

Report to:	Inverclyde Council Education and Community Sub Committee
Date of Report:	6th May 2014
Report by:	Paul Tanzilli, Local Senior Officer (LSO) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Subject:	Scottish Fire and Rescue (SFRS) Report
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PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the scrutiny board of Fire and Rescue performance and activities during the 4th quarter (January- March) of the 2013/ 2014 period and provide an update on the development of the Inverclyde Local Fire Plan 2014-2017.

At the time of submitting this report the SFRS performance report for Inverclyde covering financial year 2013/14 had not been completed by our data analysts.

PERFORMANCE

2. A SFRS performance report is attached (Appendix A) to provide Elected Members with a Ward analysis performance report which relates to a range of Fire & Rescue operational activities within Inverclyde during the February 2013/2014 reporting period.

The information provided in this report and attachment (Appendix A) continues to show reduction progress across a range of fire related performance indicators, however it also identifies those areas where further interventions are required throughout this new financial year in order to tackle those areas where operational demand is highest.

Local Senior Officer Paul Tanzilli will be happy to meet with any Elected Members who wish to discuss specific ward issues.

A summary of the report is detailed below:

- a. There were no fire fatalities or non-fatal fire casualties within Inverclyde during this reporting period.
- b. Deliberate fire raising statistics continue on a very favourable downward trend with significant reductions across most of the deliberate fire themes by comparison with this reporting period over the previous 4 years.
- c. Accidental dwelling fires show a downward trend from 2012/13, but remain a key area for improvement in the coming months and must remain a key priority for our community engagement initiatives.
- d. Primary fires in non-domestic buildings which include commercial, industrial and local authority buildings has shown a slight increase during this reporting period and will remain a priority area for auditing by SFRS enforcement officers.

- e. Accidental vehicle fires show an increasing trend which will be monitored, however it must be noted that there is limited action the SFRS can take to influence this type of incident.
- f. The SFRS attended no Road Traffic Collision (RTC) incidents during this reporting period.
- g. False alarms due to equipment fault although showing a slight downward trend from the reporting period during 2012/13, continues to provide us with concern in our desire to utilise SFRS resources more effectively and reduce the number of unnecessary blue light journeys which can endanger other road users.

PRIORITIES & INTERVENTIONS (2013/14)

3. SFRS is committed to working in partnership with Community Planning partners in the public, private, and voluntary sectors in order to work together for a safer Scotland. Strengthening our relationship with and working in partnership to add value to our communities is critical to the success of our strategy.

The introduction of the Inverclyde 3 year Local Fire Plan will support this partnership approach as we identify opportunities for closer collaboration with partner agencies in the coming months to deliver measurable outcomes for the residents of Inverclyde.

Some of the current interventions are detailed below:

- a. SFRS will continue to work in partnership with Community Planning partners in order to further reduce the number of fire and other emergency incidents attended in Inverclyde. Our participation at the fortnightly multi-agency tasking and coordinating (MATAC) meetings is one of the key ways which we work with partners including Police and Community safety services to tackle fire related ASB issues including deliberate fire raising and malicious calls.
- b. SFRS are working with partners to implement Home Fire Safety Referral (HFSV) processes. Discussion is on-going to improve joint working with Inverclyde partners which will result in fire crews delivering fire safety advice to occupants and conducting fire risk assessments. HFSV are seen as a key way of preventing accidental house fires by fitting smoke alarms and providing fire safety advice to occupants.

The SFRS completed 1247 HFSV within Inverclyde last financial year, with 333 HFSV completed in the Q4 reporting period.

- c. Further discussion will take place with Inverclyde Council to ensure that all residents who are supplied with a Telecare Safety System are provided with a HFSV as part of that package.
- d. House Fires within Inverclyde are predominantly lower than in many local authority areas however the highest number have occurred in the Inverclyde East and Inverclyde East Central wards this reporting period. SFRS has initiated a series of Cook Safe courses with 8 completed this financial year in Inverclyde. The course promotes: general safe cooking, fire safety, good hygiene, and healthy cooking.

Cooksafe courses were completed at the following locations with the identified target audiences.

- Your Voice-Inverclyde Community Care (addiction services/vulnerable families)
- Your Voice-Inverclyde Community Care (men's group)
- Your Voice-Inverclyde Community Care (addition services/vulnerable families)
- Your Voice-Inverclyde Community Care (Alcohol and Drug Services)
- Fitzgerald Centre (supporting at risk adults/learning disability)
- East Kirk Court (supporting independent housing for elderly residents)

- John Gault House (supporting independent housing for elderly residents)
- Broadstone Gardens (supporting independent housing for elderly residents)

This resulted in an audience of 110 people participating in the Cook Safe initiative.

The intention this financial year will be to involve other partner agencies who may be able to provide additional health/safety messages to this audience.

- e. Schools and nursery education- dedicated fire safety staff provide a range of educational visits and talks within educational establishments in order to promote fire safety to young people. The aim is to promote safety and change the culture which may lead to fewer deaths and injuries from fire in future generations.

The SFRS will be providing all nursery schools within the Inverclyde area with an Early Years fire safety education packs which can be used when appropriate by head teachers.

- f. Fire reach courses- these courses are fire led courses with multi agency participation. Inverclyde schools and community safety services make referrals for young people to attend these courses. The courses are designed to promote good citizenship and to direct young people in the right direction in a bid to drive down ASB including fire related ASB.

The intention this financial year will be to engage with Head Teachers and facilitate an increased number of these courses within Inverclyde.

INVERCLYDE LOCAL FIRE PLAN 2014-2017

Wide spread consultation has taken place with partner agencies with opportunities for members of the public to contribute in this process. This consultation period concluded on the 14th February 2014 and all responses were considered in the finalisation of the plans.

Consultation has taken place with Inverclyde Council which has resulted in changes to the original draft plan which now forms the basis of the final document which will be presented to the Council in anticipation of agreement at the May scrutiny board meeting. (Appendix B)

An Annual SFRS Operating Plan will be produced for each financial year of the Local Fire Plan which will form part of the documentation presented at the next scrutiny board meeting for Elected Members information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Education and Community Sub Committee members are asked to note the contents of this report and its appendices and formally agree the Inverclyde Local Fire Plan 2014-2017

Appendix A- Performance Report (February) 2013/2014
Appendix B – Draft Inverclyde Local Fire Plan 2014-2017