

## Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP)

### Review

I am grateful to have this opportunity to update the Fire Authority on the progress on Community Risk Management Planning, over this past year. It has been a busy time for the team and I am pleased to report on progress that has been made.

At the Fire Authority meeting in April 2023, Royal Berkshire Fire Authority agreed the Corporate Plan and Community Risk Management Plan for 2023- 2027. The plan sets out the direction of travel for the Service over the next four years and has been a significant undertaking for the service in assessing the risks within Berkshire and to determine priorities for managing those risks. The plan set out the Fire Authority's strategic commitments to the communities of Berkshire and the priorities for the next four years.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2023, the coronation of King Charles took place in Westminster Abbey, this culminated in a live concert in Windsor Castle on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The service were called upon as part of a multi-agency response referred to as Golden Orb to support these events.

Our Response teams supported the coronation by providing both Strategic and Tactical command for fire over the two days. Operational crews were held on standby near the castle to provide immediate response to incidents should it had been required.

I am pleased to say the coronation went off without any incidents and I would like to thank the service for the work that was carried out over this period.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 our crews attended a serious house fire in Erleigh Road Reading. The crews worked hard and rescued four people from the fire, including three children. However, despite their efforts two adults later died in hospital as a result of their injuries. Our thoughts go out to the families and my thanks to the crews for their efforts on the night.

Following the fire, Wokingham Road White Watch were welcomed into the Aisha Masjid & Islamic Centre in Earley where they worked with the Muslim community to raise awareness of fire safety in the home. During this they were able to reach approximately 600-700 members of the community and gathered 43 referrals for Safe and Well visits. Our West hub team was supported by colleagues from the central hub to ensure the post fire follow up could be prioritised.

In January 2024, the county saw widespread flooding effecting many areas. The service supported with the evacuations of houses in Wraysbury and the protection of vital infrastructure assets from flooding in the county. As well as many rescues from vehicles trapped by flooding. The service worked with partners in the Local Resilience Forum to support both our service and neighbouring services that saw a similar level of demand.

Officers managed this difficult period and continued to keep members informed of the measures that were being put in place across the county.

We are all proud of our exacting Response Standard of arriving at emergency incidents within 10 minutes of the call being fielded, on 75 percent of occasions.

For the year to date, at the end of Quarter three, we have achieved this on 73 percent of occasions, so a slight shortfall on the target.

There are a number of factors behind this, mainly around the increased incident demand which is now exceeding pre-pandemic levels. The profile of the incidents has also changed with a higher proportion of calls being false alarms and special service calls.

The number of Automatic Fire Alarms the service attended continues to remain high, 2071 at the end of Quarter Three (2023/24). I am pleased to announce that as a Fire Authority we are currently in consultation with the public on how to reduce this in order that they are less disruptive for businesses and the service. This is positive progress against one of our CRMP priorities and I look forward to the outcome of that consultation in June 2024.

Up until the end of Quarter Three, 3197 Safe and Well Visits have been completed for those individuals that have been referred to the service from our partner agencies that make them at higher risk of death in the event of an accidental dwelling fire. This is an increase of 13% for this period of the year to-date and reflects positive progress. We have completed 96.9% of statutory fire consultations within the required timeframes up until Quarter 3. This is above our target of 95%. I am pleased to report this positive progress against two CRMP commitments.

A number of Strategic Asset projects form part of the Community Risk Management Plan. Further detail will be provided on these by the Lead Member for Strategic Assets. However, I'm pleased to note the positive implementation of enhanced water rescue capability in the East of the County, Slough Fire station. The introduction of this capability will improve the safety of the public in an area that we know has had serious incidents in the past involving flooding and water rescues. This contributes to one of our priorities in the CRMP in meeting the changing profile of risk due to climate change.

#### Looking forward

This coming year will see the launch of our new Integrated Service Delivery Strategy, this strategy will show how our Prevention, Protection, Response and Resilience will work together to reduce the risks in the county highlighted in our CRMP. This strategy will be presented to the Fire Authority for agreement in June. The year ahead will see another busy year for the service and I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication to the people of Berkshire.

Cllr Paul Gittings, Community Risk Management Lead Member