



# Northamptonshire Commissioner Fire & Rescue Authority

## Annual Report & Fire & Rescue Statement 2020

### 1. Introduction & Background

- 1.1 The Fire and Rescue National Framework sets out a requirement for Fire and Rescue Authorities to provide annual assurance on financial, governance and operational matters. In addition, the annual report is required to show due regard to:
- The Fire and Rescue National Framework
  - The Fire and Rescue Plan for the area
  - The Integrated Risk Management Plan for the area
- 1.2 This year's statement comes at the end of a year that continues under the governance of Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. In addition, the service has been subject to a revisit from the inspection team of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services to view progress made against the causes of concern and recommendations made as a result of the inspection in November 2018.

### 2. Performance

- 2.1 The Authority continues to monitor progress against the Fire and Rescue Plan and an Integrated Risk Management Plan. Community outcome measures and operational objectives are included within the plans.

### 3. Community Outcome Measures:

		2019/20				2018-19 EOY <sup>1</sup>	Compared to previous EOY
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
NI 33 (A)	No. of Deliberate Primary Fires per 10,000 population	0.96	2.38	3.12	3.73	4.07	↓
NI 33 (B)	No. of Deliberate Secondary Fires per 10,000 population	1.56	3.81	4.56	5.81	7.58	↓
NI 49 (1)	No. of Primary Fires per 100,000 population	35.58	75.31	102.99	131.22	132.89	↓
NI 49 (2)	No. of Fatalities in Primary Fires per 100,000 population	0	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.40	↓
NI 49 (3)	No. of Non-fatal Casualties in Primary Fires per 100,000	0.94	1.47	2.41	3.58	3.91	↓
BVPI 143 (i)	The No. of deaths arising from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population	0	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.00	↑
BVPI 143 (ii)	The No. of injuries (excluding precautionary checks), arising from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population	0.81	1.21	2.14	2.81	2.43	↑
BVPI 142 (iii)	Accidental fires in Dwellings per 10,000 dwellings	2.91	5.58	7.88	10.49	10.25	↑
BVPI 207	Non-Domestic Fires per 1000 Non-Domestic	1.55	3.11	4.82	6.41	6.05	↑
LPI 8ai	LPI 8ai Sickness - Wholetime (days/shift lost per head)	1.95	3.58	5.10	6.81	8.04	↓
BV 12 (ii)	Sickness Absence (All staff, excluding RDS)	1.97	3.98	5.94	8.20	8.68	↓

<sup>1</sup> EOY – End of Year

		2019/20				2018/2019 EOY	Compared to previous EOY
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
	Home Fire Safety Checks and refits completed	852	1773	3546	5296	3555	↑
LPI 77	Total number of Protective Full Risk Inspections (FI) and Re-Inspections (RI) Completed	199	407	554	735	852	↓
LPI 78	Percentage of Protective Risk Inspections in high risk areas (sleeping risk)	89.23	75.41	69.23	88.00	81.82	↑
	Average of Full Response Time*	10:20	10:22	10:22	10:19	10:40	↓

### Table Notes:

**BVPI 143 (i)** The No. of deaths arising from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population – This figure has risen due to one accidental fire death in 2019/20 compared to none in 2018/19

**BVPI 207** Non-Domestic Fires per 1000 Non-Domestic – the increase in this figures relates to an additional 9 non-domestic property fires compared with the previous year. 152 fires in 25,117 Non-Domestic Properties in 2018/19 compared to 161 fires in 25,117 Non-Domestic Properties in 2019/20.

**BVPI 143 (ii)** The No. of injuries (excluding precautionary checks), arising from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population – compared against 2018/19 there were 3 more injuries arising from accidental dwelling fires and it should be noted that there was an increase in the population. (18/19 = 18 injuries against a population of 741,200 compared with 19/20 = 21 injuries against a population of 747,622).

**BVPI 142 (iii)** Accidental fires in Dwellings per 10,000 dwellings – There was an increase of 7 additional accidental dwelling fires compared with 18/19 which has seen a rise in this area. In 18/19 we attended 307 accidental dwelling fires compared to 314 in 19/20

**LPI 77** Total number of Protective Full Risk Inspections (FI) and Re-Inspections (RI) Completed – The total number of Full Risk inspections has been impacted slightly on the overall end of year average due to a capacity decrease through loss of inspecting staff and subsequently the recruitment and developing of three new inspecting officers.

