



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE AREA

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018 - 2019



**Working together
for a safer Scotland**

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INTRODUCTION



“We will continue to develop our performance framework and improve outcomes for our communities throughout South Lanarkshire, through effective relationships and partnership working.”

It gives me great pleasure to present our South Lanarkshire Area Annual Report for 2018/19.

This document details our achievements and the challenges we have faced as we continue to deliver a strong and effective national fire and rescue service at a local level within our communities.

During the past year, the dedication and hard work of all our staff, has allowed us to improve the level of service delivered in our communities, as we continue to work towards the targets set out in the Scottish Government’s National Performance Framework and additionally at a local level through our Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

We will continue to develop our performance framework and improve outcomes for our communities throughout South Lanarkshire, through effective relationships and partnership working. To that end, the past year has seen us further enhance our local connection with the public and our partners.

We are committed to ensuring the safety of our communities and our firefighters and prevention remains at the heart of everything we do. This year sees a positive drive towards demand reduction with some of the lowest recorded performance figures in many years.

However, the pro-active partnership working doesn’t stop there and we are fully committed to working closely with South Lanarkshire Council and key stakeholders to better understand the cause of these incidents and identify how best to respond to them in terms of preventative work and shape the kind of services the public requires.

We’ve worked hard to support those most vulnerable in society within South Lanarkshire, who may be at increased risk of a fire in the home. Increasing numbers of people living alone and living longer, many with long-term health conditions including in some cases drug and alcohol dependency, mean the service must be able to effectively identify those most at risk and support them to be safer.

We are ever mindful of the range of tasks the fire service might have to undertake on any given day beyond firefighting. With this in mind there is a new focus on Unintentional Injury in the home environment.

We must remain flexible and resilient in delivering and developing your fire and rescue service. Thereby we will ensure that we continue to meet the varied demands placed upon us and to maintain the high standards you expect and deserve from a service you can trust and continue to rely upon.

As we move forward our success will be dependent on the ongoing combination of partnership intelligence led community safety initiatives, engagement programmes and fire safety enforcement.

The significant efforts of our staff who, despite the challenges of fire reform, has ensured that we remain focussed on improving the quality and consistency of our services throughout the year, sharing best practice and identifying innovative ways to improve public safety.

Alan Fairbairn
Area Manager and
Local Senior Officer for South Lanarkshire

WHO WE ARE

South Lanarkshire Area Headquarters (SLHQ) is based at Clydesmill Community Fire Station, Westburn Drive, Cambuslang adjacent to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters and National Training Centre.

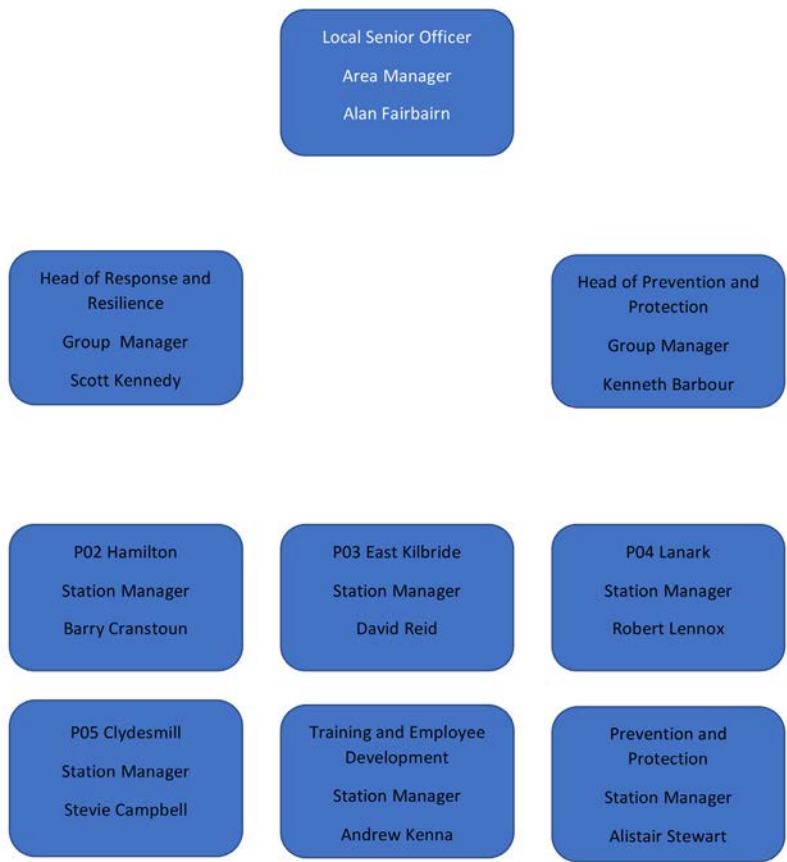
Clydesmill Community Fire Station, which was opened in 2011, provides a modern and energy efficient environment which can accommodate all the Areas Management Team within the HQ environment.

The Area's Prevention and Protection (P&P) team including the Areas Community Action Team (CAT) and Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) are based at our Prevention and Protection Hub at Hamilton.

The South Lanarkshire Training and Employee Development (TED) team are based at Lanark Community Fire Station, although most of their time is spend travelling around South Lanarkshire delivering and supporting development and Training.

South Lanarkshire currently has four Wholetime Fire Stations and eight Retained Fire Stations strategically placed around South Lanarkshire. There has been significant change across our management team with a number of personnel promoted and retiring over the year.

GM Scott Murray retired after 31 years' service and a number of new personnel moving to the Area including GM Kenny Barbour, SM's David Reid, Stevie Campbell, Barry Cranstoun and Robert Lennox, all welcome additions.



OUR PURPOSE

To work in partnership with communities and with others in the public, private and third sectors, on prevention, protection and response, to improve the safety and well-being of people throughout Scotland



OUR MISSION

Working together for a safer Scotland



OUR VALUES

Safety

Teamwork

Respect

Innovation



OUR PRIORITIES

Improved
Local
Outcomes

National and
Community
Resilience

Modernising
Response

Workforce
Development

Governance
and Social
Responsibility

Transformation

OUR VALUES



1. We work alongside communities to keep them safe.
2. We work to protect our firefighters from the high risks they face.
3. We promote a culture of health, safety and wellbeing across all our staff.



1. We work towards common goals by forging strong internal relationships.
2. We approach operational incidents and emergency situations as a team.
3. We work well with partners on prevention, responding to incidents and delivering common aims.



