



# ST HELENS

## Community Safety Plan 2015 -16



# Introduction by the St Helens District Manager, Chris Case



Welcome to the Community Safety Plan for St Helens for 2015-16.

working closely with St Helens Council, Merseyside Police, housing providers, the 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 2014/15 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 2015-17.



Contained within the Community Safety Plan are our main objectives and how these will be implemented and achieved across the district in 2015/16. Our four main priorities (our Organisational Objectives) are:

Reduce fires, deaths and injuries, road traffic collisions and antisocial behaviour.

1. Provide an efficient and effective response to emergency incidents.
2. Maintain and improve staff training, safety and competence.
3. Maintain and improve, staff health, fitness and welfare.

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

- The Fire and Rescue Services 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 manufacturing 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 and 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. A total of 12.7% of the borough falls within the least deprived areas, with areas of affluence in Rainford, Billinge and Rainhill.



# St Helens demographics

Racial Profile				
	District Total	Percent of District	% Merseyside Total	Merseyside Total
White: Total	171,877	98.0	13.2	1,305,303
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Total	1,179	0.7	5.6	20,954
Asian/Asian British: Total	1,764	1.0	5.8	30,405
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Total	248	0.1	1.7	14,552
Other Ethnic Groups: Total	240	0.1	2.4	9,975
Whole Population	175,308			1,381,189

Health Profile				
	District Total	Percent of District	% Merseyside Total	Merseyside Total
People in very good or good health	134,603	76.8	12.6	1,068,667
People in fair health	26,198	14.9	13.1	199,347
People in bad or very bad health	14,507	8.3	12.8	113,175



# St Helens demographics

Age Profile				
	District Total	Percent of District	% Merseyside Total	Merseyside Total
Age 0 to 15	31,925	18.2	13.0	245,247
Age 16 to 25	18,800	10.7	10.6	176,845
Age 25 to 34	21,310	12.2	11.7	181,370
Age 35 to 49	35,862	20.5	13.4	266,650
Age 50 to 64	34,352	19.6	12.9	265,367
Age 65 to 74	19,314	11.0	15.8	121,961
Age 75 to 84	11,042	6.3	12.7	87,001
Age 85 and over	3,616	2.1	11.6	31,148

District Land Use			
	District Total	% Merseyside Total	Merseyside Total
Number of Dwellings	78,014	12.9	604,197
Number of Non Domestic Properties	4,371	11.0	39,789
Land only (KM)	136	21.1	645

Rate of Unemployment			
	2011	2012	2013
Knowsley Demographics	11.60	12.70	11.00
Liverpool Demographics	11.40	11.80	11.80
Sefton Demographics	9.00	9.30	8.50
St Helens Demographics	8.40	9.40	7.40
Wirral Demographics	8.70	9.00	7.00

# The Team

Your local Management Team for St Helens are:



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Please quote StHelensPlan15 in correspondence.



# The Team

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 firefighters 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 metres 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.

In the St Helens District, a number of partners work alongside firefighters at community fire stations such as the Health Improvement Team and Youth Offending Team.

Our station at Newton-le-Willows accommodates 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, the M62 and East Lancashire Road.

The St Helens Rugby Stadium at Langtree Park is close to the Fire Station. The Community Prevention Team is based at the station and they 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 they work to protect those threatened by the use of fire as a weapon.

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



# Community Fire and Rescue Stations



**Newton-le-Willows Fire Station** is located on Borron 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 area 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 and 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 Community Fire Station, work throughout The St Helens District.



# Our Performance 2014/15

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 activated 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 **5,741** home fire safety visits, offering advice and assistance to people to help to protect them from the dangers of house fires.

Our prevention teams have visited **971** homes and provided direct intervention to the most vulnerable people in our communities to protect them from the dangers of fire in the home.

During 2014, St Helens Protection Department completed 265 audits, resulting in nine interventions by way of five Enforcement Notices and four Prohibition Notices.

Following previous incidents where young people had been seriously injured or 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 Firefighters 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 36 tonnes of rubbish from the St Helens area, engaged with 9,800 school children and staged a number of events to provide diversionary activities for children who may be tempted to engage in anti-social behaviour.

"Carn'Evil" took place again this year at St Helens Community Fire Station on Parr Stocks Road, which included the famous Zombie Scare House, inflatable activities and games for over 350 young people.

