



ST HELENS

Community Safety Plan 2014-15



Introduction by the St. Helens District Manager, Chris Case



Welcome to the Community Safety Plan for St. Helens for 2014-15.

As well as focussing on the fire and rescue related risks in St. Helens, this plan reflects our continued role in our local Partnerships, working closely with St Helens Council, Merseyside Police, housing providers, Health Authority, Voluntary and Faith sectors to deliver improved outcomes for our communities.

For example, we share information and deliver joint working so we can help reduce risks to the most vulnerable people in St. Helens.

The aim of this plan is to provide you with an update on our performance and activity from 2013/14 and to provide information on our objectives and the actions we will take during the next year to make St. Helens a safer, stronger community.

This Plan should be read in conjunction with the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) Integrated Risk Management Plan 2013-16.



Contained within the Community Safety Plan are our main objectives and how these will be implemented and achieved across the district in 2014/15. Our four main priorities (our Organisational Objectives) are:

1. Reduce fires, deaths and injuries, road traffic collisions and anti-social behaviour
2. Provide an efficient and effective response to emergency incidents
3. Maintain and improve staff training, safety and competence
4. Maintain and improve, staff health, fitness and welfare

These priorities are determined by a number of influences, including:

- The Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004
- The Fire and Rescue National Framework
- The St Helens Community Safety Partnership Delivery Plan
- The St Helens Council Plan 2013-2016

St. Helens

St Helens sits on the borders of Cheshire and Greater Manchester with a population of approximately 175,000 people, around 12% of the Merseyside population.

St Helens history is inextricably linked to the industrial revolution, being the location of the world's first commercial canal and its first passenger railway. This enabled the town to exploit its natural resources, notably through coal mining which fuelled significant chemical manufacturing and a world-famous glass industry.

Coal mining and glass manufacture once employed around 50,000 people, well over half the local population's workforce. However, the industries that built the town have now declined in importance, with over 30,000 jobs lost in the late 1980s. This fundamental shift in the pattern of employment has been at the heart of the challenges faced ever since.

According to 2011 Census data, 96.6% of the population are listed as White British, with 1.9% of the population having a Black, Minority Ethnic background (BME) which is lower than the Merseyside average.

St Helens is a district of contrasts in terms of deprivation with 3.4% of the borough falling within the most (0-10%) areas of deprivation in Merseyside, 20.3% falling within the most (0-10%) areas on deprivation in the County. 12.7% of the borough falls within the least deprived areas, with areas of affluence in Rainford, Billinge and Rainhill.



St. Helens demographics

St Helens		District Total	% of Merseyside Total	Merseyside Total
Population (mid 2012 estimate)		176114	12.7%	1,385,666
Racial Profile	White: Total	171877	13.2%	1,305,303
	Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Total	1179	5.6%	20,954
	Asian/Asian British: Total	1764	5.8%	30,405
	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Total	248	1.7%	14,552
	Other ethnic group: Total	240	2.4%	9,975
Age Profile	Age 0 to 15	31,896	13.0%	245,093
	Age 16 to 24	19,166	11.4%	168,827
	Age 25 to 34	20,182	11.7%	172,331
	Age 35 to 49	37,445	13.4%	278,882
	Age 50 to 64	34,766	13.3%	261,387
	Age 65 to 74	17,501	14.3%	122,292
	Age 75 to 84	9,986	12.3%	81,512
	Age 85 and over	3,016	12.2%	24,790
Long Term Health	Very good or good health	134,174	12.74%	1,053,041
	Fair health	25,696	13.31%	193,010
	Bad or very bad health	14,088	12.92%	109,063
Dwellings		78,014	12.9%	604,197
Non Domestic Properties		4,371	11.0%	39,789
Land Only (KM)		135.84	21.1%	644.78

Working Population 110999

Benefit Type	StHelens		NorthWest	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
Jobseeker's Allowance	5,010	4.5%	182,320	4.0%
ESA and Incapacity Benefits	10,515	9.5%	360,075	7.9%
Lone parents	2,015	1.8%	65,240	1.4%
Other on income	580	0.5%	18,075	0.4%
Total Out of Work Benefits	18,120	16.3%	625,710	13.8%

Source: Department for Work and Pensions, May 2013

The Team

Your local Management Team for St. Helens are:



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Paul Costello
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District Protection Manager
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In St Helens we have three fire engines and an aerial platform spread across our stations in St Helens, Eccleston and Newton-le-Willows. This allows us to meet our attendance standards in all areas, although the closest appliance will always be sent to any emergency incident. We work with our neighbouring district in Knowsley as well as the Fire and Rescue Services in Cheshire, Lancashire and Greater Manchester.

