

CENTRAL HUB LOCAL SAFETY PLAN 2018- 2019

Serving Bracknell Forest and
Wokingham Borough





Background

The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework document provides overarching guidance for England's Fire and Rescue Services. The guidance requires all Fire and Rescue Services to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), which provides detail on how it aims to improve public safety, reduce the number of emergency incidents, how it will work with partners and use resources in the most efficient way.

In 2015, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) published the [Corporate Plan and IRMP 2015-19](#), demonstrating changes we will need to make in the way it is set up, how it delivers services and the six strategic commitments made by the Fire Authority. Each year, the strategic objectives and performance measures are refreshed and published in the Annual Plan, which then feed into service plans.

Local Safety Plans support the delivery of these service plans to identify local risks and appropriate actions within each of its operational 'hub' areas. This document sets out these in respect of the Central Hub, which covers the unitary authority areas of Bracknell and Wokingham.

One of our key focus areas is ensuring that our fire stations are at the heart of the community. This runs throughout the core of our community based activities and is evidenced in the sections that follow.

Key service objectives

Our teams will develop individual action plans in pursuit of our strategic objectives and in particular the following key service objectives:

Prevention – we will educate people on how to prevent fires and other emergencies, and what to do when they happen

- » Deliver an effective fire, road and water safety education programme to schools.

Prevention – we will seek opportunities to contribute to a broader safety, health and wellbeing agenda

- » Deliver prevention initiatives for young people on a cost recovery basis.
- » Implement and deliver Safe and Well visits for the most vulnerable in Berkshire.



Protection – we will ensure appropriate fire safety standards in buildings

- » Promote and influence the fitting of appropriate sprinkler systems in residential and commercial properties.
- » Embed the risk-based inspection programme for fire safety audits, ensuring resources are focused where fire risk is greatest and there is evidence of continued non-compliance.
- » Work with our unitary authority partners to promote public confidence and provide reassurance by ensuring that building owners comply with Government guidance.

Response – we will ensure a swift and effective response when called to emergencies

Key performance indicators

To monitor our performance across Berkshire, we will use the following measures:

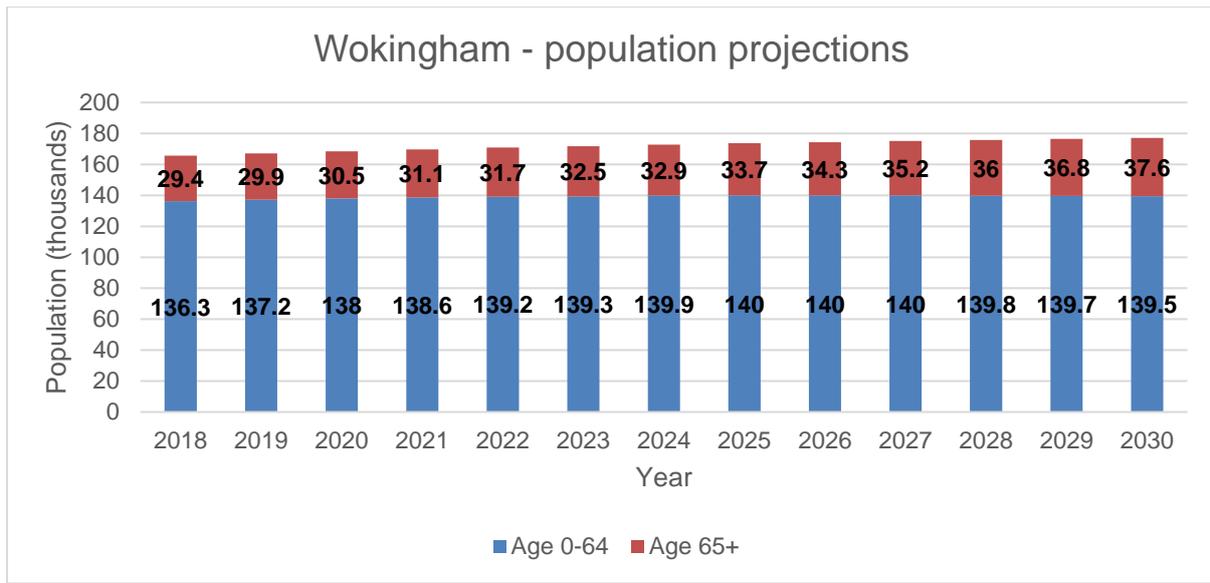
1. By April 2019 we aim to have delivered 10,700 Safe and Well visits to those who are at heightened risk of dying and/or being injured in the event of an accidental dwelling fire.
2. By April 2019 we aim to have completed 1,400 fire safety audits, which will be carried out by our team of Fire Safety Inspecting Officers.
3. As a minimum, on 75% of occasions, we strive to ensure our fire engines arrive at emergency incidents within 10 minutes of a call being received.
4. We aim to provide a suitably qualified crew for all our whole-time fire engines 100% of the time and will strive for 60% availability at our 'on-call' stations.



