

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

22 JUNE 2009

1. **OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE TARGETS - 2008/2009
OUTTURN REPORT**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the Authority note the achievements against the operational performance targets detailed in the Authority's 2008/09 Annual Service Plan and which are attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.2 THAT the Authority note the cost related to this area of service, and the downward trend in the annual number of incidents since 1996/97.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to inform the Authority of; the performance of the Service for 2008/09 against the operational performance targets, the associated costs and the downward trend in the annual number of incidents since 1996/97.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Service sets targets for performance against a range of operational indicators; these are detailed in the Annual Service Plan and reported quarterly. The targets are deliberately challenging in support of continuous improvement and take account of emerging influences such as the economic downturn.
- 3.2 The 2008/09 outturn figures are attached as Appendix 1. The summary of achievement for all 18 indicators when considered against the previous year's performance and the 2008/09 targets is indicated in Figure 1.

Figure 1.

Achievement	Number of indicators
Improved performance against the previous year and exceeded the 2008/09 target	12
Improved performance against the previous year but not met the 2008/09 target	4
Not improved performance against the previous year and not met the 2008/09 target	2

- 3.3 Significant achievement has been made in several areas, for example:

Arson

3.3.1 The number of fires involving arson in non-domestic premises, e.g. factories has reduced by 17% since 2007/08. This reduction is noteworthy when considered against current economic factors. West Midlands Fire Service is also performing highly within the metropolitan family group – see appendix 4.

Fires in the Home

3.3.2 The number of fires involving people's homes has reduced by 4.7% when compared to the 2007/08 performance, the number of injuries in this type of fire has reduced by 11% over the same period. Both results represent excellent achievements when the significant reductions in previous years are considered. Charts detailing this data are attached as Appendix 2.

- 3.4 Twelve people tragically died in accidental fires in their homes, these fires involved a range of differing circumstances. Any death from fire is a concern, the number of deaths however must be considered against the population of the West Midlands which is circa 2.7m people.

3.5 A contributory factor in the excellent results which have been achieved is the significant emphasis given to prevention services by the Authority and the associated investment. Prevention services include:

- The enforcement of legislation and provision of advice to building owners and developers;
- The delivery of Home Fire Safety Checks;
- Education work delivered in schools at a range of Key Stages including the annual Schools Quiz;
- Projects such as the FIRE programme which are delivered in partnership with other agencies;
- The range of arson prevention work including target hardening schemes that are delivered in partnership with the local authorities.

3.6 A press release was issued on the 1st May 2009 to celebrate the success of the service and provide specific information about our achievements.

Cost of Services

3.7 The cost of delivering the services which have contributed to the performance achievements comprise goods such as smoke alarms, and staff time. The staff time includes those staff who are solely engaged in prevention work and watch based staff that provide emergency response as well as prevention services.

3.7.1 Based on the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice, the approximate cost of staff engaged on prevention work including an element for watch based firefighters, approximately £17.8 million. This figure includes apportioned overhead costs.

3.7.2 The expenditure on smoke alarms and other supporting materials was approximately £640k.

Annual Number of Incidents

3.8 Since 1996/97 there has been a downward trend in the annual number of incidents. A table providing information for each financial year since that time is attached as Appendix 3.

3.9 The overall change in the number of incidents is attributable to:

- factors which have reduced incidents such as prevention based work and the challenge of calls originating from automatic fire alarms, and
- changes that are creating additional incidents such as flooding arising from climate change.

3.10 The Lead Members for Performance Management were briefed about the performance outturn information at their regular meeting on the 21st May 2009.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out. The matters contained in this report will not lead to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The National Framework document for 2008-11 is given statutory power by the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. One of the key requirements in the document is performance assessment and the ongoing analysis of data and performance is a key element in support of this requirement.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Annual Service Plan 2008/09

Annual Report 2005/2006

Authority Report 27th September 2004 – Agenda item 6

Executive Committee Report – 17th March 2008

Executive Committee Report – 8th September 2008

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Appendix 1

2008/09 Outturn Figures

This report includes data to the end of March 2009.

