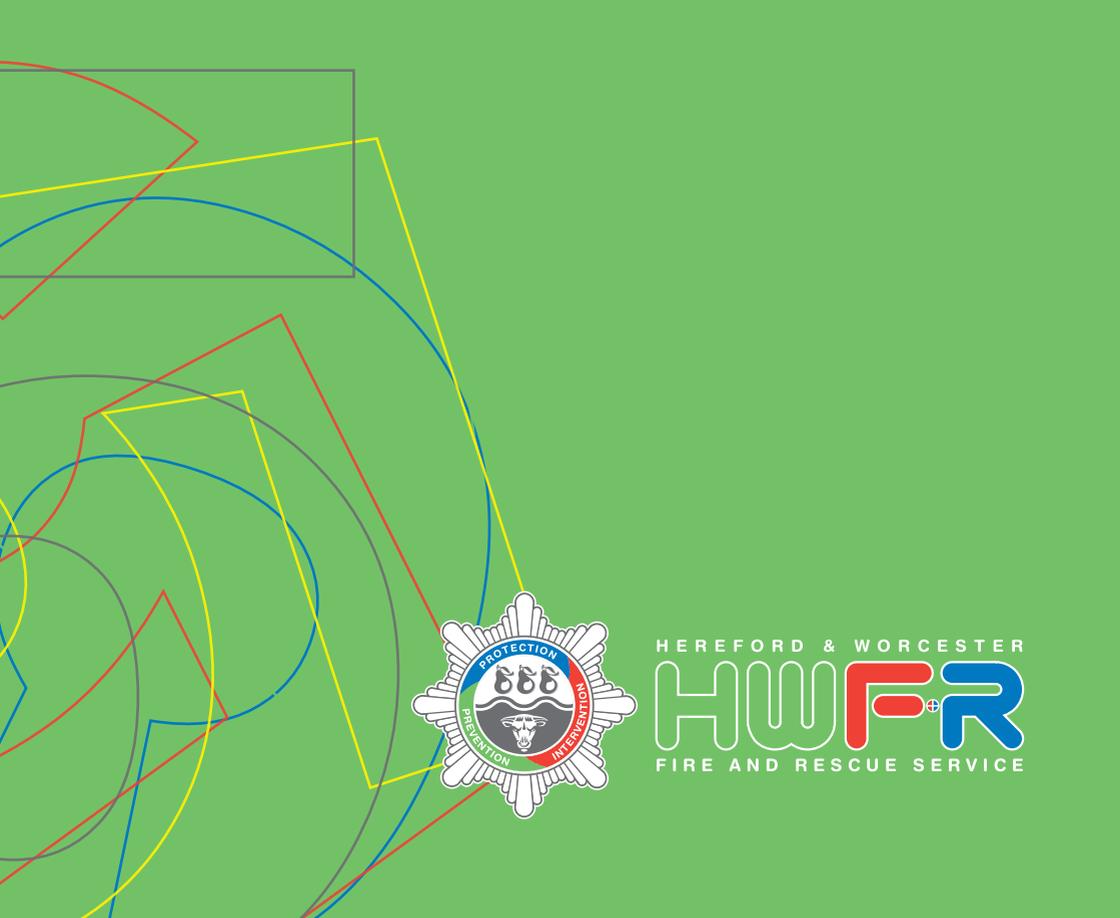