Identifying and understanding local risk – Wokingham Borough

The Borough of Wokingham comprises of 25 wards, stretching from Remenham near Henley to Swallowfield near Reading and the borders of Knowl Hill across to Sonning.

Population projections for Wokingham Borough by age group are charted below:



(Source: Office for National Statistics)

The chart above shows that together with the expected overall population growth, there is a predicted increase in the older age group (65+ years), rising from 29,400 in 2018 to 37,600 in 2030.

The increase in numbers is likely to place a greater demand on the health and social care system in the Borough, as there is a higher likelihood of people living with long-term conditions, dementia or frailty.

Healthy ageing and mental health are identified Public Health priorities for 2018-19, with the figure for those with depression and dementia known to have increased. Crews at Wokingham have been trained to be knowledgeable of working with people with dementia, and the correct procedures for signposting them to our partner agencies.

The Service's Prevention and Protection Policy unit will support the Hubs' efforts to target those most at risk from fire. This will be achieved by exploring new ways to identify and engage those at risk and develop appropriate supporting policy and procedures.



[Indices of Multiple Deprivation¹](#), provides detail of 32,844 neighbourhoods across the country, which are ranked in order of identified deprivation.

Out of the 32,844 neighbourhoods categorised in the IMD, Wokingham Borough, as a whole, is ranked number 32,809, where one is the most deprived.

The information detailed in the IMD provides valuable information to us and assists us in identifying specific 'social risks' that may be present within Wokingham.

The above paragraphs provide an illustrative profile outline of the area. We will continue to further develop our understanding of the area, to enable us to accurately direct our resources to areas within the community of greatest need

We recognise that people and communities facing health, wellbeing and other challenges are more likely to have fires in their homes. Consequently, we will align our activities and initiatives with an aim to reduce risk in these areas and address community based needs, as identified above. The sections that follow explain how we will endeavour to achieve this.

Local Safety Plan – Wokingham Borough

Prevention objectives

- » We will aim to deliver 1,200 Safe and Well home visits for those at heightened risk of dying in a fire. We will work with partner agencies to refine the data we use to reach those at highest risk.
- » We will aim to deliver 100 Safe and Well home visits for those at heightened risk of having a fire in their home and becoming a casualty. We will continue to analyse the information and data available to us such as our own incident data, analysis of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and population information to identify the areas and households in this category.
- » Using the NHS concept of Making Every Contact Count as a guiding principle, we will work with other services to identify ways in which we can add value to our Safe and Well home visits. During these visits, our staff will consider wider potential risks to residents, such as falling, and work with partner agencies to develop appropriate referral pathways, to ensure help and assistance is forthcoming.
- » Across the Borough, our Safety Education Team supported by our firefighters will offer fire safety education sessions for all school children in Year 5, and water safety and road safety education to those in Year 7.

¹ The Indices of Multiple Deprivation, published by Government, is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas (or neighbourhoods) in England.



Protection objectives

- » We will continue to deliver our risk-based inspection programme focusing on buildings that pose the highest risk. This includes, for example, unlicensed houses in multiple occupation (HMOs)² and those where sleeping accommodation is located above commercial premises.
- » We will aim to conduct 150 full fire safety audits in business premises across Wokingham Borough by April 2019.
- » Following recent fatal incidents in residential care homes in other areas of the country, our Fire Safety Inspecting Officers will aim to visit all our residential care homes within the Wokingham area, over the next 12 months.
- » We will continue to develop relationships with partner agencies, such as Wokingham Borough Council, to help us identify the highest risk premises for us to audit.
- » We are working with the local planning department, to ensure that we contribute to all future development, both residential and business.
- » We will continue to analyse fire risk data to ensure that our inspectors focus their efforts on the premises that cause us the greatest concern.

