

Midlothian Prevention & Protection Activities

Quarter 1: 1st April – 31st June 2023

Fire Safety Enforcement Audits

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is the enforcing authority for the Fire Scotland Act 2005 and Fire Safety Regulations 2006. The act applies to specific non-domestic premises and requires duty holders to comply with relevant aspects of the Act and Regulations. SFRS responsibilities as the enforcing authority are captured within an Enforcement Framework. The Framework identifies and assigns priority to premises type with those premises deemed as higher risk given priority for auditing purposes. Premise providing sleeping accommodation such as hospitals, care homes, houses of multiple occupation, hostels and hotels receive an annual audit. Other premises that are subject to audit but deemed lower risk will be visited every three or five years. Within Midlothian we have Officers who plan and carry out these duties. The Officers are also available to provide Fire Safety advice, consulting with partners such as Local Authority Building control functions and the wider public with Fire Scotland Act 2005 responsibilities.

MIDLOTHIAN AUDITS 23/24	JAN- MARCH	YTD
	23	23

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 to provide fire safety advice and smoke alarms, the numbers of dwelling fires and casualties will be reduced. Requests for HFSVs are generated in several ways, including self-referral, SFRS partners referring and visits carried out after SFRS have attended a domestic fire incident. This is known as Post Domestic Incident Response (**PDIR**), offering a HFSV to the properties and occupants impacted directly by the fire and the wider neighbourhood area.

When a HFSV is generated, the risk within the property is calculated by asking the occupant a number of specific questions. The outcome will be either, High, Medium or Low risk. This outcome determines priority in relation to carrying out the visit and the frequency for future re-visits. The table below highlights the number of visits carried out in Midlothian for this reporting period.

MIDLOTHIAN	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTALS	PREV QRT 23/24	YTD
Ward						
Bonnyrigg	4	7	5	16		
Dalkeith	5	12	7	24		
Mid East	5	14	2	21		
Mid South	3	10	7	20		
Mid West	6	4	4	14		
Penicuik	5	4	3	12		
TOTALS	27	51	28	107	98	107

Home Fire Safety Referrals

The table below details how HFSVs were generated.

Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR)	33	YTD
British Red Cross	6	
EMPPPO	8	
Housing providers	2	
Midlothian Falls Team	2	
Melville Housing	5	
Midlothian Reablement	2	
Other	7	
Police	3	
Police Concern	1	
Self-referral	30	
SP Energy Networks	0	
Social Services	0	
Woman's Aid	1	
Woman's Aid East & Mid	5	
Total	103	103

Partnership Working/Youth Engagement

Fire Safety and Support Education (FSSE) engagement- Although no fire setters have been carried out, Cat have been involved with 3 pupils that have been showing risk taking behaviour and been involved with damage to school's firefighting equipment.

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.

Partner agencies have also requested 33 Enhanced Home Fire Safety Visits through Police concern reports or direct requests from social services.

Other Work Completed or In Progress

Our Local Community Action Team have also been involved with delivery and promotion of the following initiatives during the reporting period;

Working with Y2k in Dalkeith delivering intervention to youth groups. CAT have also been working with the Nurture club at Dalkeith High school delivering several intervention and safety talks to a group of 60 youths.

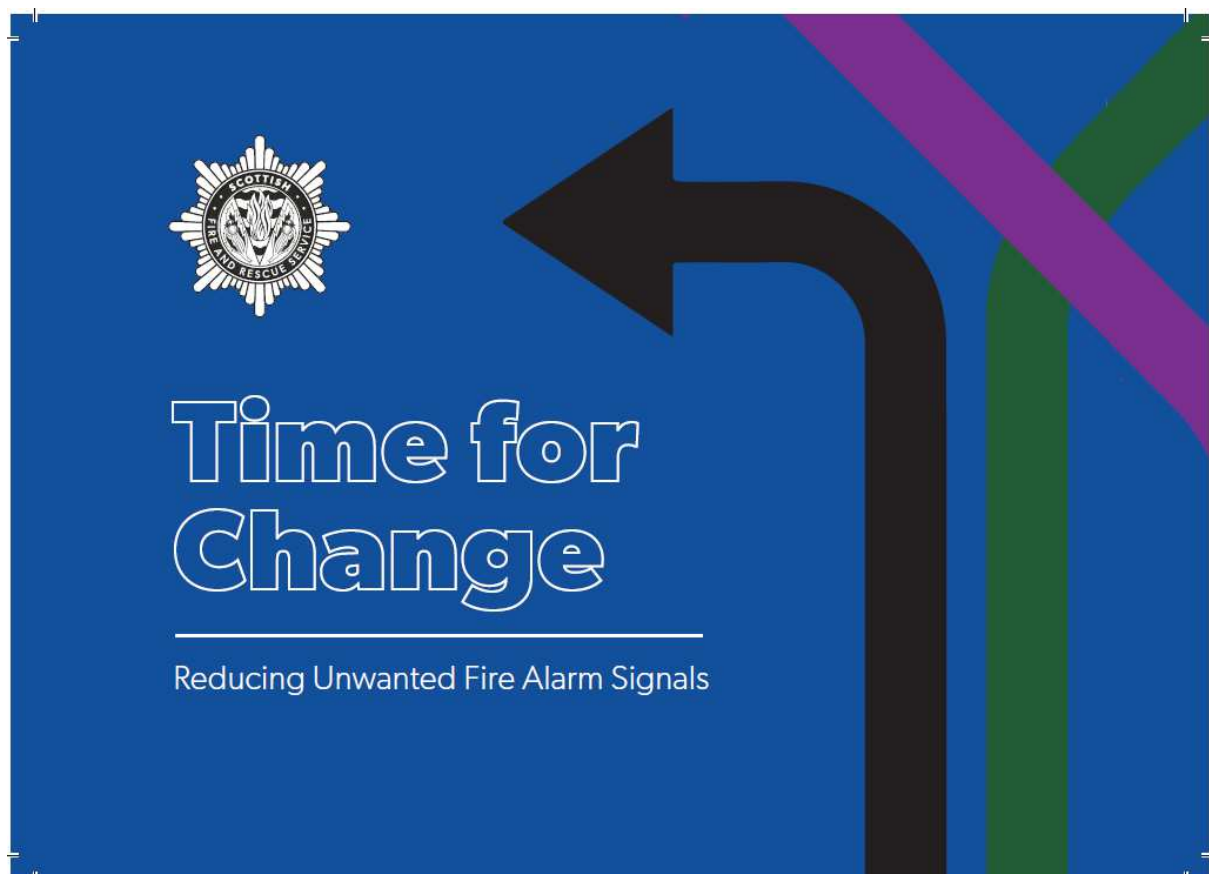
We have also delivered a 2-day Fire skills course to pupils from Newbattle High. This is a key engagement/intervention activity in our partner working to collectively reduce anti-social behaviour.

The Local CAT attends various multi-agency forums within Midlothian. This includes Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC), Midlothian Alcohol Partnership and Midlothian Voluntary Sector. We are also delivering courses and sessions to support our Corporate Parenting responsibilities within Midlothian.

SFRS have been delivering Risk recognition training to partners to continue to promote the HFSV referral pathways. We have been engaging with Ukrainian visitors at a refugee hotel in Dalkeith to deliver fire safety information and are working with Scottish water Gladhouse reservoir and Pentland hills rangers to deliver water safety and wild fire education to visitors but also to local youths who are historically at risk from Water activities during the summer months at these locations.

Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

From the 1st July SFRS have successfully introduced the new UFAS policy. Since the introduction, we have seen a 61% decrease in UFAS calls attended. This amounts to around 1600 less Blue light journeys undertaken across Scotland and therefor improving road safety for communities and decreasing our carbon footprint as a direct result. We will continue to identify non sleeping accommodation premises and work with duty holders to ensure businesses are given our support.



[Scottish Fire & Rescue Service: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals \(UFAS\) \(firescotland.gov.uk\)](https://firescotland.gov.uk)