## **4. Financial Assurance**

- 4.1 The Authority is responsible for ensuring that the Services business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and is required to ensure that finances are used to ensure a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 4.2 Following governance transfer in January 2019 and the 3 months statements of Accounts produced for 2018/19, the Authority has produced an annual Statement of Accounts for the full 2019/20 financial year, ensuring compliance with Codes of Practice issued by CIPFA. The Statement of Accounts includes within it an Annual Governance Statement which assesses controls within the Authority, making recommendations for changes in the following year.
- 4.3 The pre-audit Statement of Accounts for the 12 month period will be published by the statutory deadline of the 31 August 2020 and a workshop will take place with auditors, officers and Joint Independent Audit Committee members to scrutinise the Statements before that date.
- 4.4 The Statement of Accounts will be subject to External Audit and the accounts, alongside the audit report to those charged with governance (the ISA260) will be considered at a future Joint Independent Audit Committee prior to sign off.
- 4.5 As with 2018/19, the NCFRA Statement of Accounts will be externally audited by Ernst and Young LLP (EY) and the audit will give both an audit opinion and a value for money opinion on the Accounts. The date for the external audit to be undertaken and production of the audit opinion is currently anticipated in July/August 2020, however, this may be subject to change due to external audit availability.
- 4.6 When published, the Northamptonshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority Draft (pre-audit) Statement of Accounts for the period 2019/20 will be available on the PFCC website.

## **5. Governance Assurance**

- 5.1 The governance of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service is the responsibility of The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire
- 5.2 Governance is concerned with how the Authority manages its affairs on a day to day basis including its business practices, standards of conduct and overall management

procedures. The 'rules' for how the Authority conducts business are set out in the Corporate Governance Framework which can be found at:

<http://www.northantspfcc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/NCFRA-Corporate-Governance-Framework.pdf>

5.3 For the period 2019/20, the Authority will prepare within the Statement of Accounts an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which is subject to Audit and remains open until the Accounts are audited and signed. The Statement includes:

- an acknowledgement of responsibility for ensuring there is a sound system of governance and system of internal control;
- a brief description of the key elements of the governance arrangements including explicit areas such as internal audit and risk management;
- a brief description of the process that has been applied in maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the governance arrangements;
- an evaluation of the level of assurance that the systems and processes that comprise the governance arrangements can provide an outline of the actions taken, or proposed, to deal with significant governance and internal control issues.

5.4 The 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement for the Authority for the 12 month period will be included in the Statement of Accounts and can be found on the OPFCC website in the 2019/20 draft Statement of Accounts (when published).

5.5 An Internal Audit Plan was in place for the Authority during 2019/20. An update on the audit findings and recommendations is considered at each Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) and summarised within the Annual Governance Statement within the Statement of Accounts.

## **6. Operational Assurance**

6.1 The Northamptonshire Commissioners Fire and Rescue Authority has carried out its functions in accordance with the defined statutory and policy framework in which it is required to operate. The key documents setting this out are:

- [the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004](#)
- [the Civil Contingencies Act 2004](#)
- [the Regulatory Reform \(Fire Safety\) Order 2005](#)
- [the Fire and Rescue Services \(Emergencies\) \(England\) Order 2007](#)
- [the Localism Act 2011](#)
- [the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England](#)
- [the Health and Safety Act at Work etc Act 1974](#)

- 6.2 Whilst the Authority is primarily a locally based service, mutual aid arrangements are in place with other services to provide resilience for large scale or complex incidents where additional resources need to be called on. The Authority contributes to national resilience and can make a number of its assets available to support a national emergency.
- 6.3 The Authority has robust Business Continuity Management (BCM) plans in place which are integral to our strategy in managing corporate risk and to provide, in the event of a major disruption, a fire and rescue service to the community.
- 6.4 The Authority publishes an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) that sets out details of its operational service provision and improvement plans at a local, regional and national level, together with individual delivery plans. The current Plan covers the period 2019 – 2022.
- 6.5 A copy of the Current Fire and Rescue plan, IRMP, and related documents can be found on our website at:  
<http://www.northantspfcc.org.uk/fire-and-rescue-plan/>
- 6.6 The service was subject to an inspection by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS) in November 2018. The report findings were:

Effectiveness	Requires Improvement
Efficiency	Requires Improvement
People	Requires Improvement

- 6.7 Understanding the risk of fires and other emergencies, as well as promoting the rights values and cultures were both graded as Good.
- 6.8 Two areas (responding to fires and other emergencies and getting the right people with the right skills) were graded inadequate and were therefore subject to a revisit in June 2019. The inspectorate found that encouraging signs of progress were there on both areas in the revisit.
- 6.9 The service was subject to a further revisit in March 2020. The inspection team found that the tangible improvements the Service had made had mitigated the risks to public safety that they identified in their original inspection and there was no longer any requirement to carry out any further revisits on these causes of concern.
- 6.10 In a letter to the Chief Fire Officer, Inspectors said that there was “a vast improvement” of fire engine availability and that staff were not all up to date with their safety-critical training.

- 6.9 The full inspection report can be found at:  
<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/frs-assessment/frs-2018/northamptonshire/>

And a copy of the letter can viewed here:  
<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/northamptonshire-frs-revisit-letter-2020.pdf>

## **7. Overall Assurance Arrangements**

- 7.1 The assurance arrangements that the Authority had in place are considered to meet the requirements set out in the National Framework.

## **8. Recommendations**

- 8.1 That the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Panel discuss and consider the content of the report