These stations are staffed by 60 fire fighters and 12 Watch Managers. Our fire engines carry a crew of up to four, plus an officer and hold 1800 litres of water which can be augmented using hydrants. The powerful pumps can deliver up to 4200 litres of water per minute.

The aerial platform is based at St Helens and can reach up to 30 meters to rescue or provide a water jet. Our engines are some of the best equipped in the country, providing kit to deal with incidents such as Fires, Road Traffic Collisions, Water Rescue, Chemical Incidents and Rope Rescue.

St Helens station has a number of partners working alongside firefighters at stations, such as the Health Improvement Team and Youth Offending Team. Our Station at Newton houses firefighters, paramedics and ambulance staff working alongside each other to provide the best levels of service possible.



Community Fire and Rescue Stations



St Helens Fire Station is based on Parr Stocks Road and has a fire engine and aerial platform. Covering the areas of Bold, Sutton, St Helens Town Centre, Blackbrook, Billinge and Seneley Green. The station is staffed 24/7 by highly trained firefighters.

The diverse station area has a large number of industrial areas to cover, as well as several railway lines, canals and high speed road routes such as the St Helens Linkway, M62 and East Lancashire Road. The new St Helens Rugby Stadium at Langtree Park is close to the Fire Station.

The Community Prevention Team is based at the station and work with partners to assist the most vulnerable in our community. Our anti-social Behaviour and Arson Reduction Team work with the Police and the local council to target criminal behaviour, the biggest cause of fire in St Helens and protect those threatened by the use of fire as a weapon.

The Community Protection Team work with local businesses to improve business fire safety.



Newton-le-Willows station is located on Borrton Road in Newton on a site that has seen three previous stations before the current new station was built in 2012.

The station has a single fire engine covering the areas of Newton, Earlestown and Haydock. The station area is bordered by Greater Manchester and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Services with whom we train and have cross border emergency arrangements.

Newton le Willows is a mainly residential with some areas of farmland. In Haydock, there are large industrial and commercial estates in the area. The teams are often called to deal with traffic accidents and emergencies on the road network with the East Lancashire Road, M6 and M62 running through the area.

Community Fire and Rescue Stations

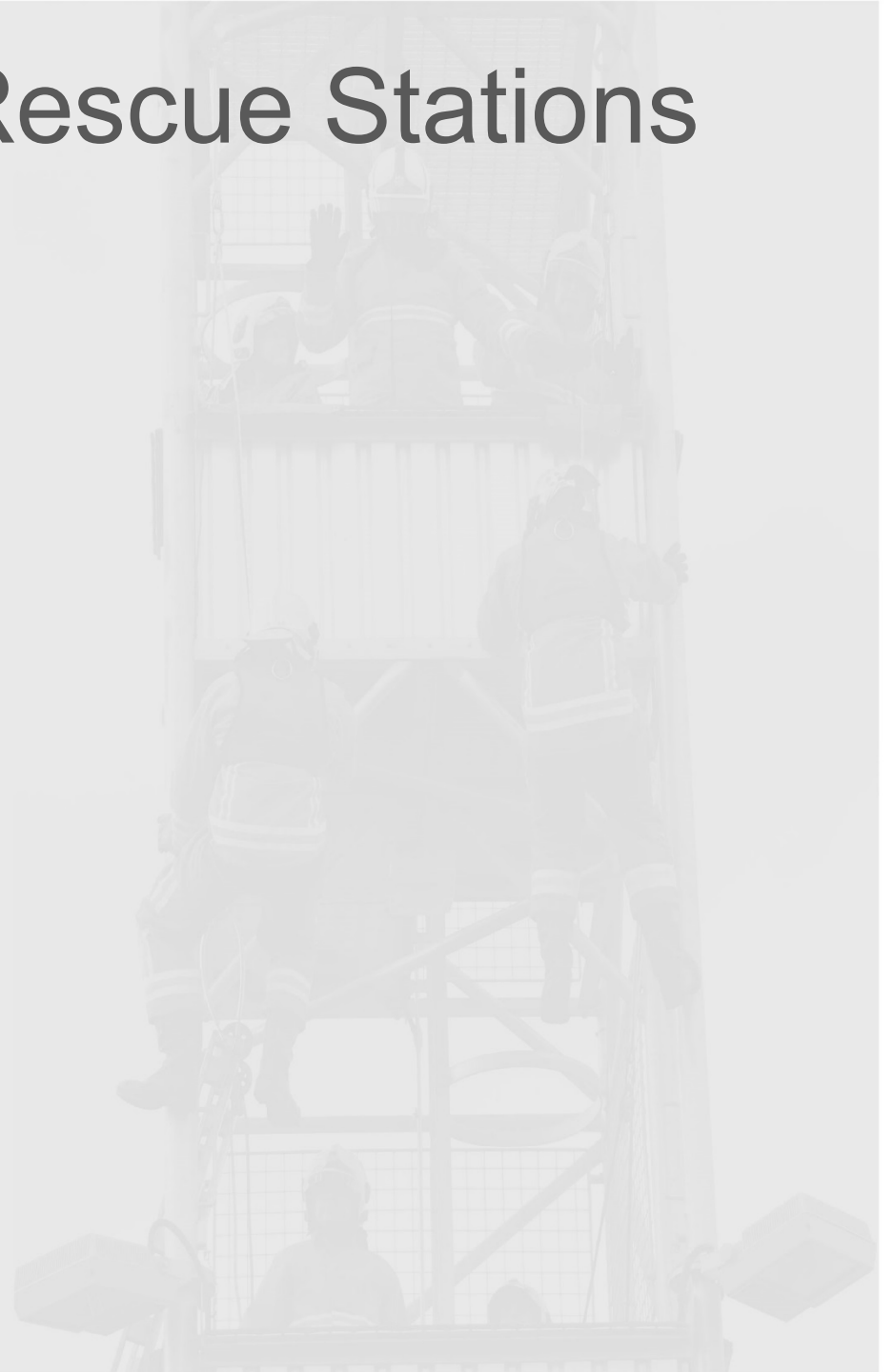


Eccleston Fire Station is located at Millfields alongside Mill Dam and is staffed 24/7 by highly trained firefighters. A single engine covers the areas of Thatto Heath, Eccleston, Windle, Moss Bank and Rainford.

The station area incorporates over 22,000 properties as well as major road infrastructures, railways, industrial factories, inland water risks, colleges and St Helens Town Centre, extending up to Rainford Junction where we border with Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service.

The station area is mainly residential but there are some significant areas of farmland.

Our Prevention and Protection Teams based at St Helens Fire Station work throughout St Helens District.



Our Performance

We have seen another reduction in the number of accidental fires in people's homes and an increase in the number of house fires where a smoke alarm actuated and allowed the occupants to make a safe escape. We have also seen continued reductions in the number of calls to false alarms triggered by automatic fire alarms following the introduction of a new system to challenge such calls and ensure that valuable resources are maintained for real emergencies, training and prevention work.

Our operational crews carried out **5741** home fire safety visits, offering advice and assistance to people to protect themselves from the dangers of house fires. Our prevention teams have visited **805** homes and provided direct intervention to the most vulnerable people in our communities to protect them from the dangers of fire in the home.

Following previous incidents where young people had been seriously injured and killed in swimming accidents in areas of unsupervised open water, our crews maintained a high presence at such areas during the summer months, engaging with young people and offering advice.

During the bonfire period, we worked with our partners on Operation 'Good Guy' to reduce the impact of Halloween and Bonfire on our communities and reduce the number of small fires attended.

Throughout the months of October and November, our Prevention Team, Operational Crews, Neighbourhood Fire-Fighters and volunteers worked alongside partners from the Police, Local Authority and Housing providers to remove combustibles, educate school children and reduce the risk to communities.

Our teams removed over 46 tonnes of rubbish from the St Helens area, engaged with **10,700** school children and staged a number of events to provide diversionary activities for children who may be tempted to engage in anti-social behaviour. 'Carnevil' saw Parr Stocks Road fire station transformed with zombies roaming the corridors, games and activities for over 400 children to enjoy.

Our biggest challenges for 2014/15 are to reduce the number of small fires caused by anti-social behaviour. We saw an overall increase in fires of 68% despite a very successful bonfire period in which we witnessed a 60.4% reduction in the number of small fires attended.

