**Portobello and Craigmillar 3rd Quarter Performance Report**

This performance report provides information on our prevention, protection and operational response activities within the Portobello and Craigmillar area during the period to the end of Quarter 3 of 2014-15 (1st April – 31st December).

The Scottish Government provides an overarching vision for public services. This vision is supported by 16 National Outcomes, which demonstrate commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable growth. The SFRS can make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes for the City of Edinburgh (CoE) by contributing to the Community Planning arrangements across the area.

The national priorities for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) are set out in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland. The SFRS Strategic Plan 2013-2016 outlines how the SFRS will deliver against these priorities and the outcomes against which this delivery can be measured.

The priorities contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan and our strategies for service delivery are clearly aligned to the Community Planning Structure, which supports the delivery of the Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan (SOA4) 2013-2016.

The aims of the Local Fire & Rescue Service in the CoE are to reduce fire deaths throughout the CoE area and to reduce injuries from fire and other emergencies in the community. We aim to achieve this by working in partnership, being pro-active and targeting our prevention and protection activities to where they are required, based on evidence. Within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the CoE 2014-2017, six objectives for the local Fire and Rescue Service to work towards have been identified for 2014-17 (listed below).

1. Reduction of dwelling fires
2. Reduction of fire casualties and fatalities
3. Reduction of deliberate fire setting (not including dwellings)
4. Reduction of fires in ‘other’ buildings
5. Reduction of unwanted fire alarm signals
6. Reduction in road traffic collisions

**Reduction of 'All dwelling fires'**

Dwelling fires can have devastating effects on our community. The SFRS is committed to keeping people safe in their homes. We share information with partners to make sure that the right people get the right information, particularly those who are vulnerable due to age, isolation or addiction.

Firefighters from all of the fire stations within the City of Edinburgh continue to devote a large percentage of their time to meeting local targets for Home Fire Safety Visits.

The table shows there was a decrease of 5 accidental dwelling fires in this reporting period compared to the same period last year. Whilst many of these fires are accidental in nature they still present a clear concern and therefore focus for our activity. This reduction contributes towards section 4.7 of The Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2013-16

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| YTD ward Average | 10/11 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 |
| Portobello & Craigmillar | 40 | 34 | 31 | 36 | 31 |

**Reduction of 'All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. precautionary checkups))'**

Fire casualty and fatality rates provide an indication of the amount of serious, life-threatening injuries that occur due to fire. This can indicate not only the success of SFRS in reducing the number of life risk fires through community fire safety and similar activities, but also their success in response activity in saving lives.

The table relates to the number of injuries that individuals have sustained as a result of fires. These range from those who are simply afforded a precautionary check up to those whose injuries unfortunately prove fatal. In this reporting period, there has been a reduction overall of 18 when compared to the same period last year. We are currently performing sufficiently to achieve our target of 'a year on year reduction in fire casualties and fatalities, which will contribute towards the Scottish target of a 5 % reduction, over a three-year rolling period'.

Whilst the significant decrease in this area is pleasing to note there are no specific easily identifiable reasons for it. Firefighters continue to engage with Community Safety initiatives and Prevention & Protection activity whilst also training for tackling fires to ensure they are prepared for this eventuality. The City of Edinburgh figures mirror a national downward trend.

Targeted home fire safety visits and new partner referral pathways will be the main focus to reduce the number of accidental dwelling fires. Since April 2014 a risk points based system has been used to ensure SFRS resources in Edinburgh are delivering to those at highest risk of fire.

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| YTD ward Average | 10/11 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 |
| Portobello & Craigmillar | 20 | 9 | 9 | 21 | 3 |

**Reduction of 'All deliberate fires (excl. dwellings)'**

Deliberate fire setting is a significant problem for the SFRS in the City of Edinburgh. In the main, deliberate fires are secondary fires categorised into either refuse, grassland or derelict buildings incidents. There is a close link between deliberate secondary fires and other forms of anti-social behaviour. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting contributes to the Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan and the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2013 – 2016.

The Fire & Rescue Service Local Plan for the City of Edinburgh identifies a target of reducing the number of deliberate fires against the 3 year average. It is pleasing to note a substantial drop in the number of deliberate fires overall with almost two hundred less than at the same point last year. During this reporting period, SFRS carried-out a Bonfire period ‘Thematic Action Plan’ aimed at increasing safety for organised events whilst reducing deliberate fire setting and Anti-social behaviour during that time.

