



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Item 21/14

MEETING	Swindon Local Performance & Scrutiny Committee
DATE OF MEETING	3 June 2021
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Performance report for quarter 4
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For consideration and scrutiny
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	This paper sets out the performance achieved for the fourth quarter covering the period 1 January to 31 March 2021. The report outlines performance against the key lines of enquiry against the Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) methodology. As Members would expect there are number of aspects of the Service’s work in prevention and protection that have been adversely impacted by the national pandemic. All statutory responsibilities are still being fulfilled and emergency response arrangements remain strong. There are no significant issues arising from this report.
RISK ASSESSMENT	There are no significant risks arising from this report. Performance remains good with no significant issues to raise with Members.
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	Performance remains good and there are no significant adverse community issues arising from this report.
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	None for the purposes of this report
RECOMMENDATION	Members are asked to scrutinise and comment upon performance of the Service period, 1 January to 31 March 2021.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	https://dwfrs.dashboard.cammsgroup.co.uk/#/
APPENDICES	None
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 As Members are aware, the Service's performance is reviewed against the strategic priorities set out in the Community Safety Plan. This Committee oversees the performance against Priorities 1, 2 and 3 - *making safer and healthier choices, protecting you and the environment from harm and being there when you need us*, with the Local Performance and Scrutiny Committees scrutinising service delivery performance at a local level.
- 1.2 Part of this innovative approach to reporting and scrutiny has been to anchor reporting to specific Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs). Each of the strategic priorities is supported by a set of KLOEs.
- 1.3 The Service revised its KLOEs with effect from 1 April 2020 to align to the methodology within the three pillars of HMICFRS's methodology: Effectiveness, Efficiency and People.
- 1.4 This alignment is designed to provide evidence of the Service's performance against the methodology and to allow Members to monitor and scrutinise the Service's performance to ensure it continues to achieve the overall HMICFRS rating of 'good'.
- 1.5 A baseline assessment for each KLOE has been undertaken against the HMICFRS methodology and 'good' rating. The evidence collected for each has been assessed against three levels – requires improvement, good, or outstanding to determine the overall level of performance and where improvement actions are required.
- 1.6 This report sets out the performance for quarter 4, 2020-2021 and will be supported by the attendance of key Officers at the meeting to answer any specific points Members may wish to raise.

2. Quarterly performance summary

- 2.1 KLOE 1: How well do we understand the risk of fire and other emergencies?

Availability and attendance of wholetime appliances remains good and in line with the corporate target. Our target is to arrive at an incident within ten minutes, and where we are unable to do so this is thoroughly investigated, and appropriate action is taken to ensure this is minimised.

In this quarter, on-call appliances were available to respond to incidents 50.8% of the time. We are working hard to improve the establishment of the station including recruitment initiatives with Swindon Borough Council. Whilst the availability of on-call appliances remains stable, there are a number of initiatives underway to improve this further including:

- Service wide pay model introduced in October 2020
- a review of on-call staff current availability so we can better target recruitment to fill the availability gaps
- succession planning to maintain availability and support recruitment, and
- development of an availability action plan with a planned recruitment drive each quarter.

2.2 KLOE 2: How effective are we at preventing fires and other risks?

Increasing partnership referrals remains a key focus for the Safe & Well Team, particularly from hospitals and health care organisations. The Service is progressing with a number of new partners across Swindon in various stages of development. These are Nature Care Solutions, Nurse Plus, Tricuro, Arbri, Angel Holistic Care and NHS Mental Health Care Services.

Service wide we have seen a 2% increase in partner referrals this quarter, this is 6% decrease over the same period last year. Specifically in the Swindon Group, partner referrals have increased from 78 to 163. As this has been throughout the second wave of the pandemic, we consider this to be a positive result considering the challenges of accessing residential homes due to coronavirus. Officers are working closely with partners to ensure referral increases are sustained.

Social distancing continues to have an impact on the Service's prevention work and has continued to postpone face-to-face prevention activities this quarter. Teams continue to deliver where possible and have focused their efforts on new methods of engagement such as the use of ICT and social media.

The Service is developing an evaluation of prevention activities to measure the impact they are having on preventing fires and other risks. Alongside this is the value for money framework which provides evidence of the Service, partner, and wider societal savings from our prevention interventions.

The Service's integrated approach to firesetting behaviour is centred on key risk groups and has proven successful as we remain one of the lowest for deliberate fires in England.

2.3 KLOE 3: How effective are we at protecting the public through the regulation of fire safety?

Progress against the Service's programme of fire safety audits at high-risk premises with sleeping risk is being monitored due to the downturn in proactive audits because of the current coronavirus pandemic.

The Service is revising its risk-based inspection programme for non-domestic buildings. This will include assessing the premises inspected compared to premises where incidents are occurring to ensure effective targeting. This work is on track to be delivered in time to start on 1 April 2021.

From April 2020, a new strategy was implemented for automatic fire alarms at commercial premises only whereby the Service will no longer attend between the hours of 8am and 6pm. There is a significant reduction in the number of unwanted automatic fire alarms attended compared to the previous year across the Service. Across the Swindon Group this represents cashable savings of £650 for on-call attendance and 25 wholetime attendance hours saved.

2.4 KLOE 4: How effective are we at responding to fires and other emergencies?

The Service continues to be effective in evaluating and improving operational performance. Following an incident, where necessary, a structured debrief report captures any learning to share across the organisation, and where appropriate is taken to a cross-departmental group for consideration of any further action required.

Alongside this the Service continues to align with national guidance and oversee any further work necessary to strengthen its compliance against these standards.

2.5 KLOE 5: How well prepared are we to respond to major and multi-agency incidents?

Officers continue to work closely with Local Resilience Forums to capture community risks. The Service is no longer in major incident status for the coronavirus pandemic. The Service continues to play a key role in all Strategic Coordinating and Tactical Coordinating Groups that are now in place for exiting the European Union and other localised risks.

Service exercise governance continues to be strengthened via a programme of exercising, including at our highest risk Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) sites. The development of specific tactical response plans continues for these COMAH sites to ensure clear guidance in the event of an incident at one of these sites.

3. Summary and key points

3.1 The use of KLOEs is an innovative approach to reporting performance. This approach provides a structured means for Members to receive performance information within a wider context.

3.2 There are no new significant issues to raise with Members at this time and good progress is being made.

- 3.3 The quarter 1 performance report for 2021-2022 will be provided to the Swindon Local Performance & Scrutiny Committee on the 1 September 2021.
- 3.4 Members can also view Key Performance Indicators via the on the online dashboard [here](#).

June 2021