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**REPORT TO: POLICE AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES COMMITTEE ON  
23 AUGUST 2018**

**SUBJECT: SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE THEMATIC REPORT –  
UNINTENTIONAL HARM AND HOME SAFETY**

**BY: AREA MANAGER FINDLAY, LOCAL SENIOR OFFICER,  
SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with information on this priority both in relation to past performance and how it is intended to deliver against this priority in the future.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (J) (4) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the monitoring of delivery of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services in Moray.

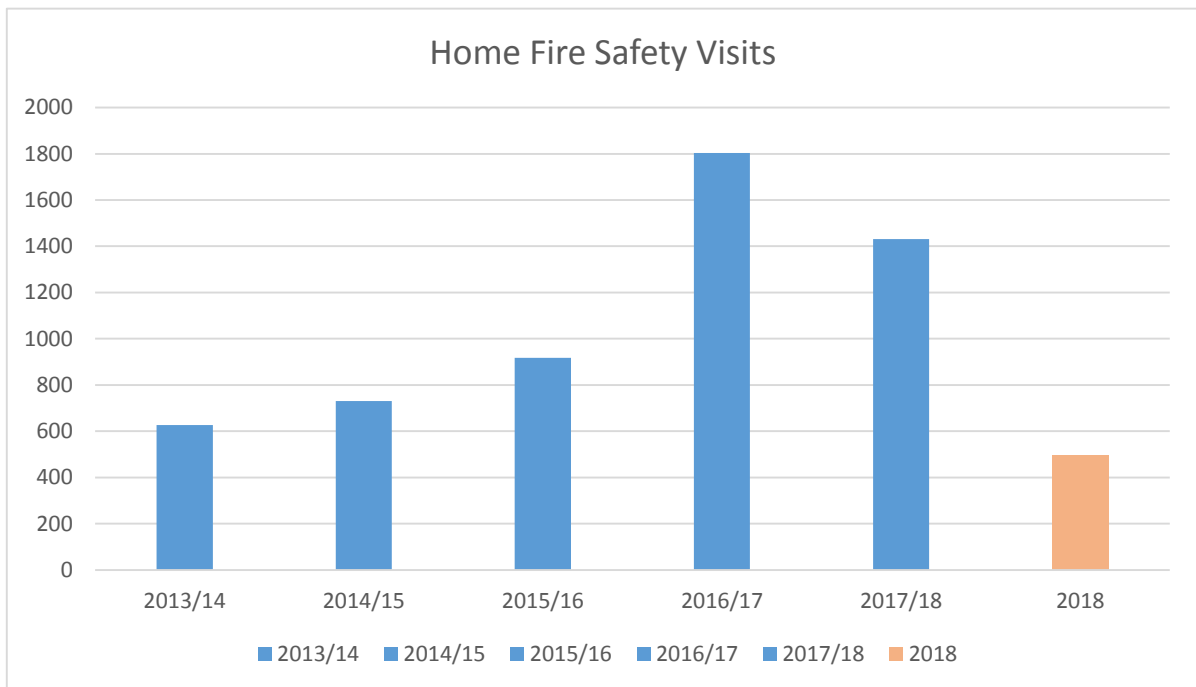
**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Committee consider and note the information provided in this report in relation to Unintentional Harm and Home Safety.**

**3. INTRODUCTION**

- 3.1 A key priority within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Moray is Reducing Unintentional Harm and Promoting Home Safety.
- 3.2 Unintentional harm in the home environment, and in particular, accidental fires, slips, trips, falls and burns/scalds to the very young and old, is now widely recognised as presenting significant issues to the health of the public, as well as the wider impact these injuries have on public services.
- 3.3 Working with partners in Moray and across Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has a significant role to play in contributing towards identifying those persons most vulnerable and/or at risk, the risks they are exposed to, and reducing those risks, either directly through SFRS, or indirectly through partner intervention. The key aim is to improve safety, including fire safety and reducing injury and/or harm.

