



HUMBERSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

PUBLIC SAFETY

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and Strategic Plan transfer statutory responsibility for Public Safety into the Public Safety delivery plan to ensure that Service Delivery is effective, efficient and economical.

2. EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

HFRS has a legal responsibility under the Equality Act 2010, and a commitment, to ensure it does not discriminate either directly or indirectly in any of its functions and services nor in its treatment of staff, in relation to race, sex, disability, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, gender reassignment or marriage and civil partnership. It also has a duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled applicants, employees and service users

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Humberside Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) will engage in Public Safety activities through a carefully co-ordinated and focused approach. This is achieved through the Public Safety delivery plan which aims to be intelligence-led, risk-based and outcome focused. The Public Safety Directorate will continue to help people to prepare for emergencies; working with our partners to reduce risk. We will help to keep our communities safe and make our area a better place to live, travel and work. We will aim to strike a balance between ensuring the safety of the public and minimising the burden on businesses. Our education role seeks to reduce the demand upon our enforcement and response roles. We will continue to target those businesses that put our communities at risk by not complying with fire safety standards. This policy is a formal statement of principles established by Humberside Fire & Rescue Service that provide the parameters for decision making and actions.

4. GUIDANCE

This policy outlines the Public Safety framework, responsibilities, performance management and monitoring and review process that enable statutory compliance with the Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004, Fire and Rescue National Framework and Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order 2005.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY DATA AND INTELLIGENCE

Public Safety activities will be delivered in line with the provision of data and intelligence procedures. This will ensure targeted approaches to those that require our services the most. Our data and intelligence for delivery of Public Safety services will be within our two risk profiles:

- Business Risk Profile
- Domestic Risk Profile

The management of our Performance and Risk forms a core element of Public Safety's approach to continuous improvement. This enables Public Safety to promote continuous improvement, exploit opportunities and effectively manage risks to our

communities, partners, staff and the organisation, ensuring that the objectives set out ultimately by the Strategic Plan are achieved.

Our Public Safety data and intelligence procedures provide:

- An appropriate method of recording and monitoring performance and risk with continuous review.
- Effective channels for the communication of performance and risk.
- Analysis, identification and management of risk and vulnerability.
- Analysis, identification and management of opportunities.
- Identification of barriers, good practice and implementation of appropriate improvement strategies.
- Continuous evaluation to ensure response and interventions are appropriate and effective.
- A robust framework to predict and prevent future demand.

Recording of data

All public safety activities are recorded in the Public Safety Information Recording System. The system captures information at source, using electronic means to gather information during delivery of the activity.

All staff will maintain accuracy in the recording of information; this is critical to the analysing and relevance of data used in all Public Safety activities.

The Service is committed to compliance with all relevant UK laws in respect of personal data, and the protection of the “rights and freedoms” of individuals whose information the Service collects and processes in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR). More information on this is available within our Data Protection Policy.

The system will also be used to record non-delivery of service including situations in which services are refused or declined.

6. SAFEGUARDING

The Service has a Safeguarding Policy which must be adhered to. Safeguarding is the process we have in place to help protect the safety and welfare of children, young people and adults at risk that the service comes into contact with, in the course of their work. The Service recognises that the protection and safety of vulnerable people is everyone’s responsibility. HFRS has a duty of care to protect the wellbeing of those groups or individuals in its care, who are considered to be especially at risk of harm. It also includes any specific activities that are undertaken to protect people who are suffering, or likely to suffer, abuse.

7. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

HFRS produce a Public Safety **annual calendar of events and communications**, within the Public Safety communications plan, which details the year round activities and themes, delivered to promote public safety to our communities within Humberside.

The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) calendar, together with other applicable national and local themes and events are utilised to populate the annual calendar. Communication of these themes will be through relevant channels such as social media, local media outlets, TV/radio coverage and website channels. Themes included within this cover fire, road and water safety as well as public health communications and large-scale local events that include the Service (e.g. rescue day/veterans day).

HFRS deliver Road Safety activities through a partnership strategy under the Safer Roads Humber partnership. For further information on this, please see the SRH strategy.

Arson Reduction

HFRS works closely with Humberside Police and other partners in reducing the number of incidents and the impact of arson. We deliver services to protect individuals and domestic/commercial properties identified as being 'at risk' from arson.

The level of risk is predominantly determined in a partnership environment through existing groups (e.g. Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences). However, on occasion it may be directly reported to HFRS, and in this instance, a risk assessment will be completed and our approach will be determined on an individual basis.

