



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held remotely on 16 February 2021 at 9.30 in Microsoft Teams.

Members present:

Cllr Pete Barrow (Chair)
Cllr Richard Biggs
Cllr Rebecca Knox
Cllr Byron Quayle

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Services, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Jim Mahoney
Area Manager (AM), Andy Cole
Area Manager (AM), Seth Why
Group Manager (GM), Darren Langdown
Head of Strategic Planning and Corporate Assurance, Jill McCrae
Democratic Services Support, Steph Howard

21/01 Welcome

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

21/02 Apologies

21/02.1 No apologies were received.

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 Dorset LPS meeting on 17 November 2020

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

21/04.2 Cllr Biggs commented that in paragraph 20/26.3 the word '*Dorset*' Youth should read '*Dorchester*' Youth.

21/04.3 **ACTION: Democratic Services to amend the minutes from the 17 November 2020 and provide the Chair with a revised version to sign.**

21/04.4 **RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed following the amendment made in Action 21/04.3 and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

21/05 Action progress report

21/05.1 Democratic Services Support, Steph Howard took Members through the Action Progress report. She explained that action number 297 was still in progress. This was to allow time to gather sufficient data to provide feedback and outcomes once the children were back at school for a longer period of time. She advised that an update would be provided to the Committee at a later date.

21/05.2 Group Manager (GM) Darren Langdown provided an update on action number 310. He reported that a piece of work had been carried out by the Education team to data cleanse the Service's youth and engagement contacts and are now in a position to prioritise how we engage with local youth centres.

21/05.3 Referring to action number 310, Steph Howard confirmed that this would remain open and in progress whilst GM Langdown obtained further data and Members would be updated in due course.

21/05.4 **RESOLVED: Members noted the actions and comments.**

21/06 Performance monitoring and briefing

21/06.1 GM Darren Langdown took Members through the Performance report for quarter 3 by way of a presentation.

21/06.2 GM Langdown gave an overview of each Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) under priorities 1, 2 and 3.

- 21/06.3 **Priority one - making safer and healthier choices**
- 21/06.4 GM Langdown reported that the availability of wholetime appliances remains very strong. On-call appliances were available to respond to incidents 83% of the time and wholetime appliances over 99% of the time. Ongoing action is 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 Langdown 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.
- 21/06.6 GM Langdown provided an update on the multi-agency partnerships the Service continues to contribute to. He confirmed that the Service attend the following: Dorset Together (Dorset Shield), the Dorset Safeguarding Adults Board, the Community Safety Partnership and Community Safety Partnership. ACFO Mahoney confirmed that the Dorset area was also engaging with the Dorset Health & Wellbeing Board and Integrated Care System Board.
- 21/06.7 GM Langdown reported that performance against response standards remains on track for all incident types.
- 21/06.8 GM Langdown updated Members on the Maintenance of Skills and Operational Licences for operational staff. He confirmed that competencies for breathing apparatus was being monitored as there has been a reduction in course attendance due to the impact of coronavirus restrictions. GM Langdown explained that a risk based approach has continued to prioritise training and maintain competencies. He commented that the Emergency Response Drivers course for new drivers is still postponed due to the reduced traffic on the roads during lockdown.
- 21/06.9 GM Langdown 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 260 to 194 compared to last year, but this has increased by 21% since quarter 2.
- 21/06.10 GM Langdown 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.
- 21/06.11 GM Langdown advised that teams have supported national campaigns in the last quarter in relation to candle safety, smoke alarms, electrical safety and student education.

- 21/06.12 GM Langdown 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 was also centred around Tyre Safety Week and Brake Roads Safety Week during this quarter. There were over 24,000 people reached in one week with the #noneedtospeed road safety message and more than 33,000 people reached in December with alcohol and drug awareness messages.
- 21/06.13 GM Langdown 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 768 students across eight schools in the last quarter. Additionally, the Survive the Drive programme, delivered in partnership with the MOD, has reached over 2,000 military staff.
- 21/06.14 GM Langdown reported that the Arson Reduction Coordinator represents the Service by attending partnership meetings concerning fire-related anti-social behaviour and that one referral had been received by firesetter advisors in quarter 3.
- 21/06.15 GM Langdown highlighted that the Education team have continued to develop a range of on-line resources to get vital safety messages to children, even when the schools were closed.
- 21/06.16 **Priority 2 - protecting you and the environment from harm**
- 21/06.17 GM Langdown reported that the risk based inspection programme for non-domestic buildings is on track to be delivered in time for an April 2021 start. The Service had 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 was being monitored.
- 21/06.18 GM Langdown reported that outcomes from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry remained a key area of focus. He explained that the London Fire Brigade had also just released a report and colleagues were ascertaining what impact this may have on our Service and from which learning points would be taken. GM Langdown reported that building regulations and licensing consultations have continued and have been completed within the statutory timeframes.
- 21/06.19 **Priority 3 - being there when you need us**
- 21/06.20 GM Langdown highlighted the figures reported in quarter 3, in terms of response times for; fires at sleeping risk properties (first appliance 82.4%, which was 46 out of 54 incidents); the first appliance attending to other properties (92.8%, 13 out of 14 incidents) and the first appliance attending road traffic collisions (90%, 42 out of 46 incidents).

- 21/06.21 GM Langdown advised that the use of the operational effectiveness database continued to be utilised for evaluating and improving operational performance. He explained that following on from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report, Officers were focusing on internal learning and improvement, equipment, operational training, call handling and information gathering.
- 21/06.22 GM Langdown reported that there remain three potential fire related deaths which are awaiting a Coroner's verdict. These relate to incidents in Portesham in September 2019, in Fordington, Dorchester in February 2020 and in Shroton in September 2020.
- 21/06.23 GM Langdown 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 were four control of major accident hazards (COMAH) sites within the Dorset area. All COMAH sites have 'in date' site-specific risk information (SSRI) which is readily available to crews through mobile data terminals, with more detailed plans available to the Flexi Duty Officers within the Resilience Direct system.
- 21/06.24 He confirmed that establishing Poundbury as a Major Incident Strategic Coordination Centre as a backup for the LRF had commenced and it is hoped this would be completed by March 2021.
- 21/06.25 The Service had weekly meetings during the last quarter 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.
- 21/06.26 **Demand summary**
- 21/06.27 Lastly, GM Langdown provided comparable year to date figures in relation to the number of fires Dorset area had attended, a slight increase to 824 in 2020-2021 from 717 in 2019-20; the number of incidents attended that were false alarms, an increase from 1179 in 2019-2020 to 1252 in 2020-2021; and the number of special service incidents attended, a decrease from 763 in 2019-2020 to 659 in 2020-21.
- 21/06.28 The Chair thanked GM Langdown for his presentation.
- 21/06.29 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and commented upon the performance for period 1 October 2020 to 31 December 2020.**
- 21/07 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)**
- 21/07.1 No matters were raised.
- 21/08 Date of Next meeting**

21/08.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 18 May 2021 from 9:30am.

The meeting closed at 11.07

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