



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on 24 February 2022, 10.00am at the Conference Room at the Poundbury offices, Peverell Avenue West, Poundbury, Dorset, DT1 3SU.

Members present:

Cllr Pete Barrow (Chair)
Cllr Toby Johnson (Substitute)
Cllr Rebecca Knox

Officer attendance:

Area Manager (AM), Seth Why
Group Manager (GM), Charlie Pack (via MS Teams)
Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw

22/01 Welcome

22/01.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members and officers.

22/02 Apologies

22/02.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Biggs, Cllr Byron Quayle and Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole

22/03 Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests

22/03.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

22/04 Public questions

22/04.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

22/04.2 RESOLVED: Members noted that there were no public questions.

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- 22/05 Review and approve minutes of the Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny (LPS) Committee meeting held on 25 November 2021**
- 22/05.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.
- 22/05.2 RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**
- 22/06 Action progress report**
- 22/06.1 Area Manager (AM), Seth Why, Group Manager (GM), Charlie Pack and the Democratic Services Officer provided an update to the Committee on the following actions:
- 22/06.2 Action 297 to obtain further feedback and outcomes from the attendees of the SPARC (now renamed SPECTRA) course. It was noted that this action had been duplicated by action 337 and therefore action 297 had been closed.
- 22/06.3 Action 318 on writing to the Chairman to identify how an introduction to Cllr Graham Carr-Jones may support the work of the Service. Contact had been made with Cllr Graham Carr-Jones who subsequently arranged a meeting with Andrew Billany, Corporate Director for Housing and Community Safety at Dorset Council. The Service had been invited to meet the major housing providers in a Dorset Council meeting. It was agreed that the action was completed.
- 22/06.4 Action 336 that a report be brought to a future meeting on improving ways to communicate with the larger towns in Dorset. A verbal update was provided that the Corporate Communications team produced an update video which was made publicly available, including circulation with the Authority's constituent councils. The annual and six monthly Service performance review presentations were also to be made available on the Service website. Members commented that to obtain maximum coverage within their constituent Council's they could post the video directly to their fellow councillors. For Dorset Council, Haley Caves, was also a point of contact. Cllr Rebecca Knox stated that she would contact the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils to explore if there was a single point of contact that could be established for the dissemination of information. It was also agreed that Town Councils in the Dorset area could be provided with the update video and the Service performance review presentations directly by Democratic Services. This action remained therefore in progress.
- 22/06.5 Action 337 to write formally to the Cabinet Lead Member for Education at Dorset Council to receive information on the attendees of the SPARC course and to report back to the next LPS meeting. In summary, the course was provided to mentor young girls in Weymouth, with 11 out of 12 completing the course. Data was provided on the percentage of unauthorised absences of

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the students since the training took place, with it being noted that the coronavirus pandemic had impacted on the collection of data. Members commented that it would be of future benefit if standard metrics were introduced for the collection of data, which would assist towards obtaining funding. It was agreed to close this action as complete, and to open a new action to liaise with the local alliance of children and adult services, with Amanda Davis at Dorset Council being the contact for youth intervention.

