

Status of Report: Public

Meeting: Combined Fire Authority

Date: 4 October 2023

Subject: Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service Home Office Fire Statistics 2022-23

Report by: Chief Fire and Rescue Officer

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For: Information Only

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) with an update on the performance of the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) compared with all Fire and Rescue Authorities in England for the period 2022/23.

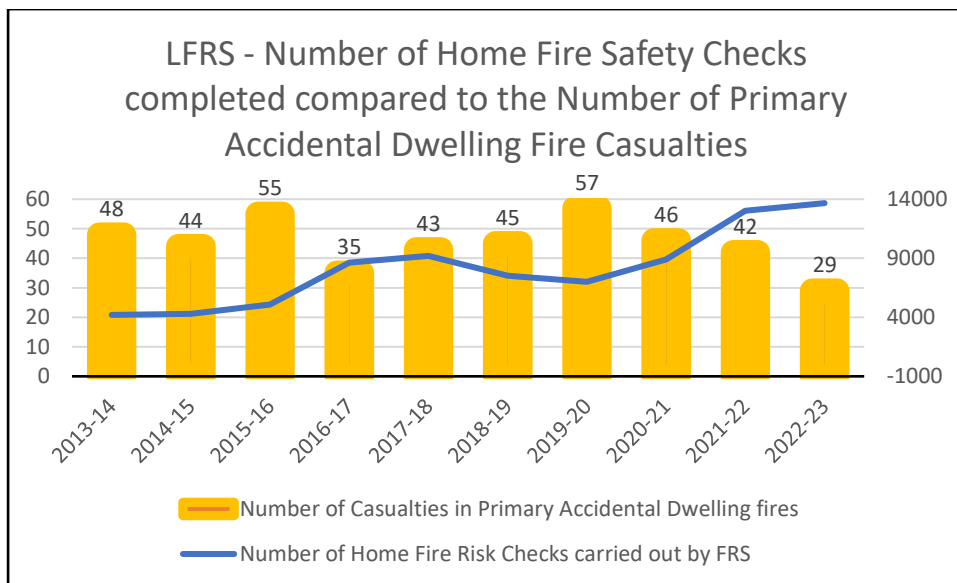
Recommendation

2. The CFA is asked to note the performance of the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service for the period 2022/23.

Executive Summary

3. The analysis provided shows the performance of LFRS compared against other services in England in 2022/23. This includes total incidents, Home Safety Checks (HSCs), and Fire Safety Audits. A more comprehensive report is available on request which compares the Home Office Fire Statistics for Fire and Rescue Authorities in England - 2014/15 to 2022/23.
4. The total number of incidents in England increased from 577,147 in 2021/22 to 622,173 in 2022/23 which is a 7.80% increase. This is the largest number of incidents in a year in England since 2010/11, when there were 647,360 incidents attended.
5. LFRS total incidents increased from 8,264 in 2021/22 to 9,445 in 2022/23 (an increase of 14.29%). Only Suffolk, South Yorkshire, Norfolk, and Warwickshire saw bigger percentage increases in incidents from 2021/22. There were only five services that experienced a reduction in the number of incidents for the same period (Isle of Scilly, Lincolnshire, Cornwall, East Sussex, and Northumberland).
6. These increases are predominantly driven by increases in secondary fires following the hot, dry summer in 2022. Secondary fire incidents in England increased from 86,527 in 2021/22 to 109,444 in 2022/23, which is a 26.49% increase.

7. LFRS secondary fire incidents increased from 861 in 2021/22 to 1,517 in 2022/23, which is an increase of 76.19%. Only Cumbria saw decreases in secondary fire incidents and only Norfolk and Warwickshire saw bigger increases.
8. Overall England last year saw the most incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services for over 10 years, in what was a particularly challenging year. LFRS had the fifth highest increase in incidents out of 44 services, despite only ranking 25th largest out of 44 services in terms of headcount.
9. The Home Office splits Services into three categories: predominantly urban, predominantly rural, and significantly rural. LFRS is grouped with 16 other services as significantly rural. LFRS had the second largest increase in incidents when compared against the other 16 other services in this category.
10. The total number of HSCs in England increased from 440,624 in 2021/22 to 537,081 in 2022/23. 2021/22 was affected by Covid restrictions, since then numbers have increased as expected, but still not to the pre-pandemic levels (588,666 completed in 2019/20).
11. LFRS increased from 12,939 in 2021/22 to 13,659 in 2022/23. This increase was despite what was the Service's busiest year for incidents since 2009/10.
12. LFRS compares extremely well when benchmarked against all Services nationally. The Service is ranked seventh highest out of 44 services for the number of HSCs completed per member of staff. Based purely on the number of HSCs undertaken, LFRS is ranked 15th highest out of 44 services.
13. In 2014/15, LFRS completed 5.26 HSCs per member of staff, compared to 18.48 in 2022/23. That equates to a 251% increase and places the Service in the top three in England for the largest percentage increase per member of staff over that period.
14. When compared against significantly rural services, the Service is ranked second highest out of 17 services for HSCs completed per member of staff, and fourth of 17 based purely on numbers.
15. Fire and Rescue Services undertake domestic fire prevention activities, which provide information and advice to households to encourage better fire safety behaviour. The education is designed to prevent the occurrence of a fire and reduce the risk of serious injury or death in a fire. One measure to see if completing more HSCs is working is to look at how many casualties are occurring in primary accidental dwelling fires. This can be a little unpredictable as the numbers have come down substantially and several casualties can occur in one incident; however the graph below shows the increase in HSCs corresponding with the lowest number of casualties recorded in 2022/23.



16. The total number of fire safety audits in England increased from 48,018 in 2021/22 to 50,424 in 2022/23. LFRS increased from 877 in 2021/22 to 1,217 in 2022/23. In terms of number completed LFRS was ranked twelfth out of 44 services in 2022/23. When compared against significantly rural services LFRS is ranked fourth highest out of the 17 services.

Background

17. The full set of fire statistics releases, tables and guidance are national statistics and are available publicly on the Government Collections Fire Statistics website.
18. The statistics provided are sourced from the Home Office Operational Statistics Data Collections, the figures are supplied by fire and rescue authorities twice a year.

Report Implications/Impact

19. Legal (including crime and disorder)

The timely production of relevant performance information and the achievement of continuous improvement is a statutory duty as described in the Local Government Act 1999.

20. Financial (including value for money, benefits and efficiencies)

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

21. Risk (including corporate and operational, health and safety and any impact on the continuity of service delivery)

Effective performance management including the reporting, monitoring and analysis of performance indicators enables proactive control measures to be implemented to reduce risk and demand.

22. Staff, Service Users and Stakeholders (including the Equality Impact Assessment)

Any identified action plans will be developed and delivered by relevant managers and staff.

23. Environmental

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

24. Impact upon Our Plan Objectives

Active monitoring of performance indicators allows the Service to assess the effectiveness of delivering corporate objectives, influencing changes to strategies and policies where necessary. It also meets the Governance Strategy outcomes of well-informed communities and well-informed staff and the objective of 'monitor and report on our performance so everyone knows how we are doing'.

Background Papers

None.

Appendix

None

Officers to Contact

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