



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on 22 February 2023, 10.00am at Poole Fire Station, Poole.**

Members present:

Cllr Toby Johnson (Chair)  
Cllr Steve Baron  
Cllr Malcolm Davies  
Cllr Millie Earl  
Cllr Paul Hilliard

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole  
Area Manager (AM), Darren Langdown  
Group Manager (GM), Stuart Gillion  
Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw

**23/01 Welcome**

- 23/01.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members and Officers. The Chair referred to the allegations of deeply concerning behaviour within the Fire and Rescue Service as reported in the media stating that the Committee was aware of the situation and would not impinge on the ongoing inquiry process.

**23/02 Apologies**

- 23/02.1 No apologies were received.

**23/03 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests**

- 23/03.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

**23/04      Public questions**

23/04.1      There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

23/04.2      **RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no public questions.**

**23/05      Review and approve minutes of the BCP Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 22 November 2022**

23/05.1      The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

23/05.2      **RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

**23/06      Action progress report**

23/06.1      The Democratic Services Officer reported that no actions had been taken at the meeting on 22 November 2022 and that there were none outstanding from previous meetings.

23/06.2      **RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no actions outstanding.**

**23/07      Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 3**

23/07.1      Group Manager (GM) Stuart Gillion presented to Members the Performance monitoring and briefing for quarter 3, which covered the three priority areas overseen by this Committee:

**Priority 1** Help you to make safer and healthier choices

**Priority 2** Protect you and the environment from harm, and

**Priority 3** Be there when you need us.

A link to the presentation can be found [here](#).

23/07.2      **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**

23/07.3      GM Gillion highlighted that the Service actively contributed to multi-agency working including those groups addressing anti-social behaviour. The Service had in the quarter also participated in a successful large-scale exercise on Poole Harbour Island. Reference was also made to the Business Fire Safety Checks and works that were continuing on the Station Risk Profiles and Community Risk Profiles.

- 23/07.4 In respect of effectiveness at preventing fires and other risks, 745 Safe and Well visits had taken place in the area and the Service worked closely in partnership with other agencies. Funding had been received from Electrical Safety First and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council for the supply of electric blankets, oil heaters and cooking facilities for the most vulnerable groups in society to assist with the high cost of living. In reply to a question from Councillor Paul Hilliard, the Officers explained that following changes in the delivery of Prevention, Safe and Well provision would continue to be provided, but would be more focused and means tested. The Service worked with experts in the community to identify the most vulnerable. In reply to a question from Cllr Millie Earl, it was stated that the Service worked with 'Waste not Want Not' in the Poole area and Age UK in the Bournemouth and Christchurch area. The Service had a nominated lead at each of the stations to work in conjunction with these agencies and incident data was used to focus on those most in need and at risk and to steer the Station Risk Profiles and provide sign posting to agencies for help.
- 23/07.5 In respect of education and youth intervention, although there had been some financial reductions in this area of provision, education was still active in schools and community groups. In the quarter, 3491 children and young people had received education input directly from the Service. Linked to the Community Safety Partnership, work had taken place on heath fires and also education regarding Winter water risk and ice, which had received 3452 views on the website.
- 23/07.6 Regarding Road Safety, in the quarter the Service had participated in the National Speed Operation in October, child car seat checks with Dorset Police in November and the alcohol and drugs festive safety campaign in December. There had also been considerable publicity posted on social media.
- 23/07.7 Cllr Hilliard referred to Centre VR and that he had visited a primary school where all the children in the class had been provided with a virtual reality (VR) headset to learn road safety. GM Gillion stated that such headsets were in use by the Service. At the invitation of the Chair, Area Manager Marc House was present at the meeting and confirmed that the Service had acquired VR headsets for use in the Safe Drive Stay Alive education programme and for other targeted education settings, for example water safety. Fire and rescue services across the country were willing to develop and share resources for VR. It was agreed that it be an action to report on the implementation of VR at the next meeting of the Committee.
- 23/07.8 **ACTION: That the implementation of VR by the Service be reported at the next meeting of the Committee.**
- 23/07.9 In respect of Prevention, there had been 12 firesetter referrals within the area year to date with four cases currently open. The Service worked closely with Dorset Police and housing teams on prevention.

23/07.10 **Priority 2 - Protect you and the environment from harm**

23/07.11 For protecting the public through the Regulation of Fire Safety, 354 Building Risk Reviews had taken place and this work was now completed. In addition, 174 Business Fire Safety Checks had been undertaken across the Service in quarter 3. Work took place with local authorities on information sharing and joint enforcement.

23/07.12 During the period, 139 informal fire safety notices had been issued across the Service. Education packages had also been provided to students on general fire safety.

23/07.13 In reply to a question from Cllr Hilliard, the Officers explained that following changes in legislation, the Service now had an earlier stage intervention to provide fire safety advice on new high-rise buildings than had previously been the case. This intervention was now at the building regulation stage.

23/07.14 **Priority 3 – Be there when you need us**

23/07.15 Appliance availability had been 98.5% for Wholetime Duty System during the period and 82% for the on-call Duty System, which was slightly down on the previous quarter. There had been a change in establishment during the quarter, with two new District Commanders and four new firefighters, which would help future performance. On-call performance would also be addressed by a new recruitment plan.

23/07.16 There had been no incidents with a potential for fire death during the quarter.

23/07.17 Information was provided on incidents attended during the quarter and it was noted that road traffic accidents had increased during the quarter as the evenings darkened. Information was also provided on the multi-agency exercises that had taken place and the opportunities for learning from national incidents.

23/07.18 Regarding the demand summary, the Service was on target for turnouts and response times and there was ongoing recruitment to address on-call issues.

23/07.19 Cllr Hilliard enquired if the slight increase in the numbers of fires in the Christchurch area (696 to 805) suggested an increasing trend. The Officers responded that this was not the case and that fires in the open, including heathland fires, had been problematic.

23/07.20 In reply to the Chair's question regarding false alarms, the Officers replied that the challenge to automatic fire alarms had saved £979 and 32 hours during the quarter and this area was being addressed to ascertain whether further savings could be made.

23/07.21 The Chair thanked GM Gillion for his presentation and stated that this would be the last LPS meeting prior to elections in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council constituency.

23/07.22 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 3 2023**

**23/08 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)**

23/08.1 Cllr Malcolm Davies referred to reports in the media of relatively high incidence of cancers within firefighters. The Officers explained the procedures that the Service had put in place to protect and monitor the health of firefighters, including the cleaning of equipment of residual elements following a response and education on safe undress procedures.

32/08.2 In reply to a question from Cllr Hilliard, the Officers reported that members of staff from the Service had not attended the recent severe earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Representatives from Hampshire and Isle of Wight service's specialist Urban Search and Rescue team had attended.

**23/09 Date of Next meeting**

23/09.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next BCP Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 24 May 2023 at 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 10.50

*Signed:* \_\_\_\_\_