Youth Engagement

We will deliver a range of youth engagement activities and will work to increase participation in activities with young people to increase fire, road and water safety awareness, as well as increase health outcomes and aspirations of the young people of Humberside.

Our activities are delivered in line with relevant guidance and accreditation, with competent staff, and we are subjected to Ofsted inspection, as well as other external verification, to ensure we are delivering effectively and in line with standards.

We have a detailed guide of our youth activities is held on our website.

8. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

HFRS recognises that individual organisations frequently share similar objectives and it is often possible to achieve more, by working in partnership and sharing information or resources, than would be achieved in isolation. HFRS will incorporate partnership working within their strategic planning and will play a full and active part in various Strategic Partnerships and other beneficial groups that support the strategic plan. Collaboration through partnership will be the means by which HFRS ensure that the community is served with optimum efficiency through a multi-agency approach.

Those partnerships considered to pose the highest risk or of a strategic nature up to a value of £50k must be presented to the relevant director with referral to the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) as appropriate. For all partnerships over £50k, approval should be sought from an Executive Director.

All partnerships/business sponsorships entered into by HFRS must 'add value' and fit in with the Strategic Plan and local objectives. All partnerships should take the SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound) approach to objectives.

Definition

A partnership is defined as either "the relationship between two or more organisations that are involved in the same activity", or the co-operation between groups working together towards a common objective.

Guidance

Overall management of partnerships is the responsibility of the tactical group overseeing the relationship. Where funding streams become available within partnership environments, the relevant tactical group overseeing the relationship and member of staff directly involved will complete an equality analysis of the partnership as well as a risk impact assessment.

Support for the management of partnerships is available through the Public Safety Central support team.

9. BUSINESS SAFETY ACTIVITIES

Public Safety activities will be delivered in line with the provision of data and intelligence procedures. This will ensure targeted approaches to those that require our services the most. Our data and intelligence for delivery of Business Safety services will be within our **Business Risk Profile**.

Business Safety Audits

A business safety audit is an inspection of premises by qualified Business Safety Staff under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The emphasis of the audit is on the responsible person for the premises demonstrating that they have met the duties required by the legislation above. The Inspection may take the form of a short inspection, ensuring the premises are safe enough or a full inspection, including inspection of relevant documents which demonstrate due diligence in fire safety management of the premises.

We will determine which premises to audit based on an assessment of risk, utilising data from a number of internal and external sources. Using our Business Risk Profile we will target our resources at those businesses which present the greatest risk.

As well as our Business Risk Profile, we may also carry out an audit after a premises has had a fire, or when we receive a concern from a member of the public or a referral from one of our partner agencies. These concerns will be assessed for level of risk and targeted accordingly and in line with standard delivery guidance.

All Business Safety staff will be in uniform, carry identification and adhere to relevant procedures such as lone working and ICT use.

Business Support Visits

There may be some premises whose risk profile does not match our criteria for a Business Safety Audit, but that still require help and guidance to fully comply with relevant fire safety legislation. This will be given during a Business Support Visit, which will be carried out by our operational fire crews. This will not be an audit of the premises; it is an engagement exercise to ensure fire risk is driven down as low as possible in businesses. Our crews will offer advice and guidance on some issues, but if they discover potentially more serious contraventions of the legislation they will refer the premises to Business Safety staff and a full audit may be carried out.

Operational crews may also follow up a Business Safety Audit to see the levels of progress in relation to any requirements which our Business Safety staff have asked for.

Business Safety Advice

As well as carrying out visits, we will also provide advice to businesses on how to comply with the regulations and make premises safe from fire. We will also publish **position statements** on common themes such as reducing unwanted fire signals (false alarms), sprinkler systems in premises and other fire safety matters; this will be done in consultation with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) where appropriate and information will be made available on our website. In addition to this, we may be able to offer advice over the phone depending on the nature of the enquiry.

Business Safety – Consultation

Where there is a proposal to erect or make any extension or structural alteration to a building, plans are normally deposited with a local authority or Approved Inspector (AI). The local authority or AI must consult with us before passing those plans.

We are also a relevant body in the consultation of issues such as the granting of licenses under legislation such as the Licensing Act 2003 or the Housing Act 2004.

Business Safety – Enforcement

We aim to educate and inform businesses on fire safety and ensure that preventative and remedial action is taken to keep people safe and to ensure compliance with the regulatory system. In some cases, we may have to take informal or formal action to ensure these matters are addressed.

We will endeavour to minimise the cost of compliance for business by ensuring that any action taken, or advice offered, is proportionate to the risk. We will take particular care to work with all businesses and organisations so that they can meet their legal obligations without unnecessary expense.

