



# Reading Borough Local Safety Plan

2023 – 2024





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# Introduction

This Local Safety Plan for Reading Borough explains how we identify local risk, take actions to mitigate and respond to that risk, and measure our performance.

Our West Hub manages the local fire safety resources in both Reading Borough and West Berkshire, delivering services in three key areas:

- » **Prevention** - Preventing fires and other emergencies
- » **Protection** - Ensuring buildings conform to fire safety legislation
- » **Response** - Responding effectively to emergencies when they happen

Our Local Safety Plan links directly to the [Strategic Commitments](#) set out in the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority (RBFA) [Corporate Plan and Community Risk Management Plan 2023 - 2027](#) and the annual objectives and performance measures published in our [Annual Plan](#). It also represents our commitment to knowing and working in partnership with our diverse communities to understand their needs and improve our service. We work closely with other emergency services and partners within the unitary authority to ensure we target our resources most appropriately.

## Our Local Communities

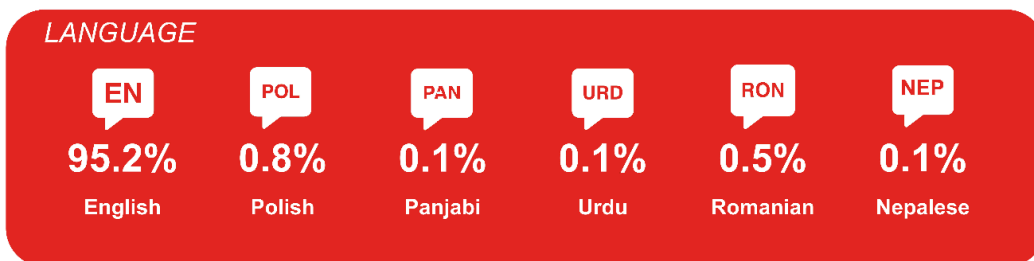
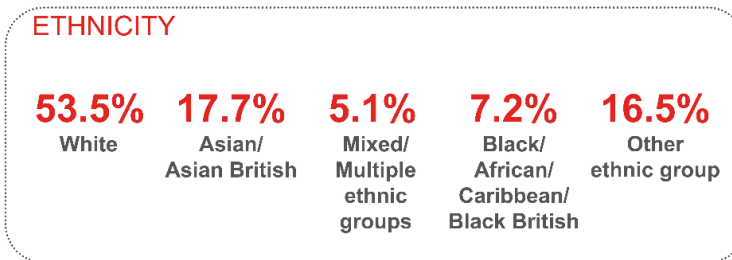
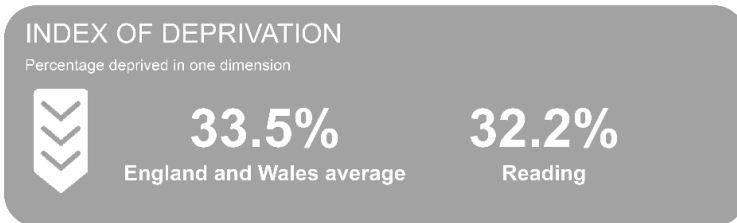
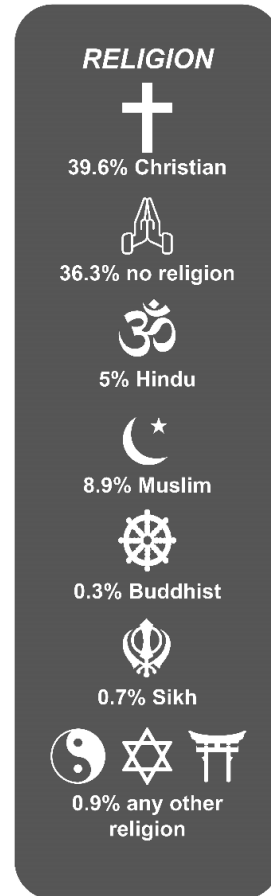
Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) has four [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion](#) (EDI) objectives linked to our Strategic Commitments. To fully realise these objectives, it is essential we understand the diversity and specific needs of our workforce and our local communities.