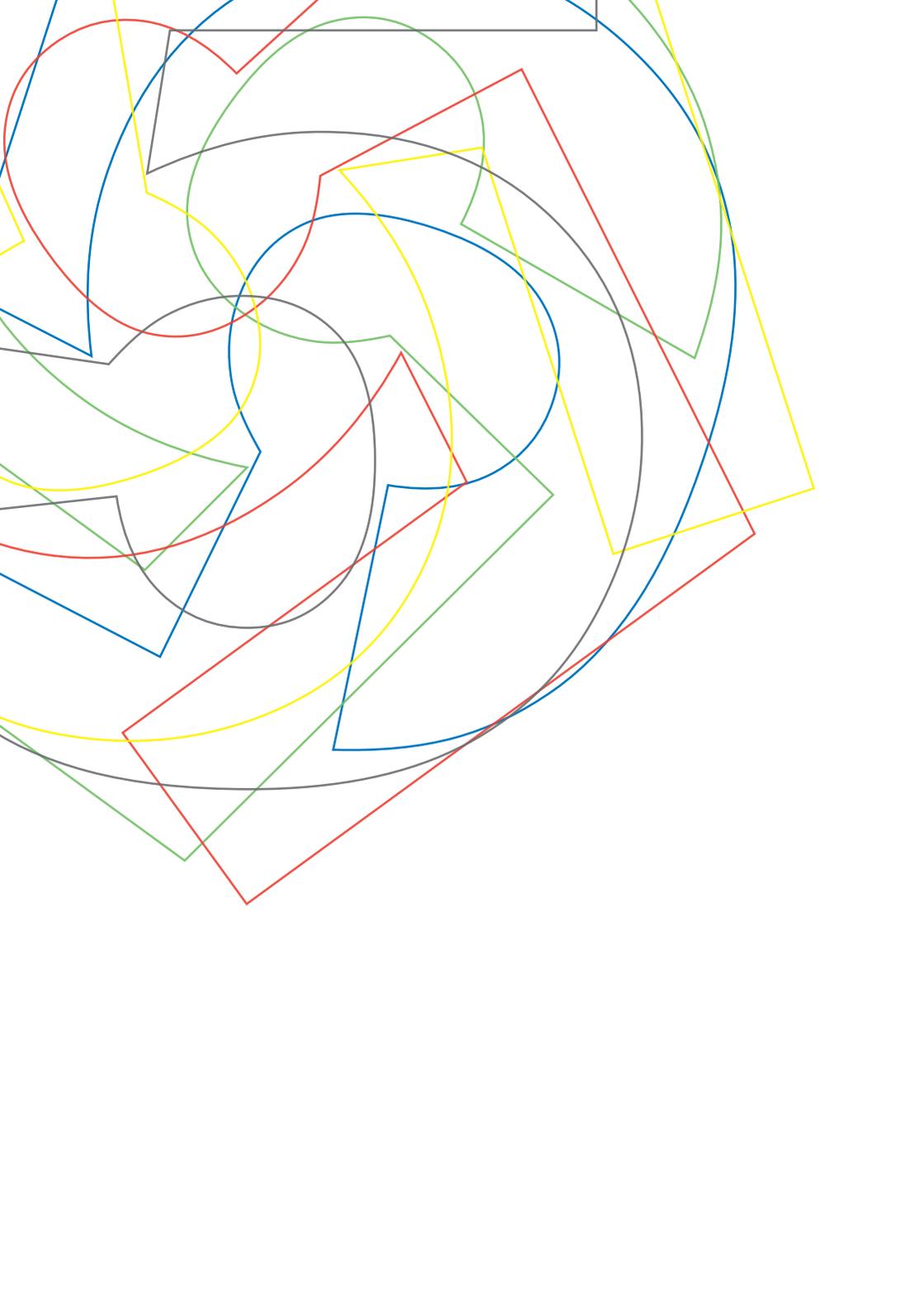


Community Risk Strategy

2017-2020



HEREFORD & WORCESTER
HWFR
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



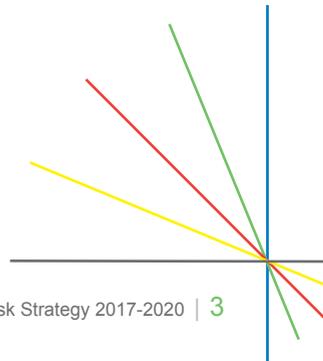
Community Risk Strategy 2017-2020

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Community Risk Strategy 2017-2020 is to demonstrate how the activities of our firefighters, other front line staff, supporting departments and volunteers over the coming years will improve the safety, health and wellbeing of those who live in, visit or work in our area.

The strategy identifies our Five Priorities for prevention and protection and the things we do day to day to support them. It also outlines our plans for the future including how we think we can provide even better services and meet the challenges set by financial pressures. It supports Our Strategy and the Fire Authority's Community Risk Management Plan 2014-2020.

The strategy is set out in three parts, the main focus being what we do and what we plan to do to deliver our Five Priorities for prevention and protection. The work which underpins this is summarised at the end together with some thoughts on what things might look like by 2020.



Our Strategy



The Community Risk Strategy 2017-2020 supports Our Strategy



Priorities

| Priority | Objective |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Accidental dwelling fires | To reduce the number of accidental fires in the home |
| Business fire safety | To work with our businesses to ensure they are properly protected |
| Deliberate fires | To reduce the number of deliberate fires |
| Health & wellbeing | To improve the health and wellbeing of the people in our area |
| Road traffic collisions | To reduce the number of road fatalities and the injury severity of those involved in road traffic collisions |

Our Five Priorities

Our Five Priorities are set out in the Community Risk Management Plan 2014-2020 and we see no need for them to change. We do however recognise that occasionally our day to day work does change. This is normal and we will remain flexible so that we are able to target the most vulnerable people and the greatest risks at all times.



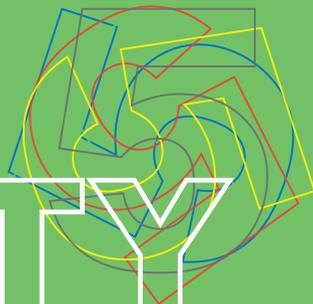
Our Duty

Preventing fires and other emergencies from happening in the first place is the most effective way to save lives.

As a fire and rescue service we deal with fires, road traffic collisions and other emergencies like rescuing people from water or height, freeing trapped animals and dealing with hazardous materials. We also have a duty to prevent fires. In reality our prevention work is far wider and includes road and water safety.

Protection work significantly reduces the risk of fire in buildings where people work, shop and visit.

Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority has a duty to enforce fire safety in the majority of non residential buildings. We discharge this duty in two ways; by creating an environment in which businesses have the confidence to invest and grow and by identifying buildings for regular audit and inspection based on risk.



PRIORITY

Accidental dwelling fires

Our Objective:

To reduce the number of accidental fires in the home

On average we attend five fires every day,
one of them will be in a home

What we do

- Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSCs)

On average we complete 5000 free HFSCs a year. We target the most vulnerable people because they are at greater risk of dying in a fire. We believe HFSCs save lives.

We visit homes every day and provide simple, straightforward fire safety advice and where necessary fit smoke alarms. We even fit specialist smoke alarms like deaf or hard of hearing alarms and we can make arrangements for alarms to be linked to emergency alarm units such as pendants, which allow people to live an independent lifestyle.

- Government Fire Kills campaign

Our fire prevention activities are aligned to the fire safety campaigns run regularly by the Government's Fire Kills campaign.

What we plan to do

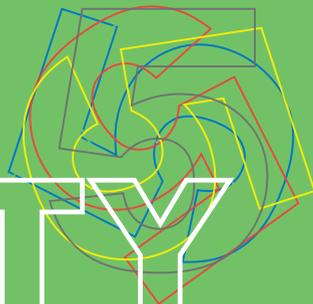
- Safe and Well

We will look for opportunities to extend our effective fire prevention work to better support the most vulnerable people. This might mean that our HFSCs become Safe and Well visits and we explain what this means later.

- Partnerships

We will continue to review our existing partnerships and look for new opportunities to make sure that our preventative services continue to identify and target the most vulnerable people.





PRIORITY

Business fire safety

Our Objective:

To work with our businesses to ensure they are properly protected

We have a legal duty to enforce fire safety.

What we do

- Risk Based Audit Programme (RBAP)

We categorise business premises based on risk; high risk premises are visited more frequently by specialist fire safety officers. Low risk premises are visited less often and may be inspected by non-specialists who have received appropriate training.

When we identify fire safety issues we take a proportional approach to putting things right, based on national guidance. Minor issues can be dealt with by education and information but serious issues, which potentially put lives at risk, could result in a prosecution.

- **Business Fire Safety Checks (BFSCs)**

These inspections are completed by firefighters in their local area. They support the inspection of lower risk premises identified in our RBAP. This work has the added benefit of upskilling our fire crews in areas such as building design and fire safety and we also capture new information on emerging risks.

We currently complete around 800 BFSCs a year and we gather new information at about one in every ten we visit.

- **Other activities**

Our specialist fire safety officers also undertake a range of other related activities, for example:

- Building regulation consultations
- Licensing applications such as premises, marriage and event licenses
- Consultation on safety at sports grounds and supporting local authorities at Safety Advisory Groups
- Responding to complaints and concerns from people about fire safety matters
- Visiting all business premises where there has been a fire
- Forming partnerships with businesses to provide a more consistent approach to regulation for those businesses that have premises in more than one fire authority area. This is called the Primary Authority Scheme.

What we plan to do

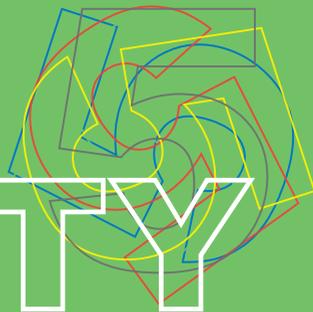
- RBAP and BFSCs

We expect our database of commercial premises to increase. We also recognise that buildings and businesses change. We will keep our activities under review to ensure we effectively manage our dynamic risk profile.

- Further support to business

We will actively explore opportunities to further support or partner with more businesses, such as increasing our primary authority partnerships, implementing different approaches to support our RBAP or exploring entirely new ways to further support businesses.





PRIORITY

Deliberate fires

Our Objective:

To reduce the number of deliberate fires

One in every three fires we attend is deliberate

What we do

- Preventing crime and anti-social behaviour

The majority of deliberate fires are outdoors, in vehicles or involving unused or derelict buildings. Not all deliberate fires are arson, for example, fires started by children where there is no criminal intent. We have a duty to do all that is reasonable to prevent crime and reduce anti-social behaviour.

- Juvenile Firesetters (JFS)

This scheme aims to change the behaviour of young people who engage in anti-social activities and fire-setting. We have a number of specialist advisors who complete this work when referrals are received.

- Partnership working

We act on information received from the police and other partners to make people's homes safer from fire if they are at greater risk of deliberate fires. We also work with partners to reduce the risk caused by abandoned vehicles and derelict buildings.

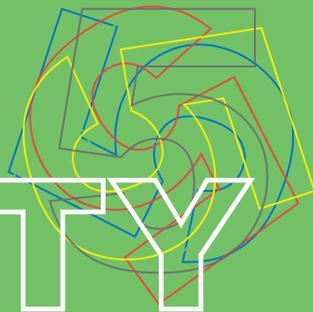


What we plan to do

- Closer collaboration with the police and other partners

We will work closer with the police and other partners in an effort to further reduce the number of deliberate fires and to identify the cause of fire where necessary. We recognise that we have invaluable knowledge, skills and experience in this area which can support this work.





PRIORITY

Health & wellbeing

Our Objective:

To improve the health and wellbeing of the people in our area

Our prevention activities target the most vulnerable people and we now have an exciting opportunity to explore wider health, social care and wellbeing services

What we do

- Signposting

We are part of the Signposting service which brings support to thousands of people, helping them to lead a safer and more independent life.

The scheme works by providing a referral network so that staff working for participating organisations can alert other partners in the scheme about concerns or issues they have identified when visiting people as part of their work.

- Youth engagement

We run a range of youth engagement schemes.

The Young Firefighters Association (YFA), run entirely by volunteers, provides those aged between 13 and 17 with an insight into the activities of the fire and rescue service. Members are encouraged to improve their self confidence, communication skills and team working in a disciplined environment.

Ignite, Crucial Crew and Young Citizens Challenge are other youth engagement initiatives which are designed to build on the skills of young people. All are aimed at improving communication, team work, leadership, and problem solving.

What we plan to do

- **New and existing initiatives**

We often take part in new and sometimes local initiatives that support our Five Priorities, for example Connecting Families, which brings together agencies from all over Worcestershire to improve services for children and families. Whilst these initiatives are important to us we will keep them under review.

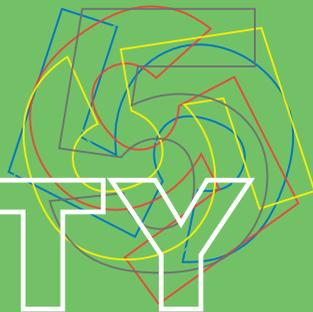
- **Safe and Well**

We said earlier that our Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSCs) could become Safe and Well visits. There is an opportunity for us to explore how we can add value to our HFSCs by providing simple information and advice on wider health and wellbeing activities and services offered by our partners. We would do this by using the trusted relationship and privileged access that our staff have to the most vulnerable people.

