



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

Meeting and date: Overview and Audit Committee, 19 July 2023

Report title: Prevention Improvement Plan – Mid-term Review

Lead Member: Councillor Simon Rouse

Report sponsor: Head of Prevention, Response & Resilience – Simon Tuffley

Author and contact: Community Safety & Safeguarding Manager Joanne Cook

jcook@bucksfire.gov.uk

Action: Noting

Recommendations:

1. That the Committee note the Prevention Improvement Plan mid-term review summarising the progress made against the measures required to secure long-term improvements to Prevention delivery in Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS)
2. That the Committee note the amendments made to the actions within the Prevention Improvement Plan maintaining the currency and appropriateness of the plan in line with developments in Prevention guidance and expectations outside of the Service led by the Central Program Office

Executive summary:

In November 2021 the Prevention Improvement Plan and the Phase One Prevention Evaluation Report were presented to the Overview and Audit Committee.

The Prevention Improvement Plan contains 60 recommendations, drawn from the Prevention Evaluation, the findings of the then Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Fire and Rescue Services, and the areas required to meet the Prevention Fire Standard and associated National Operational Guidance.

Work had already commenced to secure and evidence improvement in Prevention, with the Prevention Improvement Plan giving clarity to the specific actions agreed as required to close each recommendation.

Highlight Reports on the Prevention Improvement Plan are presented to each Performance Management Board and escalated to the Overview and Audit Committee twice a year.

Progress against the Prevention Improvement Plan is also included in the HMICFRS progress reports.

Mid-term Review

At the time of the mid-point review, 28 of the 60 recommendations were marked as completed, with progress in each of the five areas ranging from 27-71 percent of recommendations completed. This gives an overall completion level at the mid-term point of 47%, indicating that work is broadly on track to secure the identified improvement in the three-year period anticipated and defined at the onset.

	No. of recommendations	Completed
Strategy, vision & leadership	7	71%
Intelligence	15	53%
Management of processes, systems and planning, including audit	15	27%
Coordination and communication of operations	13	46%
Delivery of operations	10	50%

Greatest progress has been made in the area of Strategy, Vision and Leadership with 71 percent of recommendations completed. This included the introduction of the Prevention Strategy 2022-25 which prioritises the people most at risk of fire and other emergencies and gives focus and direction to specialist teams including for the non-statutory areas of Road and Water Safety.

Also included in the Strategy, Vision and Leadership area was the introduction of local data profiles and a revised format for recording station objectives.

Increased working with the Data Intelligence Team (DIT) reviewing and securing data sets that enable activity to be targeted has meant that the Intelligence area has had a significant impact upon the efficiency and effectiveness of Prevention work completed in Service.

Work in this area is ongoing with two significant Information Sharing Agreements (ISAs) in the process of being established. The ISA with the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) aligns with the development of a fire and rescue service dashboard within the multi-agency Thames Valley Together information sharing platform due to launch later in 2023, a platform that is a national exemplar for VRU data sharing.

The ISA in development with the South East and Eastern region of His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) aims to provide weekly information sharing on convicted arsonists in the Service area, thus facilitating timely effective support for

victims where there is ongoing risk at the time of perpetrator's sentence completion dates, and proactive work to occur to reduce the impact of arsonists.

It is recognised that the Management of Processes, Systems and Planning area has had the fewest recommendations completed. Actions have been completed in this area including those required to 'improve working relationships with healthcare providers and social care teams to improve awareness of the services available to ensure individuals identified as high risk are being recognised'.

Specific examples of this relate to:

- the provision of specialist input in the hoarding program at Central North West London (CNWL) NHS Trust's Recovery College in Bletchley
- working in partnership with Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) Integrated Care Board (ICB) Health & Care Partnership to educate staff across GP Practice Forums to recognise both fire risks and where preventative fire safety measures can be made
- working with Buckinghamshire Health to include the provision of flame-retardant bedding in the commissioning process for equipment where there is a heightened risk of fire
- the publication of the peer reviewed research paper 'Working together when the problem is multi-faceted: understanding inter-agency working for the benefit of people with hoarding problems' in the Cognitive Behaviour Therapist Journal (Dec 2022) co-authored with Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

Development work in the Premises Risk Management System was delayed due to work on the Site Specific Risk Information area being a greater priority for the Service, but has now commenced.

Development work was completed on the referral form and procedural changes required to the PRMS whilst awaiting time to be assigned for development. This work included the identification of outdated questions to streamline the referral process and identifying amendments to dashboards to facilitate proactive work to be completed directly into the system.

When this development work is delivered, it will enable a number of recommendations to be completed and bring this area of the Prevention Improvement Plan back on track.

It is reassuring that when completing the mid-term review of the Prevention Improvement Plan, the overwhelming majority of actions identified in 2021 were determined to still be appropriate for the remaining term.

Actions were added or removed to the following recommendations:

		Recommendation	Action added/removed
1.4	Strategy, Vision & Leadership	A further review to be commissioned to establish what value the fire-setting programme is adding and to identify if the programme is maximising its outreach and evaluating risk appropriately	Added: Trial NFCC triage process to evaluating risk
3.6	Management of Processes, Systems & Planning	Review the current content that is being delivered. Look to centralise and standardise course delivery to ensure the information is constant and adding value.	Removed: Run 2x Princes Trust weekly programs and evaluate the service's ability to commit to regular delivery
5.4	Delivery of Operations	Refresh the Service's youth inclusion strategy, including resources and method of delivery.	Removed: Re-engage with Princes Trust for delivery of Get Started programme

Financial implications:

Amending communication methods and referral mechanisms in response to some of the Prevention Improvement Plan recommendations may introduce additional financial implications, however where appropriate, work completed by the NFCC on developing online resources will be utilised.

Any requirement for growth will be submitted through the established internal governance arrangements for consideration.

Risk management:

This Prevention Improvement Plan is the most effective way of ensuring continued improvement to ensure the best possible service is provided to the communities we serve.

The provision of regular highlight reports is an assurance tool to ensure that we are ultimately working towards aligning to national best-practice and more effectively to reduce risk in our communities.

There remain reputational corporate risks to the organisation should we be judged as inadequate by HMICFRS. The Service had already taken steps to mitigate this through having extensive internal and external audits of a number of areas of the Service, notably, elements of our operational activity has been subject to external independent assurance. The prevention evaluation is another example of applying constructive internal scrutiny to drive improvement and reduce risk.

Key risks are identified in the highlight report, of which the staffing issue has already been seen to impact upon delivery.

Legal implications:

The key legislation, regulation, and duties linked to a Fire and Rescue Service's prevention function can include (but is not limited to) the following:

- Housing Act
- Children's Act
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act and the Protection of Freedoms Act
- United Nations Human Rights Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Mental Capacity Act and Mental Health Act
- Police & Crime Act
- Crime and Disorder Act
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act
- The Care Act
- Homelessness Reduction Act
- Anti-social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act

Privacy and security implications:

No privacy or security implications have been identified that are directly associated with this report or its appendices. The respective strands of the improvement plan will ensure Data Protection Impact Screening and full impact assessments are completed and reviewed where appropriate.

Duty to collaborate:

Collaboration with partners to ensure a collective and shared approach to identify and mitigating community risk is critical to ensure Prevention activity is effective. The evaluation identifies a number of areas where collaboration and partnerships can be developed for the benefit of community safety.

Health and safety implications:

There are no Health, Safety or Wellbeing implications arising from this report.

Environmental implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Equality, diversity, and inclusion implications:

Whilst there are no identified implications directly associated with this report or its appendices, elements of work contributing to the progression of individual recommendations have a positive impact upon the respective strands of the improvement plan. Impact screening and full impact assessments are completed and reviewed where appropriate.

Consultation and communication:

The Prevention evaluation involved extensive engagement with stakeholders to ensure an effective and thorough evaluation of all our activity.

The Prevention Improvement Plan is updated monthly by the Prevention Management Team reflecting actions completed by the wider Prevention Team.

Background papers:

23 January 2020 - Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) – Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) Inspection Findings Report:

https://bucksfire.gov.uk/documents/2020/03/230120_item_7_hmicfrs_cover_report_23012020_appendix-min.pdf/

10 November 2021 – Prevention Evaluation – Phase One Report

<https://bucksfire.gov.uk/documents/2021/10/oa-item-17-17-10-21.pdf/>

12 October 2022 – Fire Authority – Prevention Strategy

[Fire Authority Meeting - 12 October 2022 - Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service \(bucksfire.gov.uk\)](https://bucksfire.gov.uk/documents/2022/10/12-10-2022-fa-prevention-strategy.pdf/)

9 November 2022 – Overview and Audit Committee – Prevention Improvement Plan Update 2

[Overview and Audit Committee - 9 November 2022 - Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service \(bucksfire.gov.uk\)](https://bucksfire.gov.uk/documents/2022/11/09-11-2022-overview-and-audit-committee-prevention-improvement-plan-update-2.pdf/)

1 June 2023 – Performance Monitoring Board – Prevention Improvement Plan Mid-term Review

N:\Common\Corporate Planning\IDRIVE\Agendas_Papers_Minutes\Performance Management Board\2023.06.01\13 1 June 2023 PMB Minutes.docx