



Minutes

Community Safety Committee

Date: 24 July 2020

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: Microsoft Teams meeting

Present: Councillor G Almas (in the chair), M Akhtar (items 6 – 9 only), T Austin, P Harrand, R Hunt, D Jenkins, D Kirton, M Pervaiz, M Pollard, K Renshaw and F Shaheen (as substitute for Councillor A Tait)

In Attendance: None

Apologies: Councillor A Tait

1 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 3 April 2020 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2 Matters arising

None.

3 Urgent items

None.

4 Admission of the public

There were no items which required the exclusion of the public and press.

5 Declarations of interest

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

6 2019 – 20 Performance management information – outcome targets

Members received a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery which advised of performance against the 2019 – 20 performance outcome targets.

It was reported that there had been a slight reduction in overall activity compared with the previous year but that the general trend since 2015 had been revealed stable activity levels.

Members raised the following specific issues;

- Water safety and possible recommendations to Yorkshire Water
- Increase in actual rescues – due, in the main, to support provided to Yorkshire Ambulance Service
- Recording methods for fire-related injuries
- High rise safety and the Grenfell Inquiry findings
- Chip pan fires
- Timeliness of information
- Alternative language leaflets – including Eastern European
- Fatalities – link to mental health issues
- Complaints regarding operational response – related particularly to language / tone used in making incident grounds safe for members of the public

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7 Arson convictions 2019 – 20

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery which detailed those arson convictions which had been made during the 2019 – 20 period in which the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Fire Investigation Team had provided expert witness statements.

Members were advised that the Fire Investigation Team was available 24/7 and were called automatically to serious fires, fire fatalities, locations of repeated fire incidence and / or where there were unusual circumstances involved.

The report detailed 13 cases (15 individuals) which had been brought, or were due, before the Crown Court. Four cases were awaiting either trial date or trial outcome. It was reported that 8 of the individuals had received convictions totalling 81 years and one individual had been detained without limit of time under the Mental Health Act 1983.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

8 Service Delivery “Spotlight on” case studies

Members considered a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and 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 and particularly in the light of the current COVID19 pandemic;

- Youth Interventions and Prince’s Trust team delivery
- COVID19 response activity within each District

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

9 Safeguarding activity update

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery submitted a report which advised of the safeguarding activity undertaken during 2019.

Members were advised that 168 cases had generated a cause for concern and 103 people had been identified as requiring safeguarding and referred to the relevant local authority. 58 cases were identified as vulnerable individuals who required additional support.

The following specific issues were raised by Members;

- Disparity of figures between Districts – related to roll-out of training
- Management / reporting arrangements of soft intelligence
- Staff training

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

Chair