



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held at 10:00 hours on Thursday 18 February 2021. This was a remote meeting held in Microsoft Teams.

Members present:

Cllr Ann Stribley (Chair)
Cllr Malcolm Davies
Cllr Paul Hilliard
Cllr Toby Johnson

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Jim Mahoney
Area Manager (AM), Andy Cole
Area Manager (AM), Seth Why
Group Manager (GM), Dave Graham
Head of Information, Knowledge and Communications, Vikki Shearing
Democratic Services Support, Steph Howard

21/01 Welcome

21/01.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

21/02 Apologies

20/02.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Steve Baron.

21/03 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business

21/03.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

21/04 Review and approve minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole LPS meeting on 19 November 2020

21/04.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

21/04.2 **RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

21/05 Action Progress report

21/05.1 Democratic Services Support, Steph Howard presented the report, advising that there were no outstanding actions from the last meeting or previous meetings.

21/05.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted the report.**

21/06 Performance reporting and briefing quarter 3

21/06.1 GM Dave Graham took Members through a presentation of the Performance report for quarter 3 for priorities 1, 2 and 3.

21/06.2 GM Graham introduced the approach taken to identify key activities within each Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE), including the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) list for each and a concluded with an overview of the demand summary.

21/06.3 Priority 1 – making safer and healthier choices

21/06.4 GM Graham reported that the availability of wholetime appliances remains very strong. On-call appliances were available to respond to incidents over 90% of the time and wholetime appliances 97% of the time. Ongoing action being taken to ensure on-call availability improves and this includes a Service wide review of the Pay Model, a review of on-call contracts of availability and succession planning to maintain availability and support recruitment.

21/06.5 GM Graham provided an update on the multi-agency partnerships we contribute to which support the work in this priority in engaging with our communities. Cllr Ann Stribley raised a question about the cover for the Poole harbour islands, recognising that the location falls within the Dorset area. GM Graham clarified that the quickest emergency response to the Island is from Poole Quay and therefore is included within the Poole area.

21/06.6 GM Graham reported that the coronavirus pandemic has had an impact on the Service's prevention activities, but teams continue to provide an adapted approach to safe and well visits. There has been a reduced level of referrals from partner agencies from 202 to 179 compared to last year, but this has increased by 34% since quarter 2.

- 21/06.7 GM Graham confirmed the team have established six new partnerships and are developing an evaluation framework which will look at the impact of prevention activity to ensure that we maximise the benefit of these arrangements and achieve value for money.
- 21/06.8 GM Graham advised that teams have supported national campaigns in the last quarter in relation to candle safety, smoke alarms, electrical safety and student education.
- 21/06.9 GM Graham reported that the Service aligns its road safety initiatives to local and national road safety campaigns. During this quarter, activity has involved supporting the digital safe drive stay alive show and focussing messaging on the Fatal Four: using excessive speed, not wearing seatbelts, drink driving and using a mobile phone whilst driving. Awareness has also been centred around Tyre Safety Week and Brake Road Safety Week during this quarter. More than 33,000 people were reached in December with alcohol and drug awareness.
- 21/06.10 GM Graham reported that four interactive workbooks relating to road safety during and after the pandemic have been produced for key stage 3, 4 and 5, 11–18 year old children to complete at home. By working in partnership, the Education team have also delivered the online safe drive stay alive session to 269 students across three schools in the last quarter. Additionally, the Survive the Drive programme, delivered in partnership with the MOD, has reached over 2,000 military staff.
- 21/06.11 In terms of firesetting, GM Graham highlighted that 11 referrals had been seen by firesetter advisors this quarter.
- 21/06.12 GM Graham highlighted the continued work by the education team to develop online resources to get vital safety messages to children even when the schools were closed.
- 21/06.13 **Priority 2 - Protecting you and the environment from harm**
- 21/06.14 GM Graham reported that the risk based inspection programme for non-domestic buildings is on track to be delivered in time to start in April 2021. The Service has a corporate target to audit the top 100% of known sleeping accommodation identified as high risk where the Fire Safety Order applies. Progress against this is being monitored.
- 21/06.15 Outcomes from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry remained a key area of focus. Pleasingly, progress to install premises information plates (PIP's) across all high-rise properties in the BCP area was going well, with only 31 buildings remaining.
- 21/06.16 GM Graham advised Members that the strategy for dealing with automatic fire alarms at commercial premises has resulted in savings of £20,150 in on-call costs and 123 hours reduced disruption for wholetime staff.

