SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

FOR ARGYLL & BUTE

2019-2020

Working together for a safer Scotland

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

Contents

Foreword	1
Introduction	2
Reduction in Accidental Dwelling Fires	4
Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities	5
Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting	7
Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Property	8
Reduction in Unintentional Harm and Injury	9
Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	11

All graphs in this Plan have two sets of lines: the blue line represents the annual gross figures whilst the red line represents the trend line to show at first glance increase/ decrease of activities over the three year period covered (2015 to 2018)

Foreword

Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS) Annual Operating Plan 2019 -20 for the Local Authority Area of Argyll & Bute. As the Local Senior Officer for Argyll & Bute I am committed to ensuring the resources serving the communities within the Local Authority Area are maximised and focused on the delivery of positive outcomes at every opportunity; this applies across the full span of our activities including responding to the large range of emergency incidents to the delivery of targeted effective community safety engagement.

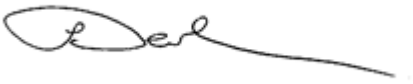
This Plan is the mechanism through which the aims of the SFRS's Local Fire and Rescue Plan are delivered to meet the agreed needs of Argyll & Bute's communities for the reporting period of 2019/20. Argyll & Bute's Local Fire and Rescue Plan sets out how the SFRS will meet the Strategic Aims as defined within the Strategic Plan.

The Plan details the priorities set against Argyll & Bute's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) following the changes introduced through the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and provides the appropriate information for the Community Planning Partnership's (CPP) to enable them to scrutinise the performance outcomes for each of these priorities as appropriate.

This Plan is aligned to the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) structures within Argyll & Bute and will complement the local targeted activities focused on by the Community Safety Sub Groups and Local Area Teams.

The outcomes as detailed within this plan are based on the SFRS identified operational demand within all 11 Wards which require a targeted approach by all relevant partners to deliver a joint solution and reduce the impact of fire and other emergencies within each locality.

The current commitment to our stakeholders will continue to improve through the support and drive of all relevant partners to provide a better streamlined joint approach to the issues highlighted through consultation focused on improving outcomes for the people and communities within Argyll & Bute.



Paul Devlin
Area Manager
Local Senior Officer for Argyll & Bute, East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire

Introduction

As a service delivery area of the SFRS, Argyll & Bute's main objective is to provide its services well, aiming for excellence in everything it does. The local assessment goes a long way to helping achieve this and addresses issues relevant to the local area. Through analysis of data, partnership working and consultation, local improvement and demand reduction plans have been developed to compliment the Local Fire and Rescue Plan and ensure positive outcomes and results are achieved. The key priority areas in Argyll & Bute that are considered in the local assessment and those that action plans will be developed for are:

- Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires
- Reduction of Fire Fatalities and Casualties
- Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting
- Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Property
- Reduction of Unintentional Harm and Injury
- Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

The SFRS is committed to influence and improve the outcomes for the key priorities for tackling inequalities within the Argyll & Bute CPP's LOIP. The Argyll & Bute Local Outcome Improvement Plan's focus is on tackling the three areas of inequalities around:

- Geographical
- Health
- Economic

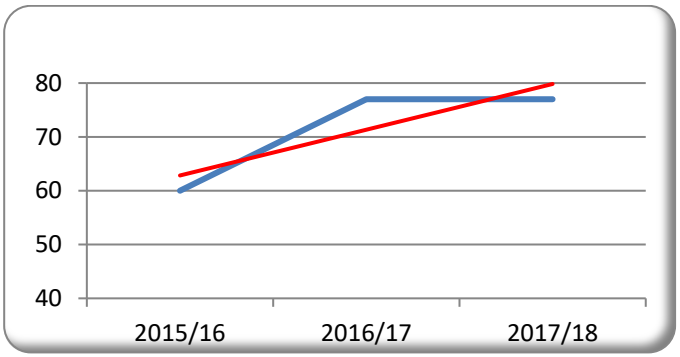
The plan brings together all the partner agencies and community representatives and aligns all partners to shared priorities. This enables the co-production of safety initiatives and ensures that there is a community led focus where all partners are working to the same agenda.

