



Service Delivery Area –West

Argyll & Bute Local Fire and Rescue Plan

**Performance Report (April 2014 – March 2015)**

**CONTENTS**

Foreword 3

Section 1: Introduction 4

Section 2: Performance Criteria 5

Section 3: Performance Outcomes & Measures 6

## **Foreword**

This local performance report for Argyll & Bute covers Quarter 1 - Quarter 4 for the reporting year; April – March 2015 inclusively.

The Local Fire Plan 2014 – 17 sets out the priorities for the next 3 years in order that the Fire and Rescue Service will meet the objectives of the Argyll & Bute Single Outcome Agreement 2014 - 17. This has seen the creation of Local Performance Indicators (LPI's) that provides a focus on delivering these priorities and has been set at a challenging level to deliver a meaningful difference to our communities and staff alike.

It is pleasing to report, following analysis of the LPI's, that the overall trend is one of a reducing fire risk profile. Of the 8 KPI's, 7 have been assessed as Green, no Amber and 1 has been assessed as Red.

Accidental dwelling house fires are lower than the previous three yearly averages and it is pleasing to report no fire fatalities occurred at these incidents for the third consecutive year reporting period. The number of fire casualties who have suffered from the minor effects of fires in dwellings has also reduced, based on the three yearly averages.

Responses and attendance at Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) calls remain at a high level; however, through our policies and procedures we are beginning to see a slight decrease on calls year on year with the current figure also showing below the three yearly averages.

The heart of our campaign for safer communities is our FREE Home Fire Safety Visits initiative. These are carried out by our staff to reduce the number of fires and casualties within the home. We will continue to target those homes which are deemed to be at the highest risk and we believe that partnership working is the key to the improved safety of our community.

James Hymas  
**LOCAL SENIOR OFFICER**

## **Section 1      Introduction**

This report provides detail on the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the Argyll & Bute area. In doing so it outlines our progress in the delivery of local priorities as set out within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service framework document.

The outcomes and measures provided in this report details a blend of quantitative and qualitative information to support committee members in their local scrutiny role.

The Service aspires to deliver very high standards to our communities and our current performance is testament to the commitment, professionalism and dedication of our staff and the positive local partnerships embedded within the Argyll & Bute Community Safety working groups.

However, we recognise that wherever our performance falls short of expectations we will respond promptly to address the areas of concern.

The report contains a series of Local Performance Indicators (LPI) that provides an assessment of the fire risk within Argyll & Bute by:

- Subdividing the various fire related incidents into meaningful categories
- Setting out our direction of travel in reducing that risk
- Contextualising the fire risk profile
- Confirming the continued proactive measures that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are implementing.

## Section 2 Performance Criteria

Each LPI has been set a challenging performance target which aims to deliver continuous improvement.

Our current suite of targets is not necessarily permanent and will be kept under continual review to reflect that risk reduction is a continual and dynamic process in an ever changing environment

### Local Performance Indicator Target

LPI 1	Accidental Dwelling Fires	<i>comparing a three year rolling average -</i>	<i>deliver a reduction</i>
LPI 2	Deliberate Dwelling Fires	<i>comparing a three year rolling average -</i>	<i>deliver a reduction</i>
LPI 3	Fatalities Dwelling Fires	<i>comparing a three year rolling average -</i>	<i>deliver a reduction</i>
LPI 4	Non-Fatal Fire Casualties	<i>comparing a three year rolling average -</i>	<i>deliver a reduction</i>
LPI 5	Deliberate Fire Setting	<i>comparing a three year rolling average -</i>	<i>deliver a reduction</i>
LPI 6	Casualties - Non Fire Emergencies	<i>comparing a three year rolling average -</i>	<i>deliver a reduction</i>
LPI 7	Automatic Fire Alarms	<i>comparing a three year rolling average -</i>	<i>deliver a reduction.</i>
LPI 8	Home Fire Safety Visits	<i>Deliver to target as set by Protection and Prevention Directorate</i>	

We have employed a Red, Amber, and Green (RAG) performance status measure that is primarily based against the previous rolling average of three years incident data.

This allows us to take into account seasonal and yearly fluctuations within each LPI by allowing for deviation from normal activity levels.

The Service has not used a percentage criterion for its RAG assessment. This is due to a number of the LPI's already having a relatively low baseline in terms of number of incidents i.e. a reduction from eight to four incidents within a limited timescale would show a 50% decrease and not necessarily provide a true reflection of the risk level.

