



HUMBERSIDE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

PREVENTION AND PROTECTION STRATEGY 2023-2025



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01

INTRODUCTION

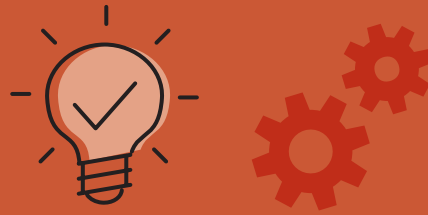
Humberside Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) has a named Head of Function for both Prevention and Protection. They report to the Area Manager for Prevention and Protection which sits within the Service Delivery Directorate.

HFRS will provide services that ensure we support and protect our communities, value the people we employ, and continue to manage our Service effectively and efficiently.

This delivery plan will explain how the Service aims to deliver its Prevention and Protection responsibilities by demonstrating the link from the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) and the Strategic Plan 2021-25 through to each Tactical Plan.



02



STRATEGY

In April 2021, HFRS launched its latest Strategic Plan, highlighting how it intends to meet the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, which sets out the Government's expectations and responsibilities for fire and rescue services. The Plan consists of four strategic aims that underpin everything that the Service does for the people of Humberside. They are:

Prevention and Protection delivers these objectives by helping people to prepare for emergencies; working hand in hand with our partners to reduce risk and demand. We help keep our communities safe and make them a better place to live, travel and work. Whilst achieving the above strategic objectives, we also contribute towards managing the Service in other outcomes connected with Prevention and Protection, including people focussed objectives (people strategy).

Through enforcement we support, educate and target those commercial premises that put our communities at risk from fire. We enhance our statute delivery of Protection, growing our capacity and competence in this area and contribute to the ongoing national workstreams following the outcomes from the Grenfell Tower public inquiry to ensure our built environment is safe.

Our framework for delivering Prevention and Protection outlines how we will achieve this delivery plan with continual improvement embedded into the framework.

A series of supporting tactical and delivery plans at function, district and station level will provide both direction and enable staff to fulfil the aims of this strategy.

Both our Prevention and Protection functions engage nationally with their relevant National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) colleagues and areas. Both functions also host and contribute to Yorkshire and Humber regional groups specifically for Prevention and Protection. This ensure our ability to share, learn and drive best practice.

We aim to directly deliver outcomes to support the following strategic objectives:

- 1.2 Effectively deliver activities to prevent fires and other emergency incidents.
- 1.3 Protect the public from fires and other risks by delivering fire regulation, legislation and protection activities.
- 2.1 We understand our community and the risks they face.
- 2.2 We help the public and businesses to stay safe.



03

RISK AND INTELLIGENCE

Prevention and Protection is supported by the Risk and Intelligence Function in the production of trend analysis, annual risk profiles, data quality improvement and evaluation activity.

During 2022/23 we implemented a data science method to risk profiling facilitated by the recruitment of our new Data Scientist.

We use fire, partner and open data, utilising machine learning algorithms to create two annual risk profiles – A **Fire Fatality Profile** to predict the most influential factors that increase the risk of dying in a fire and a **Risk Based Inspection Programme** to predict the most influential factors that increase the risk of a commercial fire and the consequential impact.



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REVIEW



At the end of 2022/23 we specifically reviewed our Prevention Strategy. This review was informed by an increase in Accidental Dwelling Fire Fatalities (ADFF).

Each ADFF is subject to a Serious Incident Review (SIR). We found that SIRs identified mental health issues were deemed a contributing factor in each ADFF. The SIRs also identified a significant increase in ADFFs amongst males, 50+ in age and living alone. This demographic was not fully covered within our targeted groups within the FFP.

As a result of the Prevention Strategy review we have adjusted our FFP to incorporate this additional risk group. This will see an increase in targeted FFP HFSVs from approximately 5100 to approximately 8500.

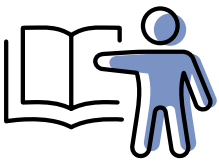
Our Prevention Strategy review will also lead to an increased focus on improving partnership

referrals though increased engagement and training. Further engagement with partners in relation to mental health services and alcohol services, increased and developed staff training for our own personnel.

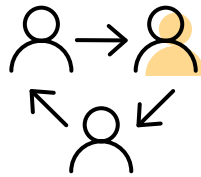
05

PREVENTION

Our Prevention Strategy is built around the following key areas:



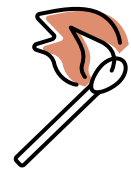
Home Fire Safety Visits



Partnership Work



Education Messaging



Young People

Home Fire Safety Visits

Prevention is an inherent and important part of Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) activity as we do not just respond to demand, but seek to reduce risk through advice, interventions and education of communities to adopt safer behaviours, improving their safety, health and wellbeing.

Fire and Rescue Authorities are responsible for promoting fire safety to prevent fires, injuries and other emergencies from occurring in the first place. As part of our CRMP, we satisfy this requirement through a combination of:

- Targeted (Fire Fatality Profile)
- Partnership (Referrals)
- Self-Referrals (SafeLincs)
- Reactive activity (Post Incident)

Fire prevention work focuses on a person-centred approach to the people most at risk from fire.



We utilise a blended approach to Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV), identifying those at greatest risk from fire through an intelligence led, risk-based approach and working with our partners. We do this by using data to carefully direct our work at the people and places where it will have the greatest impact.

Targeted Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) activity is focussed on our Fire Fatality Profile (FFP). The FFP is underpinned by several data sets and based on key attributes of assumed fire risk for people and households. This drives our proactive activities identifying those individuals in our community who are deemed most at risk of dying in a fire. The expected completion for these proactive targeted visits will be over a twelve-month period. We aim to contact the occupier through an initial door knock and carry out an intervention for each of the identified FFP. If initial contact is not made, a comprehensive home safety leaflet will be posted to offer our HFSV services.

Our reactive HFSV activity is driven from post incident follow ups, agency referrals or requests from the public. These will result in a prioritised risk assessment of known risks and pre-arranged visit to people's homes and give people specific advice on reducing their fire risk,

help them with tailored escape plans and provide fire safety equipment, like smoke alarms where appropriate.

Education Messaging

We carry out a range of prevention activities, focusing our efforts on targeting and managing risk, and safeguard by protecting those who are most vulnerable to it. We engage with and educate the public on matters relating to road, water and fire safety to help people live safe, be road safe, and be water safe. We use a combination of education interventions and partnership engagement to reduce incidents of arson and target deliberate fire-setting behaviour, and the impact this has within our communities.



Young People

We visit schools at key times in a child's education to talk to them about keeping safe from fire, plus other risks like roads and water. We carefully design our education packages so that we are delivering the right messages, to the right children, at the right age. Where necessary, we also prioritise school visits in areas which we know tend to be at higher risk of certain types of incidents. This includes our fire-setter education programme.

We have active Fire Cadet programmes to give young people the opportunity to engage with the Fire Service.

These programmes allow the cadets to develop valuable life skills and allow us to promote community safety messages.

The professionalism of our team and the quality of our prevention activities are central to influencing behavioural changes in the community and reducing the risk, which in turn prevents fires from becoming a reality. We will identify new partnerships and strengthen existing ones. We will work collaboratively with other agencies and partners to deliver more effective prevention activities.

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PROTECTION

Our Protection Strategy is built around the following key areas:



Premises Inspections



Business Engagement including Building Regulation Consultation



Reduction in Unwanted Fire Signals

Premises Inspections

It is our statutory duty to enforce The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (as amended by the Fire Safety Act) and promote fire safety.

We will support our business community to fulfil their legal duties in maintaining the safety of the public. Alongside the Fire Safety Order (FSO), The Fire Authority is responsible for supporting other regulatory bodies in maintaining the safety of our communities through licensing, event safety, housing, amongst other areas.

As stated, our statutory obligation is to enforce Fire Safety matters. We prioritise our building inspections, to satisfy these requirements, through our Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP). That is to say that we audit premises, based on risk, in order to confirm compliance against the FSO. If premises are non-compliant, we will take enforcement action. It is this enforcement action that is our statutory responsibility, including taking prosecution action for the most severe breaches of the legislation which put people at risk.

So whilst the RBIP allows us to prioritise inspection activities, the building inspections are not the statutory responsibility in themselves.

Therefore, given the statutory responsibility to ensure compliance with the FSO through enforcement, prioritising the enforcement of known risks over premises audits may be necessary when resources are limited.

Premises which present the biggest risk and those with the potential for greater consequence will be prioritised for audit by our Inspectors.



