

# Culture and Communities

10.00am, Thursday, 3 October 2024

## Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Local Plan Performance Report – City of Edinburgh – April 2023 to March 2024

Executive/routine  
Wards

### 1. Recommendations

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1.1 To note the update from the Area Commander.

**Dr Deborah Smart**

Executive Director of Corporate Services

Contact: Andrew Rose, Democratic Services Manager

Legal and Assurance Division, Corporate Services Directorate

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## Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Local Plan Performance Report – City of Edinburgh – April 2023 to March 2024

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report provides an update from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on the Edinburgh City Area for the period April 2023 to March 2024.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 On 9 February 2023, the Council agreed that the Police and Fire and Rescue Services' city-wide plans, policies and performance reports would be transferred from the Policy and Sustainability Committee to the Culture and Communities Committee for consideration with effect from 17 April 2023.
- 3.2 This provides a forum for Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to discuss major cross-cutting issues with the Council as well as fulfilling their duty to engage with the local authority.
- 3.3 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is required by the [Police and Fire Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2012](#) to involve the local authority in the setting of its priorities and objectives for the area.

### 4. Main report

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- 4.1 This report covers the period April 2023 to March 2024 and is part of a regular update from the Area Commander to the Council.
- 4.2 The report contains an overview and summary by the Area Commander on the following topics: performance Summary, Accidental Dwelling Fires, All Fire Casualties, All deliberate Fires, Special Services, Special Service Casualties and False Alarms.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 Under the [Police and Fire Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2012](#), the Council can monitor and provide feedback to the Area Commander.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There is no financial impact.

## **7. Equality and Poverty Impact**

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- 7.1 There is no equality and poverty impact.

## **8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications**

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- 8.1 There is no climate and nature emergency implications.

## **9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact**

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- 9.1 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has discussed the content of the report with the Council and the information can develop as feedback is received.

## **10. Background reading/external references**

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- 10.1 Culture and Communities Committee 10 August 2023 - [Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Local Plan Performance Report City of Edinburgh - March 2023 to April 2024](#)
- 10.2 The City of Edinburgh Council 9 February 2023 – [Decision Making Framework 2023](#)

## **11. Appendices**

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- 11.1 Report by the Area Commander.



**LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT**  
**CITY OF EDINBURGH**



**SCOTTISH**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**  
Working together for a safer Scotland

Annual Performance Report, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

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## Introduction

This report provides information on our prevention, protection and operational response activities within the City of Edinburgh (CoE) area during the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024.

The Scottish Government provides an overarching vision for public services. This vision is supported by 16 National Outcomes, which demonstrate commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable growth. The SFRS can make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes for the city by contributing to the Community Planning arrangements across the area.

It is important that we continue to provide efficient and effective service delivery that aligns to the risk and demand in our area. To achieve this we must undertake an appraisal of our current resources against known risk and demand and design a strategy to ensure our resources are in the correct format at the correct time and in the correct place. To support delivery of this, our Strategic Service Review Programme is being prepared for 2024/25 and beyond.

The aims of the Fire and Rescue Service in the city are to reduce death and injury from fire and unintentional harm and respond effectively to the wide range of emergencies that may occur across our community. To achieve this, we will work in partnership with internal and external stakeholders, be pro-active and target our prevention and protection activities based on evidence and strive to continually improve in every aspect of our work. Within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the City of Edinburgh 2023/24, six priorities for the local Fire and Rescue Service to work towards have been identified:

1. Operational Resilience and Preparedness
2. Domestic Fire Safety
3. Reducing Unintentional Injury and Harm
4. Reducing Deliberate Fire Setting
5. Non-Domestic Fire Safety
6. Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (False Alarms).

These priorities, and our strategies for service delivery, are clearly aligned to the Community Planning structure, which supports the delivery of the Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2018-2028 and the four Locality Improvement Plans.

The full Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Edinburgh can be accessed at:

Local Fire and Rescue Plan - Edinburgh, 2020 | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service ([firescotland.gov.uk](https://firescotland.gov.uk))

**Area Commander David Dourley,**  
**Local Senior Officer for City of Edinburgh.**

## Performance Summary

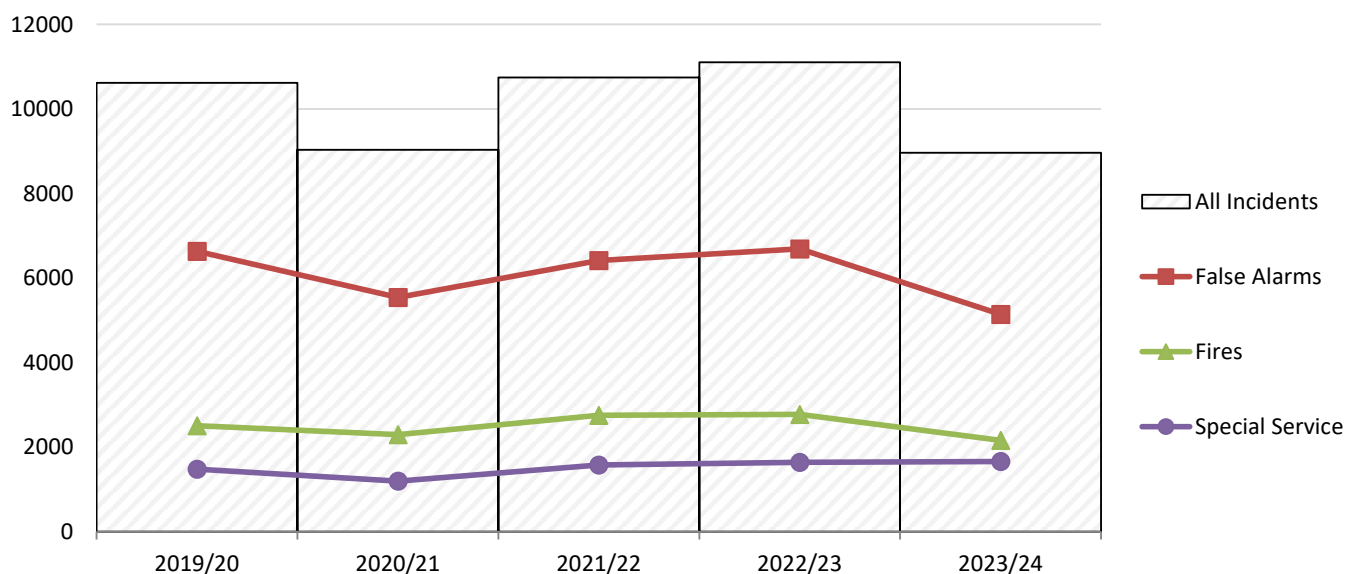
We measure how well we are meeting our priorities using 6 key indicators, depicted below

Key performance indicator	Apr to (& incl.) Mar					RAG rating
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	YTD
All accidental dwelling fires	438	369	398	366	369	▲
All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))	106	73	74	110	80	●
All deliberate fires excl. dwellings	1195	1218	1485	1437	1001	●
Special Service - RTCs	118	81	92	99	100	▲
Special Service Casualties - All	224	111	154	170	143	●
False Alarm - UFAs	4110	2996	3673	3907	2463	●

RAG rating - KEY		
◆	RED DIAMOND	10% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
▲	YELLOW TRIANGLE	Up to 9% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
●	GREEN CIRCLE	Equal to or improved upon the previous equivalent quarter (or YTD period), or local target achieved.

Note
Yearly Red, Amber and Green rating = the cumulative total of quarterly performance when compared to previous periods
Incident Overview
Year to date (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024), the SFRS responded to 8960 incidents in Edinburgh, a decrease of 2179 compared with the same reporting period for the previous year.

The chart below illustrates incidents YTD attended within Edinburgh City council over the last 5 fiscal years



**Progress on local fire & rescue plan priorities**

**Local Risk Management and Preparedness**

The Fire and Rescue Service in Edinburgh continues to identify, prioritise and plan to meet the risks across the four localities and the wider Service Delivery Area. In our Local Plan Review we said we would train our staff to deal with our local risks, gather and analyse risk information, work with partners to mitigate risks and deal with major events.

Train our staff to deal with our local risks

All of our operational and function based staff undertake routine and risk specific skill acquisition and maintenance training. This is continually monitored and our agile training program flexes to newly identified training requirements should they emerge. Our teams routinely identify high risk premises and these are communicated across the LSO area. We also undertake practical training both on station and off station to ensure realistic training at risk specific premises and risk specific incident types.

Gather and analyse risk information

Our staff continue to proactively gather, review and analyse local risk information and existing operational intelligence, to ensure our planning and preparations are up to date and sufficient to resolve incidents safely. We conduct Post Incident Debriefs to identify any lessons that can be learned from our preparedness and response to emergency events. We use Urgent Operational Intelligence Briefings to inform our operational staff of any safety critical information and our operational assurance procedures ensure that we apply policy, procedure and safe systems of works on the incident ground.

Work with partners to mitigate risks

We are working hard to nurture partnership arrangements through attendance at local CIPs EVOC etc. SFRS continue to be an active member of the East Local Resilience Partnership. We share information and work alongside local authority partners and other key stakeholders (e.g. Police Scotland) to ensure emergency event risks are mitigated using a partnership approach where appropriate.

Deal with major events

Complex and significant incidents during this reporting period include –

- The explosion and subsequent collapse of a domestic terraced house in Baberton Mains Avenue on 1/12/23. Investigations remain ongoing at this stage.
- The domestic flat fire at Breadalbane Street in March 2024. 12 Fire Appliances attended with support from partners in Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service. Report has yet to be concluded.



## Reduction of 'All accidental dwelling fires'

Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs) can have a devastating impact within our communities. SFRS in the City of Edinburgh are committed to keeping people safe in their own homes. We share information with partners to make sure that the right people get the right information they need, particularly focused on those who are most vulnerable due to age, isolation, medication alcohol/drug misuse. Reduction of ADFs is a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for SFRS and contributes to the Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2018-2028 and the four Locality Improvement Plans.

### Results

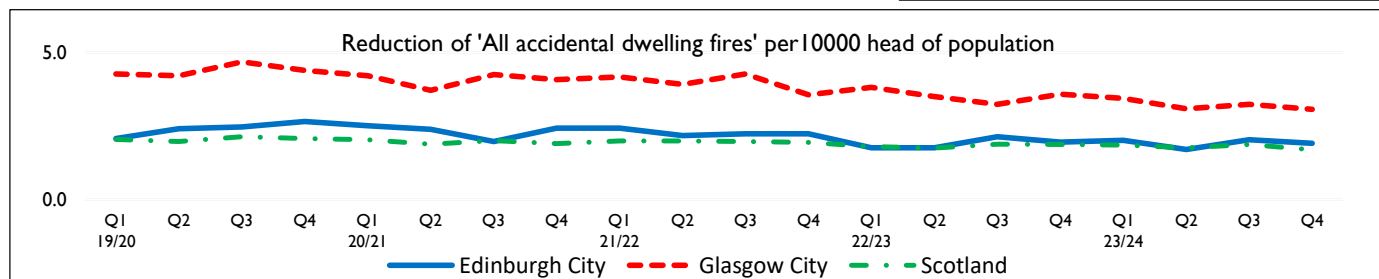
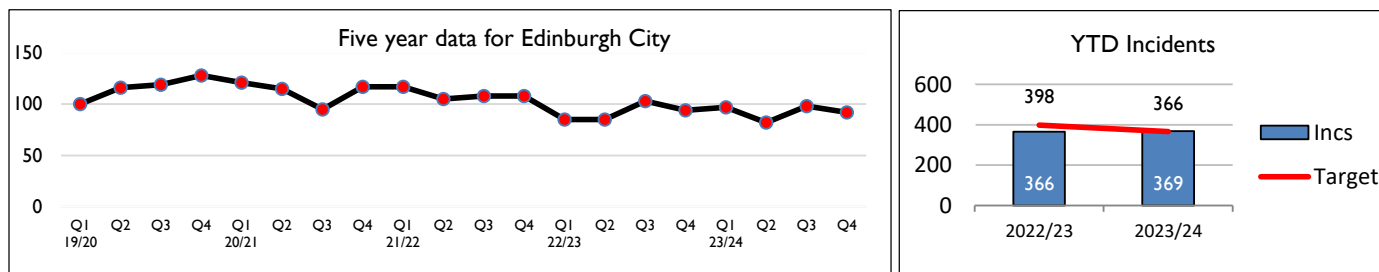
We aim to reduce the instances of ADFs in City of Edinburgh through sustained and effective, targeted community safety engagement activities. This includes our extensive, wide reaching Home Fire Safety Visit Programme and other engagement with community groups and schools across Edinburgh. During this reporting period, we responded to 369 ADFs, which is a slight increase of three incidents compared with the same period last year. The long-term trend based upon incidents/10,000 population shows Edinburgh performing well below Glasgow but slightly above the Scotland trend line.

### Reasons

Of the 369 accidental dwelling fires attended, 251 (68%) occurred in tenement buildings or purpose built flats and 65 (17.6%) occurred in single occupancy dwellings. The main cause of fire is cooking. 197 (53%) of incidents had no fire damage, were limited to the first item ignited and/or confined to the room where the fire started and were therefore, relatively minor in nature. 172 (47%) of fires were of a more serious nature with fire damage over one or more floors. Unfortunately, 133 (36%) domestic properties that were attended for an ADF did not have working smoke alarms fitted.

### Actions

During this reporting period 2618 Home Fire Safety Visits were carried out within City of Edinburgh. SFRS continue to work in partnership to educate and inform people about fire and safety, in the home. Appendix I 'Prevention & Protection Activities' provides further details. To ensure maximum engagement opportunity, we have recently reinvigorated our Post Domestic Incident Response reactive engagement. More can be found in the Prevention, Protection and Preparedness section of this report.



