

Performance Benchmarking Summary for Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service

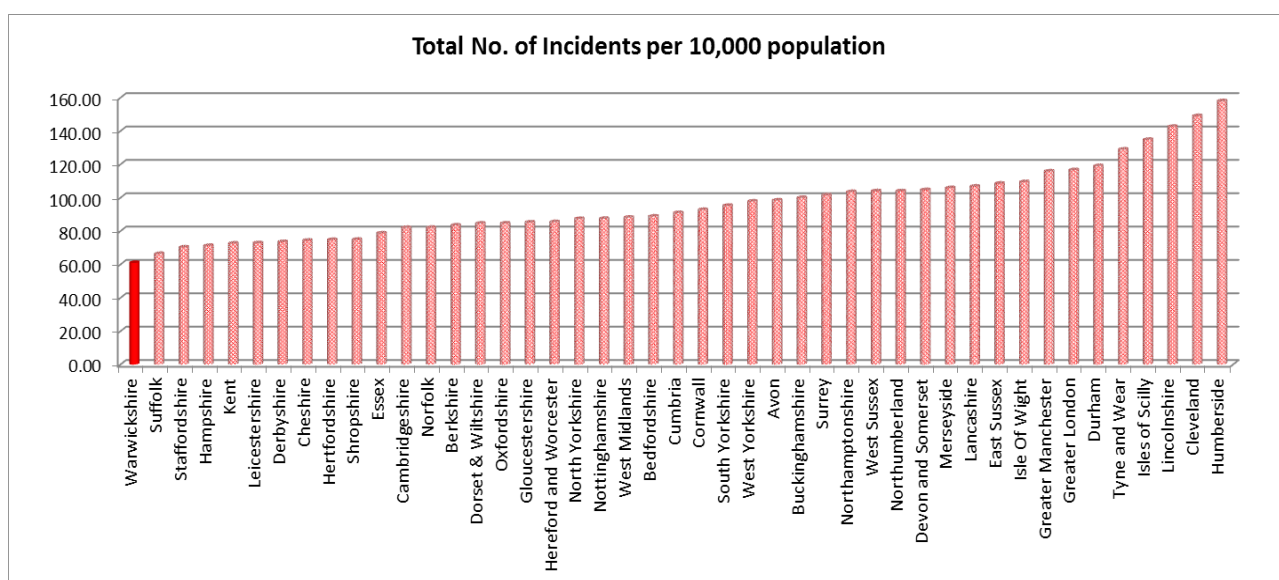
Background

This report summarises the performance of Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) against key incident categories in comparison to the other 44 English Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs). Incident data has been taken from the Fire Statistics Data Tables April 2015 to March 2016; population and property information has been taken from the CIPFA latest published stats, June 2014. Incident data is collated using the national Incident Recording System used within each FRS. It should be noted that FRS supplied data is no longer subject to audit process and therefore it cannot be guaranteed that information is consistently recorded from Service to Service.

Analysis

Across England, since 2003/4 there has been a continuing decline in the number of incidents attended by Fire Services; this trend is also apparent within Warwickshire.