1. We respect ourselves and each other.
2. We respect the communities and individuals we serve.
3. We recognise effort, achievement and contribution.



1. We respect ourselves and each other.
2. We respect the communities and individuals we serve.
3. We will ensure human life and firefighter safety are not compromised by rigid ways of dealing with incidents.

OUR LOCAL PRIORITIES

Domestic Fire Safety



Fire safety within the home environment is a key prevention strategy for the SFRS as fires within the home can result in a range of impacts on individuals, families, landlords and communities.

Domestic fires also place a large demand on the agencies who are required to respond, intervene and deal with these incidents. To reduce demand, it is essential that our prevention strategies are evidence based and outcome focussed in order for us to direct our resources to those most at risk of fire.

We will seek to reduce accidental dwelling fires and fire related injuries within the home by:

- Promoting and undertaking Home Safety Visits to those deemed at risk from fire.
- Training relevant partners in South Lanarkshire to assess fire risk and by maintaining a simple and robust referral pathway to support the delivery of Home Safety Visits.
- Focusing engagement activities in those areas where Service demand has been identified.
- Supporting the provision of assistive technology within the home to increase occupant safety.

Unintentional Injury in the home environment



It is not uncommon for those at risk from fire to also be at risk from injuries within the home environment, in particular from slips, trips and falls (over 65's and under 5's) and poisoning (under 5's). Unintentional injuries were identified as a risk priority by the South Lanarkshire Community Safety Partnership following a multi-partner Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA). These injuries account for a significant proportion of admissions to hospital.

Those persons injured through falls may often be affected by other medical conditions such as dementia, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, high blood pressure etc. The SFRS has a role to play in contributing to the protection of those at risk from injury within the home environment. Through operational attendances and delivery of Home Safety Visits, we have the opportunity to identify those at risk and through an assessment of such risk, refer individuals to partner organisations for additional support.

We will seek to reduce the impact of unintentional injury and harm by:

- Utilising our Home Safety Visit programme to assess for non-fire related risk and refer those deemed at risk from injury to partners to provide additional support.
- Working with the Community Safety Partnership to attract budget allocation for the purchase of specific equipment which will reduce the impact of falls or poisoning within the home environment.
- Training fire and rescue service personnel in relation to the factors that increase the risk of unintentional injury in the home environment.
- Supporting Partners by carrying out level 1 falls assessments.

Non Domestic Fire Safety



In general, all workplaces and business are classed as non-domestic premises and as such come within the scope of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (the Act) which places duties on persons responsible for those premises to comply with the Act and its associated regulations. The SFRS has a statutory duty to promote fire safety and where required enforce compliance with fire safety legislation. To discharge this duty and to secure compliance, the SFRS has adopted an approach utilising advice, education and where required formal enforcement powers.

We will seek to reduce the instances of fires within non-domestic property by:

- Undertaking our fire safety audit programme in accordance with the SFRS Enforcement Framework.
- Engaging with duty holders to promote responsible fire safety management of premises that come under the auspices of Part 3 of the Act.
- Working in partnership to ensure the appropriate provision of fire safety standards are incorporated in new premises under construction or premises undergoing material changes.
- Working in partnership with other enforcement agencies and organisations to support legislative compliance.

Deliberate Fires



Deliberate fire setting accounts for a significant number of operational incidents within South Lanarkshire and takes various forms. Whilst a small proportion involve occupied buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures (primary fires), the majority of deliberate fires are classed as 'secondary fires' and on most occasions occur in outdoor locations.

We will seek to reduce the instances of fire related anti-social behaviour by:

- Identifying those places in South Lanarkshire's communities affected by deliberate fire setting and sharing this information with our partners.
- Utilising our Fire Reach, Firesetters and school's education programmes to raise awareness of the impact of fire related anti-social behaviour.
- Engaging with partners to develop joint initiatives and strategies to reduce deliberate fire setting.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



Fire protection within premises can be viewed as a holistic approach to safeguarding life and/or property by inhibiting the growth and spread of fire. The design and use of premises will influence the extent of the fire protection required to be incorporated within them. In developing a fire protection strategy for various premises types and for strategies to be successful, a key component is the provision of fire alarm systems. The provision of these systems enables those within premises sufficient time to exit buildings to a place of safety in the event of fire.

We will seek to reduce the instances of Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals by:

- Investigating the cause of alarm actuations and engaging with duty holders following an operational attendance at a UFAS incident.
- Analysing our attendances at those premises that frequently generate UFAS incidents to identify trends and support duty holders in developing demand reduction plans.
- Instigating where required, formal fire safety enforcement measures to ensure appropriate demand reduction action is taken by duty holders for premises generating unacceptable levels of UFAS incidents.

Road Safety



Outwith the domestic environment, the SFRS respond to a range of non-fire related emergencies. The most common incident of this type within South Lanarkshire is attendances at Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) which results in the majority of non-fire related injuries. Responding to RTCs is a statutory duty for the SFRS, however a collective approach is required amongst Community Planning Partners to support risk reduction measures.

As a partner, the SFRS will support the education of young drivers who are considered to be an 'at risk' group and support other initiatives intended to reduce the instances and impact of RTCs within South Lanarkshire. Road Safety in South Lanarkshire has been identified as one of its top 5 priorities within the Community Safety Strategy which the Local Authority will lead with the SFRS as a key stakeholder.

We will seek to reduce the impact of Road Traffic Collisions by:

- Working in partnership to deliver targeted road safety programmes to young drivers
- Focusing resources where demand has been identified and deliver key safety messages.

Preparing to respond



The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Fire (Additional Function) (Scotland) Order 2005 defines the duties and responsibilities for the SFRS in relation to responding to emergencies.




































It is essential our firefighters possess the skills, knowledge and expertise to respond to incidents which, by their nature, can be varied in both type and complexity. It is important that our firefighters understand the risks across their communities to ensure that the level of risk is matched with an appropriate level of Operational Intelligence and associated response. In gathering this knowledge, appropriate training can be carried out to safeguard firefighter safety and to ensure any such response results in an effective and efficient deployment of resources.

Emergency response across South Lanarkshire includes firefighters operating within the Retained Duty System (RDS). Working within this duty system, RDS firefighters respond from home and/or primary work locations as part of an 'On-Call' provision. Given the dynamic nature of this duty system and to support a balance between primary employment, personal and firefighting commitments, each RDS station requires a sufficient number of RDS firefighters to ensure this vital resource is available when required.