YTD ward ave. for Edinburgh City - 22	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Edinburgh City	438	369	398	366	369	
Almond	18	18	29	14	21	
Pentland Hills	29	21	30	23	14	
Drum Brae & Gyle	19	14	10	13	11	
Forth	37	34	31	27	34	
Inverleith	20	19	16	18	23	
Corstorphine & Murrayfield	14	9	7	4	11	
Sighthill & Gorgie	43	33	26	26	29	
Colinton & Fairmilehead	17	8	13	17	16	
Fountainbridge & Craiglockhart	18	15	17	20	13	
Morningside	19	19	15	10	12	
City Centre	26	38	35	40	36	

## Reduction of 'All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))'

Fire casualty and fatality rates provide an indication of the amount of serious, life-threatening injuries that occur due to fire. Tragically, during this reporting period six people lost their lives in fires across the city. All six fatalities occurred in dwelling fire incidents across different areas of the city. Vulnerabilities and other contributory factors featured in all incidents.

### Results

We aim to reduce fire casualties in Edinburgh each year. In this reporting period SFRS in the City of Edinburgh dealt with 80 fire casualties, primarily due to accidental or deliberate dwelling fires. The vast majority of fire casualties are attributed to fires in the home. There were four reported fire casualties (non-fatal) in commercial properties.

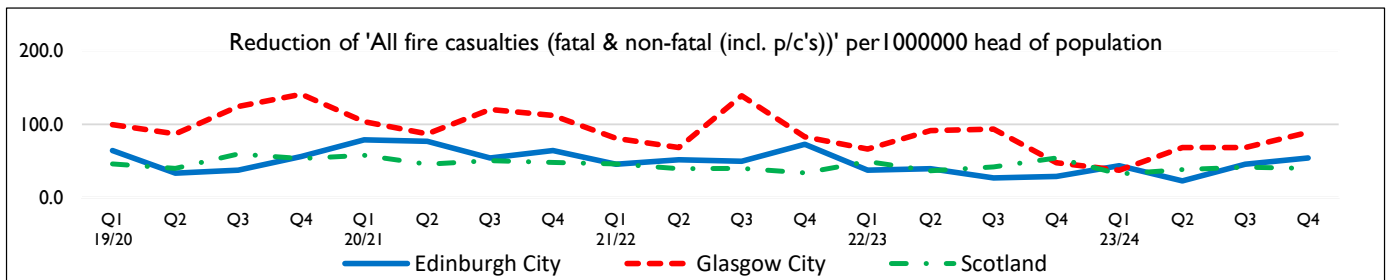
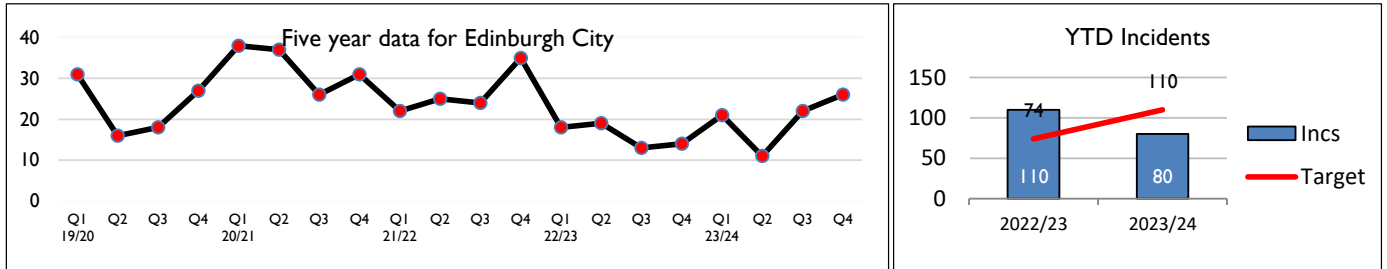
The figures indicate a decrease of 30 fire casualties (down by 28%) compared with the same reporting period last year. The long-term trend based upon casualties/10,000 population shows Edinburgh is performing better than Glasgow but slightly above the Scottish average trend line.

### Reasons

Historically, the City of Edinburgh has relatively low numbers of casualties from fires compared with Glasgow. The main contributory factors are cooking and smoking materials. Sadly this year the city experienced an unusually high number of fatal fires. Three of these fires started in the kitchen, two in the livingroom and one in a bedroom. There are no unusual trends or unusual common factors linking these fires, however case conferences and learning reviews are progressing to learn as much as possible from these tragic events.

### Actions

2618 Home Fire Safety Visits were carried out, an increase of 28% when compared to the previous reporting period. In response to the six fire fatalities, we have led on the delivery of learning reviews where appropriate and initiated a thematic project to focus on those at risk from fire during Q1 of 2024/25. We continue to work with our partners within the four localities and seek opportunities through referrals, social work and NHS to target those most vulnerable and at risk from fire. Appendix I 'Prevention & Protection Activities' provides further details on current activities.



YTD ward ave. for Edinburgh City - 5	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Edinburgh City	106	73	74	110	80	
Almond	11	8	6	1	4	
Pentland Hills	4	8	4	9	5	
Drum Brae & Gyle	5	5	5	2	4	
Forth	5	5	5	10	6	
Inverleith	3	1	3	0	7	
Corstorphine & Murrayfield	2	2	1	0	2	
Sighthill & Gorgie	11	8	7	15	10	
Colinton & Fairmilehead	7	2	0	3	3	
Fountainbridge & Craiglockhart	3	2	2	7	1	
Morningside	4	2	9	4	1	
City Centre	10	14	5	8	4	

## Reduction of 'All deliberate fires excl. dwellings'

Deliberate fire setting is an issue in various areas across our city. Recent years have shown an increase with close links between deliberate secondary fires and other forms of anti-social behaviour. In the main, deliberate fires are secondary fires categorised into refuse/bins, grassland or derelict buildings incidents. Occasionally, some fires are deliberately set in primary locations such as buildings, caravans and vehicles. Where there is a possibility of criminality where there has been a risk to life or damage to property, our Fire Investigation and Fire Safety Enforcement teams may investigate the origin and cause and provide reports to Police Scotland or the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service.

### Results

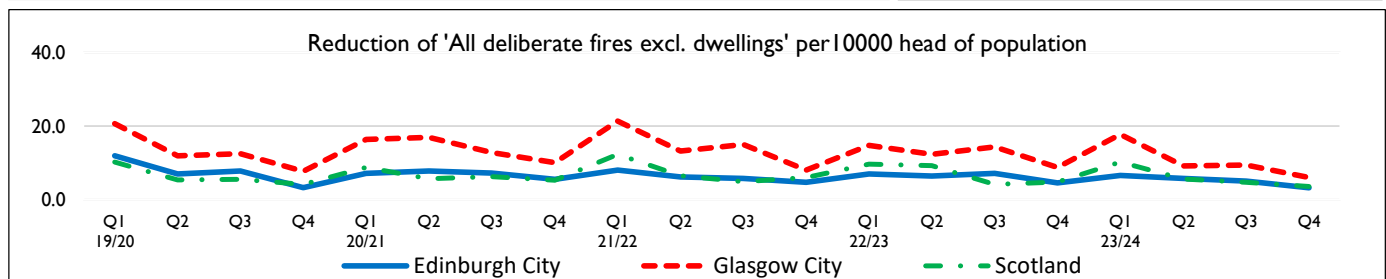
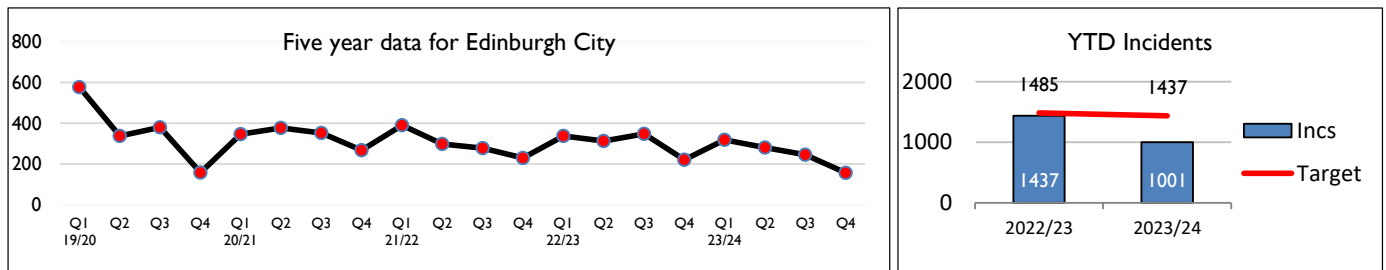
There were 1001 deliberate fires within the reporting period, which is a reduction of 30% when compared to the previous year. 825 deliberate fires are classed as outdoors grass/scrubland and refuse fires. The remaining deliberate fires include those started in dwellings, other buildings and vehicles. The long-term trend based upon incidents/10,000 population shows Edinburgh is performing well in reducing secondary fires during the period, slightly below the Scottish trend line.

### Reasons

Grassland/scrub and refuse (either loose or contained) offer opportunity for ignition sources and combustible materials to be brought together. These type of fires are often generated through anti-social behaviour. There are trends relating to time of year (darker nights, school holidays, long periods of dry weather).

### Actions

The SFRS continue to work with our partners and any emerging themes and trends are addressed in partnership. Various on-going preventative activities have been undertaken throughout the year targeting the issue of deliberate fire-raising. This includes various schools engagement events, our proactive partnership approach to Bonfire night, thematic actions based on trends, our Fireskills Programme and information sharing/visits to community based youth groups.



YTD ward ave. for Edinburgh City - 59	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Edinburgh City	1195	1218	1485	1437	1001	
Almond	109	112	108	80	82	
Pentland Hills	96	101	134	102	78	
Drum Brae & Gyle	25	18	15	23	24	
Forth	147	130	177	209	180	
Inverleith	50	54	66	73	41	
Corstorphine & Murrayfield	40	37	11	26	21	
Sighthill & Gorgie	80	99	146	162	72	
Colinton & Fairmilehead	24	35	31	27	37	
Fountainbridge & Craiglockhart	20	11	31	28	28	
Morningside	17	14	18	15	17	
City Centre	60	34	54	49	48	

## Reduction of 'Special Service - RTCs'

While much of this risk in relation to safety on roads is out with the control of SFRS, attending Non-Fire Emergencies such as Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) forms part of our 'Special Services' Service Delivery response. Intervention, and education forms a key part of our activities to outline the dangers and encourage drivers, particularly those about to leave school, of the consequences of dangerous and reckless driving. Reduction of Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies contributes to the Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2018-2028 and the four Locality Improvement Plans with regards the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents.

### Results

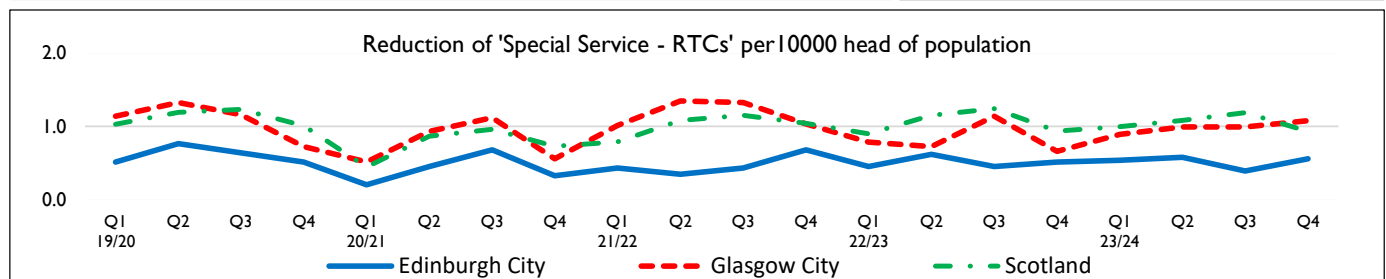
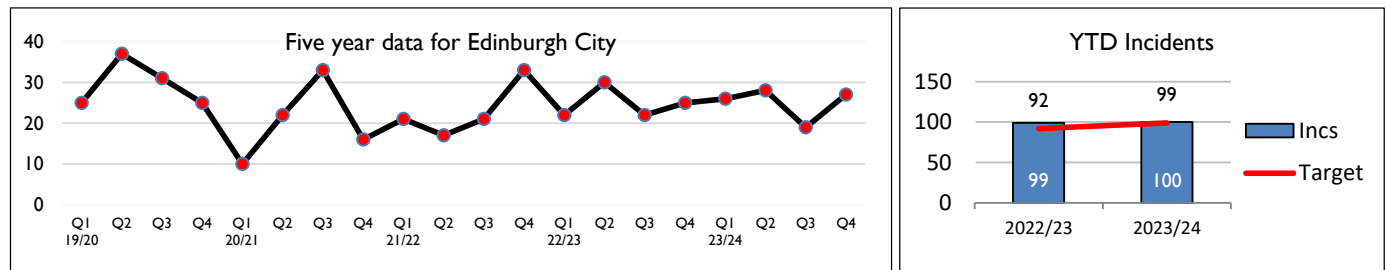
We attended 100 Road Traffic Collisions which is an increase of one when compared with the same reporting period last year. Per 10,000 head of population, Edinburgh has consistently performed well, recording data below the Scottish and Glasgow trend lines.

### Reasons

The SFRS only attend RTC's they are requested to attend, primarily where there is a fire, a risk of fire or where persons are involved (normally physically or medically trapped). Therefore, figures tabled do not reflect the total number of vehicle accidents within the City of Edinburgh, just incidents attended by SFRS.

### Actions

The SFRS is key partner in the multi-agency approach to reducing Road Traffic Collision's and the associated casualties and fatalities. The continued delivery of the Risk Factory -Young Driver programme targeting young people is an excellent partnership approach to increase awareness amongst younger people to support road traffic collision reduction. We also promote road safety messaging across our social media channels and our Community Action Teams and station based staff deliver Road Safety education across the city's schools.