The demographic of our local community is forever changing, and the services we provide must be accessible to the whole community. The Hub team will review available data and evaluate our activities to understand the representation in our local areas in terms of age, disability, ethnicity, and religion. We will work closely with partner agencies to ensure we provide the best service to the public.

Reading Borough located in the Thames Valley is designated as the county town of Berkshire with a population of 174,200 and has a history of ethnic and cultural diversity. The demographics of Reading are made up broadly of 53.5% White, 17.7% Asian/Asian British, 5.1% Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups 7.2%, Black/African/Caribbean/Black British, and 16.5.% other ethnic groups ([ONS census 2021](#)).



# Reading



Demographic data includes the use of 2021 census data where more up-to-date data sources are unavailable.



## We will increase diversity amongst our workforce by:

- » Supporting the Summer internship.
- » Providing opportunities for under-represented groups to attend 'Have a Go events' at stations.
- » Attend local events such as Pride to showcase RBFRS as an employer of choice.
- » Maintain our 'disability-confident' employer status.
- » Maintain our 'Gold' status with the Armed Forces Covenant.

## Culture in the Fire and Rescue Service and RBFRS

Ongoing focus on building and developing a positive culture in RBFRS is a priority for us to create positive community relations, improve the diversity of our workforce, and deliver an effective service.

This year we will embark on the next stage of our 'RBFRS Development Programme'. We will engage with staff members to embed our Behavioural Competency Framework and Employee Code of Conduct, as we are committed to actively developing a culture where everyone feels accepted and treated with dignity and respect. We expect all staff to contribute and participate in building a 'One Team' culture to enable us to deliver excellent service to the local community.

## Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty (SVD) requires local authorities, police, fire and rescue authorities, specified criminal justice agencies, and health authorities to work together to formulate an evidence-based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those particular issues. As a result of this duty, partner agencies will have to work together to identify and publish what actions they need to take collectively to reduce violent crime, including domestic abuse and sexual offences.

RBFRS have a legal and moral obligation to collaborate with partners and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, as outlined in legislation under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022. To that end, RBFRS fully supports the SVD and remains committed, through a collaborative approach, to preventing and reducing serious violence.

RBFRS will seek opportunities to contribute to a broader safety, health and wellbeing agenda whilst delivering our core functions.



We are committed to stopping serious violence before it begins. By approaching the issue as a public health problem, we will aim to achieve sustainable reductions in serious violence and improve the health and quality of life of the communities we serve by appropriately understanding the issue and local needs, addressing the risk factors that increase the likelihood of somebody becoming an offender or a victim of serious violence. As such, prevention will be central to our approach. Through effective partnership, we will aim to prevent serious violence from occurring, intervening early to prevent it from damaging lives.