Our Operational Crews have organised and carried out a number of large, complex operational exercises with partner agencies at venues such as Pilkington's. Crews have also trained with neighbouring fire stations at Wigan and Warrington to reflect the need for cross border operations, when required.

We have developed a new partnership with St Helens College where 16 public service students have become student firefighters, attending practical training sessions alongside firefighters at St Helens and volunteering to assist our prevention teams to deliver interventions to vulnerable people.

Incidents in St. Helens

The stations saw an overall reduction in the number of calls for service in 2013.

Number of Calls 2012 / 2013

As detailed in our performance, we saw a significant increase in the number of arson fires we attended due to anti-social behaviour. This stands as our biggest challenge for the coming year. We saw a very high number of grass fires in April 2013 during the unseasonably dry weather, with nearly 200 fires attended in the month.

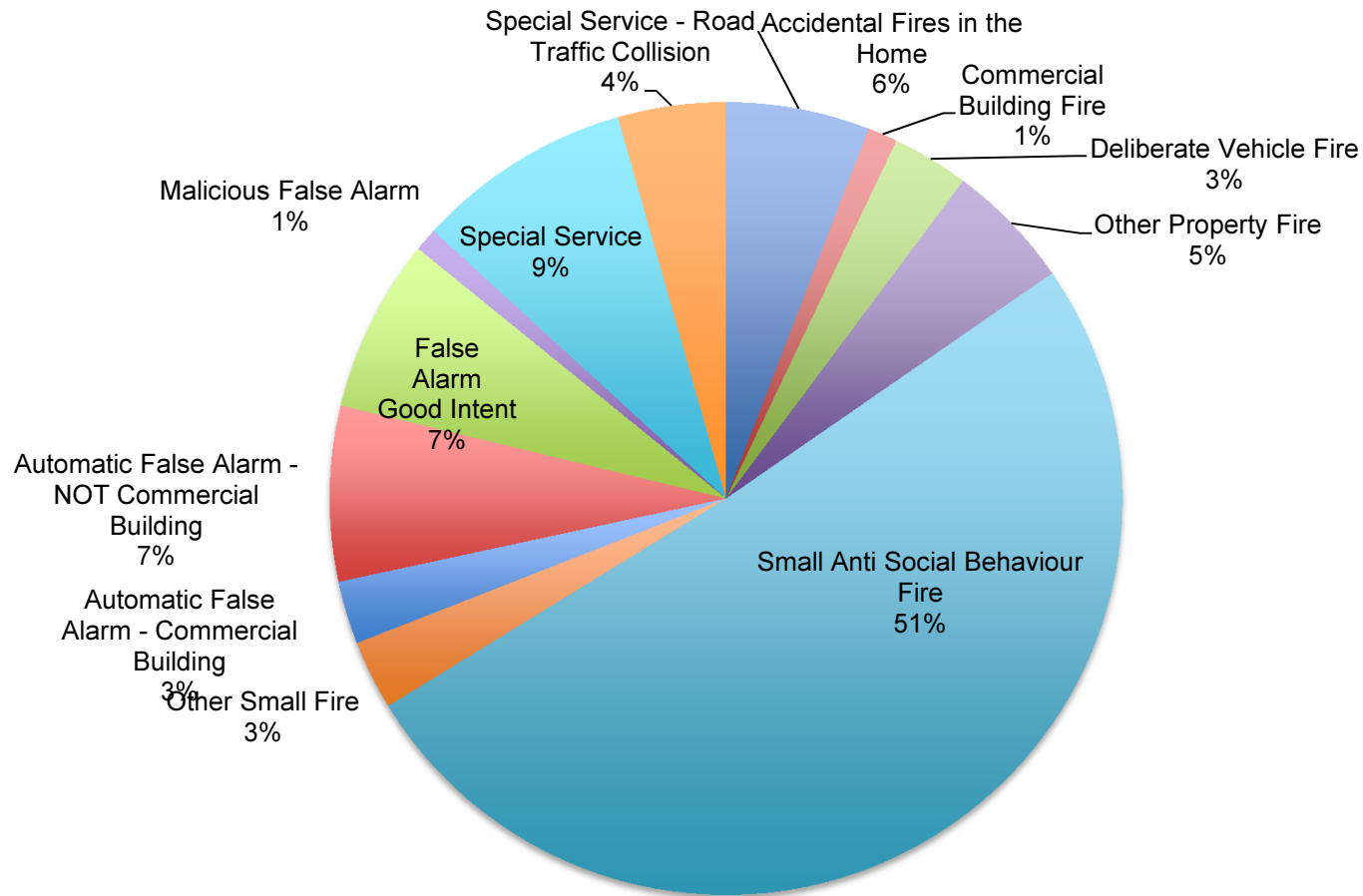
We also witnessed a sustained campaign of deliberate arson attacks on over 60 wheelie bins from August to December 2013. Working in partnership with the Police and Local Authority, an individual was arrested and successfully prosecuted for arson and over 2000 households were visited by our teams and advised on how best to protect themselves from arson. We continue to attend incidents requiring rescue as a result of road traffic collisions, particularly on the M6 and M62 motorways.

