



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held at  
10:00am on 1 December 2021 at Westlea Fire Station, The Chesters, Stonehill  
Green, Westlea, SN5 7DB**

Members present:

Cllr Garry Perkins (Chair)  
Cllr Russell Holland  
Cllr Bob Jones

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole  
Area Manager (AM), Seth Why  
Group Manager (GM), Dave Adamson  
Group Manager (GM), Wayne Presley  
Senior Executive and Democratic Services Manager, Gemma Kelly  
Strategic Planning and Programmes Administrator, Clare James (open seat)

**21/26 Welcome**

21/26.1 Cllr Perkins welcomed Members and officers to the meeting.

**21/27 Apologies**

21/27.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Kevin Small.

**21/28 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests**

21/28.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

**21/29 Public Questions**

21/29.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

**21/30 Review and approve minutes of the Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 8 September 2021**

21/30.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

21/30.2 **RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and be signed by the Chair as an accurate record.**

**21/31 Action Progress Report**

21/31.1 Group Manager (GM) Dave Adamson provided an update to the Committee on the following actions:

21/31.2 Action 313 to invite Members to a service high rise exercise was ongoing whilst future exercise planning continued. GM Adamson gave Members advance notice of a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) exercise taking place in March, invites would be passed to Democratic Services for circulation.

21/31.3 Action 322 to make available the data regarding firesetters had been emailed to Members in advance of this meeting. GM Adamson encouraged any queries on this matter to him directly.

21/31.4 Action 323 to share safe and well information was completed in the meeting with Simon Owen from the Safe and Well team in attendance to make a presentation.

21/31.5 **RESOLVED: Members noted that action number 313 was ongoing and actions 322 and 323 were completed.**

**21/32 Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 2**

21/32.1 Simon Owen, Safe and Well advisor provided an update on the work of safe and well and explained how referrals were made. He further explained the risk threshold, which was ordinarily age based, however this had been removed since the pandemic with so many people working from home. Official partners to the Safe and Well service were made up of local authorities, NHS departments, police and the Bobby Van charity, however referrals could be received from any agency. Simon Owen suggested that any Members wanting to make referrals could use the service website <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safe-and-well-visits/safe-and-well-referrals/>

- 21/32.2 Cllr Russell Holland asked what should be looked out for to warrant a referral being made. The Safe and Well department prioritised those without working or maintained smoke detectors and could supply relevant appliances, including deaf alarm equipment, to households free of charge. Other general signs of vulnerability could be relevant, Safe and Well advisors would make onward referrals to partner agencies where required.
- 21/32.3 GM Adamson presented to Members the performance monitoring and briefing for quarter 2, which covered the three priority areas overseen by this Committee. A link to the presentation is [here](#).
- 21/32.4 **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.
- 21/32.5 **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**
- 21/32.6 In reply to a Member's question regarding the preferred target for appliance availability, GM Adamson advised that whilst 100% in an ideal world would be the target, the service liked to see availability meet 80%. The coronavirus pandemic had provided some challenges in regards to training. A Member queried whether any difference had been noticed further to the changes in the on-call pay model. Area Manager (AM) Seth Why confirmed that the pay model had improved availability but there were more reviews coming up of the pay model and these would be undertaken by independent British Standards Institution (BSI) auditors.
- 21/32.7 A Member advised the Committee for information that a Horse Watch scheme had been introduced with Wiltshire Police with the aim to tackle rural crime. This information would be shared via Local Area Boards.
- 21/32.8 **Priority 2 - Protect you and the environment from harm**
- 21/32.9 In answer to a Member's question regarding attempted interventions, GM Adamson confirmed that the Safe and Well team would return to an unanswered referral three times and depending on the origin of the referral this could be followed up by the Safeguarding lead to ensure it was flagged to appropriate agencies.
- 21/32.10 **Priority 3 - Be there when you need us**
- 21/32.11 In response to a Member's query in relation to response figures, GM Adamson confirmed that contingency planning for calls that come in whilst an appliance might be out at a call was considered in planning, but the service also utilised neighbouring services. A discussion ensued regarding the way the service recorded turn-out times for which there was not a national standard. Dorset Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service recorded time from call to appliance arrival, however other services recorded travel time only.

21/32.12 A Member raised a concern at Everleigh Road in Swindon with regards to access to the rear of properties. GM Adamson advised that this had been reviewed by local crews and confirmed there was sufficient room for access. This information was also relayed to the residents to allay concerns.

21/32.13 A Member asked if the Coroner ever made comment on the work of the fire service. AM Why confirmed that full fire investigations were always conducted in these circumstances and learning identified and acted upon.

21/32.14 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 2.**

**21/33 Matters raised by Members (agreed with Chair)**

21/33.1 There were no matters raised by Members.

**21/34 Date of Next Meeting**

21/34.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Swindon Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as Wednesday 2 March 2022 at 10:00am.

The meeting closed at 11:35am

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