Throughout the monitoring period the effectiveness of all interventions will be evaluated and where approaches need to be adjusted notification will be provided via the appropriate reporting mechanisms to the CPP and the Argyll & Bute Services Committee.

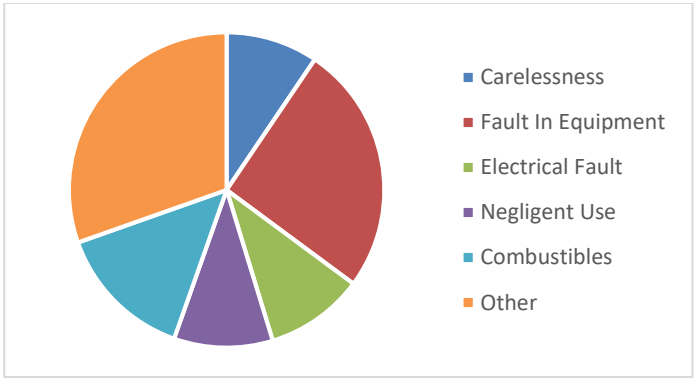
Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires

Dwelling fires still pose a significant negative impact on individuals and the community as well as being financially costly to householders and housing providers. A high percentage of these fires start in the kitchen where the occupier was cooking or had cooked food. Additional significant contributory risk factors in the fires that occur are the consumption of alcohol and/or drugs allied to the use of smoking materials. To achieve a reduction in the level of accidental dwelling fires within Argyll & Bute the SFRS is committing resources to proactively engage with the community as a whole and, through partnership working, targeting the higher risk individuals within the wider community.

Accidental Dwelling Fires 2015 – 2018



Causes of Accidental Dwelling Fires 2015 – 2018

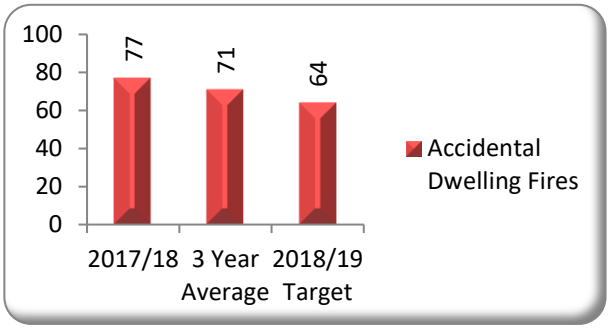


How will we focus on this priority?

- Using data analysis tools to ensure that:
  - The agencies and third sector groups in the areas of highest operational activities work with SFRS to signpost those as greatest risk from fire.
  - Home Fire Safety Visits are conducted in the areas of highest operational activity.
  - Engagement activities are focused on areas of highest operational activity.
- Sheltered Housing is high priority for engagement and interventions to reduce fire risk.
- Working with partner agencies to provide fire hazard awareness courses (Fire Safety Expediential Training) and risk reduction measures e.g. fire proof bedding etc. to the people most at risk from fire.
- Partnership working through the Argyll & Bute Housing Association Groups to target social housing localities with higher operational activity.
- Signposting and referring at risk individuals to and from partners.
- Deliver targeted engagement events in higher risk communities to promote improved home fire safety.
- Deliver our schools programme to promote improved home fire safety awareness.

How will we measure progress?

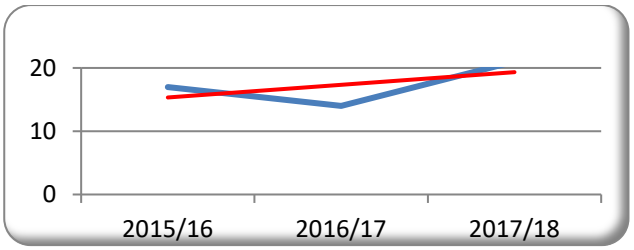
We will work to reduce the rate of accidental dwelling fires by **10%** against the previous three year average. Therefore based on the most recent full three years data (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2018) the baseline is **71** and SFRS is committed to reduce the number of this incident to **64** by the end of the 2018/19 reporting period.