Through sharing of information and joint action and initiatives, we have created specific responses with partners to the increases in Arson and the continued concerns of road safety.



Incidents in attended in St. Helens

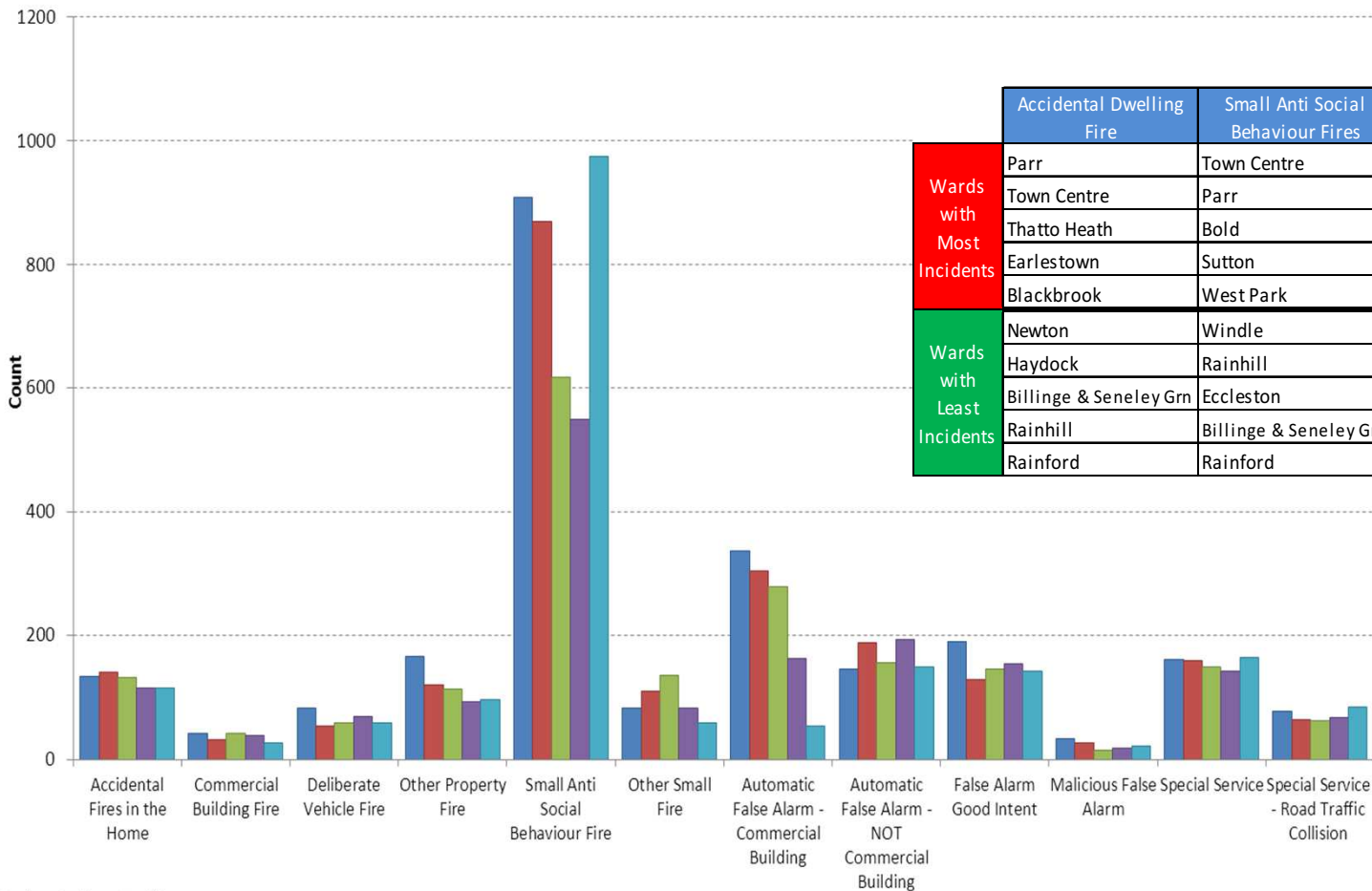
Incidents attended within St Helens during 2013/14 (estimate)