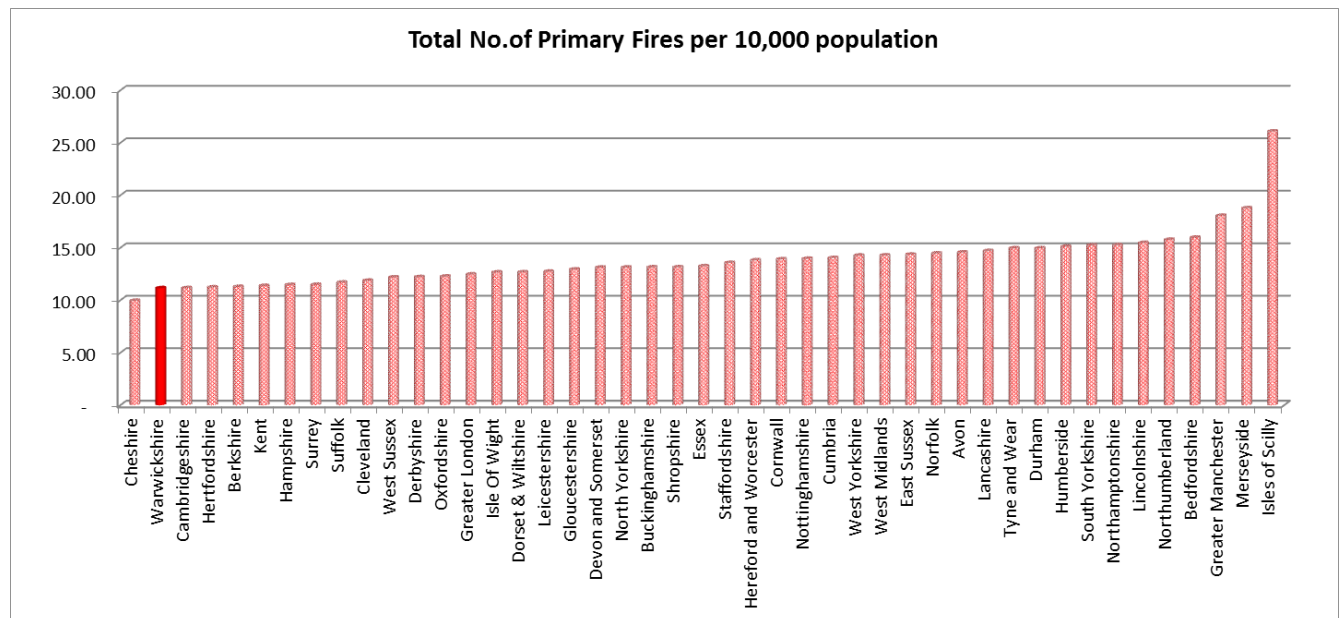
Total Incidents Attended – this category includes all incidents attended by the Fire Service including all fires, false alarms, special services and Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs).



Warwickshire: 60.90
 Position: 1/45
 England: 98
 Average: 95.92
 5 year reduction 30%

Overall Warwickshire is the best performer in terms of total number of incidents per 10,000 populations. To date for 2016/17 the levels of incidents are slightly lower compared to the same period in 2015/16.

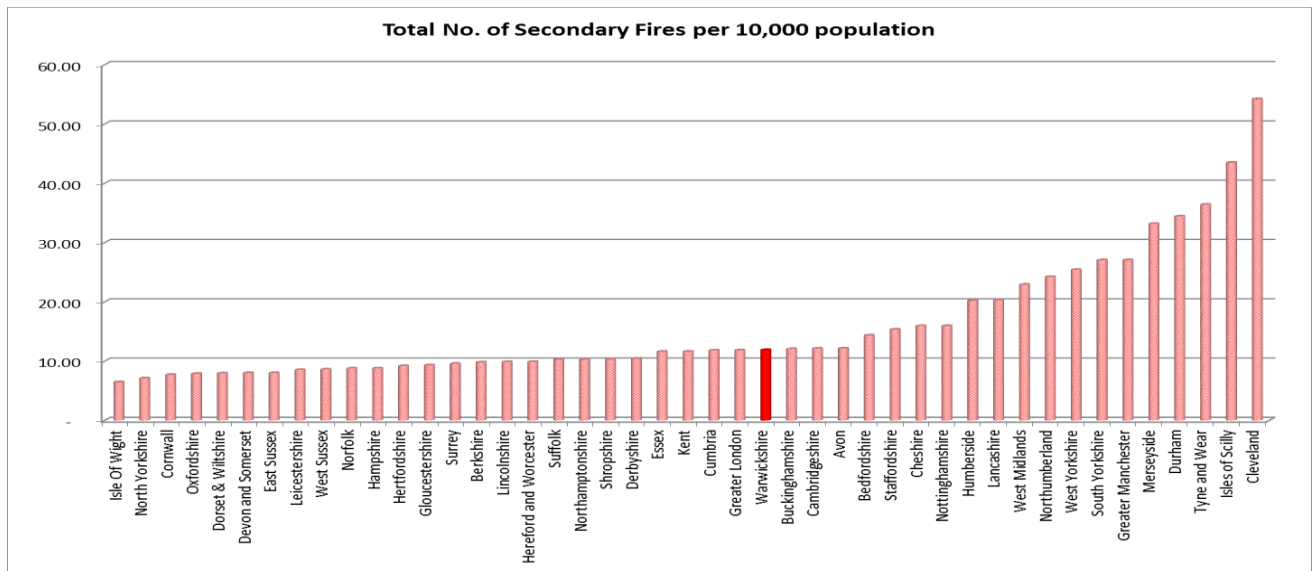
Primary fires – these are fires that involve property or vehicles or where casualties or rescues have occurred, they also include incidents where five or more fire engines are in attendance. This category of fires includes domestic and domestic fires, vehicle fires and other property fires.



