MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	**AUTHORITY**		
DATE:	**20 OCTOBER 2016**	**REPORT NO:**	**CFO/079/16**
PRESENTING OFFICER	**DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**AM JAMES BERRY**	**REPORT AUTHOR:**	**JOHN FIELDING**
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	**DEB APPLETON BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE TEAM INCIDENT INVESTIGATION TEAM**		
TITLE OF REPORT:	**HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF FATALITIES IN ACCIDENTAL DWELLING FIRES BETWEEN 2006/07 AND 2015/16**		

APPENDICES:	**APPENDIX A:**	**HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF FATALITIES IN ACCIDENTAL DWELLING FIRES BETWEEN 2006/07 AND 2015/16**

Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members consider the performance and analysis and trends in relation to the Accidental Dwelling Fire Fatalities experienced between 2006/07 and 2015/16.

Recommendation

2. That Members consider performance and analysis concerning Accidental Dwelling Fire Fatalities between 2006/07 and 2015/16

Introduction and Background

3. The purpose of this report is to analyse fatalities from accidental dwelling fires (ADF) between 2006/07 and 2015/16; analysing the circumstances and socio demographic background of such occurrences is undertaken in a way that can then be used to target risk and carry out prevention work.

4. Compared to other incident types that employees of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority (MF&RA) attend, fire fatalities are relatively rare, although their impact is most significant to family members, friends and the community of the deceased.

5. Fatalities in accidental dwelling fires are reported in Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority's Service Delivery Plan as Key Performance Indicator DC12 on a quarterly and annual basis.

Summary

Victim Profile

6. Between 2006/07 and 2015/16 there was a total of 84 fire deaths as a result of accidental dwelling fires; these deaths are attributed to 80 fire incidents.

7. Between 2006/07 and 2010/11, the general trend for fatalities was gradually falling, with a low of 5 deaths during 2010/11 and 2011/12. However since 2012/13 the count of fatalities has increased year on year leading to a high of 16 during 2015/16.

8. The 16 deaths during 2015/16 is the highest number recorded since 2001/02, when 17 deaths took place.

9. When analysed by district, Wirral had the greatest overall number of fire deaths with 29, followed by Liverpool with 26. When compared proportionally to incidents per 100,000 population, Wirral has the greatest number of fire deaths with 9.04 deaths per 100,000 population, compared to Liverpool's 5.50 per 100,000 population.

10. Concerning racial profile, the vast majority of victims were White British – accounting for 79 victims or 94.0%.

11. Concerning the demographic of fire fatalities, there is little bias towards gender with 40 female fatalities and 44 male fatalities. The risk of death in accidental dwelling fires increases with age, with the 40-49 and particularly the 75 and above age groups being at greatest risk.

12. The majority of people who died in Accidental Dwelling Fires were the sole occupants in 54 out of 84 fire fatalities. In combination, 62 victims were alone at the time of the fire that claimed their lives.

Incident Summary

13. Concerning Deprivation and the use of Community and Local Government's (CLG) Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015, the general trend is that fatalities tend to occur more often in deprived areas, with fewer fire deaths affecting affluent areas. When the average age of victims is added to the equation it has been found that victims die younger in deprived areas with victims being older in affluent areas.

14. Concerning Smoke Alarm actuation, in 47 cases a smoke alarm was fitted and actuated, there were 6 occasions where smoke alarms were fitted and did not actuate. There were 16 occurrences where a smoke alarm was <u>not</u> fitted and a further 5 incidents where the fitted smoke alarm was inoperable (i.e. no batteries) - therefore meaning that the resident had no means of early warning. There were 6 occurrences where it was unknown whether the smoke alarm actuated.

15. When analysing Home Fire Safety Check (HFSC) data, 48 victims had received a HFSC visit from MF&RS prior to their fatal incident, 28 had not been visited

and in 4 cases it was not clear whether the individual was an occupier at the time of the visit.

16. When analysing Ignition Sources it has been found that of the 80 fatal incidents, 42 were as a result of *Smokers Materials*. However since 2009/10, where 7 deaths were the result of *Smokers Materials*, there was a gradual reduction with only 1 death attributable to this ignition source during 2011/12 and 2012/13. However since 2013/14, deaths resulting from fires caused by *Smokers Materials* increased to a high of 8 during 2015/16.

17. When analysing the room of origin and the ignition source, it has been found that *Smokers Materials* were responsible for the majority of fire fatalities in the *Living Room* and the *Bedroom*. When the influence of alcohol consumption is taken into account it is apparent that a high number of deaths involving *Smokers Materials* in the *Bedroom* also involved the consumption of alcohol (10 out of 24). Concerning fires that started in the *Living Room* the same principle does not apply.

18. When analysing incidents by month the greatest number of deaths occurred during the autumn / winter months; between November and February. The month of April also tends to have high counts of fire deaths.

19. Concerning fire deaths and day of week, deaths are most likely to occur on Fridays and Mondays.

20. The majority of fire deaths occur between Morning and Evening (07:00 to 21:59), accounting for 43 fatal incidents, or 65% overall.

Equality and Diversity Implications

21. The report identifies risk groups using data relating to equality and diversity. The report uses Gender, Lifestyle and Age Group data in order to identify risk groups across Merseyside

Staff Implications

22. There are no staff implications arising from this report

Legal Implications

23. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, Section 6(1) provides that a fire and rescue authority must make provision for the purpose of promoting fire safety in its area. This includes making arrangements where reasonable to provide information, publicity and advice

Financial Implications & Value for Money

24. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

25. The analysis of data and information relating to deaths in accidental dwelling fires is important in the development of MFRAs prevention strategies. Contribution to Our Mission: Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters

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

26. This report provides analysis of accidental dwelling fire fatality data held by MFRA. The report contributes to the Vision of "Safer Stronger Communities" by identifying at risk individuals (and their characteristics) across Merseyside. This report could be shared with partners as a means of encouraging greater data sharing between MFRA and external organisations

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CFO/111/11 If this report follows on from another, list the previous report(s)

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA	**M**erseyside **F**ire and **R**escue **A**uthority is the physical and legal entity. When writing reports MFRA is the "object".
HFSC	**H**ome **F**ire **S**afety **C**heck
MFRS	**M**erseyside **F**ire and **R**escue **S**ervice is the service provided by MFRA. When writing reports MFRS is the "action"
E.G.	You are employed by the Authority (MFRA). The job you do forms part of the Service (MFRS) provided by the Authority (MFRA). If in doubt use MFRA.
CLG	**C**ommunities and **L**ocal **G**overnment
IMD	**I**ndices of **M**ultiple **D**eprivation