# Our Performance 2014/15

Our biggest challenge for 2015/16 is to reduce the number of small fires caused by anti-social behaviour.

We saw an overall decrease in Deliberate secondary fires over the 2014/15 period but, despite this, we witnessed an increase of 31 incidents over the Bonfire period.

A new Joint Action Group was formed in 2014, the Local Roads Policing Group, to tackle a recent rise in road traffic collisions.

We, along with police and the local authority, are delivering a co-ordinated approach to accident reduction within a policy of education, engineering and enforcement solutions.

Our Operational Crews have completed a number of complex operational exercises within the district and in partnership with our neighbouring fire and rescue services.

Key exercising in 2014/15 was focused on residential property fire, water rescue and road traffic collisions in conjunction with Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Lancashire, to reflect the need for cross border reinforcement when required.

Priority was also given to specific multi-agency collaboration, alongside the police and the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust, on such issues as public order exercises and interoperability practice.

We have continued our partnership with St Helens College, accommodating 16 public service students who 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 2014.

## **Number of Calls 2014/2015**

We had one fatality in 2014 in Eccleston. A reassurance and fire safety campaign was carried out following the incident. During the campaign, we visited 241 properties and completed 93 Home Fire Safety Checks in Eccleston.

As detailed in our performance, We saw a significant increase in the number of arson fires we attended due to anti-social behaviour over the bonfire period in 2014. This stands as our biggest challenge for the coming year.

Continue to attend incidents requiring rescue as a result of road traffic collisions, particularly on the M6 and M62 motorways. We also experienced a number of significant incidents involving hazardous substances at local commercial premises and the M6 motorway, both resulting in a substantial interruption and temporary closure.

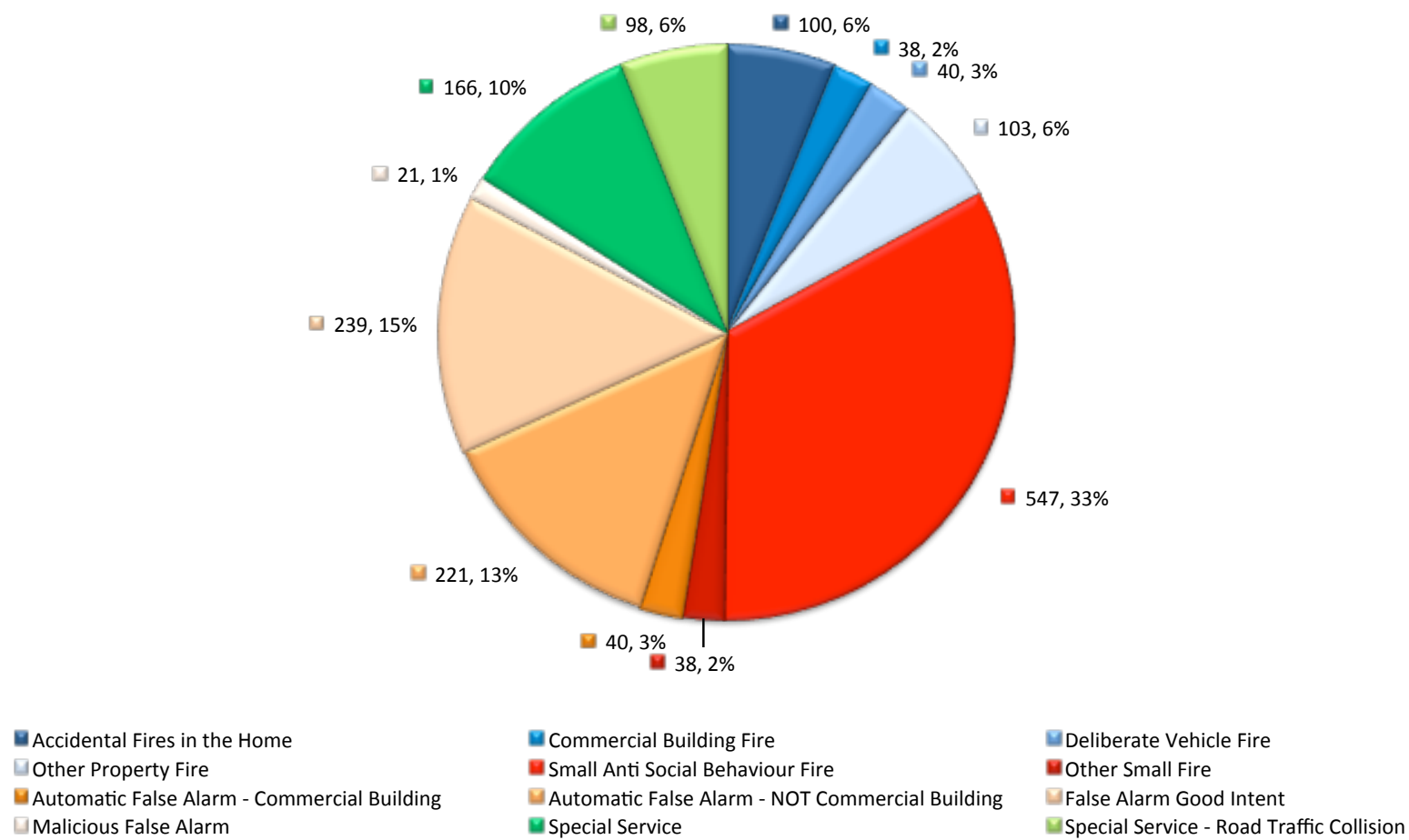
Through sharing of information and joint action and initiatives, we have created specific responses with partners to the increases in arson and the continued concerns of road safety.

