

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	FULL AUTHORITY		
DATE:	20TH MAY 2021	REPORT NO:	CFO/022/021
PRESENTING OFFICER	CFO PHIL GARRIGAN		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	AM OAKFORD	REPORT AUTHOR:	GM THOMAS
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM		
TITLE OF REPORT:	2020/21 FATAL FIRE AND FIFTEEN YEAR TREND ANALYSIS FATAL FIRE REPORT		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A:	FATALITY REPORT 2020/21
	APPENDIX B:	FIFTEEN YEAR TREND ANALYSIS

Purpose of Report

1. To provide members of the Authority with insight into the fatal fires responded to by Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) during 2022/2021.
2. To further provide members with a detailed analysis of the fatal fires responded to by MFRS as a result of accidental dwelling fires over a fifteen-year period.
3. To provide Members of the Authority of the approach adopted by MFRS in order to reduce the impact of such incidents on the communities of Merseyside.

Recommendation

4. That Authority Members note the content of the appended reports.

Introduction and Background

5. Each year, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority's (MFRA) incident information (such as fire reports and fatal fire investigations) is analysed by the Business Intelligence team in consultation with Prevention managers to produce the following annual reports:
 - Fatal Fire Review for the previous financial year and
 - Fatal Fire Review for the previous 15 years.
6. The Business Intelligence Team have provided a fifteen-year trend analysis report enabling larger data analysis and scrutiny to be applied into the causes of such incidents. The two documents are attached as appendices A and B.
7. The data captured within these reports is used to analyse and identify any trends, which then informs the continuous review of the Home Safety Strategy. Fatal fire data represents the tip of the risk profile and to prevent this misleading our targeting

strategies, additional factors are also considered that account for the broader risk across our vulnerable communities.

8. Members of the Authority will recognise commonalities between the 15-year report and the previous financial year report in terms of underlying causes of fatalities in accidental dwelling fires (age, deprivation and lifestyle - smoking).
9. The reports highlight the rationale that underpins our Home Safety Strategy and helps to explain its effectiveness in the continued reduction of accidental dwelling fires for four consecutive years. The use of this data is used to evaluate our current strategy and to better inform the targeting of Fire and Rescue Service resources.
10. The Coronavirus pandemic has changed how the Service has delivered the Home Safety Strategy during this past year. However, we have been able to adopt a risk based approach which has seen the Service keep the most vulnerable safe whilst negating the risk of Covid transmission.
11. MFRA officers are actively engaged with the National Fire Chiefs' Council (NFCC) to inform Prevention policy and directly influence the professionalising of Prevention activity in the sector.
12. Through NFCC work streams, MFRA officers remain directly involved in the development of a Person Centred Approach to fire safety in the home.

Equality and Diversity Implications

13. The fatal fire analysis identifies that people with protected characteristics such as age and disability are disproportionately at risk of fire. In this last reporting year all victims of fire were White British and over 15 years the majority of fatal fire victims were also White British. The continued monitoring of data is used to underpin our targeting strategies.

Staff Implications

14. This report has no significant changes that will impact on staff.

Legal Implications

15. This report has no significant changes that will impact on legal matters.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

16. The recommendations in this report will continue to demonstrate the effectiveness of Prevention interventions which in turn are likely to reduce operational demand and improve community safety.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

17. During 2020/21, the service attended 7 fatal fire incidents (during lockdown periods) despite the continued downward trend in accidental dwelling fires.

18. The Service during this past business year has been severely impacted in the delivery of HFSCs by Operational Staff and it may not be fully determined for some time the impact of this reduction in activity during this period.
19. Our advocate performance during 2020/21 for the delivery of Safe and Well Visits has remained high (80% of the expected target). Visits were triaged on the basis of fire risk outweighing the risk of Covid.
20. To help mitigate risk, the Service carried out leaflet drops to over 300,000 properties reminding the community to the dangers of fire and delivering increased safety messaging on social media platforms.
21. This has resulted in a number of highly vulnerable (to fire) persons being identified.
22. Plans are being made for a gradual and risk assessed re-introduction of HFSC's for Operational Crews through the Strategic Business Continuity Group and in line with the Covid Recovery Road Map.

Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters*

23. The use of the fatal fires analysis to enhance the effectiveness of Prevention interventions assists the Service to make significant and direct contribution towards the Services' mission.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

HMICFRS	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services
MFRA	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
NFCC	National Fire Chief's Council
HFSC	Home Fire Safety Check