Date: 04/12/2013
Strategy & Performance

Incidents in attended in St. Helens

Incidents Attended in St Helens between 2009/10 - 2013/14 (estimate)



	Accidental Dwelling Fire	Small Anti Social Behaviour Fires	Commercial Buidling Fire	Road Traffic Collisions
Wards with Most Incidents	Parr	Town Centre	Town Centre	Haydock
	Town Centre	Parr	Thatto Heath	Rainford
	Thatto Heath	Bold	Haydock	Rainhill
	Earlestown	Sutton	Bold	Town Centre
	Blackbrook	West Park	Parr	Eccleston
Wards with Least Incidents	Newton	Windle	Earlestown	Moss Bank
	Haydock	Rainhill	Rainford	Parr
	Billinge & Seneley Grn	Eccleston	Blackbrook	Blackbrook
	Rainhill	Billinge & Seneley Grn	Moss Bank	Sutton
	Rainford	Rainford	Billinge & Seneley Grn	Billinge & Seneley Grn

Author: Business Intelligence
 Date: 27/02/2014
 Strategy & Performance

Incident Type
 ■ 2009/10 ■ 2010/11 ■ 2011/12 ■ 2012/13 ■ 2013/14 estimate

Our Plans for St. Helens

Our Organisational Objectives:

We have a number of Organisational Objectives that we want to deliver for every area of Merseyside. These are:

To reduce fires, deaths and injuries, road traffic collisions and anti-social behaviour working with partners and the community to protect the most vulnerable people in Merseyside.

To provide an efficient and effective response to all emergency incidents, for all risks across all areas of Merseyside.

To maintain and improve staff training, safety and competence to ensure they can safely and effectively resolve all emergency incidents.

To maintain and improve, staff health, fitness and welfare to ensure our staff are the best they can be.

We have talked to our partners and studied our performance last year and we aim to improve outcomes for St Helens in 2014/15 by focusing on the following areas:

In response to the fact that the majority of our kitchen fires are occurring in sheltered accommodation properties, Operational Crews and the Prevention Team will be delivering fire safety talks throughout the year in hotspot premises in an effort to educate the occupiers on kitchen and electrical safety.

Following the increase in anti-social behaviour fires, we will use an intelligence led approach in targeting our resources and work in partnership with Merseyside Police, Local Authority, Helena and other housing providers in a bid to reduce such incidents.

We will work in partnership with Merseyside Police and Local Authority Road Safety Team within a dedicated Joint Action Group to address Road Traffic Incidents.

We will link in to St Helens College to support the Public Uniform Services Course. We will attend the enforcement building control forum on a bi-monthly basis to discuss problem buildings within the district.



Action Plan 2014/15

Strategic Aim	Organisational District Plan Objective	Organisational Actions	Local Actions	Location
Excellent Operational Preparedness We will provide our firefighters with the training, information, procedures and equipment to ensure they can safely and effectively resolve all emergency incidents.	Maintain and improve staff training, safety and competence: Local Performance Indicators 98, 99, 120a, 120b, 120c, 120d, 121, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 137, 139	Testing Operational Preparedness against the Standard Operating Procedures and Generic Risk Assessments for locally identified risks on an annual basis.	Crews will identify the local risks and identify priority sites for exercising within the district Exercises to be planned alongside the Resilience Action Group/Community Resilience Group, and in collaboration with partners	Whole District
		Complete Site Specific Risk Information inspections in line with the Service strategy	New Site Specific Risk Information locations explored via partners (e.g. Police, Northwest Ambulance Service, Local Authority)	Whole District
		Complete water surveys (hydrant inspections) in line with the Service strategy	Ensure that water surveys are completed within the prescribed timescales	Whole District
		All personnel to attend core risk critical training courses during 2013/14	Develop and enhance Bulk Foam Unit training capability	Newton
		All personnel to complete allocated Learn Pro packages and on line assessments	Ensure adequate cross border training engaged with neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services	
			All personnel to complete allocated Learnpro assessments and achieve the required pass mark	Whole District