YTD ward ave. for Edinburgh City - 6	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Edinburgh City	118	81	92	99	100	
Almond	24	8	16	11	18	
Pentland Hills	7	11	7	12	15	
Drum Brae & Gyle	3	5	4	3	3	
Forth	5	3	1	3	5	
Inverleith	4	4	9	6	3	
Corstorphine & Murrayfield	5	1	3	3	3	
Sighthill & Gorgie	8	6	5	9	11	
Colinton & Fairmilehead	9	10	5	8	8	
Fountainbridge & Craiglockhart	5	2	2	2	2	
Morningside	3	2	2	4	0	
City Centre	9	5	5	9	3	

## Reduction of 'Special Service Casualties - All'

While much of this risk is out with the control of SFRS, dealing with Non-Fire Emergencies 'Special Services' (Road Traffic collisions, Hazardous Materials, Rescues from Confined space, height, water, co-responding) form a key part of our response and intervention activities. The SFRS remains committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to drive continuous improvement in this area. Reduction of Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies contributes to the Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2018-2028 and the four Locality Improvement Plans

### Results

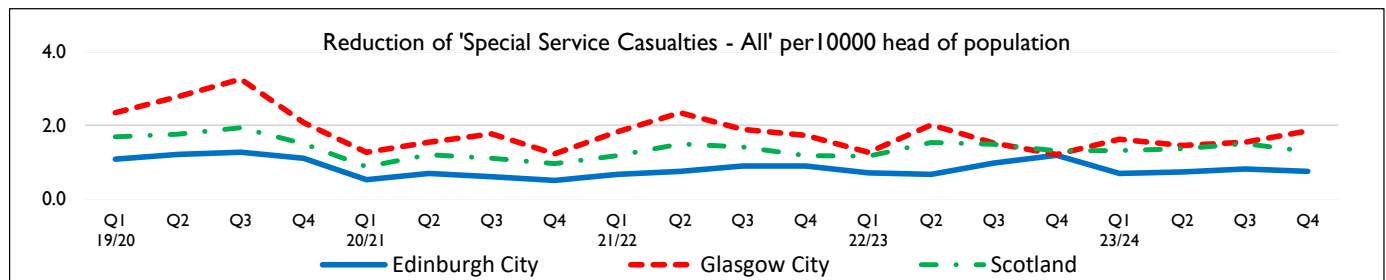
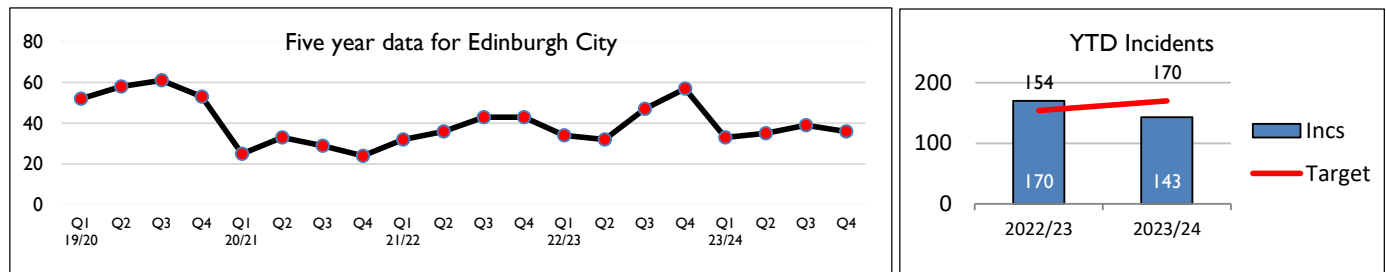
Sadly, a total of 143 casualties (28 fatal and 115 non-fatal casualties) were recorded at Special Service incidents. This is a reduction of 27 casualties when compared with the same reporting period last year. Per 10,000 head of population, Edinburgh is performing well, demonstrating performance below the Scottish and Glasgow area trend lines.

### Reasons

From the 28 fatal casualties, 19 fatal casualties were from co-responding or assisting other agencies incidents, 3 fatal casualties from RTC/transport incidents and one casualties from a water incident. The remaining five casualties were from other misc. incidents including hazardous materials and suicide/attempts. From the 115 Non fatal casualties, 54 were due to assisting other agencies gain entry or supporting medical response, 39 were attributed to RTCs and two were rescues from water. the remain number were from other misc. incidents including hazardous materials and suicide/attempts.

### Actions

The SFRS in the City of Edinburgh will continue to respond to the communities needs in terms of other non-fire emergencies to reduce unintentional harm. The overarching objective is to continue working in partnership with others to reducing fatal and non fatal casualties.



YTD ward ave. for Edinburgh City - 8	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Edinburgh City	224	111	154	170	143	
Almond	15	4	19	14	11	
Pentland Hills	17	8	8	7	15	
Drum Brae & Gyle	10	4	9	3	6	
Forth	8	3	8	14	3	
Inverleith	10	1	9	17	8	
Corstorphine & Murrayfield	12	3	2	4	5	
Sighthill & Gorgie	20	8	15	8	8	
Colinton & Fairmilehead	8	8	5	8	4	
Fountainbridge & Craiglockhart	7	5	3	4	4	
Morningside	13	7	3	3	5	
City Centre	23	13	16	13	11	

## Reduction of 'False Alarm - UFAs'

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are defined as incidents where an automated fire alarm system activates for reasons other than fire and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources. It may be caused by a human act or omission or caused by faulty or defective equipment. From 1 July 2023, SFRS changed the way we respond to automatic fire alarm (AFA) signals for commercial business and workplace premises, unless a fire has been confirmed.

### Results

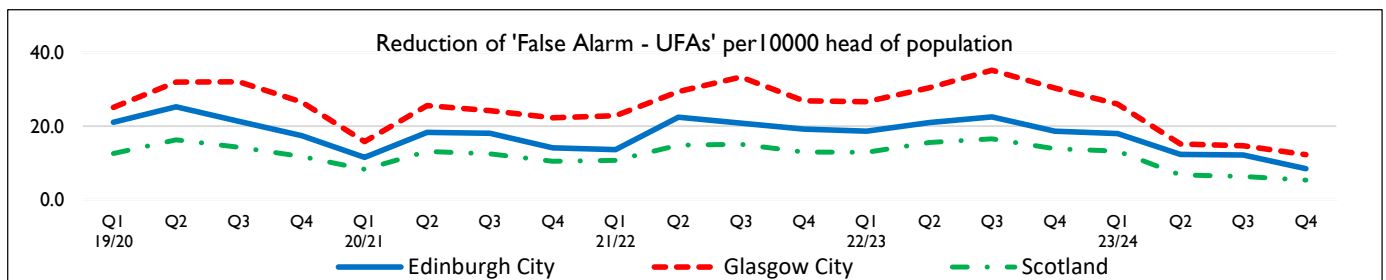
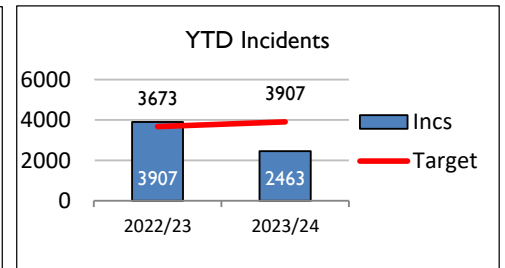
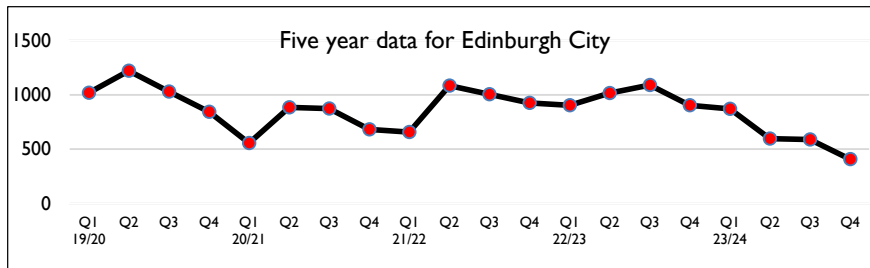
SFRS attended 2463 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals incidents during this reporting period, which is a decrease of 1444 incidents when compared to the same reporting period last year. The reduction is most likely due to the revised SFRS approach to UFAS, with Duty Holders investigating alarm actuations and our Operations Control staff challenging calls for specific premises types. The City of Edinburgh trend line is performing above the Scottish trend line but below the Glasgow trendlines.