## **Post-COVID / Cost of Living Crisis**

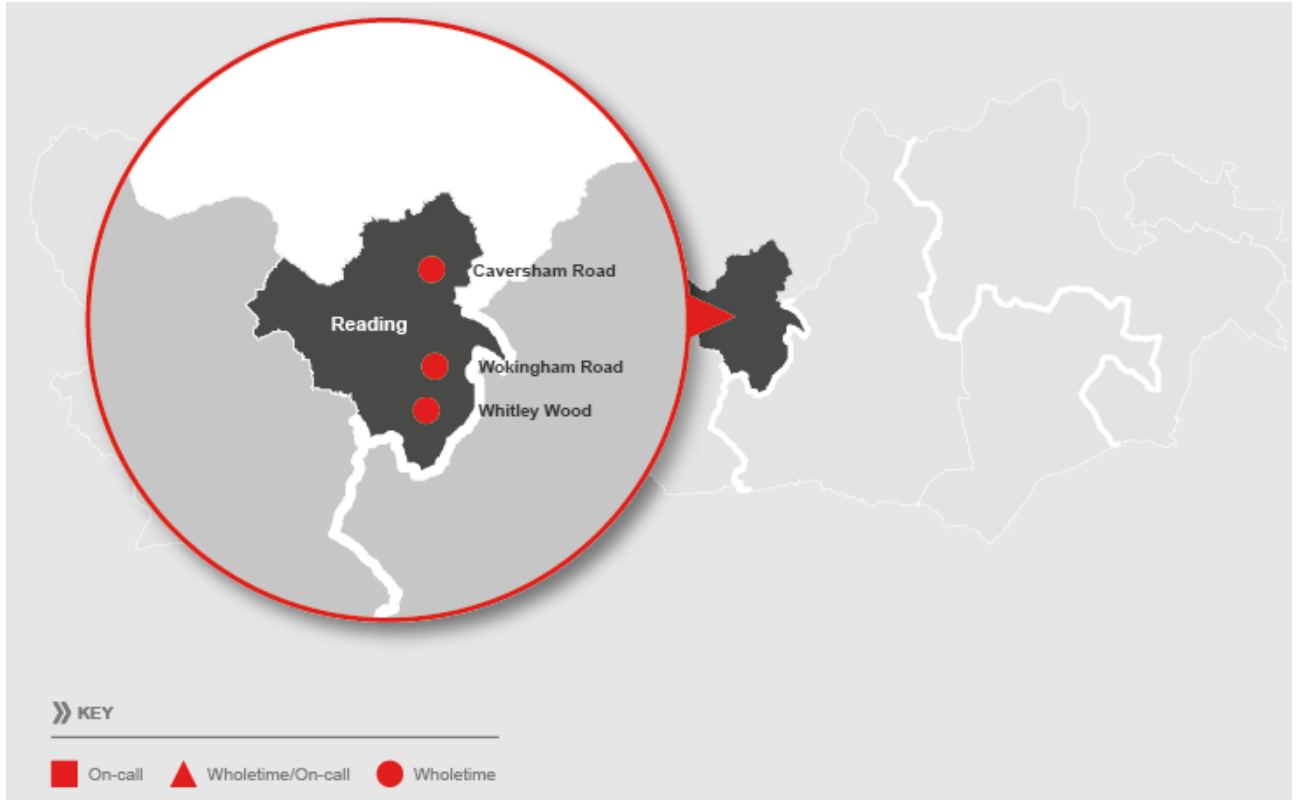
Post-COVID, despite many challenges, our aim to support local communities by seeking to identify and support those most at risk remained. We have worked hard to deploy resources to deliver our services to those most vulnerable within our communities. Some will face financial challenges as we enter a period of rising living costs. We recognise this may further isolate some members of our society and have also experienced increased referrals relating to hoarding or individuals living in isolation. We will work with partners to share information and signpost to appropriate support services.

Our performance management processes allow us to track and monitor the continued impact of these challenges against our objectives while adapting plans to ensure we are responding to the highest risks locally.



# Map

The map below shows the fire stations in Reading. A wider map of the county can be found in our [Annual Report](#).





## Identifying Risk

Our priority is to reduce risk; therefore, we must adopt a risk-based approach. Our performance management processes for Prevention, Protection and Response activities allow us to understand the specific areas of focus required for each location. In 2022, we attended 2,040 incidents in Reading. We categorise incidents into the following headline areas:



When we break the incident types down further and consider the most significant risk, these figures help us plan our service for the next year to address our community risks correctly.

In addition to setting objectives based on previous incident data, we monitor current activity to identify emerging risks. Incident data from UK Fire and Rescue Services show a sharp increase in incidents involving e-bike and e-scooter batteries, which is concerning as many e-bikes and e-scooters are stored and on charge inside homes.

These fires are particularly dangerous as the batteries can fail catastrophically and explode without warning, leading to a rapidly developing fire giving off toxic gasses.

Areas of focus in Reading will be:

- » Reducing accidental dwelling fires.
- » Reducing outdoor refuge fires.
- » Reducing deliberate car fires.
- » Reducing e-bike and e-scooter battery fires.





# Preventing Fires and Other Emergencies in Reading Borough

We adopt a proactive approach to prevent fires and other emergencies from occurring. We achieve this by providing information, education, and advice, and working with partner agencies to increase the safety and well-being of our communities. We also work to reduce the impact of fires and other emergencies, should they occur.