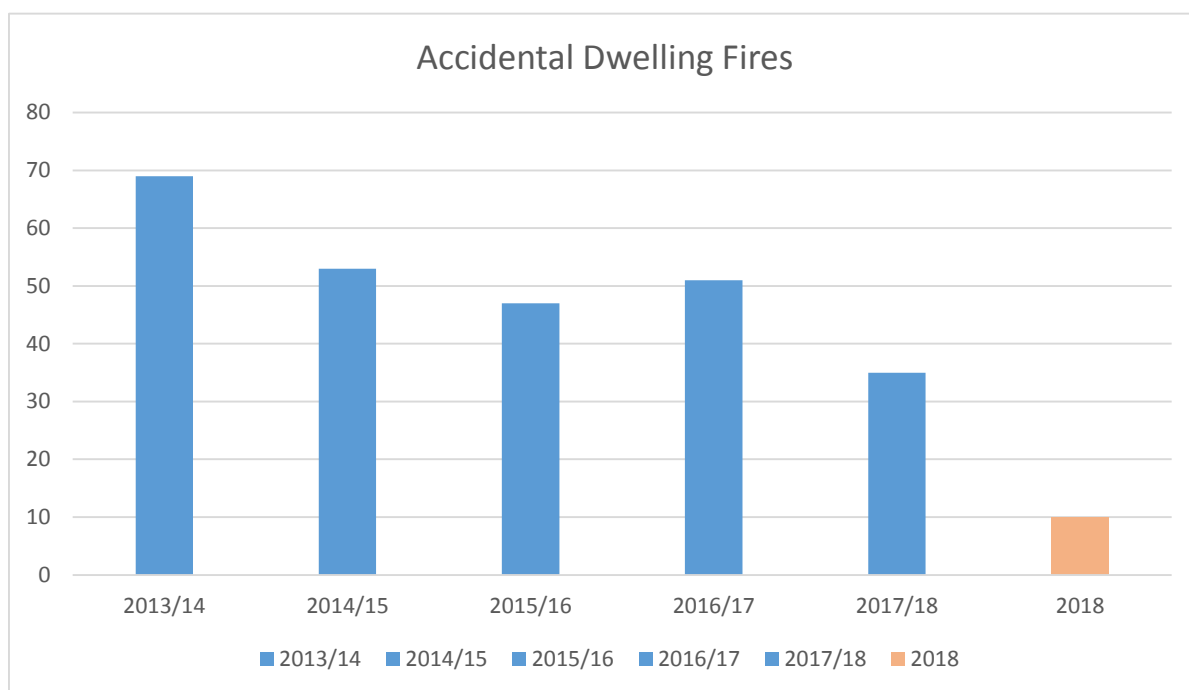
- 3.4 All staff within the area are committed to working in partnership to reduce unintentional harm within the home. To help deliver against this priority there is a dedicated Community Safety Action Team who work with partners and station based personnel to reduce the risk of unintentional harm within the home. The team support the 11 stations across the Moray area with the delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits.
- 3.5 The current structure of the Community Safety Action Team is:
- 1 x Group Manager (Shared role between Aberdeenshire, Moray and Highland Area)
  - 1 x Station Manager
  - 1 x Local Authority Liaison Officer
  - 1 x Assistant Local Authority Liaison Officer
  - 4 x Community Safety Advocates
- 3.6 In addition to a Community Safety Action Team work has been carried out with Moray Council and partners within the Moray area to develop the Community Safety Hub, The Hub helps to deliver against known priorities and identify those most vulnerable.
- 3.7 Partnership working is a key element of the Community Safety Hub and the Hub has also supported thematic areas of work including road safety, working with children and young people and engaging with older persons.
- 3.8 The promotion and delivery of free Home Fire Safety Visits remain a priority theme for the SFRS locally across Moray and in the future these visits will be expanded to include home safety and through a targeted approach delivered to those most vulnerable and at risk from fire and/or harm in the home.
- 3.9 The chart below shows the progress that has been made in Moray in the delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits since the beginning of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, the chart shows visits delivered between 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> December for each respective year;