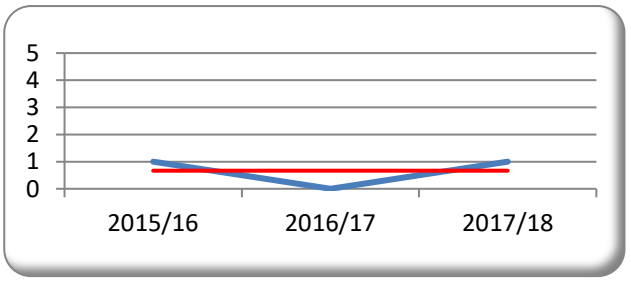
Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities

The reduction of fire casualties is directly linked to the reduction in dwelling house fires. The reduction of fire fatalities and casualties, for which the biggest contributory factors are cooking and alcohol/drugs, is at the core of our engagement strategy. Vulnerable people within our communities continue to be those most at risk from fire. Older people, those with disabilities, those who live alone and those with alcohol and drugs dependencies challenge the SFRS in relation to engagement and reduction strategies. The majority of fire casualties occur as a result of distraction and cooking. It is heartening to note that the severity of injuries have decreased over time with the vast majority of casualties now receiving precautionary check-ups only. This is indicative of earlier notification of fire through improved detector coverage and crews erring on the side of caution when assessing those involved in fire incidents.

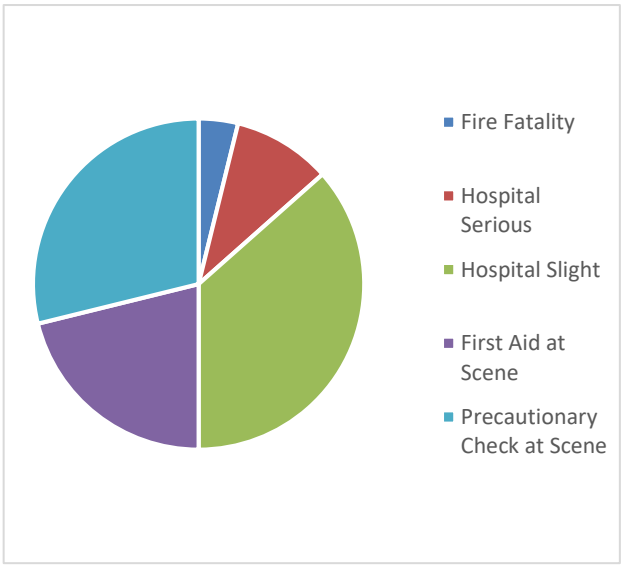
Fire Casualties 2015 - 2018



Fire Fatalities 2015 - 2018



Injury Severity 2015 – 2018



How will we focus on this priority?

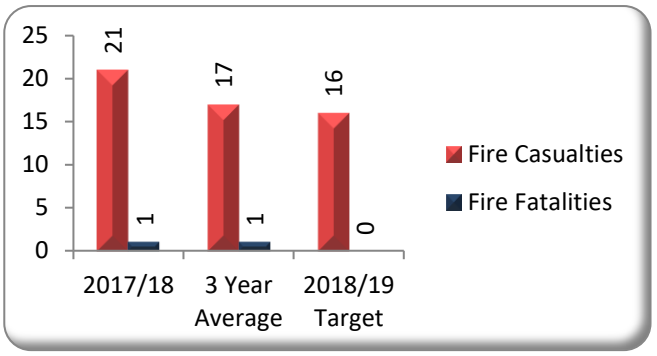
- Closer working with partner organisations with regards to single shared assessments and signposting of vulnerable persons.
- Improve partnership working in terms of information sharing and continuous review of the identified higher risk people.
- Promoting Home Fire Safety Visits through targeted referrals from our partners for those most at risk.
- Increasing Community Education in targeted areas where the majority of casualties occur.
- Working with partner agencies to provide risk reduction measures to the people most at risk from fire.
- Signposting and referring at risk individuals to and from partners.
- Utilising Case Study and Case Conference information to direct resources effectively.
-