With the introduction of refugee hotels in some areas of the UK, we must work with local authorities to engage with occupants to deliver vital fire safety messages and ensure the premises are fit for purpose under our Fire Safety legislation, [The Regulatory Reform \(Fire Safety\) Order 2005](#).

It also provides an excellent opportunity to build positive relationships with new community members and promote our services as accessible to all.

## Preventing Accidental Fires in the Home

The focus of our Prevention activity is to reduce fire risk. We target our preventative work based on potential risks specific to communities within Reading Borough.

Prevention of fire deaths is our number one priority. We use our targeted Safe and Well Visits programme to make sure we reach those most at risk, for example those above the age of 65, who often live alone, or those with sensory (hearing and/or sight) or mobility impairments. We will continue to target this group in the next 12 months.

Our fire crews predominantly carry out these visits, with our Safe and Well Technicians addressing more complex or involved cases. When available, we use our trained volunteers for low risk safe and well visits, and the replacement of any faulty smoke alarms.

Recognising the increased vulnerability to fire experienced by individuals over the age of 80, we will work with partner agencies via our [Adults at Risk Programme](#) to increase the number of Safe and Well Visits delivered to this section of our community. We have trained partner agencies working in the community to identify individuals at risk from fire. Our referral pathway allows our partners to share information, allowing us to make contact and deliver a Safe and Well Visit.

Our quality assurance process allows us to continually improve our services and ensure they remain targeted towards the most vulnerable members of our community. Over the next year, work will continue to increase the number of referring agencies. We will evaluate referrals to ensure they continue to identify those most at risk, and support partners through training and feedback.



As society and behaviours change, we must recognise the associated risks and share this information with our partners. For example, there is an increase in older adults receiving care at home. This increases the number of people who require oxygen supplies at their property or use emollient creams. Combining either of those with someone who smokes at the property, or in bed, and it poses a significant fire risk.

Our partners must recognise this and signpost it to us so we can provide appropriate advice and resources to mitigate that risk.

## Performance Targets for 2023-24



**10%**

Increase in Safe and Well referrals received from partner agencies.



**35%**

of Safe and Well Visits for individuals most at risk completed within agreed timescales

**50%**

of Safe and Well Visits for individuals at medium risk completed within agreed timescales

Aim for zero deaths in accidental fires in the home



Offer fire safety education sessions to school children in Year 5 with a target of reaching a minimum of 50% of schools



Highlight the potential dangers of smoking, cooking, and faulty electrical appliances during Safe and Well Visits

Provide safety information relating to electric scooter or bike fires, via social media and targeted campaigns.





## Reducing Deliberate Fires

Over the last three years Reading Borough has experienced a reduction in deliberate 'primary' fires, which are fires that harm people or cause property damage. A significant number of these were related to fires in vehicles, which has been the most common target of serious, deliberate fires. Deliberate property fires saw a marginal increase from last year but is lower than previous years.

The number of deliberate secondary fires involving material of lower value, such as refuse, refuse containers and outdoor structures, is consistent with other areas of Berkshire. Reducing this type of fire will be a focus for the teams across Reading as these fires impact the environment, can spread to property of value and potentially pose a risk to life.

Arson can have links with other anti-social behaviour, and we work in close partnership with colleagues in Thames Valley Police and the unitary authority to tackle these issues. Where the suspected cause of a fire may be arson, the police are informed at the time of the incident and 'Arson Awareness' boards are displayed at the scene providing an anonymous route for members of the public to provide information to the police, as well as a visual deterrent.

We monitor data on deliberate fire-setting, sharing intelligence with the police to assist investigations, prosecutions and prevention. Where there is a specific threat of arson, we work with colleagues in Thames Valley Police to proactively reduce the risk. In such cases, our fire crews or Safe and Well Technician will visit the relevant person or premises as a matter of priority to put in place additional prevention measures.



## Performance Targets for 2023-24



Reduction in the number of deliberately set fires in Reading



Identify areas where multiple incidents of deliberate fires occur and, where appropriate, post 'arson awareness boards'

Focusing attention on monitoring deliberate vehicle fires to identify trends and work closely with police and other partners to reduce their impact and identify perpetrators.



