7.2	16	1.49	68.75
Communications Act 2003 (sexual)	3.4	1	0.09	0
Sexual exposure (SOSA 2009)*	2.4	3	0.28	33.33
Public indecency (common law)	2.6	0	-	-
Other sexual crimes (SOSA 2009)*	12.6	19	1.77	57.89
Other sexual crimes (non-SOSA 2009)*	1.2	2	0.19	100
Threatening / Disclosure of intimate image*	3.6	7	0.65	71.43
Other Group 2 crimes	0	0	-	-
<b>Other Group 2 crimes - Total</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>4.95</b>	<b>66.04</b>
<b>GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY</b>	<b>969.6</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>77.97</b>	<b>25.39</b>
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	43.6	49	4.58	46.94
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	44.2	48	4.48	2.08
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	43.2	33	3.08	30.3
<b>Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>12.14</b>	<b>26.15</b>
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	31.2	11	1.03	36.36

**OFFICIAL**

Theft of a motor vehicle	49.8	35	3.27	45.71
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc.)	55.6	38	3.55	13.16
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	4.8	7	0.65	14.29
<b>Motor vehicle crime - Total</b>	<b>141.4</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>28.57</b>
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	13.4	29	2.71	0
Common theft	265	215	20.08	25.12
Theft by shoplifting	267.4	153	14.29	39.22
Fraud	67.6	150	14.01	10.67
Other Group 3 Crimes	83.8	67	6.26	32.84
<b>GROUP 4: FIRE-RAISING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF etc.</b>	<b>399.4</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>37.54</b>	<b>24.63</b>
Fireraising	23	19	1.77	26.32
Vandalism (including malicious mischief)	355.4	348	32.5	22.41
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	1.4	0	-	-
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	18.2	33	3.08	45.45
Other Group 4 Crimes	1.4	2	0.19	0
<b>GROUP 5: OTHER (PRO-ACTIVITY) CRIMES</b>	<b>395.4</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>38.66</b>	<b>96.62</b>
Carrying offensive weapons (incl. restriction)	13.4	21	1.96	85.71
Handling bladed/pointed instrument	11	20	1.87	90
Offensive weapon (used in other criminal activity)*	6.2	7	0.65	85.71
Bladed/pointed instrument (used in other criminal activity)*	3.2	15	1.4	80
<b>Total offensive/bladed weapons</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>5.88</b>	<b>85.71</b>
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	5	2	0.19	0
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	19.6	12	1.12	83.33
Bringing drugs into prison	0	0	-	-
<b>Supply of drugs - Total</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>71.43</b>
Possession of drugs	179.2	172	16.06	99.42
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	1.4	2	0.19	100
<b>Total drugs crimes</b>	<b>205.2</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>17.56</b>	<b>97.34</b>
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	0.2	0	-	-
Bail offences (other than absconding)	72.2	93	8.68	103.23
Other Group 5 crimes	84	70	6.54	95.71
<b>GROUP 6: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>83.57</b>	<b>65.47</b>
Common Assault	333	386	36.04	54.15
Common Assault (of emergency workers)	28	33	3.08	100
<b>Common Assault - Total</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>39.13</b>	<b>57.76</b>
Breach of the Peace	16	7	0.65	100
Threatening & abusive behaviour	329.6	333	31.1	76.28
Stalking	10.8	9	0.84	88.89
<b>BOP, S38 &amp; S39 Crim Just &amp; Lic (S) Act 2010 - Total</b>	<b>356.4</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>32.59</b>	<b>77.08</b>
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct*	13.2	7	0.65	57.14
Drunk and incapable	5.4	1	0.09	100
Consume alcohol in designated place local bye-law	11.2	8	0.75	100
Other alcohol related offences*	6	6	0.56	100
<b>Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct (TOTAL)</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>100</b>

**OFFICIAL**

Wildlife offences*	3.8	4	0.37	0
Other Group 6 offences	100	101	9.43	55.45
<b>GROUP 7: OFFENCES RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES</b>	<b>566.6</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>61.82</b>	<b>78.4</b>
Dangerous driving offences	24.8	41	3.83	92.68
Drink, Drug driving offences incl. Failure to provide a specimen	48.4	54	5.04	81.48
Speeding offences	37.8	66	6.16	84.85
Driving while disqualified	10.8	5	0.47	100
Driving without a licence	53	52	4.86	98.08
Failure to insure against third party risks	129.6	104	9.71	99.04
Driving Carelessly	44.6	82	7.66	76.83
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	3.4	6	0.56	100
Using a motor vehicle without test certificate	39.8	56	5.23	100
Other Group 7 offences	160.6	183	17.09	46.99

**Lothian and Scottish Borders Divisional Crime Overview Q2**

Lothian and Scottish Borders Division	5 Year Average	2021/22 Q2	Per 10,000 Q2 2021/22	Detection Rates 2021/22
<b>GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE</b>	<b>280.4</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>7.97</b>	<b>69.77</b>
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0.8	4	0.08	100.00
Culpable homicide (at common law)	0	0	0	-
Culpable homicide (under statute including RTA, sec. 1)	2.2	1	0.02	100.00
Attempted murder	7	14	0.28	100.00
Serious assault	135.6	149	2.99	74.50
Robbery and assault with intent to rob	46.4	42	0.84	78.57
Domestic Abuse (of female)	-	56	1.12	92.86
Domestic Abuse (of male)	-	2	0.04	100.00
Domestic Abuse (Total)	-	58	1.16	93.10
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	38.2	32	0.64	84.38
Threats and extortion	16.2	64	1.28	9.38
Other group 1 crimes	17.4	33	0.66	81.82
<b>GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES</b>	<b>508.4</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>14.19</b>	<b>51.34</b>
Rape	92.4	136	2.73	63.97
Assault w/i to rape or ravish	3.4	7	0.14	0.00
<i>Rape and attempted rape - Total</i>	<b>95.8</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>2.87</b>	<b>60.84</b>
Sexual assault (pre-SOSA 2009)*	7.8	5	0.1	0.00
Sexual assault (SOSA 2009)*	138.2	206	4.14	47.09
Lewd & libidinous practices*	53.4	43	0.86	62.79
<i>Indecent/Sexual Assault - Total</i>	<b>199.4</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>48.82</b>
<i>Prostitution related crime - Total*</i>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**OFFICIAL**

Taking, distribution, possession of indecent photos of children	28	35	0.7	71.43
Communicating indecently (SOSA 2009)*	36.4	74	1.49	60.81
Communications Act 2003 (sexual)	23.2	11	0.22	54.55
Sexual exposure (SOSA 2009)*	19.4	19	0.38	36.84
Public indecency (common law)	8.6	5	0.1	20.00
Other sexual crimes (SOSA 2009)*	66.8	112	2.25	41.96
Other sexual crimes (non-SOSA 2009)*	9.8	8	0.16	75.00
Threatening / Disclosure of intimate image*	20.8	45	0.9	31.11
Other Group 2 crimes	0	0	0	-
<i>Other Group 2 crimes - Total</i>	213	309	6.2	48.87
<b>GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY</b>	<b>4499.8</b>	<b>3962</b>	<b>79.53</b>	<b>26.22</b>
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	208	182	3.65	32.42
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	202	106	2.13	10.38
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	208.2	130	2.61	40.00
<i>Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total</i>	618.2	418	8.39	29.19
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	115	80	1.61	21.25
Theft of a motor vehicle	233.4	164	3.29	46.34
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc.)	317.6	138	2.77	15.94
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	17.6	22	0.44	13.64
<i>Motor vehicle crime - Total</i>	683.6	404	8.11	29.21
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	67.2	71	1.43	2.82
Common theft	1256	1117	22.42	17.64
Theft by shoplifting	1200.6	961	19.29	43.60
Fraud	340.2	748	15.02	11.36
Other Group 3 Crimes	334	243	4.88	39.51
<b>GROUP 4: FIRE-RAISING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF etc.</b>	<b>2162</b>	<b>2073</b>	<b>41.61</b>	<b>29.18</b>
Fireraising	133.4	129	2.59	26.36
Vandalism (including malicious mischief)	1926.4	1790	35.93	26.70
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	4.6	2	0.04	200.00
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	93.2	146	2.93	60.96
Other Group 4 Crimes	4.4	6	0.12	0.00
<b>GROUP 5: OTHER (PRO-ACTIVITY) CRIMES</b>	<b>2090.4</b>	<b>2190</b>	<b>43.96</b>	<b>92.69</b>
Carrying offensive weapons (incl. restriction)	70.8	89	1.79	88.76
Handling bladed/pointed instrument	71.4	91	1.83	94.51
Offensive weapon (used in other criminal activity)*	51.8	90	1.81	76.67
Bladed/pointed instrument (used in other criminal activity)*	32.8	53	1.06	77.36
<i>Total offensive/bladed weapons</i>	226.8	323	6.48	85.14
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	48.4	22	0.44	81.82
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	118	93	1.87	78.49
Bringing drugs into prison	11.4	5	0.1	60.00
<i>Supply of drugs - Total</i>	177.8	120	2.41	78.33
Possession of drugs	907	829	16.64	95.05
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	7.4	7	0.14	42.86

