



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held at 10.00 hours on 14 February 2020 at the Training & Development Centre, Hopton Industrial Estate, London Road, Devizes,  
SN10 2EU**

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; Group Manager (GM) Greg Izon; Corporate Governance Manager, Nicki Whitehouse.

**20/01      Welcome**

20/01.1      The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

**20/02      Apologies**

20/02.1      Apologies were received from Area Manager Ian Jeary.

**20/03      Code of conduct, declarations of interest and notifications of any other business**

20/03.1      The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

**20/04      Public questions**

20/04.1      There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

- 20/05** **Review and approve minutes of the Wiltshire LPS Committee meeting on 8 November 2019**
- 20/05.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting. A Member pointed out that in paragraph 19/39.27, 'Members asked to be invited to the Lacock Abbey debrief taking place on 9 January' Members had been invited to and attended the exercise, not the debrief.
- 20/05.2 **RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record with the exception of the amendment noted in paragraph 20/05.1.**
- 20/06** **Action Progress**
- 20/06.1 Corporate Governance Manager, Nicki Whitehouse reported that six actions had been completed and two were in progress.
- 20/06.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted the actions and comments and approved the removal of completed actions.**
- 20/07** **Performance monitoring and briefing**
- 20/07.1 GM Izon introduced himself as he was new to the Committee and took Members through the Performance Report for Wiltshire Local Performance & Scrutiny Committee for quarter 3 (Appendix A), which is structured under the following three priorities:  
**Priority 1** Making safer and healthier choices  
**Priority 2** Protecting you and the environment from harm  
**Priority 3** Being there when you need us.
- 20/07.2 **Priority 1**
- 20/07.3 GM Izon reported that 875 Safe and Well visits had been carried out during the quarter, a 37% increase on the same period last year. 87% of these were carried out on high or very high-risk homes. He explained that in order to increase partnership referrals, Safe and Well presentations had been delivered to three Community Services Managers, covering all of Wiltshire and 16 staff at the Wilton Community Care Team. Flyers and letters had been delivered to homes offering free safe and well visits, with background information to raise awareness of the dangers of carbon monoxide within the homes and the importance of regular servicing of gas appliances.
- 20/07.4 The Chair asked GM Izon to pass the Committee's thanks to all staff for their hard work, which had achieved such a positive outcome.

- 20/07.5 **ACTION: GM Izon to pass on the Committee's thanks to all staff for their hard work in achieving the improvement in the number of Safe and Well visits carried out this quarter.**
- 20/07.6 Members discussed funds that Area Boards could allocate which could be accessed to help the Service and advised officers to 'tap into' every Board. ACFO Mahoney explained that funding was not the issue in respect to Safe and Well, rather accessing referrals. Members and officers agreed to keep each other informed about events at which they could promote safety campaigns and prevention work.
- 20/07.7 **ACTION: Democratic Services to discuss and agree with officers a way to make sure that Members and Officers keep each other informed about events at which the Service could promote safety campaigns and prevention work.**
- 20/07.8 GM Izon described a visit where the advisor identified a resident who had lived on his own and used hearing aids and therefore may not hear the usual smoke detectors at night once his hearing aid was removed. With the resident's agreement, a referral was made to the Hearing & Vision team, who provided a set of specialist equipment that uses a vibrating pad under the pillow, linked into a Wi-Fi alarm system to alert him at night in the event of the detectors activating.
- 20/07.9 In answer to a Member's question, ACFO Mahoney confirmed that teams engage with boat operators and the public who live on boats to promote fire safety advice and messages.
- 20/07.10 GM Izon reported that there had been one more accidental dwelling fire (46) in the quarter than in the same period last year. 31 of these had started in the kitchen and 19 were cooking related. He explained that press releases were used to help spread safety messages.
- 20/07.11 In answer to a Member's question, ACFO Mahoney confirmed that it was the responsibility of the Responsible Person to have a plan to effect an evacuation for a property. He went on to explain the risk-based inspection programme the Service operates.
- 20/07.12 GM Izon reported that 5,519 children had received a dedicated fire safety session from the Schools Education Team. He offered Members the opportunity to attend a Schools Team visit.
- 20/07.13 **ACTION: Democratic Services to send the contact details of the Education Team in order for them to arrange to see one of the education officers in action at school.**