Warwickshire: 11.15
 Position: 2/45
 England: 13.52
 Average: 13.77
 5 year reduction 30%

Nationally there has been a slight rise in the number of primary fires per 10,000 population compared to the previous year, 13.52 in 2015/16 compared to 13.16 in 2014/15. Warwickshire follows this trend with 11.15 compared to 10.66. Warwickshire has improved performance compared to the other services and now ranks 2nd instead of 3rd.

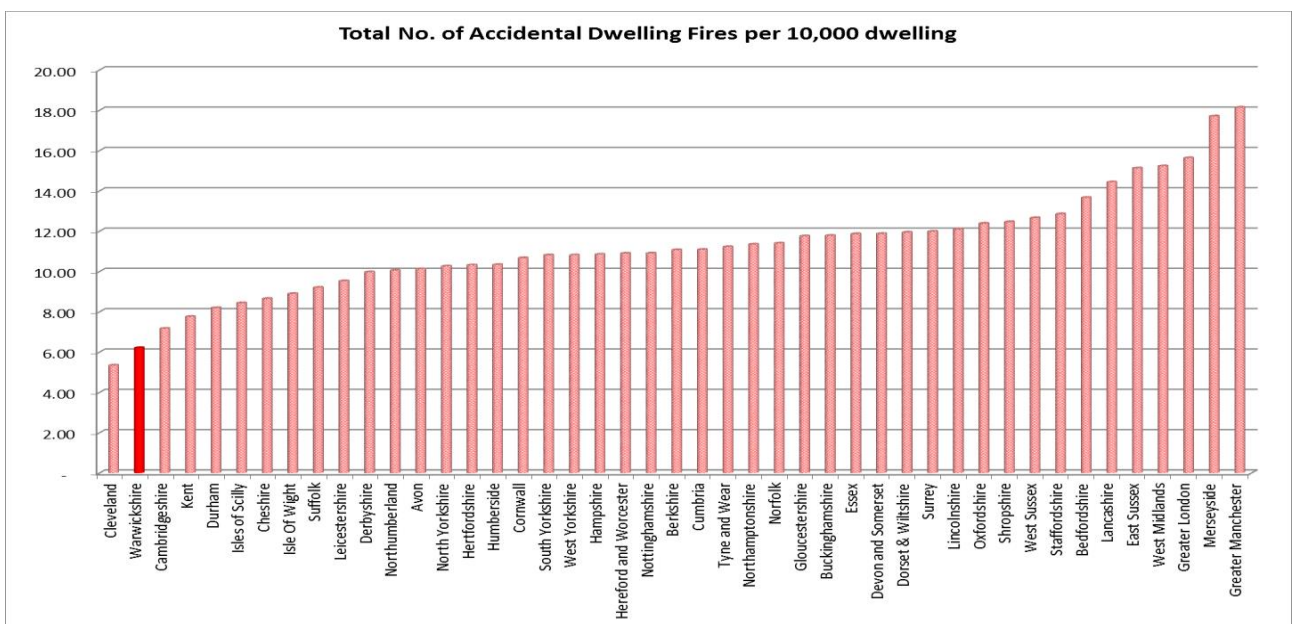
Secondary fires – these are fires that do not involve property, vehicles or life risk and are mostly outdoor fires, such as refuse and grassland fires. Derelict property and vehicles and fires confined to a chimney structure are also included in this incident type.