We will carry out our statutory duties in a fair, equitable and consistent manner. HFRS staff will exercise their professional judgement to deal effectively with specific matters and adhere to standards and guidance to promote consistency. We will liaise with other authorities and enforcement bodies to achieve coordination and best practice.

We will help those responsible for complying with the Order to understand what is expected of them and what they should expect from the Service. We will distinguish between statutory requirements and advice or guidance about what is desirable but not compulsory to meet the legislation.

If the responsible person does not rectify any fire safety deficiencies, or breaches any issued formal notices, then we may take legal action, which could result in a caution or legal action via the criminal courts.

Only staff members authorised in writing by the Chief Fire Officer may undertake enforcement duties.

10. HOME SAFETY SERVICES

HFRS recognises that the most effective way of preventing fires and death or injury by fire is to ensure we engage with those most at risk in our community and provide effective advice and risk mitigation. We have committed to enhancing our traditional Home Safety Visits to provide targeted Safe and Well (S&W) visits within the homes of those considered most at risk from fire within our community. S&W visits will focus on the reduction of fire risk however, we will also contribute to delivering health and wellbeing outcomes across the Humberside area by identifying areas of need for health, police and local authority colleagues across a range of health and wellbeing priorities such as falls and frailty, smoking cessation, winter warmth, social isolation and crime prevention.

Domestic Risk Profile

Risk assessment against a prioritising methodology will be utilised to determine the level of household risk. The risk assessment will be based against our **Domestic Risk Profile** and subsequently, the risks identified in our analysis of previous fatal fires and other incidents. **S&W visits will be delivered on this targeted basis with the main focus being to households/individuals at greatest risk from fire. Properties that are determined to be within defined risk categories (A to D), as defined below, will be offered a S&W visit.**

The properties will be identified by a number of means most notably:

- **Post Fire:** following an emergency call to service resulting in the attendance at that address of operational staff. Crews will ensure that all consequential post-incident prevention, protection and safeguarding needs are actioned.
- **Referral:** Request from the householder/family member/neighbour or partner agency which will undergo a priority assessment measured against fire risk and subsequently scored at priority levels A to D or low risk.
- **Intelligence identified risk:** Individual addresses will be identified through risk based intelligence analysis utilising a myriad of data sets including but not limited to, Social Demographic open data, Mosaic information, NHS England Exeter data, Local Authority data, Public Health data, HFRS emergency response data. Whilst every opportunity to gain contact details will be explored, where this is not possible, staff will directly contact through appropriate means.

Managers may also instigate local risk-based initiatives to target vulnerable individuals/members of our community to ensure that our S&W programme is as effective as possible. Such decisions will be intelligence-led based on information received locally in the community from partner agencies and the Risk and Intelligence Manager and Support Officers.

We aim to make direct contact and visit all properties deemed within a risk category (A to D). Where a direct person to person contact has not been achievable following a minimum of 3 attempts, secondary action will be taken by providing advice and guidance through other means (post, through partners etc.).

Notwithstanding the need to prioritise risk outlined above, where referrals are received the following minimum timescales will apply in all instances:

<p>A+ and A categories (Priority A-PA)</p>	<p>Referrals within these categories are likely to hit all or most of the domestic risk profile factors</p>	<p>Contact made at the earliest opportunity to arrange an appropriate date for a visit. This should be <u>within three days</u> of the initial referral, under normal circumstances.</p>
<p>B+ and B categories (Priority B-PB)</p>	<p>Referrals within these categories may have some factors missing from the domestic risk profile but still present a high level of risk from fire.</p>	<p>A visit should be carried out <u>within seven days</u> of the initial referral, under normal circumstances.</p>
<p>C and D categories (Priority C-PC and Priority D-PD)</p>	<p>Referrals within these categories will have some factors missing from the domestic risk profile but still presenting a level of risk from fire.</p>	<p>A visit should be carried out <u>within 28 days</u> of the initial referral, under normal circumstances.</p>
<p>Low Risk (Priority Information-PI)</p>	<p>Referrals within this categories will have little or no factors from the domestic risk profile and may be better positioned to self-help.</p>	<p>Targeted safety information appropriate to the identified risk should be sent to the household/individual, <u>within 28 days</u>. Where the referral is through online contact routes, this targeted information will be displayed online.</p>
<p>Exceptional partner risk</p>	<p>Referrals from partners with a known specific risk such as arson threats.</p>	<p>Where exceptional risk is established a visit should be attempted within <u>24 hours</u>. Where the referral is through online contact routes, this targeted information will be displayed online.</p>

Partner Agencies

Referrals from partner organisations received by the Service will be dealt with in the same manner as a direct referral, having regard to the expertise and professional judgement of the respective organisation. Consideration should include whether the referral relates to a high-risk individual/household and applying an appropriate timescale for conducting a S&W visit.

