



Minutes

Community Safety Committee

Date: 13 October 2023

Time: 10:30

Venue: FSHQ

Present: Cllr H Zaman (in the chair), Cllrs Downes, Fazal, Kirton, Pollard, Renshaw and Wood

In Attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Almas, Garvani, Keith and Sutcliffe

10 Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 July 2023

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 July 2023 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

11 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

12 Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

13 Admission of the public

There were no items requiring the exclusion of press and public.

14 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest made in any matter under consideration at the meeting.

15 Performance Against Response Indicators

The Director of Service Delivery presented a report detailing the performance against the performance outcome targets covering the period 1 April 2023 to 13 September 2023.

A number of recently introduced initiatives were brought to members attention; tyre checks now taking place at car wash events, Safe and Well visits have now been requested for all addresses where a gaining entry request had been received from the ambulance service.

Members welcomed the report and challenged the report author on the following issues:

- Are the heat sensors which are being introduced calibrated for use in kitchens and how they are being promoted
- Are the malicious false alarms in Calderdale related to one provider
- Are the distortions in the statistics due to Covid now passed
- Is the significant reduction in fire related rescues in the Bradford district related to the high percentage of properties fitted with smoke alarms
- Does WYFRS provide PAT testing as part of the Safe and Well Visit and could we consider promoting the overall use of PAT testing and give advice on how to arrange.

Members were reminded of the 5 principals of vision zero – safer speeds; safer vehicles; safer roads; safer behaviours; and improved learning from collision investigations

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

16 West Yorkshire Resilience Forum Annual Update

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer presented a report which updated members on the activities undertaken by the West Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum (WYRF) for the period 2022/23. Members were informed that the establishment of, and participation in the WYRF, is required by law but that there are many tangible benefits for the communities of West Yorkshire.

Members were advised this is the first annual update from the WYRF post Covid and that the group now have a brand. Members requested clarification of the membership of the WYRF and its sub groups.

Members challenged the report author on the debriefing systems in place following no notice training exercises and the involvement of the severe weather subgroup with Yorkshire Water for environmental issues.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

17 Fire Investigations Convictions Update

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Delivery which provided details of the arson convictions for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 August 2023, where the WYFRS Fire Investigation Team have provided expert witness statements to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

The report confirmed that for the period 1st January 2022 to 31st August 2023, WYFRS Fire Investigation Unit Officers (FIOs) investigated the origin, cause, and development of fire in 202 incidents and for 65 of these they supplied West Yorkshire Police with expert witness statements.

Members were reminded that delays in convictions and sentencing are due to the judicial system and are outside the control of WYFRS.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

18 Spotlight On Case Studies

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Delivery which provided examples and updates on the following areas of work which were being undertaken to meet the needs of the communities of West Yorkshire in the delivery of prevention, protection and response activity.

- a) Bradford – Water Awareness
- b) Calderdale - Lets Learn Moor and Water Safety
- c) Kirklees – Police and Fire Service (PAFS) Youth Intervention Course
- d) Leeds – Hunslet RTC Initiative
- e) Wakefield – Community Actions

It was emphasised that the Spotlight Ons are just examples of initiatives going on across all Districts all the time. Members noted the Spotlight On reports and received them positively.

Members discussed the pass plus course for newly qualified drivers, the target groups for the police led event (PAFS), which is currently primary school age and the lack of publicity for local events.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

19 Quality of Service Surveys

The Head of Corporate Services presented a report to inform members of the feedback from the annual Quality of Service Surveys 2022/23. Members were informed that a Quality of Service Questionnaire is sent to a random selection of the locations of incidents attended in the previous month, which is returned to an independent research company via a prepaid envelope. Members were further informed that a Safe and Well Visit Follow up Questionnaire is sent to 125 randomly selected residents who have received a Safe and Well Visit in the previous month.

In respect of incidents attended it was noted that there had been a response rate of 15% for domestic surveys and 25% for non-domestic with 99% of respondents completing the domestic questionnaire expressing satisfaction with the service they received and 99% of respondents to the non-domestic questionnaire expressing satisfaction with the service they received.

In respect of Safe and Well Visits there had been a response rate of 34% with 99% of respondents satisfied, of whom, 91% were very satisfied.

Members welcomed the report and commented on the following issues:

- Follow up of missed safe and well appointments.
- The distribution of written advice
- The lack of background comments/explanations received from dissatisfied respondents

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

Chair