- 20/07.14 Two Salamander courses had been run in the quarter, one having been funded by Wiltshire Police and the other by the Chippenham Area Board Local Youth Network, and feedback from both was positive. A Member reported that he had attended a recent Salamander Pass Out Parade. He advised that funding could be accessed from Local Area Boards if requests are made far enough in advance.
- 20/07.15 GM Izon reported that the 2019-2020 cohort of Fire Cadets have now completed their first term. One Member asked about the Cadet scheme in Cricklade and asked to see this scheme reported.
- 20/07.16 **ACTION: GM Izon to discuss and provide feedback to Cllr Jones on the Fire Cadet scheme which is voluntarily run at Cricklade Fire Station.**
- 20/07.17 Members discussed the Police Cadet scheme and asked about the models and partnership working. ACFO Mahoney explained that the Service uses the National Fire Chiefs Council model. He reported that all of these activities are subject to an examination of cost effectiveness against outcomes to ensure there is a benefit to society.
- 20/07.18 GM Izon reported that there had been 39 deliberate fires during the quarter, against 58 in the same quarter last year. 19 of these had occurred in Salisbury. Five had been primary fires, but there appeared to be no significant pattern. In answer to a Member's question, ACFO Mahoney explained the Firesetters Scheme, how people were referred to the scheme and the involvement of Community Safety Partnerships in actions to reduce the issues. Members asked whether the Service is engaging with non-state and specialist schools.
- 20/07.19 17 Safe Drive Stay Alive events had been held in quarter 3, with 41 schools and colleges attending. Four Survive the Drive events were held in Tidworth and two Biker Down courses at the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Headquarters. Members asked for the dates of future Biker Down courses.
- 20/07.20 ACFO Mahoney explained the road safety work the Service was doing with the military and the heightened road safety risk to their personnel. This initiative was likely to be rolled out nationally.
- 20/07.21 Members asked about particular sites such as Leigh Delamere and 'Pit Stop' which they suggested could be good places to provide road safety messages.
- 20/07.22 Members were concerned that they were not receiving invitations and notifications of events.
- 20/07.23 **ACTION: Democratic Services to provide future dates of Biker Down courses to Members.**

- 20/07.24 **ACTION: Democratic Services to ensure Members are informed and invited to all relevant events.**
- 20/07.25 **ACTION: To confirm that the Schools Education Team engages with non-state and specialist schools.**
- 20/07.26 GM Izon referred Members to the Fire Safety activity for the quarter on page 12 of the appendix to the Performance Report. He explained that automatic fire alarm (AFA) calls are regularly monitored by the Fire Safety team and that they work with repeat 'callers'. In response to a Member's question, ACFO Mahoney reported that the split between domestic (60%) and commercial (40%) fire alarm calls was in line with the national picture. He confirmed that when the new AFA reduction strategy commences the Service would still attend domestic AFAs.
- 20/07.27 **Priority 2**
- 20/07.28 GM Izon reported that the Service had taken part in a number of multi-agency exercises which include arrangements for exiting the European Union and flooding. In addition, the Service continues to exercise with bordering fire and rescue services to strengthen cross border and multi-agency relations and working arrangements. During October, teams had worked with cross-border services during an exercise at RAF Fairford.
- 20/07.29 The Environment Agency and emergency services had teamed up to test ways of protecting Salisbury from flooding. Exercise 'Touch paper' ran for three days at the start of October on the green opposite Salisbury fire station. GM Izon reported that he would invite Members to these multi-agency events in the future.
- 20/07.30 **ACTION: GM Izon to invite Members to relevant multi-agency events.**
- 20/07.31 A Member asked whether the Service was engaged with the Fairford expansion and GM Izon confirmed that we were.
- 20/07.32 **Priority 3**
- 20/07.33 GM Izon reported that during the last quarter, Have A Go Days had been held in Melksham and Pewsey and that there was one scheduled for Amesbury in March. ACFO Mahoney explained the strategy for Have A Go Days at fire stations, and that they are held in locations where on-call recruitment is required. GM Izon confirmed that the Service engages with businesses in respect to the recruitment of on-call staff.
- 20/07.34 **ACTION: Democratic Services to provide Members with dates of future Have a Go Days.**

- 20/07.35 GM Izon reported the following response performance for the group:
- 58% of incidents at sleeping risk properties where the first appliance met the response standard within the travel-time isochrone
  - 43% of incidents at sleeping risk properties where the first appliance met the response standard
  - 40% of incidents to other properties where the first appliance met the response standard
  - 65% of road traffic collisions where the first appliance met the response standard.
- 20/07.36 ACFO Mahoney explained that the Service is currently looking to report average response times. Members discussed this and the differences in response times inherent with varying locations and traffic conditions across the Service area.
- 20/07.37 GM Izon reported that availability had improved, and that on-call appliances were available to respond to incidents 75.4% of the time in the group. GM Izon confirmed that work continued with the police at a strategic level in terms of training their personnel.
- 20/07.38 Members thanked GM Izon for an excellent and professional presentation.
- 20/07.39 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and approved performance for the quarter 3.**

**20/08 Technical Rescue Review (verbal update)**

- 20/08.1 ACFO Mahoney gave Members an update on the Technical Rescue Review. He explained that this was part of the wider work that had been in progress since combination to align resources and capabilities across the Service. He reported that the objective of the review was to ensure that the right resources were in the correct places according to risk. He said that the review had:
- looked at the nature and location of incidents and where the risks are
  - the provision in neighbouring services and practicalities, such as training
  - engaged with staff at all fire stations that may be affected by the review

He stressed that no decisions had yet been made and added that the Strategic Leadership Team would receive a feasibility report in due course.

**20/9 Issues raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)**

- 20/09.1 Members discussed the feedback form and agreed the following:
- 875 Safe & Well Visits completed in quarter 3, an increase of 37% compared to the same quarter in 2018-2019

- 87% of these were high or very high-risk homes, an increase of 5% on quarter 2
- Safeguarding referrals were increasing each quarter
- There was an upward trend in response times.

**20/10      Date of Next Meeting**

20/10.1    The Chair confirmed the date of the next Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 22 May 2020 at 10:00am at the Training & Development Centre, Hopton Industrial Estate, London Road, Devizes, SN10 2EU.

The meeting closed at 12.03

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