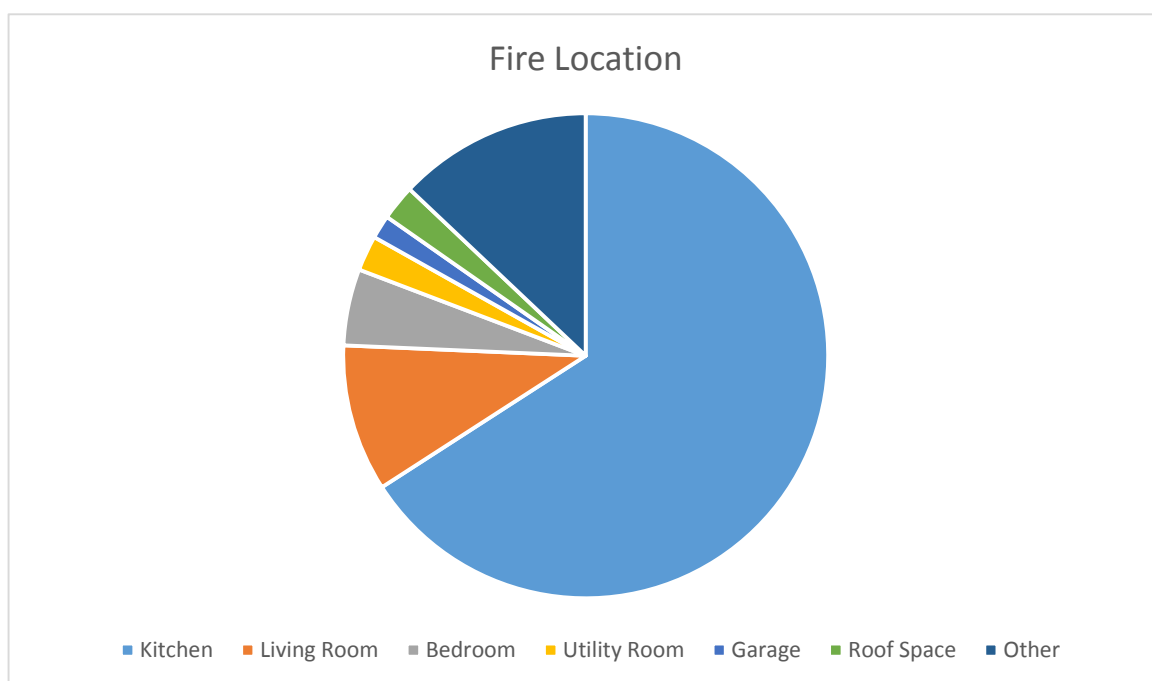
- 3.10 While these visits have been effective we hope to use service transformation to further develop the visits to cover wider Home Safety issues and provide an even better service to local communities.

#### **4. ACCIDENTAL DWELLING FIRES**

- 4.1 The reduction in the number and severity of Accidental Dwelling Fires is a key performance indicator for this priority and both quantitative and qualitative information will be supplied on these indicators.
- 4.2 The chart below shows the number of Accidental Dwelling Fires that have occurred within Moray from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018;



- 4.3 Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service responded to 255 Accidental Dwelling Fires within the Moray Area. The chart below shows the room of origin for these incidents;



- 4.4 As can be seen from the chart below fires starting in the kitchen account for 66% of all accidental dwelling fires that occurred within the area.
- 4.5 Out of 255 accidental dwelling fires attended, at 192 incidents no firefighting action was required other than removing the item from the heat source and providing the occupiers with reassurance and community safety advice.

4.6 Partnership working and information sharing are key to reducing unintentional harm within the home and focus is being placed on developing the referral process to ensure that early interventions take place for those that are most vulnerable in the communities. Examples of partnership working initiatives that have been carried out in this area are:

- Safe and Sheltered Housing Initiative
- Hanover Housing Initiative
- Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks priority reconnection initiative.

## 5. **ACCIDENTAL DWELLING FIRE CASUALTIES**

5.1 The reduction in the number of Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties (both Fatal and Non-Fatal) is a key performance indicator for this priority and both quantitative and qualitative information will be provided on these indicators.

5.2 Fatal fire analysis highlights that there are often multiple contributory factors when investigating fire deaths. Evidence provided by SFRS Fire Investigation for the 2014-15 period indicates there were 28 accidental dwelling fire fatalities recorded in Scotland. Of these, 23 were aged 60 and over (82%), of the 28, half (14) of the incidents were caused by smokers' materials. Contributory factors included e.g.; living alone (17), health issues including dementia and mobility problems (13) and alcohol (7).

5.3 Fatal accidental dwelling fires occur predominantly in the living room, usually the main habitable room, and there are clear links to lifestyle issues including the use of alcohol and smokers' materials. Early detection is of vital importance when any fire occurs and consideration should be given to the placement of fire detection in principle habitable rooms, as well as circulation spaces, as per Scottish Building Standards, which are interlinked to other detectors in the home.

5.4 In Moray there have been 2 Fatal Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 as shown in the table below;

2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
0	1	0	1	0

5.5 Both fatal Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties have been 60+ years of age.

5.6 A further breakdown of the ages of fatal accidental dwelling fire casualties is provided in the table below;

60-69	80-89
1	1

5.7 The gender balance of casualties was 1 male and 1 female.

5.8 Of the 2 dwelling fires that resulted in fatalities 1 of them started in the living room, and 1 in the kitchen.

5.9 Smoke Alarms were present in both fires, and on both occasions the alarm activated but did not raise the alarm.

5.10 In relation to Non-Fatal Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties there have been 69 casualties as shown in the table below;

2013 – 14	2014 – 15	2015 – 16	2016 – 17	2017 – 18
23	8	11	15	12

5.11 The greatest number of Non-Fatal Casualties occurred in the 10-19 age group, a further breakdown of casualty's ages is shown in the table below;

0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	Not Known
2	10	8	7	7	9	6	2	5	2	11

5.12 For every casualty that occurs in an accidental dwelling fire a case study is carried out, the purpose of this is to record details of the circumstances relating to the casualty and to identify trends for future interventions.

5.13 Of the 69 casualties, 35 of these were male and the remaining 34 were female.

5.14 The main causation of Non-Fatal Fire Casualties was cooking related fires that accounted for 28 casualties.

5.15 Smoke Alarms were present in 40 (58%) instances that resulted in a casualty. The fitting and correct siting of Smoke Alarms remains a priority for the area.

## **6. MOVING FORWARD**

6.1 Prevention and early intervention of unintentional harm within the home is a key priority for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service within the Local Fire Plan. We will continue to work with partners and communities to maximise our contribution to preventing unintentional harm and promoting home safety.

6.2 As part of Service Transformation the Home Fire Safety Visits will be developed into Home Safety Visits to have a more holistic approach to reducing unintentional harm in the home.

6.3 Both inward and outward referral processes will continue to be refined to ensure that the right information is shared regarding people at risk of harm and the most vulnerable people.

6.4 Engagement activities will be focussed in areas where service demand has been identified and evidence identifies trends.

## **7. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

**(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan supports the outcomes contained within the Moray LOIP

**(b) Policy and Legal**

There are no specific policy or legal implications arising from this report.

**(c) Financial Implications**

There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

**(d) Risk Implications**

There are no Risks directly identified in respect of this matter in terms of the Corporate and Directorate Risk Registers as the Committee is monitoring the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as required under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 however links to the Corporate Risk of [Working with Other Organisations](#).

**(e) Staffing Implications**

There are no specific staffing implications arising from this report.

**(f) Property**

There are no specific property implications arising from this report.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

An equality impact assessment is not required because this report refers principally to advice to members on the performance of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service for the relevant periods. There will be no detrimental impact, as a result of the report, on people with protected characteristics.

**(h) Consultations**

Not applicable.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

**8.1 The Committee note the information provided in relation to Unintentional Harm and Home Safety.**

Author of Report: Area Manager Ian Findlay,  
Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service