The following indicators improved and met the target:

- Arson fires in dwellings
- Accidental fires in non-domestic premises
- Arson fires in non-domestic premises
- Arson vehicle fires
- Arson rubbish fires
- Arson fires in derelict vehicles
- Malicious calls attended
- Proportion of malicious calls attended
- The number of false alarm calls due to automatic fire alarms in non-domestic premises
- The percentage of dwelling fires where a working smoke alarm was fitted
- The percentage of dwelling fires where no smoke alarm was fitted
- HFSCs

The following indicators improved but did not meet the target:


- Accidental fires in dwellings
- Injuries at accidental dwelling fires
- Malicious calls received
- The percentage of false alarm calls due to automatic fire alarms in non-domestic properties which are to a property with more than one attendance in the financial year

The following indicators worsened and did not meet the target:


- Deaths in accidental dwelling fires
- The percentage of accidental fires in dwellings confined to the room of origin

INDICATOR DATA


PI 1 The number of accidental fires in dwellings

	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	2,133	1,959	1,825	1,867		1,792

PI 2 The number of injuries from accidental fires in dwellings


	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	165	137	122	123		118

PI 3 The number of deaths from accidental fires in dwellings


	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	19	8	7	12*		12 (one less than the average of last 3 years)

*Five awaiting inquest.


PI 4 The number of arson fires in dwellings

	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	611	558	525	487		477


PI 5 The number of accidental fires in non-domestic premises

	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	788	689	650	643		611


PI 6 The number of arson fires in non-domestic premises

	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	390	293	300	242		242


PI 7 The number of arson vehicle fires

	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	1,883	1,578	1,518	1,377		1,377


PI 8 The number of arson rubbish fires

	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	5,742	5,645	5,480	4,565		4,337


PI 9 The number of arson fires in derelict vehicles

	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	141	129	129	101		Indicator removed


PI 10 The number of malicious false alarm calls received

	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	5,861	5,130	4,865	4,882		4,784


PI 11 The number of malicious false alarm calls attended

	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	2,578	2,158	2,000	1,864		1,734


PI 12 The proportion of malicious false alarm calls attended

	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	44.0%	42.1%	41.1%	38.2%		Indicator removed


PI 13 The number of false alarm calls due to automatic fire alarms in non-domestic premises

	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	8,024	6,886	6,500	6,275		5,899


PI 14 The percentage of false alarm calls due to automatic fire alarms in non-domestic properties which are to a property with more than one attendance in the financial year

	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	59%	63.4%	60%	62.4%		Indicator removed


PI 15 The percentage of dwelling fires where a working smoke alarm was fitted

	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	36.60%	41.52%	43.2%	59.8%		62%


PI 16 The percentage of dwelling fires where no smoke alarm was fitted

	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	55.47%	50.14%	48.8%	27.7%		Indicator removed

PI 17 The percentage of accidental fires in dwellings confined to the room of origin

	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	86.97%	87.60%	88.50%	87.15%		Indicator removed

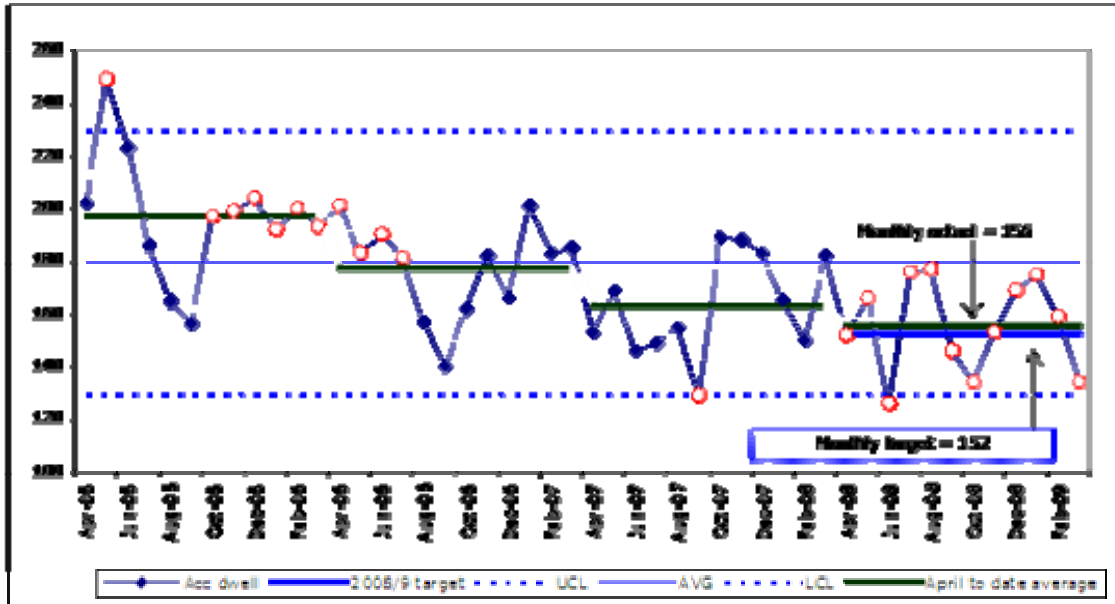
PI 18 The number of HFSCs conducted by the Brigade