Where partner organisations are referrers to HFRS, or they undertake S&W visits themselves, appropriate arrangements should be adopted to ensure adequate fire safety training is given, recording mechanisms are in place, and a quality assurance process is applied.

Revisits

HFRS may adopt a process for revisiting at-risk properties and individuals. There is no frequency for revisits; however, if deemed appropriate, a timescale will be applied on an individual basis and within the discretion of local Public Safety managers.

When making arrangements for revisits as a result of a failure to contact, all subsequent visits should be conducted at alternative times of the day(s)/week to maximise the chances of success.

11. FIRE INVESTIGATION

HFRS have a statutory duty under the Fire and Rescue Services Act (2004) to investigate all incidences of fires. The overall aim of this is to determine the probable cause and origin of each fire and provide data to complete the Incident Recording System (IRS) of the Home Office, thereby better informing the risk reduction strategy.

In-line with the National Fire Chiefs Council Fire Investigation Competency Framework, the service has adopted the following level of operational response:-

- **Tier 1:** Routine Fire Investigation is undertaken by trained personnel to a Skills for Justice Level 2 Award in Introduction to Fire Investigation or equivalent.
- **Tier 2:** Specialist Fire Investigation support provided by suitably trained, experienced and qualified personnel to a Skills for Justice Level 5 Certificate in Fire Investigation or equivalent. Two suitably qualified Tier 2 Fire Investigation Officers will be available for advice, guidance and operational response at all times, as part of the on-call FDS duty rota.
- **Regional:** An additional support team, which has received additional training and qualification in Fire Investigation, is available upon request through the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Fire Investigation Network. Regional Tier 2 Fire Investigation Officers will be requested to attend all fires which involve fatally or seriously injured people, fires which result in significant financial or heritage loss and any fires of special interest.

12. FIRE DEATH AND INJURY PANELS

In the event of a person being either fatally or seriously injured as a result of a fire in the Authorities area, a Fire Death and Injury Panel (FDIP) will be co-ordinated by the Group Manager, Head of Public Safety (Central) and relevant district manager, Head of Service. The review panel will consist of a range of Service personnel including appropriate Station Manager(s), Fire Investigation Officer(s) and the Risk Information Manager.

Partner agencies and other interested parties will be invited to attend on an as required basis. The overall aim of the FDIP is to identify areas of service improvement to further reduce the future occurrence of fire fatalities or serious injuries as a result of fire.

In the event of a person or persons being fatally injured, a report which will include the findings of the Fire Investigation and FDIP process, together with any other relevant information, will be compiled by the respective Fire Investigation Officer and forwarded to the respective HM Coroner.

13. STAFF COMPETENCY

Competency frameworks for the delivery of Public Safety activities govern the level of qualification, knowledge, skills and experience of staff required to deliver.

Business Safety staff that have responsibility for regulating fire safety will be given relevant training to achieve a Level 4 qualification, depending on their role. An accredited qualification assures businesses and our partners of the competence of our staff to undertake regulatory duties. Staff will also undertake continuing professional development relevant to their roles.

14. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

To ensure that our Public Safety work is having a positive impact on the safety of our communities, we will monitor and analyse the number of fires and other incidents in Humberside.

We will annually refresh the Domestic and Business Risk Profiles to take account of emerging trends and issues and adjust our delivery to this need.

We will quality assure our activities through suitable methods to ensure our delivery is of the highest standards, rectifying underperformance where necessary.

We will monitor and ensure that any formal consultations and complaints are responded to promptly, and any enforcement action which we take will be analysed to make sure it is proportional to the risk posed.

15. STANDARD DELIVERY GUIDANCE

Our Public Safety activities will be delivered consistently across the communities of Humberside. To support this, a suite of standard delivery guidance (SDGs) detailing internal processes in relation to specific activities, will be adhered to by managers and teams.

SDGs will be continually reviewed and refreshed in line with changes in legislation, national guidance, data and intelligence analysis, strategic plan alignment, quality assurance processes, internal learning and public/partner feedback.

16. POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be kept under review and as a minimum, be reviewed every three years or when significant changes, nationally or locally, impact upon the policy.

**If anyone needs any further guidance / information regarding this document
please contact the Public Safety Section**