



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held at 9.30am on Wednesday 19 February 2020 at the Dorchester Community Fire Station

Members present: Cllr Pete Barrow (Chair); Cllr Richard Biggs; Cllr Byron Quayle; Cllr Ann Stribley (substitute).

Officer attendance: Director of Service Support, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Byron Standen; Area Manager (AM), Seth Why; Group Manager (GM) Darren Langdown; Corporate Governance Manager, Nicki Whitehouse; Democratic Services Support, Steph Howard.

20/01 Welcome

20/01.1 The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed attendees, thanked Cllr Stribley for attending in Cllr Knox's absence and noted that ACFO Byron Standen was attending in ACFO Mahoney's absence.

20/02 Apologies

20/02.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Rebecca Knox and ACFO Jim Mahoney.

20/03 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications

20/03.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

20/04 Public Questions

20/04.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

20/05 Review and approve minutes of the Dorset LPS meeting on 5 November 2019

20/05.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

20/05.2 **RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

20/06 Action Progress report

20/06.1 Members noted that since the last meeting, four actions had been completed and the remaining action (number 278) was in progress. Nicki Whitehouse brought to the Members' attention the road traffic collision information/data which is produced on a quarterly basis by the Dorset Council Road Safety team and an update was given at the meeting. As Cllr Knox was not in attendance, Members wished to discuss the item at the next meeting, so the action remains open.

20/06.2 Members agreed that completed action numbers 275, 276, 277 and 279 be removed from the action log.

20/06.3 **RESOLVED: Members noted the actions and comments.**

20/06.4 **RESOLVED: Members approved the removal of completed actions.**

20/07 Performance monitoring and briefing

20/07.1 GM Darren Langdown introduced himself to Members as the new Group Manager for the Dorset group and took them through the Performance Report for quarter 3 (appendix A), with an accompanying presentation.

20/07.2 **Priority 1 Making safer and healthier choices**

20/07.3 GM Langdown explained that Safe and Independent Living (SAIL) is working well amongst partner agencies. New forms had been distributed and are available in paper format as well as hosted on the Dorset Age UK website.

20/07.4 Safe and well advisors have already been integrated into locality hubs at Blandford, Bridport and Sherborne Yateman hospitals and this has been working well. This involves our advisors working alongside social workers, occupational therapists, health workers and mental health nurses. The Safe & Well Team Leader, will be developing this concept further.

20/07.5 **ACTION: To organise a briefing for Members at the next meeting on how the locality hubs partnership is working.**

20/07.6 Cllr Quayle asked a question about what happens to referrals and feedback received which is not under the Service's remit. There was a discussion around the number of revisits and the process of feedback and AM Why explained that this would be passed to the relevant partner to follow up by the Prevention Delivery Manager.

20/07.7 GM Langdown reported that in quarter 3, there were 966 visits completed by the Safe and Well team and operational crews. 87% of these visits have been carried out in homes that are classed as high to very high-risk, compared to 84.8% in the same quarter last year.

20/07.8 In October, Weymouth Fire Station hosted a five-day Safer People and Responsible Communities (SPARC) course for young females in the area. This bespoke course was a response to a local need identified at the Weymouth and Portland Health and Wellbeing Forum. This course has helped see an improvement in the individuals' attendance at school.

20/07.9 Cllr Sibley reported that she had attended a SPARC Pass Out Parade, which she described as inspirational. She asked how the Service checked on the attendees after the course. AM Why commented that a pre-course questionnaire is completed, and afterwards the Princes Trust monitors for up to six months. The challenge will be tracking the individuals in education for a longer period of time, which will enable us to evaluate the impact of our work.

20/07.10 Members discussed SPARC courses and their positive outcomes and suggested that a course could be run at Dorchester.

20/07.11 **ACTION: AM Why to obtain further feedback and outcomes from the attendees of this SPARC course (identified at the Weymouth and Portland Health and Wellbeing Forum) and provide an update at a future meeting.**

20/07.12 **ACTION: GM Langdown to look into the possibility of running a SPARC course in Dorchester.**

20/07.13 GM Langdown reported that the Service continues to deliver school education programmes through the education officers and reached an audience of 2,832 children and young people. The Road Safety team is currently developing a new virtual reality education system.