- 21/06.17 Cllr Johnson raised a question about the terminology used when reporting the audits for top 100% sleeping risk premises. ACFO Mahoney explained that this was in relation to the national list.
- 21/06.18 **Priority 3 - Being there when you need us**
- 21/06.19 GM Graham highlighted the good figures reported for quarter 3, in terms of response times for; fires with a sleeping risk (first appliance 99% and second appliance 88%); the first appliance attending other incidents (89%) and the first appliance attending a road traffic collision (100%). He also reported that competence levels were good for operational crews across the BCP stations.
- 21/06.20 GM Graham advised that the debrief and operational effectiveness database continues to be utilised for continuous learning and that the action plan from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Report is now complete.
- 21/06.21 GM Graham highlighted that operational procedures continue to be developed in-line with National Operational Guidance.
- 21/06.22 GM Graham reported that there remains the potential for a fire death which awaits a Coroner's verdict, in relation to an incident in Poole Park in October 2020.
- 21/06.23 GM Graham highlighted an incident of note to members, at Park Road, Winton on 16 October 2020 and gave a report on the high-rise exercise conducted in Bournemouth. A video overview was presented which demonstrated fire survival guidance and evacuation at an incident in a high-rise premises. GM Graham reported that all appliances are now being equipped with smoke hoods to assist in the evacuation of people in these buildings.
- 21/06.24 Cllr Hilliard raised a question in relation to the prevention activity for incidents, mentioning the Wareham Forest major incident, and also the operational arrangements required to provide cover across the Service area during such significant incidents. AM Why confirmed the proactive work which was undertaken during the incident with our partners and commented that this would continue to be improved. He also gave assurance of the strategic fire cover arrangements which provide service resilience through our joint fire control.
- 21/06.25 GM Graham reported that the Service actively participates in all multi-agency and Local Resilience Forum (LRF) activities in response to the coronavirus pandemic with representation at strategic, tactical and operational levels. He confirmed there are three lower tier control of major accident hazards (COMAH) sites within the BCP area. All COMAH sites have 'in date' site-specific risk information (SSRI) which is readily available to our crews through mobile data terminals, with more detailed plans available to our Flexi Duty Officers within the Resilience Direct system.
- 21/06.26 GM Graham advised that during quarter 3 a review of all SSRI's was undertaken in BCP. He confirmed that establishing Poundbury as a Major

Incident Strategic Coordination Centre as a backup for the LRF has commenced. It is hoped this would be completed by March 2021.

- 21/06.27 The Service had weekly meetings with Dorset Police where topics discussed included; the latest threat from terrorism, VIP visits, new operational guidance and training opportunities, followed by debriefs of significant incidents for shared understanding.
- 21/06.28 GM Graham reminded Members that the Service has been actively involved within the Local Resilience Strategic Coordinating Group and appropriate sub-groups throughout the coronavirus pandemic, ensuring support to the multi-agency approach during this major incident.
- 21/06.29 Lastly, GM Graham provided comparable year to date figures in relation to the number of fires the Service has attended, a slight increase to 773 in 2020-2021 to 775 from 2019-20; the number of incidents attended that were a false alarm, a decrease from 1856 in 2019-2020 to 1737 in 2020-2021; and the number of special service incidents attended, a decrease from 885 in 2019-2020 to 661 in 2020-21.
- 21/06.30 Cllr Hilliard expressed an interest in understanding the percentage of false alarm calls. ACFO Mahoney highlighted that on average it takes one hour to attend an automatic fire alarm call. Through a robust call handing procedure, Service operators challenge these calls so that a mobilisation only occurred when required. He provided assurance that malicious false alarms were very low and that these generally formed local patterns which were quickly managed. The more significant impact for the Service is false alarm calls to commercial and domestic premises.
- 21/06.31 The Chair thanked all staff for going above and beyond in response to the pandemic. The Chair acknowledged the difficulty for Members to keep in touch through local visits with staff, thanking Officers for keeping Members informed and GM Graham for his presentation.
- 21/06.32 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and commented upon the performance for period 1 October 2020 to 31 December 2020.**

21/07 Matters raised by Members

- 21/07.1 No matters were raised.

21/08 Date of next meeting

- 21/08.1 The next meeting of the Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee will take place on 20 May 2021 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11:29hrs

Signed: _____