50% of fire casualties from accidental dwelling fires within Argyll & Bute only received precautionary check-ups or first aid at scene and do not require hospital admission. This trend reflects the impact of early detection due to the increased level of smoke detection provision within dwellings.

How will we measure progress?

We will work to reduce the rate of fire casualties by **5%** based on the previous three year average.

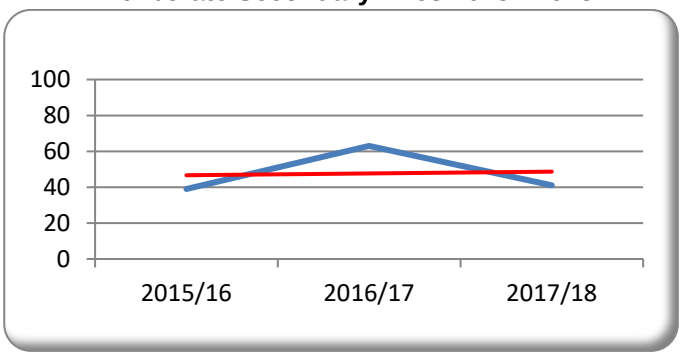
Therefore based on the most recent full three years data (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2018) the baseline is **17** and SFRS is committed to reduce the number of fire casualties to **16** by the end of the 2018/19 reporting period.



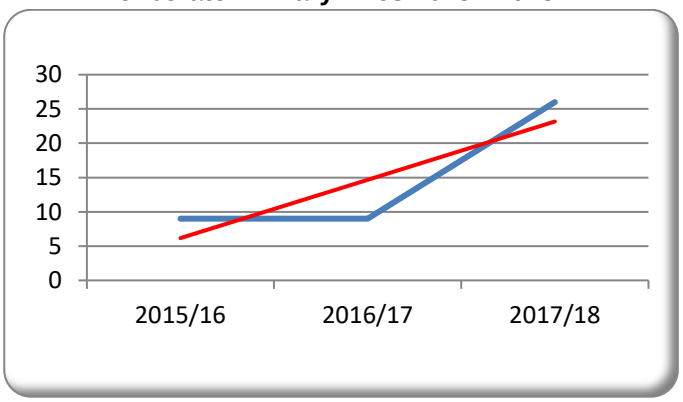
Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting

In Argyll & Bute, deliberate fire setting has historically not been a significant problem and the SFRS will continue to educate and engage with communities to maintain this status. Secondary fires (refuse and grass) account for a high percentage of our operational activity and place a strain on the SFRS ability to effectively provide its operational response to other emergencies. Weather significantly influences the level of grass fires in particular, with long dry spells resulting in noticeable spikes in operational demand for the SFRS front line emergency responders. Refuge fire analysis over the past three years shows these incidents remain consistent, irrespective of the weather. These fires have a negative impact on the environment, the individuals and communities affected as well as the financial burden of replacing the refuge containers post fire.

Deliberate Secondary Fires 2015 - 2018



Deliberate Primary Fires 2015 - 2018



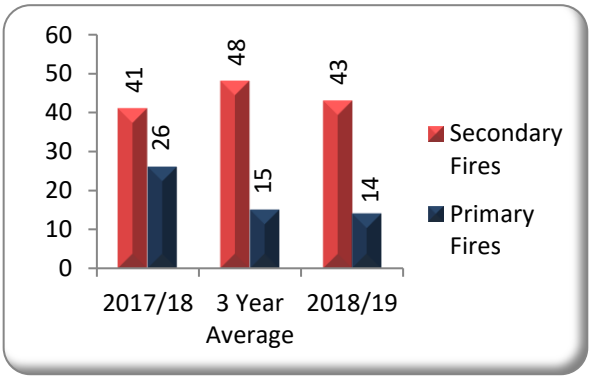
How will we focus on this priority?

- Increasing Community Education in targeted areas where the majority of deliberate fire setting occurs.
- Continuing to work with our partners in the development of joint risk strategies to further mitigate the impact of deliberate fires and the economic and social cost to the community.
- Work closely with Police Scotland to secure convictions where crime has been committed.
- Develop a multi-agency intervention strategy to tackle known fire setters.
- Develop locality Community Payback work in known historic hotspots.

How will we measure progress?

We will work to reduce deliberate secondary fire setting by **10%** and deliberate primary fire setting by **5%** based on the previous three year average.

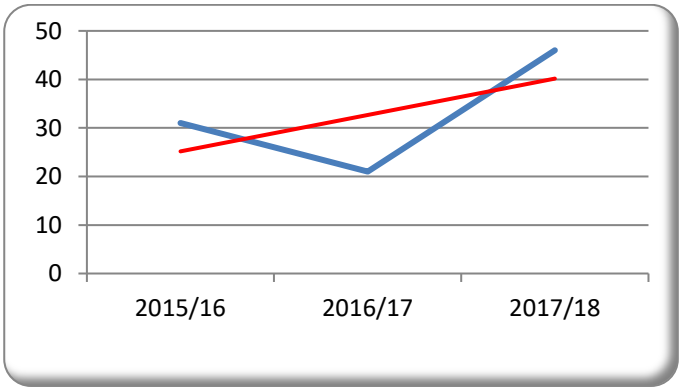
Therefore based on the most recent full three years data (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2018) the baseline for deliberate secondary fires is **48** and deliberate primary fires is **15**. SFRS is committed to reduce the number of deliberate secondary fires to **43** and **14** for deliberate primary fires by the end of the 2018/19 reporting period.



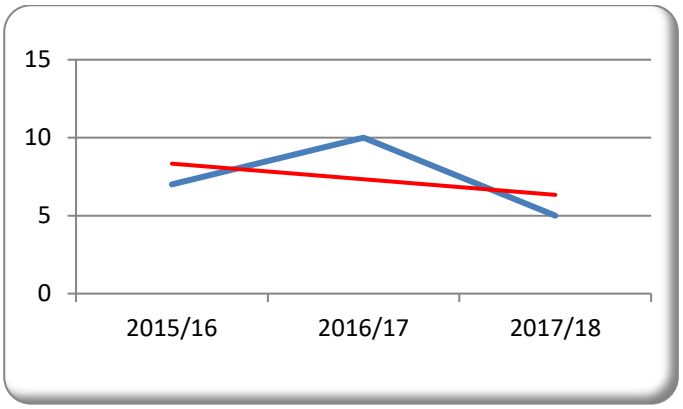
Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Properties

Fires in workplaces and business premises are classed as Non-Domestic Fires and come under the scope of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005. Within Argyll & Bute sleeping risks are seen as a particularly high fire risk since most fatal fires occur at night when people are less vigilant and at their most vulnerable. High risk properties are audited on a yearly basis to ensure that the fire safety arrangements within the property are to a suitable standard. For some buildings, joint inspections are carried out with other organisations e.g. the Health and Safety Executive, Police Scotland, Trading Standards and Environmental Health. .