Due to the number of accidental fires that have occurred in food outlet premises, St Helens Protection team will work in conjunction with Environmental Health to identify any premises of concern. In addition, operational crews will programme visits to these premises and liaise with Protection as required.



# Incidents in attended in St Helens

Incidents attended within St Helens during 2014/15 (estimate)

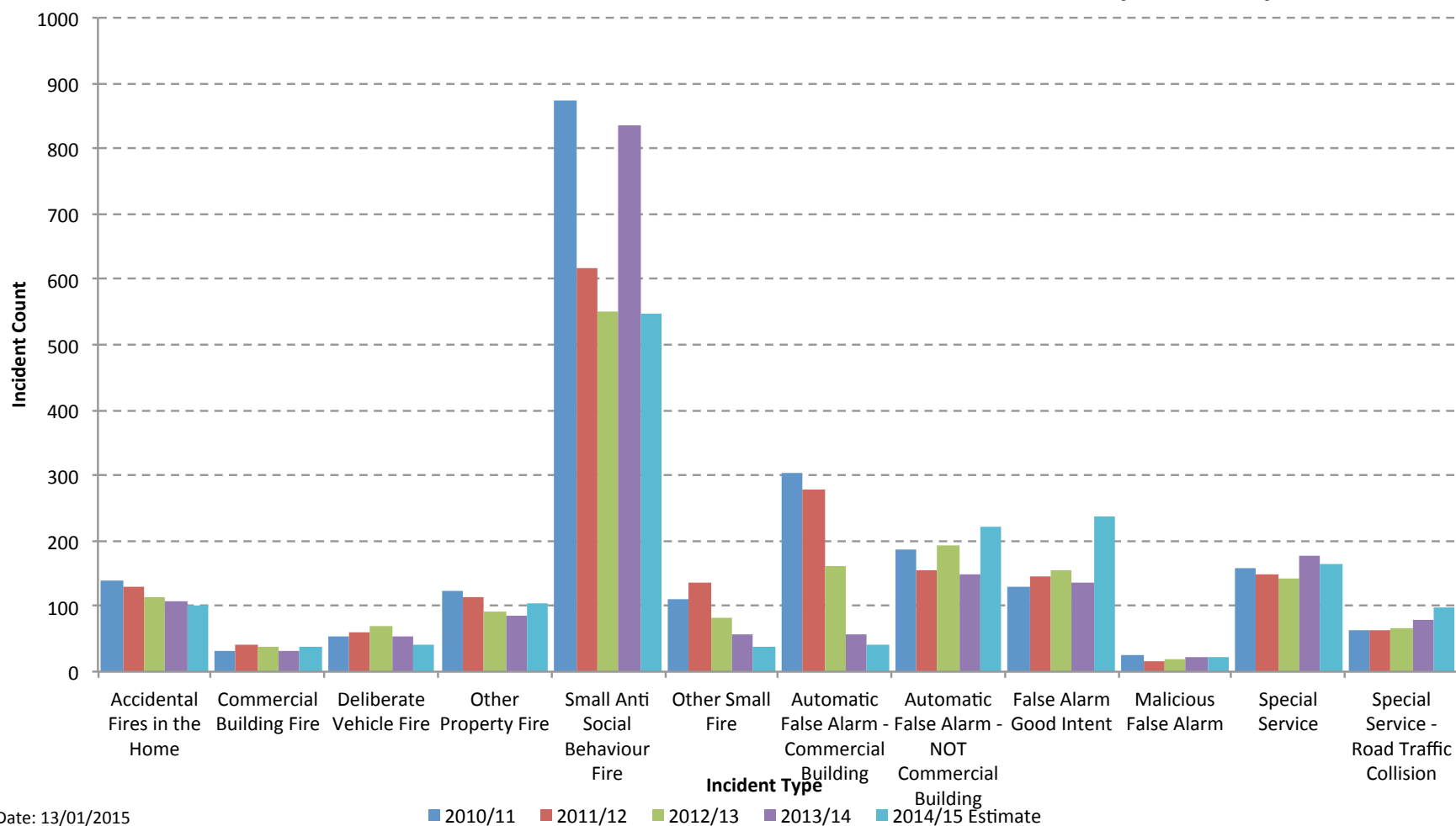


Date: 12/01/2015

Strategy & Performance

# Incidents in attended in St Helens

Incidents attended in St Helens between 2010/11 - 2014/15 (estimate)



Date: 13/01/2015  
Strategy & Performance

# Incidents in attended in St Helens

Incident Type	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15 Estimate
Accidental Fires in the Home	140	131	114	108	100
Commercial Building Fire	31	42	38	31	38
Deliberate Vehicle Fire	55	60	70	55	40
Other Property Fire	122	115	93	85	103
Small Anti Social Behaviour Fire	873	618	550	834	547
Other Small Fire	110	135	83	57	38
Automatic False Alarm – Commercial Building	304	279	162	57	40
Automatic False Alarm – NOT Commercial Building	187	156	192	150	221
False Alarm Good Intent	131	147	154	137	239
Malicious False Alarm	27	15	18	22	21
Special Service	159	149	142	177	166
Special Service - Road Traffic Collision	64	62	68	80	98
St Helens	2203	1909	1684	1793	1622



# Incidents in attended in St Helens

Incident Type	50 - St Helens	51 - Newton Le Willows	52 - Eccleston	Neighbouring Stations
Accidental Fires in the Home	47	15	35	6
Commercial Building Fire	19	8	11	0
Deliberate Vehicle Fire	27	5	9	0
