

# Notice of meeting and agenda



## Police and Fire and Rescue Board

**Venue:** Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN

**Date:** Monday, 19 February 2018

**Time:** 11:00

**John Blair**  
Director, Resources

**Contact:**

Clerk Name: Verona MacDonald

Clerk Telephone: 0131 271 3161

Clerk Email: [verona.macdonald@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:verona.macdonald@midlothian.gov.uk)

**Further Information:**

This is a meeting which is open to members of the public.

**Audio Recording Notice:** Please note that this meeting will be recorded. The recording will be publicly available following the meeting. The Council will comply with its statutory obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Order of Business</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
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# Minute of Meeting



## Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
13 November 2017	11.00am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

### Present:

Councillor Curran (Chair)	
Councillor McCall	Councillor Muirhead
Councillor Small	

### In attendance:

<b>Midlothian Council</b>	
Kevin Anderson, Head of Customer and Housing Services	Verona MacDonald, Democratic Services Team Leader
Edel Ryan, Environmental Health Manager (for the additional item on Irresponsible Dog Ownership)	
<b>Police Scotland</b>	
Chief Superintendent Lesley Clark	Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson
<b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</b>	
Stephen Gourlay, Area Manager	Dean Mack, Group Manager

### 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

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The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillors Munro and Parry.

## 2. Order of Business

The Chair advised that he had agreed to accept 2 additional items for consideration, namely (i) a Consultation on disposal of Police premises and (ii) Irresponsible Dog Ownership.

## 3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

## 4. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minute of Meeting of 21 August 2017 was considered and approved. The Chair was authorised to sign the Minute as a correct record of the meeting.

## 5. Public Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	
<b>5.1 and 5.2</b>	<b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – (1) Deputy Assistant Chief Officer – East Service Delivery Area; (2) Designation of Local Senior Officer</b>	
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
The Chair summarised the content of letters dated 3 and 11 October 2017 received by the Chief Executive from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service advising of the appointments of Ali Perry to the post of Deputy Assistant Chief Officer and Stephen Gourlay to the post of Local Senior Officer and congratulated both on their appointments. On behalf of the Board, he expressed a thank you to David Farries for his contribution to the work of the Board and congratulated him on his promotion.		
<b>Decision</b>		
The Board noted the appointments by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.		

Agenda No.	Report Title	
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Police Scotland – Designated Local Police Commander</b>	
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
The Chair summarised the content of letter dated 15 September 2017 received by the Chief Executive from Police Scotland advising of the appointment of Temporary Chief Superintendent Lesley Clark to the post of Designated Local Officer. He welcomed her to the meeting and congratulated her on the appointment.		
<b>Decision</b>		
The Board noted the appointment by Police Scotland.		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
<b>Additional Item</b>	<b>Irresponsible Dog Ownership</b>	<b>Edel Ryan</b>
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
<p>The Chair in noting that this was one of the additional items, advised that he had asked that the Board be briefed on the matter due to a significant increase in recent years in this area of work and difficulties he had become aware of by a person trying to complain about an out of control dog whereby both the Council and Police advised it was not their responsibility.</p>		
<p>Edel Ryan, Environmental Health Manager, addressed the Board. She explained that there were 2 pieces of legislation which governed irresponsible dog ownership and dangerous dogs, namely the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 and the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010. Responsibility within the Dangerous Dogs Act lies mainly with the Police, whereas the Control of Dogs legislation, which is specific to Scotland, lies with the local authority. This piece of legislation governs dogs not being kept under control by an owner which gives alarm to an individual. Both aspects need to be satisfied before a dog control notice can be issued. Once a notice is in place the local authority must supervise the conditions and if they are not complied with report the matter to the Procurator Fiscal.</p>		
<p>She continued by making reference to the Protocol detailing the responsibilities of different bodies in dealing with irresponsible dog ownership. She advised it had been developed by local authorities, Police, the National Dog Warden Association and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and intended to aid local authorities and Police Scotland with the decision making process when considering how best to deal with complaints relating to irresponsible dog ownership. Whereas the Protocol does not hold statutory status nor is it a Scottish Government document, the Scottish Government were involved in facilitating its development. She advised that, over the past 6 months, the Council and Police Scotland had developed a closer working relationship whereby on a weekly basis discussion now took place with a view to agreeing who takes a complaint forward which included liaising with the complainant. Chief Inspector Simpson confirmed that the Police had undertaken a lot of work locally to address issues complainants may have experienced due to call centre staff perhaps not asking the right questions.</p>		
<b>Decision</b>		
<p>The Board noted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the existence of the Protocol and requested that it be circulated to all Elected Members for their interest;</li> <li>(b) the steps being taken by the Council and Police Scotland to work closer together with regard to complaints to ensure that ownership is taken at the earliest possible stage and that complainants are kept informed of developments;</li> <li>(c) in early 2018, the Environmental Health Manager intended to look at the information currently on the Council's website with a view to providing additional information for persons concerned about out of control or dangerous dogs.</li> </ul>		

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Police Scotland Midlothian Scrutiny Report Quarter 2 2017-18</b>	<b>Police Scotland</b>
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
<p>Chief Superintendent Clark advised that this was week 4 in her new role and that she had travelled around the area looking at national interests but with a local context. She suggested that it would be beneficial in the new year for her to meet with the Chair, Councillor Curran, to discuss changes within the local Police service.</p> <p>Chief Inspector Simpson, spoke to the terms of the newly formatted report. He advised that he was happy to accept any thoughts Members may have on the new format. He highlighted a couple of the key points contained within the report, namely decreases in adult missing persons and bogus workmen crimes. He continued through the report providing a summary of each section making reference to the performance indicators listed.</p> <p>The Chair, then went through a few of the matters listed within the report, requesting further information/clarification on them which was provided by Chief Inspector Simpson.</p>		
<b>Decision</b>		
<p>The Board:-</p> <p>(a) noted the content of the Report;</p> <p>(b) requested that, for future reports, the performance indicators listed at the end of the report be embedded within the body of the report at the relevant section</p>		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
<b>5.5</b>	<b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Midlothian Local Performance Report – Quarter 2, 1 July to 30 September 2017</b>	<b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</b>
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
<p>The Chair firstly thanked the Fire and Rescue Service for the briefing to all Elected Members held on 2 October 2017 at Midlothian House providing an overview of the transformation process the Service was presently going through.</p> <p>Stephen Gourlay advised he was delighted to be in his new post and take the organisation locally through the transformation process. He thanked the Chair for hosting the Briefing Session and advised there will be a formal consultation process in the new year. He advised that to some extent the transformation process was dependent upon the Scottish Government's financial settlement to the Fire and Rescue Service and that this would be known in the new few weeks. He encouraged the Council and local residents to contribute to the Local Plan consultation which was open for the new few weeks. He then mentioned recent local incidents whereby 2 firefighters were attacked whilst fighting a fire and a fire the day after that at Paradykes Primary School.</p> <p>Dean Mack then provided the Board with a summary of the Quarter 2 report. He</p>		

advised that 4 outcomes were on target and 2 were off target. He emphasised that the more work which is done to address issues arising from single occupancy dwellings the lower the number of incidents within these dwellings will be. He explained that the most likely cause of fires within single occupancy dwellings is now older people with debilitating illnesses such as dementia, leaving appliances on.

Questions were then put by Councillors Smail, Muirhead and McCall relating to emerging patterns of arson, re-introduction of the community policing teams and non-functioning smoke alarms, which were subsequently answered.

Stephen Gourlay then addressed the appendices to the report which detailed the enforcement audits carried out over the period. He advised that a new person was just in post and he was confident that the numbers proposed would be achieved before the end of the reporting year.

#### Decision

The Board noted the terms of the Quarter 2 report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
<b>5.6</b>	<b>Living Safely in the Home</b>	<b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</b>
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
Stephen Gourlay spoke to the terms of the report which provided the Board with an evaluation of the Living Safely in the Home pilot initiative discussed at previous meetings. He advised that the initiative was led by the Fire Service in partnership with the Council with an aim to reduce unintentional harm in the home by targeting the highest risks, namely persons under 5 and over 65 years of age. Midlothian was selected as a pilot due to the proportionally higher number of occurrences.		
<b>Decision</b>		
<p>The Board noted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the strong reasons to continue with the partnership work in Midlothian;</li> <li>(b) that the initiative would be recommended to form part of the Fire Service transformation and;</li> <li>(c) that it was highlighted within the Fire Service as an area of best practice.</li> </ul>		

Agenda No.	Report Title	
<b>Additional Item</b>	<b>Disposal of Police Premises – Consultation Document</b>	
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
The Chair advised that he had attended a meeting in COSLA where a consultation document relating to the disposal of buildings owned by Police Scotland was discussed and given that the document listed the proposed disposal of 3 Police		

Stations in Midlothian, namely, Gorebridge, Loanhead and Newbattle, he had thought it relevant to raise the matter as an additional matter for consideration by the Board.

Chief Inspector Simpson advised there were 6 Police Stations in Midlothian, with Dalkeith, Bonnyrigg and Penicuik being the main hubs. The stations at Gorebridge, Loanhead and Newbattle were no longer manned. The consultation exercise would see Police Scotland engaging with Community Councils, Elected Members and MSPs. He advised there had been one expression of interest by a local group to acquire the Gorebridge premises by way of community asset transfer.

#### **Decision**

The Board noted the terms of the consultation document and requested that copies be circulated to all Elected Members

The meeting terminated at 12.20 pm.





## LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR MIDLOTHIAN



**SCOTTISH**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**  
Working together for a safer Scotland

**Quarter 3 Report, 1<sup>st</sup> October – 31st December, 2017**

**Working together  
for a safer Scotland**

Midlothian



### **DISCLAIMER**

The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.

The Scottish government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

Please ensure any external partners in receipt of these reports are aware of this.

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## Introduction

This performance report provides information on our prevention, protection and operational response activities within the Midlothian for Quarter 3 of 2017-18 (1st October – 31st December 2017) including information on the year to date.

The Scottish Government provides an overarching vision for public services. This vision 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 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) can make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes for Midlothian by contributing to the Community Planning arrangements across the area.

The national priorities for the SFRS are set out in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland. The SFRS Strategic Plan 2016-2019 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 for Midlothian 2014-2017 contributes towards the priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan.

The aims of the local Fire & Rescue Service in Midlothian are to reduce fire deaths 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.

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Midlothian 2014-2017 identifies the following five objectives as the main focus for service delivery locally:

- Priority 1. Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires,
- Priority 2. Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities,
- Priority 3. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting,
- Priority 4. Reduction in Road Traffic Collisions,
- Priority 5. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

Area Manager Stephen Gourlay

Local Senior Officer for Midlothian, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders.

[stephen.gourlay@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.gourlay@firescotland.gov.uk)

## Performance Summary

We measure how well we are meeting our priorities using 6 key indicators, depicted below

Key performance indicator	Apr to (& incl.) Dec					RAG rating
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	YTD
All accidental dwelling fires	47	45	40	53	44	●
All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))	13	16	7	14	15	▲
All deliberate fires excl. dwellings	278	210	234	290	365	◆
Special Service - RTCs	34	35	34	31	30	●
Special Service Casualties - All	57	36	46	42	44	▲
False Alarm - UFAs	213	198	246	280	266	●

### RAG rating - KEY

◆	RED DIAMOND	10% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
▲	YELLOW TRIANGLE	Up to 9% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
●	GREEN CIRCLE	Equal to or improved upon the previous equivalent quarter (or YTD period), or local target achieved.

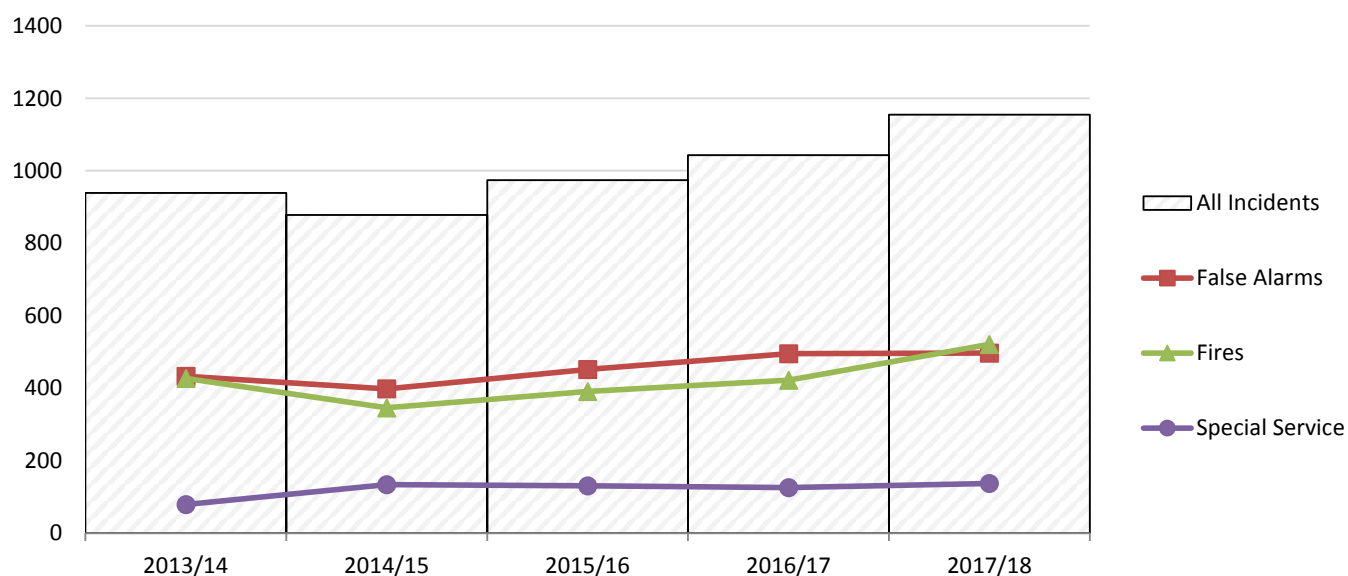
### Note

Quarterly comparison RAG Rating = the reporting period compared to the average of the three previous quarterly reporting periods.  
Year to Date RAG Rating = the cumulative total of all quarterly performance in current year compared to cumulative total of all quarterly performance in previous year.

### Incident Overview

Year to date (1st April 2017 – 31st December 2017), the SFRS, responded to 1155 incidents in Midlothian, which is an increase of 112 incidents compared with the last reporting period year (2016/17).

The chart below illustrates incidents YTD attended within Midlothian council over the last 8 fiscal years



<b>Progress on local fire &amp; rescue plan priorities</b>
<b>Local Risk Management and Preparedness</b>
<p>The Service must identify, prioritise and plan to meet the risks in each local community.</p> <p>We said we would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• train our staff to deal with our local risks</li> <li>• gather and analyse risk information</li> <li>• work with partners to mitigate risks</li> <li>• deal with major events</li> </ul>
<u><b>Train our staff to deal with our local risks</b></u>
<p>All of our operational staff undertake routine and risk specific skill acquisition and maintenance training.</p>
<u><b>Gather and analyse risk information</b></u>
<p>All of our operational staff gather and analyse local risk information and operational intelligence, used in our preparations to resolve incidents.</p> <p>We conduct Post Incident Debriefs to identify any lessons that can be learned from our preparedness and response to emergency events.</p> <p>We use Urgent Operational Intelligence Briefings to inform our operational staff of any safety critical information.</p>
<u><b>Work with partners to mitigate risks</b></u>
<p>We continue to be an active member of the East Local Resilience Partnership.</p> <p>We share information with local authority partners and other key stakeholders (e.g. Police Scotland) to ensure emergency event risks are mitigated.</p>
<u><b>Deal with major events</b></u>
<p>There were no major fire events or significant emergency events in this reporting period.</p>



## Reduction of 'All accidental dwelling fires'

Accidental 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 they need, particularly those who are vulnerable due to age, isolation or addiction. Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires contributes to The Single Midlothian Plan.

### Results

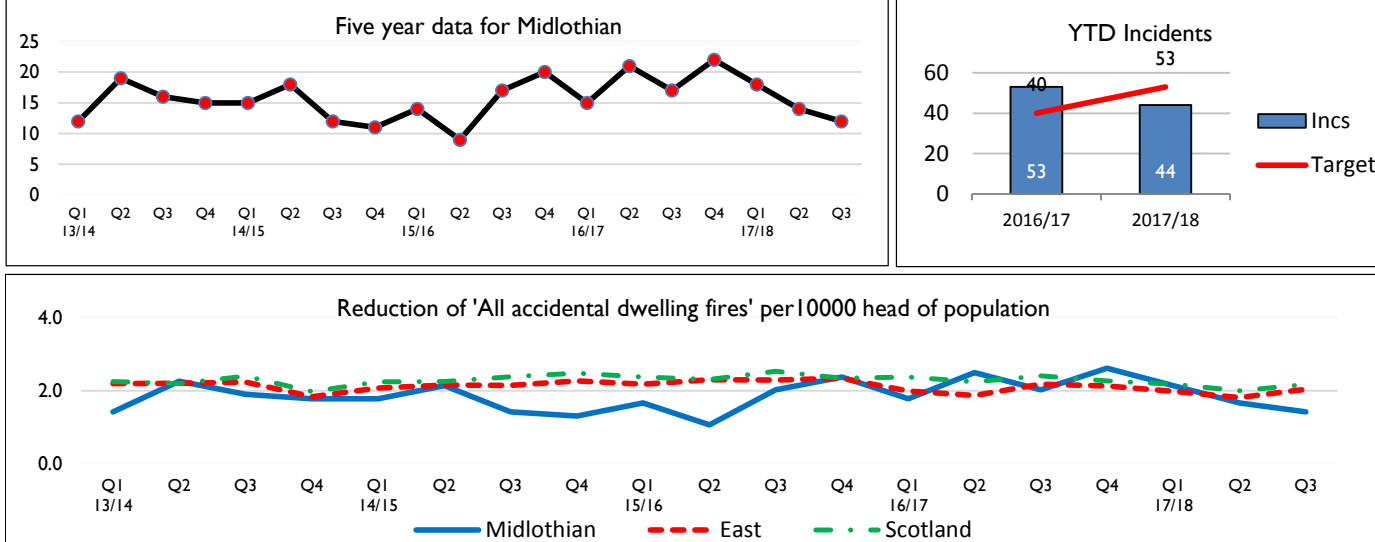
We aim to reduce Accidental Dwelling Fires in Midlothian by contributing towards the SFRS target of 10% reduction per year, over a three-year rolling period. During this quarter, we responded to 12 Accidental Dwelling Fires, which is a decrease of 5 incidents from the same period last year. The long-term trend based upon incidents/10,000 population shows Midlothian slightly below the Scottish and East Service Delivery Area trend line.

### Reasons

Of the 12 accidental dwelling fires attended, nearly 66% occurred in single occupancy households, with 25% being in the over 65 category. The main causes were accidental and were mainly attributable to cooking (58%). 11 fires (92%) were confined to the room where the fire started and therefore, minor in nature, only 1 involved the whole property. It is clear from this evidence to continue to target those mostly at risk in single occupancy households and to ensure those properties have working smoke detection. 50% of these properties had smoke detectors fitted.

### Actions

During this reporting period, 258 Home Fire Safety Visits were carried out within Midlothian with free smoke alarms fitted in 90 of these households. A number of initiatives and events aimed at reducing accidental dwelling fires were conducted. Front line crews continue to work within the previously introduced 'Post Domestic Incident Response' Policy, which provides a framework to ensure that engagement activity is completed in a structured and appropriate manner following incidents. Appendix 1 provides further details on our prevention activities in relation to this priority.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 7	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Sparklines
Midlothian	47	45	40	53	44	
Penicuik	11	5	8	10	8	
Bonnyrigg	2	5	6	9	8	
Dalkeith	13	13	12	17	7	
Midlothian West	3	5	4	9	7	
Midlothian East	9	9	4	2	7	
Midlothian South	9	8	6	6	7	





## Reduction of 'All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))'

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.

### Results

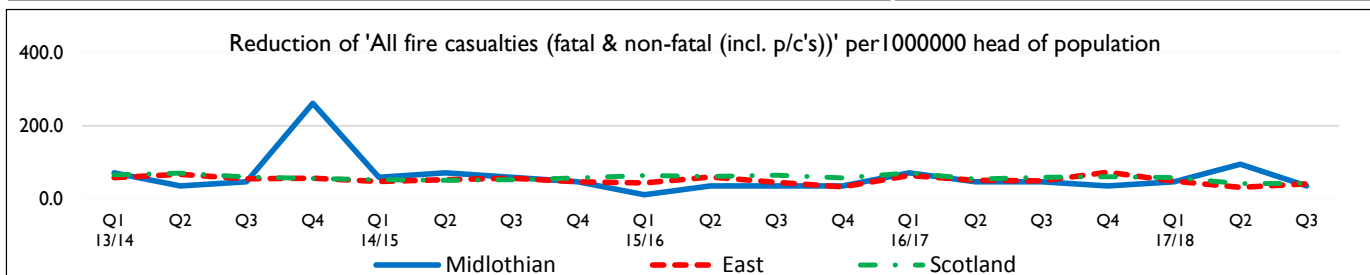
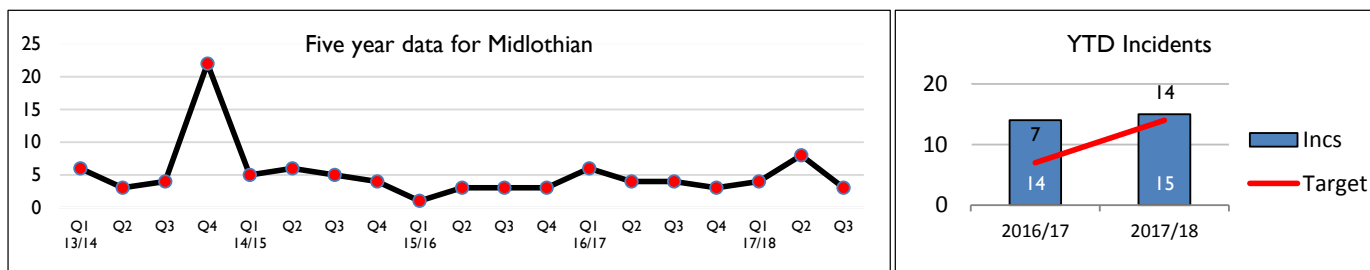
We aim to reduce fire casualties in Midlothian each per year, which contributes towards the SFRS target of reducing Fire Casualties by 5% per year, over a three-year rolling period. In this reporting period, SFRS dealt with 3 casualties (no fatalities) due to fire within a dwelling. This was a decrease of 1 from the same reporting period last year. The long-term trend based upon casualties/10,000 population shows that we are in line with the Scottish and East Service Delivery area average.

### Reasons

Historically Midlothian has had low numbers of casualties from fires and it is pleasing to note that this trend, although showing an increase, remains low. The 3 casualties were a result of 2 house fires in single occupancy premises. All 3 had a precautionary check-up at the scene. The main contributory factors were smoking and cooking.

### Actions

During this reporting period, 258 Home Fire Safety Visits were carried out and 90 households were fitted with free smoke detectors. In addition, we continue to work with our partners, particularly Midlothian Council, Social work and NHS to target those most vulnerable and at risk from fire.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 3	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Sparklines
Midlothian	13	16	7	14	15	
Penicuik	2	2	2	4	2	
Bonnyrigg	1	1	0	3	1	
Dalkeith	5	2	1	1	2	
Midlothian West	0	2	2	3	0	
Midlothian East	1	6	0	3	1	
Midlothian South	4	3	2	0	9	



## Reduction of 'All deliberate fires excl. dwellings'

Historically deliberate fire setting has not been a significant problem for the SFRS in Midlothian, however recent statistics show a distinct increase in this activity and there is a close link between deliberate secondary fires and other forms of anti-social behaviour. In the main, deliberate fires are secondary fires categorised into refuse/bins, grassland or derelict buildings incidents. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting contributes to the Single Midlothian Plan.

### Results

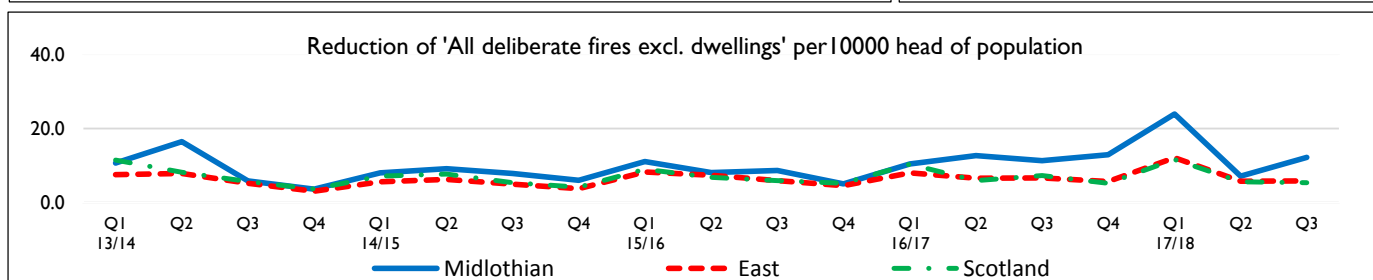
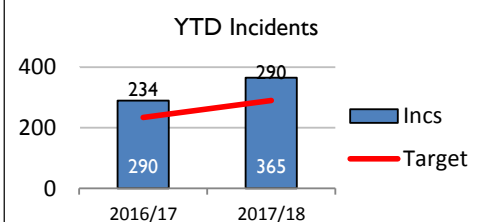
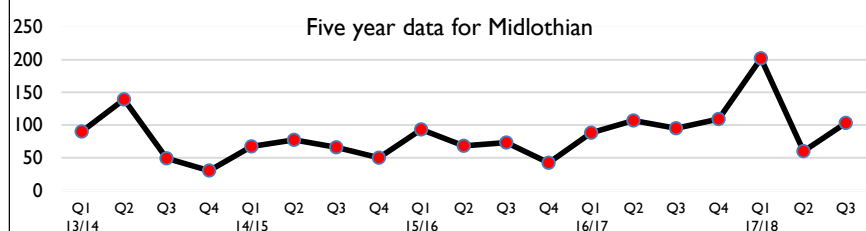
There were 103 deliberate fires within the reporting period, which is an increase of 8 when compared to the same period last year. Although Midlothian's fire setting has been on the increase there has been a dramatic drop from the 202 fires in Q1 of this year. All wards in Midlothian are suffering this type of fire related activity.

### Reasons

Nearly 89% of all deliberate fires attended were 'deliberate secondary fires' with 61% in waste or scrubland, wood or crop, 28% involved refuse/bins including wheelie bins, 6% vehicle fires and 5% deliberate building fires.

### Actions

SFRS continues to work with partner agencies attending the weekly TACG meetings and provision of monthly tactical assessments by the Midlothian Partnership Analyst. Emerging patterns continue to be monitored and prevention activities were planned for those locations. Various on-going preventative activities have been undertaken throughout the year targeting the issue of deliberate fire-raising. This includes various youth engagement events (Cooldown Crew and Challenge Projects), Stair Aware activity, visits to schools and other partnership work.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 61	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Sparklines
Midlothian	278	210	234	290	365	
Penicuik	16	17	11	13	46	
Bonnyrigg	33	15	25	21	24	
Dalkeith	55	53	58	58	85	
Midlothian West	37	33	43	67	49	
Midlothian East	89	62	48	66	86	
Midlothian South	48	30	49	65	75	



## Reduction of 'Special Service - RTCs'

While much of this risk is out with the control of SFRS, responding to Non-Fire Emergencies such as Road Traffic Collisions 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. Reduction of Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies contributes to the Single Midlothian Plan, number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents.

### Results

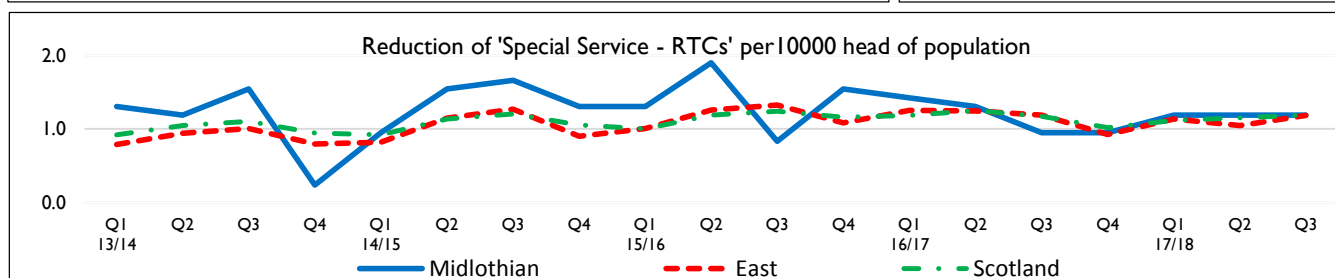
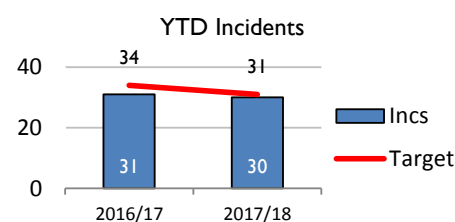
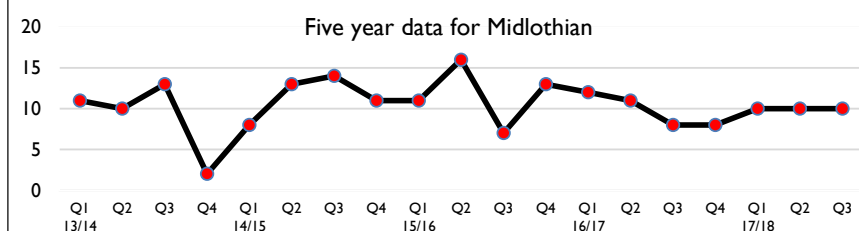
We attended 10 Road Traffic Collisions during this period; this is an increase of 1 on the same period last year. Per 10,000 head of population, Midlothian is in line with the Scottish and East Service Delivery area trend.

### Reasons

The SFRS only attend those RTC's they are requested to attend this number does not reflect the total number within Midlothian.

### Actions

The SFRS is a member of a multi-agency approach to reducing Road Traffic Collision's and the associated casualties and fatalities. The continued delivery of Tomorrow's Driver programme targeting young people is an excellent partnership approach to reducing road traffic collisions.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 5	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Sparklines
Midlothian	34	35	34	31	30	
Penicuik	6	7	8	8	4	
Bonnyrigg	3	1	0	3	2	
Dalkeith	2	3	4	5	4	
Midlothian West	10	12	8	5	7	
Midlothian East	7	4	9	6	5	
Midlothian South	6	8	5	4	8	



## Reduction of 'Special Service Casualties - All'

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. Reduction of Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies contributes to the Single Midlothian Plan.

### Results

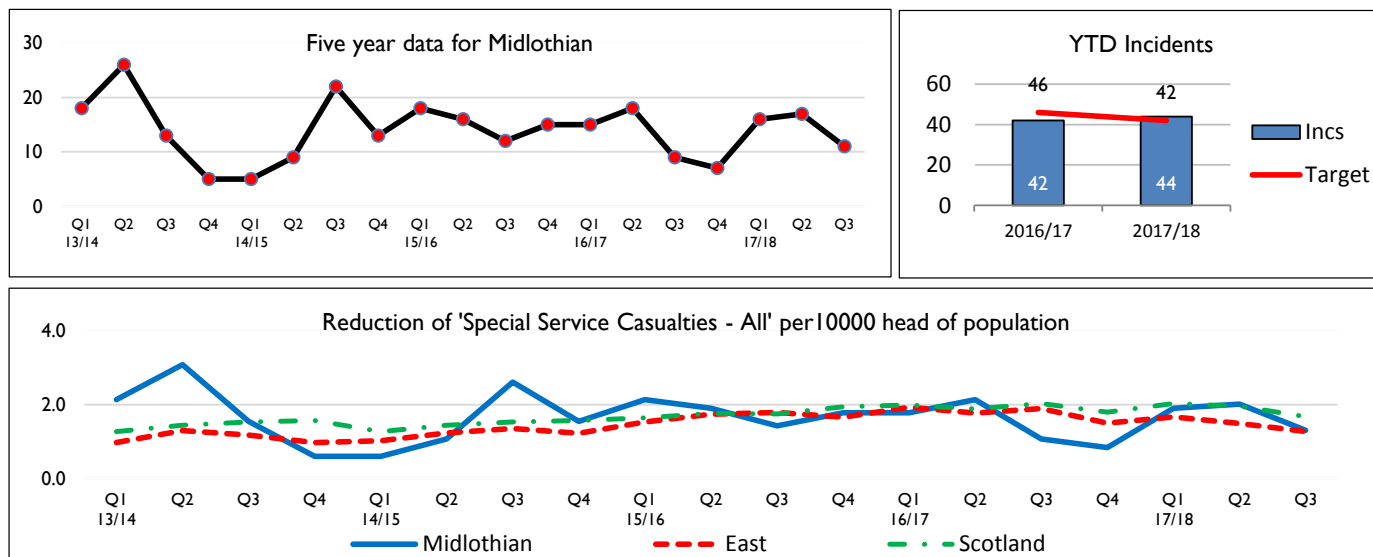
We attended a total of 11 non-fatal casualties. This is an increase of 2 casualties in comparison to the same period last year. Per 10,000 head of population, Midlothian is in line with the Scottish and East Service Delivery area trend.

### Reasons

Road Traffic Collisions accounted for 7 non-fatal casualties. There were 4 other non-fatal casualties most of which were in response to medical emergency or assisting other emergency services.

### Actions

The SFRS in Midlothian work in partnership with the Midlothian Rapid Response Team to care for people who fall in the home. We will also continue to respond to the communities needs in terms of other non-fire emergencies with the overall objective of reducing casualty and fatality rates within Midlothian.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 7	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Sparklines
Midlothian	57	36	46	42	44	
Penicuik	6	5	14	8	10	
Bonnyrigg	5	4	3	3	4	
Dalkeith	4	1	2	12	5	
Midlothian West	16	13	12	5	6	
Midlothian East	9	5	9	7	14	
Midlothian South	17	8	6	7	5	





## Reduction of 'False Alarm - UFAs'

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 connected with faulty or defective alarm equipment. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

### Results

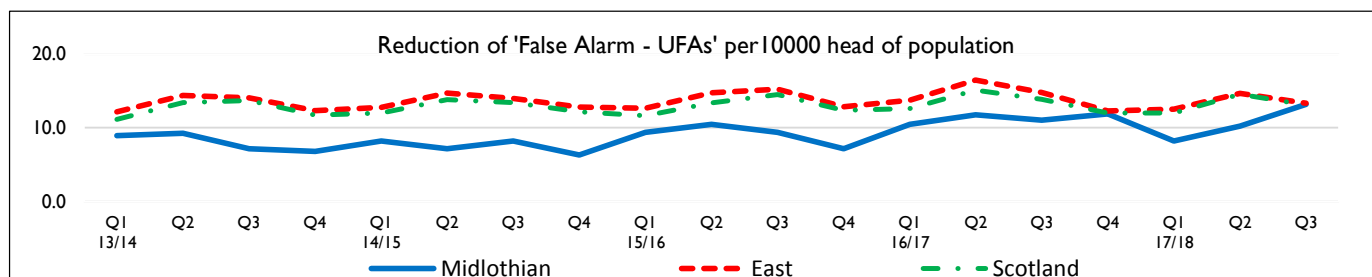
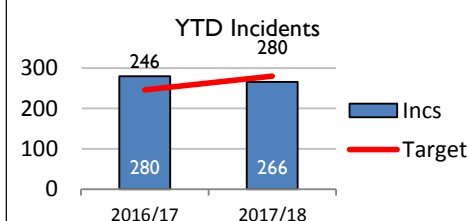
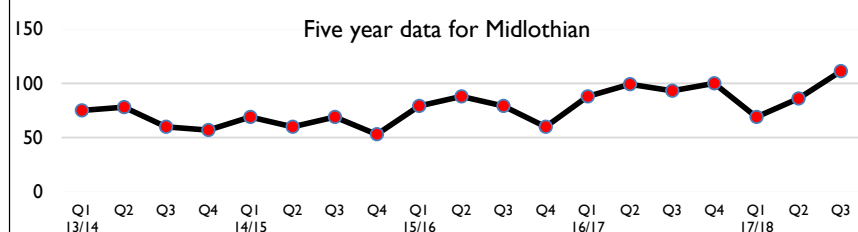
SFRS attended 111 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals incidents during this reporting period, which is an increase of 18 from the same period last year. Midlothian trend line is in line with that of Scotland and the East delivery area.

### Reasons

87% of UFAS attendances were caused by equipment failure within the fire alarm system, 5% were malicious calls, 8% caused by people, cooking, testing, smoking, aerosols etc.

### Actions

We continue to monitor Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals calls and our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers work closely with premises to reduce further incidents. This includes discussing technological, procedural and management solutions in order to prevent future Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals incidents. In Midlothian, we are currently engaging with various premises giving advice to prevent further occurrences.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 44	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Sparklines
Midlothian	213	198	246	280	266	
Penicuik	12	21	26	40	27	
Bonnyrigg	32	40	40	40	45	
Dalkeith	34	39	44	61	41	
Midlothian West	77	45	75	74	77	
Midlothian East	33	37	41	38	38	
Midlothian South	25	16	20	27	38	



## Appendix 1

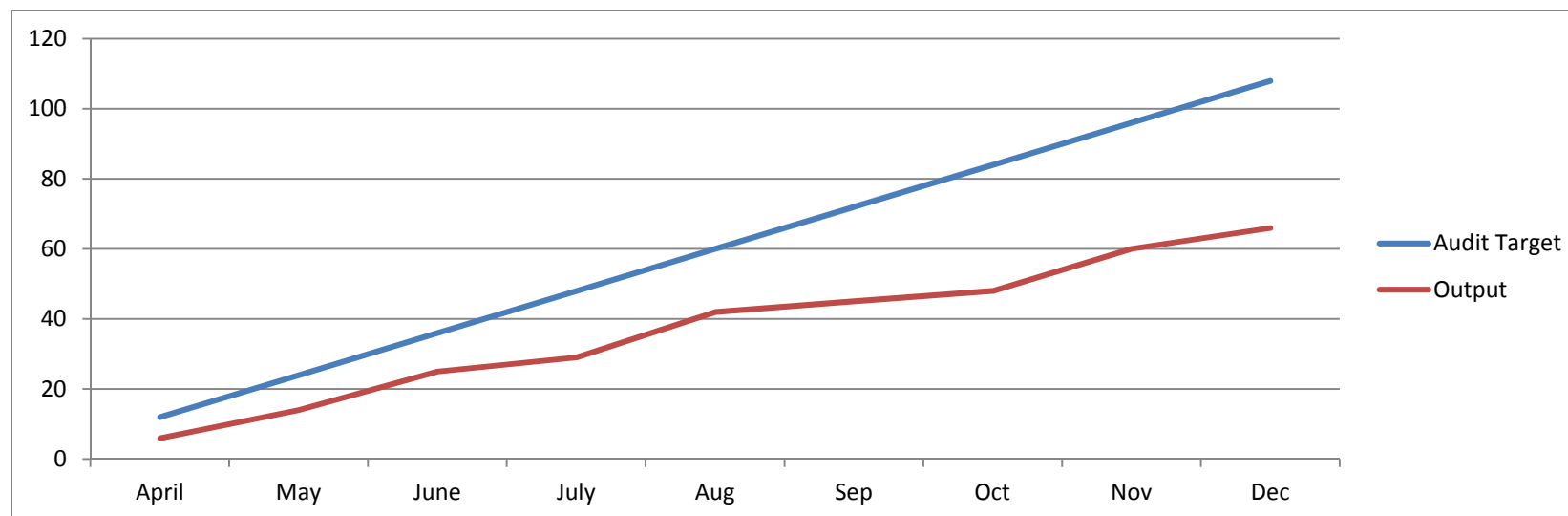
# Midlothian Prevention & Protection Activities

Quarter 3: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 - 30<sup>th</sup> December 2017

## Fire Safety Enforcement Audits

The figures represent the audit workloads delivered by the Midlothian Fire Safety Enforcement Officer (FSEO). Following the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Enforcement Framework, local deployment ensures compliance for relevant premises in terms of the Fire Scotland Act (2005) and associated Fire Safety Regulations. In line with the SFRS enforcement framework all of the area high risk sleeping premises receive an annual audit and this includes hospitals, care homes, houses of multiple occupation, hostels and hotels. The audits carried out in quarter three have all been either broadly compliant or had minor deficiencies.

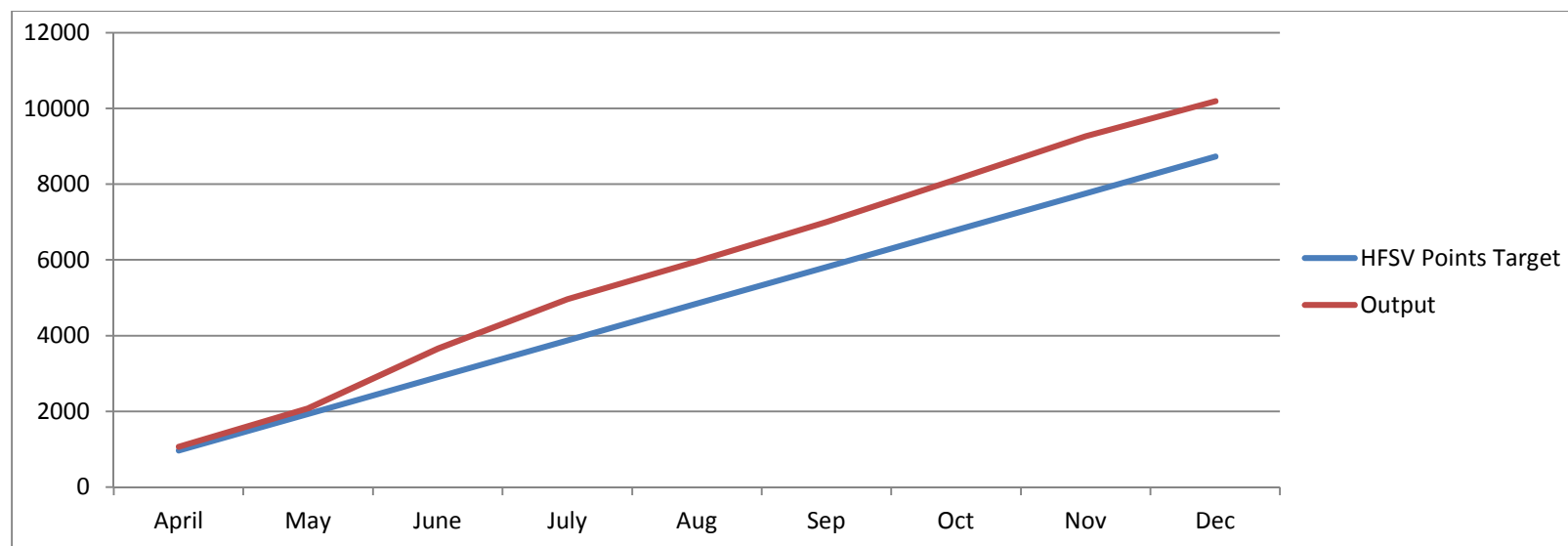
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Target:	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144	<b>144</b>
Completed:	6	14	25	29	42	45	48	60	66				



## Home Fire Safety Visits

The delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) is the corner stone of the SFRS Community Safety Engagement framework. By visiting households and providing fire safety advice and smoke alarms the numbers of dwelling fires and casualties will be reduced. To target the highest risk households across Midlothian a points allocation based on risk and associated target has been set (24 points per high, 8 per medium, 4 per low risk visit). The output is above target which is very positive but will continue to be monitored through our internal performance framework and work will centre on referral routes for higher risk visits. **A total of 258 HFSVs were delivered in Midlothian in Q3 with 90 free smoke alarms being fitted.**

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Target	970	1940	2910	3880	4850	5820	6790	7760	8730	9700	10670	11640	<b>11640</b>
Completed	1068	2084	3660	4968	5968	7008	8130	9274	10194				



### **Total visits delivered by ward area 2017/18:**

The following table gives a good indication of the coverage across Midlothian where the SFRS delivers Home Fire Safety Visits.

<b>Ward Area</b>	<b>Visits delivered in Q1 2017/18</b>	<b>Visits delivered in Q2 2017/18</b>	<b>Visits delivered in Q3 2017/18</b>
Bonnyrigg	46	46	36
Dalkeith	60	45	35
Midlothian East	48	54	47
Midlothian South	35	19	40
Midlothian West	35	30	62
Penicuik	48	43	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>258</b>

## Partnership Working

### Youth Engagement

During this reporting period, the Community Action Team (CAT) have supported and engaged with the following youth engagement programmes,

Polmont Young Offenders Institute

Midlothian Tomorrows Driver **24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>** October

Risk Factory, CAT provided **3** weeks of cover during reporting period

The Midlothian Community Firefighter has facilitated **5** Fire setter Interventions during this reporting period.

Our CAT provided staffing support as the Phoenix programme was brought to a close, with Local Senior Officer, Steve Gourlay attending the final display to present certificates

### Safeguarding

During this period our teams continued to identify and refer adults at risk of harm and/or in need of support. This has resulted in **4** referrals being processed to Social Services.

CAT have completed **6** home safety visits to vulnerable adults.

The Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) continues to attend or provide information relevant to Fires for the monthly Multi Agency Risk Conference (MARAC).

### Referrals

Our strong relationship with external partners continue to assist with **Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV)** referrals:

British Red Cross = **4**

East & Mid Public Protection Office = **2**

Midlothian Contact Team = **8**

Midlothian Council Housing = **1**

NHS = **3**

**159** self-referrals were received via our Community Safety Engagement Toolkit (**CSET**) system with local crews completing **258** home safety visits during this quarter.

Living Safely in the Home (LSITH) pilot project has generated **24** referrals to the Midlothian Falls team.

Our LALO has developed a link with Melville Housing who are based in Dalkeith. The housing association raised concerns regarding tenants storing materials in common stairs. After discussions, a Stair Aware Initiative has been set up with crews from Dalkeith targeting flats in Midlothian. This initiative is still ongoing.

## Other Work Completed or In Progress

As you can see, the LALO and our Community Action Team play a pivotal role in supporting achievement of our local and national objectives. The relationship between SFRS and external partners continues to prosper due to these roles. The following initiatives and projects give a flavour of the aforementioned relationships:

Our Community Action Team continues to support both Whole time and RDS Stations within the MELSB area with the Seasonal Thematic Action Plans.

The Local Authority Liaison Officer attends the weekly TACG meetings in East and Midlothian and also continues to facilitate LSITH refresher training for all watches at Dalkeith. The training for this very successful initiative was delivered by Katrina McIntosh Occupational Therapist Falls Practitioner. Some other important pieces of work include:

- Provision of fire safety advice and recommendations as part of a neighbourhood dispute working with East/Midlothian Resolution Services Coordinator.
- Attendance at the Strengthening Engagement Project – Midlothian Collaborative CJ Event. The project, which the Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum has run with Scottish Government funding since summer 2015, seeks to establish and strengthen relationships between the third sector and statutory partners
- CSET Referral Pathway training to Midlothian Council Housing Officers.
- Ongoing support both Whole time and RDS Stations within the Midlothian area in the facilitation of the Autumn/Winter Thematic Action Plan and the forthcoming Spring Thematic Action Plan, which address local and national priorities.
- East and Midlothian Violence Against Women and Girls Practice and Training Delivery Group and Public Protection Learning and Practice Development Sub Group' meetings were also attended by SFRS

In relation to our Public Protection duties and partnership approach, SFRS delivered Adult Support and Protection Level 2 training session at the Brunton Hall, Musselburgh for staff from East and Midlothian councils. Our training and presentation highlights lessons to be learned from a fatal fire in East Lothian.



# **MIDLOTHIAN COMMUNITY FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN**

## **2018**

Corporate front cover to be added



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## Introduction

Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Midlothian Community Fire and Rescue Plan. This plan has been developed to support the delivery of agreed local outcomes for the people of Midlothian in conjunction with the national priorities contained within the SFRS Strategic Plan 2016- 2019. Our ambition is to work in partnership to improve community safety and enhance the well-being of those living in Midlothian whilst tackling issues of social inequality. This plan will set out our priorities in order to support this ambition.

This plan recognises what we have delivered in the past but looks forward to what we aim to achieve over the coming years. The safety of our communities is at the heart of everything we do, whether it is responding to emergencies or providing preventative advice and measures. The plan will highlight our resources in Midlothian, the changing risks to local communities, and how we aim to deliver our services to meet all the challenges we face.

As a public service and a statutory member of Midlothian Community Planning Partnership, we recognise that to be effective and efficient, we must work closely with our partners in order to identify and provide for those most at risk. By working this way, we will look to reduce duplication, share resources and information and make improvements. We will actively contribute to the shared Vision and Purpose set out in the *Single Midlothian Plan* and it is our intention that the Community Fire and Rescue Plan is viewed as an extension of this Plan.

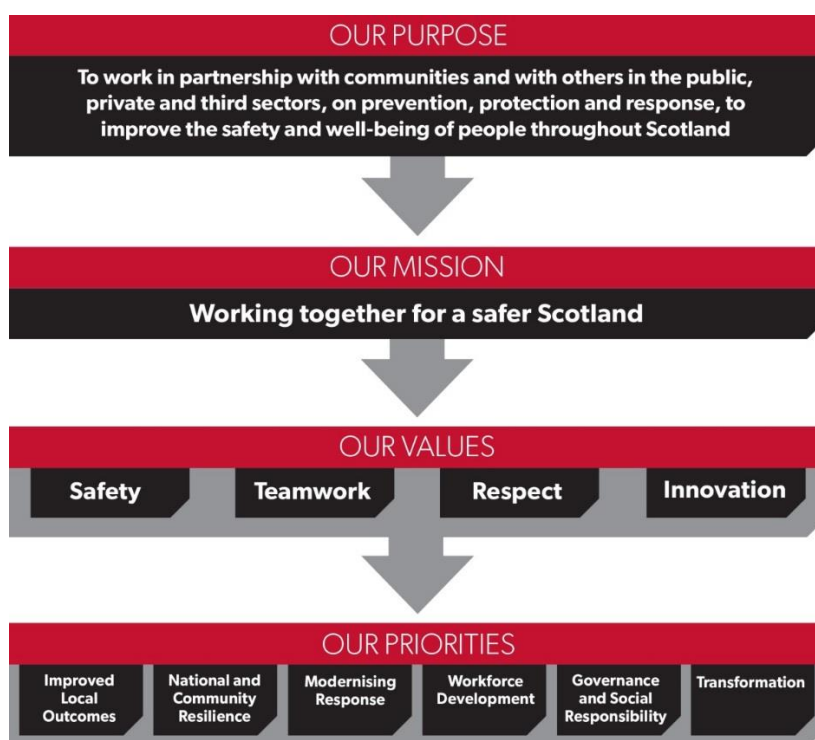
Whilst we will continue to prepare for and respond to incidents such as fires and road traffic collisions, we must also ensure we are ready to deal with the changing risks society face, including an ageing population, the effects of climate change on the environment, and terrorism. This change in how and what we respond to has already been experienced in Midlothian with local crews responding to Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests (OHCA), as a part of a wider pilot project, in support of our Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) colleagues. A separate initiative in Midlothian has seen our home safety visits evolve into a more holistic approach, taking into account the risk of slips, trips and falls in the home as well as identifying those at risk from fuel poverty and other vulnerabilities. As we move forward, we will look to build on these innovative approaches whilst ensuring our staff are trained, equipped and located appropriately to respond to emergencies, promote prevention, and protect communities.

As the SFRS evolves, we will play a key part in public service reform and continue to identify new opportunities to broaden our role within society to ensure as a modern Fire and Rescue Service, we provide the appropriate protection for the communities of Midlothian.

Steve Gourlay  
Local Senior Officer  
Midlothian, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders

**National Context** Scottish Ministers set out their specific expectations for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016. This provides the outline we should follow to ensure our resources and activities are aligned with the Scottish Government's Purpose and national outcomes.

Our Strategic Plan 2016-19 has been designed to meet these national expectations. Set against a complex and evolving backdrop our Strategic Plan encapsulates our mission, values and strategic priorities.

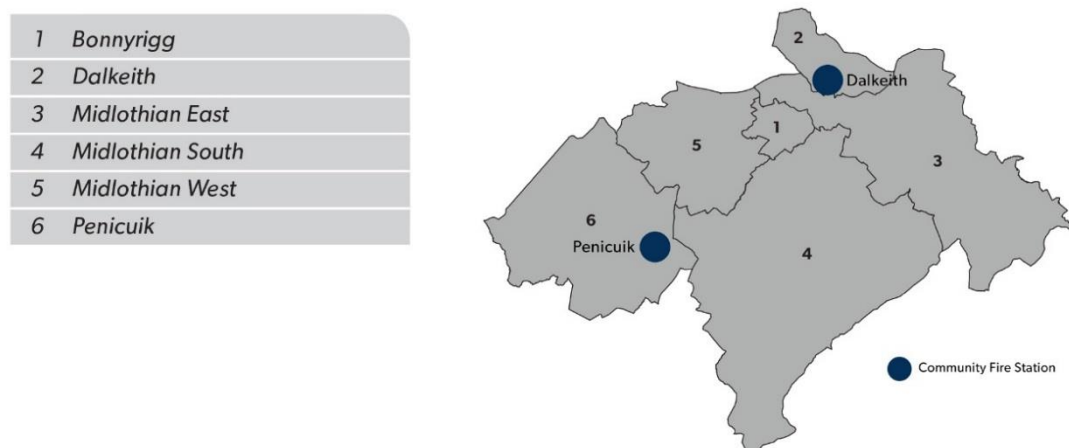


These have been shaped with due regard to the challenges we face and to what we need to achieve to be a highly effective, sustainable public service. Operating within a climate of significant financial uncertainty and public service reform means we need to transform how we operate. This will particularly include how we prepare for and respond to changing societal needs, the impact of climate change and the threat of terrorism.

Strong leadership, supported by sound governance and management arrangements are at the very core of our foundations. These arrangements will direct and provide assurance that we comply with our statutory responsibilities. In addition, they will provide Local Senior Officers with supporting mechanisms to deliver services specifically tailored to local needs.

## Local Context

Midlothian has a population of just over 87, 000 people who reside within areas ranging from towns such as Dalkeith, Bonnyrigg and Penicuik to single dwellings in remote rural locations. The diagram below outlines the electoral ward boundaries whilst highlighting the locations of our 2 Community Fire Stations.



Over the past five years, the SFRS responded to 5866 incidents within Midlothian. The Key Performance Indicator table below details our operational response over the same period by incident type.

Key performance indicator	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Dwelling fires	88	62	56	60	75
All fire casualties and fatalities	20	35	20	10	13
All deliberate fires excl. dwellings	181	308	260	276	394
Special Service - RTCs	41	36	46	47	39
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	271	270	251	306	379

Reducing Dwelling Fires, Fire Casualties and Fatalities will continue to be at the heart of our prevention activities, over the last two decades, similar to the rest of the UK, we have seen a gradual decrease in the amount of dwelling fires we attend. Dwelling Fires accounted for around 6% of our operational activity, whilst Fire casualties have averaged around 18 over the last five years, sadly including four fire fatalities over that period.

Prevention will continue to be a core activity for SFRS staff in Midlothian. Our Home Fire Safety programme, which commenced well over a decade ago has proved successful in terms of reducing dwelling fires and associated casualties whilst providing thousands of homes with early warning smoke detection. Approximately 1000 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) are generally completed every year in Midlothian by operational crews or dedicated community safety staff.

Our Living safely in the Home pilot has proved to be very successful and we will look to build on this whilst adapting how we deliver home safety visits. Our visits will become more holistic and take into account a range of risks in the home including, slips, trips and falls, fuel poverty, frailty and dementia amongst other vulnerabilities.

Deliberate fires (not including dwellings) are often, but not always, of a malicious nature. Deliberate fires accounted for approximately 24% of our operational activity over the last five years and typically involved refuse, grass, wood and scrubland. Increases in this type of incident activity are generally seasonal and often linked to anti-social behaviour. Deliberate

fires of a malicious nature place an unnecessary demand on SFRS and partner resources and often affecting communities socially and economically.

Responding to Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's) has remained a clear focus of our operational and prevention activity over the past five years, although in general terms we have seen a slight decrease. RTC's accounted for approximately 4% of our operational activity in Midlothian.

The term "Special Service" is used to describe non-fire related incidents and includes RTC's, Flooding, OHCA, Water Rescue and Hazardous Materials incidents amongst others. Throughout the last 15-20 years, Fire and Rescue Services across the UK have seen a significant increase in attendance at these types of incident whilst domestic property fires decrease. During 2016-17, Special Service incidents accounted for 12% of all emergency calls in Midlothian.

Due to the location and skills sets of our community-based resources, and the remote nature of much of Midlothian, we have been able to provide assistance to our partners, such as Police Scotland and the SAS, on an increasing basis and for a variety of reasons including medical co- response, effecting entry and professional advice.

By assisting our SAS colleagues we aim to not only increase an individual's chances of survival but also improving their longer term recovery outcomes.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) have accounted for over 25% of our operational incidents in Midlothian over the last five years. Similar to other operational activities, this type of incident demand is not unique to Midlothian, with the UK as a whole facing challenges in relation to reducing UFAS. With disruption to local businesses, schools, healthcare facilities and others, these unwanted calls can have a significant impact across the Midlothian area. Following national policy and using local initiatives we will continue to prioritise the reduction of UFAS whilst engaging with key stakeholders, partners and those with responsibilities for the premises involved.

Our 2 Community Fire Stations include one wholetime station at Dalkeith with one Retained Duty System (RDS) station in Penicuik. Wholetime stations are permanently staffed 24/7 throughout the year whilst our RDS staff operate on an "on call" basis and are alerted by pager for emergency calls.

Frontline staff are supported by a team of local and national officers from Training and Employee Development (TED) directorate. The local TED officers are based at Dalkeith Community Fire Station and provide dedicated support to operational crews in terms of acquiring new skills, maintaining existing skills and ensuring role competency.

Preventions and Protection (P&P) officers are located at Dalkeith Community Fire Station. They consist of Fire Safety Enforcement officers who deal with legislative matters including the auditing of relevant premises and officers who carry out a community engagement role through a diverse and wide reaching range of preventative activities. In addition to this, a SFRS Local Area Liaison Officer acts as a coordinator for engagement activities whilst liaising with external partners.

An Area Manager, or Local Senior Officer (LSO), has overall responsibility for discharging the functions of the SFRS within Midlothian. Day to day management of resources is devolved to the Midlothian Group Manager (GM) and Station Manager (SM) responsible for Service Delivery. The Senior Management team also consists of a further GM and two SM's who have responsibility for P&P and TED across the LSO area of Midlothian, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders.

## Working in Partnership to achieve better outcomes for the people of Midlothian.

This plan and its priorities reflect a partnership approach whilst sharing the vision and themes that will lead to improved outcomes for the communities of Midlothian. The examples below highlight some of the ways in which we aim to contribute to the Single Midlothian Plan and the Community Safety and Justice Strategy. The list is not exhaustive and we will continually look for innovative ways to help improve outcomes.

### Midlothian Priorities

### How we plan to contribute

#### ***Home Safety and Unintentional Harm***

- We will provide a range of preventative advice and measures through holistic homes safety visits with the aim of keeping people safe in their homes.
- We will explore opportunities to work closer with our Health and Social care colleagues in order to reach those most vulnerable in our communities whilst contributing to longer term health outcomes.
- Our holistic home safety programme will aim to reduce Unintentional Harm in the home within the under 5-year-old age group.
- As an active member of Public Protection we will carry out a range of preventative and intervention measures. This will include addressing social issues such as, reducing Domestic Abuse, identifying those at risk from Drugs and Alcohol, Fuel Poverty, Frailty and Dementia.
- Our holistic home safety programme will aim to reduce Unintentional Harm in the home within the 65 + year old age group. By reducing slips, trips and falls in the home we can contribute to older people living independently whilst alleviating financial and resource pressures on our Health and Social Care partners.

<b><i>Antisocial Behaviour</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By consolidation and where possible, development of existing youth engagement initiatives such as the Cooledown programme. By participating in these programmes, younger people will acquire new skills, practical and theoretical, learn to work within a team and build self-confidence. The programme will promote better citizenship whilst potentially improving opportunities for employment.</li> <li>• In partnership we will provide opportunities for young people in Midlothian.</li> <li>• In partnership with Police and other partners we will prioritise the reduction of anti-social related Deliberate Fire Setting (excluding Dwellings) through a range of prevention, intervention and diversionary activities.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Death and Injury on Midlothian's roads</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through active participation as a member of the Midlothian Road Safety Forum.</li> <li>• By contributing to prevention initiatives such as "Tomorrow's Driver" and continuing our "make it or break it" programme that highlights the consequences of RTC's to new and potential young drivers.</li> </ul>
<b>Crossing Cutting Outcomes</b>	
<b><i>Community Involvement in setting and delivering Community Safety Outcomes and feeling safe</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will provide a range of preventative advice and measures through holistic homes safety visits with the aim of keeping people safe in their homes.</li> <li>• We will explore opportunities to work closer with our Health and Social care colleagues in order to reach those most vulnerable in our communities whilst contributing to longer term health outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Re-offending (Community Justice)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By continuing to make a positive contribution to the Community Justice agenda.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Safeguarding Communities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our operational crews will continue to be a vigilant partner and report suspicions surrounding counter terror and organised crime.</li> </ul>



## Local Priorities

### **As part of a Community Partnership approach, we will make people safer in their homes.**

Traditionally, the Fire and Rescue Service have focussed on reducing the risk of fire in the home through advice and providing domestic smoke detection. We will never lose sight of this crucial element of our work in the community however we recognise that we can also contribute to safety in other ways. Unintentional Harm in the home, however minor, can have far-reaching and long-term effects on individuals, families and service providers.

With people living longer, risks in the home have evolved and whilst we have reduced the number of dwelling fires and associated casualties, the amount of persons suffering a fall in their home requiring medical attention has increased. Evidence suggests that young children, particularly under 5's are at risk from unintentional harm ranging from choking to trapping fingers in doors. Other vulnerabilities include conditions or dependences such as Dementia, Frailty, Drugs and Alcohol and Fuel Poverty.

By adapting our approach to home safety and assessing risk holistically, in partnership our aim is to reduce a wide range of unintentional harm in the home extending beyond fire. This can be achieved by preventative advice, physical measures or referral to the SFRS or an appropriate partner agency.

This priority supports the *Single Midlothian Plan 2017-18* and the *Community Safety and Justice Strategy 2017-18*.

#### **We will achieve it by:**

- *Providing a highly skilled, well trained and appropriate firefighting response*
- *In Partnership, proactively identifying those most at risk from Unintentional Harm in the home*
- *Conducting holistic Home Safety Visits that assess a range of risks within the home including fire, slips, trips and fall and other vulnerabilities*
- *Exchanging risk information with partners including referrals.*

#### **We will monitor progress by:**

- *Reviewing and reporting the number of accidental dwelling fires and associated casualties and fatalities*
- *Reviewing and reporting the number of home safety visits conducted and smoke detectors fitted/issued*
- *Reviewing and reporting the number of home safety visits that have provided advice or measures with the aim of reducing unintentional harm and injury in the home*
- *Reviewing and reporting how many occasions we have referred and received partner referrals for persons vulnerable to unintentional harm and injury in the home.*

#### **Expected Outcomes:**

- *Support the independent living of vulnerable people within Midlothian*
- *Reduce the social and economic cost of Unintentional Harm in the Home including fires and slips, trips and falls.*

## **We will promote Community Resilience whilst contributing to improved outcomes for people involved in non-fire emergencies.**

“Special Service” is the term given to non-fire related emergencies including, Road Traffic Collisions, Rescue from Water, Flooding, Height, Confined Space, Structural Collapse, Hazardous Material incident and Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest co-response with the Scottish Ambulance Service. Unfortunately, when incidents of this type occur it often involves casualties and sometimes fatalities.

Midlothian has a diverse range of Special Service risks including busy ‘A’ and ‘B’ class roads that are used regularly by work commuters and tourists, the Borders rail link, extensive waterways and many commercial businesses.

On average, 16% of all SFRS incidents each year in Midlothian are Special Service calls. As the SFRS explore opportunities for assisting our partners through emergency intervention there is a potential for associated casualty figures to continue to rise as we attend more Special Service incidents.

We will look to improve existing preventative strategies with Community Partners whilst ensuring that should we need to provide emergency response, we can do, effectively and efficiently, in order to improve outcomes for all Special Service Casualties.

### **We will achieve it by:**

- *Being an integral component of Midlothian Community Planning and championing an effective partnership approach to risk reduction*
- *Education and awareness aimed at high-risk groups within our communities.*
- *Training our staff and locating our resources in order to provide an effective and efficient emergency response*
- *Building on our relationships with other emergency services and improving how we work together through prevention and intervention.*

### **We will monitor progress by:**

- *Reviewing and reporting on the number of Special Service Casualties including OHCA, RTC, Water/ Flood Rescue, and effecting entry*
- *Monitoring and evaluating SFRS participation in community events and initiatives designed to enhance community resilience.*

### **Expected Outcomes:**

- *Improved outcomes for persons suffering an Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest in Midlothian*
- *Reduce the social and economic cost of Special Service Casualties*
- *Where capacity exists, reduce the demand on Community Partners through prevention and intervention activities.*

## **Together with our Community Partners, we will contribute to making the roads in Midlothian safer.**

Whilst road traffic collisions (RTC's) and associated casualty figures in Scotland have reduced over the previous twenty years, RTC's still occur on an all too frequent basis in Midlothian. Although accounting for only 4% of our non-fire emergency calls last year, they have a significant impact on families, the community, our partnership role is to reduce this impact through education.

As well as providing an emergency response to accidents on our roads, the SFRS have a key role to play in reducing RTC's through education and raising awareness in partnership with our Community Partners. By using experience and statistical evidence we will identify those most likely to be involved in a RTC in Midlothian, with these groups being the focus of attention for prevention activities based on risk.

We will aim to build on existing local prevention initiatives and in partnership look to utilise our resources innovatively, efficiently and proactively with the ultimate aim of making the roads in Midlothian safer.

This priority also supports the Single Midlothian Plan theme, *Death and Injury on Midlothian's roads*.

### **We will achieve it by:**

- *Working with our partners within Midlothian to identify those groups most at risk*
- *Delivering the appropriate prevention activities to those most at risk whilst being proactive and where possible innovative*
- *Continued support of Midlothian Community Safety and Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Road Safety Forum*
- *Encouraging young drivers and other groups to be responsible road users through active engagement and education.*

### **We will monitor progress by:**

- *Reviewing and reporting on the number and type of road traffic collisions within Midlothian*
- *Reporting and evaluating the effectiveness of our partnership prevention activities.*

### **Expected Outcomes:**

- *SFRS to have contributed towards reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on roads in Midlothian*
- *SFRS to have contributed to the reduction of road traffic collisions within Midlothian*
- *SFRS to have contributed to reducing the consequences and associated community impacts of RTC's*

## **As part of a Community Partnership, we will challenge Anti-Social Behaviour**

Anti-social behaviour can manifest itself in many ways and often has a significant detrimental effect on communities for a number of reasons.

The SFRS generally experience anti-social behaviour through Deliberate Fire Setting which can sometimes manifest into physical or verbal violence to our crews. Thankfully, the latter is a rare occurrence in Midlothian, however, the figures relating to Deliberate Fire Setting are not so positive.

There is often a close link between deliberate fires and anti-social behaviour and predominately involves malicious ignition of refuse, grass, woodland. Incidents of this type accounted for approximately 24% of our operational activity over the last five years. Due to the sporadic and random nature of many deliberately started fires, prevention activities are often reactive.

As a Service, we recognise our responsibility in reducing anti-social behaviour and its impact, this extends to not only fire related instances but includes other social issues such as Domestic Abuse.

This priority also supports the *Single Midlothian Plan theme, Anti-social behaviour.*

### **We will achieve it by:**

- *In Partnership, identify those parts of Midlothian affected by deliberate fire setting, whilst delivering effective prevention activities*
- *Acting as role models to promote good citizenship, especially with those who have or are likely to become involved in deliberate fire setting*
- *Continued support of Midlothian Community Safety and the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in relation to Domestic Abuse*
- *Exploring opportunities to lead and participate in innovative projects*

### **We will monitor the effectiveness of prevention and intervention activities by:**

- *Reviewing and reporting on the number and type of deliberate fire setting incidents within Midlothian*
- *Evaluating and reporting on the effectiveness of our youth engagement/intervention programmes and monitoring our attendance at MARAC's.*

### **Expected Outcomes:**

- *Support the promotion of "People and Place" across Midlothian.*
- *Support our communities in feeling safe from crime, disorder and danger*
- *Reduce the number of attendances to fires of a deliberate nature, particularly secondary fires*
- *Reduce the adverse effects and negative impacts which deliberate fire setting has on people's lives within Midlothian.*

## **In partnership, we will aim to reduce the occurrence and impact of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.**

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are defined as incidents where an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS when there is no fire. Whilst a small number of fire alarm signals generated are due to confirmed fire conditions, the vast majority are “false alarms”.

With UFAS accounting for over 25% of our incident activity it's clear that this places a significant burden on the SFRS in terms of resources, time and associated costs.

The impact of UFAS in the wider community can be very significant in terms of business disruption, effects on health care premises, education establishments and any other non-domestic premises effected by this. The level of unnecessary blue light response journeys also increase road risks and hazards to firefighters and to the public and also have a detrimental impact on the environment through additional carbon emissions. Active and positive engagement with occupiers to take responsibility in limiting the number of UFAS incidents within their premises is integral to reducing these impacts.

### **We will achieve it by:**

- *Investigating the cause of each UFAS call and documenting the information gained*
- *Engaging with duty holders and those responsible for fire safety management of premises to examine causes of UFAS calls and provide advice to prevent re-occurrence*
- *Look to reduce the number of fire appliances mobilised using a risk based approach to responding to automated fire alarms*
- *Maintaining a dedicated UFAS champion within the Midlothian area to oversee performance and best practice approaches to UFAS reduction*

### **We will monitor progress by:**

- *Reviewing and reporting on the number of UFAS calls in the Midlothian area*
- *Reviewing and reporting on risk based reductions in the SFRS weight of response to premises with automated fire alarm systems.*

### **Expected Outcomes:**

- *Reduce the demand on the SFRS from UFAS*
- *Reduce the economic cost to commerce in Midlothian from disruption from UFAS*
- *Reduce the impact on education premises and health care facilities from UFAS*
- *Reduced vehicle movements, increasing capacity for other activity, improved road safety and reduced carbon footprint.*

## Review

To ensure this Local Fire and Rescue Plan remains flexible to emerging local or national priorities a review may be carried out at any time but will be reviewed at least once every three years. A review may also be carried out if the Scottish Minister directs it or if a new Strategic Plan is approved. Following a review the Local Senior Officer may revise the Plan.

## Contact Us

We are fully committed to continually improving the service we provide to our communities and recognise that to achieve this goal we must listen and respond to the views of the public and our partners.

We use all feedback we receive to monitor our performance and incorporate this information into our planning and governance processes in order to continually improve our service. We are proud that the majority of feedback we receive is positive and we are keen to hear examples of good practice and quality service delivery that exemplifies the standards of service that we strive to provide for the communities of Scotland.

If you have something you'd like to share with us or you would like more information, you can get in touch in a number of ways:

Write to:                      Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
                                    Dalkeith Community Fire Station  
                                    35-40 Abbey Road  
                                    Dalkeith  
                                    EH22 3AD

Phone:                        0131 654 0451

Visit our website:        [www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk)

Follow us on Twitter    @scotfire\_MELSB

Like us on Facebook    Scottish Fire and Rescue Service



**DOING MORE FOR SCOTLAND**

**SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS)**

**TRANSFORMATION PROPOSAL**

**STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING NOTE JANUARY 2018**

### **Doing the right thing**

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has a simple choice. We transform and do more for Scotland or we retain a 1940s model and leave Scotland exposed to risk that we cannot meet.

The solution we are proposing will improve the safety and wellbeing of communities, by making our resources work more effectively and efficiently.

With transformation, we will not only do more for Scotland but will ensure that, for undertaking a new role, our valued firefighters will receive a recognition package beyond that offered anywhere else in the UK.

SFRS is leading by example within the public sector in Scotland by offering to transform.

### **Doing more for Scotland**

By investing in safe and planned transformation, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service can do so much more for the people of Scotland.

Scotland is facing new and emerging risks, combined with the greatest public finance challenges seen in decades.

Our operating model has served us well, but was designed to meet the risks of the 1940s. We need a more efficient and effective model that will allow us to better protect Scotland, bring the Service into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and future-proof its very existence.

This is about doing the right thing for the people of Scotland. It is also the right thing to do for the already pressured public purse.

### **The need to transform**

- Fires are reducing but new risks are emerging;
- Risks include terrorism, emergency medical response, ageing population, severe weather;
- We need to be trained and equipped to meet these risks;
- Our people and resources are no longer aligned to need;
- Current model limits ability to reduce risk through prevention and intervention activity;
- Current model limits ability to support other public services and reduce demand;
- The retained Service needs strengthened to meet the needs of rural communities; and
- The current model cannot be financially sustained beyond the end of this financial year



## **Benefits to Scotland**

We can deliver for Scotland:

- Improved safety and wellbeing;
- A wider preventative role;
- Reduced demand and cost across the wider public sector;
- Greater returns for the taxpayer through a more efficient and effective model;
- A strengthened service for rural communities;
- Enhanced public (and firefighter) safety through new technology; and
- Reduced environmental impact through the introduction of new vehicles

## **How SFRS proposes to transform**



Outcomes will be improved through planned and safe transformation to deliver a more effective and efficient operating model, resulting in:

- A national service that better benefits all of Scotland;
- Rebalanced firefighter numbers, using natural turnover while still recruiting;
- A broader firefighter role supported by flexible new T&Cs and improved remuneration;
- A station footprint and resource allocation aligned to current and future need;
- Introduction of new vehicles, technology and crewing models;
- Improved capability and resilience within retained service; and
- Improved availability of retained appliances during the day.

## **Financial Position**

- Since April 2013 we have delivered over £53m of recurring annual savings; and
- Firefighter pay has been eroded and is currently equal to 1977 pay levels.

The Scottish Government in its draft 2018-19 budget has provided our budget with an uplift, together with the full benefit of our ability from April 2018 to reclaim VAT, totalling more than £15 million.

### **The future firefighter role**

Through negotiation, firefighters will be asked to accept a transformation of their role in exchange for a new and significantly improved recognition package:

- Harmonisation of current allowances;
- New T&Cs;
- Significantly wider role and responsibilities;
- New skills;
- New duty patterns where appropriate;
- More flexible working practices; and
- Adoption of new technologies

There will be no compulsory redundancies.

### **Strengthening Scotland's Retained Duty service (RDS)**

Our RDS crew members are as well trained and committed as whole time crew members, but the delivery model is no longer robust.

- 60-100 RDS fire appliances unavailable each day during daytime hours in Scotland;
- Recruitment and availability of RDS crew is a global issue;
- People now less likely to live and work within one geographical area;
- Need to create high value, full time posts into RDS areas;
- Need to introduce new technology, vehicles and mobilising models to increase availability.

### **Consultation**

We will undertake a full public consultation in the coming months. We are currently ensuring SFRS staff are informed about and engaged in the conversation about the future of their Service.

### **Public Opinion Survey**

- **98%** state SFRS is as important as other emergency services
- **89%** think SFRS should help in all types of emergencies
- **94%** trust the Service "a lot"
- **76%** want an appropriate response irrespective of where it comes from
- **89%** agree SFRs is an efficient public service

**Mori, Survey of 1000 Scottish adults, May 2017**

### **Summary Key Facts and Figures about the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

- Largest fire and rescue service in the UK
- Fourth largest fire and rescue service in the world
- Attended **91,139** emergency incidents (all types) in 2016/17
- Total number of fires down **40%** in last decade
- Preventative safety advice provided to approx. **70,744** homes in 2016/17
- Carried out **8,939** non-domestic fire safety audits
- **£259m** annual resource budget
- **356** fire stations
- **240** Retained Duty System stations, **74** full time and **42** volunteer
- **422** pumping appliances

### **SFRS Workforce Statistics - snapshot**

- **c8000** personnel in total
- **3704** full time uniformed personnel (data correct at Oct 2017)
- **136** new full time firefighters recruited in 2017
- Delivered planned reduction of just **128** full time firefighter posts since 2013
- Scotland now has **268** more retained firefighters than ever before (data correct at Oct 2017)
- **c800** non-uniformed support staff

# Scrutiny Report

## 1 April 2017 – 31 December 2017

# Midlothian



"The data provided in this report is for information purposes to allow Partnership Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities. There may be minor amendments between the information in this report and the final statistics – for example: due to delayed reporting or recording of crimes, road crashes or incidents. It would not therefore be accurate or appropriate to refer to, quote or use the data in this report as official statistics. The extraction date from recording systems can differ so data should be seen as accurate on date of extraction by may still be dynamic. All data in the report is to indicate trend only as figures will change over time"

LYTD = last year to date    YTD = this year to date

### Our Intention

Wherever possible, to live independently and in their own home by:

- Being open, responsive and accountable to victims, witnesses and communities, giving them an effective voice and working to develop new ways to meet their needs such as a better understanding of cultural and diversity requirements and ensuring they receive the help and support they require;
- Protecting victims and the most vulnerable within our communities, working in partnership, sharing relevant information and taking action to support these individuals by providing assistance, intervention and referral;
- Enhancing our investigations into missing people and provide appropriate support to individuals and families Our intention is to ensure people, including those with disabilities/ long-term conditions or are frail are able affected
- Our intention is to ensure people, including those with disabilities/ long-term conditions or are frail are able affected.