**OFFICIAL**

<i>Total drugs crimes</i>	<b>1092.2</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>19.19</b>	<b>92.57</b>
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
Bail offences (other than absconding)	<b>393</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>10.24</b>	<b>96.08</b>
Other Group 5 crimes	<b>376.8</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>8.05</b>	<b>94.76</b>
<b>GROUP 6: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES</b>	<b>4999</b>	<b>5572</b>	<b>111.85</b>	<b>67.16</b>
Common Assault	<b>2003</b>	<b>2301</b>	<b>46.19</b>	<b>57.45</b>
Common Assault (of emergency workers)	<b>192</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>5.06</b>	<b>97.62</b>
<i>Common Assault - Total</i>	<b>2195</b>	<b>2553</b>	<b>51.25</b>	<b>61.42</b>
Breach of the Peace	<b>133.6</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>91.67</b>
Threatening & abusive behaviour	<b>1849</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>40.55</b>	<b>74.11</b>
Stalking	<b>57.2</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>82.61</b>
<i>BOP, S38 &amp; S39 Crim Just &amp; Lic (S) Act 2010 - Total</i>	<b>2039.8</b>	<b>2126</b>	<b>42.68</b>	<b>74.79</b>
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct*	<b>65.8</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1.57</b>	<b>85.90</b>
Drunk and incapable	<b>30.2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Consume alcohol in designated place local bye-law	<b>38.4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Other alcohol related offences*	<b>20.6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>92.86</b>
<i>Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct (TOTAL)</i>	<b>89.2</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>97.67</b>
Wildlife offences*	<b>18.4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>23.08</b>
Other Group 6 offences	<b>590.8</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>15.24</b>	<b>62.19</b>
<b>GROUP 7: OFFENCES RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES</b>	<b>3720.8</b>	<b>3575</b>	<b>71.76</b>	<b>79.75</b>
Dangerous driving offences	<b>118.6</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>3.43</b>	<b>85.96</b>
Drink, Drug driving offences incl. Failure to provide a specimen	<b>266.2</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>5.88</b>	<b>80.89</b>
Driving while disqualified	<b>66.6</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>97.56</b>
Driving without a licence	<b>290.6</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>6.52</b>	<b>97.85</b>
Failure to insure against third party risks	<b>732.4</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>13.87</b>	<b>98.41</b>
Driving Carelessly	<b>272</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>7.65</b>	<b>83.46</b>
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	<b>68.4</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>88.64</b>
Using a motor vehicle without test certificate	<b>329.2</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>6.64</b>	<b>99.40</b>
Other Group 7 offences	<b>866</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>19.15</b>	<b>46.44</b>



**REPORT TO:** Police, Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

**MEETING DATE:** 2 December 2021

**BY:** Executive Director for Place

**SUBJECT:** Tackling Antisocial Behaviour

---

**5**

## **1 PURPOSE**

To advise the Committee on the number, type and geographical breakdown of antisocial behaviour complaints received by East Lothian Council during the reporting period (1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021) and to advise on actions taken in response to same.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Committee notes the terms of the report.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

3.1 The number of individual antisocial complaints received by the Council during the reporting period was 973. This compares to a figure of 1295 received during the equivalent period in 2020 representing a 24 % *decrease* in the number of complaints received. Comparisons with the 2019 figure however show an 18% increase in the number of complaints received thereby suggesting that the corollary effects of the pandemic (e.g. working from home, a diminution in tolerance levels and the display of exaggerated behaviours immediately following upon the lifting of “lockdown”) continue to play a part in the relatively high numbers of complaints being made.

3.2 Of the 973 complaints received, 320 were made by 109 individuals who had cause to complain on more than one occasion regarding the same issue.

3.3 Appendix 1 provides a linear analysis of antisocial behaviour complaints made to East Lothian Council from 2012 to date. This shows a downward trend in antisocial behaviour complaints received between 2012/2013 and

the current reporting period, with 2020/2021 representing an *extraordinarily exceptional* year associated with the pressures experienced across communities attendant to COVID 19.

