

Our plans for preventing incidents in Berkshire 2020 to 2023



Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service



What is inside?

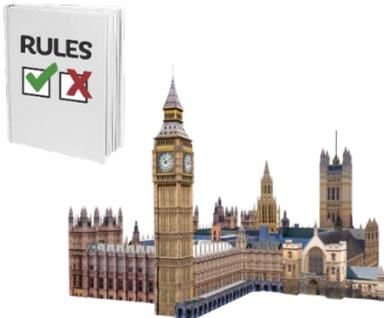
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Introduction



The **Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004** is the law that all fire and rescue services must follow.



The Government has written a set of rules that says all fire and rescue organisations must:



- prevent fires
- work with local people and organisations to stop fires
- work with local people whose behaviour may lead to a fire



- work with the police and ambulance service to find out who is a **high fire risk**



- work with other organisations to support local people who could be a **high fire risk**.



A **risk** is something which can lead to harm.



There are **5** ideas in our **2020 to 2023 Prevention Plan**:



Idea 1 - Carry out extra **Safe and Well Visits** to check if vulnerable people are still at risk after our first visit.



Idea 2 – Carry out **Safe and Well Visits** based on risk to people.



A **Safe and Well Visit** is a check on the fire safety, health and wellbeing of someone.

We used to call these visits **Home Fire Safety Checks**.



Idea 3 – Carry out road safety activities for motorcyclists, as they are the road users at higher risk.



Idea 4 - We will support children and young people through:

- our **visits to schools**, where we talk about road and water safety.
- our **Fire Cadets** programme
- our **FireSafe** programme.

Fire Cadets are young people who take part in activities.



FireSafe is how we work with young people whose behaviour could lead to fire.



Idea 5 – We will carry on with a trial **FireSafe Programme** for adults.



In **2016** we told you that the **3** most important parts of our service are:



- **preventing** fires and other emergencies from happening in the first place



- **protecting** local people at risk when **fire safety rules** are not met



- **responding** to fires and other emergencies.



After getting your feedback, we agreed on **8 goals** for preventing fires and other emergencies:



Goal 1

Make sure less vulnerable people die because of a fire at home that was an accident.



Goal 2

Make sure there are less fires at home that are caused by accident so that less people are injured.



Goal 3

Have less road deaths and injuries over the next **five years**.



Goal 4

Make sure less people drown by **2026**.



Goal 5

Carry out **Safe and Well Visits** for vulnerable **people**.



Goal 6

Run services that support children and young people to be **healthy**.



Goal 7

Work with local organisations to support young people to get work or **apprenticeships**.



An **apprentice** is someone who learns the skills for their job while they work.



Goal 8

Start a trial of a counselling service for adults who might start a fire.



Counselling is when you talk to someone who listens to you and helps you to deal with difficult issues.



Deaths from fires at home



In **2016** we looked at **5** years of information about deaths from fire at home. We found that:



- most accidental fire deaths took place at home



- more than half of the victims were over **60 years old**.



- the person who died in the fire was more likely to:



- be physically disabled



- find it difficult to walk



- live alone



- have alcohol problems



- smoke.



- even with a smoke alarm in place, which is a good thing, it did not help these people:



- **Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service** arrived at the fire quickly, but people still died.



- most of the people who died were known to other organisations such as the ambulance service or social services.



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Fire and Rescue Service

Research by the **North Wales Fire and Rescue Service** says **2 groups of people** are the most vulnerable to fire.



Group 1 People at Risk of Death

It did not matter where they lived.
Examples of how they were at risk included:



- age
- disability
- mental health.



Group 2 People at Risk of Injury

These people were at risk because of



- where they lived
- how they lived.



Royal Berkshire Fire Authority agreed on **2 goals** for accidental fires.