- **Explore the wider health & wellbeing agenda**

We will continue to actively explore opportunities to add value to our services and improve the lives of the people in our area. This could include our staff supporting people in their homes and much closer working with the police, ambulance and our wider health and social care partners.





PRIORITY

Road traffic collisions

Our Objective:

To reduce the number of road fatalities and injury severity of those involved in road traffic collisions.

On average we attend four emergency calls a day to incidents other than fire, nearly half of them will be to a road traffic collision.

What we do

- Safer Roads Partnership

We are a partner in the Safer Roads Partnership in Warwickshire and West Mercia and we take part in activities aimed at reducing the number of collisions and injuries on our roads. Some of these activities include Biker Down and Green Light.

- Dying 2 Drive

We run Dying 2 Drive, an annual multi-agency road safety scheme, aimed at reducing death and injury amongst young road users. The scheme is aimed at 16 and 17 year olds who may become young drivers or passengers. Statistics suggest that 17 to 25 year olds are more likely to be involved in a collision.

What we plan to do

- Maintain our partnerships

We will continue to be a partner in the Safer Roads Partnership in Warwickshire and West Mercia and target the most vulnerable road users based on information and research.

- Extend Dying 2 Drive

We will explore the opportunity to expand our Dying 2 Drive road safety scheme to include a greater number of 16 and 17 year olds across Herefordshire and Worcestershire



Work underpinning our activities

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

So that we can effectively deliver our Five Priorities the Community Risk Department has a flexible and resilient distribution of staff across our Service area. We have hubs in Hereford, Worcester and Bromsgrove which support prevention and protection activities in each of our districts.

Our Five Priorities are consistent with national activities led by the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA). We fully support CFOA's annual safety week initiatives and their annual Prevention, Protection and Road Safety campaign calendar.

We are required by Government to submit annual returns and we also have a responsibility to contribute to reports for our Fire Authority.

We maintain and periodically review a range of policies and procedures to support our work.

The Community Risk Department is responsible for fire investigation and we maintain a number of specialist fire investigation officers.

We maintain the competence of our prevention staff, fire protection officers and fire investigators based on best practice.

We also maintain a wide range of both formal and informal partnerships and networks to help us to deliver our Five Priorities.

We monitor and review our activities regularly to help us identify how we are making a difference. To help us do this we keep a record of what we do. We draw the information together in an activity report that includes facts and figures on activities such as:

- Home Fire Safety Checks (HSFCs)
- Signposting, arson and fire setter referrals
- Media campaigns
- Public engagement
- Statutory consultations
- Fire investigations
- Inspections and
- Business Fire Safety Checks (BFSCs)

What things might look like by 2020

Our Five Priorities provide a focus for the things that really matter in the years to come, but it is likely that our prevention and protection activities will change.

Advances in technology make homes, businesses and vehicles safer and allow people to live longer. As such we could play a much greater role in support of the health and wellbeing of our communities.

We also expect to see greater collaboration and co-location with our partners. Some of this work has already taken place, for example the new police and fire station in Bromsgrove.

In the future it is expected that the Community Risk Department will be more integrated with partners and local communities, for example, plans are already underway for headquarters based staff to move and co-locate with a local policing team in Worcester.

Similar arrangements are expected in Hereford and the Wyre Forest where a new multi-agency station is to be built.

We also expect to see advances in information and communication technology. This might support improved risk analysis and greater information sharing so we can continue to identify and target the most vulnerable people and our greatest risks. This may also lead to more effective and efficient ways of working.





HEREFORD & WORCESTER
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FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Further Information

You can contact the Community Risk Department for further advice and guidance on the details below. Please get in touch if you have any comments on our strategy.

Home Fire Safety Checks

HFSC@hwfire.org.uk

Business Fire Safety Checks

BFSC@hwfire.org.uk

Telephone 0800 032 1155

www.hwfire.org.uk

 [@HWFireSafety](https://twitter.com/HWFireSafety)

