

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



Safest People, Safest Places

Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1st March 2021

Community Risk Management Plan (formerly known as Integrated Risk Management Plan) (CRMP) Annual Consultation

Report of Stuart Errington, Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Safer Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background to the Fire Authority's CRMP annual action plan. The Committee will be provided with a presentation setting out details of the plan and consultation process.

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. The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework document places a responsibility on all fire and rescue authorities to produce and consult on an Integrated Risk Management Plan. The new CRMP title has now been adopted in line with recommendations from the National Fire Chiefs' Council. 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.

4. 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.
5. 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

6. 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.
7. Linking directly to the Community Risk Profile and Station Profiles, the CRMP sets out the key risks found and what proactive and reactive measures will be in place relating to each identified risk.
8. Each of the main Strategies (Community Safety; Business Fire Safety and Fire Investigation; Emergency Response; Assets and Assurance; People, Collaboration) and the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) is directly referenced with regard to how they are affected by risk.
9. In the 2020/21 plan and consultation the Service outlined a series of proposals and implemented the following actions:

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	Our 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 On Call stations and trial the opportunity of introducing Targeted Response Vehicles (TRVs) to these stations;	Unfortunately, the Covid-19 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 FRS. 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 group which has been broadened out to include Cleveland FRS. Agreed to share specialist appliances and established additional opportunities for collaboration.

10. In 2020 the Service also consulted on the following questions:

We asked	You said	We will
We have maintained our response standards based on our historical approach to responding	Yes	Carry out a review to make progress on this action.

to incidents. Do you support our approach to maintain these standards or do you think we should carry out a review?		
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 SWV 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.

11. The Service has a series of proposals to consider over the next 3 years:

Our Plans

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 TRV's.
- Identify opportunities for collaboration with local FRS and other key partners.

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

- Implement and evaluate the way we deliver SWV.
- Implement the outcome following the review of the Service's attendance standards.
- Evaluate the benefits of our continued investment in Fire Safety within the built environment.
- Implementing the outcomes of the review of the crewing arrangements of TRVs if the trials prove successful.
- Implement any changes suggested through collaboration projects undertaken with local FRS and key partners.

In 2023/24 the following options will be considered:

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

Consultation

12. The consultation on the 2021/22 proposals will begin on 8 February 2021 and will run for 6 weeks until 23 March 2021. In order to ensure that a wide range of views can be gathered the Governance Team and Communications Team will lead on disseminating a consultation document containing the specific questions regarding the future plans of the Service.
13. This will include making the CRMP available on the FRS website; organising 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. There will be an online survey that people can complete.

Consultation Questions

14. The Combined Fire Authority (CFA) considered and approved the following questions to be put to the public for the 2021/22 Consultation:

Question 1

Do you have any overall comments about our CRMP and approach to allocating our resources?

Question 2

Should we 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

Question 3

Should we continue to trial the use and various crewing arrangements of Tactical Response Vehicles (TRVs)? Yes/No

Question 4

Should we identify opportunities for collaboration with local Fire and Rescue Services and key partners? Yes/No

Recommendations

15. Members are requested to:
 - (i) Consider and note the content of the CRMP action plan and consultation which will be presented at the meeting.

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