Response objectives

- » Using historical incident data and through continual analysis of our response performance, we will identify and implement changes to improve our attendance at incidents within our target time of 10 minutes.
- » We will work with local communities to maintain a sufficient number of on-call firefighters at Wargrave Fire Stations, to ensure the availability of the on-call fire engine for local incidents and to support larger incidents across Royal Berkshire.

Community support initiatives

- » We will continue to host NHS Blood and Transplant sessions at Wokingham Fire Stations.
- » Wokingham Fire Station has a community room for use by a variety of community based groups ranging from the Women's Institute to MENCAP. Please contact us if you are interested in using the room.

² In basic terms HMOs are single residences that have been subdivided into separate households (not from the same family) but retain shared amenities such as bathrooms, toilets or kitchens.

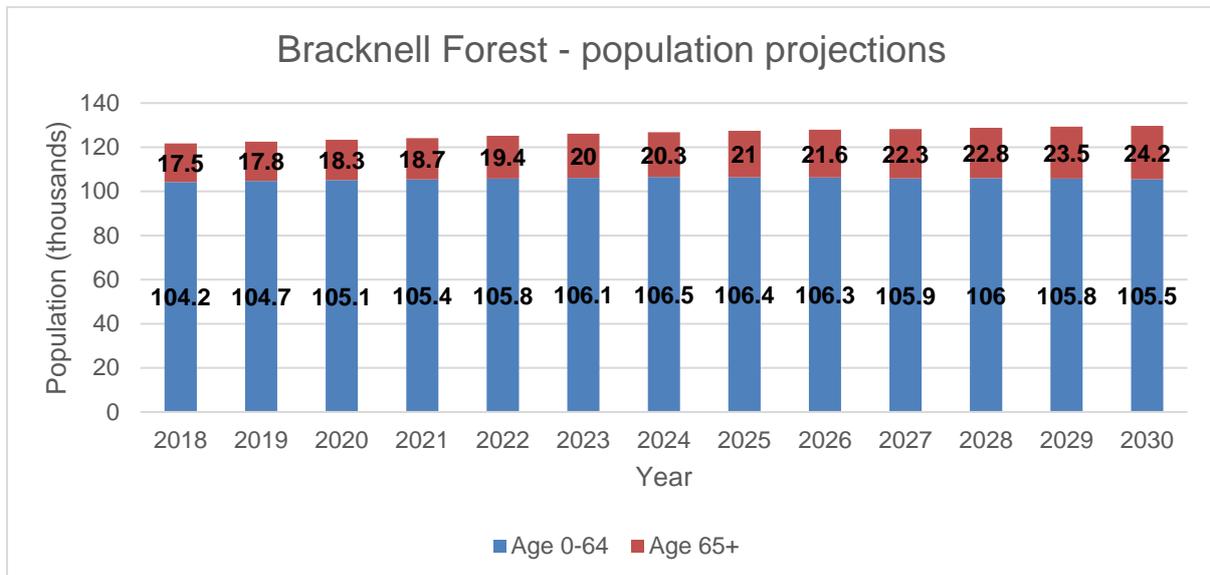


Identifying and understanding local risk – Bracknell Forest

Bracknell Forest is made up of 18 wards and incorporates Sandhurst, Crowthorne and includes the area of North Ascot, Warfield and Winkfield. South of the Borough also borders Surrey and Hampshire.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces estimates of the number of people who are expected to be living in an area in the future including what age and what gender these people will be.

The population of Bracknell Forest in 2018 is 121,700. If it carries on growing at the rate it is expected, it will reach 129,700 by 2030.



Source: Office for National Statistics

The older population is expected to increase at the greatest rate followed by the younger adult population and the child population aged 5 to 19. This will have an impact on the type and scale of future services.

