

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

AWDURDOD TÂN AC ACHUB GOGLEDD CYMRU



NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

A meeting of the EXECUTIVE PANEL will be held MONDAY 10 February 2020 at the Fire and Rescue Headquarters, St Asaph Business Park at 10.00am.

Yours faithfully

Colin Everett
Clerk

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Declaration of Interests

3. Notice of Urgent Matters

Notice of items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2019

5. Matters arising

6. Performance Monitoring April 2019 to December 2019

7. Improvement and Well-being Objectives 2020-21

8. Summary of responses to the 2019 public consultation and the Authority's draft response

9. WG Plans for Reform of Governance of FRAs in Wales (verbal)

10. Future Generations Commissioner for Wales - monitoring and assessing public bodies

11. Urgent Matters

To consider any items which the Chair has decided are urgent (pursuant to Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972) and of which substance has been declared under item 3 above.

PART II

It is recommended pursuant to Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business because it is likely that there would be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in Paragraph(s) 12 to 18 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

None

Report to	Executive Panel	
Date	10 February 2020	
Lead Officer	Shân Morris, Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate Policy and Planning)	
Contact Officer	Pippa Hardwick, Corporate Planning Manager)	
Subject	Performance Monitoring April 2019 – December 2019	

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To provide Members with information relating to North Wales Fire and Rescue Service activity and performance against improvement objectives.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 During the first three quarters of 2019/20 the Service attended 3,735 emergency incidents and false alarms - 11% fewer than in the same period of 2018/19.
- 3 The gradual downward trend in the number of primary fires has continued, with 2.4% fewer attended in the first three quarters of 2019/20 compared with 2018/19.
- 4 The number of secondary fires has reduced by 34% during the first three quarters of this year compared to the same period in 2018/19 when the average temperatures were hotter than usual during the summer months.
- 5 A total of 1,749 false alarms were attended during the first three quarters of this year – slightly fewer than in the same period last year.
- 6 This year, the number of accidental fires in dwellings increased by 10% compared with the same period in 2018/19 where the reported numbers were unusually low (244 to 268).
- 7 Between April and December 2019, there were three fatalities as a result of accidental dwelling fires, compared with five for the same period in 2018/19. Twenty people were recorded as having slight injuries and three people sustained serious injuries as a result of accidental dwelling fires.

RECOMMENDATION

8 That Members note the contents of the performance monitoring report.

INFORMATION

9 Attached at Appendix 1 for Members' information is the monitoring report for the period 1 April to 31 December 2019.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	Helps the Authority to monitor its performance against the improvement and well-being objectives set in the combined improvement and well-being plan 2019/20.
Budget	Helps to highlight any potential impacts on budget due to unanticipated incident activity.
Legal	Assists the Authority with ensuring that there are sufficient resources to meet the altering demands placed on it with changes in incident activity.
Staffing	No implication identified.
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	No implication identified.
Risks	Not satisfying legal requirements to report on and monitor performance that may impact on the ability to ensure that there are sufficient resources to meet demand.

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



**Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Fire and Rescue Service**

PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

April 2019 – December 2019

Figures are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment.

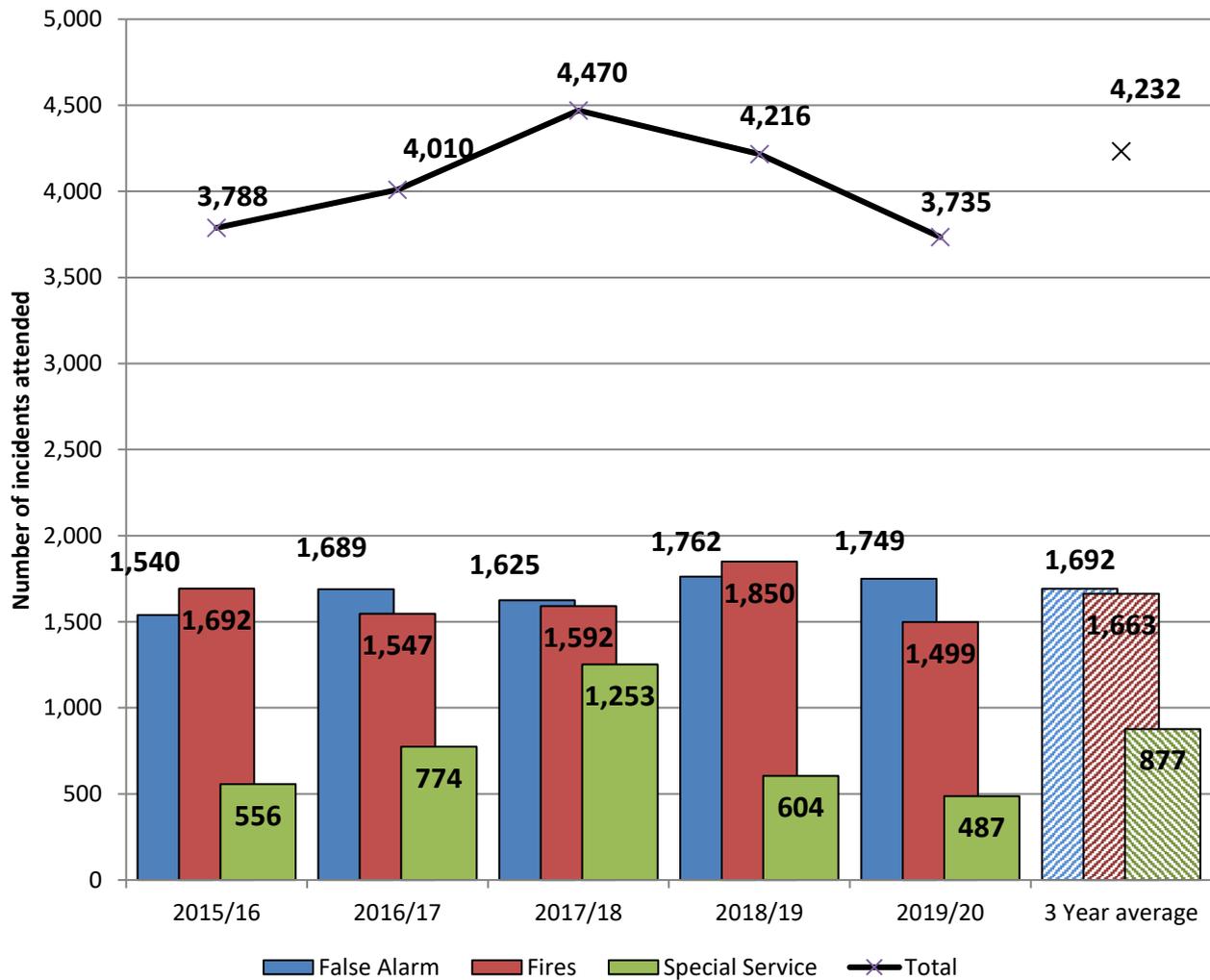
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1.0 All Incidents

1.1 The Service attended a total of 3,735 emergency incidents (fires, false alarms and special service incidents) in North Wales during the first three quarters of 2019/20, 11% fewer incidents than for the same period in 2018/19 and lower than the three-year average.

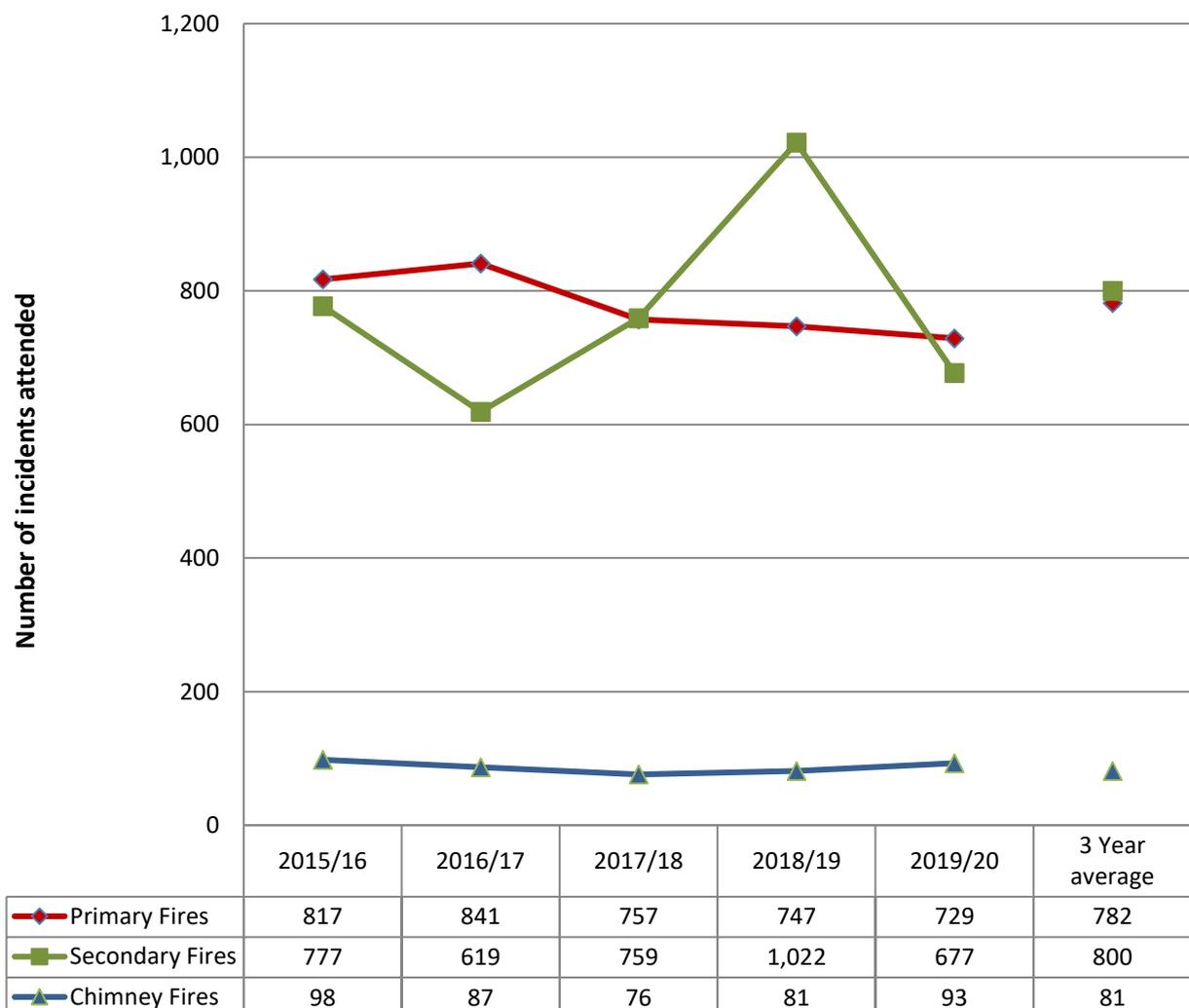
Chart 1. Number of fires, false alarms and special service incidents attended, with 3-year average