Fires in Relevant Premises 2015 - 2018



Fires in Other Non-Domestic Premises 2015 - 2018



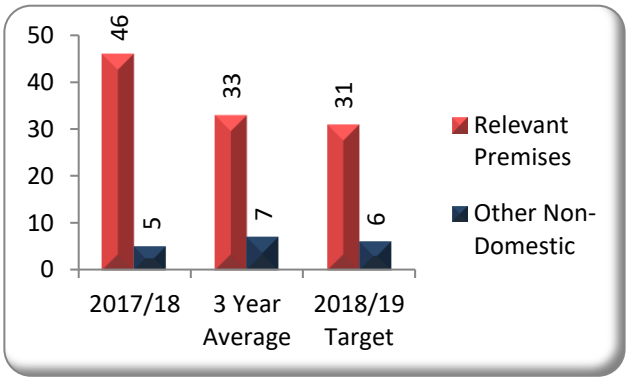
How will we focus on this priority?

- Continuing to audit high risk premises on a yearly basis.
- Engagement with the business community to highlight their responsibilities for compliance with fire legislation.
- Identifying fire trends in particular building types and conducting thematic audits.
- Support business and duty holders to achieve compliance and therefore improving fire safety.
- Interaction with the SFRS Business Engagement Forum to highlight and share good practice.
- Work in partnership through the Community Safety Sub Group forum to target deliberate fire setting involving unoccupied/ derelict buildings and other outdoor structures.

How will we measure progress?

There are currently no specific corporate targets set by the SFRS for this type of incident although it is clearly a priority area. A nominal 5% reduction target has therefore been set locally to encourage and support reduction activities to ensure focus is maintained in this regard.

Therefore based on the most recent full three years data (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2018) the baseline for fires in relevant premises is **33** and fires in other non-domestic premises is **7.** SFRS is committed to reduce the number of relevant premise fires to **31** and **6** for other non-domestic fires by the end of the 2018/19 reporting period.

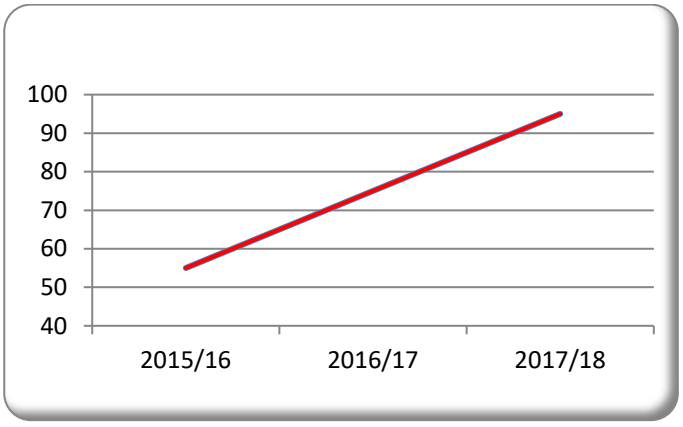


Reduction of Unintentional Harm and Injury

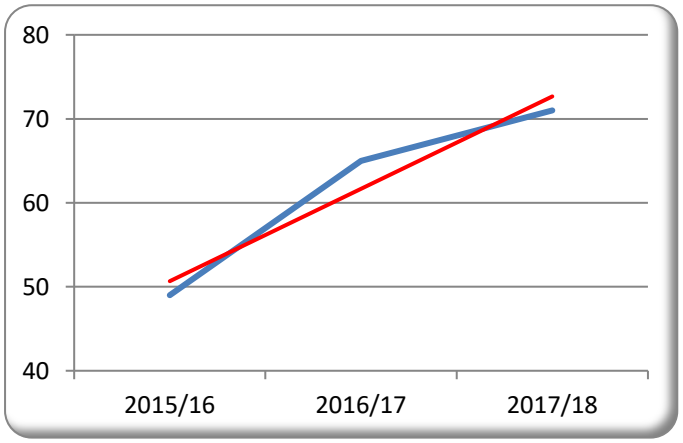
A central part of the SFRS's role is responding to non-fire emergencies such as road traffic collisions (RTCs), building collapse, water rescue incidents and flooding. These incidents are reported under the heading of Special Services within the SFRS. Operational Firefighters are trained to a high standard and have at their disposal the most modern equipment for extricating people in rescue situations and administering first aid to casualties.