The 2011 Census showed the number of people living in Bracknell Forest who are from minority ethnic groups has steadily increased over time, although the proportion remains lower than across the country as a whole. Greater diversity in the local population may mean that services have to be delivered in a different way to ensure all people have access to services appropriate to their needs.

Health and wellbeing around nutrition and obesity, particularly in children, are identified as Public Health priorities. As a result, we will work with our partners and colleagues in our Safety Education Team and effectively contribute to reducing this issue.



[Indices of Multiple Deprivation](#)³ provides detail of 32,844 neighbourhoods across the country, which are ranked in order of identified deprivation.

Out of the 32,844 neighbourhoods categorised in the IMD, Bracknell Forest, as a whole, is ranked number 20,518 where one is the most deprived. However, some individual neighbourhoods are ranked far higher up the table and appear in the top 30%.

The information detailed in the IMD provides valuable information to us and helps us to identify specific 'social risks' that may be present within Bracknell Forest's neighbourhoods, informing how and where we best use our resources.

The above paragraphs provide an illustrative profile outline of the area. We will continue to further develop our understanding of the area, to enable us to accurately direct our resources to areas within the community of greatest need.

We recognise that people and communities facing health, wellbeing and other challenges are more likely to have fires in their homes. Consequently, we will align our activities and initiatives with an aim to reduce risk in these areas and address community based needs, as identified above. The sections that follow explain how we will endeavour to achieve this.

Local Safety Plan – Bracknell Forest

Local prevention objectives

- » We will aim to deliver 1,300 Safe and Well home visits for those at heightened risk of dying in a fire in 2018-19. We will work with partner agencies to refine the data we use to reach those at highest risk.
- » We will aim to deliver 200 Safe and Well home visits for those at heightened risk of having a fire in their home and being injured as result. We will continue to analyse the information and data available to us such as our own incident data, the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), and population information; allowing us to identify the areas and households in this category.
- » We will work with other services to identify ways in which we can add value to our Safe and Well home visits. During these visits, our staff will consider wider potential risks to residents, such as falling, and work with partner agencies to develop appropriate referral pathways, to ensure help and assistance is forthcoming.

³ The Indices of Multiple Deprivation, published by Government, is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas (or neighbourhoods) in England.



- » Across the Borough, our Safety Education Team supported by our firefighters will offer fire safety education sessions for all school children in Year 5, and water safety and road safety education to those in Year 7.
- » Firefighters will work more closely with NHS services, including the use of Bracknell Fire Station to host blood donor sessions. Working in conjunction with our NHS partners, Ascot Fire Station is being used for a variety of fitness and physiotherapy sessions, to increase the health and wellbeing of Ascot residents.

Protection objectives

- » We will continue to deliver our risk based inspection programme focusing on the buildings which pose the highest risk, for example, unlicensed houses in multiple occupation, care homes and sleeping accommodation above commercial premises.
- » We will aim to conduct a minimum of 150 full fire safety inspections in business premises across Bracknell Forest by April 2019.
- » We will continue to develop relationships with partner agencies, such as Bracknell Forest Council, to help us identify the highest risk premises for audits.
- » Following recent fatal incidents in residential care homes across the country, Fire Safety Inspecting Officers will aim to visit all care homes within the Bracknell Forest area, in the next 12 months.
- » We are working with the local planning department, to ensure that we contribute to all future development, both residential and business.
- » Following the Grenfell Tower incident in June 2017, working with colleagues in the Community Safety Project Team, we will focus on the risks presented by high-rise buildings. Using a collaborative approach, we will conduct a joint visit with the local housing authority to each high-rise building in Bracknell Forest by the end of September 2018.

Response objectives

- » Using historical incident data and through continual analysis of our response performance, we will identify and action changes to improve our attendance at incidents within our target time of 10 minutes. In Quarter 4 of 2017/18, we achieved our target time on 72.7% of occasions.
- » We will continue to work to try and increase the amount of on-call firefighters at Crowthorne Fire Station.

Community support initiatives

- » We will continue to host NHS Blood and Transplant sessions at Bracknell Fire Station.
- » We will continue to run our Young Firefighters Scheme from Crowthorne Fire Station.



- » Both Bracknell and Ascot Fire Stations have a community room that is currently used by community based groups. Please contact us if you are interested in using either of these rooms.