**100%**

Completion of Safe and Well Visits where there has been a threat or incidence of arson within **48 hours** of being notified by Thames Valley Police



## Preventing Other Emergencies

RBFRS respond to a wide range of incidents beyond those just involving fire. These range from Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) water rescues involving people and animals, to incidents involving hazardous substances.

One key role is to respond to RTCs. In 2022, we attended 39 RTCs in Reading Borough. The rate of RTCs in Reading Borough is slightly lower than average across Berkshire as a whole. Reading fire stations cover three junctions of the M4 motorway and the A329(M), A4 and Inner Distribution Road all of which are extremely busy roads. Reading also has a vast network of A and B roads which experience large volumes of traffic daily.

To address the risk, Reading firefighters and our education teams offer all Year 7 school age children road safety advice. We will continually review our safety education programme with schools to ensure they remain effective.

Our teams also engage in safety advice for other road users, such as cyclists and pedestrians, providing information and education in collaboration with partner agencies relating to safety, such as cycle safety and the importance of the correct fitting and use of car seats for infants and children.

Additionally, as part of our overall road safety strategy, RBFRS intends to target Prevention activities towards motorcyclists. Motorcycles make up around 1% of road traffic but in 2020 accounted for 20% of road fatalities and 12% of road casualties in Great Britain. The greatest proportion of road fatalities occur on rural roads, and injuries on urban roads. We will look for opportunities to engage motorcyclists at a local level through initiatives like [Biker Down](#)

More than 200 people accidentally drown annually within UK waters (The Water Incident Database, 2020). Many of these deaths are preventable and we believe more can be done to reduce this loss of life. In 2022, RBFRS attended 46 water related incidents across Berkshire (including those involving person, vehicle and animal rescue). 12 of these were located in Reading. The River Thames and Kennet and Avon canal run through the rural and urban parts of Reading along with several smaller waterways, ponds and lakes - which presents a risk to residents and visitors within the area.

RBFRS specialist water rescue team is based at Caversham Road Fire Station and our firefighters (along with specialist prevention teams) routinely take part with partner agencies in locally [targeted risk campaigns](#) along with the national water related campaigns throughout the year. The Service has pledged to support the UK Drowning Prevention Strategy 2016-26, which aims to reduce drowning incidents by 50% by 2026.

In addition to these targeted campaigns, we will engage with local communities by attending known locations which members of the public use for water activities such as riverside locations.



## Performance Targets for 2023-24



Water and road safety education engagement offered to school students in Year 7 with a target of reaching a minimum of 50% of student engagement



Conduct events focused on water safety in the spring and summer months



Support initiatives promoting road safety messaging

Increase social media engagement with road and water safety messaging



Continue engagement with partners in relation to water safety





## Fire Safety Standards in Buildings

Our Protection Team consisting of fully qualified Fire Safety Inspectors (FSIs) will continue to work hard in Reading to ensure that businesses comply with the [Regulatory Reform \(Fire Safety\) Order 2005 \(FSO\)](#). They are here to make sure that Responsible Persons (RPs) abide by the legislation to help reduce the likelihood of a fire starting and also keep all relevant persons safe in the unlikely event that one should happen.

FSIs will audit premises using a combination of proactive and reactive work. They will utilise our updated Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP), which has triaged premises in our area according to risk to ensure we proactively inspect our higher risk premises, before systematically working through towards less risky premises. FSIs will then also conduct reactive inspections when we have received a complaint from a member of the public.

Post-fire inspections will also be carried out by our team when a fire has happened within a premises where the FSO applies. Alongside our inspection workload, FSIs also respond to local authority building consultations and licencing requests. FSIs work to reduce the risk of fire within commercial premises and to ensure that our operational crews are fully aware of any risks that may affect their decision making and tactical considerations when fighting a fire.

Using our updated RBIP and using data from prior inspection history, FSIs are able to focus their fire safety activity on premises deemed to be in a higher risk category. These include care homes, hospitals, commercial to residential conversions, hotels, and other premises where people may be unfamiliar with the layout of the building and sleeping overnight. FSIs will also work closely with key stakeholder partners such as the Environmental Health in Public Protection Partnership (PPP) to undertake joint inspections where enforcement legislation overlaps.

