



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

19 January 2021

Community Risk Management Plan 2021-2023

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of the report

1. To update members with details of the 2021-2024 Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), the proposals contained within the plan and the public consultation on it.

BACKGROUND

2. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State to prepare a Fire and Rescue National Framework. The Framework sets out priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities who must have regard to the Framework in carrying out their duties.
3. Members will note that the old name of Integrated Risk Management Plan, which is still referenced in the legislation, will be replaced with the title Community Risk Management Plan. This follows commissioning by the Fire Standards Board which has developed the Community Risk Management Planning (CRMP) Fire Standard through the National Fire Chiefs Council Community Risk Programme.
4. The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework document places a responsibility on all fire and rescue authorities to produce and consult on their CRMP. These documents direct fire and rescue authorities to:
 - be accountable to communities for the service they provide;
 - identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks their areas face;

- make appropriate provision for fire prevention and protection activities and the response to fire and rescue related incidents;
 - develop and maintain a workforce that is professional, resilient, skilled, flexible and diverse;
 - collaborate with emergency services and other local and national partners to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the service they provide.
5. Specifically, the National Framework states that we have a **statutory responsibility** to include a number of areas within the CRMP. These duties are summarised below:
- Reflect up-to-date risk analyses of all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect the area of the authority;
 - Demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will best be used to prevent fires and other incidents and mitigate the impact of identified risks on its communities;
 - Outline required service delivery outcomes including the allocation of resources for the mitigation of risks;
 - Set out its management strategy and risk-based programme for enforcing the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (RRO) 2005;
 - Cover at least a three-year time span and be reviewed and revised as often as is necessary;
 - Reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners; and
 - Be easily accessible and publicly available.
6. The Service's CRMP is a three-year strategic plan. This is reviewed annually to assess the effectiveness of existing arrangements. Following this review an annual CRMP Action Plan is developed.

CRMP CONTENT

7. The CRMP contains profile information regarding the Service area, performance data governance arrangements and how the Service identifies, manages and responds to risk in County Durham and Darlington.
8. Linking directly to the Community Risk Profile and Station Plans, the CRMP sets out the key risks found and what proactive and reactive measures will be in place relating to each identified risk.
9. Each of the main Strategies (Community Safety; Business Fire Safety and Fire Investigation; Emergency Response; Workforce Development; Collaboration) and the MTFP is directly referenced with regard to how they are affected by risk.
10. We have included a synopsis of the proposed options for Year 1 of the 2020-2023 CRMP period together with an overview of how each proposal was addressed. Please see the following table:

We said	We did
Implementing day crewing on a permanent basis at (Newton Aycliffe) and (Seaham);	Our crews in Newton Aycliffe and Seaham have now adopted this shift pattern permanently
Implementing the 4&2 model at (Durham) on a permanent basis if the trial proves successful;	This model has now been implemented permanently in Durham
Implementing the change to (Spennymoor) where the day crewing engine becomes a wholetime engine on a permanent basis if the trial proves successful;	After a successful trial this has now been implemented in Spennymoor
Introduce a charging system for certain businesses when we attend multiple unwanted fire signals to their premises if the trial proves successful;	The trial was successful in reducing the number of times we were being called to unwanted fire signals, so this has now been implemented permanently, freeing up more resources for life risk incidents
Review the crewing arrangements at our two appliance RDS stations and trial the opportunity of introducing Targeted Response Vehicles (TRVs) to these stations;	Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic has caused a delay in the delivery of the TRVs so we will look to run this trial in 2021/22
Carry out a further review of the structure at middle and strategic manager levels to take account of any opportunities that collaboration may present for further efficiencies;	We have reviewed the middle and strategic managers and implemented a restructure along with replacing 5 districts with 2 divisions.
Undertake a further review of the governance arrangements for the Fire Authority;	In 2020 the Government undertook a consultation of the role of the Police and Crime Commissioners with a view of broadening their role to include governance of Fire and Rescue Services. In light of this we have postponed our CFA review until the outcome of the Government's consultation of the future role of Police and Crime Commissioners is known, we will undertake an analysis during 2021 and take appropriate action when we know the outcome of the consultation.
Implement any changes suggested through the collaboration projects undertaken with Tyne and Wear FRS and Northumberland FRS.	Collaboration with neighbouring FRS's continues, during 2020 we have reviewed our legal arrangements for sharing resources across borders, established a regional collaboration which has been broadened out to include Cleveland FRS. Agreed to share specialist appliances and established

