



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

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**Meeting and date:** Overview and Audit Committee, 9 November 2022

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

**Lead Member:** Councillor Simon Rouse

**Report sponsor:** Area Commander Simon Tuffley

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**Action:** Noting.

**Recommendations:**

That the Prevention Improvement Plan highlight report, summarising the progress made against the measures required to secure long-term improvements to Prevention delivery in Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service (BFRS) be noted.

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**Executive summary:**

An initial update on progress against The Prevention Improvement Plan was written and presented to Performance Monitoring Board on 9 June 2022 and formed part of the subsequent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) update, noting this is now His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.

The Prevention Improvement Plan contains 60 recommendations drawn from the Prevention Evaluation, the HMICFRS findings, the twelve areas required to meet the Prevention Fire Standard and associated National Operational Guidance for the Person-Centred Approach (PCA).

Work to evidence attainment against the removal of the HMICFRS Prevention cause for concern continues to be prioritised over other recommendations within the Prevention Improvement Plan (PIP), with the progress being made against almost all other recommendations being detailed within the PIP.

During the period of this highlight report, recruitment to most of the vacancies within the Central Prevention delivery team has been successful which will in time help to alleviate some of the capacity limitations within the team and assist in increasing Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) delivery numbers. Whilst a recruitment process is ongoing for one role (equivalent to 17 percent of the delivery team

headcount), applications have been received and it is hopeful that the role will be filled fourteen months after becoming vacant.

Whilst no new recommendations have been completed within the two-month period covered by this highlight report, three of the five strands have moved to green/on track overall, with significant areas such as the Prevention Strategy on track for delivery in the next period.

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### **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:

- 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 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 directly 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 progressive of individual recommendations have a positive impact upon. 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/>

20 July 2022 – Overview and Audit Committee – Item 14

[14 Prevention Highlight Report](#)

Appendix	Title	Protective Marking
1	Prevention Improvement Plan highlight report – June/August 2022	Not protectively marked
2	Prevention Improvement Plan dashboard – July 2022	Not protectively marked
3	Prevention Improvement Plan dashboard – August 2022	Not protectively marked

# Project: Prevention Improvement Plan (Appendix 1)



<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: June – August 2022

### Key Activities

- Incident upload from Vision into PRMS reviewed against all incident types that should pull through. Although assured that all relevant incidents were being received with the exception of ‘small hazmat’, the system upgrade at TVFCS caused an issue with incident pull through that has not been able to be resolved. This has impacted on all follow up activity to incidents since that date, with measures necessary to redress the backlog when it is able to be accessed.
- Recruitment has reduced the vacancies within the Central Prevention team to just one. However, as onboarding to competent takes four to six months, this does not have an immediate impact on delivery numbers.
- Firesetter Intervention Scheme (FIS) delivery model review of scoring and supervision moved to delayed due to this work being undertaken by the NFCC Firesetter Intervention Scheme core group at a national level.
- Scoring review for Home Fire Safety Visit assessment linked to research on risk of fire fatality or serious injury drafted and tested prior to consultation circulation.

## Priorities for Next Period: September - November 2022

### Progress

- Prevention strategy through the next stages of the consultation process. It is scheduled for final stage of approval 12 October.
- Firesetter intervention scoring review in line with the outcomes of the National Fire Chief’s Council (NFCC) core group.
- Station objectives process to include dashboard reporting capability, evaluation form and service wide objective area.

### Complete

- Initial set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Prevention identified with information summarised for Service KPIs.
- 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.

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<b>Summary – Period dated: June - August 2022</b>				
<b>Key Activities (continued)</b>	<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		October 2022	
	Approval of revised Prevention Strategy		October 2022	
	An effective system defining levels of risk in the community		October 2022	
	Evidence in place to support removal of Prevention Cause for Concern		October 2022	
<b>Change Request Log:</b>				
NA		NA		NA

Risk/ Issue	RAG	Description	Mitigating Action	Next Action
Enter top three highest risks to the plan				
Staff capacity		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	1 role readvertised for the fourth time.
Prioritisation of visits by risk level (risk stratification)		Capacity of 3 <sup>rd</sup> party company (Active Informatics) to make changes to the Prevention side of the Premises Risk Management System whilst the migration to 365 and development of 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 but delivery date is dependent on Active's ability to provide development time	Once migration of PRMS to 365 is complete, development time is needed to enable risk stratification to be applied within the system.
Collaborative working – staff capacity		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

Appendix 2: Prevention Improvement Plan dashboard update – July 2022



Prevention Improvement Plan - Progress Dashboard

	Total recommendation	Complete	On track	On hold/delayed	Not started
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	7	0	0
Grand totals	60	7	39	12	2

### Appendix 3: Prevention Improvement Plan dashboard update – August 2022



#### Prevention Improvement Plan - Progress Dashboard

	Total recommendations	Complete	On track	On hold/delayed	Not started
Intelligence	15	2	7	6	0
Management of processes, systems and planning, including audit	15	0	11	3	1
Coordination and communication of operations	13	0	9	3	1
Delivery of operations	10	3	6	1	0
<b>Grand totals</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>