Other Property Fire	49	21	29	4
Small Anti Social Behaviour Fire	318	96	121	14
Other Small Fire	17	8	12	1
Automatic False Alarm – Commercial Building	20	7	10	2
Automatic False Alarm - NOT Commercial Building	98	32	73	20
False Alarm Good Intent	129	39	66	8
Malicious False Alarm	14	3	4	0
Special Service	81	38	38	11
Special Service - Road Traffic Collision	48	27	16	8
Grand Total	867	299	422	72

# Incidents in attended in St Helens

Incident Type	50 - St Helens	51 - Newton Le Willows	52 - Eccleston	Neighbouring Stations
Accidental Fires in the Home	5.5%	4.9%	8.2%	7.6%
Commercial Building Fire	2.2%	2.7%	2.5%	0.0%
Deliberate Vehicle Fire	3.1%	1.8%	2.1%	0.0%
Other Property Fire	5.7%	7.1%	6.9%	5.5%
Small Anti Social Behaviour Fire	36.6%	32.0%	28.5%	19.4%
Other Small Fire	1.9%	2.8%	2.7%	1.7%
Automatic False Alarm – Commercial Building	2.4%	2.3%	2.4%	2.3%
Automatic False Alarm - NOT Commercial Building	11.3%	10.7%	17.3%	27.0%
False Alarm Good Intent	14.9%	13.0%	15.6%	11.1%
Malicious False Alarm	1.6%	1.0%	0.9%	0.0%
Special Service	9.3%	12.6%	8.9%	15.0%
Special Service - Road Traffic Collision	5.5%	9.2%	3.9%	10.4%
Grand Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# 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 2015/16 by focusing on the following areas:

In response to the fact that the majority of our accidental dwelling fires are either as a result of an electrical appliance or within the kitchen, operational crews and the Prevention Team will be focusing on these areas during Home Fire Safety Checks in an effort to educate the occupiers on kitchen and electrical safety.