We will seek to ensure that we are preparing to respond within South Lanarkshire by:

- Identifying and assessing the risk to our communities through Operational Intelligence gathering.
- Undertaking planned training events to support the maintenance of core skills to provide the capability to respond to emergency incidents.
- Continuing with RDS firefighter recruitment campaigns to support operational response across South Lanarkshire.
- Reviewing our operational response to incidents, to ensure firefighter safety and the protection of our communities.
- Working in partnership to plan, prepare and test our responses to major emergencies.
- Continually reviewing our Service position in relation to Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

 <p>4,765 total number of incidents Monitor</p> 	 <p>76 fire casualties</p> 	 <p>388 non-fire casualties</p> 
 <p>1265 fires primary & secondary</p> 	 <p>632 special services</p> 	 <p>2,851 false alarms</p> 
 <p>231 accidental dwelling fires</p> 	 <p>0 accidental dwelling fire fatalities</p> 	 <p>61 accidental dwelling fire casualties</p> 
 <p>825 deliberate fires</p> 	 <p>387 refuse fires</p> 	 <p>318 non refuse fires</p> 
 <p>87 non domestic fires</p> 	 <p>1,326 UFAS incidents</p> 	 <p>254 FSE audits closed</p>
 <p>3,469 HFSVs conducted</p> 	 <p>1,416 high risk HFSVs conducted</p> 	 <p>767 HFSVs conducted via PDIR</p> 

RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE

Response

South Lanarkshire Area encompasses a wide and varied range of operational risks from the urban areas of Rutherglen and Cambuslang to the rural communities of Clydesdale, this in turn requires the ability to respond to a variety of incidents in all locations which is achieved from strategically positioned stations at the following locations.

Wholetime – Hamilton, East Kilbride, Clydesmill and Lanark

Retained – Larkhall, Strathaven, Lesmahagow, Douglas, Abington, Biggar and Carluke

South Lanarkshire also forms part of the range of specialist resources, strategically placed not only within South Lanarkshire but throughout Scotland which are immediately available to assist with incidents such as rescue from height, severe flooding, wildfires, hazardous material incidents. Personnel from South Lanarkshire continually train to maintain the specialist skills utilising a range of training venues across the Area.

HIGH VOLUME PUMP (Clydesmill)

Natural Flooding

Flooding is becoming an increasing problem and causes widespread damage and disruption to areas, which can often affect a large number of locations simultaneously. One of the key challenges the SFRS face is climate change and unpredictable weather patterns. Many communities are at risk from flooding and one of a number of specialist assets we can utilise to mitigate the effects of flooding is the High-Volume Pump.

The High-Volume Pump (HVP)/Hose Box Pods will enhance the ability of the SFRS to assist in mitigating the effects of flooding, working in partnership with The Scottish Government and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) who are the lead agency for flooding.

Fire Fighting Duties

The HVP/Hose Box Pods can also enhance the existing capabilities of the SFRS to pump high volumes of water for firefighting. Where incidents occur on an unprecedented scale or where several incidents occur simultaneously affecting the volume or pressure of the local water supply, the HVP/Hose Box Pods will provide additional resilience and capability to supply water to the incident ground. The HVP has been mobilised to great effect at various challenging incidents. It was recently utilised at the Glasgow School of Art incident, where it was able to supply water to the incident directly from the river Clyde.



SWIFT WATER RESCUE (Clydesmill)

The duties of the SFRS are set out in the Fire Scotland Act 2005. The Fire (Additional Function) (Scotland) Order 2005 has extended the duties of SFRS, including:

- Rescuing people trapped, or likely to become trapped, by water; and
- Protecting them from serious harm in the event of serious flooding in its area

The requirement for the SFRS to provide a swift water rescue capability in Scotland is understood, when consideration is given to the fact that Scotland has more than 27,000 lochs, over 11,800km of coastal water and more than 120,000km of rivers and streams, providing many hectares of often deep or swiftly moving water to which the public have easy access (90% of standing fresh water in the UK lies within Scotland).

Clydesmill Fire Station also houses our Swift Water Rescue teams. Water rescue personnel are highly trained in operating in flood conditions or they may be called upon to rescue people trapped in rivers, unstable ground and ice. They have a range of skills and tools at their disposal. They are also highly trained in Boat Operations in fast flowing water. They have to train in challenging and difficult environments in order for them to maintain their skills.

Due to challenges faced when working in this type of environment, Water Rescue Crews from Clydesmill may be asked to support colleagues across Scotland during times of expected poor weather or National Emergency.



WILDFIRE UNIT (Lanark)

The Wildfire Unit is based at Lanark Fire Station. The Wildfire Unit comprises of a Land Rover Defender with road trailer equipped with a standard inventory including a high-pressure fogging unit and associated equipment to deal with grass, heath land and forest fires collectively referred to as Wildfire incidents.

This resource is of additional benefit to the Incident Commander particularly where incidents of this nature occur within rural areas of South Lanarkshire, 2018 was a particularly dry summer and the unit was put to good use across South Lanarkshire on numerous occasions, protecting valuable habitats.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNIT (Hamilton)

Our Environmental Protection Unit (EPU), which is based at Hamilton, has attended a number of incidents involving hazardous materials. The EPU attends these types of incidents along with specialist Scientific Advisors; Incidents have included materials such as ammonia, mercury, petrol and many other types of chemicals and hazardous materials. It works in conjunction with our Detection Identification and Monitoring Vehicle (DIM Vehicle).



ROPE RESCUE (East Kilbride)

The Specialist Rope Rescue teams at East Kilbride Community Fire Station have the responsibility to respond to any incident across the west of Scotland where specialist skills are needed to work or rescue persons trapped in inaccessible areas such as bridges, cliff edges, high cranes.

Rope Rescue is a highly technical discipline which takes over a year to become fully trained. Personnel from East Kilbride train extremely hard to maintain and develop these skills and utilise an array of training venues including our National Training Centre at Cambuslang.



Incident Overview

Crews across South Lanarkshire faced many challenging and diverse incidents during the reporting period a summary of some of those incidents have been highlighted within the report.

VICTORIAS NIGHTCLUB GLASGOW

Shortly after 08:00 on 23rd March 2018 Scottish Fire and Rescue responded to multiple calls to a building fire within Sauchiehall St Glasgow city centre. On arrival crews were faced with an extremely challenging and well developed fire, this was one of the biggest and most challenging incident SFRS has had to deal with since its inception. More than 20 appliances and over 120 firefighters attended the incident with resources from across Scotland called to deal with this incident.