In comparison to the rest of the county, Reading has relatively large amount of high-rise residential buildings. Since the tragic events at Grenfell Tower, RBFRS have targeted all our High-Rise Residential Buildings (HRRBs) to ensure compliance with fire safety, including the external wall system. This had been done by our specialist High-Rise team which disbanded in December 2022. Since then, all HRRBs have been managed by our hub FSIs and have been inspected periodically as part of our daily work.

With the introduction of the Fire Safety Regulations (England) 2022 in January 2023, RBFRS have worked hard to ensure that all RPs at relevant premises have been made aware of the new expectations of them. These regulations will make it a requirement in law for responsible persons of high-rise blocks of flats to provide information to RBFRS to assist them, plan and, if needed, provide an effective operational response. Also, the regulations will require responsible





persons in multi-occupied residential buildings which are high-rise buildings, as well as those above 11 metres in height, to provide additional safety measures.

In all multi-occupied residential buildings, the regulations require RPs to provide residents with fire safety instructions and information on the importance of fire doors. The regulations apply to existing buildings, and requirements for new buildings may be different.

The outcomes of our fire safety inspections, both pro-active and reactive, will continue to be monitored to identify trends in non-compliance in other types of buildings. This will assist in shaping our future RBIP to ensure that it is targeting the right premises for our FSIs.

RBFRS continues to believe that sprinklers and suppression systems are the most effective way to ensure that fires are controlled or extinguished before the fire and rescue service arrives. Sprinklers can be included in the design of new buildings and retrofitted during the refurbishment of existing ones. Sprinklers save lives and reduce injuries, protect firefighters who attend incidents, and reduce the level of damage to both property and the environment. Research has identified that sprinklers have been highly effective in controlling and suppressing fires in converted and purpose-built flats. Therefore, we will continue to actively promote the installation of sprinkler systems in all appropriate new buildings and, where practical, retrofit sprinklers in existing buildings.



## Performance Targets for 2023-24



Actively target and inspect the highest risk premises in Reading in accordance with our Risk Based Inspection Programme



**60%**

Maximum percentage of completed fire safety audits in premises found to be broadly compliant with fire safety legislation



Working closely with the local authority to ensure that offices to flats conversions comply with the Fire Safety Order to keep people safe from fire.



Business events carried out to improve legislative fire safety responsibilities and in turn help reduce the social and economic costs of fire for businesses and local employment



**95%**

of consultations completed within the required time frame



# Responding to Incidents

Although prevention is our priority, we recognise that fires and other incidents like RTCs will still occur and require a swift and effective response. Our approach to emergency response is to ensure we have the right numbers of firefighters and fire engines in the right place, at the right time, delivering the right standard of response.

There are three Wholetime fire stations in Reading Borough; Caversham Road, Wokingham Road and Whitley Wood, all stations provide 24-hour coverage, 365 days a year.

In 2022, we attended 2,040 emergency incidents in Reading. 22% of these were fires, 52% were false alarms and 26% were RTCs and other including special services such as water and animal rescues and assisting other agencies. We will continue to work to reduce the demand of false alarm calls to improve the availability of our resources for important prevention activity and emergency incidents. The focus will be on providing advice to businesses in the first instance, but we will become more engaged should there be further unwanted fire signals during the year.

Across Berkshire, our target is to arrive at emergency incidents within 10 minutes of the initial call on 75% of occasions. To achieve this, Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS) will send the fire engine that can get to an emergency in the quickest time.

Operational preparedness is essential to ensure our teams respond effectively to all incidents and work well with colleagues across emergency services and other organisations. West Hub teams will regularly visit and familiarise themselves with the highest risk sites across the County. We will assess our response activity through our response monitoring process, aligned to National Operational Guidance. In addition, our service exercise planner will detail a schedule for operational exercise at our highest risk sites.