### Current Situation

The number of adult missing person incidents decreased by 14% YTD compared to LYTD with 111 recorded LYTD and 95 recorded YTD. In total 89 adults were reported missing in the last 9 months. Sixteen missing adults had vulnerabilities such as dementia/mental health and 19 adults were cared for adults.

To provide support for vulnerable adults in a care home setting the Divisional Missing Person Coordinator has strong links with care homes in the area, highlighting concerns and where required registering residents for care home plans which ensure the effective transfer of information and a quick response/trace to future incidents.

Bogus workmen crimes recorded by police decreased from 7 LYTD to 3 YTD (-57.2%). A 60-year-old male was defrauded of £90 after three males attended at his address to provide gardening services. The 60yr old male was disabled, incapacitated and very vulnerable and paid for services which were not provided. Police enquiries have led to the detection of one crime this YTD. Police continue to make use of social media to engage with the community in terms of crime prevention of similar incidents and generating intelligence to aid enquiries.

### What are we doing next?

- Neighbourhood Watch Alert Scheme – A local police officer has now been trained as an administrator and is circulating alerts. Community Ward Officers are continuing to encourage the setup of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes at local Community Council meetings across Midlothian. PC Iain Jeffrey is working with Midlothian Council Planning/Building Department and NHW to develop an information sheet for inclusion in new housing welcome packs.
- Call blocker initiative for those identified at risk of financial harm - In conjunction with Midlothian Council, Social Work, Midlothian Trading Standards, Trading

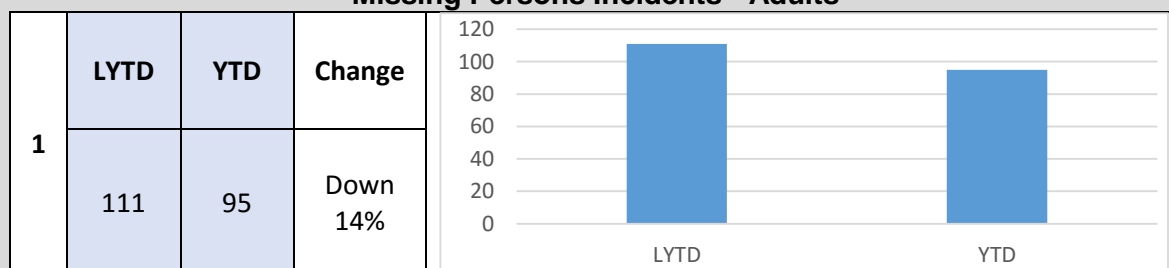
Standards Scotland and Health and Social Care. Police are working with partners to develop a means to share information of the individuals identified as suitable whilst adhering to data protection legislation.

- Creation of a financial harm/scam awareness presentation - Shown to Midlothian Financial Inclusion Network Nov 17, thereafter cascaded to Community Police teams. This work has been used as a basis for a community connection newsletter (2018) to inform and connect older citizens across Midlothian.
- Crime prevention road shows are ongoing within Midlothian providing advice on how to beat doorstep crime, helping people identify doorstep crime, providing information on who to contact and on the steps they can take to keep themselves safe.
- Operation Monarda in planning phase for spring - A Multi-agency initiative with planned days of action (dates TBC) delivering a clear message to those engaged in bogus worker crimes that Police and partner agencies will take action, gathering and developing intelligence relating to persons and vehicles involved, identifying and reporting offenders, raising public awareness and increasing reassurance whilst promoting partnership working. A joint day of action will be held along with Trading Standards, VOSA and Road Policing targeting work vans, and an innovative social media campaign will be launched to gather intelligence with a view to support Police enforcement action.

### Police Performance Indicators

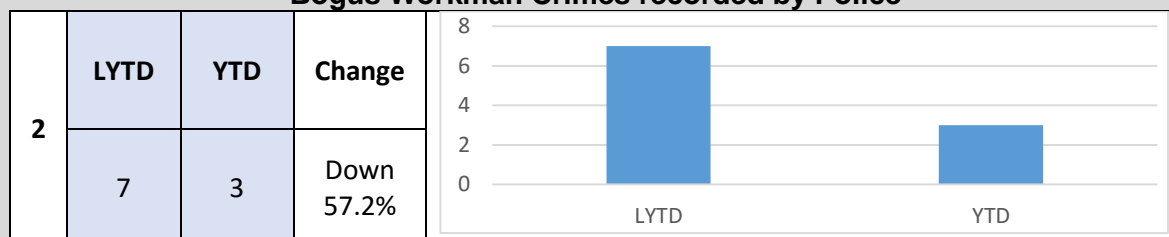
1. Missing Persons incidents - Adults
2. Bogus workmen crimes recorded by the Police

#### Missing Persons Incidents - Adults



Source: Missing persons coordinator, J Division

#### Bogus Workman Crimes recorded by Police



Source: UNIFI, Group 3 crimes, initial input date, ED, aggravator 'bogus caller' – crimes recorded in error and no crime removed from results. Please note that this data comes from interrogation of local systems using aggravator tag searches to give an indication of financial harm against the vulnerable only. Data should not be quoted as official statistics.

### **Our Intention**

Our intention is to ensure (1) Fewer people are victims of crime, abuse or harm & (2) People feel safe in their neighbourhood and homes & (3) Our communities take a positive role in shaping their future by:

- Engaging with partners to prevent and reduce crime, ensuring the most vulnerable members of social groups within our communities are protected, focussing on the offences and offenders that cause the greatest harm;
- Preventing criminality and the misuse of drugs and alcohol through effective early intervention, education and enforcement;
- Influencing road user behaviour and improve road safety awareness through education, initiatives, activities and enforcement;
- Preventing serious, organised crime, target, disrupt and deterring those involved;
- Protecting our communities from the threat of terrorism, contributing fully to the UK Government CONTEST Strategy in respect of terrorism locally, across the region, nationally and internationally.

### **Current Situation**

Police recorded 709 incidents of domestic abuse YTD, down 9.9% from LYTD (787). Domestic crime incidents have also decreased by just over a quarter YTD, with 45.8% of all incidents recorded resulting in the creation of a crime report. Police continue to carry out bail checks on domestic abuse perpetrators with good results (100% compliance YTD).

Hate Incidents increased by 9.1% YTD compared to LYTD (up 6 incidents). Point of sale, neighbour disputes and crimes against police officers continue to represent the majority of hate crime incidents across Midlothian.

Antisocial behaviour incidents increased by 0.3% YTD compared to LYTD (4966 and 4950 respectively). This is a significant improvement on the first six months of this year.

Detections for drugs supply, production and cultivation decreased by 32% YTD, with 36 detections recorded YTD compared to 53 LYTD. Operations into drug supply offences are ongoing and intelligence led.

In the first nine months of 2017/18 police seized £23,652 in cash and NET assets (five seizures) from criminals using the Proceeds of Crime Act. This is a decrease from the level experienced in LYTD (£41,211).

Housebreakings (domestic) decreased by 46.3% YTD compared to the previous year, with 65 crimes recorded. Figures are also below the five-year average of 103 crimes. This continues to be a real priority for police in Midlothian and the figures are extremely pleasing. Lock Down Crime Roadshows and crime prevention messages through social media are having a positive impact in increasing security of dwelling houses, with enforcement and intelligence gathering continuing through Operation Bistra. A challenge for police continues to be recidivist young males linked to serious and organised crime targeting dwellings and non-dwellings for pedal cycles and motor vehicles.



All dishonesty crime increased by 12% YTD (1889) from 1686 LYTD which is an improving situation from Q2's increase of 20%. Crimes of shoplifting have increased by 55.7% YTD, with increases also seen in business housebreaking and auto crime. In response a CID led Operation (Barrier) was concluded in December with detection rates having increased from targeted intelligence led operations and the execution of warrants.

Serious violent crime decreased by 19.8% YTD, from 61 to 49 crimes. Crimes of attempted murder reduced by 3 crimes, serious assault by 6 crimes, and assault and robbery by 5 crimes. Hotspots for violent crime in public YTD continue to be observed in Mayfield and Dalkeith town centre. A dispersal plan continues in Dalkeith to disperse and prevent ASB and violent crime linked to alcohol misuse. Detection rate for all group 1 (violent) crimes is currently 90.5%.

There have been 34 people killed or seriously injured on Midlothian's roads YTD, two fewer than LYTD. There were six fewer fatalities on Midlothian's roads YTD and a reduction of over one quarter in the number of people who suffered minor injuries on Midlothian's roads.

### **What are we doing next?**

- Police are leading in the development of violence against women and girls (VAWG) prevention plan in partnership with multiple partners, the initial meeting has taken place and Police are gathering information before planning a second meet. PC Iain Jeffrey attended a multiagency awareness session in January 2018 to discuss the Safe & Together model. Scoping exercises have been undertaken looking at the possible roll out of training to Police.
- National Hate Crime Awareness Week - Dates TBC, a structured plan will be developed regarding planned activities. Inputs will be delivered to vulnerable groups offering advice and information. Roadshows and "drop ins" will also be held. Social media will be utilised to promote third party reporting.
- Midlothian officers are utilising the Community Engagement Vehicle to provide a mobile point of contact for residents in areas where there have been high number of ASB calls received. In response to season change and rise in ASB in the Bonnyrigg area, a Policing plan will be prepared to tackle emerging issues lead by MCATs and CBOs.
- An intelligence gathering leaflet relating to drug/alcohol misuse and antisocial behaviour has been designed. A launch date is TBC and targeted leaflet distribution will support the "You're Asking For It" alcohol campaign.
- Midlothian Police are working with key partners to launch "You're Asking For It" campaign tackling the issue of proxy purchase of alcohol and associated ASB. The pre-launch will take place in March with official launch in June. The national toolkit will be available from 23/02/2018.
- Foodbank referrals: PC Iain Jeffrey is looking at streamlining the procedure and is currently working on an Information Sharing Protocol and designing a Dalkeith Retail Crime Partnership which focuses heavily on foodbank and support referrals in a bid to address dishonesty crime, in particular shopliftings, across the Dalkeith and wider Midlothian area.
- Retail Crime Partnership Straiton – In conjunction with a number of retailers in the Straiton area, a shop watch radio scheme will shortly be rolled out. This will assist retailers with real time communication and target hardening of the area. On arrival of radios a streamlined shoplifting reporting process will be implemented. In addition to this work the Peel Group have installed CCTV within the retail park but



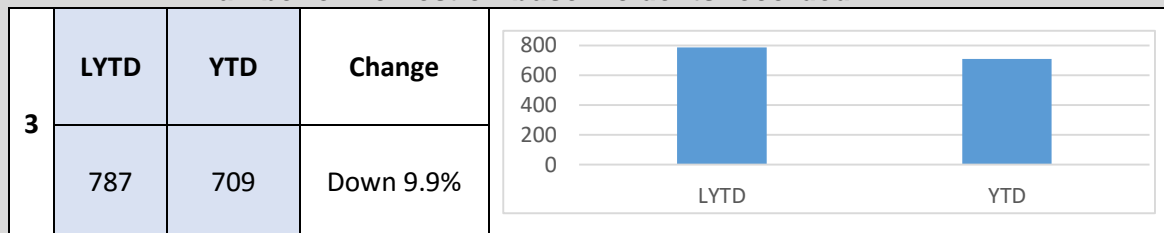
further work is required regarding CCTV access. The Peel Group have now installed perimeter fencing around the service yard and evening security patrols.

- Community Beat Officers are now trainers in No Knives Better Lives which is set to be rolled out in schools.
- In response to the change of season and lighter nights, which sees an increase in vulnerable road users, Midlothian Police are identifying hotspots for “racing cruisers” and structuring a patrol matrix. We also plan to work in conjunction with Road Policing to promote the “Close Pass” initiative that has worked well in Edinburgh and had a successful pilot in Midlothian. Structured road safety inputs will be delivered within schools by Youth Campus Officers focusing on road safety in conjunction with Junior Road Safety Officers. Police also plan to run a local initiative with partners targeting unlicensed taxis operating in the area.
- Project Griffin – A local officer has now been trained as a trainer and inputs will be delivered to Best Bar None applicants and retailers participating in Straiton Retail Crime Partnership.