During the 2015/16 reporting period the SFRS started attending an increasing number of medical emergency incidents to assist the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS). Over the last 3 years this has seen an increase in the number of associated casualty numbers; this trend will continue moving forward.

RTC Casualties 2015 - 2018



Other Non-Fire Emergencies Casualties 2015 - 2018



How will we focus on this priority?

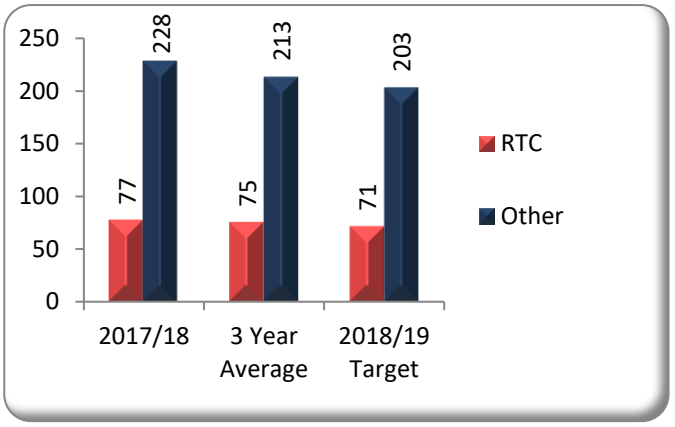
- Deliver the Cut it Out Road Safety Programme to all Argyll & Bute secondary schools and college campuses.
- Delivering other road safety presentations/exercises at station open days along with our partners.
- Continued participation in education programmes aimed at high risk groups within our communities.
- Continuing to work with our partners to identify RTC and other non-fire emergency hot spots through trend analysis and then jointly developing solutions to reduce them.
- Maintain representation at the Road Safety Partnership.
- Deliver 'Biker Down' training to Argyll & Bute bikers to improve their overall safety when on the road.
- Develop improved liaison with SAS in respect to responding to medical emergencies.
- Facilitate CPR training sessions across Argyll & Bute.

The SFRS has a crucial role in supporting partners to reduce these non-fire incidents at a local level. To highlight the consequences of RTCs and dangerous driving we deliver our "Cut it out" programme which is currently aimed at 6th year school pupils and college students. However we are fully cited on the potential increase in attendance at OHCA incidents and the associated rise in fatalities/ casualties associated with attending medical emergencies. Our focus here will be on improving lifesaving opportunities and not reducing attendances.

How will we measure progress?

There is currently no corporate reduction target set by the SFRS for special service incidents or associated casualties, although we continue to support reduction strategies. In order to provide focus on supporting reduction strategies, the SFRS within Argyll & Bute have set an indicative reduction target of 5%.

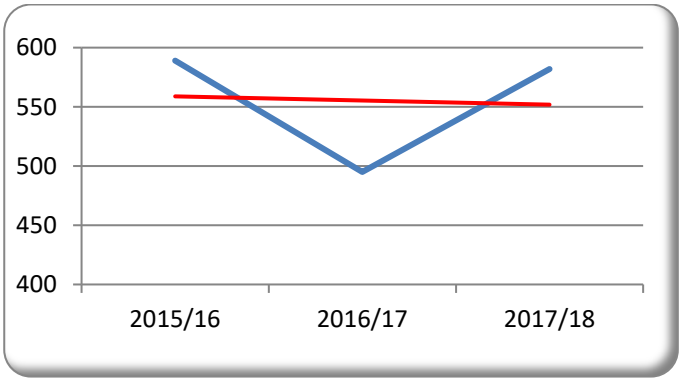
Therefore based on the most recent full three years data (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2018) the baseline for RTC incidents is **75**, and Other Special Service is **214.** SFRS is committed to reduce the number of RTCs which will directly impact on the number of related casualties to **71** by the end of the 2018/19 reporting period.