### Reasons

The primary cause of UFAS is fumes from cooking actuating detection apparatus. Using a toaster, grill or cooker near detection apparatus resulted in 422 UFAS incidents. Other reasons included accidental activations, the system being activated due to contaminants (dust/insects/steam/aerosol) and people smoking near detection apparatus. External sources of fire, smoke or contamination also accounted for some UFAS incidents. 211 incident attendances were due to malicious breakage of a break glass call point. There is no change to our response for this type of actuation and a full emergency response is mobilised.

### Actions

We continue to monitor UFAS calls to commercial and domestic premises and our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers and Community Action Teams work closely with premises responsible persons and occupiers to further reduce UFAS incidents. This includes discussing technological, procedural and management solutions in order to prevent such incidents. In Edinburgh, within commercial premises, we are currently engaging with various premises responsible persons giving advice to prevent further occurrences.



YTD ward ave. for Edinburgh City - 145	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Edinburgh City	4110	2996	3673	3907	2463	
Almond	215	188	181	232	74	
Pentland Hills	121	65	77	92	65	
Drum Brae & Gyle	130	81	83	115	58	
Forth	118	83	135	114	72	
Inverleith	222	160	170	199	119	
Corstorphine & Murrayfield	101	70	83	101	55	
Sighthill & Gorgie	175	157	174	198	114	
Colinton & Fairmilehead	65	37	48	44	23	
Fountainbridge & Craiglockhart	177	151	178	183	124	
Morningside	226	167	185	196	127	
<b>City Centre</b>	1341	893	1260	1313	<b>830</b>	

# Appendix 1 – Prevention, Protection & Preparedness Activities

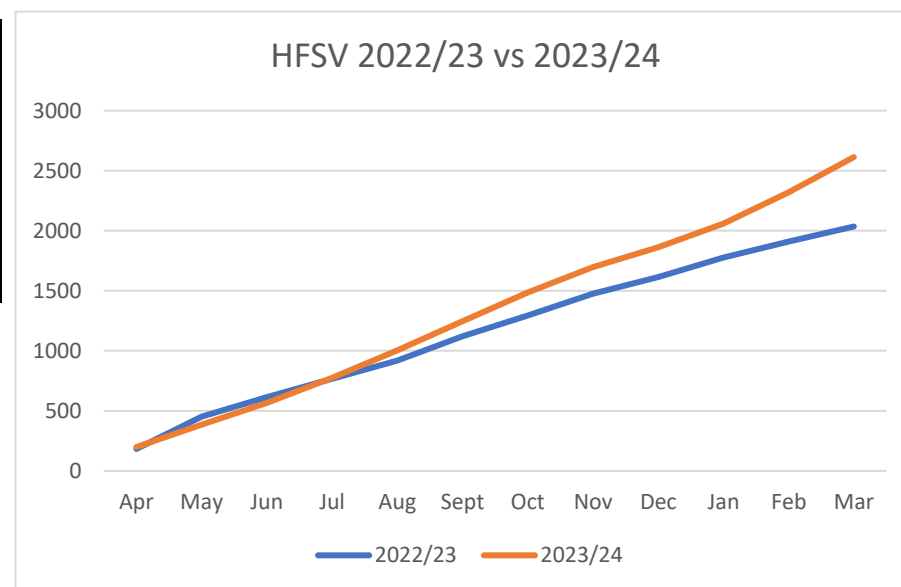
April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024

## Prevention

### Home Fire Safety Visits

Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) are key to reducing accidental dwelling fires and are undertaken mainly by our operational fire crews. For people with more complex support needs, our Community Action Team undertake joint visits with partner agencies. By visiting households and providing fire safety advice and free smoke and heat alarms where appropriate, we aim to reduce the potential for accidental dwelling fires and fire casualties. We generate HFSVs from 3 main sources: (i) through our website/HFSV freephone hotline; (ii) referrals from partner agencies; and (iii) following an incident at a domestic premises (post domestic incident response or PDIR). We are now seeing a positive trend in number of completed HFSV's and engagements targeted at vulnerable individuals after the impact of the challenges of engagement during the COVID pandemic. Work is continuing to reinvigorate the referral process with active participation in multiple Community Improvement Partnerships to promote and support referrals from our partners and other stakeholders. To specifically address the trend of fatalities in 2023/24, our national Make the Call campaign was targeted at the demographic affected from August 2023 – February 2024 with 60 engagements carried out to a wide range of the community across Edinburgh. Following on from this, a targeted Home Fire Safety Project was piloted from March - May 2024. Results have shown a positive trend in both Post Domestic Incident Response and HFSV completion, these results fall across the reporting periods, supporting a proactive approach to reducing fires in the home.