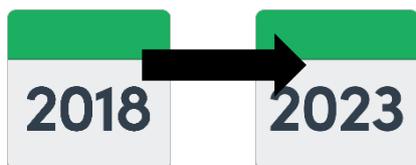
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority is a group of local councillors who make all the big choices about the local fire and rescue service.



Goal 1
Make sure less vulnerable people die after a fire at home that was an accident.



Goal 2
Make sure people have less fires in accidents at home, and less people are injured.



35,000

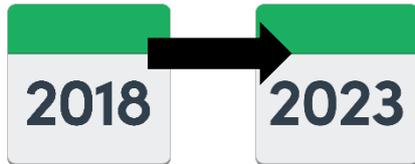


From **2018** to **2023**, we agreed to carry out **thirty-five thousand** fire safety checks at homes of people who are at Risk of Death.

14,323



In the first **2 years**, we carried out **fourteen thousand three hundred and twenty-three** fire safety checks.



12,500



From **2018** to **2023**, we agreed to carry out **twelve thousand five hundred fire safety checks** for people who are risk of being injured in a fire.

5,690



In the first **2 years** we carried out **five thousand six hundred and ninety fire safety checks**, and we should reach our target by **2023**.



Since **April 2017** there have been **5 accidental fire deaths**:



- we responded to all **5 incidents** quickly



- all the deaths took place at home



- **3** of the victims were **over 60 years old**



- their disability, or how they lived, meant they could not escape the fire



- all the people who died were known to other organisations like social services



- we had carried out **Safe and Well Visits** for **4** out of the **5** victims.



We tried to visit the other victim but could not get in.



We do not want to see any deaths from fire in the future.



After this work, we plan to have follow-up visits for the most vulnerable people.

So we will do another visit to check that they are safe from fire or other harm.



Road Safety



The **Royal Berkshire Fire Authority** agreed on **one goal** about road safety:



Goal 3

Have less road deaths and injuries over the next **5 years**.



The law says that **Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service** must respond to road accidents.



Road accidents are one of the main causes of death in young adults.



When we did our research in **2016**, we found that **11 to 15-year-olds** who were in a high-risk group, were not getting road safety training.



20 to 24-year-olds were the most at **risk** of being in a road accident.



So, if younger people had better awareness of road safety, it could stop them from being in an accident when they get older.



We have taken part in a course called **Safe Drive Stay Alive** with road safety staff in Berkshire.



Safe Drive Stay Alive teaches young people about road dangers and how to stay safe.



Every year about **four thousand** young people take part in the course.



We have changed our **Local Safety Plans** to include road safety training for **11 to 12-year olds** in Berkshire.



A **Local Safety Plan** is a plan that says how we will keep local people safe.



We will try to run this training in **half** of all Berkshire schools over the next year.



From **2014** to **2018**, there were less road injuries and deaths in all age groups.



But young people are the most at **risk**.



In England, more people use **cars** than motorcycles, which means there are a lot of injuries and deaths in **cars**.



But even though there are less **motorcycles** than cars, the number of people killed riding a motorcycle is very high.



We have been working with other fire and rescue services to run **Biker Down** courses.



The courses offer **first aid** training and road safety advice to motorcyclists.



We want there to be **less** road accidents and deaths as a result of our work.



Water Safety



In 2016 the **Royal Berkshire Fire Authority** agreed on this **goal** about water safety:



Goal 4

Make sure less people drown by **2026**.



A few years ago, about **400** people in England drowned accidentally every year.



Almost half of these people did not mean to go into the water.



In **2018**, **263** people drowned accidentally, which means the numbers are going down.



From **2017 to 2018**, we were called to **20** people who needed to be rescued from the water.



From **2018 to 2019**, we were called to **12** people who needed to be rescued from the water.



Some firefighters get training in **water rescue**.



We have a team working in the local community to tell more people about the **dangers of water**.



We have updated our **Local Safety Plans** to include water safety training for **11 to 12-year-olds** in Berkshire.