It is recognised that factors such as changing weather or spate anti-social activity within an area have historically created fluctuations in the levels of these types of incidents. However the decrease from 177 to 158 incidents when comparing to the same period last year highlights that community safety partnership working initiatives, which include the thematic action plans could be a contributing factor to the downward trend.

These types of incidents are a focus of the CAT and senior managers to ensure they are as low as possible and will therefore be closely monitored over the coming reporting year. The provision of the Cool-down Crew programme within City of Edinburgh contributes to the reduction of fires related to Anti-social Behaviour, which generally fall into this category.

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| YTD ward Average | 10/11 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 |
| Portobello & Craigmillar | 217 | 157 | 138 | 177 | 158 |

**Reduction of 'All non-domestic fires'**

Fires in Non-Domestic Property can have a detrimental effect on the built environment and the prosperity of the local area. Non-domestic fires are classed as fires which took place in buildings that are not domestic households. Reduction of Non Domestic Property fires contributes to the Scottish Government's National outcome 9 - 'We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger'.

The table covers other primary fire-related incidents, which are not dwelling house or vehicle fires. The table is showing a reduction of 3 in the reporting period, when compared to same period last year. Our target against the 3-year average is a 5% reduction, over a three-year rolling period is currently on course to be met.

There are no specific trends emerging from Fires in Non-Domestic Property.

Fires within this category involve, predominantly, buildings that fall under the legislative framework of the Fire Scotland Act (2005) and associated Fire Safety legislation. These “relevant premises” are subject to a post fire audit process and trends identified are used to direct themed audits in other similar premises.

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| YTD ward Average | 10/11 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 |
| Portobello & Craigmillar | 13 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 2 |

**Reduction of 'False Alarm - Equipment failure'**

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are defined as incidents where an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources, when the reason for that alarm turns out to be something other than a fire emergency. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm signals.

The total number of Unwanted Fire Alarm signals within the CoE area remains stubbornly high overall. The figure referred to within this report is that of False alarms due to equipment failure, this forms the majority of the 176 UFAS incidents recorded up to the end of December 2014. The figures that have been excluded for illustrative purposes are those attributed to False alarm with good intent and False alarm 'malicious'.

The main focus and the area which our Prevention and Protection Officers can have most impact is driving down the number of unwanted Fire Alarm Signals due to equipment failure, this work is constantly ongoing.

We continue to proactively monitor UFAS calls and our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers work closely with premises to reduce further UFAS incidents. This includes discussing technological, procedural and management solutions in order to prevent future UFAS incidents. Further information on the SFRS UFAS Policy can be found in the SFRS Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal Incident Policy Report.

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| YTD ward Average | 10/11 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 |
| Portobello & Craigmillar | 139 | 139 | 148 | 140 | 176 |

**Reduction of 'Special Service - RTCs'**

The definition of a Road Traffic Collision (RTC) is 'when a road vehicle collides with another vehicle, pedestrian, animal, road debris, or other stationary obstruction, such as a tree or utility pole'. While much of this risk is out with the control of SFRS, responding to Non-Fire Emergencies is a key part of our intervention activities. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to drive continuous improvement in this area.

Strategic Priority 4.3 of The Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2013-16 'To decrease the number of persons killed or seriously injured in road traffic collision' is the starting point for the incorporation of this priority with the City of Edinburgh Fire & Rescue Local Plan. Whilst there has been a large increase across City of Edinburgh as a whole this is not reflected in the Portobello & Craigmillar area.

The significant rise in the number of RTCs can be attributed to the way the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service responds to these types of incident. In an agreement with the Scottish Ambulance Service and the Police, SFRS is now contacted by the respective control and mobilise based on a person’s involvement in the incident rather than them being trapped as was formally the case. The purpose of this change is to expedite the attendance of a fire appliance with lifesaving extrication equipment should it be required.

The SFRS in the City of Edinburgh is an active member of Strategic Road Safety Partnership and contributes to reducing Road Traffic Collisions, associated casualties and fatalities through working with partners and providing support at seminars and engagement events. It has been recognised that the SFRS has most to offer in engagement/education programmes targeting young drivers and continues to support, in terms of finance and resources, the Edinburgh Young Drivers event.

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| YTD ward Average | 10/11 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 |
| Portobello & Craigmillar | 7 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 7 |