In addition to responding to fire service incidents, RBFRS supports South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) and Thames Valley Police (TVP) in responding to emergency calls. This activity underpins our commitment to work collaboratively, supports our communities' broader health and wellbeing needs, and builds the joint operational work undertaken across a range of incidents with our emergency service partners.

We recognise that we have a position of responsibility within the community and can support vulnerable people in times of need. Therefore, we will recognise all our buildings as 'Safe Spaces' and provide additional training to staff to support any members of our community in need.



## Performance Targets for 2023-24



Maintaining availability of our frontline fire engines  
365 days a year from all Reading Fire Stations



Increase the frequency of joint training with  
neighbouring fire and rescue services and  
other blue light partners



Reduce false alarm calls using  
social media channels and a  
targeted activity

**10 minutes**



Maintain a response  
standard that exceeds the  
Service's target of 75%



## Our Community Engagement

RBFRS recognises the importance and value of knowing and being known within the communities we represent. We aim to provide fully inclusive, accessible, efficient, and effective services by working with community leaders to understand how we can offer a flexible service to meet the whole community's needs.

We welcome the opportunity to engage in community settings and welcome people on to fire stations to ensure equality of access for all our services.

### Continue delivering the Fire Cadets initiative

Fire Cadets is a youth initiative run by staff at RBFRS, with educational support from RBFRS' Prevention department. Working as a team, Fire Cadets take part in practical and theoretical fire service activities, including hose drills, breathing apparatus procedures, and fire safety awareness sessions. The scheme also teaches young people essential life skills such as self-discipline, confidence and leadership. For further information, please see the [Fire Cadets](#) information on our website.

### Continue to deliver charity car washes

We intend to deliver charity car washes at stations across the Borough, using this as an opportunity to engage with the community and deliver key prevention messages, whilst raising money for local and national causes.

### Continue to deliver 'Have a Go' events

In line with our [People Strategy](#), we are keen to attract new talent to the Service. 'Have-a-Go' events offer those who are interested in joining the Service as an On-call or Wholetime firefighter the opportunity to talk to firefighters who are already in the role, learn about the recruitment process, and have a go at some of the fitness tests and day-to-day challenges that firefighters face.

### Continue to deliver blood donation sessions

To support the National Health Service Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) service, we host routine blood donation sessions at Fire Stations. We will add value to these sessions by offering a range of safety guidance to blood donors.

### Other community activities



Finally, we will seek to explore opportunities to deliver other community-based events and activities, in line with local and national campaigns. These events and activities will allow us to reach our diverse communities, in order to deliver targeted Prevention messages in relation to areas of local need or risk.

## Performance Scrutiny

It is important to us that you receive the services we have set out to deliver and that these services are delivered to a high standard.

We have a number of ways we monitor and manage our performance. You can see our [Strategic Performance Report](#) as scrutinised and approved by the [Fire Authority's Audit and Governance Committee](#) by visiting the RBFRS website.

At a local level, there is a performance management structure built into our service delivery model. We have a Service Delivery Management Team, who meet monthly to scrutinise performance against the Hub-level targets set out in this, and the other, Local Safety Plans. This allows us to ensure the Service is accountable at a local level for driving performance and quality in all we do to serve the people of Royal Berkshire, whilst also allowing us to direct support to where it is needed.

## Contact Us

Call us on 0118 945 2888 and ask for the West Hub Management Team.

Alternatively email us at [reception@rbfrs.co.uk](mailto:reception@rbfrs.co.uk) and mark it for the attention of the West Hub Management Team.

Website: [www.rbfrs.co.uk/](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk/)



# Glossary

## Fires in the home

Otherwise referred to as a 'dwelling fire'. 'Dwelling' means a property that is a place of residence for example, places occupied by households, excluding hotels, hostels, and residential institutions including university halls of residence. Includes non-permanent structures used solely as a dwelling, such as houseboats and caravans.

## Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP)

A document that details the plans of Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service for the next four years from a high level, strategic perspective.

## Hub

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service operate what is called a 'hub model', whereby the whole area of Berkshire is split into three separate hubs: East (Slough and Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead), West (West Berkshire and Reading), and Central (Bracknell and Wokingham). These hubs are then able to tailor their services of Prevention, Protection and Response to meet the needs of the local area.