2.0 Fires, by Category

- 2.1 During the first three quarters of 2019/20, 40% of the emergency incidents attended were fires (1,499). Of those fires, 729 (49%) were primary fires, 677 (45%) were secondary fires and 93 (6%) were chimney fires. The gradual downward trend in the number of primary fires has continued, with 18 (2%) fewer primary fires attended in the first three quarters of 2019/20 compared with the same period in 2018/19, and 88 (11%) fewer fires when compared with 5 years ago.
- 2.2 The number of secondary fires attended fluctuates more than primary fires as they tend to be associated with weather conditions. The effect of the wetter weather conditions during the first three quarters of 2019/20 is reflected in the 34% reduction in secondary fires when compared with the same period in 2018/19. There was in excess of 10 centimetres more rainfall in Wales between April and December 2019/20 compared with 2018/19.
- 2.3 The number of chimney fires remain consistently low across the Service area.

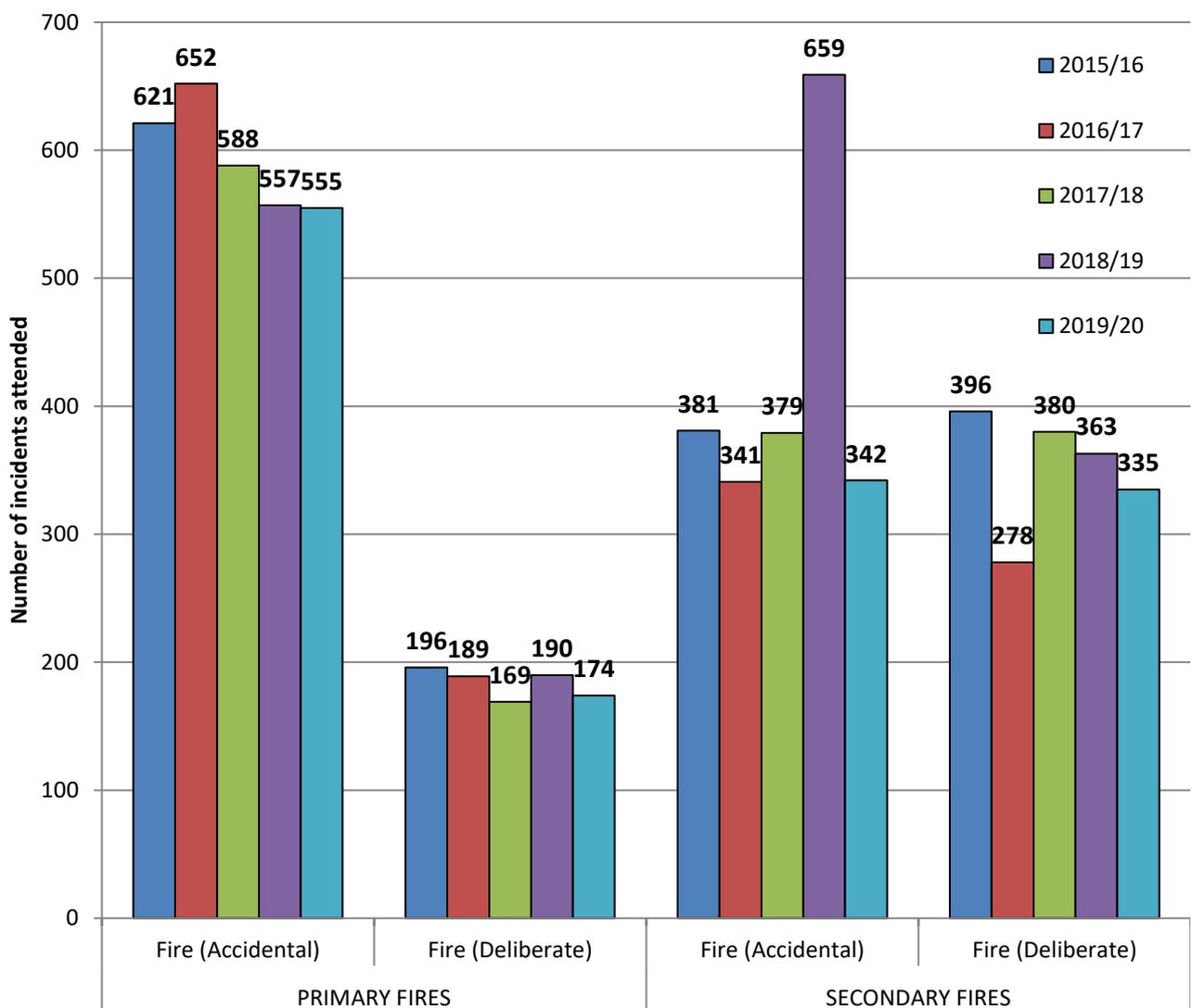
Chart 2. Number of fires attended by category, with 3-year average



3.0 Fires, by Motive

- 3.1 The number of accidental primary fires have remained relatively consistent over recent years and typically account for over 70% of all primary fires.
- 3.2 During the first three quarters of the year, 50% of secondary fires attended were started deliberately which is largely the same as previous years with the exception of 2018/19 when 36% of secondary fires were recorded as deliberate.

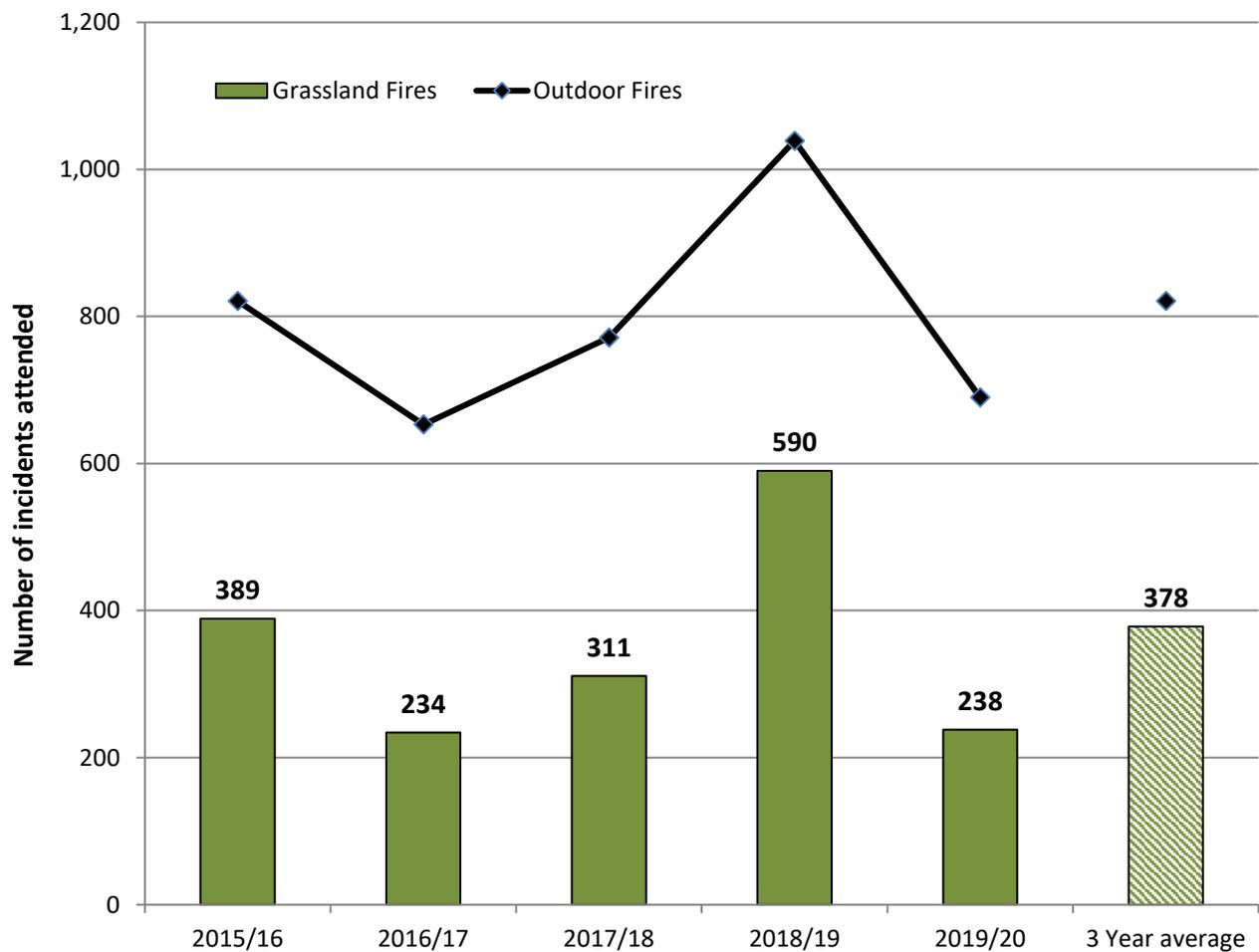
Chart 3. Number of primary and secondary fires attended, by motive with 3-year average



4.0 Outdoor Fires

4.1 During the first three quarters of 2019/20, grassland, woodland and crop fires accounted for 34% of all outdoor fires, with the remainder occurring in: other outdoor locations (36%); outdoor structures (27%); and outdoor equipment and machinery (2%). The effects of hot dry weather during 2018/19 are reflected in the increased number of outdoor fires (1,039), and in particular the spike in grassland, woodland and crop fires (590) that year.