20/07.14 Eight Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) events have been held the quarter, with 11 schools and colleges attending. There were also two Survive the Drive events targeting military drivers, held in November at Blandford Garrison. All received positive feedback.

20/07.15 **Priority 2 - Protecting you and the environment from harm**

20/07.16 GM Langdown reported that in quarter 3, 16 safeguarding referrals were made. The Service's Safeguarding Lead has also worked with the Dorset Safeguarding Children's Lead as well as Safeguarding Community Services to strengthen our safeguarding arrangements.

20/07.17 GM Langdown updated Members on fire safety activity and took them through the data in the key performance indicators table on page 12 of appendix A. Members discussed Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA) and officers confirmed that the largest proportion of these callouts were for cooking or human error at around 70%. AM Why explained that education was used where possible to prevent further occurrences.

20/07.18 Cllr Sibley asked whether we would look to charge re-occurring false alarm 'offenders'. ACFO Standen confirmed the Service is reviewing its policy and that charging is not current policy, although we need to be careful with how the Service deals with this issue.

20/07.19 AM Why explained the AFA reduction process, which is due to start, where between 08.00 and 18.00, the Control team will call challenge any incidents within commercial non-sleeping premises. This process is already being carried out by other fire and rescue services. GM Langdown confirmed that the Service will still attend any properties with sleeping arrangements or are of a high-risk.

20/07.20 GM Langdown explained that there are six high-rise buildings over 18 metres tall or six floors within the Dorset area, so Premises Information Plates (PIP) will be displayed on all of these buildings. This information will also be available via the Mobile Data Terminals before arrival so the crews can be prepared with risk information. These plates have been paid for by the building agents.

20/07.21 GM Langdown explained the current work being undertaken towards managing our local risks. There are three Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI) locations in Dorset which are being reviewed at present.

20/07.22 There are three Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) sites; Portland Port, Wytch Farm and significant areas of Dorset heathland. Portland bunkers holding the SSRI plans which are available to fire crews and there have also been familiarisation visits, additional training and an exercise with onsite staff. GM Langdown confirmed that close liaison is maintained with Perenco, who operate the site at Wytch Farm to ensure we have an effective response in place.

20/07.23 **Priority 3 Being there when you need us**

20/07.24 GM Langdown updated Members on the appliance availability for wholetime and on-call and also the work which is being carried out to ensure the improvement of on-call availability.

20/07.25 Cllr Barrow talked about the Buddy visit he attended where concerns were voiced with regards to the on-call pay model. GM Langdown assured Members that the Group Management team have visited all stations and carried out question and answers sessions to reassure staff. It has also been reiterated that pay protection will be in place for three years. Members discussed the Dorchester model that currently operates and ACFO Standen explained the need to have a consistent model for the Service.

20/07.26 GM Langdown outlined the range of incidents attended and took Members through the data (pages 17 to 20, appendix A). He mentioned that 20 co-responder incidents were attended. In answer to a Member's question, AM Why explained that the reason for this was that the South West Ambulance Service had reclassified the support required from the Service, which is why the figure is lower than previously reported.

20/07.27 A discussion took place about helmet cameras and when they would be used. ACFO Standen confirmed that these are being used for training purposes at present and not yet being rolled out to crews. AM Why confirmed that the frontline appliances have dashcams.

20/07.28 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and approved the performance for quarter 3.**

20/08 Technical Rescue Review

20/08.1 ACFO Standen gave Members an update on the Technical Rescue Review. He explained that this was part of the wider work that had been in progress since combination to align resources and capabilities across the Service. He reported that the objective of the review was to ensure that the right resources were in the correct places according to risk. He said that the review had:

- looked at the nature and location of incidents and where the risks are
- the provision in neighbouring services and practicalities, such as training
- engaged with staff at all fire stations that may be affected by the review

He stressed that no decisions had yet been made and added that the Strategic Leadership Team would receive a feasibility report in due course.

20/09 Issues raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)

20/09.1 Cllr Barrow reminded Members that there was a Local Performance and Scrutiny Dashboard working group meeting coming up and that he would take forward any feedback to the meeting.

20/10 Date of Next Meeting

20/10.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 20 May 2020 at 9:30am at Dorchester Community Fire Station.

The meeting closed at 11.03

Signed: