

**GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL AND
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

GUILDFORD LOCAL COMMITTEE

DATE: 19 SEPTEMBER 2017



SURREY

**LEAD OFFICER: JIM TIGWELL GROUP COMMANDER NORTH WEST SURREY,
SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

**SUBJECT: SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT
2016-17**

**AREA(S)
AFFECTED: GUILDFORD AND GOMSHALL**

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

This report outlines the major strands of activity undertaken within the Guildford area by the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) teams based at Guildford and Gomshall Fire Stations during 2016 – 17. It contains information on the various activities undertaken by the Borough team to reduce the risk from fire, water and road traffic incidents to the residents of Guildford Borough, including direct contact, public education programmes and campaigns. Relevant County wide activity is also included. Appendix 1 is provided to report on specific Key Performance Indicators for SFRS.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Guildford Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Recognise the achievements of SFRS teams both within Guildford and across the County this year, support their commitment in further identifying and improving initiatives to reduce risk and make the Borough of Guildford safer especially for those more vulnerable within the community.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

SFRS dedicates a great deal of time in supporting the safety of members of Guildford's Communities. It is important to appreciate that the requirement for and themes of initiatives will change to meet identified needs within the community, for which continued support throughout the year and into the future is essential to allow maximum effect.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Surrey Fire and Rescue Service report annually to the Guildford Local Committee. The annual report for 2016/17 is appended as **Appendix 1**.
- 1.2 SFRS as part of The Emergency Services Collaboration Programme with Surrey and Sussex Police, East and West Sussex Fire and Rescue and South East Coast Ambulance, has continued to work on a range of outcome focused projects with the joint aims of sustainably improving service to the public, reducing costs and increasing resilience, reducing overlap in service provision and responding to the changing patterns in demand:

The National Joint Council (NJC) Emergency Medical Response (EMR) Trials commenced on 23rd September 2015, under which SFRS respond to some types of medical emergency in support of South East Coast Ambulance, was extended to 21 March 2017 and has since been extended again to be reviewed in June 2017. The Service has been notified by the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) that they will be asking members to withdraw from the co-responding trial from 24 August 2017, this has been delayed for consultation until 13th September. We are currently working to understand the expected impact on our trial, South East Coast Ambulance Service's response and our residents. We are working, through the Emergency Services Collaboration Partnership, to support future arrangements and how/if we are able to support co-responding albeit with reduced capacity.

SFRS has taken on responsibility from Surrey Police to respond to calls from SECamb to **gain entry** to properties where there is a concern for the safety of the occupant. As a result, SFRS has freed up Police time and is able to respond within 10 minutes on average and generally can gain access with less damage to property.

Arrangements have been put in place for SFRS and SECamb to provide assistance to the Police in searching for certain types of high risk **missing people** (i.e. those where the person is deemed to be at significant risk of harm, often the very young, very old or those with a potential mental capacity issue).

- 1.3 SFRS continue to provide several Community initiatives which are available to all Boroughs with the aim to reduce road traffic collisions, fire setting and anti-social behaviour – and improve fire safety awareness. A brief report on activity in this area for Guildford Borough is included in the analysis below.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1. Appendix 1 reports on the Key Performance Indicators and targets for SFRS and Guildford Borough. The report shows that Guildford has seen an increase in domestic and primary fires in general in comparison to the 5 year average, there are no patterns or trends, the numbers are low therefore any change can put the results into the red. The target for Safe and Well Visits were missed marginally, this was due to the refocus of our work to undertake more Protection activities following recent significant fires in Surrey and Nationally. The refocus was on

increasing Fire Safety Audits, doubled, to improve firefighter safety and the safety of those at work.

- 2.2. It is positive to note that despite an increase in the number of accidental dwelling fires occurring in the Borough, 79% of these fires we attended were confined to room of origin. Direct and rapid intervention by SFRS fire-fighting teams have prevented the spread of these fires and further loss and damage to properties.
- 2.3. There is an increase in the number of false alarms attended caused by automatic fire alarms (AFA's) the majority occurred in the first 3 quarters of the reporting year.
- 2.4. Quarter 4 saw the introduction of new SFRS policy, changing how we respond to AFA's at shops, schools, workplaces, factories, warehouses, hostels, hotels, public buildings, licensed premises and other premises open to the public. We now call challenge night and day, to establish if there is a genuine emergency or in fact a false alarm. If a false alarm is confirmed, we will no longer automatically send a fire engine. However, if we are in any doubt at all, we will always attend. Subsequently there was a drop in calls of this nature in quarter 4. Further reductions are expected for 2017-18 ensuring SFRS appliances are available for genuine emergencies, and reduce unnecessary blue light journeys putting public and staff at increased risk.
- 2.5. A positive for the Borough we are continuing to see a decline in deliberate fires and Hoax calls.
- 2.6. We are also maintaining our response standard to all critical incidents being under the target of 1 fire appliance in 10 minutes 80% of the time.
- 2.7. Report on attendance to SFRS county wide initiatives available to Guildford Borough:

Initiative	Guildford Borough participation 2016/17
Safe Drive Stay Alive – Road safety awareness for young drivers or those approaching driving age	1469 attendees
Fire wise – referrals for intervention for young persons with fascination for fire.	6 case referrals 12 visits
YES – Youth engagement scheme – helping young persons at risk of exclusion in need of intervention	1 referrals made – 1 invited to taster
Junior citizens programme	1300 children June 12 th -24 th held at Guildford Fire Station run by Guildford Community Safety Officers
Ride it Right	The “Ready to Ride” event takes place in spring time before the main motorcycling season, and is aimed at any rider - whether novice or experienced - who wants to further develop their riding skills, learn about

ITEM 9

	the maintenance of their bike and what to do in the unlikely event of an accident.
Biker Down	Biker Down is short training course on-scene management and personal safety for a biker happening upon a crash involving a fellow biker, Casualty care and the science of being seen.

2.8. There are no specific targets for Co-responding trial, Gaining Entry, Missing Persons, it should be noted that the commencement of the co-responding trial was upon completion of extensive arrangements providing Immediate Emergency Care Responder Training (IECR) and equipping each front line vehicle with a trauma bag and defibrillator. (Defibrillators are also at all fire stations in the county). This trial is still in development with discussion ongoing between NJC, FRS and FBU nationally.

2.9 During the year personnel at Guildford fire station have undertaken numerous visits with community groups of all ages – key fire safety awareness work is continually undertaken with school children, local activity groups such as cubs, Brownies, Sea-cadets and Youth Clubs in many parishes. Key fire safety work on a daily basis is ongoing to identify and assist those in the community more vulnerable to fire and deliver Safe and Well Visits.

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 This report is for information.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

4.1 The internal management team of Surrey Fire and Rescue are consulted on the Woking Station Plan

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Collaboration work funded via Fire and Rescue Authority Transformation Fund.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT:

6.1 Surrey Fire and Rescue Service aim to minimise risk to the population within all areas of their role. This report is for information.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 SFRS will continue to analyse historical data and work with partner agencies to identify areas of vulnerable people, carrying out Safe and Well Visits with the aim of reducing fires and increasing awareness of actions to take in the event of fire and providing information to assist in all areas of living well.
- 7.2 We will continue to work with community leaders and partners to improve our awareness of cultural needs, improving partnership working and increasing the use of the SFRS volunteer service.
- 7.3 We will continue to attend and contribute to the Guildford JAG terms of reference to address community safety issues within our remit.

8. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 SFRS will always support the Equalities Act 2010

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report
Human Resource/Training and Development	No significant implications arising from this report

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

10.1 There has been continued positive work by the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service in Guildford. The Local Committee are asked to:

- (i) Recognise the achievements of SFRS both within the Guildford Borough and County wide for 2016-17. To support their commitment to further reduce risk going forward by making Guildford Borough safer through analysis of historical data and local knowledge, identifying areas, groups and individuals who may be more vulnerable to risk of fire or in need of intervention assistance. Working with partners to ensure members of the community are aware, and receive the assistance needed to live safely.
- (ii) Recognise the standard achieved in Borough KPI's (Appendix1)

11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 11.1 Surrey Fire and Rescue Service will continue to keep Members regularly updated on future progress through the Community Safety Task Group and will attend/report on related matters at Joint Action Group (JAG) meetings.

Contact Officer:

David Nicholson, Guildford Borough Commander: 07968834595

Consulted:

Surrey Fire and Rescue Senior Management Team

Annexes:

End of year report 2016-17 - Appendix 1

Background papers: N/A