### Police Performance Indicators

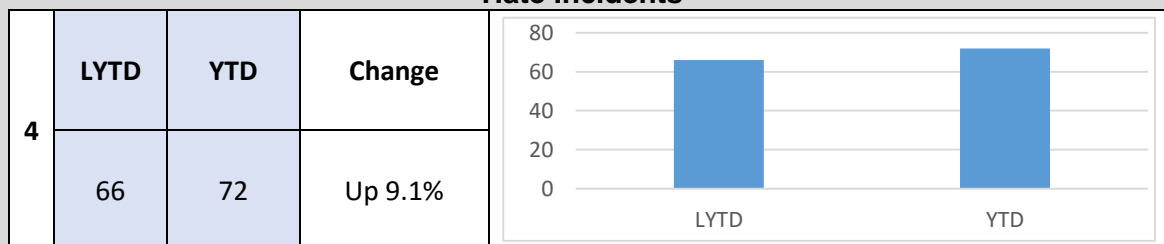
3. Number of Domestic Abuse incidents recorded
4. Hate Incidents
5. Antisocial Behaviour Incidents
6. Drugs Supply, Production and Cultivation
7. Housebreaking (Domestic)
8. Group 3 Crimes of Dishonesty
9. Serious Violent Crime
10. Road Casualties

#### Number of Domestic Abuse incidents recorded



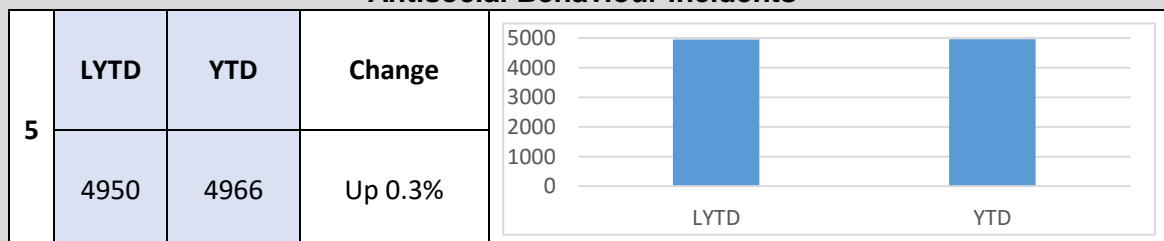
Source: SCOMIS, all incidents

#### Hate Incidents



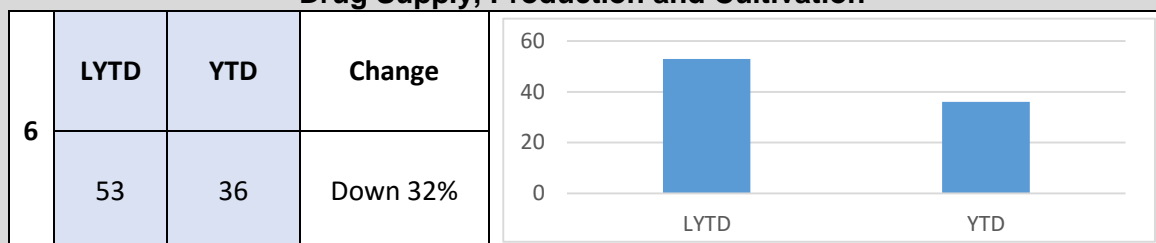
Source: SCOMIS, all incidents

#### Antisocial Behaviour Incidents



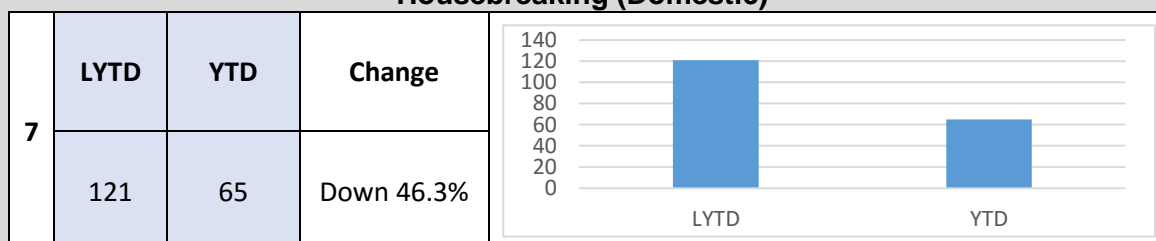
Source: SCOMIS, all incidents

### Drug Supply, Production and Cultivation



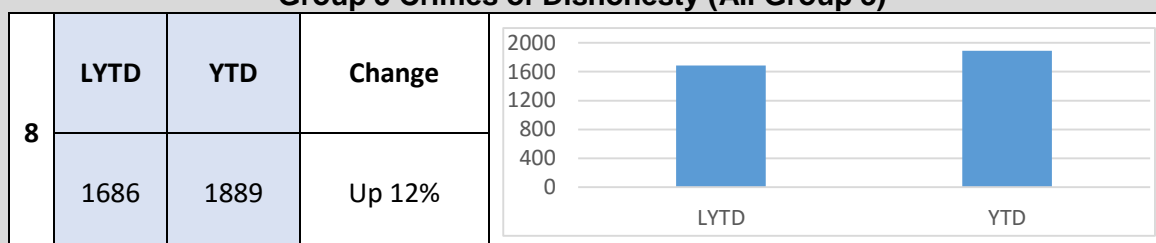
Source: Analysis and Performance Unit, LOCAL AUTHORITY SCRUTINY BOARD – Midlothian - December 2017

### Housebreaking (Domestic)



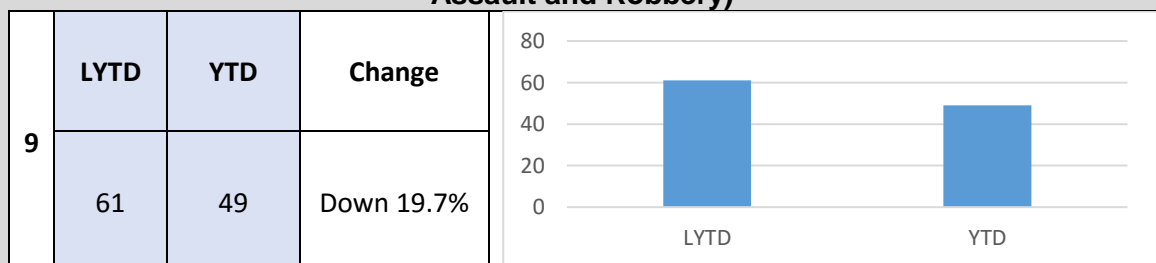
Source: SCOMIS

### Group 3 Crimes of Dishonesty (All Group 3)



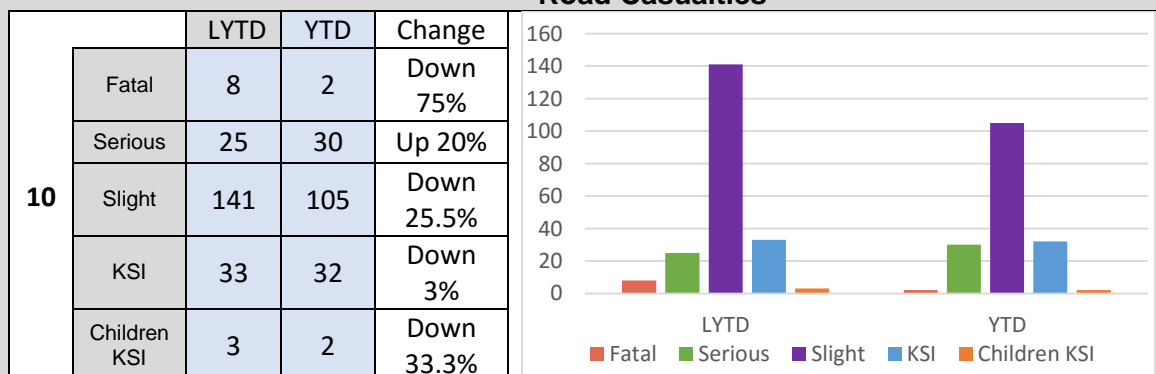
Source: SCOMIS

### Violent Crime (Murder, Culpable Homicide, Att Murder, Serious assault, Assault and Robbery)



Source: Analysis and Performance Unit, LOCAL AUTHORITY SCRUTINY BOARD – Midlothian - December 2017

### Road Casualties



Source: Analysis and Performance Unit, LOCAL AUTHORITY SCRUTINY BOARD – Midlothian - December 2017

### Our Intention

Our intention is to ensure (1) children and young people are supported to be healthy, happy and reach their potential & (2) all care experienced children and young people are being provided with quality services by:

- Remaining committed to the development of strong working partnerships to protect children and young people within our communities through referral, early effective intervention, education and enforcement;
- Through the proactive sharing of information with partners, identifying those most exposed to risk allowing us to implement effective measures for their protection;
- Conducting all enquiries in a child-focused manner, ensuring children are meaningfully involved in decision making about their lives and the services they receive.

### Current Situation

The number of children reported to police as missing YTD increased by 24% compared to LYTD (317 and 255 respectively). In total YTD, 130 young people were reported missing, with 25 children reported missing on three or more occasions in the last six months, and seven young people reported missing more than 10 times in that period. A total of 106 reports stemmed from six "Looked After Children" which represents one third of the reported calls

The Divisional Missing Person Coordinator continues to liaise with partners including education, young offender units, and social workers to provide support and prevent future absences. The coordinator is also working with education in an attempt to introduce a new protocol within schools to ensure better knowledge of what constitutes a missing person and reporting processes. This has been piloted in Edinburgh with success.

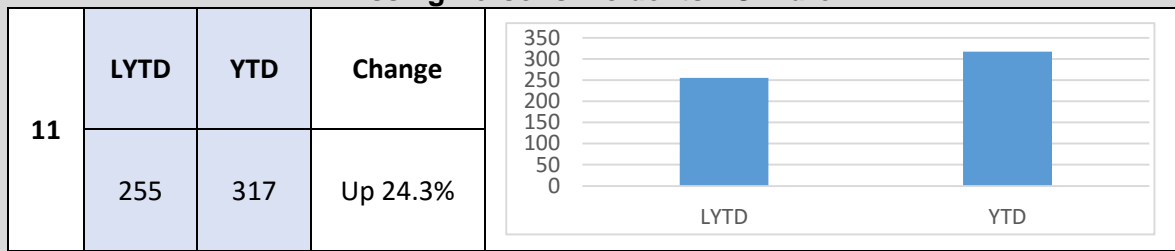
To provide support for young people in residential and foster care the Divisional Missing Person Coordinator is linking in with management in units/foster carers to highlight and action concerns timeously, and ensure protocols are being followed effectively.

### What are we doing next?

- Progression of missing person protocol within Midlothian's schools.
- Police are working with Mid/East Lothian PPU and Barnardo's to deliver a training session on Child Sexual Exploitation to licenced premises linking in with BBN and Pubwatch. A successful training day took place in October 2017 and this will be built upon.
- PC Iain Jeffrey is exploring the opportunity to develop an educational package for young people on the "Not Yours To Share" campaign – this should be available early to mid-2018

**Police Performance Indicators**  
12. Missing Persons incidents - Children

**Missing Persons Incidents - Children**



Source: Missing persons coordinator, J Division

**Mr Derek Penman QPM**

HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary

Local Authority Chief Executives

By email

9 January 2018

Dear Chief Executive

**Consultation on HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2018-19**

HM Inspectorate for Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) is established under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and has wide ranging powers to look into the 'state, effectiveness and efficiency' of both the Police Service of Scotland (Police Scotland) and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA).

We have a statutory duty to inquire into the arrangements made by the Chief Constable and the SPA to meet their obligations in terms of best value and continuous improvement. We have a requirement to prepare a plan setting out our inspection priorities for the year ahead and to consult with relevant stakeholders in preparing our plan. If necessary, we can be directed by Scottish Ministers to look into anything relating to the SPA or Police Scotland as they consider appropriate.

HMICS is committed to an improvement agenda, and our inspections aim to help Police Scotland improve the service it delivers to the public. In planning for the 2018-19 scrutiny year, which begins on 1 April 2018, we have undertaken strategic engagement with the Force Executive and Divisional Commanders between November 2017 and January 2018. This engagement is important to HMICS to maintain a good understanding of current issues affecting policing and to achieve an enhanced situational assessment in order that our future scrutiny activity is focused on the right issues in the right areas.

We have been working closely with the new Chair and Interim Chief Officer of the SPA since they took up appointment in late 2017. The Chair has highlighted her commitment to focus on turning the SPA outwards, while the Interim Chief Officer has been tasked with looking inwards to strengthen the capability, capacity and the systems, practices and culture within the SPA. HMICS will support this work over the next scrutiny year and draw on our on-going scrutiny to identify improvement and provide expertise to deliver the necessary change.

As an important stakeholder in policing, I would welcome your views and proposals to address any topical, high risk or emerging areas in policing which you consider would benefit from scrutiny by HMICS during 2018-19. Your feedback will be collated against the responses from other stakeholders and assessed against our scrutiny risk process to help inform our forthcoming scrutiny plan.

A response by Friday 2 February 2018 would be appreciated and should be emailed to [hmics@gov.scot](mailto:hmics@gov.scot). If you have any queries or wish to discuss your response in advance of sending, then please do not hesitate to contact us

Yours sincerely

**Derek Penman**

HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary