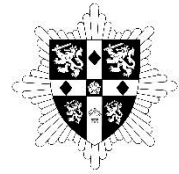


Safest People, Safest Places

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

22 DECEMBER 2016

FIRE STATISTICS MONITOR: ENGLAND 2015-16 AND OPERATIONAL STATISTICS BULLETIN FOR ENGLAND 2015-16

REPORT OF AREA MANAGER, ASSURANCE & ASSETS

Purpose of Report

1. To present Members with a comparative analysis of key operational performance indicators within County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) against national performance data contained within two national reports that are published annually by the Home Office.

Background

2. The report 'Fire Statistics Monitor: England, April 2015 to March 2016' is published annually by the Home Office (previously by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG)). Including a range of statistics, it looks at fire fatalities, non-fatal casualties and incidents attended by fire and rescue services across England.
3. The 'Operational Statistics Bulletin for England: 2015-16' report is also published annually by the Home Office (previously by DCLG). This publication focuses on trends in workforce, workforce diversity, firefighter safety and fire prevention activities by fire and rescue services (FRS) in England.
4. This report compares the strategic PIs relating to key aspects of the operational performance of the service against the national data published by DCLG for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.
5. In this report, only the firefighter safety and fire prevention data from the Operational Statistics Bulletin are included in this report. Comparative analysis of trends in workforce and workforce diversity will be the subject of a separate report.

Comparative Analysis

6. An overview of twelve strategic operational performance indicators that are readily comparable to the data within the national reports is presented in the table overleaf.
7. The table presents the figures for both CDDFRS and the national average along with a visual traffic light indicator to highlight whether our performance improved or regressed when compared to the previous year; when compared against the national average; and when comparing our direction of travel against the national average. The national quartile position

is also included to illustrate how the Service is performing relative to other FRS in England with 1st being the top 25% of performance and 4th being the bottom 25%.

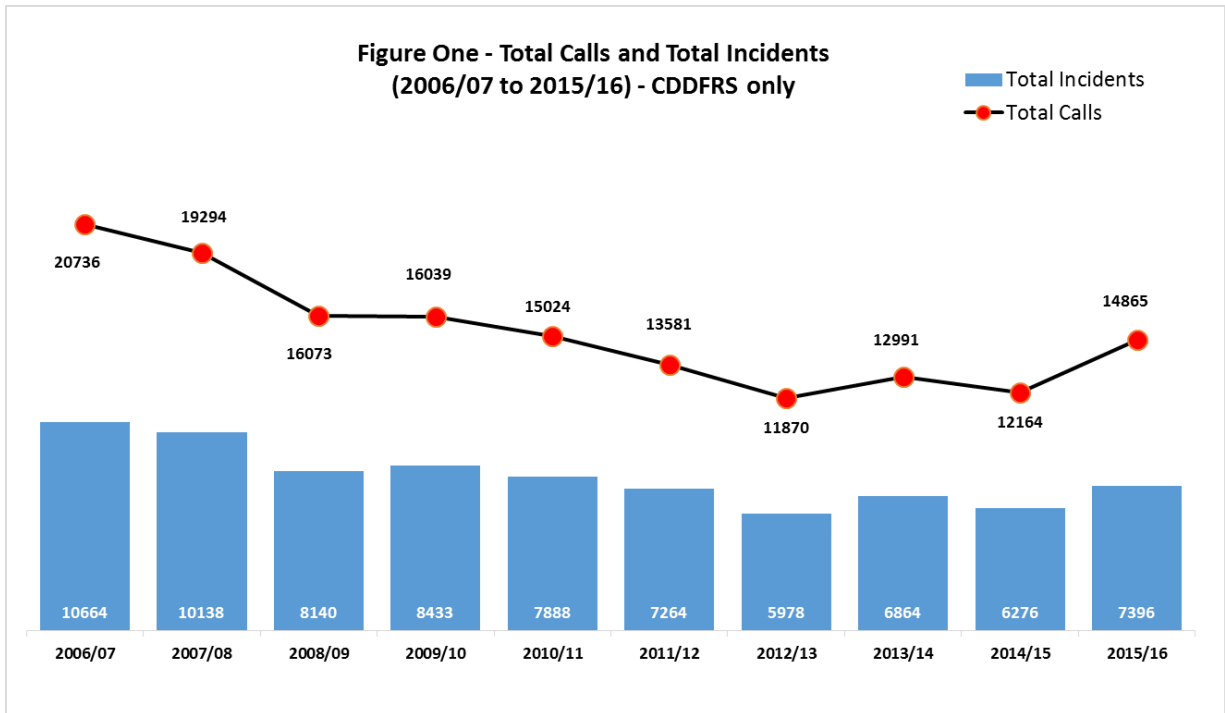
8. To make it easier to compare CDDFRS with other FRS, the data is expressed either as a value per head of population or number of property types (e.g. per 10,000 population).
9. In summary, 50% of CDDFRS indicators improved compared to the previous year and 60% were better than the national average. When comparing the direction of travel compared to the previous year, 50% were better than the national average. When comparing CDDFRS to individual FRS, 60% of the indicators were ranked in the first or second quartile.
10. For those indicators where CDDFRS is presented as performing above or below the national average, either in actual terms or in relation to the direction of travel, commentary is provided in the subsequent section.

	CDDFRS Actual 2014/15	CDDFRS Actual 2015/16	CDDFRS 2015/16 vs Previous Year	National Average 2015/16	CDDFRS vs National Average	Direction of Travel CDDFRS vs National	National Quartile Position
Primary Fires (per 10,000 population)	14.03	14.91	●	14.38	●	●	4 th
Primary Fires in Non-Domestic Premises (per 1,000 non domestic premises)	5.67	4.75	●	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Primary Fires in Road Vehicles (per 10,000 population)	4.86	5.66	●	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Deliberate Primary Fires (per 10,000 population)	5.09	6.51	●	3.43	●	●	4 th
Accidental Dwelling Fires (per 10,000 dwellings)	8.60	8.19	●	11.22	●	●	1 st
Accidental Dwelling Fire Injuries (per 100,000 population)	5.78	2.72	●	3.07	●	●	2 nd
Accidental Dwelling Fire Fatalities (per 100,000 population)	0.16	0.8	●	0.32	●	●	4 th
Secondary Fires (per 10,000 population)	31.68	34.32	●	15.55	●	●	4 th
False Alarms (per 10,000 population)	35.95	33.95	●	36.74	●	●	2 nd
Road Traffic Collisions (per 10,000 population)	5.25	5.42	●	5.85	●	●	2 nd
Home Fire Safety Checks (per 1,000 dwellings)	67.5	72.81	●	26.21	●	●	1 st
Fire Safety Audits (per 1,000 non domestic premises)	100.3	125.97	●	34.52	●	●	1 st

PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY – Incidents Attended & Prevention Activity