- 3.4 Of the 973 complaints received, 407 related to antisocial noise (primarily loud music), 204 were youth related, 125 related to drug misuse, with the remaining 237 consisting of, *amongst other things*, shouting, swearing, neighbour disputes and verbal abuse. The diagram at Appendix 2 offers a visual representation of the breakdown in terms of case type.
- 3.5 In terms of *loci*, 28% of the 973 complaints were from Musselburgh and the surrounding environs, 21% from Tranent, 10% from Dunbar, 17% from Prestonpans, 15% from Haddington and 9% from North Berwick. The diagram at Appendix 3 offers a visual representation of geographical breakdown.
- 3.6 During the reporting period, 171 referrals were made to the Resolution Service as compared to 145 during the equivalent period in 2020, marking an increase of 18% in the number of referrals made. During the reporting period, the two resolution officers, previously employed by Midlothian Council, transferred over to the employment of East Lothian Council. The bringing “in-house” of the service affords an opportunity to re-promote and re-brand the service in early 2022.
- 3.7 Two Problem Solving Partnerships (PSPs) were active during the period; the first related to the antisocial use of off-road motorcycles in the Musselburgh / Whitecraig area, the other to a variety of estate management issues attendant to “the Wimpey’s” estate in Musselburgh.
- 3.8 There are 10 live Antisocial Behaviour Orders in East Lothian. There is currently one live eviction case before Edinburgh Sheriff Court. The Antisocial Behaviour Case Monitoring Group continues to meet to ensure that the more *serious and persistent* cases are addressed from a multi-agency perspective; there are currently 63 cases being so monitored.
- 3.9 In May 2021, East Lothian Council reported to the Scottish Housing Regulator that it had met 84% of its locally agreed targets for processing antisocial behaviour cases during 2020/2021. Those targets are: to close 20% of all complaints within 1 month of the date of receipt, 20% within 2 months, 40% within 4 months, 10% within 12 months and 10% after 12 months (mainly Court cases). The council’s performance compares favourably with other local authorities of a similar size.
- 3.10 The Antisocial Behaviour Overview and Officer Groups, along with the weekly Tasking and Co-ordinating Group, met throughout the reporting period; the latter of these multi-agency groups informs the deployment of Police Officers, Community Wardens, Neighbourhood Outreach Youth Workers and mobile CCTV cameras to antisocial behaviour “hotspots”, with said deployments being made on an analysis of complaint levels and received intelligence. The Overview Group is currently overseeing a refreshing of the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy; development work will progress through 2022 with the intention of reaching a consultation phase

in late 2022. The Strategy will maintain an emphasis on prevention, support and early intervention.

- 3.11 During the reporting period, 77 joint Police / Council letters were sent to the parents of children whom the police had identified as being present in areas affected by antisocial behaviour, an increase of 22% from the same period during the immediately preceding Financial Year. All Parental Advisory Letters are copied to Education, Children's Wellbeing and Police Scotland's Youth Justice Officer.
- 3.12 Street-based Outreach Youth Work continued throughout the reporting period in the county's major towns with other forms of traditional generic and targeted face-face youth diversionary work reverting to pre-pandemic models.
- 3.13 The Council's responsive Night Time Noise Service (previously operating between 2200 Hours and 0200 Hours on Friday and Saturday evenings) remained suspended during the reporting period; however, pro-active noise monitoring re-commenced. A review of the service in 2022 will determine the future level and model of night-time noise response necessary, informed by data analysis and sectoral benchmarking.
- 3.14 Consideration is also currently being given to the use of a Noise App that would allow complainers to contemporaneously record instances of noise and to send those to the safer communities team. An assessment would then take place in order to determine whether the levels recorded were of an antisocial nature; it is anticipated that a number of cases will be diverted away from the launching of a full investigation following upon the assessment of said recordings.
- 3.15 In accordance with the Council's ongoing COVID-19 business continuity arrangements, the majority of antisocial behaviour complaints continue to be investigated by officers working from home, providing support to complainers, engaging with partner agencies and taking the appropriate action against perpetrators from their home-based workstations. Where necessary, face-to-face engagement with complainers or perpetrators takes place, often in collaboration with Police Officers or Housing Officers, if the circumstances merit this.
- 3.16 The Community Warden Team have maintained a high-visibility street presence throughout the reporting period. Apart from their routine duties of attending to fly-tipping, littering, graffiti, dog fouling and lower level antisocial behaviour complaints, they took part in the peak summer season multi-agency effort in managing the coastal areas and in carrying out deliveries to the local foodbank. Wardens continue to engage with the local community and their representatives on a daily basis.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None.