Following a number of fires in premises used for food preparation, and subsequent involvement of integral residential property, operational crews will be visiting such properties to deliver Home Fire Safety Checks and ensure timely referrals to our Protection Unit for any commercial advice and action.

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, the local authority, Helena and other housing providers, in a bid to reduce such incidents.

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

We will continue to support St Helens College and the Public Uniform Services Course.

We will also look to develop and implement the national cadets programme at St Helens Community Fire Station.

We will continue to attend the enforcement building control forum on a bi-monthly basis to discuss problem buildings within the district.

# Action Plan 2015/16

Strategic Aim	Organisational District Plan Objective	Organisational Actions	Local Actions	Location
<b>Excellent Operational Preparedness</b>	Maintain and improve staff training, safety and competence	Test Operational Preparedness vs Standard Operating Procedures and Generic Risk Assessment.	Crews will identify the local risks and priority sites for exercising within the district.	District
		Complete all Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI) inspections in line with Service Strategy.	Complete assurance audits with an aspiration for achievement of 100% and continued improvement.	Stations
		Complete all water surveys (hydrant inspections) in line with Service Strategy.	Ensure that all water surveys are completed within prescribed timescales.	Stations
		All personnel to attend core risk critical assessments courses during the year.	Enhance capability in CPL, BFU, HVP and HDIM.	Stations



# Action Plan 2015/16

Strategic Aim	Organisational District Plan Objective	Organisational Actions	Local Actions	Location
<b>Excellent Operational Preparedness</b>	Maintain and improve staff training, safety and competence	All personnel to attend core risk critical assessments courses during the year.	Ensure effective cross border training with Lancashire, Cheshire and Greater Manchester Services.	Stations
		All personnel to complete allocated Learnpro packages and on line assessments.	All personnel to complete allocated Learnpro assessments and achieve required pass mark.	Stations

# Action Plan 2014/15

Strategic Aim	Organisational District Plan Objective	Organisational Actions	Local Actions	Location
<b>Excellent Operational Response</b>	Provide an efficient and effective response to emergency incidents:	Ops crew will aspire to achieve an Operational Assurance Team daily audit result of 100%.	Complete assurance audits with an aspiration for achievement of 100% and continued improvement.	Stations
		Ops crew will aspire to achieve an Operational Assurance Team daily audit result of 100%.	Integrate flood risk awareness into local audits and exercises.	Stations
		All individual Safe Person Assessments (SPAs) to be completed.	All personnel to complete allocated Safe Person Assessments (SPAs).	Stations
		Achieve Alert to Mobile times within prescribed timescale.	Watch Managers to ensure response to operational incidents are within defined targets.	Stations
		Manage and reduce accidents and injuries to the lowest achievable level.	Ensure both competence and fitness to respond to all risks efficiently and safely.	District

# Action Plan 2014/15

Strategic Aim	Organisational District Plan Objective	Organisational Actions	Local Actions	Location
<b>Excellent Prevention and Protection</b>	Reduce fires, deaths and injuries, road traffic collisions and anti-social behaviour:	Reduction in the number of accidental dwelling fires and Reduction in Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs) through intelligent targeting of high risk or previously unvisited properties for Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSCs).	Prevention will be sharing information with partners to ensure Develop data sharing with partners, utilise weekend campaigns and "hotspot" response to incidents.	District
		Seasonal pre-planning and arson/hate crime risk intelligence led target hardening.	Joint Agency Seasonal Plans, Significant event Reporting and diversionary tactics.	District
		Enhance road safety through education and engagement with young drivers most at risk.	RTC Packages for schools, colleges and young offenders, develop local road safety partnership.	District
		Improve business fire safety to comply with Regulatory Reform Order (Fire Safety) 2005.	Partnership with St Helens Chamber, Reduce Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) actuations, joint approach to SSRI.	District

# Action Plan 2014/15

Strategic Aim	Organisational District Plan Objective	Organisational Actions	Local Actions	Location
<b>Excellent People</b>	Maintain and improve, staff health, fitness and welfare:	Absence to be managed to lowest achievable levels.	Team absence to be discussed in 1-2-1s with Station Manager/ Watch Manager, oversight through District Management Team.	District
		Completion of appraisals for all staff in January and February.	100% completion of Appraisals to be achieved.	District
		Development of staff skills and knowledge through training opportunities.	All requirements resulting from Appraisals to be archived where possible to promote progression.	District