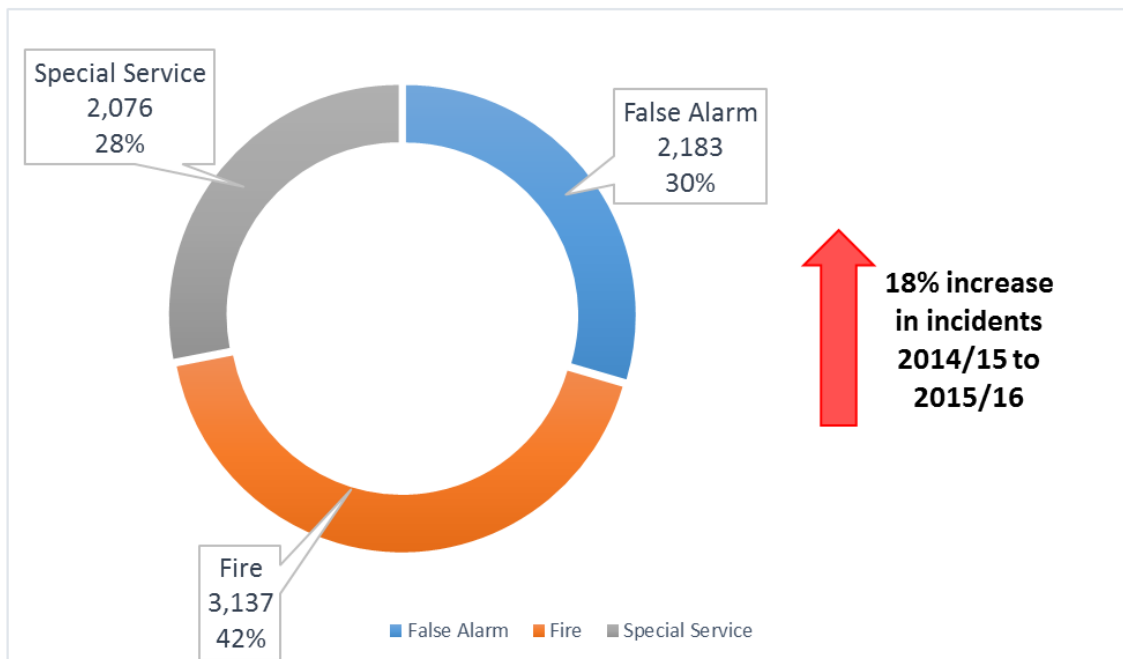
Total Calls and Total Incidents

11. The chart below illustrates how the total calls and incidents attended by CDDFRS has reduced over the past 10 years.



12. Fire and rescue services nationally attended around 528,700 incidents in England during 2015/16, 7% higher than the previous year. In CDDFRS, total incidents attended increased by 18%. The breakdown of incidents attended by CDDFRS is shown below:

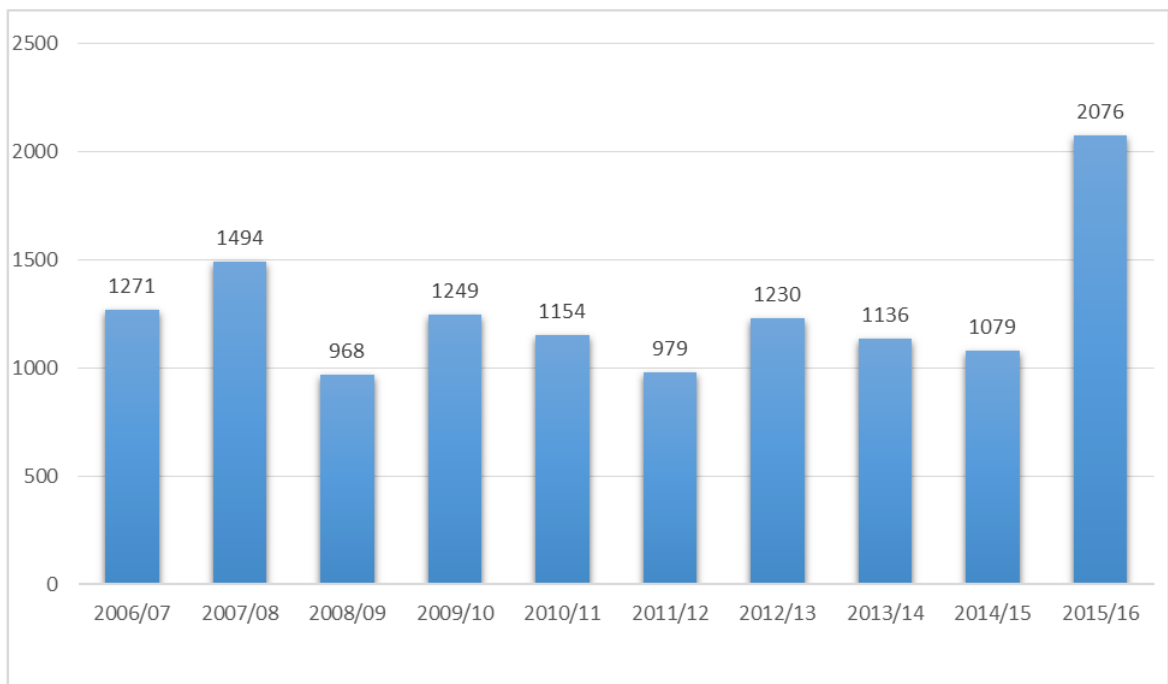
2015/16 Incident Rate and Types - CDDFRS only



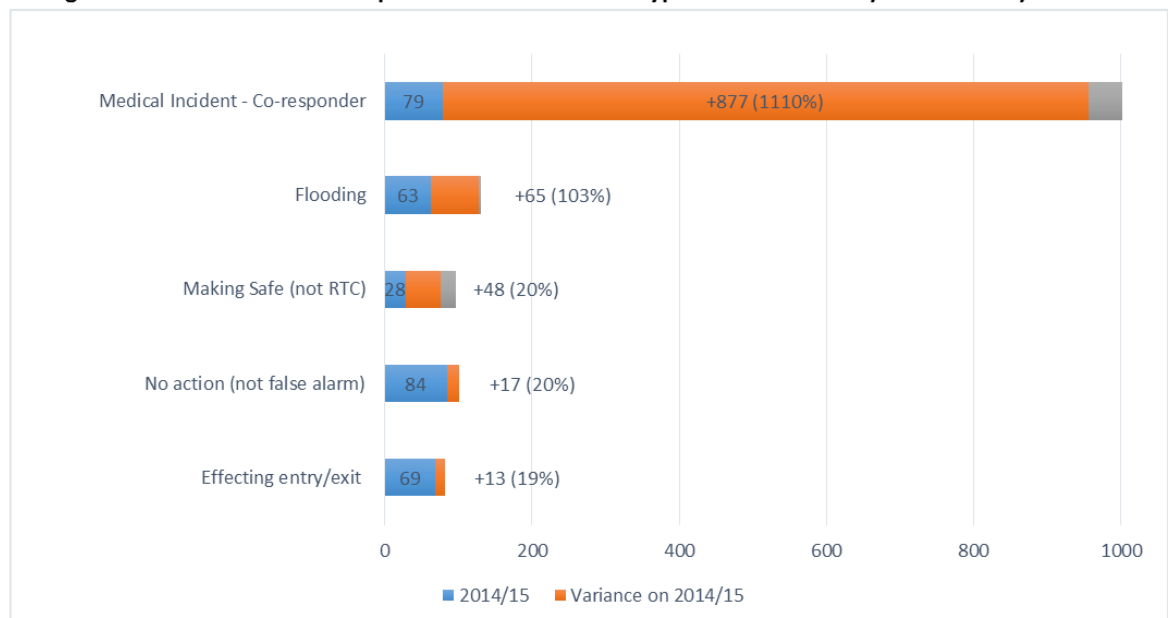
Special Service Incidents

13. The rise in total incidents attended nationally was predominantly driven by a 22% increase in the number of non-fire (also known as Special Service) incidents attended by FRSs from 125,200 in 2014/15 to 152,500 in 2015/16. As a result, 29% of incidents attended by FRSs in 2015/16 were non-fire, the highest proportion since non-fire incidents were first recorded in 1999/00.
14. The increase in non-fire incidents nationally was driven to a large extent by increases in emergency medical response (EMR) incidents, which increased by 83% from 14,200 in 2014/15 to 25,900 in 2015/16.
15. EMR incidents accounted for 86% of the 18% increase in total incidents seen in CDDFRS as the charts below show:

Number of Special Service Incidents - CDDFRS



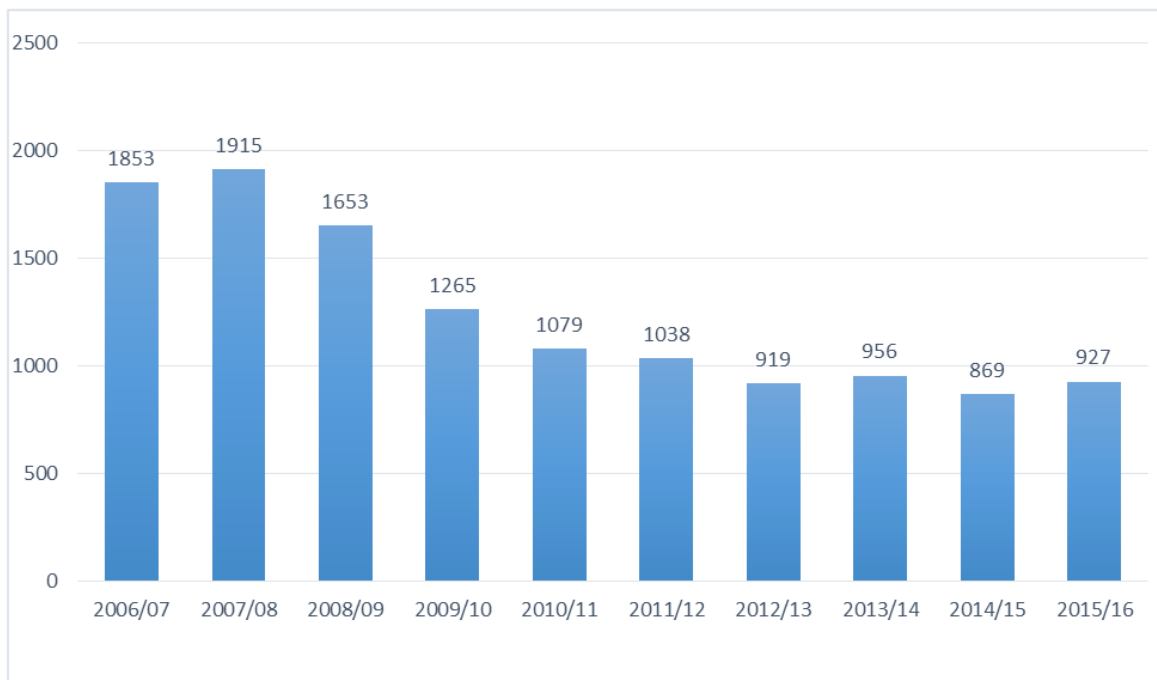
Change in the 5 Most Common Special Service Incident Types Between 2014/15 and 2015/16



Primary Fires

16. Primary fires are fires with one or more of the following characteristics:
- all fires in buildings and vehicles that are not derelict or in some outdoor structures;
 - any fire involving casualties or rescues;
 - any fire attended by five or more appliances.
17. Nationally, primary fires have also been on a long-term downward trend but increased slightly, for the first time in 14 years, by 3% from around 71,100 in 2014/15 to 73,400 in 2015/16. The increase in primary fires was largely driven by an 11% increase in deliberate primary fires.
18. Although the number of all primary fires that occurred within the CDDFRS area was higher than the national average, and placed us in the bottom quartile of FRS, these incidents increased by 6.2%, compared to the 3% increase seen nationally. The majority of this rise was due to vehicle fires. The longer term trend remains downward as the chart below shows:

Number of Primary Fire Incidents - CDDFRS



Deliberate Primary Fires

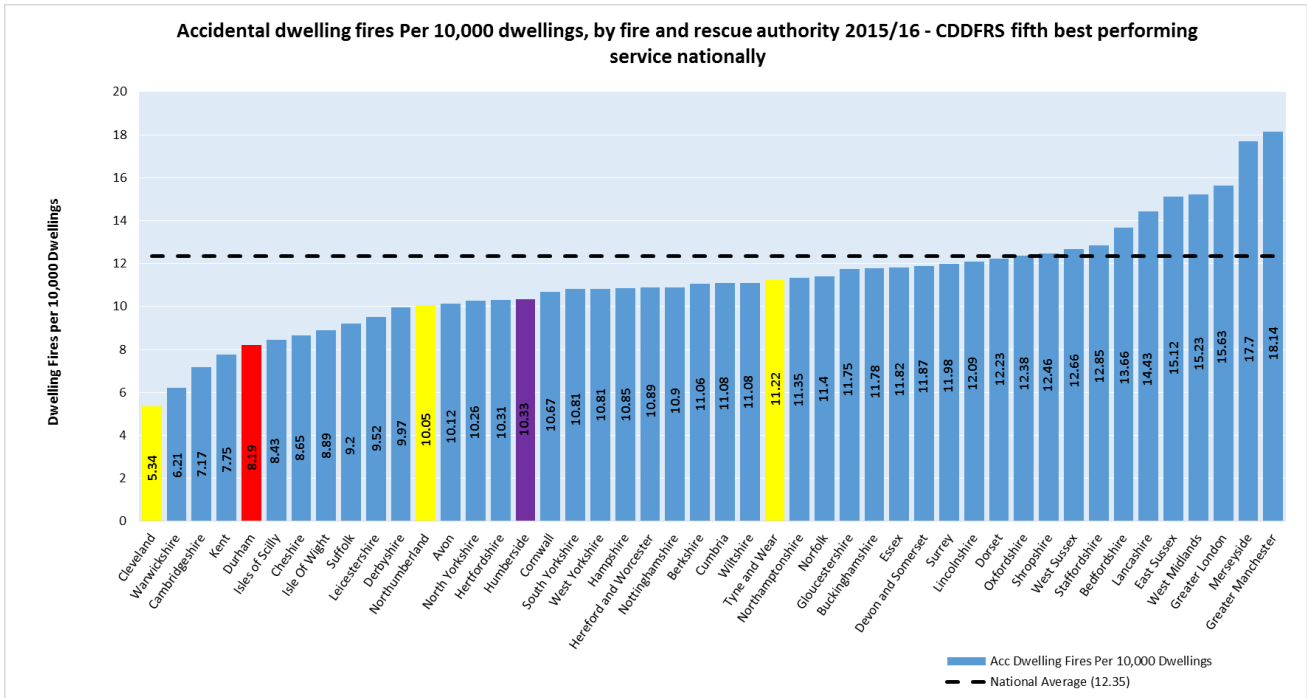
19. There were 13.8% more deliberate primary fires in our area during 2015/16 than the previous year, compared to a rise of 11% nationally. The number recorded per head of population was 27.9% higher than the national average placing the Service in the bottom quartile nationally. A high proportion involved road vehicles and linked to anti-social behaviour and certain criminal activity in key areas of the Service area. All deliberate fires are robustly investigated and we continue to work closely with our partners to address this area of performance.

Accidental Dwelling Fires, Injuries and Fatalities

20. Despite the overall increase in primary fires nationally, the number of dwelling fires only increased very slightly between 2014/15 and 2015/16, by just 4 fires (1 accidental, 3

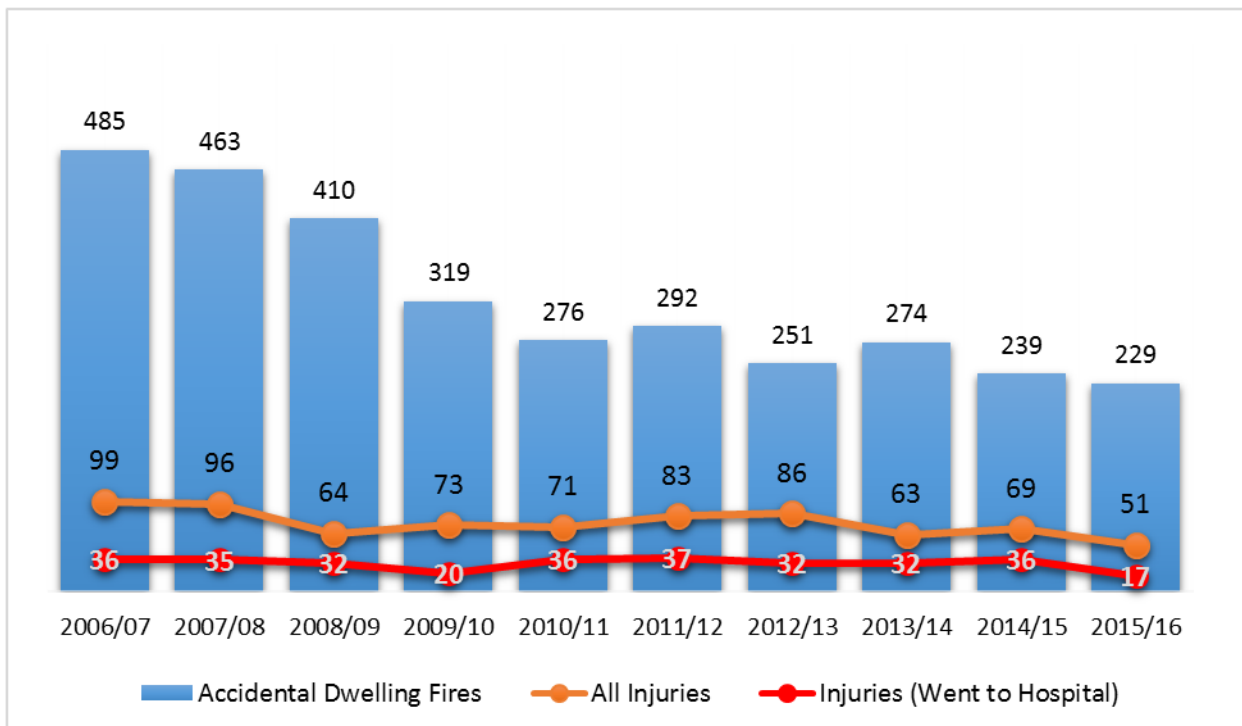
deliberate) to 31,333, following steady decreases since 2003/04. Dwelling fires remain the most common type of primary fire, accounting for 43% of primary fires in 2015/16 and almost a fifth of all fires.

- The high priority that CDDFRS has placed on reducing the risk from fires in the home has contributed to the 4.2% reduction in accidental dwelling fires in 2015/16, placing this service the fifth best performing in the country, as shown in the chart below.

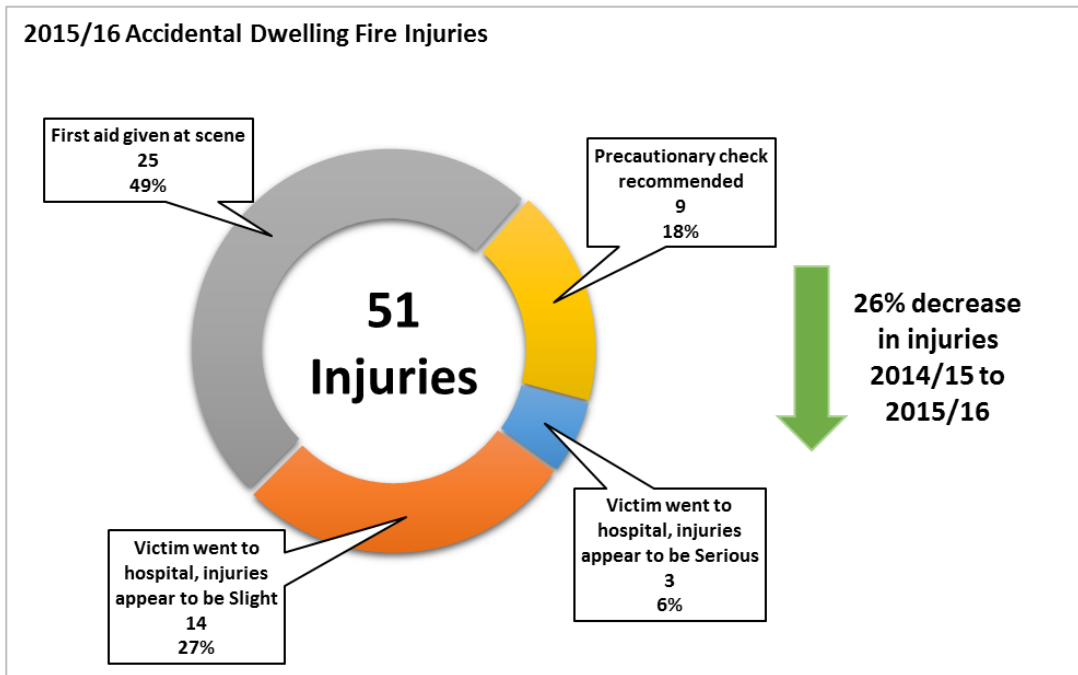


- The longer term trend within CDDFRS continues to reduce as the chart below shows:

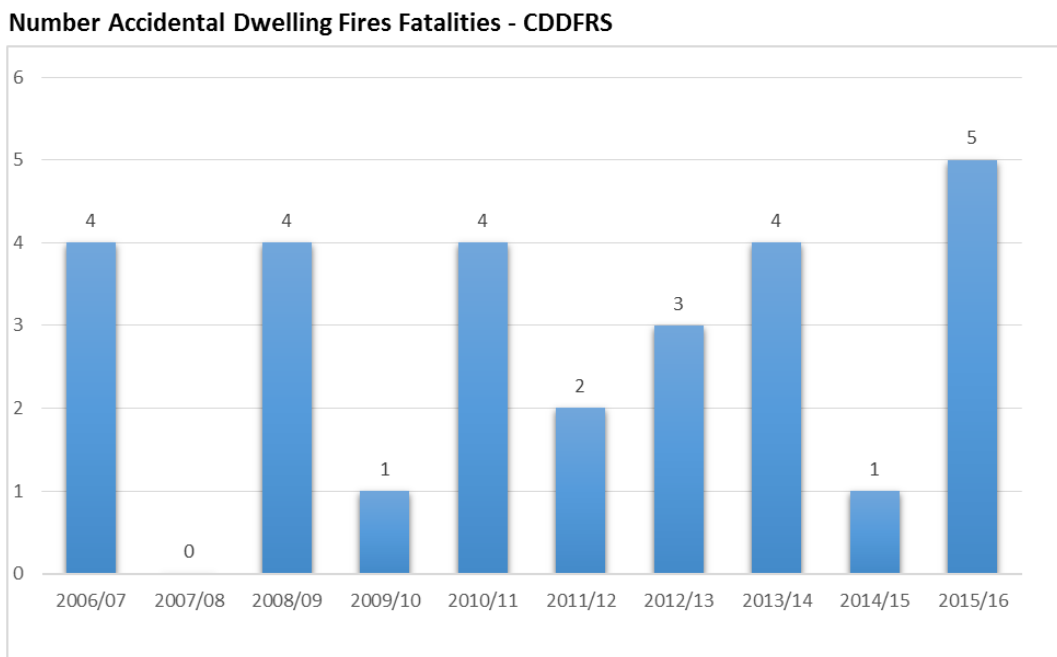
Number Accidental Dwelling Fires and Associated Injuries - CDDFRS



23. In CDDFRS, the number of accidental dwelling fire injuries reduced by 26% between 2014/15 and 2015/16 compared to the 1% increase seen nationally. Only 6% of injuries in CDDFRS were classified as serious as the chart below shows:



24. Although the number of accidental dwelling fires nationally was virtually unchanged in 2015/16 compared to 2014/15, there were 24 more fire-related fatalities in accidental dwelling fires in 2015/16 (191) than the previous year (167). Within CDDFRS, there were 5 accidental fire fatalities in 2015/16. The ten year trend is shown below:

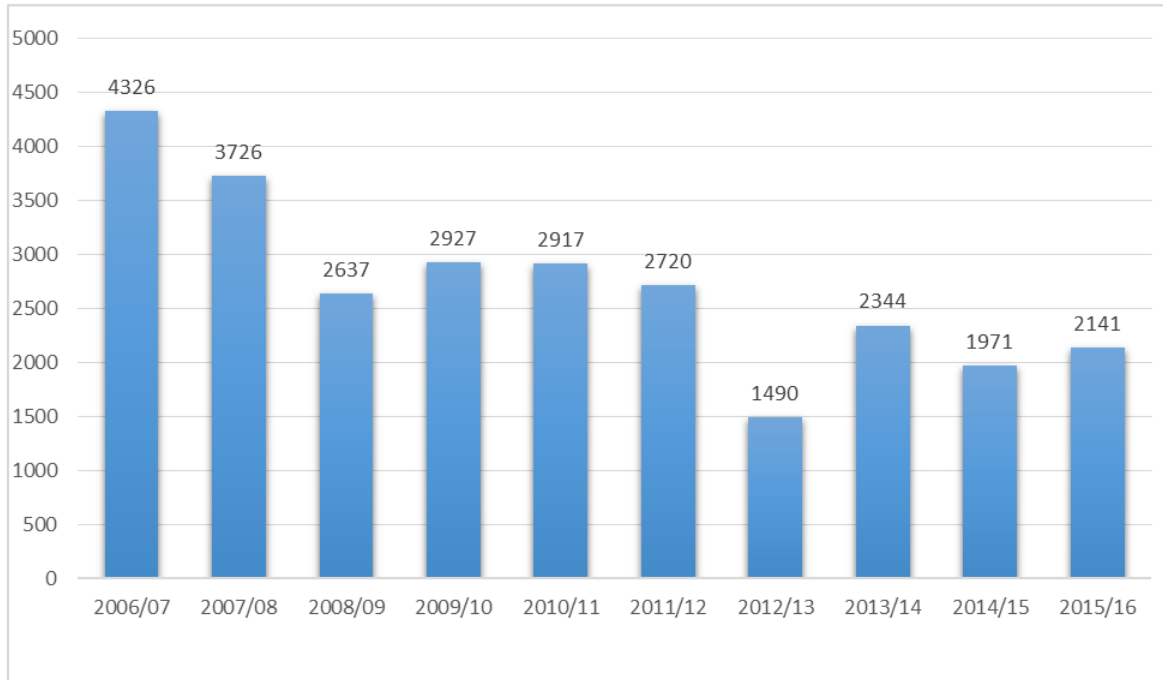


Secondary Fires

25. Secondary fires can broadly be thought of as smaller outdoor fires, not involving people or property. Nationally, there were around 84,500 secondary fires, accounting for 52% of all fires in 2015/16. Secondary fires increased by 7% in 2015/16, from 78,700 the year before.

26. In CDDFRS, secondary fires increased by 8.5% to a level 54.7% higher than the national average, placing CDDFRS in the bottom quartile of FRS nationally. However, the number of secondary fires is less than half that seen in 2006/07, as the chart below shows:

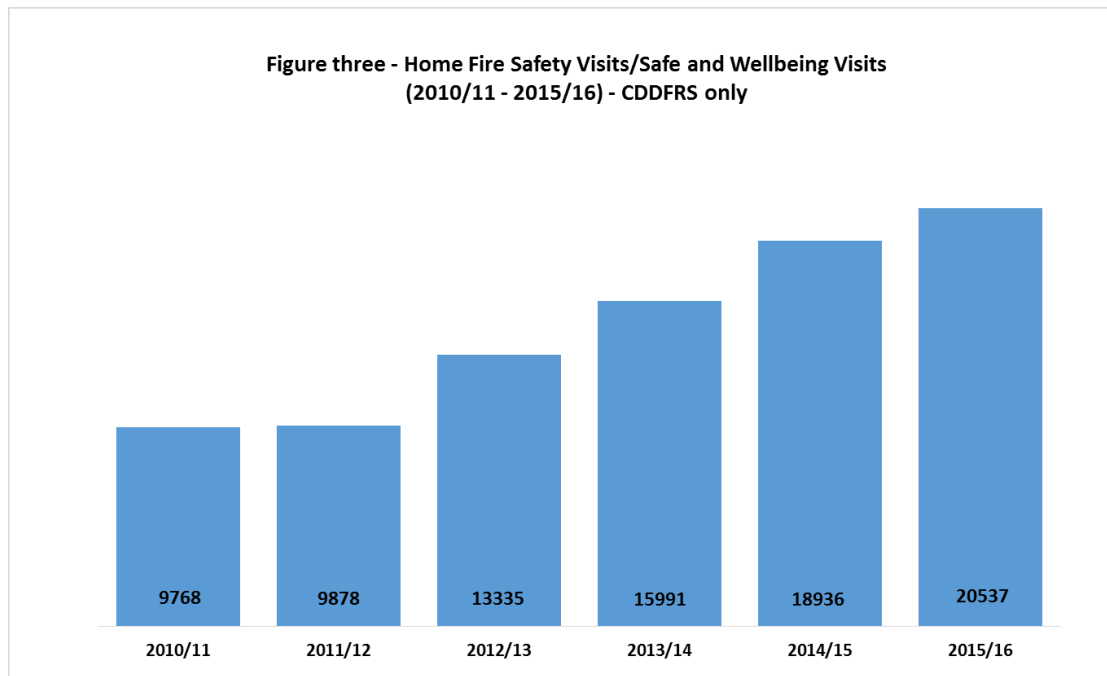
Number of Secondary Fire Incidents - CDDFRS



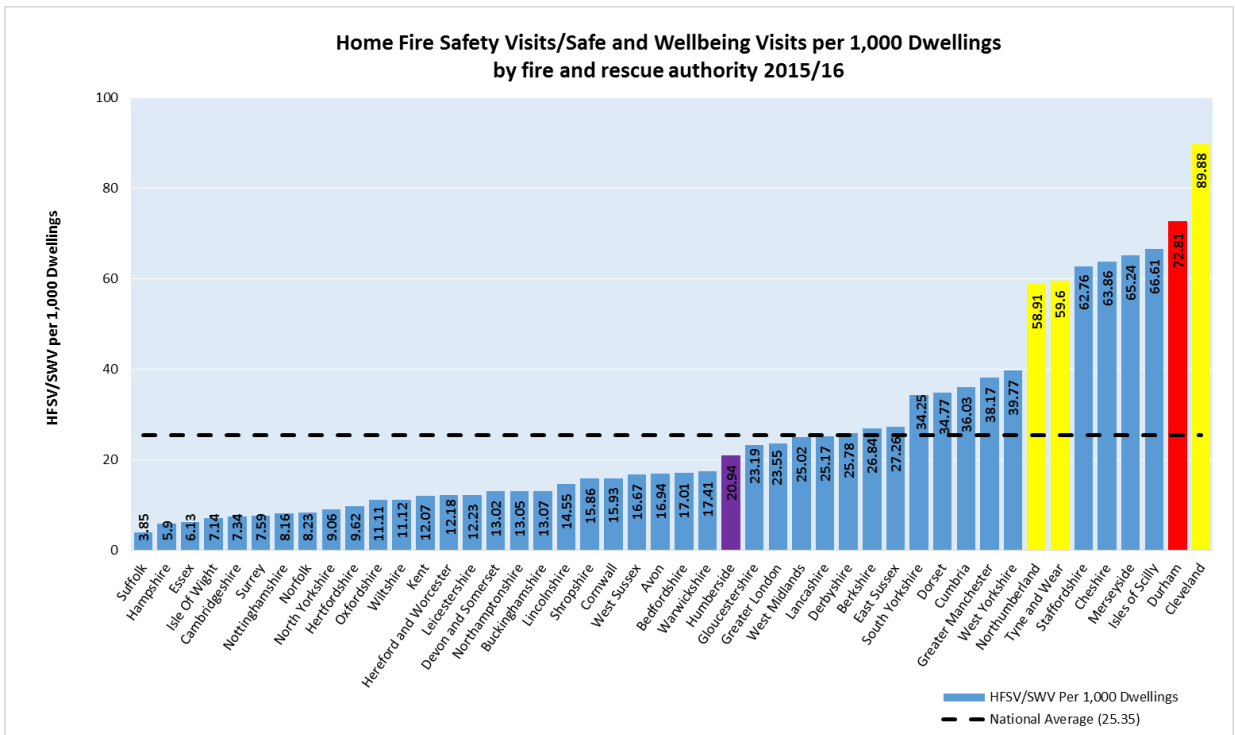
Home Fire Safety Checks/Safe & Wellbeing Visits

27. FRSs completed 581,000 Home Fire Risk Checks in 2015/16, five per cent less than the previous year and 25 per cent lower than five years ago.
28. In contrast, CDDFRS completed 20,463 Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC) and/or Safe & Wellbeing Visits (SWV) in 2015/16, a rise of 8.1% on 2014/15 and 108% higher than five years ago. This represents the highest reported number of HFSC/SWVs completed in a single year and brings the total for the past 6 years to 88,445.

Figure three - Home Fire Safety Visits/Safe and Wellbeing Visits (2010/11 - 2015/16) - CDDFRS only



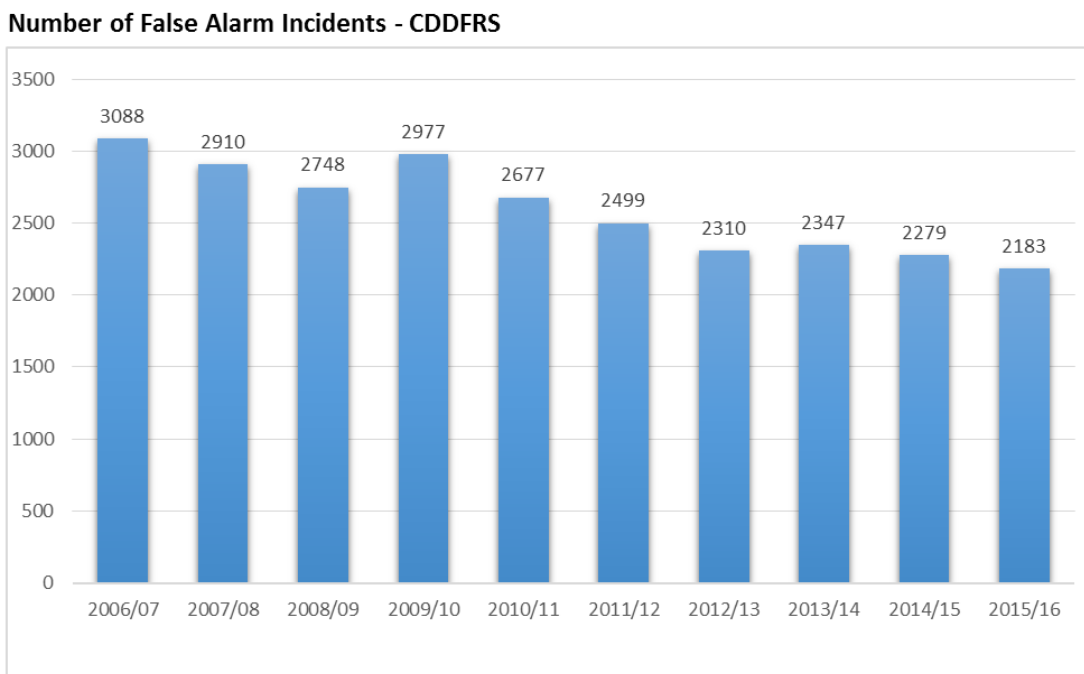
29. Nationally, CDDFRS is now the second best performing FRS in the country with regard to HFSC/SWVs, as the chart below illustrates:



False Alarms

30. Fire false alarms have been the most common type of incident attended by FRSs every year since 2004/05. In 2015/16, they constituted 40% (214,100) of incidents attended in England, a small decrease of 1% compared with 2014/15, continuing the long-term decreasing trend. In CDDFRS, 30% of incidents attended were false alarms.

31. FRSs attended around 214,100 fire false alarms in England during 2015/16. This was a 1% decrease compared to 2014/15, continuing the long-term downward trend in false alarms. In CDDFRS, false alarms reduced by 4.2%, continuing the long term trend as shown below:

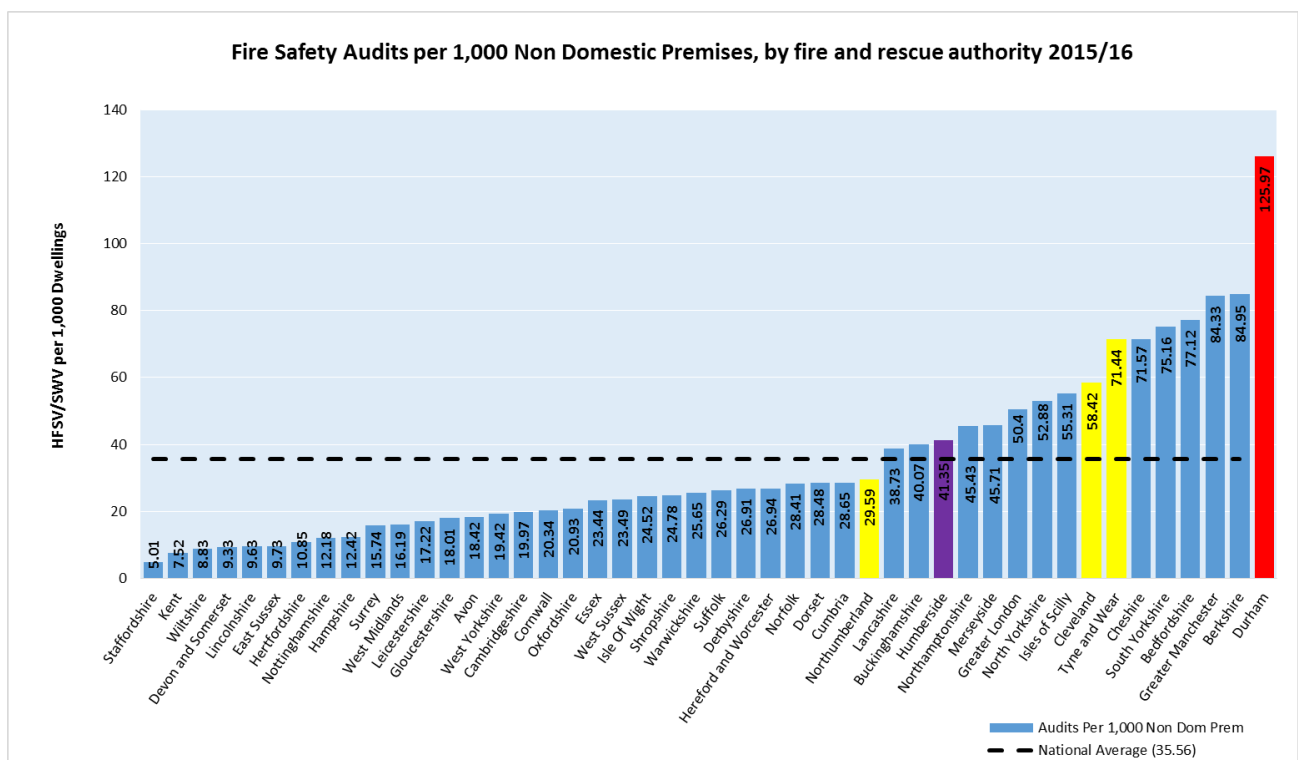


Primary Fires in Non-Domestic Properties and Road Vehicles

32. The Home Office chose not to publish the datasets on fires involving neither non-domestic properties nor road vehicles, so a comparative analysis with other services has not been possible for this report. Only a high level narrative of performance at the national level was provided.
33. In CDDFRS, there was a 16% reduction in the number of fires in non-domestic properties, compared to a 3% increase nationally. In terms of road vehicle fires, 2015/16 saw a 16.4% rise in CDDFRS, compared to a 7% nationally.