## **5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and no negative impacts have been identified.

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial – None.  
6.2 Personnel - None.  
6.3 Other – None.

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None.

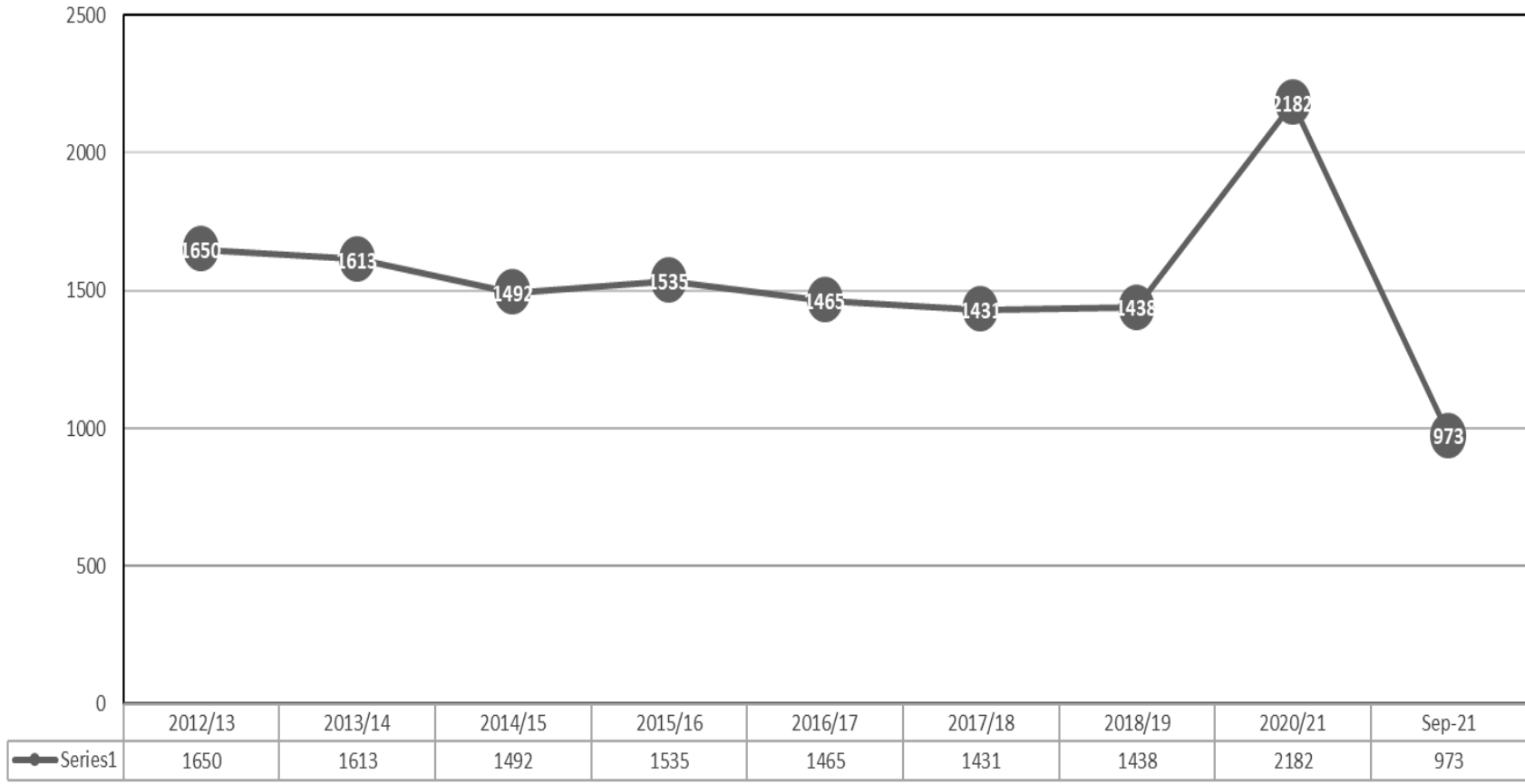
Appendix 1 Graph – Antisocial Behaviour Complaints made to East Lothian Council 2012-2021.

Appendix 2 Chart showing breakdown of case type (April to September 2021).

Appendix 3 Chart showing geographical breakdown (April to September 2021).

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Kenneth Black
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Team Manager Safer Communities Team
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	01620 829 919
<b>DATE</b>	19 November 2021

### Number of Antisocial Behaviour Calls made to East Lothian Council



**YEAR**



