



Safest People, Safest Places

Safer, Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6 December 2021

Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), formerly known as Integrated Risk Management Plan, 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 Service uses the CRMP title to align the document with the recommendations from the National Fire Chiefs' Council (NFCC). The Framework directs 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 (CRP) and Station Plan, 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; 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 2021/22 plan and consultation the Service outlined a series of proposals and implemented the following actions:

We asked	You said	We did
<p>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?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Due to our targeted risk based inspection programme, fires in non-domestic premises have reduced by 36% in 2020/21 compared to the previous year.</p> <p>We have increased the number of our staff who hold formal fire safety qualification which has increased our ability and competency to conduct fire safety audits.</p> <p>We have begun a tall buildings project to assess how we respond to incidents which involve buildings which contain four floors over more.</p> <p>We have offered an apprenticeship role in BFS and are training all of our firefighter apprentices in BFS.</p> <p>We have increased staffing in protection and have introduced an out of hours rota to ensure we can take enforcement action at any time 24/7 if required to maintain public safety.</p>
<p>Should we continue to trial the use and various crewing arrangements of Tactical Response Vehicles (TRVs)?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Covid-19 meant that trialling the use of our new TRVs was delayed. We have now been able to introduce them and start gathering data about their use.</p>
<p>Should we identify opportunities for collaboration with local Fire and Rescue Services and key partners?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>We have access to the Cleveland Fire Brigade command vehicle which has been used at incidents.</p> <p>The Police and Fire Collaboration Board has been re-established.</p> <p>We are key attendees of the North East Regional JESIP meeting.</p> <p>We share service premises at Darlington Fire Station with North East Ambulance Service (NEAS). Following the modernisation of Sedgfield station we will also have some shared facilities with NEAS on site.</p>

		<p>We have explored opportunities to share administrative support for maintenance of duties associated with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and this is being done in collaboration with Cleveland Fire Brigade.</p> <p>In support of the Fire Service Act 2004 we have several section13 and section16 agreements in place with neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services to support mutual aid.</p> <p>We are working with colleagues in neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services, the Local Authority, Police and Academics to reduce the opportunity and consequences of deliberate fires and antisocial behaviour.</p>
--	--	---

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

Our Plans

11. 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 prove successful.
- Implement any changes suggested through collaboration projects undertaken with local Fire and Rescue Service and key partners.

12. 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 TRVs.
- Evaluate the changes through collaboration projects with local Fire and Rescue Service and key partners.

13. In 2024/25 the following options will be considered:
- Monitor our approach to Fire Safety within the built environment.
 - Monitor the staffing arrangements and application of TRVs.
 - Continue to explore opportunities and monitor the changes we have introduced through collaboration projects with local Fire and Rescue Service and key partners.

Consultation

14. The consultation on the 2022/23 proposals began on 15 November 2021 and will run for 12 weeks until 7 February 2022. 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.
15. 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 as well as paper versions to ensure accessibility.
16. In the 2020 consultation the public recommended the Service undertake a review of the Response Standards (the time it takes to respond to an incident from the moment of our Control operators mobilising a crew).
The current standards are:
- Attend Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs) within 8 minutes on 70% of occasions
 - Attend Accidental Dwelling Fires within 11 mins on 90% of occasions
 - Attend Non Domestic Fires (NDFs) within 8 minutes on 70% of occasions
 - Attend Non Domestic Fires within 11 mins on 90% of occasions
 - Attend Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) within 11 mins on 75% of occasions
 - Attend Road Traffic Collisions within 15 mins on 90% of occasions
17. The current response standards have been in place since 2004, and since then much has changed across both County Durham and Darlington, with significant residential and commercial development along with new and improved transportation networks. Similarly, based upon risk, we have relocated some of our fire stations, and changed the way we staff some fire appliances, in addition to operating with less staff and a reducing budget.
18. Therefore we have carried out an extensive review of these standards which has included looking at all our response data and attendance times over a 5 year period.
19. We are committed to responding to life risk incidents as quickly as possible. The proactive work our teams undertake, such as delivering Safe and Well-

Being Visits to the most vulnerable, continues to reduce risk and the number of incidents we attend. However, we continue to see a high level of risk to life as a result of accidental fires within the home and accidents on our roads. Conversely, we see much lower levels of risk to life from fires in non-domestic buildings, recording just two injuries over a five year reporting period, this is partly as a result of our engagement with businesses but also due to our risk based approach to auditing premises.

20. Therefore, to ensure we remain focused on providing a prompt response to life risk incidents we are therefore proposing changes to the response standards to reflect this, along with streamlining them to provide greater clarity.

Consultation Questions

21. The Combined Fire Authority (CFA) considered and approved the following questions to be put to the public for the 2022/23 Consultation:

Question 1

Do you agree with our proposal to introduce the following new response standards?

- Attend Accidental Dwelling Fires within 8 minutes on 70% of occasions
- Attend Non Domestic Fires within 9 minutes on 70% of occasions
- Attend Road Traffic Collisions within 10 minutes on 70% of occasions

Question 2

Do you have any overall comments about our Community Risk Management Plan and approach to allocating our resources?

Recommendations

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

Contact:	Alison Baxter, Policy Support Officer County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service	
Tel:	0191 3755571	E-mail: alison.baxter@ddfire.gov.uk