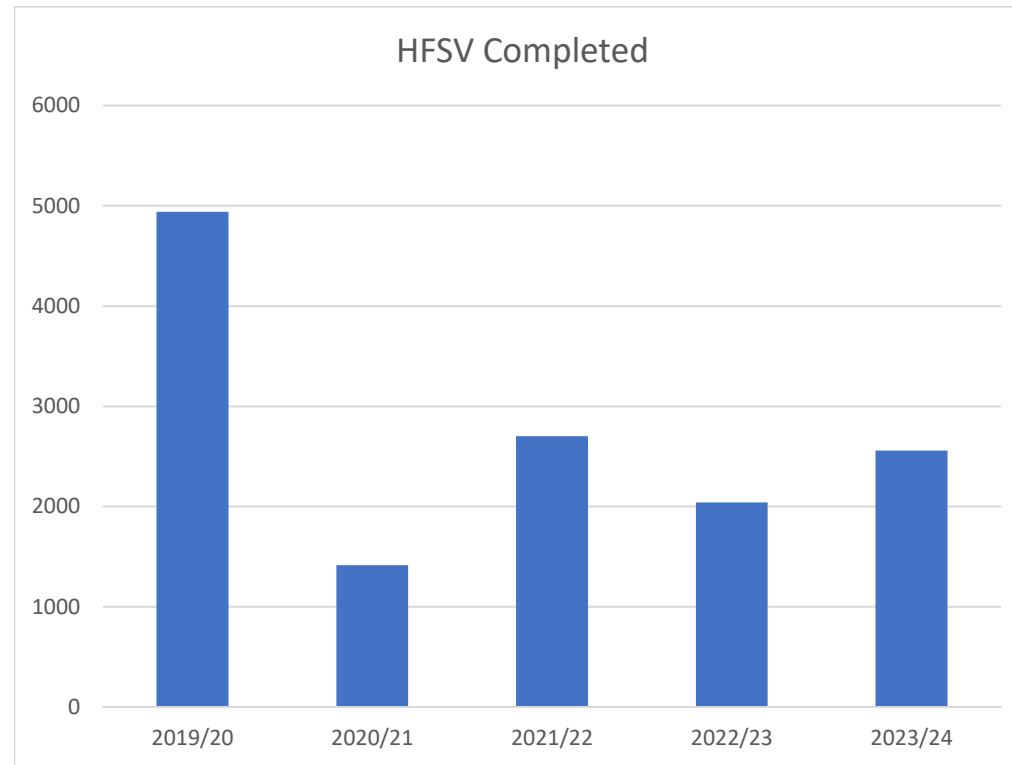
Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
<b>2022/23</b>	183	269	163	151	152	202	175	181	137	164	113	145	<b>2035</b>
<b>2023/24</b>	199	186	182	208	228	243	241	211	163	197	263	297	<b>2618</b>



## Visits by Ward area

Ward Area	Visits delivered
Almond	84
City Centre	182
Colinton/Fairmilehead	90
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	72
Craigtinny/Duddingston	129
Drum Brae/Gyle	77
Forth	272
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	97
Inverleith	181
Leith	168
Leith Walk	215
Liberton/Gilmerton	182
Meadows/Morningside	160
Pentland Hills	58
Portobello/Craigmillar	149
Sighthill/Gorgie	232
Southside/Newington	210
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2613</b>

## Year on year comparison



Following the Covid pandemic, it has been challenging to reach those in need of a HFSV due to restrictions, partnership referral declines and a change in how we deliver our program. We no longer offer free smoke detection to all, only the very highest risk. We have now reviewed our national Policy and targeting figures to reflect the national demographic and facilitate targeting of the most vulnerable in our communities.



## **Preventing Fire Fatalities**

In response to the six fire fatalities in Edinburgh during 2023/24, a new Fire Fatality Case Conference working group involving Edinburgh's Adult Support Committee and other relevant partners, including Social Work officers, has been introduced to understand the circumstances of every fire fatality. The aim is to facilitate multi-agency learning and to prevent future fire fatalities. The working group also promotes our Home Fire Safety Visit referral process through local networking to ensure that vulnerable people who are known to our partners and are at greatest risk from fire, receive a home fire safety visit.

## **Partnership Working**

SFRS are a key partner in the Edinburgh Firework Control Zone (FCZ) working group, working alongside stakeholders to support the application of the new legislation. Following consultation, the group reached broad agreement to implement four FCZ in Nov 2024.

A new partnership has been initiated with Neighbourhood Watch Scotland and we are currently exploring opportunities to maximise community engagement opportunity through this network.

## **High Rise Domestic Buildings**

We continue to engage with Duty Holders with fire safety responsibilities in High rise Domestic Buildings to improve fire safety and operational preparedness for fires within these building types. This has included upgrading lifts for use by the fire service, standardising associated firefighter lift switches/keys, bin room suppression, dry riser/general property maintenance, such as the re-lining of bin chutes. We undertake regular inspections, carry operational intelligence, train and exercise and also engage in the cladding remediation process.

## **HMP Edinburgh**

Fire crews from Sighthill Fire Station, along with our local Community Action Team, took part in HMP Edinburgh's Families Day. The event provided an opportunity to provide fire safety advice and to raise awareness of our Make the Call campaign. Make the Call is about targeting Home Fire Safety Visit referrals at smokers over 50 years of age who live alone, use medical oxygen or have mobility issues, as this group are known to be at greater risk from fire.

## Youth Engagement

The Community Action Team undertake the following youth engagement activities:

- Information sharing with partners and effective multi-agency partnership working is focused on reducing deliberate fire setting and fire related anti-social behaviour (ASB). In partnership with locality-based Police officers, we adopted a targeted approach by delivering educational programmes within schools in response to any developing trends.
- We have responded to ASB, violence to crews and wilful fire raising in Niddrie/Hays by undertaking extensive and targeted work with Castlebrae and Holyrood High schools alongside local youth groups, allowing us to engage with young people with the aim of enrolling them on our FireSkills intervention programmes. Two Fireskills courses were held at Castlebrae in relation to this work in August and November of 2023. This work has been successful in reducing the number of fire and ASB incidents in these areas. Fireskills programmes deliver diversionary activities for young people with the aim of reducing fire-related anti-social behaviour, while developing life skills. The associated Employability Award results in 4 points towards a Level 4 SVQ, enhancing the employability of our young people as well as boosting self-confidence and providing a sense of achievement. All completed the course and gained the nationally recognised Employability Award.
- Over the course of 2023/24, City of Edinburgh Community Action team undertook 6 Fireskills course covering schools and individuals from all localities. This work was targeted at individuals who were identified by close partnership working with Police Scotland and Lifelong Learning. 50 individuals completed these courses with praise coming from all partners as to the commitment shown and the impact on the individuals undertaking the course. As a result of the actions of one of the individuals attending the Fireskills course, lifesaving intervention was given to a member of the public and this individual received a Chief Fire Officer Commendation as a result.
- Over the course of 2023/24 the team completed its 100<sup>th</sup> Fireskills course delivered in Edinburgh.
- Our proactive bonfire activity included delivering fire safety education, with the focus on reducing fire related ASB and hoax calls, as well as reducing the risk of harm from inappropriate behaviour. Operational crews delivered presentations to primary schools in higher risk areas. The Community Action Team targeted 10 high schools across the city, interacting with approximately 1500 S2 pupils. Opportunity was given to all schools to highlight concerns for specific groups of pupils for stand-alone inputs on the dangers of Fireworks and Bonfire.

## Water Safety

SFRS chair the Edinburgh Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) Group. The Group focuses on three main aspects:

- **Prevention:** Pro-active activities that reduce the likelihood of a water emergency occurring by raising awareness of safety issues, and by educating the public on how to be safe in and around water.
- **Improved Response:** Effective response to water emergency incidents through multi-agency exercises and training the public how to react to incidents safely via the Waterside Responder Scheme.
- **Review:** Implementation of the Drowning & Incident Review (DIR) after significant incidents to ensure learning from water emergency incidents to gain an understanding of the contributory factors and make interventions that may prevent similar events from occurring.

The Community Action Team support Water Safety messaging by being a main point of contact to Water Safety Scotland and disseminating educational information, packages and social media toolkits to all stakeholder involved in the group. This allowed us to drive forward the safety message through multiple channels.

During 2023/24, we further developed the Edinburgh Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) Group adding new partners into the group. The Group focuses on three main aspects:

We continue to work with Pentland Hills Regional Park, its members and the Council to educate the public on water safety and participate in multi-agency public awareness events e.g. at Harlaw and Bonaly Reservoirs. We have formed a partnership with Police Scotland to deliver Interactive Junior Cop primary school engagement sessions across South Queensferry and Kirkliston areas, to advise young people of the safety risks. All Fireskills youth courses include water safety engagement sessions. The Community action team have been proactively engaging with the public at Portobello and Cramond Beach during busy periods delivering water safety messaging and relaying safety concerns with tide times.

## **Road Safety**

To improve road safety our team carry out the following activities:

- Promote road safety awareness through our commitment to staffing the Risk Factory, the Young Drivers Event at the Corn Exchange each year, schools engagement and through Fireskills/Employability youth engagement work.
- Working in partnership with Police Scotland and The Royal Regiment of Scotland, the Community Action Team along with a fire appliance from Penicuik Fire Station attended Glencourse barracks. Over 200 army recruits attended the RTC 'Drive To Arrive' event where SFRS highlighted the dangers of speeding, reckless driving and drink driving, followed by a practical demonstration of our RTC casualty extrication techniques and subsequent first aid measures.
- In partnership with Road Safety Scotland, Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service and Lothian Buses, the Community Action Team along with three appliances from Sighthill Fire Station attended the Scottish Festival of Motoring at The Royal Highland Centre. The event is attended by more than 10,000 visitors. SFRS operational crews conducted two practical RTC extrication demos with commentary, which allowed visitors to understand our roles along with the importance and reasons behind our policies and procedures at road traffic collisions.

## **Safeguarding**

Operational crews continue to safeguard vulnerable members of the community, highlighting any concerns by submitting Adult and Child protection forms post incident or any other engagement, which are followed up by our Community Action Team. In total, 135 welfare concern forms (131 Adults and 4 children) were submitted to Social care Direct over the course of 2023/24. The Community Action Team attended 125 Adult Protection Case Conferences (multi-agency) throughout 2023/24, playing a key role in the safety interventions for these members of the community.

## **Protection**

### **Fire Safety Enforcement Audits**

Fires in non-domestic (commercial) property have the potential to result in multiple casualties/fatalities and have a detrimental effect on the built environment, local businesses, employment, the provision of critical services and our heritage. Evidence suggests that business premises affected by a serious fire experience a high failure rate.

Our annual risk-based programme of fire safety auditing runs from April to March and targets “relevant premises” that fall within the scope of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005. During 2023-24, our team of 9 Fire Safety Enforcement Officers (FSEO) team carried out 690 audits of relevant premises. Despite some challenges, the Fire Safety team have completed 100% of the Auditing Framework, which requires annual audits of the highest risk premises including all Hospitals, Care Homes high risk hotels and hostels. There is also a significant amount of work done responding to all post fire audits and investigating sites where concerns about fire safety have been reported to us.

### **Partnership Working**

SFRS are participating in an innovative project with fire safety consultants, CS Todd & Associates to trial an electronic system that logs vulnerable people in/out of high-rise domestic buildings. The system has been developed in response to the Grenfell tragedy and would allow SFRS to quickly identify the location of any vulnerable residents who may require assistance to evacuate in the event of a full or partial fire evacuation. We are not yet live with this system due to delays with the project however, we are assured that this will progress and should be ready for trial in the coming months.

### **Thematic Enforcement Activity**

In addition to our core enforcement audits, we undertake thematic enforcement activity throughout the year, aligned to local risks including the following:

- Royal Highland Show – providing fire safety advice and support.
- Edinburgh Festival Fire Safety Inspections, consisting of over 200 site specific visits undertaken in July and August to ensure the fire safety compliance at Festival venues/locations. This is a significant piece of work for the team with planning and preparation starting in March every year.

- Royal Week – FSEO’s carried out pre inspections and a Tactical Liaison Officer (TLO) role to support activities around Royal Week.
- Short Term Lets (STL’s) – Although relatively low risk, we continue to support Edinburgh City Council to support licensing arrangements for STL properties
- Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO’s) – Ongoing secondment of an FSEO to the City of Edinburgh Council Licencing team with a primary focus on HMO’s and STL’s
- Fireworks licensing – joint inspections of shops selling fireworks with CEC Licensing/Trading Standards officers in October/November
- Murrayfield Hospitality – Carrying out pre-inspections for hospitality venues at Murrayfield Rugby Stadium alongside Edinburgh Council for Six Nations Rugby Matches
- Council Schools – Monthly Council Schools Fire Safety Technical Meeting, dealing with all issues of a Fire Safety matter.
- Liquor Licence – Consulting on licence applications received by the City of Edinburgh Council.
- High Rise Domestic Buildings – Working alongside Factoring companies and local government regarding Fire Safety Issues involving High Rise Domestic Buildings (Cladding).
- Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) – Constantly monitoring UFAS incidents across the City of Edinburgh resulting in Stage 2 letters being issued to carrying out Stage 3 Audits if problems persist. This also includes liaising with Council representatives for Schools and Fire Safety Departments for Student halls of Residence.
- Enforcement Email Inbox – Dealing with complaints and requests on a daily basis from members of the public and other organisations, resulting in consultations, site visits, or full Fire Safety Audits as required.

## **Preparedness**

Following on from a national restructure, the new Preparedness team has been implemented to focus on operational preparedness, event planning and improving operational intelligence in the City of Edinburgh. Due to nature of Edinburgh as a busy urban area, capital city and host of the Edinburgh Festival, there is a significant workload associated with event planning and the management of risk to ensure the safety of residents and visitors to the city. Working

with SFRS Civil Contingency teams and supported by the Prevention and Protection staff, our dedicated Preparedness officers have implemented over 70 event plans including the following:

- 2023 Bonfire Night Event Plan coordinating risk mitigation with Police Scotland and local communities.
- The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Event Plan liaising with event organisers, providing on site fire appliance and fire officers to ensure public safety during the event.
- Edinburgh Marathon
- The Royal Highland Show
- Multiple large scale sporting events and musical concerts throughout the year at locations such as Murrayfield, Easter Road and Tynecastle involving thousands of spectators.
- Edinburgh Festival Event Plan which provides vital information for operational crews on temporary road closures and venues set up during August.

The Preparedness team also works closely with Civil Contingencies to plan and implement regular exercises with Local Resilience Partnerships ensuring Edinburgh is well prepared to deal with a large-scale emergency such as flooding or terrorism.

The Preparedness team are currently working on developing and improving Operational Intelligence within the City of Edinburgh. Each high-risk location has safety critical information recorded digitally and is available to operation crews on scene. Access to this information improves decision making at incidents and improves the safety of our staff and the public.