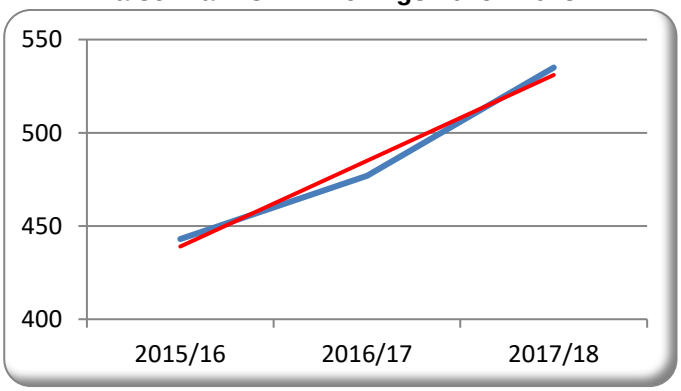
Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

False Alarm incidents account for just over 60% of all incidents attended by the SFRS in Argyll & Bute. Attendance at these incidents impacts of the efficiency of the SFRS's service delivery in terms of the availability of local resources to deal with other life risk incidents. In addition valuable time is lost which could be better used on community engagement to reduce the fire risks within our communities. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are those occasions when an automated fire alarm activates and results in a mobilisation of SFRS resources, when the reason for that alarm turns out to be something other than a fire. These can be categorised as either UFAS incidents from relevant premises under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 or False Alarms from domestic dwellings. Other types of false alarm include malicious 999 calls and good intent emergency calls made when a person believes that an emergency has occurred but which subsequently turns out to be unfounded.

UFAS in Relevant Premises 2015 - 2018



False Alarms in Dwellings 2015 - 2018



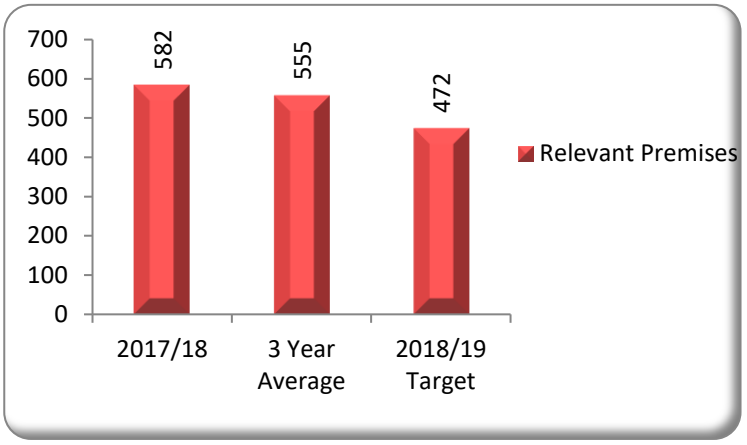
How will we focus on this priority?

- Identifying premises with high UFAS activity levels to determine if they comply with the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and have appropriate fire safety management procedures in place.
- Engaging with owners and occupiers to give advice and guidance for developing action plans for UFAS reduction.
- Reduce PDA to those premises with repeated high numbers of UFAS through risk assessment process.
- Initiatives aimed at reducing numbers of malicious calls and, through our engagement and educational programmes, working with young people identified as having made malicious calls.
- Support business and duty holders to achieve compliance and therefore improving occupant safety through more effective alarm systems.
- Actively audit relevant premises identified as having higher numbers of UFAS incidents.
- Implement the SFRS UFAS Policy and reduce the number of 'Blue Light' journeys.
- Identifying dwellings with high UFAS activity levels and engaging with occupiers and partners to reduce fire risk and operational demand.

How will we measure progress?

The SFRS is committed to minimising the impact of UFAS within Argyll & Bute by reducing the number of incidents. With this in mind a reduction target of 15% over an average of three years has been set.

Therefore based on the most recent full three years data (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2018) the baseline for UFAS in Relevant Premises is **1,188**. SFRS is committed to reduce the number of UFAS in Relevant Premises to **1,010**.



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