- 22/06.6 **ACTION: To liaise with the Dorset local alliance of children and adult services, with Amanda Davis, Head of Locality and Strategy, at Dorset Council being the contact for youth intervention.**
- 22/06.7 Action 338 on requesting that David Sidwick, Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner, to be invited to the LPS meetings. It was noted that David Sidwick had attended the full Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) meeting on 9 February 2022. David Sidwick would give consideration to attendance at future LPS meetings following the FRA meeting and had been provided with the calendar of Authority meeting dates. This action was therefore complete.
- 22/06.8 Action 339 to confirm with Dorset Council's Education Team that the information exchange over fire-setters was established. The Arson Reduction Officer had confirmed that key information was shared with local partners, including the Education, Police and Probation Services, so that they were all informed when appropriate. As the Education Officer (Youth Intervention) was unable to attend the meeting to provide further information it was agreed to keep this action in progress.
- 22/06.9 Action 340 to report back to Cllr Richard Biggs in respect to KLOE 2 of the Service performance dashboard to clarify the involvement of the Service with Kingston Maurwood College, Dorchester. A verbal update was provided that the last amount of funding received from the college was £14,817 in June 2021 for the course delivered between September to December 2019 and the next amount of funding for the course that finished August 2021 was awaited. In answer to a question from Cllr Knox, AM Why replied that the cost of running the course was close to cost neutral and that there was societal benefit. The information would be forwarded to Cllr Biggs, who had sent his apologies to the meeting, and it was agreed that this action was complete.
- 22/06.10 Action 341 that Marc House, Area Manager - Prevention and Protection, be invited to present to the next meeting of the LPS the evaluations that were made in respect of firesetters (via MS Teams). The Education Manager (Youth Intervention) was unable to attend the meeting to provide further information and it was agreed to keep this action in progress.
- 22/06.11 Action 342 that future performance reports provide details of response travel time fails and whether intervention had been carried out prior to this fail, to ascertain if it was significant. A verbal update would be provided in future performance presentations where applicable. GM Pack provided details at the meeting. It was stated that the District Commander would work with crews on responses outside of the response time isochrone to seek improvement. AM

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Why added that responses outside of the isochrone were referred to the Safe and Well Team to help reduce risks. The Chair commented that it was assuring for Members to know if any failures to meet attendance times did not result in an adverse impact. It was agreed to close this action as complete, and to add a new action that it be a standard item of the Performance Reports to consider the isochrones that were out of time and did they result in an adverse impact.

22/06.12 **RESOLVED: Members noted the actions and comments and approved the removal of completed actions.**

22/06.13 **ACTION: That it be a standard item of the performance reports to consider the isochrones that were out of time and did they result in an adverse impact.**

22/07 Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 3

22/07.1 GM Pack 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](#).

22/07.2 **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**

22/07.3 GM Pack referred to two cases of close working with the Dorset Community Safety Partnership to support two individuals at risk, which had provided a beneficial outcome. Councillor Knox asked that reference also be made to the Dorset Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People when listing partner organisations.

22/07.4 **Priority 2 - Protect you and the environment from harm**

22/07.5 GM Pack reported that in quarter 3 the automatic fire alarm strategy at commercial premises had delivered cashable savings of £7,455 for on-call costs for non-attendances in Dorset and returns of 9 hours to whole time crews.

22/07.6 **Priority 3 – Be there when you need us**

22/07.7 Arising out of consideration of 'blue light' driving, the officers explained that in advance of anticipated changes in legislation to extend the period of driving instruction to two weeks from presently one, there was an emphasis on providing training to priority stations that required drivers. An objective of the lengthening of the blue light driver training was to obtain consistency across emergency services.

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22/07.8 **Demand summary**

22/07.9 Following a question by Cllr Knox, the Committee discussed the strategy on automatic fire alarms. AM Why explained the cross directorate work which was being undertaken to reduce the burden of false alarms on the Service. It was discussed that it was important to obtain accurate information on an automatic fire alarm call in order that the right decision on attendance could be made. For example, call handlers would use their discretion to challenge alarm calls on low risk commercial buildings, including contacting the call key holder. In terms of presenting the information obtained, the Service was seeking to align the information on not attending automatic fire alarms with the Service Dashboard. It was noted that there was a balance to be made between making the correct decision on responding and the cost savings that accrued from not attending false alarm calls.

22/07.10 In reply to a question from the Chair, AM Why outlined the actions that were taken by the Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Andy Cole and himself to analyse trends to identify if any stations were underperforming which might result in an emerging problem.

22/07.11 The Chair thanked GM Pack for his presentation and the meeting also thanked AM Why, as this would be the last Dorset LPS meeting he would attend prior to taking up a new position within the Service.

22/07.12 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 3 2022.**

22/08 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)

23/08.1 There were no matters raised by Members.

22/09 Date of Next meeting

22/09.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 26 May 2022 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.30

Signed: _____

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