Fire Safety Audits

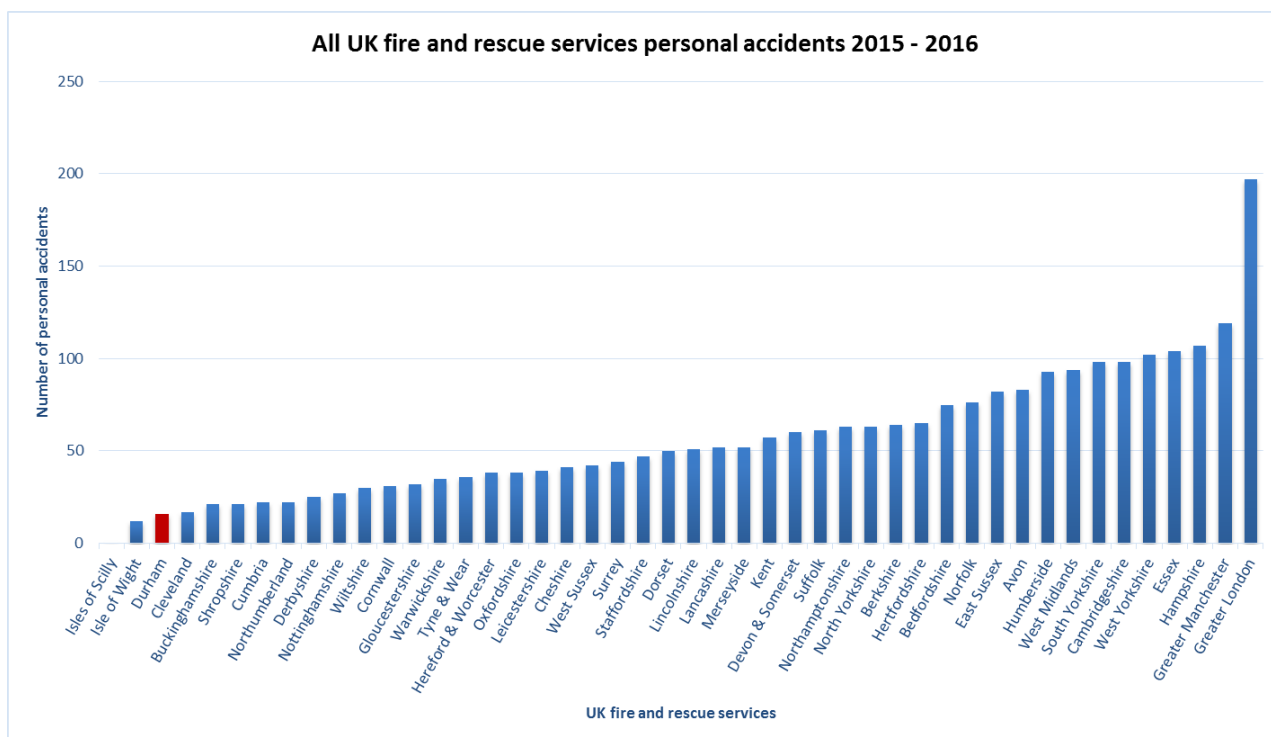
34. Fire and Rescue Authorities deliver their enforcement duties under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the FSO) through locally determined, risk-based programmes of audit/inspection visits to non-domestic premises.
35. Nationally, FRSs carried out 63,000 Fire Safety Audits (FSA) in 2015/16, 7% more than the previous year but 25 per cent lower than five years before.
36. In previous years, the volume of fire safety audits undertaken in CDDFRS was limited by the capacity of staff working in the Fire Safety Team. The strategy to utilise operational crews to undertake fire safety audits has proved successful contributing to CDDFRS becoming the best performing service in the country with regard to the number of FSAs carried out on non-domestic properties, as shown by the charts overleaf.
37. This achievement reflects the Service's extensive work with businesses and organisations to help keep people safe at work or when visiting a workplace such as a hotel or shop. CDDFRS does this by offering fire safety advice to businesses and conducting an audit programme on workplace fire safety risk assessments.



PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY – Firefighter Safety

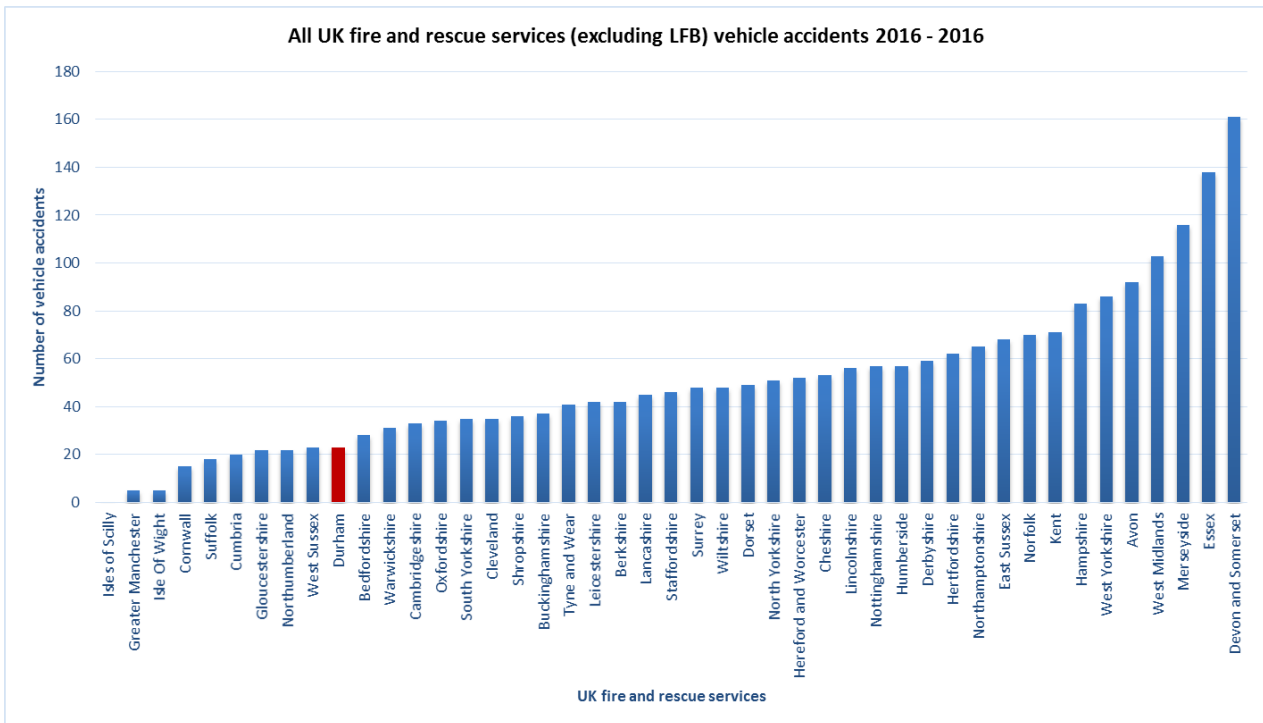
Personal Accidents

38. There was one firefighter fatality recorded in 2015/16; the first fatality since 2013/14. Over the last decade there have been 16 firefighter fatalities in total.
39. Nationally, firefighters sustained approximately 2,600 injuries during 2015/16, 1% lower than in the previous year and 26% lower than five years earlier. The number of injuries to firefighters has been on a downward trend for over a decade.
40. In CDDFRS, Members will be aware of the sustained investment in reducing the number of accidents and injuries amongst staff. Based on absolute values (normalised data is not available), CDDFRS has the third lowest number of injuries sustained by firefighters nationally, as the chart below shows:



Vehicle Accidents

41. Nationally, there were approximately 2,760 accidents involving FRS vehicles in 2015/16, 2% lower than the previous year and 26% lower than five years beforehand.
42. Based on absolute values (normalised data is not available), CDDFRS was placed 10th nationally in the total number of vehicle accidents (both blue light and non-blue light journeys), as the table overleaf shows:



Summary

43. The comparative analysis presented in this report highlights the advantages of considering performance compared to other FRS as well as against our own targets or against previous years. Overall, performance is good with 60% of CDDFRS indicators performing better than the national average. In terms of our direction of travel, performance is also good with 50% of CDDFRS indicators improved compared to the previous year with 60% performing better than the average direction of travel nationally.
44. We continue to focus our resources into improving performance in those areas where performance needs improving and the outcome from this analysis is being used to inform this work.

Recommendations

45. Members are requested to:
 - a. **Note** and comment on the content of the report;

Andrew Hopkinson, Area Manager, Assurance & Assets, 0191 375 5586