Detailed below is an explanation of the RAG rating:

Red:	The risk level is greater than our target over the three year period
Amber:	The risk level is marginally out with our target over the three year period
Green:	The risk level is in line or better for our target over the three year period

Alongside each LPI in Section 3 we have provided further context within a situational assessment that provide the necessary information for the committee to scrutinise the Service's current performance.

### Section 3 Performance Outcomes & Measures

Determining how successful the Service is in reducing the fire risk profile within Argyll & Bute is a complex task.

There are many factors that may impact on our ability to reduce fire risk. External environmental factors such as deprivation, substance dependency and lifestyle to name but a few can influence the fire risk profile within the area.

In recent years, positive progress has been delivered in reducing the fire risk profile and our task remains to continuously improve these risk levels further.

The current Service approach to risk reduction is to pro-actively focus our activities on our neighbourhoods whom statistically are at higher risk from fire and identifying vulnerable persons within our communities.


Working locally with our partners is a key element in delivering improved safety outcomes.

The RAG assessment highlights the continual improvements that have been made during this reporting period and identifies areas where future work is required to be carried out.


<b>Local Performance Summary Table</b>		
<b>LPI</b>	<b>Risk</b>	<b>RAG status</b>
01	Accidental Dwelling Fires	<b>Green</b>
02	Deliberate Dwelling Fires	<b>Green</b>
03	Fatalities from Dwelling Fires	<b>Green</b>
04	Non-Fatal Fire Casualties	<b>Green</b>
05	Deliberate Fire Setting	<b>Green</b>
06	Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies	<b>Red</b>
07	Automatic Fire Alarms	<b>Green</b>
08	Home Fire Safety Visits	<b>Green</b>

Detailed below is an outline of each LPI with an assessment of progress against the risk reduction target and outcome we are seeking to deliver with a situational analysis sets out the response to the assessment.


### LPI 01 – Accidental Dwelling Fires

<p><b>LPI Assessment:</b></p> <p>The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the last three years confirms a <b>downward</b> trend in relation to the number of accidental dwelling house fires.</p> <p>The average over the last three years for Q1-Q4 is 81 whilst this reporting year there has been 78 accidental dwelling house fires.</p>	
<p><b>Situational Analysis:</b></p> <p>We are taking a proactive approach to reducing the fire risk by targeting higher risk areas and identifying, with support from our partners, high risk individuals. This is the main theme of our Home Fire Safety Visit initiative and is key to reduce fires and fire deaths in our communities.</p> <p>Operational crews and our Community Action Team are increasing the number of home fire safety visits in our relatively higher risk neighbourhoods with a view to reducing the risk of fire within the home.</p> <p>Operational crews and partner agencies continue to refer higher risk vulnerable persons and are subject to a multi-agency case conference, to ensure individuals and the community remain safe from fire.</p>	

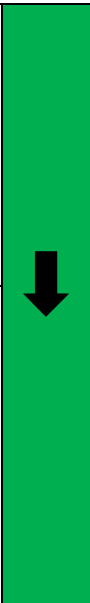
### LPI 02 – Deliberate Dwelling Fires

<p><b>LPI Assessment:</b></p> <p>The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the last three years confirms a <b>downward</b> trend in relation to the number of deliberate dwelling fires.</p> <p>The average over the last three years for Q1 – Q4 is 8, and for 2014/15 there have been 7 deliberate dwelling house fires.</p>	
<p><b>Situational Analysis:</b></p> <p>This number is relatively low when compared to other Local Authority areas; we will continue to work with our partners in Police Scotland to ensure that it remains low by ensuring all incidents are fully investigated as to the cause and origin.</p>	


### LPI 03 – Fatalities - Dwelling Fires (Accidental)

<p><b>LPI Assessment:</b></p> <p>It is pleasing to report that there have been <b>no fatal fire casualties</b> in accidental dwelling fires in this reporting year.</p>	
<p><b>Situational Analysis:</b></p> <p>Although the zero fire fatalities is pleasing to note the Service is not being complacent. We are increasing our community safety activities within areas where there is the highest risk of a dwelling house fire occurring.</p>	