Action Plan 2014/15

Strategic Aim	Organisational District Plan Objective	Organisational Actions	Local Actions	Location
<p>Excellent Operational Response To maintain an excellent emergency response to meet risk across Merseyside with safety and effectiveness at its core.</p>	<p>Provide an efficient and effective response to emergency incidents:</p> <p>Local Performance Indicators 55, 98, 120a, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 98</p>	<p>All operational crews will aspire to achieve an Operational Assurance Team daily audit score of 100%</p> <p>All individual Safe Person Assessments to be completed</p> <p>Achieve Alert to Mobile times within prescribed timescale</p> <p>Manage and reduce accidents and injuries to the lowest achievable level</p>	<p>Undertake a number of local district audits</p> <p>Integrate flood risk awareness into local audits within the district</p> <p>All personnel to complete allocated Safe Person Assessments</p> <p>Watch Managers to ensure resources are mobile to incidents within prescribed timescales</p> <p>Ensure both competence and fitness to respond to all risks efficiently and safely</p>	Whole District

Action Plan 2014/15

Strategic Aim	Organisational District Plan Objective	Organisational Actions	Local Actions	Location
Excellent Prevention and Protection We will work with our partners and our community to protect the most vulnerable through targeted local risk reduction interventions and the robust application of our legal powers.	Reduce fires, deaths and injuries, road traffic collisions and anti-social behaviour:	Reduction in the number of accidental dwelling fires and resultant injuries and fatalities through intelligent targeting of risk in the home using the home fire safety check.	Prevention will be sharing information with partners to ensure we target the most vulnerable/high risk individuals within the district: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekend Hotspot Campaigns • Joint High Risk Home Fire Safety Check Visits • Joint initiatives with Public Health • Neighbourhood Fire-Fighter Role • Regular Safeguarding meetings • Operational Crews will continue water safety awareness 	Whole District
	Local Performance Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e, 6a, 10a, 10b, 10c, 19, 19a, 20, 36, 41, 42, 42a, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 48a, 49, 50, 52, 53, 61, 61a, 61b, 66, 135, 136, 138, 121,	The reduction of Arson and anti-social Behaviour through seasonal pre-planning and arson/hate crime risk assessment and intelligence led target hardening.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal Plans • Response to Serious Incidents/Emerging Trends • Diversionary Events/Activities • Hotspot campaigns 	Whole District
		Enhance Road Safety through education and engagement with young drivers most at risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Traffic Collision Packages for schools, colleges and Young Offenders • Crew Events (Brake) • Road Safety Joint Action Group 	Whole District
		Improve business fire safety in compliance with Regulatory Reform Order (Fire Safety) 2005. Through the application of the Fire Protection Policy and the risk based inspection programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection will work with local businesses to reduce Automatic Fire Alarm actuations and identify any trends • Provide advice and guidance to local businesses to assist growth in line with current legislation • Continue to support Ops Crews with Site Specific Risk Information by providing relevant information (FS150). 	Whole District

Action Plan 2014/15

Strategic Aim	Organisational District Plan Objective	Organisational Actions	Local Actions	Location
<p>Excellent People We will develop and value all our employees, respecting diversity, promoting opportunity and equality for all.</p>	<p>Maintain and improve, staff health, fitness and welfare:</p> <p>Local Performance Indicators 130, 131, 132, 133, 98, 106, 111a, 111b, 112 116, 117, 134</p>	<p>Absence to be managed to lowest achievable levels</p> <p>Completion of appraisals for all staff in January and February</p> <p>Development of staff skills and knowledge through training opportunities</p>	<p>Joint initiatives with Health Improvement Team will monitor and manage absence levels</p> <p>100% completion of Appraisals throughout the District</p> <p>Development of people in enhanced partnership working to experience the different organisations and cultures.</p>	<p>Whole District</p> <p>Whole District</p>
	<p>Unused Local Performance Indicators 93,94,95,96,97,98 Utilities 108, 128 Finance</p>			