## Safe and Well

Safe and Well visits are conducted by either firefighters or Safe and Well Technicians to the homes of people who may be vulnerable. These visits are targeted based on various factors such as age, mobility, or sensory (hearing and/or sight) needs.

## Adults at Risk Programme

A programme run in conjunction with Adult Social Care that provides free training and resources for the protection of adults at risk from fire. This training is available to anyone involved in the care of adults in the community.

At its core, this programme is training people to recognise when a referral to RBFRS is appropriate, and how to make this referral. This helps us target our prevention activity to those who are most at risk.



## Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO)

A house in multiple occupation (HMO) is a property rented by at least three people who are not from one 'household' (for example a family), but share facilities like the bathroom and kitchen. It's sometimes called a 'house share'.

## Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO)

Sets out the fire safety requirements for all non-domestic premises. It does not apply to people's private homes, including individual flats in a block or house.

## Licensed premises providing accommodation

A premises that has a license to sell alcohol and also offers accommodation. One example would be a pub with rooms to rent.

## False alarm

Where we attend a location believing there to be a fire incident, but on arrival discover that no such incident exists, or existed. If the appliances (fire engines) are 'turned around' by Thames Valley Fire Control Service before arriving at the incident – then the incident is not classed as having been attended and does not need to be reported.

## Infographics supplementary details

The number of formal and informal fire safety activities is the total number of formal or informal fire safety activities that have been issued one of the below:

- » Action plan
- » Deficiency Notices
- » Enforcement Notice
- » Prohibition Notice
- » Alternations Notice
- » Voluntary Restriction
- » Formal Caution
- » Prosecution Notice





## **Number of Safe and Well visits delivered to those who are at heightened risk of having an accidental dwelling fire and being injured as a result**

Research has shown that certain groups of people are at heightened risk of having an accidental dwelling fire and being injured as a result. Safe and Well visits will be targeted towards these groups.

## **Number of Safe and Well visits delivered to those who are at heightened risk of dying in the event of an accidental dwelling fire**

Research has shown that certain vulnerable groups are at heightened risk of dying in an accidental dwelling fire. Safe and Well visits will be targeted towards these vulnerable groups.

## **Number of deaths in accidental fires in the home**

Referred to in the annual plan as 'number of fire deaths in accidental dwelling fires'. The total number of deaths that occur as a result of an accidental dwelling fire. This includes a person whose death is attributed to an accidental dwelling fire, even when the death occurs weeks or months later.

## **Total number of fire safety audits carried out**

This is the total number of full fire safety audits carried out in premises in Berkshire. This is calculated once the audit has been closed by RBFRS and only includes the initial fire safety audit. A fire safety audit is carried out to enforce the [Regulatory Reform \(Fire Safety\) Order 2005 \(FSO\)](#), which applies to virtually all non-domestic premises and covers nearly every type of building, structure and open space.

## **Percentage of statutory fire safety consultations completed within the required timeframes**

Statutory fire consultations have a set timeframe in which they must be completed and include:

- » Licensing.
- » Building regulations.
- » Building regulations approved supplier.

## **Percentage of hours where there is adequate crewing on On-call frontline pumping appliances**

This is the percentage of hours where there is sufficient minimum qualified firefighters (four personnel) on On-call pumping appliances (fire engines). On-call frontline pumping appliances are crewed mainly by On-call firefighters who are based at stations in more rural locations, and are








ready to leave their place of work or home when alerted by pager to attend emergencies from the local On-call station, when they receive the call.

### **Percentage of occasions where the first fire engine arrives at an emergency incident within 10 minutes from time the emergency call was answered**

This measure looks at the time taken from when the Thames Valley Fire Control Room Operator answers the phone, until the time the first fire engine (appliance) arrives at the scene of the emergency incident, and the percentage of occasions RBFRS does this in under 10 minutes.

**ROYAL BERKSHIRE**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

-  [RoyalBerksFRS](#)
-  [@RBFRSOfficial](#)
-  [RoyalBerkshireFire](#)
-  [Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service](#)
-  [rbfrs.co.uk](#)