

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	CSC/24/14
MEETING	COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	04 SEPTEMBER 2024
SUBJECT OF REPORT	HMICFRS AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Fire Officer
RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>That the Committee reviews progress in delivery of the action plan.</i>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>On Wednesday 27 July 2022 HMICFRS published the DSFRS 2022 inspection report. The inspection report identified one Cause of Concern and 14 Areas for Improvement (AFIs). Of these AFIs, three have been linked to the Community Safety Committee.</p> <p>The paper appended to this report outlines the progress that has been made against the HMICFRS Areas for Improvement action plan since the last update in April 2024. The key highlights are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The closure of HMI-1.2-202204 (Safeguarding Training) and HMI-1.3-202205 (Quality Assurance of Audits and Fire Safety Checks) were approved by the Executive Board on 15 August 2024. <p>A new approach has been implemented for all remaining Areas for Improvement (AFIs) where actions are aligned to the relevant Fire Standards criteria. This will provide continued assurance of the AFI outcomes over time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a result of the new approach, the target completion date for HMI-1.2-202203 (Prevention Activity) has been moved to 31 October 2024.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Considered within the Action Plan where appropriate.
EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS	Considered within the Action Plan where appropriate.
APPENDICES	None
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None

HMICFRS ACTION PLAN – COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. On Wednesday 27 July 2022 HMICFRS published the DSFRS 2022 inspection report. The inspection report identified one Cause of Concern and 14 Areas for Improvement (AFIs).
- 1.2. This report provides an update on the Areas For Improvement action plan that was produced following the inspection, which concluded in October 2021.

2. AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN COMPLETION STATUS

- 2.1 Table 1 lists the Areas For Improvement linked to the Community Safety Committee and their individual implementation status.

Table 1:

Reference	Description	Target Completion	Status
HMI-1.2-202203	The service should evaluate its prevention activity so it understands what works.	29/02/2024 31/10/2024	In Progress (On Track)
HMI-1.2-202204	Safeguarding training should be provided to all staff.	30/04/2024 30/06/2024	Closed
HMI-1.3-202205	The service should make sure it has an effective quality assurance process, so staff carry out audits and fire safety checks to an appropriate standard.	30/09/2023 30/11/2023 31/08/2024	Closed

3. ALIGNMENT TO FIRE STANDARDS

- 3.1. The Fire Standards Board oversees the identification, organisation, development and maintenance of professional standards for fire and rescue services in England. These are presented in a series of approved 'Fire Standards', developed in consultation with stakeholders from services across the country.
- 3.2. Each Fire Standard contains a number of criteria which services 'must', 'should' or 'may' implement in order to provide assurance against the required standard.

- 3.3. A new approach has been implemented for all remaining Areas for Improvement (AFIs) from the 2021/22 inspection report. This approach aligns the actions from each AFI with the relevant Fire Standards criteria, in this instance, aligning the Prevention AFI to the Prevention Fire Standard.
- 3.4. This will support an assurance-based approach to AFI monitoring, ensuring the Service has continued assurance of AFI outcomes over time, rather than just a compliance assessment at the time of closure.

4. AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT DEADLINE EXTENSIONS

- 4.1. Table 3 below outlines one area for improvement which has had a deadline extension since the last report to the Community Safety Committee.

Table 3:

Area for Improvement	Status
HMI-1.2-202203 – Prevention Activity	In Progress – On Track
Reason for deadline extension	
<p>This Area for Improvement is now linked to the ‘Prevention’ Fire Standard, criteria 8 ‘<i>A fire and rescue service must demonstrate how it monitors and evaluates the effectiveness and efficiency of its prevention activity.</i>’.</p> <p>The Prevention team will provide evidence of the evaluation currently taking place, in line with the three lines of assurance detailed against the Fire Standard. The target completion date for this has been set for 31 October 2024.</p>	