**Portobello and Craigmillar 1st 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 1 of 2015-16 (1st April – 31st March).

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 2 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 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 | 15/16 |
| Portobello & Craigmillar | 13 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 10 |

**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 an increase of 1 when compared to the same period last year. We are however 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 slight increase in this area is worrying 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 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 | 15/16 |
| Portobello & Craigmillar | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 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. After a successful end of previous year report which saw a reduction it is disappointing to note a spike in the number of deliberate fires overall with 29 more than at the same point last year. This rise mirrors a Scottish wide increase and has been predominantly attributed to the unusually dry weather during April.

The Portobello/Craigmillar Ward has seen one of the most significant rises from the same period last year. During the Easter holiday period a number of youths were active in setting deliberate secondary fires involving loose rubbish and refuse receptacles.

We are working closely with our Police Scotland partners to identify the individuals responsible for deliberate fire setting in the Portobello/Craigmillar Ward; the outcomes of this work is expected be reflected in a reduction of secondary fires in this area. The provision of the Cooldown Crew programme within City of Edinburgh is designed to contribute to the reduction of fires related to Anti-social Behaviour, which generally fall into this category.

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| YTD ward Average | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 | 15/16 |
| Portobello & Craigmillar | 58 | 30 | 48 | 64 | 93 |

**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 an increase of two 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. 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 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 | 15/16 |
| Portobello & Craigmillar | 3 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 |

**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 False Alarms within the City of Edinburgh LSO area of 1612 is made up of 1253 Equipment Failures, 266 Good intent and 93 malicious. The sub category 'malicious' covers such things as hoax phone calls and deliberate breakage of call points in a fire alarm system. Equipment Failure continues to be the cause of the vast majority of UFAS calls however through the application of the SFRS UFAS Policy our Enforcement Officers have taken formal steps in engaging with numerous 'offending' premises

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. The UFAS policy is applied to assist Officers working with organisations and business to drive down the number of false alarms.

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.

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| YTD ward Average | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 | 15/16 |
| Portobello & Craigmillar | 70 | 73 | 61 | 69 | 78 |

**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. A small increase of three can be seen in the number of Road Traffic Collisions across Edinburgh (Not reflected in Portobello / Craigmillar) but this is not an indication that those killed or injured has risen. There have been 37 RTCs so far in Edinburgh; (2 of these occurring in this Ward) this number does not indicate a total number of extrications as many these involved no casualties or those that simply required a precautionary check by Ambulance personnel.

The rise in the number of RTCs across Edinburgh can in part 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 entrapment, as was formally the case. 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 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 | 15/16 |
| Portobello & Craigmillar | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |