



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

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**Meeting and date:** Overview and Audit Committee, 20 July 2022

**Report title:** Prevention Improvement Plan – Update One

**Lead Member:** Councillor Simon Rouse (Chairman)

**Report sponsor:** Area Commander Simon Tuffley

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**Action:** Noting

**Recommendations:**

That the Committee note the Prevention Improvement Plan highlight report May 2022, attached as Appendix 1.

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**Executive summary:**

The Prevention Improvement Plan was presented to the Overview and Audit Committee in November 2021, along with the finalised Phase One Prevention Evaluation Report, which had commenced in July 2020 but was paused due to revised priorities during the Covid 19 pandemic.

The Prevention Improvement Plan contains 60 recommendations which were drawn from the Prevention Evaluation, the findings of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and the recently published Prevention Fire Standard and associated National Operational Guidance.

Work to address the HMICFRS Prevention cause of concern is prioritised over other areas within the Prevention Improvement Plan, although the highlight report and dashboard demonstrate that work is also progressing in most other areas.

The highlight report demonstrates that seven recommendations have been completed within the six-month period, although significant recruitment initiatives to fill vacancies within the team and data access issues have affected progress against some of the delivery periods originally identified.

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**Financial implications:**

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

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.

### **Risk management:**

This Prevention Improvement Plan is an 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 ensures that we are working more effectively to reduce risk in our communities and towards aligning to national best-practice.

There remain reputational risks to the Authority 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 have 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:

- The Road Traffic Act, Section 39
- Home Safety Act
- 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
- Modern Slavery 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.

The report and its appendices are not protectively marked.

**Duty to collaborate:**

Collaboration with partners to ensure a collective and shared approach to identify and mitigate 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 directly from this report.

**Environmental implications:**

There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report.

**Equality, diversity, and inclusion implications:**

There are no equality, diversity and inclusion implications arising directly from this report or its appendices.

The respective strands of the improvement plan will ensure 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.

**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/](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/>

Appendix	Title	Protective Marking
1	Prevention Improvement Plan highlight report – May 2022	Not protectively marked

# Project: Prevention Improvement Plan



<b>Lead Member:</b> <b>Project Sponsor:</b> <b>Project Manager:</b>		Cllr Simon Rouse AC Simon Tuffley Joanne Cook		<b>Project Objectives:</b> Following the Prevention Evaluation a three year plan is in place to develop Prevention within the service: Effective prevention strategy, processes and systems in place facilitating effective delivery of preventative information across the community				<b>Overall RAG</b> 	
Strategy, vision and leadership		Intelligence		Management of processes, systems and planning incl. audit		Coordination & communication of operations		Delivery of operations	

## Summary – Period dated: Nov 2021 – May 2022

### Key Activities

- A revised Prevention Strategy has been drafted following liaison with FRS determined to be exemplars by the Prevention Central Program Office. Initial consultation within core teams has been completed and it will now progress through consultation processes with a target date of September for final approval.
- A new station planning process has been introduced which utilises the local risk information provided for service delivery areas in benchmarking reports and local area profiles. All stations have local objectives set. Development continues in this area to refine flows, add a service wide objective template and introduce a reporting dashboard.
- External board attendance has been reviewed ensuring that all external boards where the Service is listed as a statutory agency are attended along with those strategic boards relevant to the service’s sphere of influence. Affiliate multi-agency boards are attended where appropriate to ensure that information is accessed that is conducive to effective partnership working.
- Station level communication of prevention activity has improved as the use of prevention boards has been embedded, a standard format for prevention bulletins and briefings introduced and watch meetings held on alternate months to provide support and focus on delivery against prevention objectives watch meetings held on alternate months to provide support and focus on delivery against prevention objectives.

## Priorities for Next Period: June 2022

### Progress

- Prevention strategy through the next stages of the consultation process of the Joint Consultation Forum and service wide (pathway to approval)
- Review of referral processes to increase protection of sensitive information submitted by partner agencies, facilitate external reporting (Home Office/ HMICFRS) and uplift of information to the National Data Hub
- Prevention KPI identification and associated reporting enabling timely monitoring and intervention

### Complete

- Work on incident pull through to ensure that all relevant incidents are being loaded from Vision into PRMS
- Firesetter Intervention Scheme (FIS) review of delivery model, scoring and supervision
- Scoring review for Home Fire Safety Visit assessment linked to research on risk of fire fatality or serious injury

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<b>Summary – Period dated: Nov 2021 – May 2022</b>				
<b>Key Activities (continued)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Road Safety Officer role within the prevention head count was reviewed and reassigned to become an additional Community Safety Advisor. This increased capacity to deliver Home Fire Safety Visits whilst introducing more resilience in the staff group available to support in the provision of road safety activity in service delivery areas where local data identifies a need.</li> </ul>	<b>Key Milestones</b>		<b>Forecast/ Actual</b>	<b>RAG</b>
	Effective system for dealing with referrals implemented, prioritising those with highest level of risk		September 2022	
	Approval of revised Prevention Strategy (currently in draft)		September 2022	
	An effective system defining levels of risk in the community		September 2022	
	Evidence in place to support removal of Prevention Cause for Concern		October 2022	
<b>Change Request Log:</b>				
NA	NA	NA	NA	

Risk/ Issue	RAG	Description	Mitigating Action	Next Action
Enter top three highest risks to the plan				
		Failure to recruit into vacant roles impacting on ability of Prevention team to conduct core day to day activity as well as progress actions within the Prevention Improvement Plan	Use of operational staff through alternate duties business cases to alleviate capacity issues	3 roles awaiting confirmation of appointment, 1 role to be readvertised
		Inability of 3 <sup>rd</sup> party company to make changes to the Prevention side of the Premises Risk Management System whilst the Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI) area is underway delays ability to progress areas of work required for prevention including the prioritisation of visits by risk level	If scoring within the system can be adjusted, threshold levels (bands) may have to be managed outside of the system Work on recording all visits in PRMS commenced whilst awaiting SSRI completion	Test scoring with high risk scenarios before passing scoring amendments to PRMS supplier
		Staff retention in key departments and conflicting priorities within the organisation impacting upon Prevention team's ability to deliver against the recommendations	Regular liaison with relevant department leads to ensure early warning of issues that may impact upon progress against the cause for concern areas or the wider prevention improvement plan	Continue regular liaison with other dept leads



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**FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**  
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Prevention  
Improvement Plan -  
Progress Dashboard

	Total recommendations	Complete	On track	On hold/delayed	Not started
Strategy, vision & leadership	7	2	1	4	0
Intelligence	15	2	8	5	0
Management of processes, systems and planning, including audit	15	0	13	1	1
Coordination and communication of operations	13	0	11	1	1
Delivery of operations	10	3	6	1	0

Grand totals	60	7	39	12	2
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