



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held at 10:00 hours on Thursday 25 February 2021. This was a remote meeting held in Microsoft Teams.

Members present:

Cllr Paul Oatway (Chair)
Cllr Ernie Clark
Cllr Peter Hutton
Cllr Bob Jones
Cllr Christopher Newbury
Cllr Pip Ridout

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Jim Mahoney
Area Manager (AM), Response, Seth Why
Group Manager (GM), Wayne Presley
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 attendees.

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 Wiltshire LPS meeting on 25 November 2020

- 21/04.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.
- 21/04.2 Cllr Hutton highlighted item number 20/28.1 within the Minutes and asked for clarity on future updates and reporting on the changes to technical rescue.
- 21/04.3 ACFO Jim Mahoney confirmed that it was unlikely that the Technical Rescue changes will be fully implemented for another six to 12 months. He offered verbal progress updates to be given at future Wiltshire LPS meetings if Members wished.
- 21/04.4 ACFO Mahoney gave an update on technical rescue. He confirmed that the four watches at Chippenham and Trowbridge had been met by GM Presley and his management team and are directly involved in the transition implementation plan.
- 21/04.5 **ACTION: Democratic Services to include a standing item to future agendas on technical rescue so that progress updates would be given.**
- 21/04.6 **RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

21/05 Action Progress

- 21/05.1 Democratic Services Support, Steph Howard presented the report and confirmed that action numbers 292, 302 and 311 were still in progress. She confirmed that action 292 remained 'in progress' due to Coronavirus restrictions and that a further update had been given to the Chair for action number 302.
- 21/05.2 Cllr Oatway gave Members an update on approaching the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) candidates to discuss possible funding of courses based on reducing demand on the police. He confirmed that the decision had been made not to execute this action until the new PCC had been elected.
- 21/05.3 **ACTION: Cllr Paul Oatway to approach the newly elected PCC to discuss possible funding for courses based on reducing demand on the Police.**
- 21/05.4 **RESOLVED: Members noted the actions and comments.**
- 21/05.5 **RESOLVED: Members agreed the closing of action number 311 and replacing with the action taken at 21/05.3 above.**

Cllr Newbury joined the meeting

21/06 Performance reporting and briefing

- 21/06.1 GM Wayne Presley introduced himself as the new GM for Wiltshire. He took Members through a presentation providing performance information for quarter 3.
- 21/06.2 GM Presley gave an overview of each Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) under priorities 1, 2 and 3.
- 21/06.3 **Priority 1 – making safer and healthier choices**
- 21/06.4 GM Presley provided an update on the multi-agency partnerships the Service contribute to, which support the work in this priority in engaging with our communities.
- 21/06.5 GM Presley reported that the availability and attendance of Wholetime appliances remains good. On Call appliances were available to respond to incidents 70% of the time. This is an increase of over 5% from the previous quarter. Ongoing action being taken to ensure on-call availability improves 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. He reported that the Casualty Care Operational Licence for on-call staff was being monitored due to a reduced number of training sessions during the earlier phases of the coronavirus pandemic and that this was expected to improve in quarter 4.
- 21/06.6 GM Presley provided a summary of the prevention work being undertaken. 26 schools received the new virtual fire safety education lesson, with a total of 1,721 children attending. The Education team have produced a number of resources for parents, carers and educators to use, which will help children understand how they can help keep themselves safe and well.
- 21/06.7 GM Presley reported that the teams were carrying on with their Youth Intervention work and discussions were held with Wiltshire Police and their commissioning teams, to scope delivery of the Salamander courses in the area where demands were highlighted.
- 21/06.8 He reported that after completing their virtual sessions, the Fire Cadets were presented with their National Fire Cadet Award 1 and an AQA certification 'Fire Service Training Programme'.
- 21/06.9 GM Presley reported that the Service aligns its road safety initiatives to local and national road safety campaigns. During quarter 3, activity 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. He also reported that Salisbury Fire Station set up a hard-hitting simulated road traffic collision outside the station in December with banners reading 'Drive responsibly, don't get smashed' which aligned to this campaign. Awareness had also been centred around Tyre Safety Week and Brake Road Safety Week.

- 21/06.10 GM Presley reported that by working in partnership, year to date the Wiltshire group have delivered the online Safe Drive Stay Alive session to 1639 students across 14 schools. Additionally, the Survive the Drive Programme, delivered in partnership with the MOD, had reached over 2,000 military staff across the Service. GM Presley confirmed that £2,400 had been donated by The Hills Group which will be used to develop a bespoke digital road safety solution for their employees and to help subsidise the SDSA delivery in schools.
- 21/06.11 GM Presley highlighted that during October a spate of arson incidents occurred in the Chippenham area, this had now ceased as the person of interest was being processed by the Police. He highlighted that referrals for firesetting were low, with one ongoing.
- 21/06.12 Due to the coronavirus pandemic, GM Presley reported that the number of safe and well visits had reduced by 376 compared to last year, representing a 43% reduction. Referrals from partners are down by 29% compared to quarter 3 last year however, referrals from Wiltshire Police have increased by 43%. Year to date, accidental dwelling fires have reduced by 18%.
- 21/06.13 GM Presley advised that work continued to improve the referral rate with presentations and awareness sessions being run for Wiltshire Council Adult Service, Nurse Plus, Lifeline 24, Firs Homecare, and RedJacket Support Services.
- 21/06.14 **Priority 2 - Protecting you and the environment from harm**
- 21/06.15 GM Presley reported that the Service has actively liaised with Local Authority Healthcare and Care Premises to assist with amended procedures and guidance as a result of coronavirus. He advised that the Service has 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 is being monitored.
- 21/06.16 GM Presley 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.
- 21/06.17 GM Presley reported the fire safety activity in quarter 3 in comparison to the same period in 2019, showing positive results.
- 21/06.18 **Priority 3 - Being there when you need us**
- 21/06.19 GM Presley highlighted the figures for quarter 3 in terms of response times, within the travel-time isochrone for; fires with a sleeping risk (first appliance 67.7% or 21 out of 31 incidents); the first appliance attending incidents at other properties (75% or 9 out of 12 incidents) and the first appliance attending road traffic collisions (82.8% or 48 out of 58 incidents). ACFO Jim Mahoney confirmed to Members that all misses are investigated by GM Presley and his team.

- 21/06.20 Members discussed the need for an explanation of the 'misses' so that background data is given for context. Members also questioned the different comparators and the benchmark for different Services; for DWFRS the 'clock' starts when control receive the 999 call and other Services start the clock when their engines are mobilised.
- 21/06.21 GM Presley reported that operational competencies for wholetime and on-call crews were in a very healthy position, with Emergency Response Driving at 100% for wholetime and on-call and Casualty Care at 100% for wholetime.
- 21/06.22 Members discussed the necessity for an explanation to be given of the competency figures for context.
- 21/06.23 GM Presley advised that the debrief and operational effectiveness database continues to be utilised for continuous learning and that the action plan from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Report is now complete. Officers are focussing on internal learning and improvement, equipment, operational training, call handling and information gathering.
- 21/06.24 GM Presley reported that the Operational procedures continue to be developed in-line with National Operational Guidance and the Service oversees any further work necessary to strengthen its compliance against these standards.
- 21/06.25 GM Presley confirmed that there have been no fire deaths confirmed by Her Majesty's Coroner to date.
- 21/06.26 GM Presley highlighted several local incidents of note to Members. One relating to a barn fire in Barford St Martin on Friday 23 October, involving approximately 350 bales of hay/straw. Crews from Salisbury, Tisbury and Wilton were called out and the incident was finally closed on Sunday morning. In the second incident firefighters from Salisbury Amesbury and Cranborne (supported by Hampshire FRS crews) were called to reports of a house fire in Castle Meadow, Downton. On arrival firefighters found a serious fire in the front room of a bungalow which was venting through the roof of the property. Firefighters used four sets of breathing apparatus, two hose reels and two main jets to extinguish the fire.
- 21/06.27 GM Presley reported that multi-agency work remains strong across the Wiltshire group. 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. Work continues to strengthen and update response plans in light of coronavirus restrictions.
- 21/06.28 CM Presley advised that a regional report has highlighted the positive impact of multi-agency pandemic working by fire and rescue services (FRSs) across the south west of England, which had included frontline assistance provided to the ambulance service and the fitting of personal protective equipment (PPE).

- 21/06.29 The Chair commended the continued work carried out by the Service in assisting the other emergency services and thanked all staff for their contribution and commitment during the pandemic.
- 21/06.30 Lastly, GM Presley provided comparable year to date figures in relation to the number of false alarms the Service has attended, a decrease from 417 in 2019--20 to 318 in 2020-2021; the number of accidental dwelling fires, a small decrease from 47 in 2019-2020 to 41 in 2020-2021; the number of deliberate fires, a decrease from 39 in 2019-2020 to 25 in 2020-21; the number of fire related injuries stayed the same at 2 in both 2019-2020 and 2020-21; and the number of special service incidents attended, an increase from 290 in 2019-2020 to 329 in 2020-21.
- 21/06.31 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and approved the performance for quarter 3.**
- 21/06.32 The Chair thanked GM Presley for his presentation and wanted to convey his thanks and gratitude to all for the work carried out over the quarter.

21/07 Matters raised by Members

- 21/07.1 There were no matter raised by Members.

21/08 Date of next meeting

- 21/08.1 The next meeting of the Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee will take place on 27 May 2021 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.19hrs

Signed: _____