



Minutes

Community Safety Committee

Date: 15 January 2021

Time: 10:30

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Present: Councillors G Almas (in the chair), C Anderson (as substitute for Councillor Harrand), T Austin, C Burke, R Hunt, D Jenkins, D Kirton, M Pervaiz, M Pollard, K Renshaw and A Tait

In Attendance: None

Apologies: Councillor P Harrand

23 Minutes of the last meeting held on 30 October 2020

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 30 October 2020 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

24 Matters arising

None

25 Urgent items

None

26 Admission of the public

There were no items which required the exclusion of the public and press.

27 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest made in any matter under consideration at the meeting.

28 Performance against PMI targets

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery submitted a report which advised of performance against the 2020 – 21 performance outcome targets from 1 April 2020 – 15 January 2021.

It was reported that the all Districts were already either showing a downward trend in overall activity or were anticipated to be under target by the end of the reporting period (April 2021).

Members commented specifically on the following issues;

- Malicious false alarms in Calderdale – it was reported that work was underway to amend the reporting system to identify those alarms only with malicious intent rather than accidental. Software had also been introduced to identify the location of each caller
- Actual rescues – the majority of these figures related to Fire Service assistance to partners in gaining entry but also reflected the number of persons involved in any given rescue
- Dwelling fires- evidence showed that the downward trend was in part due to increased safety measures on white goods as well as a change in human behaviour, due to some extent, to the fire safety messages going out across West Yorkshire

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

29 Performance Management Indicator targets 2021 - 22

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery which advised of the provisional performance management (PMI) targets for 2021 – 22.

It was proposed not to use the 2020 – 21 performance data as part of the target setting process as performance during the course of the year was heavily skewed by the impact of the COVID pandemic. The 2021 – 22 targets, therefore, would be set based on the previous three years' performance (2017 – 20).

Members were advised that these were very challenging targets which would require Officers to work hard to achieve.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

30 Primary Authority scheme - update

Members considered a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery which provided an update on the work of the Primary Authority scheme which had been introduced in 2014.

It was reported that the scheme played a valuable role in leading and shaping the regulation of businesses partners and delivered benefits to the regulatory system as a whole.

Whilst it was a statutory duty for West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to follow advice and plans issued under the scheme, that duty did not extend to the requirement to actively partake in partnerships.

Members were advised that, due to difficulties in recruiting into the Fire Protection Team due to market forces and continued staff training due to resourcing issues, it was proposed that the Scheme be suspended for a three-year period. This would not impact on the other Fire Protection work carried out by the team and partners in the Scheme would continue to receive a reactive presence with a view to continuing to support them in achieving consistency.

It was anticipated that this measure would improve the ability to respond to any impact of further staff losses in Fire Protection due to the creation of a pool of readily available and trained Fire Protection staff.

This it was hoped would help avoid staff losses having a significant impact on the Service's ability to carry out other statutory duties and Members were further advised that the measures also reflected the funding challenges facing every Fire and Rescue Service nationwide.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

31 Service Delivery “Spotlight On” cases studies

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery submitted a report which provided examples of the following areas of work which were being undertaken to meet the needs of the communities of West Yorkshire in the delivery of prevention, protection and response activity;

- Delivery of digital firesetting interventions during the COVID19 pandemic
- Educating young people on bonfire and fireworks safety
- Emergency response and community engagement across the five Districts

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

32 Fire Protection prosecutions

Members received a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery which provided information on completed successful prosecutions in 2020 as follows;

- Wakefield Grammar School Foundation (including contracted specialist fire safety services), and;
- Trinity Halls student accommodation (Leeds) – this represented the largest fine imposed throughout UK fire safety legal history

It was reported that the outcome and recommendation from the Grenfell fire inquiry would include an increased and earlier involvement of Fire Safety Inspectors in the submission of planning applications by developers.

RESOLVED

- a) That the report be noted; and
- b) That Officers be thanked for their excellent work in bringing these cases to a successful conclusion.

Chair