Warwickshire: 11.89
 Position: 26/45
 England: 15.67
 Average: 15.83
 5 year reduction 57%

During 2015/16 the level of secondary fires in England increased to 15.67 compared to 14.60 in 2014/15. Conversely for Warwickshire a reduction was experienced from 12.36 to 11.89. Warwickshire also improved its league position by three places. To date levels of secondary fires are slightly increased compared to the same period in the previous year.

Accidental dwelling fires – this category covers various types of domestic residences: houses, flats, bungalows, care homes as well as caravans and houseboats used as permanent dwellings and where the cause of the fire has been accidental or not known. These types of fire are a sub category of primary fires.



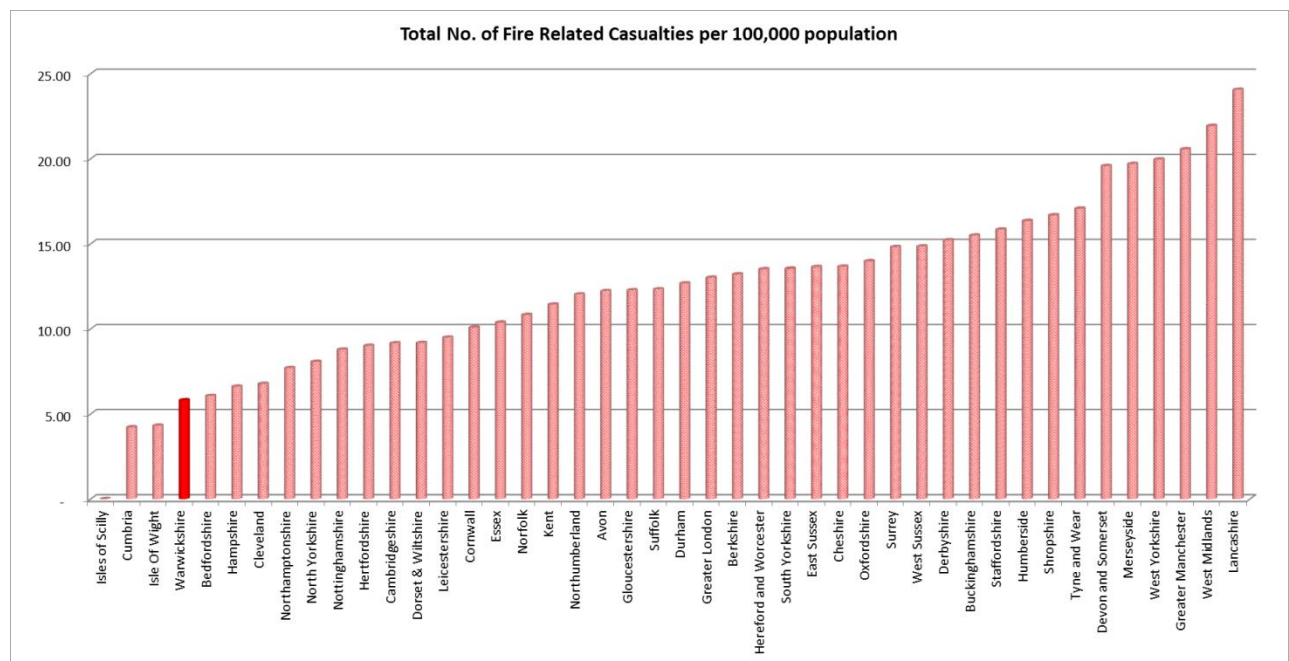
Warwickshire: 6.21
 Position: 2/45
 England: 12.37
 Average: 11.22

5 year reduction 15%

Warwickshire continues to be one of the best performing Services for the rate of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 dwellings. Warwickshire moved from 1st to 2nd this year despite an improvement in the recorded rate. Within 2016/17 the low levels of accidental dwelling fires remain low and at a similar level to 2015/16.