The incident Commander ACO Ramsay said “we have done a fantastic job and I am extremely proud of the Firefighters not only in the city but across Scotland. This incident had a major impact on our partners and on local business across the city”. ACO Ramsay said this was a complicated fire with extensive fire spread and pointed out that due to the courage and professionalism of our Firefighters we were able to save the Pavilion Theatre.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said she wanted to, “express her gratitude to the personnel of the Scottish Fire and Rescue for the professionalism and bravery”.



GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

More than 120 Firefighters many from the South Lanarkshire Area attended a devastating fire within the Mackintosh building at the Glasgow School of Art. Firefighters where were faced with an extremely challenging and complex incident. The Mackintosh building is one of the most iconic buildings in the city.

Firefighters worked tirelessly to protect and save as much of the building as possible and firefighters from South Lanarkshire played a key role in that process. One of a number of South Lanarkshire resources that was deployed was our High Volume Pump, located at Clydesmill Community Fire Station and a dedicated national resource, which has the capability of pumping up to 7000 litres of water per minute, greatly assisted firefighting operations by drawing water from the River Clyde and pumping it directly to the incident ground.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Community Safety Minister Annabel Ewing both attended the incident to pay tribute to the firefighting crews and thank them for their outstanding work, bravery and professionalism.



BLANTYRE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Crews from Clydesmill and Hamilton Fire station attended a significant fire within a Community Centre in Blantyre. On their arrival the crews were faced with a well-developed fire with a large plume of black smoke which could be seen for many miles. The initial Incident Commander quickly established additional support would be required and colleagues from around South Lanarkshire were quickly on scene.

Crews faced a number of challenges in the initial stages and a poor water supply hampered their ability to fully tackle the fire and our crews worked tirelessly to find alternative water supplies. The tenacity, willingness and professionalism of the crews are to be commended as collectively and in extremely challenging conditions, they continued to work to protect their community.

Due to the severity of the fire parts of the building started to collapse and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) worked closely with partner agencies to ensure local roads were closed and the public remained in a safe area. SFRS remained on the scene for over 12 hours to ensure the fire was extinguished and the area was made safe.



HOUSE FIRE RUTHERGLEN

Crews from Clydesmill Fire Station along with colleagues from surrounding stations attending a well-developed and extremely challenging incident in Rutherglen. On arrival crews were faced with a serious fire within the top floor flat and spreading rapidly to the roof space. The incident commander quickly realised the challenge he faced and requested the support of additional crews.

It was apparent that a family were trapped in the adjoining flats and they were quickly rescued by our crews. Firefighters battled through heat and dense smoke to tackle the fire and ensure all the residents had been evacuated. Crews successfully managed to contain the fire to the flat of origin and a small area of the roof space. Of the six occupants removed from the property only one required hospital treatment. SFRS worked closely with Police Scotland, South Lanarkshire Council and Scottish Ambulance Service to support residents who were displaced.



ICE RESCUE RUTHERGLEN

Crews from Clydesmill Fire Station attended an Ice Rescue in Rutherglen. Specialist Water Rescue Teams from Clydesmill Fire Station attended the incident when 3 youths were reported to be trapped on ice. SFRS personnel utilised a specialist rescue path to bridge the hazard.

On arrival the initial Incident Commander said the youths were attempting to cross the ice and when it started to break they managed to seek refuge on a small piece of land until they were rescued. They were returned back to dry land cold and provided guidance on the dangers of walking on a frozen river.



Resilience

The full description can be found in “Preparing Scotland – Scottish Guidance on Resilience” which details the responsibility placed on Category 1 and 2 responders in order to ensure compliance with the legislative requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

The term “Resilience” is a very wide-ranging description which includes a number of areas ensuring that our communities and National Infrastructure are protected by having the correct resources, properly trained and equipped personnel, situated in suitable locations and that proper pre-planning, testing and contingency planning has been undertaken in order to respond to the risks and hazards which may present. This is achieved by the following.

Local Resilience Partnership

The Lanarkshire local Resilience Partnership (LRP), which replaced the SECG Lanarkshire Area Group has now become firmly established as the local part of the West of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership (WoSRRP) and continues to develop with partners. This was further reinforced this year by the appointment of a dedicated Civil Contingencies Officer (CCO) who operates in a pan Lanarkshire capacity which provides a direct link between both South and North Lanarkshire response areas.

The local LRP will help its partners fulfil the following objectives:

- Create and exploit opportunities to share expertise and good practice
- Enhance the individual and collective resilience of partner organisations
- Enhance understanding of the others roles, responsibilities and capabilities
- Ensure effective collaboration in responding to emergencies
- Ensure learning identified through exercise and response is shared and incorporated within preparations

This group is a pan-Lanarkshire group with the following members

- North Lanarkshire Council
- NHS Lanarkshire
- Police Scotland Lanarkshire Division and Emergencies Planning (West)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Scottish Ambulance Service
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- South Lanarkshire Council

Category 2 responders and other relevant stakeholder groups are invited to the LRP as required.

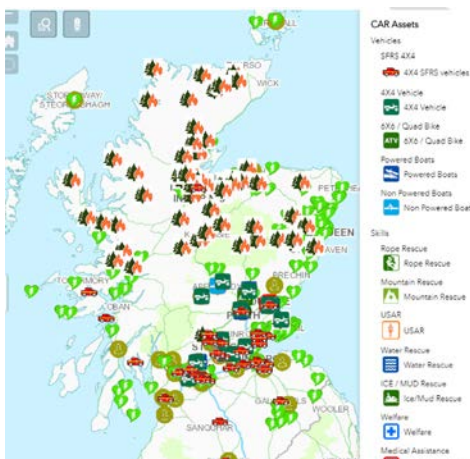
COMMUNITY ASSET REGISTER (CAR)

Community volunteers are individuals or groups situated within proximity to an incident. They may possess a specialised set of skills, vehicles or equipment which are not available to SFRS or could enhance their capability. These skills may be utilised for the purposes of assisting SFRS to effectively carry out operational activity.

The CAR gives voluntary groups or individuals the opportunity to offer help to their communities in support of the Emergency Services and other Category 1 responders, under the umbrella of Scottish Resilience. Members from the Community Asset Register can be utilised for.

- Vehicles
- Skills
- Equipment
- Personnel

The CAR can be activated to mobilise an asset to an incident as quickly as possible to supplement SFRS response. It may be that identified community assets are likely to be on scene sooner than similar SFRS resources or the required SFRS resources to resolve the incident are not available. It will not normally be utilised unless lives are at risk.



OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE (OI)

The SFRS attends many thousands of operational incidents every year. For the majority of these incidents, the application of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Generic Risk Assessments (GRAs) and principles learned through experience and training will be sufficient to ensure that firefighter safety is maintained and that a satisfactory outcome can be achieved.

OI requires a process to identify risk, gather information and collate relevant data and ensure that it is made available, in an easily understood format, at the point of need. SFRS has invested significant time and finances to ensure the safety of our personnel and communities, every fire appliance in South Lanarkshire now has access to critical information at the touch of a button which include water supplies, access and egress and hazards within the building.

The tablet is portable which allows Incident Commander flexibility with detailed 3d mapping of individual buildings. Currently within South Lanarkshire there are almost 800 premises in the system, in addition contingency plans are held for other risks such as COMAH sites and specific locations such as the State Hospital, John Dewar and Sons and Multi Agency Response Guide for New Douglas Park football ground.



CRAIGEND BRIDGE

SFRS were made aware of significant damage to Craigend Bridge near the village of Culter, This would have a major impact on our ability to respond to the Culter Estate and surrounding villages.

That also prevented access to all Emergency Vehicles. The bridge is the only road access and egress point for 16 domestic properties which include farms and estate workers cottages. There are also 3 reservoirs and a water treatment plant. SFRS carried out a visit all domestic properties to ensure they were offered/received a Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) and all had smoke detection fitted Some of the residents in the area are elderly and have limited mobility and require regular visits to hospital.

SFRS put in place a response plan to ensure we could respond to any incident within the area, this included support from local farmers and utilising specialist vehicles from Lanark Community Fire Station with additional equipment.



SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME/ COUNTER TERRORISM

In 2004 the UK Government produced the first revised version of a strategy to tackle counter terrorism (CT) issues on a national scale entitled "Contest". This document was followed in 2009 when the Scottish Government produced a national strategy for tackling Serious & Organised Crime (SOC) in Scotland entitled "Letting Our Communities Flourish".

Within Lanarkshire, both strategies play an integral role in directing the work being carried out by a range of agencies that all have responsibilities in these areas. As a result, a Lanarkshire SOC/CT Multiagency Strategy Group was established to bring together these key partners, to coordinate resources and eliminate duplication of effort in pursuance of the strategic objectives of the group.

South Lanarkshire Area sits as a key partner of this group with senior representatives sitting on the strategic group and by embedding the aims and objectives into work undertaken at tactical and operational levels.

The model adopted by the Lanarkshire group is now being seen as a model of best practise for use by others. As the UK has been a victim of terrorist events in the past 2 years South Lanarkshire personnel have a better understanding of terror related incidents through information sharing, education and training.

CLYDE VALLEY FLOOD BARRIERS

One of the biggest challenges facing SFRS is climate change and the unpredictable weather which comes with it. Some communities across South Lanarkshire are at serious risk from flooding. 27th June 2018 - South Lanarkshire Council Emergency Planning Department visited Clydesmill Fire Station to test their new flood barriers. A new piece of equipment that can be deployed with support from SFRS to increase the resilience of our communities to the evolving challenges we face.

It was anything but a dry run as Scottish Fire and Rescue provided thousands of gallons of water to help the council test a new mobile flood barrier that will help protect people, property and infrastructure across South Lanarkshire.

A test of the click together 'Floodstop' barrier at Clydesmill Community Fire Station in Cambuslang gave the council's Flood Risk Management team an opportunity to rehearse deploying the system and to see it in action.

Chair of South Lanarkshire Council Community and Enterprise Committee Councillor John Anderson said: "We have invested £40,000 to add this portable barrier system to our flood management resources and this trial run shows it will provide effective protection to help reduce the risk of damage and disruption caused by flooding.

"We are grateful to our colleagues in Scottish Fire and Rescue for their help as our team test and familiarise themselves with the Flood stop system and we will continue to work closely with them to identify flood risks and potential measures to reduce that risk."

The exercise also gave the council team and their partners in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) the chance to see how they could work together in a real flooding situation to get the most benefit from the mobile barriers.



WINTER BREACH

Preparation and partnership working are key to effective emergency response as no single organisation possesses the resource, knowledge or sole responsibility to support individuals or communities affected by emergencies. SFRS works closely with its partners to ensure it is prepared to meet the challenges during periods of severe weather.

The Lanarkshire local Resilience Partnership In conjunction with its partners, host Exercise Winter Breach the exercise raises awareness of.

- Civil emergency risks and threats
- Areas of emergency expertise and emerging developments in supporting people affected by emergencies, including the role of Lanarkshire's Major Incident support Team and Emergency Treatment Centres
- Record keeping and incident briefing and the need and benefits of partnership working in managing emergencies.

SFRS Officers from South Lanarkshire Area attended several events over October and November in order to have a clear understanding of the importance and requirement of partnership working and to raise awareness of the principles and practice which shape multi agency resilience in Lanarkshire.



TRAINING AND EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

Our Training Team

Our colleagues within South Lanarkshire Training team play a key role in the continued training and development of all our personnel within South Lanarkshire. Firefighters continually train to ensure they are prepared to respond to a full range of emergency incidents, utilising a range of skills and specialist equipment.



FIRE BEHAVIOUR AND BREATHING APPARATUS TRAINING

South Lanarkshire houses one of the most advanced Fire and Rescue Training establishments anywhere in the world and our firefighters from South Lanarkshire take full advantage of the facilities. A key element in a firefighters skills is having an understanding of the physics and natural phenomenon of how fire behaves.

Our Area Trainers utilise our fire rigs and carbonaceous units to simulate a range of challenging and realistic fire conditions. This is a three yearly training programme across the area. Fire Behaviour Training runs in conjunction with Breathing Apparatus Training. A varied range of scenarios and venues within the local community are used in order to simulate as realistic environment as possible.



HIGH REACH TRAINING

This is a VEMA Aerial Rescue Pump (ARP) which is located at Clydesmill Community Fire Station. This specialist high reach appliance has a 28-metre-high reach capability and has a multi-purpose role where it can be utilised as a water tower or to rescue persons trapped at height. Recently one of South Lanarkshire's area training team successfully completed a course to become an ARP instructor and assessor.

This has allowed South Lanarkshire to carry out their own high reach training courses and to maintain their skills reassessment programme. This will also assist Scottish Fire and Rescue National Training Centre in training and assessing ARP operators when required. To ensure our crews are prepared for any incident where an Aerial Rescue Platform could be used, crews carry out a comprehensive training programme both on and off the station.