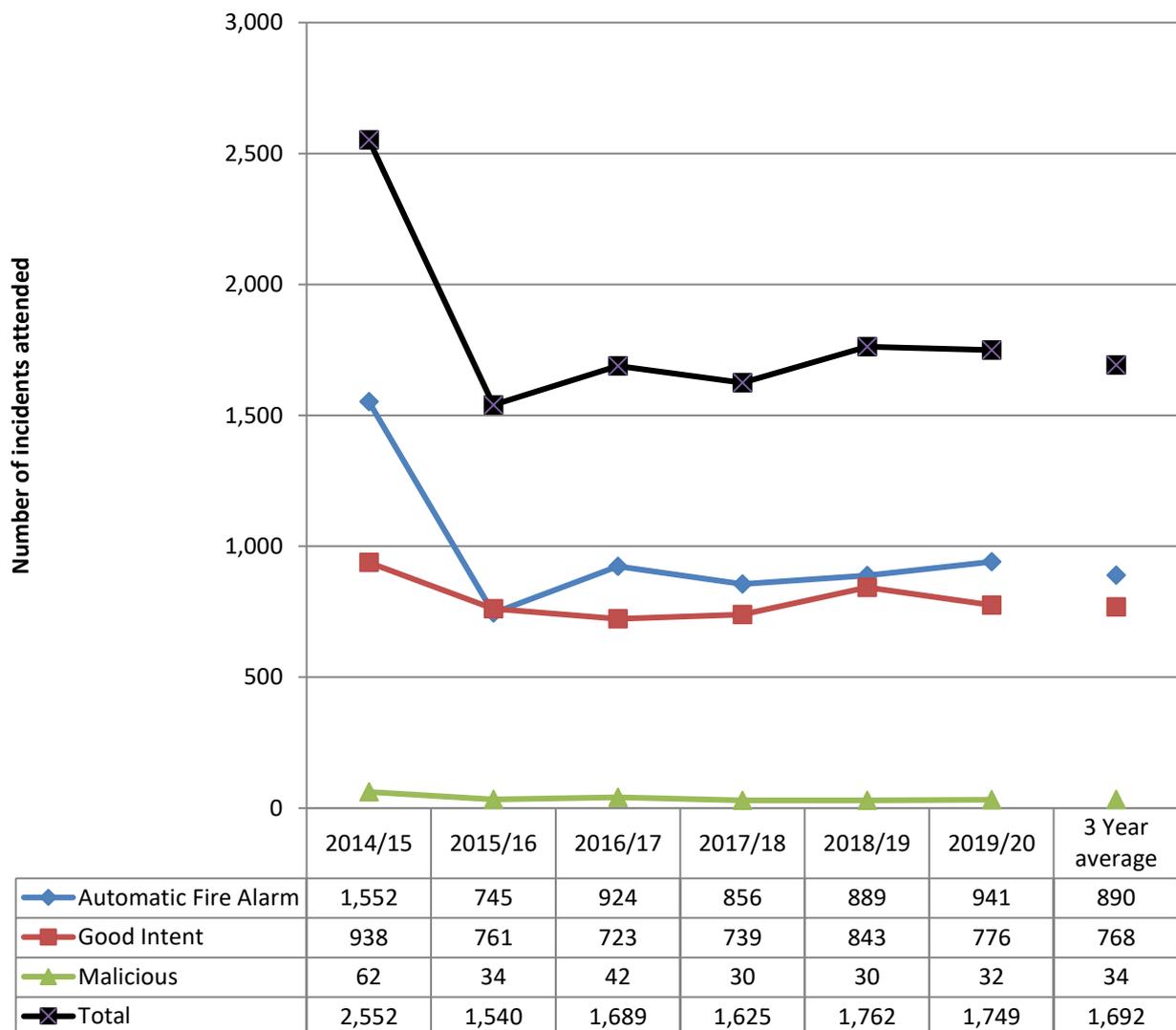
Chart 4. Number of grassland, woodland and crop fires as a proportion of total outdoor fires attended with 3-year average



5.0 False Alarms

- 5.1 The Service attended a total of 1,749 false alarms during the first three quarters of 2019/20. Of these, 54% were automatic false alarms AFAs, 44% were made with good intent whilst the remainder were due to malicious intent (2%).
- 5.2 The overall numbers of false alarms remain lower than before the introduction of the change to the Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) policy (effective from April 2015).

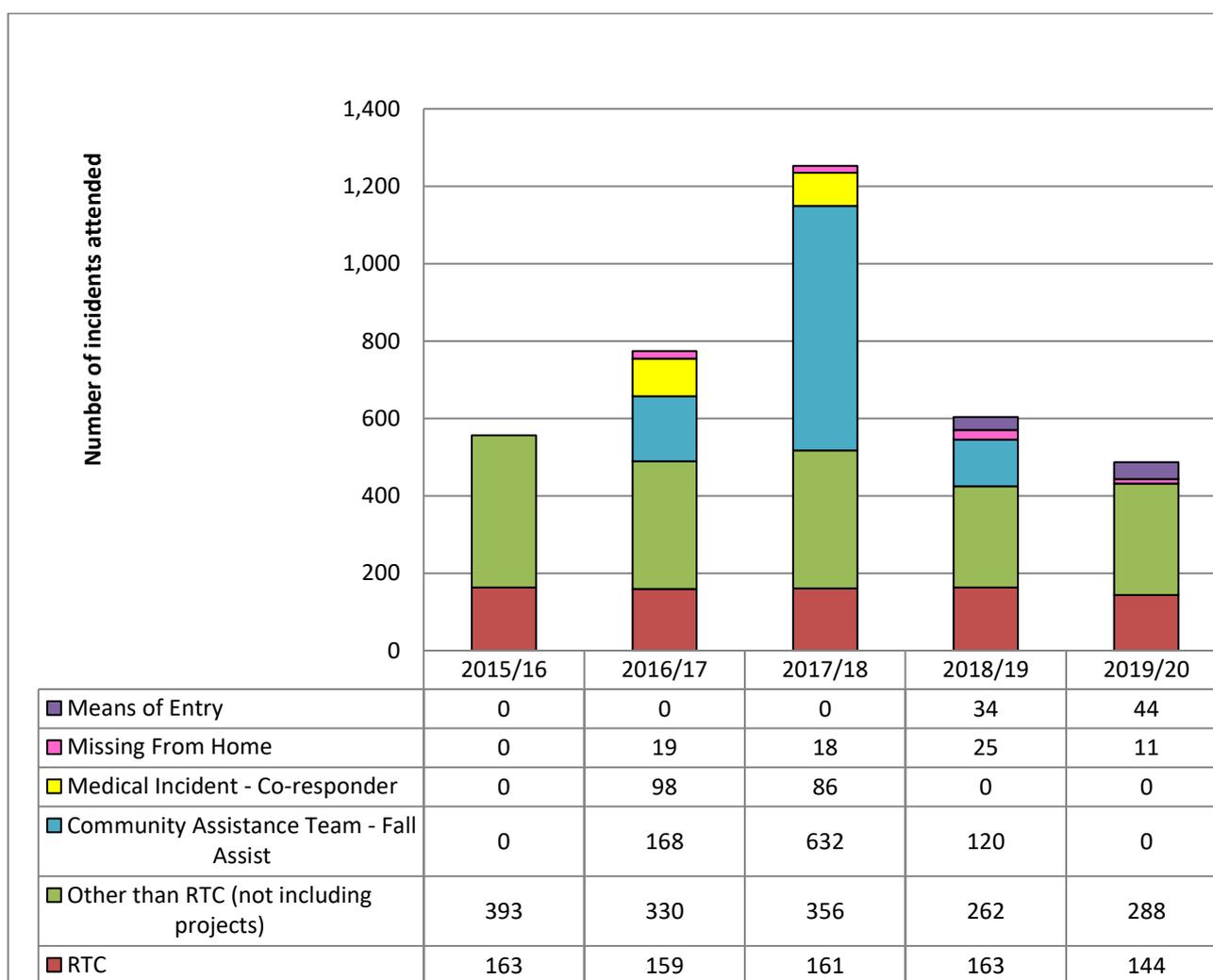
Chart 5. Number of false alarms attended, by category with 3-year average



6.0 Special Service Incidents

- 6.1 Since 2015/16 there has been little change to the number of 'special service incidents attended that were road traffic collisions' (RTCs). In the first three quarters of this year, the Service attended 19 (12%) fewer RTCs than in the same period last year.
- 6.2 In 2017/18 there was an increase in the number of special service incidents 'other than RTC' (excluding projects) which included an increase in the number of flooding related incidents. During 2018/19, which was hotter than average, the number of special service incidents 'other than RTC' (excluding projects), was significantly lower (262).
- 6.3 Since the commencement of 'means of entry', the Service has assisted the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust to access premises on 78 occasions.

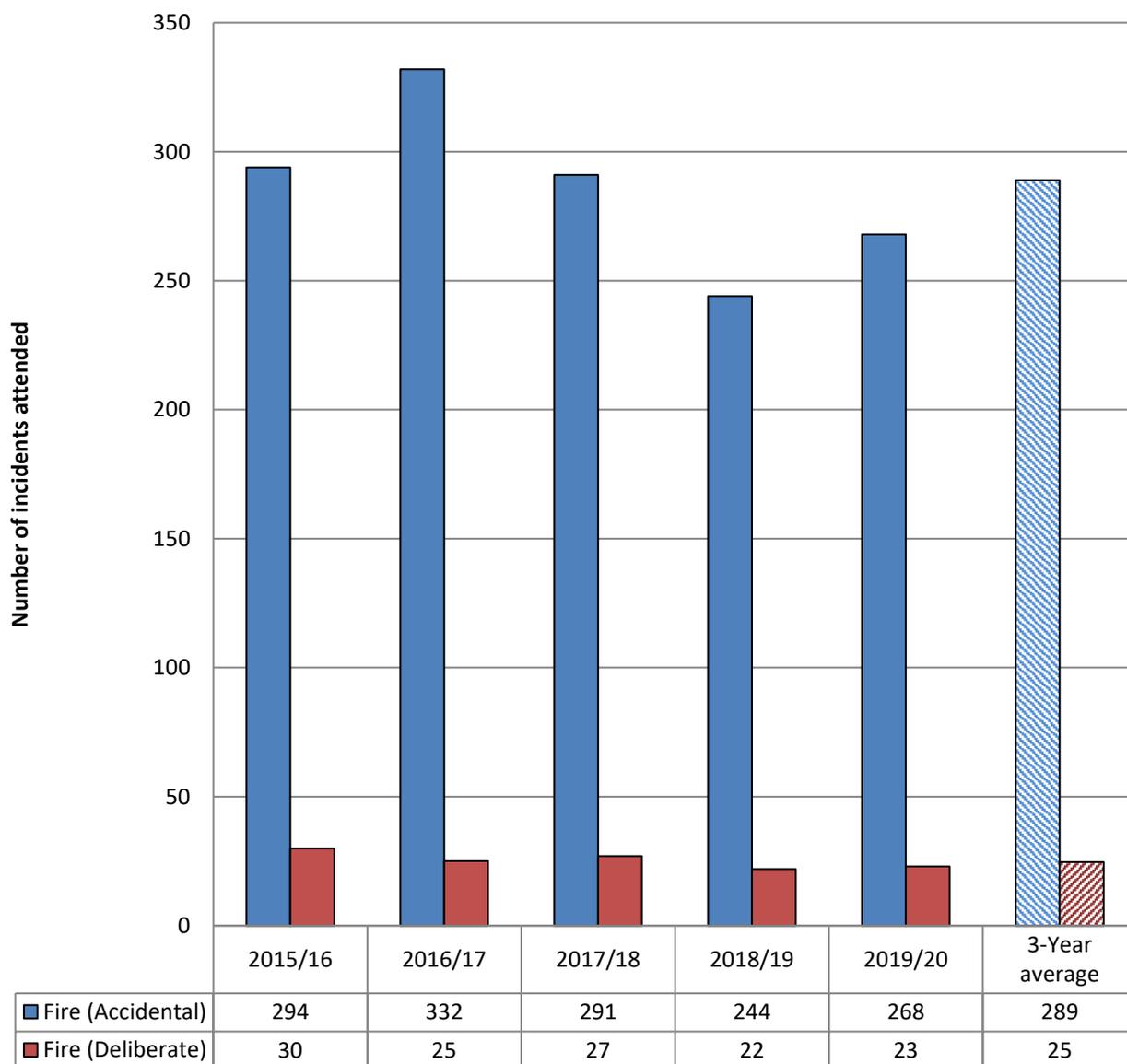
Chart 6. Number of special service incidents, by category



7.0 Monitoring against Improvement and Well-being objective A: *To support people to prevent accidental dwelling fires and stay safe if they do occur.*

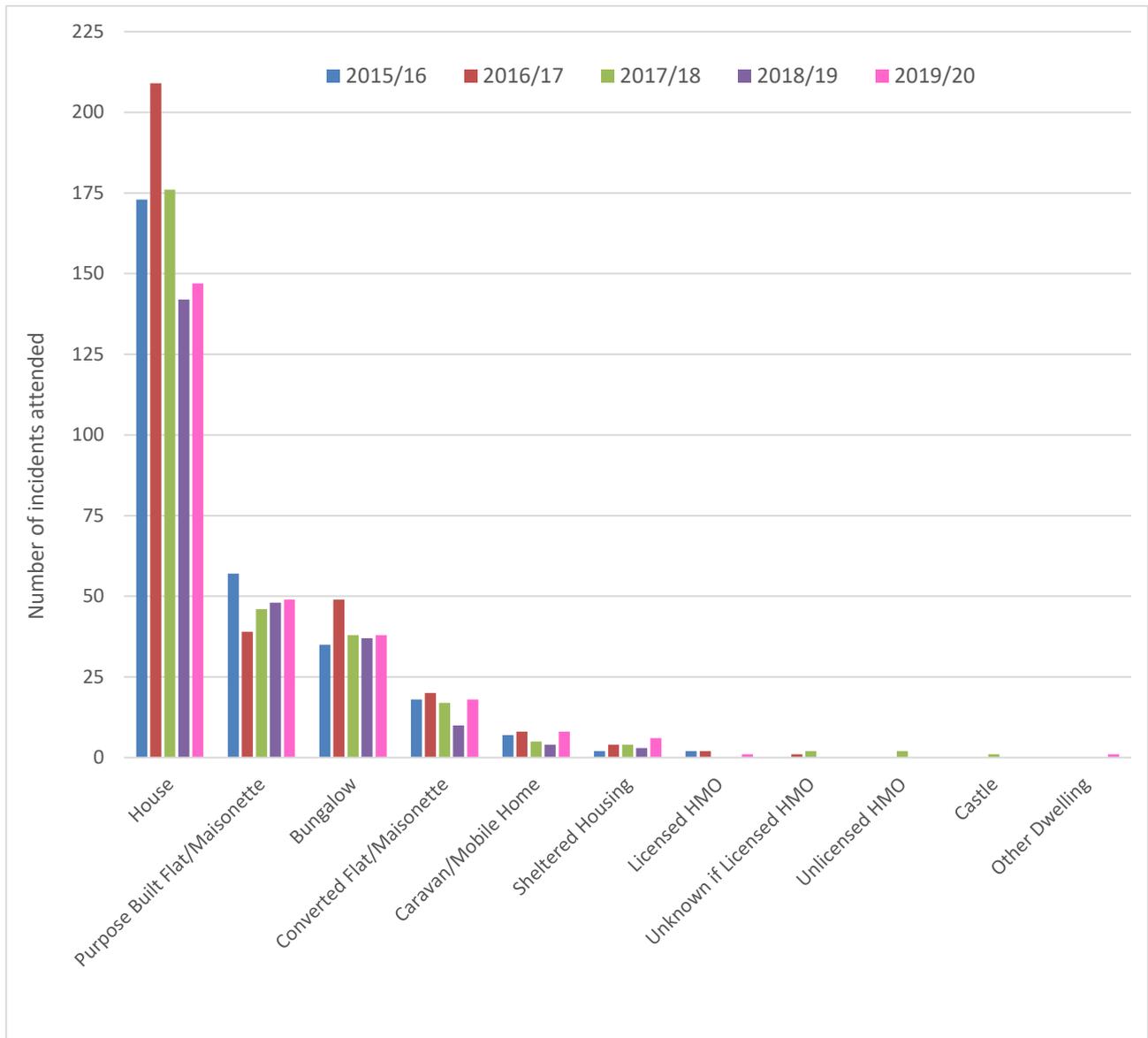
7.1 The number of accidental fires in dwellings fell in 2018/19 to the lowest level ever recorded in North Wales. In the first three quarters of 2019/20 the Service attended 24 (10%) more accidental dwelling fires than during the same period last year, although this is a return to more familiar levels and it remains below the 3 year average.

Chart 7. Number of dwelling fires attended, by motive with 3-year average



7.2 Since 2015/16 the majority of accidental dwelling fires have occurred in houses, purpose built flats/maisonettes and bungalows. In 2019/20, the number of accidental dwelling fires in houses reduced by 29% (129 fires), compared with 2016/17 (182 fires).

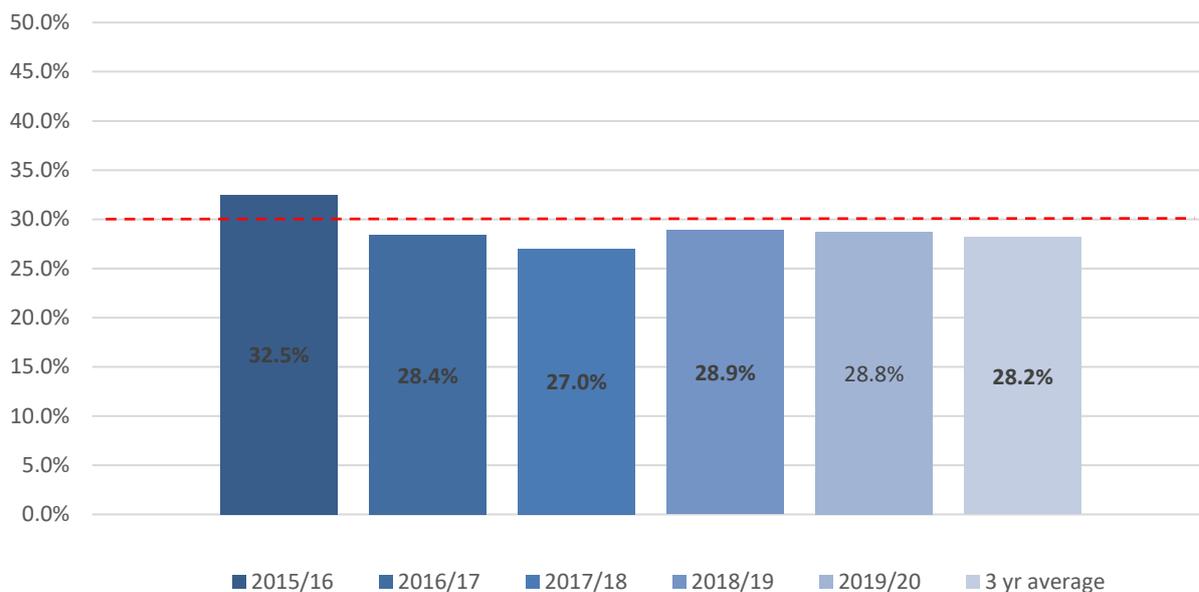
Chart 8. Number of accidental dwelling fires attended, by property type



8.0 Safe and Well Checks

8.1 During the first three quarters of the year 13,966 Safe and Well checks were undertaken, and 4,015 (28.8%) of these originated from partner organisation referrals. This is slightly below the targeted 30%.

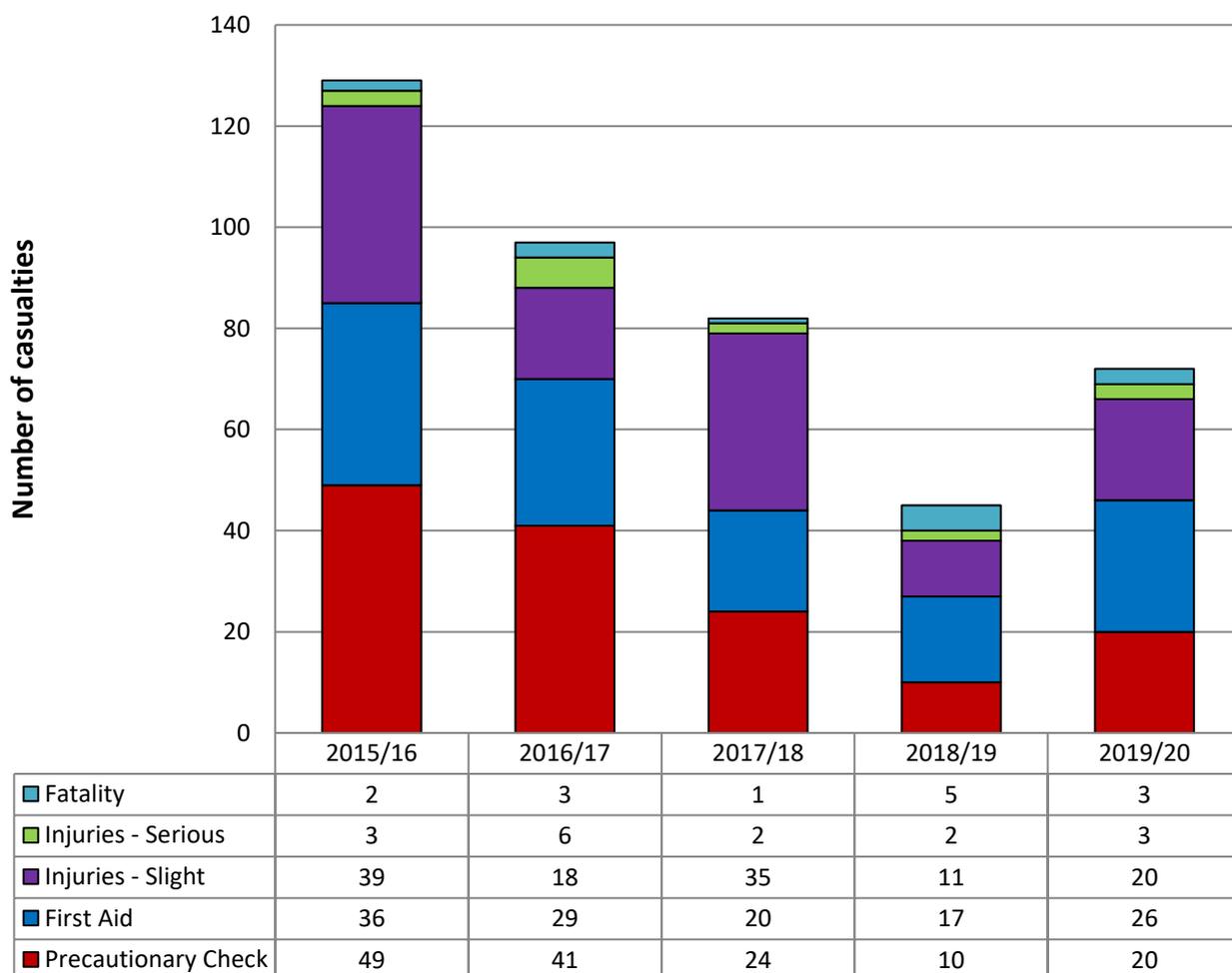
Chart 9. Percentage of safe and well checks completed that originated from a referral made by a partner agency with 3-year average



9.0 Fatalities and Casualties from Accidental Fires in Dwellings

- 9.1 In 2019/20, there were 3 fatalities as a result of accidental dwelling fires compared with 5 for the same period in 2018/19.
- 9.2 Between April and December 2019/20, there were 3 serious injuries compared with 2 in the previous year. During 2019/20, 20 people were recorded as having slight injuries compared with 39 in 2015/16, indicating a gradual downward trend.
- 9.3 A small increase was seen in the number of people receiving first aid at the scene during 2019/20 whilst the number of people who either received a precautionary check, or were advised to see a doctor as a precaution decreased from 49 people in 2015/16 to 20 in 2019/20.

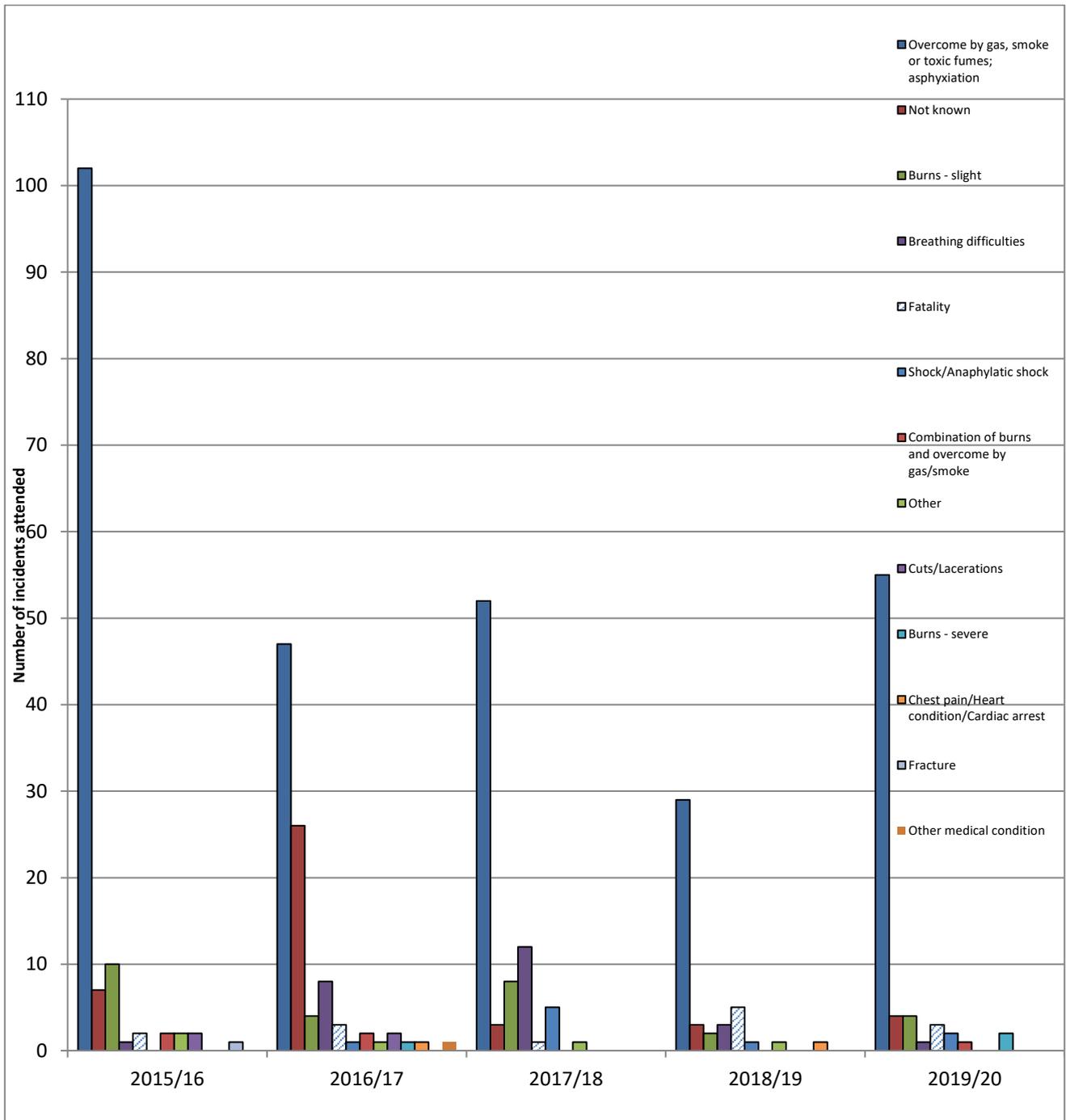
Chart 10. Number of fatalities and injuries from accidental dwelling fires



10.0 Nature of Injury

10.1 Over the 5 year reporting period 2015/16 to 2019/20, the most common injury is 'overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes; asphyxiation'. In 2019/20, 55 people were 'overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes; asphyxiation' compared with 29 during the same period in 2018/19.

Chart 11. Nature of injuries from accidental dwelling fires



Glossary

Fires	All fires fall into one of three categories – primary, secondary or chimney.
Primary Fires	<p>These are fires that are not chimney fires, and which are in any type of building (except if derelict), vehicles, caravans and trailers, outdoor storage, plant and machinery, agricultural and forestry property, and other outdoor structures such as bridges, post boxes, tunnels, etc.</p> <p>Fires in any location are categorised as primary fires if they involved casualties, rescues or escapes, as are fires in any location that were attended by five or more fire appliances.</p>
Secondary Fires	<p>Secondary fires are fires that are neither chimney fires nor primary fires.</p> <p>Secondary fires do not involve casualties, rescues or escapes, and will have been attended by four or fewer fire appliances.</p> <p>Secondary fires are those that would normally occur in locations such as open land, in single trees, fences, telegraph poles, refuse and refuse containers (but not paper banks, which would be considered - in the same way as agricultural and forestry property - to be primary fires), outdoor furniture, traffic lights, etc.</p>
Chimney Fires	<p>These are fires in occupied buildings where the fire is confined within the chimney structure, even if heat or smoke damage extends beyond the chimney itself.</p> <p>Chimney fires do not involve casualties, rescues or escapes, and will have been attended by four or fewer fire appliances.</p>
Special Service Incidents	<p>These are non-fire incidents which require the attendance of an appliance or officer and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Local emergencies e.g. flooding, road traffic incidents, rescue of persons, 'making safe' etc; b) Major disasters; c) Domestic incidents e.g. water leaks, persons locked in or out etc; d) Prior arrangements to attend incidents, which may include some provision of advice and inspections.
False Alarm (general guidance)	<p>Where the FRS attends a location believing there to be an incident, but on arrival discovers that no such incident exists, or existed.</p> <p>Note: if the appliance is 'turned around' by Control before arriving at the incident it is not classed as having been attended and does not need to be reported.</p>
False Alarms - Malicious	These are calls made with the intention of getting the FRS to attend a non-existent incident, including deliberate and suspected malicious intentions.
False Alarms – Good Intent	These are calls made in good faith in the belief that the FRS really would attend a fire or special service incident.
False Alarms - AFA	These are calls initiated by fire alarm and fire-fighting equipment. They include accidental initiation of alarm apparatus or where an alarm operates and a person then routinely calls the FRS as part of a standing arrangement, i.e. with no 'judgement' involved, for example from a security call centre or a nominated person in an organisation.

Report to	Executive Panel
Date	10 February 2020
Lead Officer	Shân Morris, Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate Policy and Planning)
Contact Officer	Pippa Hardwick, Corporate Planning Manager
Subject	Improvement and Well-being Objectives 2020-21



PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To propose, for Members' approval, draft improvement and well-being objectives for 2020/21.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) is required to publish improvement and well-being objectives and to have involved the public and other stakeholders in the process of developing those objectives.
3. This report proposes for Members' approval, draft improvement and well-being objectives for 2020/21 that have been revised and expanded following feedback from the Well-being of Future Generations Commissioner

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. That Members approve the revised and expanded set of improvement and well-being objectives for 2020/21.

BACKGROUND

5. Fire and rescue authorities in Wales are required to publish improvement objectives in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, and well-being objectives in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. For the purposes of the Authority's planning processes these are treated as one and the same in that shorter term improvement objectives can also serve as steps towards achieving longer term well-being objectives.

6. By law the Authority must endeavour to improve its services in the short term and to consider the well-being of future generations of people in the area in the longer term. Its adopted well-being objectives must contribute to meeting Wales' well-being goals, and the Authority must be able to demonstrate that it is taking all reasonable steps (in exercising its functions) to achieve its objectives.
7. The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales' role is to promote the sustainable development principle, act as a guardian for the interests of future generations in Wales, and to support the public bodies listed in the Act to work towards achieving the well-being goals. The Commissioner can make recommendations to a public body about the steps it has taken or proposes to take to set and then meet its well-being objectives. Public bodies must take all reasonable steps to follow the recommendations made by the Commissioner.
8. The Authority's current long-term objectives are:
 - A. to support people to prevent accidental dwelling fires and stay safe if they do occur; and
 - B. to facilitate high quality, responsive and better integrated fire and rescue services so that prevention activity and emergency response continue to be available when and where required, affordably, equitably and on the basis of risk.
9. Following a series of Planning Working Group meetings in 2019 Members considered the Authority's objectives, and the Authority subsequently decided to consult publicly on the development and adoption of an environmental strategy.
10. As part of the Planning Working Group's deliberations, Members considered the impact on the Service of climate change and extreme weather conditions, and the benefit of developing an environmental strategy comprising, for example:
 - resource planning for dealing with extremes of weather-related activity such as widespread flooding and increased grassland fires;
 - public education and collaboration with other organisations to lessen the impact of weather-related incidents on local communities;
 - monitoring and managing the Service's own energy and fuel usage and waste management;
 - revised procurement policies and accounting arrangements;
 - making positive contributions to biodiversity.

11. Members acknowledged that having adopted environmental and energy policy statements several years ago, it would be appropriate to reinvigorate this work through the development of a new environmental strategy for the Authority that addresses the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 more obviously, as well as the work being developed through the Public Services Boards in North Wales.

INFORMATION

Public Consultation 2019

12. The Authority's public consultation ran between September and December 2019. A separate report summarises the response received and presents a draft response from the Authority to the key points that were made.

Improvement and Well-being Objectives for 2020/21

13. Recent feedback from the Well-Being of Future Generations Commissioner suggests the need for the Authority to increase the number of objectives that it is pursuing. This is based on an interpretation of Section 3(2)(a) of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 that a public body must set and publish objectives "...that are designed to maximise its contribution to achieving each of the well-being goals".
14. Members will recall that the well-being goals for Wales are to achieve: a prosperous Wales; a resilient Wales; a healthier Wales; a more equal Wales; a Wales of cohesive communities; a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language; and a globally responsible Wales.
15. On the basis of the response to the public consultation, and notwithstanding any decision by the Authority regarding its revenue and capital budgets for 2020/21, the following improvement and well-being objectives are proposed;
 - **Objective 1:** to work towards making improvements to the health, safety and well-being of people in North Wales
 - **Objective 2:** to continue to work collaboratively to help communities improve their resilience
 - **Objective 3:** to operate as effectively and efficiently as possible, making the best use of the resources available
 - **Objective 4:** to continue to identify opportunities to encourage greater engagement with people, communities, staff and stakeholders
 - **Objective 5:** to maintain a suitably diverse, resilient, skilled, professional and flexible workforce

- **Objective 6:** to develop ways of becoming more environmentally conscious in order to minimise the impact of our activity on the environment
 - **Objective 7:** to ensure that social value and sustainability are considered, including during procurement processes.
16. The shorter-term steps towards achieving these objectives will be contingent on budgetary and resourcing decisions and will need to be drafted accordingly.
17. The expanded set has taken into account the Commissioner's feedback and has also considered how future reporting against the well-being goals and potentially against the National Fire and Rescue Framework can be improved. Once approved the revised set of objectives will need to be incorporated into the final draft Improvement and Well-being Plan 2020/21 for approval by the full Authority at its next meeting in March 2020.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	Increases the number of individual objectives being met by the Authority. Direct implication for agreeing the steps towards the Authority's long-term well-being objectives.
Budget	There is a clear relationship between the Authority's plans for 2020/21 and the level of financial resources available. The budget for 2020/21 must be confirmed by mid-February 2020.
Legal	Supports compliance with improvement planning and well-being legislation.
Staffing	No known impact on staffing levels.
Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language	The impact of specific actions on these aspects will be assessed at the appropriate point in their development.
Risks	Reduces the risks of legal non-compliance and of failing to budget and plan appropriately.

Report to	Executive Panel	
Date	10 February 2020	
Lead Officer	Shân Morris, Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate Policy and Planning)	
Contact Officer	Pippa Hardwick, Corporate Planning Manager	
Subject	Summary of responses to the 2019 public consultation and the Authority's draft response	

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To summarise the response to North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's 2019 public consultation and to present, for approval, a draft response to the written comments received.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) is required to publish improvement and well-being objectives and to have involved the public and other stakeholders in the process of developing those objectives.
3. The 2019 public consultation elicited twenty-four written responses. Although the majority of those responses were supportive of the Authority becoming more environmentally conscious, there was also a recognition of the significant challenge that this would present.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. That Members:
 - (i) note the response to the Authority's 2019 public consultation and take it into account when considering the draft set of improvement and well-being objectives for 2020/21 that is the subject of a separate report to this meeting; and
 - (ii) approve the publication of the draft response from the Authority as provided in Appendix 2.

BACKGROUND

5. Fire and rescue authorities in Wales are required to publish improvement objectives in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, and well-being objectives in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

6. As part of its planning process, the Authority is expected to conduct a public consultation on the objectives that it is considering, and to take responses received into consideration when finalising its plans.
7. In developing its objectives the Authority has for many years run consultation exercises when the general public and others with an interest are encouraged to give their views on aspects of fire and rescue services in the area. In some years the Authority has asked about specific proposals and in others it has invited more general views about the future development of fire and rescue services.
8. Following a series of Planning Working Group meetings in 2019 and having considered the Authority's existing objectives, the Authority decided to consult publicly on the development and adoption of an environmental strategy.
9. Members acknowledged that having adopted environmental and energy policy statements several years ago, it would be appropriate to reinvigorate this work through the development of a new environmental strategy for the Authority that addresses the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 more obviously, as well as the work being developed through the Public Services Boards in North Wales.
10. The consultation introduced the Authority's vision of being an environmentally conscious and responsible organisation that has recognised and planned for dealing with the impacts of climate change (including extremes of weather) on its services.

INFORMATION

Public Consultation 2019

11. The public consultation period ran from September to December 2019 and comprised a range of engagement materials including:
 - a written document providing comprehensive explanation and information uploaded to the website;
 - an online questionnaire, with the option of submitting written responses if preferred; and
 - a bilingual video promoting the public consultation, used primarily on social media.
12. Communication methods included:
 - a press release with a link to the consultation materials and information about how to take part;
 - letters with a copy of the consultation document issued to all stakeholders who had registered to receive such correspondence;

- supporting messages on social media directing people to the consultation, maintaining awareness and highlighting the closing date;
 - articles and reminders in staff newsletters encouraging staff to respond.
13. The online questionnaire invited views on how climate change would impact the Authority's:
- response to emergencies;
 - prevention activity;
 - corporate actions and responsibilities.
14. Appendix 1 contains an analysis of the responses received to the consultation.
15. The majority of the responses were generally supportive of the Authority becoming more environmentally conscious, although a number referred to the significant challenge that this would present, specifically in relation to managing the red fleet and the associated costs.
16. Draft feedback to the consultation responses is provided at Appendix 2.

IMPLICATIONS

Wellbeing Objectives	Direct implication for setting the Authority's long-term well-being objectives and the shorter-term steps towards achieving them.
Budget	Detailed plans for 2020/21 will depend on the level of financial resources available.
Legal	Supports compliance with improvement planning and well-being legislation.
Staffing	None identified.
Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language	The impact of specific actions will be assessed at the appropriate point in their development.
Risks	Reduces the risks of legal non-compliance and of failing to budget and plan appropriately.

Analysis of the written responses received to the 2019 public consultation.

A. RESPONSE

16 responses to the public consultation related to emergency response.

(A1) Staffing and Resources

A number of responses suggested recruiting and training more full- and part-time firefighters and some took the opportunity to suggest improving pay and conditions for part-time firefighters in order to attract and retain more staff. Other responses suggested undertaking engagement with local employers as a way of recruiting more part-time firefighters, and also suggested improving well-being as a way of reducing staff sickness.

Although not directly linked to the development of an environmental strategy it is worth noting that the Authority has conducted a number of recruitment campaigns targeting both whole-time and part-time (RDS) firefighters over the last three years and has successfully appointed into both roles. A number of retained stations have also been trialling a new system whereby availability is managed locally, thus offering more flexibility for individual firefighters.

Firefighter pay and conditions are negotiated at national level through the National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services and are therefore not a matter for the Authority to determine. However, as regards the well-being of its staff, the Service provides a range of supportive measures including access to expert health and well-being support and advice to promote a healthy workforce, as well as a number of employee benefits e.g. access to a leisure discount card scheme.

(A2) Planning and Budgets

Some suggestions recommended undertaking planning in readiness for Brexit and also preparing for an ageing and more vulnerable population.

The Authority already plans for known or emerging risks, both individually and through its membership of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). In the longer term, and taking climate change into account, it will be important to focus on increasing the resilience of communities, raising people's awareness of how to stay safe, and working with partner organisations in order to address the vulnerabilities of an ageing population.

(A3) Collaboration

A number of suggestions focused on working collaboratively in order to relieve the pressure on other public bodies such as the Welsh Ambulance Services Trust (WAST), county councils and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

The Authority has entered into partnership arrangements for many years. This has included trialling a Community Assistance Team (CAT) approach where specially trained members of North Wales Fire and Rescue Service staff would respond instead of the Ambulance Service to (generally older) people who had suffered a fall at home, and although not injured, needed assistance to get up.

Between December 2015 and September 2017, the Service also took part in a national pilot of co-responding that saw fire and rescue staff responding with ambulance staff to medical emergencies that were immediately life-threatening (e.g. heart attacks). The pilot followed similar schemes launched by 43 participating fire and rescue services across the UK. The possibility of integrating co-responding into the firefighter role has been a matter of discussion at a national level as part of firefighters' pay negotiations.

B. PREVENTION.

13 responses to the public consultation related to prevention activity.

(B1) Additional Prevention Activity

Some responses suggested that the Authority could improve its targeting of vulnerable people in communities and also consider directing prevention activity towards road safety, flooding and/or wildfires.

The Authority's long-term well-being objectives have included focusing on the factors that contribute to a person's vulnerability to dwelling fires. The risk factors identified over a decade ago are still relevant today, but the Service continually adapts its advice to address new and additional hazards with householders (e.g. the increase in electrical devices in many homes).

However, the Service's prevention work is not limited to only dwelling fire safety. Safe and Well Checks incorporate checking for a wide range of issues (e.g. alcohol dependency) and include referring or signposting people to the appropriate agency for specialist advice and support.

The Service also works with other organisations to reduce non-fire risks such as improving road safety through targeted presentations to 17–25 year olds on the "Fatal 5" that increase their risks while driving.

(B2) Education

One response to the public consultation proposed increasing the amount of education delivered to school children on the dangers of grass fires and also incorporating environmental objectives into young people's education strategies.

The Service already provides prevention messages during schools visits aimed at educating children to stay safe from fire but also discussing such issues as the dangers of deliberate fire setting and the damage caused to the environment by deliberate fires.

(B3) Planning

One response to the public consultation suggested that the Authority should lobby the Welsh Government for funding for sustainable drainage systems in towns and villages and to re-wet peatlands, create lagoons for flood prevention and irrigation/emergency storage in summer.

Whilst the Authority has no statutory responsibility for flood prevention, national funding is secured each year from Welsh Government for a National Resilience programme. The purpose of this programme is to enhance the fire and rescue service's resilience to a range of catastrophic incidents. To counter the threat from various water-related scenarios, the programme has provided high volume pumps (HVPs), which are strategically positioned around the country and can be used to deal with flooding situations and to assist with firefighting.

(B4) Collaboration

A number of respondents thought that firefighters should work with local authorities to initiate and manage controlled burning and to assist landowners in creating fire breaks in order to reduce the scale of wildfires. Some also suggested that the Authority should work with partners to identify joint areas of work to avoid wasting resources or duplicating prevention work.

The Authority already works in partnership with NRW and a range of other partners across Wales to reduce incidences of arson, and wildfire is a key component of this work. A number of Service managers have been trained as wildfire tactical advisors who work alongside NRW and landowners during wildfire incidents to achieve the best outcome whilst minimising the effect on the environment.

The Authority also collaborates with NRW and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) – the lead agency for flooding – to assist in mitigating the effects of flooding where possible.

C) CORPORATE

13 Responses related to corporate activity.

(C1) Vehicles and Buildings

Some responses related to changing to hybrid/electric vehicles or more fuel-efficient vehicles and introducing greener technology into buildings e.g. solar panels, wind systems and environmentally friendly heating systems.

In relation to the Authority's fleet of vehicles, a few electric vehicles were introduced into the non-emergency fleet in 2015, and steps have been taken over the years to improve environmental efficiency where appropriate (e.g. by installing speed limiters in some vehicles). Evidently, advances in technology will continue to be considered as part of fleet management and vehicle procurement.

Reducing staff travel whilst at work will also form part of the Service's thinking when planning any changes in working practices.

As regards the Authority's buildings, a review has been undertaken to identify more opportunities to become more fuel and energy efficient, recognising the value of e.g. improving insulation and installing LED lighting, but also ensuring that the affordability period of cost recovery is taken into account.

(C2) Recycling/Reusing/Reducing Waste

One respondent suggested that the Authority could share facilities with other services such as police, ambulance, coastguard to reduce environmental impact. Another response advocated 'end of life' purchasing programmes to promote sustainability with measurable recycling outcomes.

This is an area that the Authority will be looking to improve through its new environmental strategy. However, it is worth noting that the Authority has already embarked on e.g. sharing premises with police and ambulance services, and contributing to organisations such as Fire Aid who work worldwide with charities redistributing redundant and decommissioned equipment to deprived areas of the world.

(C3) Education and Awareness

One respondent suggested appointing environmental champions at political, strategic, tactical and operational levels and including the environmental objectives in induction training for new staff.

Embedding environmental awareness across the whole Authority will form part of the overall environmental strategy.

D) OTHER INFORMATION

Other written responses included:

- a copy of a neighbourhood plan for the Authority to consider
- support for the Authority's vision to be environmentally conscious and encouragement to develop a regional environmental and sustainability strategy for North Wales supported by organisational/area delivery plans
- a view that the Authority's approach should be two-fold in that it should seek to:
 - a) minimise its own environmentally damaging practices as far as possible and
 - b) call for changes in practice of other organisations whose activities have an impact on the work of the Authority.

Draft Response from the Authority

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to respond to North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's 2019 public consultation.

As outlined in our consultation materials, the Authority proposes to develop a new, comprehensive Environmental Strategy that reflects its aspiration to both reduce its impact on the Environment and increase its resilience to the effects of climate change so that we can continue to deliver excellent prevention and emergency response services.

This is not new. The Authority has long recognised its responsibility for protecting the Environment and has already taken steps to moderate its consumption, increase its recycling and reduce the impact of its operations on the Environment. However, we recognise that we need a co-ordinated strategy so that we can assure ourselves and – importantly - demonstrate to others that we are doing as much as we can in this regard.

The Authority's vision is to be an environmentally conscious and responsible organisation. This is important not only for making a positive contribution to the Environment, but also because more frequent extreme weather events have a direct impact on the demand for our services. This presents a significant financial risk to the Authority, and we need to do what we can to prepare to meet those challenges and continue to provide our vital services.

The response to our consultation was encouraging. There was clearly support for us to pursue our vision of becoming increasingly environmentally conscious and responsible, but there was also a recognition that this would not be easy to achieve. We understand this, and know that there will inevitably be difficult issues to tackle, such as financing and resourcing any changes. However, we also understand how important it is to our communities to know that they can rely on the availability of excellent fire and rescue services when they need them.

We won't be working alone. We already collaborate closely with a range of other organisations across North Wales, and we anticipate that by working together to tackle some issues jointly, we should be able to achieve more than if we all worked separately.

As always, we will be providing regular reports on progress and we look forward to playing an even greater part in protecting the Environment.

Report to	Executive Panel
Date	10 February 2020
Lead Officer	Shân Morris, Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate Policy and Planning)
Contact Officer	Pippa Hardwick, Corporate Planning Manager
Subject	Future Generations Commissioner for Wales - monitoring and assessing public bodies



PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform Members of the Future Generations Commissioner's for Wales' overall findings on how public bodies progressed towards their well-being objectives in 2017/18, with specific information relating to how fire and rescue authorities in Wales are implementing the Act.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) is required to publish improvement and well-being objectives and to have involved the public and other stakeholders in the process of developing those objectives.
3. The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales (the Commissioner) has a duty to monitor and assess the extent to which public bodies are meeting their well-being objectives.
4. The Commissioner published a report in October 2019 looking back at progress made by public bodies during 2017/18. In addition to five general findings, it also reports findings across the range of public sector bodies, including fire and rescue authorities.
5. The findings within the report have been considered and used to revise and expand the Authority's draft improvement and well-being objectives for 2020/21.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. That Members note the content of the Commissioner's report and the actions taken by the Authority to address the findings.

BACKGROUND

7. Fire and rescue authorities in Wales are required to publish improvement objectives in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, and well-being objectives in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
8. By law the Authority must endeavour to improve its services in the short term and to consider the well-being of future generations of people in the area in the longer term. Its adopted well-being objectives must contribute to meeting Wales' well-being goals, and the Authority must be able to demonstrate that it is taking all reasonable steps (in exercising its functions) to achieve its objectives.
9. Members will recall that the well-being goals for Wales are to achieve: a prosperous Wales; a resilient Wales; a healthier Wales; a more equal Wales; a Wales of cohesive communities; a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language; and a globally responsible Wales.
10. The Commissioner's role is to promote the sustainable development principle, act as a guardian for the interests of future generations in Wales, and to support the public bodies listed in the Act to work towards achieving the well-being goals.
11. The Commissioner also has a duty to monitor and assess the extent to which public bodies are meeting their well-being objectives, and can make recommendations to a public body about the steps it has taken or proposes to take to set and then achieve its well-being objectives.

INFORMATION

12. In October 2019 the Commissioner published a report looking back at progress made by public bodies during 2017/18.
13. The Commissioner's report provides overall findings on how public bodies progressed towards their well-being objectives and feedback on how they were implementing the Act during 2017/18.
14. In addition to five general findings, the report provides findings across the range of public sector bodies, including fire and rescue authorities. Appendix 1 contains an extract of the report.

15. The Commissioner's findings have been considered to revise and expand the Authority's draft improvement and well-being objectives for 2020/21. Once approved the revised set of objectives will be incorporated into the final draft Improvement and Well-being Plan 2020/21 for approval by the full Authority at its next meeting in March 2020.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	Increases the number of individual objectives being met by the Authority. Direct implication for agreeing the steps towards the Authority's long-term well-being objectives.
Budget	There is a clear relationship between the Authority's plans for 2020/21 and the level of financial resources available. The budget for 2020/21 must be confirmed by mid-February 2020.
Legal	Supports compliance with improvement planning and well-being legislation.
Staffing	No known impact on staffing levels.
Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language	The impact of specific actions on these aspects will be assessed at the appropriate point in their development.
Risks	Reduces the risks of legal non-compliance and of failing to budget and plan appropriately.

Findings across fire and rescue authorities

Fire and Rescue Services are demonstrating how they have embraced the Well-being of Future Generations Act through case studies, collaborative working and fostering cultural change.

But there is some variation in demonstrating how setting objectives and decision-making is applying the five ways of working.

There are case studies across the sector demonstrating application of the Act and how this sector are going beyond their 'traditional duties'. For example, implementing 'safe and well' checks in the home and introducing education programmes to prevent arson, fire, general anti-social behaviour and injury. I am encouraged by this and have already shared good examples with others. I would encourage them to do the same through their influence at PSB.

Prevention is now easily demonstrable by the work of the Fire and Rescue Services. There is less evidence in the self-reflection tools on how they are thinking long-term and, despite some good examples, there is an opportunity to better involve people in their planning, strategy and evaluation of services.

As such, these examples are not always shown in the context of using the five ways of working and contributing to the well-being goals. Therefore, further action is needed on explaining how these innovative projects are providing a coherent picture across the organisation in achieving their well-being objectives. This may mean reviewing their objectives and steps to ensure they are still fit for purpose, in accordance with the Commissioner's expectations in 'Well-being in Wales: the journey so far'. I would like to see use of resources, like Future Generations Frameworks and 'journeys towards the well-being goals, to provide further good practice of what Fire and Rescue Services are achieving.

I was told that successful implementation of the Act is largely down to leadership, which includes elected officials, understanding the value of implementing the Act. Whilst I am promoting the sustainable development principle as widely as possible, public bodies must also take ownership at a leadership level to demand change and create culture that allocates time and resource to try different things, challenge the status quo and communicate learning. I want to see this shift in attitude and action – what is different to before should be reported transparently and clearly.



Finally, there is variation between level of detail within well-being objectives across the three services. Some are focused on operational activity and can lack adequate explanation as to how they will seek to maximise contribution to the well-being goals. But in contrast, the case studies provided demonstrate that this is already happening. Again, a coherent narrative on how, as an organisation, they are implementing the Act would be helpful in future annual reports. We would encourage sharing learning with each other, as well as with networks like the Sustainable Development Co-ordinators' Cymru, which brings together officers from across Wales seeking to implement the Act.

Case study:

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service are showing their contribution to a more prosperous Wales, a resilient Wales, a healthier Wales and a globally responsible Wales through their objective to “Support economic sustainability within our business community” and have introduced hydrogen powered vehicles and electric bikes in the Neath Port Talbot and Swansea areas, which enabled personnel in that area to reduce their carbon footprint and move around the city more easily.

Case study:

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service have worked in collaboration towards their objective “To support people to prevent accidental dwelling fires and stay safe if they do occur” by developing a “Safe and Well Check”, which includes advice on gas and electrical safety and hazards that could cause falls to make every contact count with members of the public. Collaborating with Betsi Cadwaldr Health Board, North Wales Police, Local Authorities, third sector and housing associations like Cartefi Conwy, the Fire Service have sought to contribute to a healthier Wales, a Wales of cohesive communities and a more equal Wales through this dedicated work.

Case study:

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Natural Resources Wales have demonstrated the power of collaboration, integration and involvement by seeking to work towards their objective to “Reduce the number of deliberate fires”. A range of methods have been adopted, but the ‘Healthy Hillsides’ project in collaboration with the Wildlife Trust, Local Authorities, other third sector partners, local farmers and the wider community shows contribution to a prosperous Wales, a resilient Wales, a healthier Wales, a Wales of cohesive communities and a globally responsible Wales. Wildfires were having a significant impact on the habitats, water courses and biodiversity of the region, as well as the well-being of the community. By working together, the partnership adopted land management techniques like bracken management, controlled burns and encouraging grazing animals; moving to an approach that prevents wildfires, prevents resources being spent on fire fighting and prevents further habitat loss.