Fire related deaths and injuries – fire related deaths and injuries are primary incidents where either the cause of death has been recorded by the Coroner as fire related or where a sustained injury has been fire related such as smoke inhalation or burns. The measure includes both members of the community and FRS personnel.

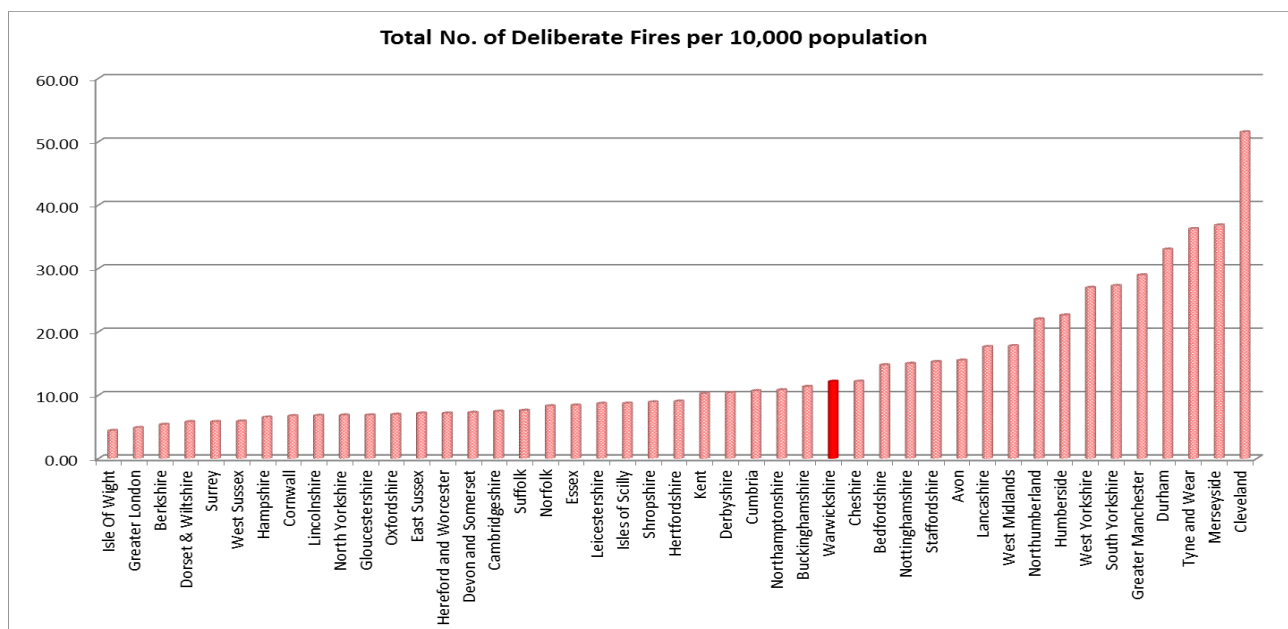
WFRS has always experienced very low numbers in terms of fire related deaths and this continued in 2015/16 with none recorded. NB no chart is included for this measure as such low levels of fire related deaths occur nationally.



Warwickshire: 5.80
Position: 4/45
England: 14.07
Average: 12.67

Warwickshire had improved performance in terms of fire related casualties per 100,000 populations with a recorded rate of 5.80 in 2015/16 compared to 8.57 in 2014/15 and is now the fourth best performer. Nationally the levels remained relatively consistent between the two financial years. To date this year levels of fire related injuries are remaining below recorded levels for the previous year.