In addition to prioritisation through RBIP we also inspect following relevant incidents and due to complaints from the public. Appropriately qualified personnel will visit to verify, carry out action to lower the risk and to confirm that the responsible person is acting in accordance with their statutory duties to comply with the requirements of Fire Safety Order.

Premises considered to have a lower consequential risk but a high risk of fire, will be subject to engagement visits by operational crews. Where significant fire safety issues are identified, crews will work with Protection Inspectors to reduce the risk.

Humberstone Fire and Rescue are not currently a part of a Primary Authority Scheme (PAS) but it is our intention to develop this area over the course of this plan.

Unwanted Fire Signals

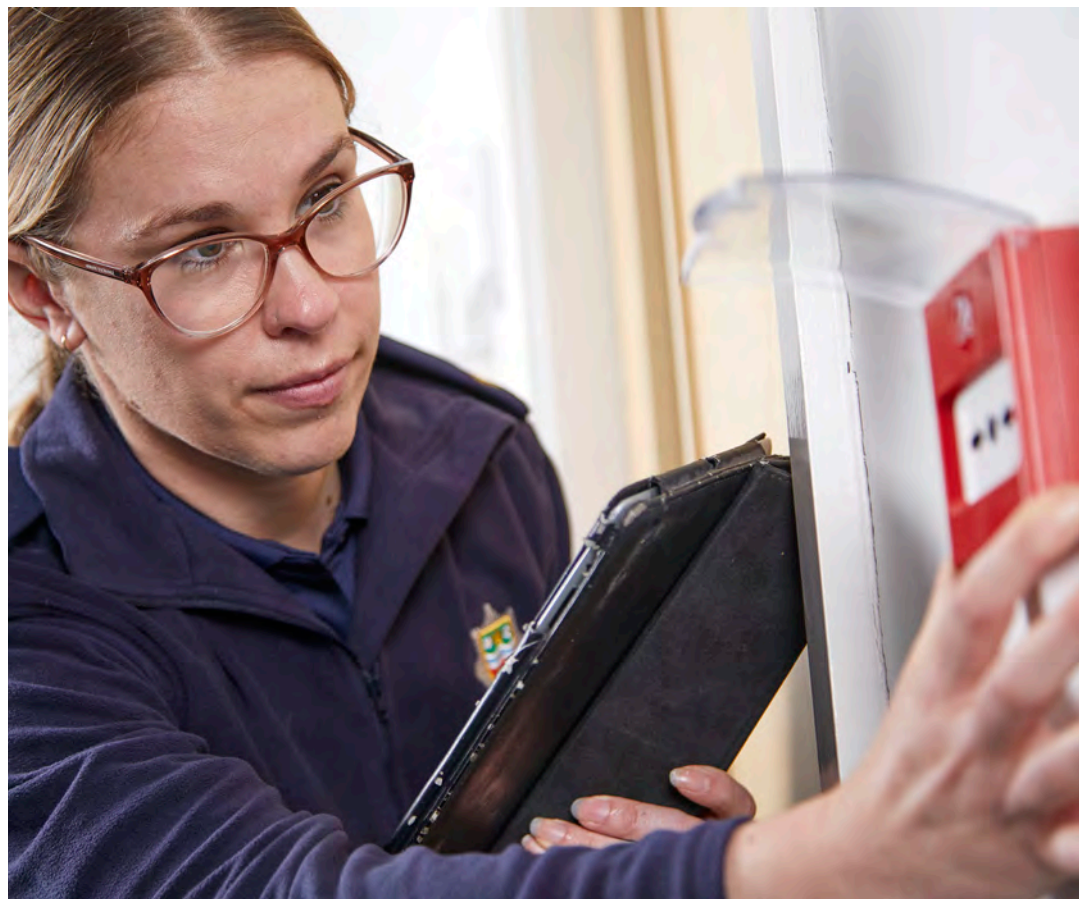
To reduce the burden caused by Unwanted Fire Signals HFRS will use a combination of engagement, non-attendance within defined parameters and in some cases a will issue a financial charge for our attendance.



Business Engagement

HFRS are statutory consultees regarding the Building Regulations via either the Local Authority or an Approved Inspector. Through effective consultation with these building control bodies, we aim to ensure that buildings are safe for their intended occupiers on completion.

In addition, we will work with businesses and Responsible Persons (RPs) to provide advice to minimise risk. We will do this in the form of seminars for specific building types such as Care Homes and through providing advice and signposting on our website.



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