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**Briefing Note:**

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This briefing relates to activities which fall under SOA Outcome 6 **People live in safer and stronger communities**. The activities are ongoing and will continue over the coming year.

The briefing is for noting.

**Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Management**

Due to changes within the service the group should know that the current Prevention & Protection department within Argyll & Bute (A&B) is led by Group Manager (GM) Stuart McLean who is supported by Station Manager (SM) Mark Leathem, they are based at area headquarters in Clydebank.

A&B has a Community Action Team (CAT) consisting of three community firefighters and a Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) who manages the team. This team is not exclusive to Helensburgh & Lomond but works throughout the whole of A&B.

There are also four enforcement officers dealing with the legislative side of enforcing fire safety throughout the A&B area and they are positioned in Oban, Dunoon & Helensburgh.

**Key Points for Consideration**

**Community Safety Activity:**

**Monthly Service Wide Activity**

Over a twelve months period the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) pick a subject each month and nationally we focus on this issue, these can be tailored by the local area or ran in conjunction with local area activity. Over the last twelve months here are the activities that the service has focused on.

1. Safety @ Home – Fire & Alcohol
2. Cooking Safely
3. Grass & Wildland Fires
4. Rubbish & Refuse Fires
5. Derelict Property
6. Fire Related Anti-Social behavior
7. Holiday Safety

8. Countryside & outdoor Safety
9. Student Safety
10. Bonfire Safety
11. Older/Vulnerable persons
12. Festive Safety

Over and above this the service will also run “Week Of Action” weeks where we target specific issues. In June this year across Scotland SFRS ran a week of action focusing in on the most vulnerable,

- A reduction in Accidental Dwelling Fires;
- A focus on older persons including those who reside in Sheltered Accommodation, retirement homes etc.;
- Promoting safer smoking and cooking;
- Promoting the extension of smoke detection provision into other areas of the home, including bedrooms;
- Promoting citizenship by educating neighbours of elderly or vulnerable individuals in respect of actions to take when hearing smoke detection.

#### **Local Community Safety Engagement Across A&B**

- ‘Fire Your Career’ event at Rothesay Community Fire Station. This was a partnership event with SFRS, Skills Development Scotland, Department of Work & Pensions and Argyll & Bute Youth Services providing information on the diverse work opportunities in a large employer. This was targeted at the 16-24yr group.
- SFRS Personnel engaged with High School pupils to deliver Cut it Out Road safety programme in Oban, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown.
- Presentations on risk & hazard awareness in line with the seasonal calendar for ‘older people’ in November, Argyll & Bute Community Action Team delivered presentations to sheltered housing accommodation across Argyll & Bute.
- SFRS in conjunction with the Oban & the Isles Health and Wellbeing Network provided the ‘Goodpoint Smoke Alarm Tester’. The target groups were identified via the partners from the Health & Wellbeing Network i.e. community groups, voluntary groups and organisations, and health professionals from community health (NHS) and included elderly, poor mobility, personal health issues etc. The object of the project was to promote fire safety and allow individuals to test their smoke alarm on a weekly basis without the need for standing on a chair or stepladder. This would have the added benefit of reducing the risk of injury from a fall.

- Argyll and Bute residents who are deaf or have hearing loss are to benefit from specially-designed alarms in a bid to help them stay safe from fire in the home. A partnership between the SFRS, Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland has seen £3,000 allocated to buy the potentially life-saving devices. The smoke alarms are connected to a powerful under-pillow pad that vibrates in the event of a fire to immediately wake someone with limited or no hearing.
- Multi agency 'safety' tent at Oban Winter Festival launch. Home Fire Safety Visit advice, general safety advice/information, Children's fire safety info, Dangers of chargers being left plugged in etc.
- Initiative with Oban Phoenix Cinema (Community run cinema) to provide a free 'kids club' family cinema pass for every HFSV booked through the Oban Winter Festival HFSV campaign. Also provided a free Family VIP cinema pass for age group winners of the 'Be bright at Night' primary schools competition, and SFRS HFSV cinema adverts pre film screening for reduced cost of £100 for the month of December
- SFRS have set up a Young Firefighters (YFF) group on the island of Islay. Staffed by volunteers, the group will give teenagers on the island the chance to develop potentially life-saving skills, including first aid and emergency trauma care, life skills, team working ethic while they also learn about the role of a fire fighter. There are to be three further YFF units set up within A&B and SFRS are also looking to implement a Fire Reach program, which is acknowledged as one of the foremost ways of engaging with young people giving them a sense of purpose and giving them a glimpse of what being in a team in the SFRS would be like.

## **Key Points for Discussion**

### **HFSV's**

Within A&B SFRS offer a free Home Fire Safety Visit service, we work hard with our partners to ensure that the right people are offered a visit to help improve safety within the home, we have recently entered into partnership with NHS Highland to broaden the safety message given during a HFSV and our personnel will also be offering advice and help where required on slips trips and falls within the home.

<b>Visits Completed</b>	A&B	1644
	Helensburgh & Lomond South	86
	Helensburgh Central	259
	Lomond North	90

This represents 27% of all HFSV carried out during the year. We, as a service, will continue to look to increase this figure and ensure that we work closely with our partners so that individuals in the most need of a visit are offered a visit.

### **Operational Activity.**

Over the last year the whole of A&B has seen a reduction in all key areas of incidents, this is again due to excellent work between both ourselves and our partners at raising awareness of the dangers of fire and also working closely to improve road safety. However we will continue to work closely with all partners to ensure the trend continues and where there are spikes we will investigate and look to implement measures to reduce the number of incidents

All Accidental Dwelling Fires	A&B	28% reduction
	H&L	25% increase
Non Domestic Fires	A&B	3% increase
	H&L	56% reduction
Road Traffic Collisions	A&B	12% reduction
	H&L	21% decrease

**For further information please contact: [Group Manager Stuart McLean]**