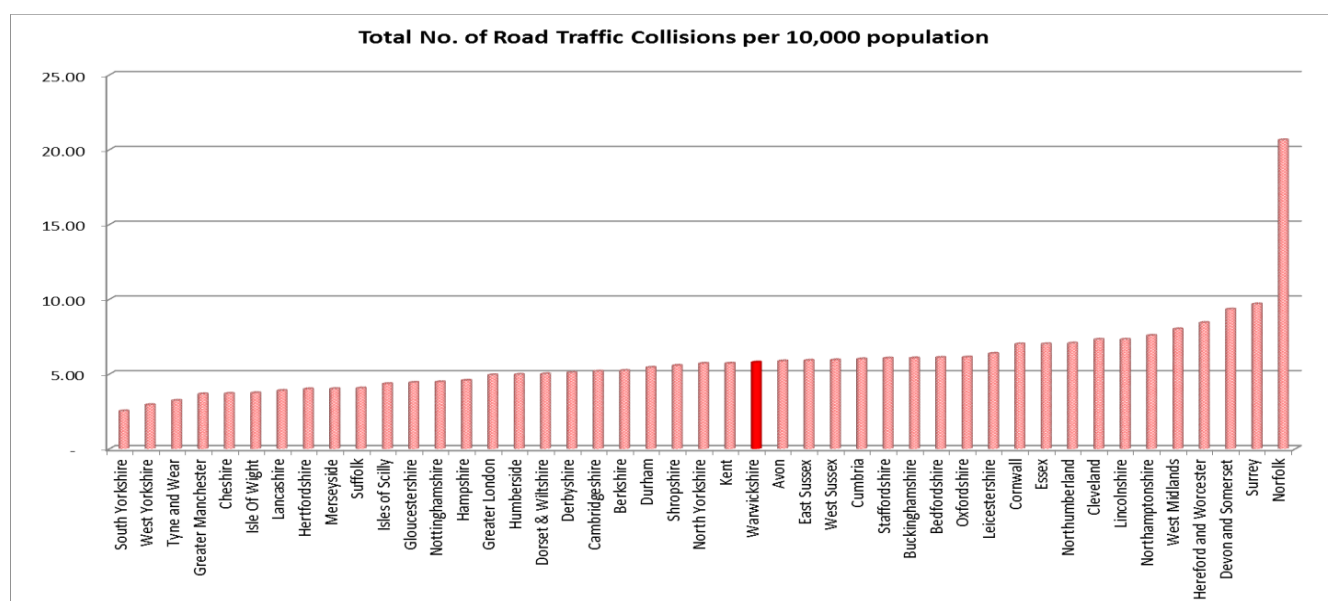
Deliberate fires – this category is related to incidents of deliberate fire setting, where the source of ignition is believed to be deliberate. It includes fires of a primary and secondary nature, but is mostly comprised of secondary fires.



Warwickshire: 12.15
 Position: 29/45
 England: 13.64
 Average: 13.78
 5 year reduction 46%

Across England the levels of deliberate fire setting have remained relatively static during 2015/16 compared to the previous year, in terms of the overall rate. There was the same trend in Warwickshire however the league position improved slightly from 31 to 29. Warwickshire continues to perform better than the overall figure for England and the average across all Services. For 2016/17 the levels of deliberate fires have slightly increased compared to the previous year. The increase was experienced across the relatively long, dry summer despite active intervention initiatives planned and delivered in known hot spot areas and at peak activity times.

Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) – this incident category relates to incidents that WFRS attend where there has been a road traffic collision on Warwickshire roads. Activity there will depend on the nature of the incident but regularly includes extricating injured persons from the vehicle.