	additional opportunities for collaboration.
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11. The Service also asked the public the following additional questions as part of the consultation. The questions and actions to be taken are contained in the table below:

We asked	You said	We will
We have maintained our response standards based on our historical approach to responding to incidents. Do you support our approach to maintain these standards or do you think we should carry out a review?	Yes	Carry out a review to make progress on this action.
Given the increase in arson that we have experienced over the last few years do you support our intention to reallocate some resources into arson reduction initiatives?	Yes	We have invested in additional staff to tackle this and have developed an Arson Reduction Strategy. We will work with our key partners across the region to support this work.
Do you support our approach to continue to focus our Safe and Well-being Visits on those people who are at greatest risk from fire?	Yes	We will be progressing this in the coming year and implement some of the learning from the approach we have taken during the Covid-19 pandemic.

12. The Service has a series of proposals to consider over the next three years:

In 2021/22, the following options will be considered:

- Continue to invest and prioritise Building Fire Safety activities to ensure the built environment within County Durham and Darlington remains safe for occupants and visitors.
- Trial the use and various crewing arrangements of Tactical Response Vehicles (TRV's).
- Identify opportunities for collaboration with local Fire and Rescue Services and other key partners.

In 2022/23, the following options will be considered:

- Implement and evaluate the way we deliver Safe and Well-being visits.
- Implement the outcome following the review of the services attendance standards.
- Evaluate the benefits of our continued investment in Fire Safety within the built environment.

- Implement the outcomes of the review of the crewing arrangements of TRVs if the trials proves successful.
- Implement any changes suggested through collaboration projects undertaken with local Fire and Rescue Service and key partners.

In 2023/24 the following options will be considered:

- Monitor and review the services attendance standards.
- Continue to review the approach to Fire Safety within the built environment.
- Evaluate the staffing arrangements and application of TRV's.
- Evaluate the changes through collaboration projects with local Fire and Rescue Service and key partners.

CONSULTATION

13. The consultation on the 2021/22 proposals will begin on 8 February 2021 and will run for 6 weeks. In order to ensure that a wide range of views can be gathered the Communications Team will lead on disseminating a consultation document containing the specific questions regarding the future plans of the Service. The consultation questions are set out at paragraph 15 of this report.
14. This will include making the CRMP available on the FRS website; organising online community events to discuss the plan with the public; liaising with politicians and other local community leaders to disseminate the consultation document and using social media to promote it. We will attend online public meetings organised through the Local Authorities. There will be an online survey that people can complete.

Consultation Questions

15. At the Strategic Planning Day the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) considered the range of options which could be put to the public. Based on the feedback from this day and the Service analysis it is suggested the following questions be put to the public:

Continue to invest and prioritise Fire Safety activities to ensure the built environment within County Durham and Darlington remains safe for occupants and visitors? **Yes/No**

Trial the use and various crewing arrangements of Tactical Response Vehicles (TRVs)? **Yes/No**

Identify opportunities for collaboration with local Fire and Rescue Services and key partners? **Yes/No**

Do you have any overall comments about our CRMP and approach to allocating our resources? **Please state...**

The Consultation Document will provide an explanation of the rationale behind the questions and what the impact of the plans will be.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to:

- a) **Note** the 2021-2024 CRMP summary provided.
- b) **Approve** the questions to put to the public in the Consultation Document as shown at paragraph 15 of this report.