

Service Targets April to October 2017

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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1 Purpose of Report

This report presents a summary of the Service's performance from April to October 2017.

2 Recommendations

The Audit and Performance Management Committee is asked to note the report.

3 Performance Review

Analysis of the available data for this reporting period indicates that seven of the eight Service measures either have been, or are predicted to achieve the year-end target.

The one measure currently predicted to miss the annual target is that relating to the total number of Accidental Fires and even here there is improving performance as the year progresses.

Summary comments on the performance against each measure are provided in the attached appendix.

4 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5 Legal Comment

Section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 provides the statutory authority for the Fire Service National Framework and requires fire and rescue authorities to have regard to the Framework in carrying out their functions. Members should have due regard to the Framework and, in particular, paragraph 2.8 in relation to the publication of performance information:

‘Fire and rescue authorities must make their communities aware of how they can access comparable data and information on their performance’.

6 Initial Impact Assessment

This report contains merely statements of fact and historical data. An Initial Impact Assessment is not, therefore, required.

7 Equality Impact Assessment

There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report. An Equality Impact Assessment is not, therefore, required.

8 Appendix

Service Targets
Summary Performance April to October 2017

9 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.

Service Targets: Summary Performance April to October 2017

Aims	Measure and Target	Performance to date April to June 2017	Predicted Pass: ✓ Fail: ✗
1. To be there when you need us in an emergency with a professional and well equipped team	1a. The first fire engine will arrive at an emergency incident with at least 4 firefighters within 15 minutes on 89% of occasions	89.9%	✓
	Comments Performance against this target continues to be good. This is likely to continue for the remainder of the year, with any potentially negative impacts most likely to come from any extreme weather events that may occur over the coming winter.		
2. To reduce the number of fires in our community	2a. All accidental fires will be reduced to not more than 490 fires during 2017/18	299	✗
	Comments Performance against this target remains slightly worse than it was the previous year; 270 fires to the same period last year. This was largely due to a steady rise in incidents during the first 5 months to August. However, the rate of accidental fires has seen a steady drop since August, which is bringing current performance closer to the overall target for the year; now only 13 incidents over target, as opposed to 28 over target in August. Whilst it remains feasible that the annual target could be met over the remaining months, it is certainly true to say that this year's target, which continues the 5% year on year planned reduction, is likely to be a significant challenge for the Service. For this reason, the Prevention Department has undertaken a review of the prevention strategy, aimed at making sure our efforts and resources are deployed as efficiently and effectively as possible. Members will receive a short presentation on the outcome from that strategy review during the meeting. The main trends, in relation to the causes of these fires, continue to be faults in appliances and cooking, which account for over half of the fires attended. This is in line with last year's trend, where electrical and appliance faults formed the most common cause by far and therefore our fire safety messages continue to focus on these areas.		

	2b. Accidental dwelling fires to be reduced to not more than 221 during 2017/18	129	✓
	Comments <p>The performance improvement reported for the second quarter has continued through to October, with the number of dwelling fires now being on track to achieve the annual target.</p> <p>The strategy review and presentation, mentioned above, will particularly focus on these fires. It will explain how the Service is looking at ways of identifying those most at risk across different parts of the county and how it needs to work with its' partners to encourage them to share their data on vulnerable persons with us. This will help to ensure that community fire safety initiatives (especially 'Safe and Well' visits) can be specifically targeted at those most likely to have fires.</p>		
	2c. Deliberate fires will be reduced to not more than 622 fires during 2017/18	324	✓
	Comments <p>The Service remains on course to meet the annual target, with 38 fewer fires to the end of October than would be expected for this period. The difference between this year and last year (which was a particularly good year) is also seeing the gap reducing, with there now only having been 37 more fires this year than there was over the same period last year.</p> <p>It is highly likely that this improved performance will continue through November, with the joint working the Service undertook with its local authority and police partners, over the bonfire season, resulting in fewer nuisance fires than were experienced last year.</p>		

3. To reduce the number of fire related deaths and serious injuries	3a. Fire related deaths and serious injuries in the community will be reduced to not more than 18 during 2017/18	3	✓
	Comments The Service remains well on track to meet this year's annual target, with no additional serious injuries or fatalities over those reported to the committee in their last report. Members are reminded that the two serious injuries were sustained as a consequence of accidental fires and involved burns to the arm or hand. The one was in a home setting and the other was industrial. The one fatality was as a consequence of a road traffic collision. The presentation on the review of the prevention strategy will provide further explanation as to how the Service intends to maintain its performance in this area.		
	3b. Injuries sustained to staff through firefighting will be reduced to not more than 24 injuries during 2017/18	11	✓
	Comments The Service is currently well on track to meet this target, with end of year predicted numbers currently sitting at 19. Although the number of injuries sustained by staff is low, every incident is used to inform on how current practices and processes can be improved. Slips, trips and falls, especially on the fireground, continues to be a major cause of concern for ourselves and other fire and rescue services across the region.		

4. To deliver a fire and rescue service, which provides value for money for our community now and into the future	4a. Fire and heat damage emanating from accidental fires in domestic dwellings and regulated business will be confined to the room of origin on not less than 89% of occasions during 2017/18	89.6%	✓
	Comments The Service continues to be on track to achieve the annual target for this measure.		
	As explained in the presentation to members at the July meeting, this target is considered to be an excellent summary indicator for how well the prevention and response arrangements are performing. This is because so many areas of Fire Service business can potentially impact on this measure. This ranges from areas such as the availability of firefighters on fire stations, their competence at dealing with fires, and even the effectiveness of our community fire safety messaging and our fire safety enforcement activities with businesses.		
	4b. To obtain an unqualified Value for Money (VFM) conclusion from External Audit	Unqualified VFM conclusion	✓
	Comments The Service received an unqualified value for money conclusion and therefore this target has been achieved.		