We aim to run this training in half of the schools in Berkshire over the next year.



Health and wellbeing



For many years we have carried out **Home Fire Safety Checks** at many people's home.



At first, the idea of the Home Fire Safety Check was to fit a **smoke alarm** that would work for **10 years**.



But we noticed that some of the people we visited at home had other health and wellbeing problems.



We also noticed other dangers, such as **falling** or keeping **large piles** of items that could become a health or fire risk.



We learned we could refer them to other local organisations who could support them, such as social services.



In **2016** the **Royal Berkshire Fire Authority** agreed on **one goal** about health and wellbeing of local people:



Goal 5

Carry out **Safe and Well Visits** for vulnerable **people**.



At **Safe and Well Visits** we look for things like:



- the health of the person



- if the resident drinks or smokes



- if it could be difficult for a firefighter to enter the property.



We have also set up an **Adults at Risk training course** for local organisations such as Age UK who support vulnerable people.

The course covers:



- how vulnerable adults are at **risk** of having a fire in their home.



- who is most at **risk**



- how to make a **referral** to Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service.



A **referral** is when people tell us about a problem.

2017



We now do more **Safe and Well Visits** than we did in **2017**.



From **2017** to **2018** we gave people:

19,000



3,400

- **Nineteen thousand** smoke detectors and **three thousand four hundred** sensory alarms.



We will carry on providing sensory alarms for people with hearing or sight problems.



We only make referrals to other organisations if the resident gives us **consent** or if we think the risk is so high that we must act.



All **Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service** staff go on **safeguarding training** about adults and children.



Safeguarding is about making sure that vulnerable people are safe and protected from harm.



After the training staff can look out for problems when they make a home visit, and know what to do next.



Working with young people



We know that a lot of children are **obese** when they leave primary school.

When someone is **obese**, they are very overweight.



Obesity could lead to:

- bad health at an early age or even early death



- more visits to the hospital.



We also know that if a young person cannot work, this could mean:

- less money when they are an adult



- they could have poor health when they are an adult.



The **Royal Berkshire Fire Authority** agreed on **2 goals** about the health and wellbeing of young people:



Goal 6

Run services that support children and young people to be healthy.



Goal 7

Work with local organisations to support young people to get work or apprenticeships.



We now support children and young people through our **visits to schools, Fire Cadets** and **FireSafe**:

- **Fire Cadets** are young people who take part in activities.
- **FireSafe** is how we work with young people whose behaviour could lead to fire.





If we work closely with young people, we can help them gain skills to make them more likely to get a job.



Fire Cadets is where young people aged **12 to 16 years old** can do activities like pretend to put out fires and learn about how to stay healthy.



The **National Fire Chiefs Council** support the **Fire Cadets**.



Fire Cadets runs during school terms at **4** fire stations in Berkshire.



Over **500 young people** have taken part in the **Fire Cadets** programme over the last **20 years**.



The **Fire Cadets** programme covers:

- fire safety
- using fire hoses and pretending to put out fires



- health and wellbeing



- team activities that include group work and leading a team.





FireSafe

We know we need to start working early on with young people whose behaviour could lead to fire.



FireSafe gives young people the chance to

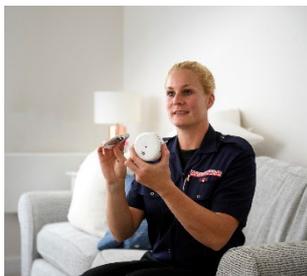
- talk about their behaviour



- think about different ways to cope when life gets difficult.



Staff can support young people early on.



FireSafe usually starts with a **Safe and Well Visit** to the family home.



Then the family know what to do if there is a fire.



After the visit, an action plan explains how we will support the needs of the young person.



A **FireSafe** programme:

- can be run at home or at school.



- is a mix of useful information and visits to make sure young people know what to do if there is a fire.



Jobs for young people



We have started an **apprenticeship programme** at **Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service**.