### LPI 04 – Fire Casualties (incl. precautionary check-up)

<p><b>LPI Assessment:</b></p> <p>The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the last three years confirms a <b>downward</b> trend in relation to the number of Non-Fatal Fire Casualties.</p> <p>The average over the last three years for Q1 – Q4 is 12, and for 2014/15 there have been 9 Non-Fatal Fire Casualties.</p>	
<p><b>Situational Analysis:</b></p> <p>To place into context it is worth highlighting the difference between frequency and severity. In the majority of cases, the fire casualties recorded required only minor first aid treatment at the scene.</p> <p>This highlights the effective use of smoke detectors in alerting occupants to the situation and also to the speed and weight of attack of fire and rescue resources available.</p>	

### LPI 05 – Deliberate Fire Setting

<p><b>LPI Assessment:</b></p> <p>The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the last three years confirms a <b>downward</b> trend in relation to Deliberate Fire Setting.</p> <p>The average for Deliberate Primary Fire Setting over the last three years for Q1 – Q4 is 22.3 and for 2014/15 there have been 13 Deliberate Primary Fires.</p> <p>The average for Deliberate Secondary Fire Setting over the last three years for Q1 – Q4 is 74.6 and for 2014/15 there have been 40 Deliberate Secondary Fires.</p>	
<p><b>Situational Analysis:</b></p> <p>This LPI includes deliberate primary and secondary fires. A primary fire is designated as a fire that involves a building or property and a secondary fire is defined as a fire in refuse or on grass or heathland. These are an indication of Anti-Social Behaviour and/or criminal acts.</p> <p>To reduce the risk of deliberate other building fires we are utilising the support of our</p>	



partners working within the CPP to identify derelict or vacated properties and make them secure.

Operational crews and our Community Action Team are engaging in a variety of multi-agency youth diversionary projects e.g. Young Firefighters Schemes and Fire reach programmes.

A wetter spring time saw a reduction in the number of grass and heath fires experienced although it did increase slightly through the summer.

It is pleasing to report that 'Deliberate Primary & Secondary Fires' have both reduced year on year since the 2010/11 reporting year.



### LPI 06 – Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies

**LPI Assessment:**

The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the last three years confirms an upward trend in relation to Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies.

The average for Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies over the last three years for Q1 – Q4 is 69.3, and for 2014/15 there have been 95.

The average for Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies (non-fatal casualties per RTC) over the last three years for Q1 – Q4 is 51.6 and for 2014/15 there have been 76 casualties from 79 Road Traffic Collisions (RTC).



**Situational Analysis:**

This LPI includes casualties from emergencies that do not include fire i.e. RTC, flooding and other forms of entrapment. These forms of emergencies are known as Special Services.

Our statistics for this reporting year has seen a slight increase overall in all Special Services attended to 255 incidents for Q1 – Q4, up from a 3 year average of 232. However this year's activity with regards to RTCs show's 79 incidents attended which is the same as 2013/14 and prevents a third annual increase for this statistic.

Analysis shows that Mid Argyll remains the hotspot for activity and the A82 and A83 remain the most affected roads for RTCs. A recent initiative by Police Scotland to reinstate the Road Policing Group should act as the impetus for all partners within the CPP to see this as a main piece of work to improve our performance.

### LPI 07 – Automatic Fire Alarms

**LPI Assessment:**

The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the last three years confirms a **downward** trend in relation to Automatic Fire Alarms.

The average over the last three years for Q1 – Q4 is 1117, and for 2014/15 there have been 1032 Automatic Fire Alarms



**Situational Analysis:**

The Service aims to focus on reducing the number of AFA's during 2015-16 supported by applying national policy and process to assure a consistent approach. This direction of travel is pleasing to note.

**LPI 08 – Home Fire Safety Visits**

**LPI Assessment:**

The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the last three years confirms an upward trend in relation to Home Fire Safety Visits completed.

The SFRS have set a challenging target of increasing the number and quality of Home Fire Safety Visits within the Argyll & Bute area in this reporting year.

In Q1 – Q4 our operational crews and Community Action Teams have carried out 1176 home visits. From these visits 682 homes were deemed as high risk, 382 at medium risk and 112 at low risk. This number, whilst significant, has unfortunately fallen slightly short of the target set for the area.



**Situational Analysis:**

Home Fire Safety Visits are free for everyone within our communities, they remain our prime means of contacting the public to ensure that they are safe from fire and other hazards in the home and we urge all partners to assist in the process of referring people for a Home Fire safety Visit.

We will continue to target those deemed at highest risk within our community.