

City of York Council

Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Update (York)

17 May 2017

Report of Group Manager - Dave Dryburgh

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise members of the Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee regarding Service Delivery activity involving North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (NYFRS) that have occurred between the 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017 and to provide an update regarding other relevant issues from within the York and Selby District.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The following report covers the period 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017.

3.0 SERVICE DELIVERY

3.1 The table below shows a summary of total number of Home Fire Risk Assessments completed in the City of York for the 12 months up to the last complete reporting quarter.

Community Fire Safety	Apr 16 to Mar 17	Apr 15 to Mar 16
Number of Smoke Alarms fitted	572	611
Number of Home Fire Risk Assessments completed	377	461

3.2 The community safety activity is undertaken by a mixture of both operational firefighters and dedicated community safety officers.

3.3 In addition to Home Fire Risk Assessments a variety of other community safety activities are undertaken throughout the year in support of road safety such as speed matrix deployments and road safety education events such as Drive Alive in the City's secondary

schools, colleges and universities which complements the more traditional fire safety education we offer to schools around more general fire safety.

- 3.4 In preparation for the 2017-18 school year we will be offering to provide an interactive educational package to every primary and secondary school in the City which will focus on water as well as fire safety in recognition of the comparative risks. These packages will be delivered along with partners through the recently formed Water Safety Forum, part of the Safer York Partnership.
- 3.5 Work is ongoing on refreshing our approach to home fire safety visits which will cover health aspects as well as fire safety. As a result all our community safety officers have now received Make Every Contact Count training and where we do encounter householders with other needs the mechanisms are in place through our Vulnerable Persons Intervention Partnership to refer individuals on to other appropriate agencies who are better served to meet individual needs.
- 3.6 In support of managing the most vulnerable people the Service has purchased two portable misting systems. These are designed to go into the homes of vulnerable persons who are at a very high risk of injury due to fires in the home. The systems would be placed in the home and provide a fire suppression for a period of time to help protect the occupant until further control measures can be implemented using a multi agency strategy. The deployment of one of these devices is currently being considered for a household within the City.
- 3.7 The Service has secured funding for 6 Life Education Fire Education (LIFE) schemes from the Police and Crime Commissioner and one of these courses will be held at our Huntington station from the 25th to the 29th September 2017.
- 3.8 Technical fire safety activity is undertaken at a low risk level by operational firefighters while more complex and higher risk inspections are undertaken by a specialist team. The specialist team do not only carry out inspection audits but engage in educating the business community regarding their fire safety responsibilities.
- 3.9 As well as monitoring the level of compliance with the relevant fire safety legislation our specialist Technical Fire Safety Department undertakes education activities with local businesses. During 2016-17 the focus of this business education focused on care homes and the department ran a very successful series of interactive workshops which were attended by a wide range and size of care providers.

3.10 The table below show the level of activity in the City of York for the 12 months up to the last complete reporting quarter.

Technical Fire Safety	Apr 16 to Mar 17	Apr 15 to Mar 16
Number of Fire Safety Audits Completed	441	448
All TFS job types completed	1150	1208

4.0 Fire Cover

4.1 As indicated during the previous report during 2014 and 2015 we carried out a review of fire cover across North Yorkshire and the City of York.

4.2 However, following an appropriate consultation process the Fire Authority have agreed to make a number of changes in respect of how fire cover will be delivered across the Service;

- To replace one wholetime crewed standard appliance with a Tactical Response Vehicle at Harrogate, Malton, Northallerton, Ripon, Scarborough and Tadcaster.
- The introduction of three District based Watch Managers to assist with retained recruitment as well as four wholetime Crew Managers and three wholetime firefighters to assist in the operational staffing reserve.

4.3 The Tactical Response Vehicles are now operational at Tadcaster, Northallerton, Harrogate and Scarborough.

4.4 A live trades dispute means that the Tadcaster Tactical Response Vehicle is currently being crewed by a minimum of 3 members of staff and not 2 as originally intended.

4.5 The role out of the Tactical Response Vehicles is being closely monitored and evaluated and up to the end of April 2017 there have been 276 deployments, 103 of which were with a crew of 3 and on 96 of these occasions the Tactical Response Vehicle was the sole appliance mobilized. To date there have been no significant operational concerns as a result of these incidents and the role out programme will continue as planned.

4.6 There is currently a challenge nationally recruiting and retaining on-call

(part-time) firefighters due in part to societal changes in working and living habits. We currently have vacancies of this type at both Acomb and Huntington fire stations which both have 2 standard fire appliances, 1 of which is crewed by on-call firefighters. The District based Watch Managers introduced as part of the Fire Cover Review is now in post and has been actively concentrating on local recruitment such as holding open days in partnership with Nestle who have a large number of office based staff who could potentially become on-call firefighters.

- 4.7 The recruitment picture is notably improving as a result of the introduction of the District based Watch Managers and as a result we will have trainee on-call firefighters for Huntington and Acomb on the courses to be ran from our training centre at Easingwold during June and July 2017. These are in addition to new on-call firefighters that have passed their initial course and are in post at Selby and Tadcaster.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That Members note the activities that have taken place.

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