The **apprenticeship programme** gives young people in Berkshire a chance to:

- get training while they work.



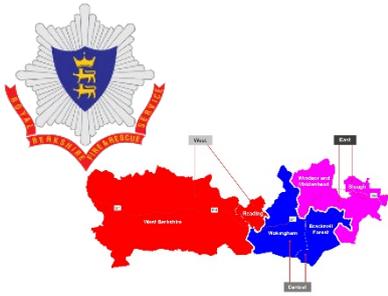
- get a qualification.



- learn more about the Fire and Rescue Service.



- learn new skills.



The **apprenticeship programme** helps us to run a better Fire and Rescue Service in Berkshire.



Since **2017** we have had **7 apprentices**.



We hope the **apprenticeship programme** will help us to create a new group of staff.

Proud partners of:

Leonard Cheshire



Change 100

We are the first Fire and Rescue Service to take part in the **Change 100** programme, run by **Leonard Cheshire Disability**.

Leonard Cheshire



Leonard Cheshire Disability is an organisation that supports disabled people to live independently.



Change 100 give students with a disability or long-term health problem the chance to get **100 days** of paid work and support.



Twelve students have worked with us since **2017**.



We want to give more young people the chance to get paid work with us through **Change 100** and our apprenticeship scheme.



FireSafe for Adults



In **2016** the **Royal Berkshire Fire Authority** agreed on **1 goal** about supporting adults in our **FireSafe** programme.



Goal 8

Start a trial counselling service for adults who are at risk of starting a fire.



We are working with more staff to provide specialist support.



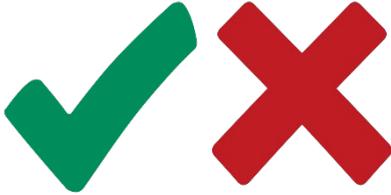
After this work, we will review the **FireSafe** programme and see if we can run it for a long time.



After reading this document, please answer these **5** questions.



Question 1 - Do you agree that we should carry out extra **Safe and Well Visits** to the most vulnerable people?



Yes or No?



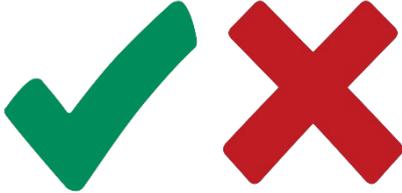
Please give us any other feedback in the box below:





Question 2 – Do you agree that we should carry out Safe and Well Visits based on:

- the risk to people?
- risks from how they live in their home?



Yes or No?

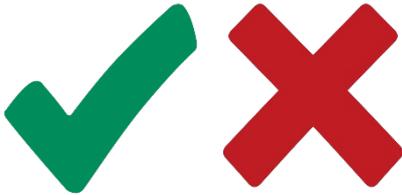


Please give us any other feedback in the box below:





Question 3 – Do you agree that we should carry out road safety activities for motorcyclists?



Yes or No?



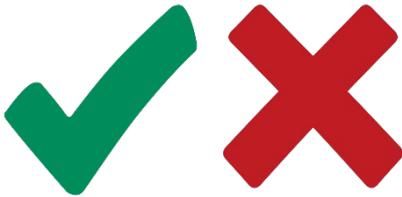
Please give us any other feedback in the box below:





Question 4 – Do you agree we should support children and young people through

- road and water safety education?
- Fire Cadets?
- FireSafe?



Yes or No?

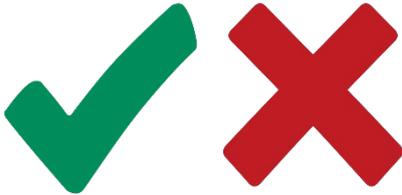


Please give us any other feedback in the box below:





Question 5 – Do you agree that we should carry on with a trial a **FireSafe** programme for adults?



Yes or No?



Please give us any other feedback in the box below:



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