



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held at 10:00am on 1 December 2022 at the Training & Development Centre, Hopton Industrial Estate, London Road, Devizes.

Members present:

Cllr Pip Ridout (Chair)
Cllr Kelvin Nash
Cllr Paul Oatway

Officer attendance:

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

22/22 Welcome

22/22.1 Cllr Pip Ridout welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting.

22/23 Apologies

22/23.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Bob Jones and Cllr Ashley O'Neill

22/24 Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests

22/24.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

22/25 Public Questions

22/25.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

22/26 Review and approve minutes of the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee (LPS) meeting on 1 September 2022

22/26.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

22/26.2 **RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and be signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

22/27 Action Progress Report

22/27.1 Group Manager (GM), Jim Weston provided an update to the Committee on the following actions:

22/27.2 Action 360: That the household literature for Safe and Well visits be reviewed to ascertain whether the possibility of the Service receiving a voluntary financial donation could be highlighted from those benefiting from a Safe and Well visit and provision of safety equipment. Area Manager (AM) Darren Langdown reported that Area Manager (Prevention & Protection) Marc House was considering how this could be integrated and would report to a future meeting. It was agreed that the action remained in progress.

22/27.3 Action 361: That Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) be added to the information provided on Wiltshire Response Standards. GM Weston stated that the KPIs had been included within the performance monitoring and briefing report. It was agreed that the action was complete.

22/27.4 **RESOLVED: Members noted that action number 360 remained in progress and that action 361 was complete.**

22/28 Performance monitoring and briefing quarter 2

22/28.1 GM Weston 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 can be found [here](#).

22/28.2 **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.

22/28.3 **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**

22/28.4 GM Weston highlighted the Watch Activity tool, which was designed to ensure that stations better understood the demands, risks and challenges at a local level and would enable stations to set in place interventions for each risk which would feed into a station action plan. Reference was also made to operational crews delivering low level fire safety audits across the

Service area, which allowed the fire safety team to focus their expertise on higher risk properties. Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) Andy Cole added that these initiatives allowed operational crews' time to be used as efficiently and effectively as possible, making use of a lower number of high-quality visits rather than meeting targets on the number of premises visited. In reply to Members' questions, ACFO Cole explained that in areas covered by on-call, a one-stop shop service was offered and the Safe and Well advisors covered high risk premises.

- 22/28.5 In reply to a question from Cllr Paul Oatway regarding Officer attendance at Wiltshire Area Board meetings, AM Langdown explained that the Officers had been gathering information on all meeting attendances by the Service and these were being reviewed to establish their value. The review included whether there was a business need to attend a meeting, for example a statutory duty such as the safeguarding board, or whether attendance could be on an exception basis, for example if there was a number of repeat incidents in a certain area that required intervention. For meetings that might not be supported in the future, the corporate video would continue to be provided. The review was also red, amber, green (RAG) risk rated.
- 22/28.6 GM Weston referred to the success of the station open days during the quarter and the high levels of public attendance. In reply to a question from the Chair, ACFO Cole stated that he would ascertain from the Communications Team that Members were notified of these events.
- 22/28.7 It was noted that regarding Education and Youth Intervention, in quarter 2 2,577 children and young people had received educational input; 1,139 via their main form of education, with 15 schools visited. With regard to road safety, the 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' programme had been delivered to a total of 1,235 attendees from seven schools, and two Biker Down events had been delivered in Melksham and Marlborough, reaching 33 motorcyclists. In reply to a question from Cllr Oatway, ACFO Cole stated that the value for money of delivering external programmes was currently under review.
- 22/28.8 GM Weston continued that regarding firesetters, there had been 16 referrals in Wiltshire year to date with eight cases currently open, and there had been no referrals during the quarter. There had also been 1091 Safe and Well visits completed year to date, which represented a 12% increase compared to the previous year.
- 22/28.9 **Priority 2 - Protect you and the environment from harm**
- 22/28.10 GM Weston reported that operational crews at wholtime stations had been trained to complete lower-level fire safety activity known as Business Fire Safety Checks. Two hundred and thirty one had been completed across the Service in quarter 2 with a limited number requiring further follow up by the protection staff.

22/28.11 Priority 3 - Be there when you need us

22/28.12 Arising out of discussion relating to Wiltshire response standards, ACFO Cole explained that the corporate target was ten minutes. However, response times were subject to seasonal variation and quarter 2 had been a particularly demanding period. For road traffic collisions, the variations in response times were due to location, with rural road locations affecting response times.

22/28.13 GM Weston reported that in the quarter appliance availability for wholetime was 99.2% and on-call 50.5%. The downward trend for on-call availability was being addressed by Station and Group Action Plans and a review of all contracts so that recruitment could be targeted at station level to fill availability gaps and support succession planning. In reply, to a question from Cllr Kelvin Nash, ACFO Cole and AM Langdown gave further detail on the actions being taken to recruit and retain on-call staff and added that six new recruits had been recently recruited at Melksham and a similar number at Malmesbury and that there were 90 candidates in the process of joining the Service.

22/28.14 In reply to the Chair's enquiry, ACFO Cole clarified that to respond to extremes in weather, including hot periods and flooding, a strategic assessment of risk for the Community Safety Partnership took place, to focus on prevention and education. The Service was commissioning four-wheel drive appliances to access off road locations for heathland fires and to deal with flooding. Training was also tailored to address emerging risks and work was also undertaken with partners, including the military, to mitigate risks. In reply to a further question from the Chair, ACFO Cole outlined the support that was provided to the ambulance service, including targeted intervention to assist persons collapsed behind closed doors.

22/28.15 The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation.

22/28.16 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 2.**

22/29 Matters raised by Members (agreed with Chair)

22/29.1 There were no matters raised by Members.

22/30 Date of next meeting

22/30.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 2 March 2023 at 10:00am.

The meeting closed at 10:55

Signed: _____