HAZMAT

Firefighters and the SFRS generally, play a fundamental role in dealing with the sometimes-significant risk posed to health and the environment when chemicals and hazardous materials form or are involved in an Operational incident. Personnel from across all South Lanarkshire's stations train extensively to deal with such incidents. Part of that training is in the use of specialist Personal Protective Equipment, specialist monitoring equipment and decontamination procedures to safely deal with any eventuality.



ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION TRAINING (RTC)

RTC training weekends are facilitated by Area Trainers for all Retained Duty System (RDS) trainees that had joined the area, with training taking place at the RTC training area at Lesmahagow. Cars were provided for all stations to hone their skills in extrication with training taking place at our dedicated RTC training sites at Hamilton and Lesmahagow.

This year was “car on its side” in all the training as part of a 3-year rolling programme to give the crews experience in different challenging scenarios. The Area training programme culminated in a multi pump exercise at the National Training Centre in Cambuslang which involved a simulated incident involving several cars on a railway line.

Our National training Centre has a bespoke training area for RTC in the form of a three-lane motorway. Our crews get the opportunity to work on anything from a small car to a double decker bus. Colleagues from Scottish Ambulance Service and Police Scotland regularly join us in the large-scale exercises to develop new and enhance their current skills.



TRAINEE DEVELOPMENT

With safety at the forefront of everything we do as a Service, a Firefighters training is a daily occurrence throughout their career. After initial training new trainees to the Service embark on a structured and comprehensive Three-year development programme. This programme builds in both depth and complexity and includes annual confirmatory assessments at the end of each year/phase.

A number of these Phased Assessments were facilitated by the Area trainers for our Retained and Wholetime trainees to assess the core skill development of each individual. Over 2 days they are assessed at an offsite training venue. Beckford Business Centre, was utilised to give a more realistic Breathing Apparatus search and rescue environment/scenario. The Trainees were assessed over a range of disciplines including knots and lines, pumps and ladders and casualty care.



TRAINING IN THE COMMUNITY

Exercise UWS

SFRS in collaboration with our partners hosted and arranged a large training exercise at the University of the west of Scotland in Hamilton. The exercise was arranged to test our ability to respond to a large scale multi storey incident with a large number of personnel involved. The incident involved a large-scale fire and heavy smoke logging to the upper floors with numerous live casualties played by students that required to be rescued.

The exercise tested our ability to deal with a challenging incident and ensure the procedures we have in place are robustly tested. It also gave us the opportunity to work closely with our partners, ensuring we have a clear understanding of the roles each organisation plays.

This exercise was many months in the planning and colleagues across Lanarkshire and Glasgow took part along with our co-responding colleagues from Police Scotland, South Lanarkshire Council and UWS. In order for us to capture any learning from such an incident modern technology was deployed during the exercise, motion activated cameras and drones were deployed which allowed the exercise co-ordinators to evaluate and review different aspects of the building.

GM Kennedy the exercise director said he was extremely grateful to UWS for giving us the opportunity to utilise their premises, this gave SFRS an excellent arena to continue to hone and develop our skills. He also thanked all the organisation who took part and expressed his thanks to the crews who worked extremely hard during the exercise.



ROPE RESCUE

The SFRS Specialist Rope Rescue Team based at East Kilbride includes specially-trained technical rope rescue teams. Team members train undertaking a number of realistic scenarios to aid development and enhance skills. These teams attend a number of incidents ranging from rescuing people who may have fallen down an embankment to rescues from height such as from cranes.

Rope Rescue is one of the most technical disciplines in the Fire and Rescue Service. In order to make the training as challenging and interesting as possible we use a number of training venues which include the National climbing Centre near Edinburgh and our National Training Centre in Cambuslang.

East Kilbride Rope Rescue Teams carry out around 40 rescues each year in some of the most challenging and unforgiving environments. They work closely with partner agencies and carry out regular joint exercises with Police Scotland, Mountain Rescue Teams and the Coast Guard, amongst others.



WATER RESCUE

All firefighters in South Lanarkshire are trained in the basic principles in rescuing people who have become trapped in water and have additional equipment to assist them. This training is designed to allow first responders the ability to carry out a rescue if safe to do so at the early stages of an incident.

All South Lanarkshire personnel have completed their Water Awareness Training. Our specialist water rescue teams at Clydesmill fire station are continually training across Scotland utilising Pinkston water sports centre in Glasgow where we can now train our personnel on rescuing people trapped in their car in flood water. Our Water rescue teams must be competent boat operatives and they carry out initial boat training at Connell Bridge near Oban.



PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

The intention of this section is to highlight and celebrate the work we undertake as part of our Prevention and Protection responsibilities and illustrates how we address equality of service and enhance the wellbeing of the people of South Lanarkshire.

From Adult safeguarding and assessing fire risk in business premises to engagement with schools and community groups, the list is extensive. As we continually seek to improve our service we need to look at what the evidence is telling us and build our actions around it.

Key drivers provide focus and structure and in South Lanarkshire we pride ourselves in quality of leadership to help drive ideas forward to achieve the best possible outcomes.

At the very highest level the Scottish Government sets strategic direction through the National Performance Framework.

The Fire and Rescue Framework then implements a set of priorities that can be seen in the SFRS Strategic Plan and our very own Local Area Plan. These priorities are;

- Domestic Fire Safety
- Unintentional Injury in The Home Environment
- Non-Domestic Fire Safety
- Deliberate Fires
- Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
- Road Safety
- Preparing to Respond

Community Planning influences have a bearing on our direction of travel and includes the Community Safety Strategic Framework and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) LOIP.

Building strong and effective partnerships has been and will continue to be central to the CSP's approach to safety in the community and provides a fundamental basis for tackling the issues that affect residents, businesses, and visitors within South Lanarkshire.

We will continue to focus on the 5 priorities and associated outcomes, indicators and actions set out in this plan;

- Contribute to reducing the health, social and economic harm caused by drug misuse.
- Contribute to reducing both the prevalence and impact of domestic abuse upon victims, children, families and communities.
- Contribute to making people safe and feel safe using roads in South Lanarkshire.
- Contribute to reducing the risk of unintentional injuries within the home environment.
- Contribute to reducing the impact antisocial behaviour has on people's lives.

FIRE SAFETY ENFORCEMENT

Over the last year our dedicated team of Enforcement Officers have been working on this Service priority and have identified high risk premises and conducted Fire Safety Audits in line with Fire Safety Enforcement Policy Framework. As a local area we also have set internal priorities in relation to Post Fire Events to identify premises at most risk and with the assistance of operational crews, to provide premises owners/ managers with expert advice in relation to Legislative Fire Safety matters.

Fire safety legislation aims to ensure the safety of employees, residents, visitors or customers; it sets out rights and responsibilities in respect of fire safety. Anyone who has control, to any extent, of any premises will have some responsibilities for ensuring that those occupying the premises are safe from harm caused by fire.

Fire safety legislation applies to virtually all premises and covers nearly every type of building and structure. For example:

- Offices and shops
- Premises that provide care
- Community halls and other public buildings
- Houses in multiple occupation
- Pubs, clubs and restaurants
- Schools
- Tents and marquees
- Hotels and hostels
- Factories and warehouses

High fire risk properties are audited on an annual basis to ensure that the fire precautions within the property are to a suitable standard.

For some buildings, joint inspections are carried out with other organisations, for example Health and Safety Executive, Police Scotland, Trading Standards and Environmental Health.

Last year we audited 344 separate premises and ensured their compliance with legislation.



Our Community Action Team

The Community Action Team (CAT) plays a key function to support the delivery of CSE in order to meet the objectives of the Local Fire Plan and priorities set out by the Local Senior Officer. The CAT is made up of a Local Authority Liaison Officer, Community Firefighter and Community Safety Advocates.

Community Safety Advocates are utilised for a range of activities and initiatives determined by locally identified need. Example areas of work include the following;

- The generation and delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits
- The creation of partnership links locally to identify and engage with those most at risk, either through direct access or via appropriate referral pathways
- The delivery of presentations to a range of audiences including community groups, partner agencies and SFRS staff
- Provision of support to Station personnel to develop and deliver local activities and initiatives (working together to ensure a lasting legacy once the Advocate's work has ended and they have moved onto another project)



- Support the delivery of media campaigns and seasonal strategies
- Represent the SFRS at a range of events
- Deliver school talks and educational input to relevant groups including input on road and water safety (where relevant)
- Support the delivery of youth engagement courses and activities
- Record and monitor CSE related activities and outcomes .

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Partnership Working in South Lanarkshire

A Joint working initiative with Scottish Power Energy Network (SPEN) has grown from supporting a newly formed priority services register with a joint referral pathway being set up for South Lanarkshire to a service that is now offered Scotland wide. Reduction of Accidental dwelling fires is always a focus and as our population ages we continue to target support through partnership working. SPEN deliver electricity to all households in South Lanarkshire and SFRS area as a whole and if a user contacts their social obligations team then a referral is made to SFRS. A feedback pathway has also been created to allow information to be shared back to SPEN.

A representative from SPEN recently attended a few joint Home Fire Safety Visits with our Community Action Team to gain an insight into the role of the fire Service and community engagement.

We now look beyond fire risk to give our communities the best outcome and we continue to signpost to many different partner agencies including SPEN Priority services register.

One of our Community Safety Advocates is also shown on a short video clip on SPEN's website that householders can access not only offering Home Fire Safety advice but a range of other services including Dementia Awareness, Help in a Power Cut and Benefits Advice to name a few.

You can access the content via the following link:-
<https://youtu.be/MOzKs4kbbxQ>



VIRTUAL REALITY HEAD SETS

Road Safety is a key theme for SFRS in South Lanarkshire and we're always looking for new ways to deliver the safety message to the road users of the area. In the South Lanarkshire Area, we've moved with the times!

In order to support our Road Safety Education Programme, we have invested in Virtual Reality Headsets. Immersive education of this kind supports the Fire Service value of innovation and brings Community Safety Education in to the 21st Century. Digital content linked to the headsets will transport you into the virtual environment inside a speeding car allowing you to experience the sights and sounds of what can happen when distraction and recklessness takes over.

The emphasis is on how many distractions may be encountered whilst driving, but especially the amount of distraction caused by mobile phones. From something as simple as changing a track on a music App to having a conversation on social media, it has become apparent that drivers can have their eyes off the road, breaking their concentration on driving for a significant enough period of time for an accident to occur.

Our virtual reality headsets are not only an asset in targeting young drivers but we have also been utilising them for assisting in restorative justice programs, universal connections and other youth programs. We'll also be attending large Logistics companies who want their heavy goods drivers to benefit from the presentation we provide. This exciting drive towards education improves information retention and caters for all learning types.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

PSYV – Police Scotland Youth Volunteers

South Lanarkshire Community Action Team have slowly but steadily built up a mutually beneficial and exciting partnership with the local Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV), 13 to 17 year old young people volunteering within the community. During the past 12 months this relationship has gone from strength to strength benefitting the Police, Scottish Fire and Rescue and the local communities in which we both serve.

The real success however comes from the young people themselves. It has been encouraging watching them learn and grow, taking on responsibilities and increasing their knowledge and awareness. SFRS South Lanarkshire Community team have worked with these young people out in the communities, partnering up to send out safety messages and directly with the young people themselves as we empower them with knowledge and raise their awareness around water safety, fire safety and so much more.

They have, in turn, passed on their knowledge and learning in areas such as fire related anti-social behaviour and road safety to their peers spreading these vital safety messages out within the youth of our community.

We recently had the privilege of attending their passing out parade in which we witnessed these fantastic young people receive their awards of community hours gained and South Lanarkshire's CAT team even came away with an award ourselves!



VOLUNTARY AND 3RD SECTOR

Our partners at Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLAN) assist greatly at signposting the CAT to vulnerable and under-represented groups. Without their help we would be unable to engage with such groups as;

- Dementia Groups
- Grass Roots – Family Health and wellbeing
- Carers Network
- National Schizophrenic Society
- Alcohol and Drug Recovery Group
- University of the Third Age (U3A)
- Community Food banks
- Citizens Advice

TACKLING INEQUALITIES

Tackling inequalities remains a priority in the Community Planning arrangements for the area. South Lanarkshire CAT ensures that this agenda is considered in activity planning. Examples of the groups the CAT engages with as follows;

- Community Food Banks
- Travelling Community Education Group
- Covey Befriending
- Action For Children
- Looked after services

UNINTENTIONAL INJURY

South Lanarkshire's Community Safety Partnership Strategic Needs Assessment 2016/17 identified Unintentional Injuries (UI) as one of five key priorities for the partnership. Home safety equipment and home safety education, information and advice are effective in increasing safety practice and reducing unintentional injuries in the home.

The fire service in South Lanarkshire chairs the Unintentional Injuries Sub-Group.

This group consists of representatives from the following organisations and they can contribute to decision making at meetings on behalf of their organisation:

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (Chair)
- Police Scotland
- SLC Social Work Resources
- SLC Housing and Technical Resources
- Care and Repair South Lanarkshire
- NHS Lanarkshire
- SLC Education
- SLC Seniors Together
- Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire
- Scottish Ambulance Service
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

The aim of the UI Sub-Group is to provide a collaborative and coherent approach to keeping people safe, by coordinating and overseeing the development of the relevant actions as set out within the Community Safety Strategic Framework. This includes;

- Bringing relevant partners together to promote and improve the monitoring and analysis of unintentional injuries within South Lanarkshire and to develop an appropriate and coordinated response.
- Ensuring effective development, delivery and review of services to prevent unintentional injuries

MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING

Personnel across South Lanarkshire have trained as mental health first aiders, south Lanarkshire recognised the importance of mental health and the impact it can have on an individual if they suffer from these conditions.

4 personnel have been trained by Lanarkshire Mental Health this provides those individuals the ability to recognise some of the indicators for poor mental health and the support that can be provided and the organisation who can support and assist with mental health.



OTHER AREA NEWS

FIVE PEAKS CHALLENGE

Staff from South Lanarkshire braved the elements in support of cancer charity by setting themselves a difficult challenge to climb 5 Munro's across Scotland. As well as a great sense of achievement and fun there was a serious element of raising funds for a fantastic cause.

The challenge took place in April 2018 the weather was as you would expect in Scotland but it was unseasonably poor. The team were battered with heavy rain, wind and snow. The team battled scarred and sore had to push themselves to their limit, but none the less their endeavour, hard work and steely resilience ensured they got to the top of all the peaks, raising thousands of pounds for an excellent charity.

As you can see from the pictures the conditions would challenge any outdoor enthusiast. GM Kennedy said "it was a fantastic effort from all the team we had to push and support each other all the way, it was a great team effort".



LANARK PARKINSONS GROUP

Crews at Lanark Community Fire Station have been working with and supporting a local Parkinson's charity.

Clydesdale Parkinson's Group was formed in October 2015 and has over 50 members, acting as a valuable support network for people across the area. Recently firefighters from Lanark have been engaging with the members of the group to promote fire safety in the home. The group meets on the last Thursday of each month from 2pm until 4pm at St Nicholas Church Hall in Lanark.

The group organises regular events and social activities and provides a wealth of information, friendship and assistance. Jim Forrest, a retired member of the Fire Service has been instrumental in supporting the group.



AREA RETIREMENTS

Two Long standing officers from the South Lanarkshire Management team recently retired after 30 years' service from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

To help celebrate their commitment to our communities, their colleagues from the Area joined them in an adventure weekend in Perthshire, which included gorge jumping and white-water rafting.

Station Managers Eddie Kelly and Benny Rooney said they would like to thank their colleagues for joining them in such a fantastic and tiring weekend, it has been such a fantastic and memorable career within the fire service and we will leave with a heavy heart and fond memories.



LANIMER DAY

In 1892 the first Lanimer Procession was held and has now grown to be one of the largest processions of its type in the United Kingdom and is renowned for its scale, energy and entertainment value. Traditionally Over 1,000 participants, young and old, parade with spectacular 'Lanimer Lorries' to a soundtrack of Pipe, Silver and contemporary marching bands. It is truly a magnificent event

The Thursday which is the "Big day" sees well over 1500 people taking part in colourful parade down the High Street in a fantastic pageant. The Town shows great community spirit to organise this event every year and provides a great opportunity for our staff to engage with the local community too.

Group Manager David Murdoch has been a previous Lord Cornet pictured below with Group Manager Scott Kennedy and Station Manager Barry Cranstoun.



CLYDESMILL COMMUNITY GARDEN

You may have noticed an extra buzz around Clydesmill Fire Station. A piece of ground there has been developed into a community space, which will include bee hives. The site in Westburn Drive has been provided as a greener and healthier way of living for locals.

Robert Deans, Station Manager at Clydesmill Community Fire Station, said: "It's a piece of ground that wasn't used in the past and we're looking at making it a community growing space. Ideally what will happen is that local groups will take ownership of the garden. We'll have bee hives on the site which will be managed by the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Beekeepers Association. It's an opportunity to provide a safe site and also an educational space, where people can find out more about nutrition, gardening and the production of honey."

The project has been helped by a cash grant from Pride of Place, and Robert is optimistic further funding can be secured.

Growing Together is a constituted non-profit, voluntary community group comprising a partnership between: The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, South Lanarkshire Council, South Lanarkshire Community Payback, Cambuslang/Rutherglen Healthy and Happy, local schools and nurseries, local Men's Shed, Lanarkshire Beekeepers Association and other local community and volunteer groups.

The project to date, has been cost neutral to SFRS with all funding obtained via external Community Engagement and Environmental funding streams.

The primary outcome of the project is to build long term cohesive relationships with all members of our community whilst enhancing SFRS existing community engagement strategies.

We have a programme of environmental / food growing education which is now being developed and is scheduled for delivery over the forthcoming months.

Our infrastructure is now taking shape, with the next key component of our project currently being designed an outdoor educational / space / classroom / tool store.

This will allow the project to fully function independent from the station facilities. We believe the creation of this project provides SFRS with a fantastic opportunity to contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community. We also believe that a successful model could be replicated across many other locations across the country. Utilising the cycle of food from seed to plate helping to build a stronger, more sustainable community.

Some of the skills we have been able to provide within the community garden are

- Light Construction for the garden
- Biodiversity and sustainability gardening
- Potting and harvesting and store procedures
- Introduction to food growing and seed propagation





ARMISTICE DAY

Group Manager Scott Kennedy represented the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service at the Armistice Day Parade in London. Scott along with other colleagues from Fire Services across the UK and members of the military from across all the services, pay tribute to members of the commonwealth armed forces who laid down their lives in conflicts across the world. GM Kennedy said it was a great honour and a privilege to represent the SFRS at such a poignant and emotional day.



SOCIAL MEDIA

South Lanarkshire Management Team continues to communicate and engage with their communities with the use of Twitter.

The use of Twitter has allowed SFRS to send out fire safety messages to the public, whether they have been related to specific incidents within local communities or corporate seasonal safety messages.

It has also allowed SFRS staff to communicate to the public in terms of what activities and initiatives have been running their local area



NOTES



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

firescotland.gov.uk