	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2008/9	Actual 2008/9		Target 2009/10
Yearly	26,555	48,383	At least 40,000	45,993		40,000

Appendix 2

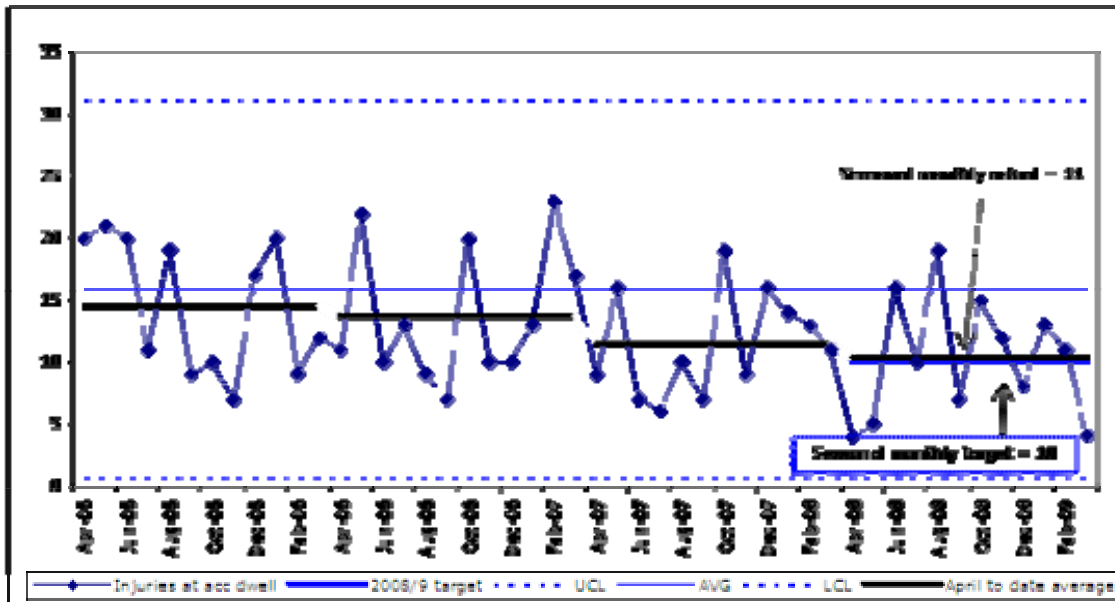
Accidental Fires involving People's Homes

PI 1 The number of accidental fires in dwellings



Target = 7% decrease.
Actual = 5% decrease.

PI 2 The number of injuries from accidental fires in dwellings



Target = 11% decrease
Actual = 10% decrease

Appendix 3

Annual Number of Incidents for Financial Years 1996/1997 to 2008/2009

Financial year	Number of incidents attended
1996/7	66,268
1997/8	63,079
1998/9	55,223
1999/0	61,773
2000/1	57,971
2001/2	62,794
2002/3	62,680
2003/4	65,655
2004/5	52,226
2005/6	50,252
2006/7	50,357
2007/8	43,104
2008/9	39,154

METROPOLITAN FRSs – NIs 2008/09 (UNAUDITED DATA)

NI	Description	West Yorkshire	Greater Manchester	London	Merseyside	South Yorkshire	Tyne & Wear	West Midlands
NI 33	Arson Incidents (All Deliberate Fires) per 10,000 population	53.12 (11587)	55.98 (14345)	13.18 (9961)	72.2 (9749)	61.51 (7994)	64.4 (7002)	40.03 (10,424)
	Arson Incidents (Deliberate Primary Fires) per 10,000 population	12.59 (2746)	14.42 (3695)	5.02 (3796)	21.09 (2109)	15.27 (2043)	12.5 (1363)	9.57 (2491)
	Arson Incidents (Deliberate Secondary Fires) per 10,000 population	40.53 (8841)	41.57 (10650)	8.16 (6165)	56.53 (7640)	45.79 (5951)	51.8 (5639)	30.47 (7933)