Warwickshire:	5.78
Position:	25/45
England:	5.69
Average:	5.91
5 year reduction	29%

Compared to the previous year the number of Road Traffic Collisions attended by WFRS increased slightly, as predicted due to the relaxation of mobilising policy. Despite this Warwickshire improved its league position by one place and performs slightly better than the average. For 2016/17 to date there has been a reduction in the overall number of RTCs attended compared to the same period last year.

FRS fire safety initiatives

Within WFRS there are a number of established fire safety initiatives and strategies which help keep the communities of Warwickshire safer from the risk of fire. The initiatives are targeted and deployed when and where they are needed most. These initiatives include:

- **Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSCs)** – these are visits into the homes of those people who may be at greater risk of having fires in the home to offer guidance and advice and in some cases to fit smoke detectors.
- **Schools programme** – visits take place to children in Primary Schools in years 1 and 5; our aim is to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of fire safety behaviour and to provide them with survival skills in the event of a fire. Secondary schools also have visits to reinforce the "FIRE!" Scheme which is used by teachers in Schools during Personal, Social and Health Education / Citizenship lessons; pupils will have worked through the scheme before they receive a visit by a Community Fire Safety Officer and so have some knowledge of fire safety and arson awareness.
- **Targeted campaigns** throughout the year – national campaigns such as the Tick, Tock, Test will be supported locally. In addition local bespoke campaigns such as the Chimney Fire awareness which is based on our own historical information around when and where incidents occur.
- **Small Fires Unit (SFU)** - Joint high visibility patrol with Police Community Support Officer's (PCSO's) in Deliberate Small Fire hotspots in Nuneaton and Bedworth. The SFU will challenge Anti-Social Behaviour; provide fire safety education and messages to young people. They are directly based on intelligence from Arson Reduction and Police.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour Intervention Team (ASBIT)** - Joint high visibility patrols with PCSO's to challenge anti-social behaviour and provide fire safety/ASB education. Schemes run at peak times (school holidays, exam results time and Halloween and Bonfire).
- **Bicycle Intervention, Knowledge and Education (B.I.K.E)** - High visibility patrols of wooded areas and recreational grounds to engage and educate young people in Nuneaton and North Warwickshire areas. This scheme runs on a peak demand basis
- **Fire safety audits** - The audit is an examination of the business premises and relevant documents to ascertain how the premises are being managed regarding fire safety. Advice and information is offered during the visit as well as any improvement action required.
- **Site Specific Risk Checks (SSRCs)** - joint visit to targeted premises across the county to gather premises risk information for Firefighter and Public Safety. Targeted

premise list are created based on a number of criteria including incident type frequency and associated risks to firefighters.

- **Business Fire Safety Checks** (BFSCs) - crews undertake visits to lower risk 'fire safety' premises with a higher 'fire fighter' risk such as offices, factories & warehouses for familiarisation but also to offer advice and support.
- **Rural Crime** - work with Rural Crime co-ordinators to visit rural victims of Arson and to provide prevention advice to surrounding farms.
- **Road Safety Education** - The Service works in partnership with Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Road Safety Partnership to deliver the "Fatal Four" education sessions within secondary schools and colleges across the County. The session aims to encourage safe driving habits with inexperienced drivers. This year will see Fatal Four becoming part of the award winning 'Driving Ambitions' which is the larger WCC Road Safety Education programme. This is an excellent recognition of the important role that the Fire Service can play in raising road safety awareness.

The Warwickshire Risk Profile analyses the risk across the County in greater detail and Local Risk Plans are developed and used by stations to address their local risk. The Management Information Dashboard is used to monitor incident activity at stations and by the Arson Reduction Manager. Group Commanders review and challenge performance at fortnightly performance meetings while Senior Managers review and challenge performance at the Monthly Performance Review meetings.

Conclusions

Overall performance remains consistently good in a number of key areas both in terms of the long term trend but also by comparing WFRS against other FRSs. Focus needs to remain on deliberate fire setting and RTCs as performance in these areas is not as strong as it could be and could pose a risk to the safety of Warwickshire communities.