



annual report



2018-2019

Rated amongst highest performing services

The first independent review by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), released in December, saw Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) rated amongst the highest performing services of the 14 inspected.

The inspection looked at how effectively and efficiently the Service prevents and protects the public from, and responds to, fires and other emergencies. It also examined how well the organisation looks after its people. CFRS was rated as 'good' in the majority of areas inspected.

There was praise for the Service's effectiveness in keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks; understanding the risks facing local communities; and its work to prevent fires and protect the public through its fire regulation activity. The report highlighted that the Service's response to fires and other emergencies is good. The Service is also efficient and uses its resources well.

Chief Fire Officer Mark Cashin said: "I am pleased that the Service has been independently recognised for the work it does across Cheshire to keep people safe from fires and other emergencies. I hope this reassures the community we serve that Cheshire is amongst the highest performing fire and rescue services to have been inspected and that it is operating effectively and efficiently."

Nationally, most fire and rescue services inspected - including Cheshire - were found to be operationally effective. HMICFRS did however emphasise that services needed to improve the culture in which staff work and encourage a diverse workforce. In addition to actions undertaken to engage with staff, CFRS has undertaken a significant amount of work to attract potential recruits from traditionally under-represented parts of society.



Sprinklers save lives

The Service is running a campaign highlighting the importance of sprinklers and suppression systems in both commercial and domestic properties.

Sprinklers are instant firefighters, likened to having a firefighter in every room 24/7. Safe and cost effective, they offer protection to both life and property.

The campaign aims to raise awareness of the benefits of the systems and dispel myths and misconceptions that sprinklers attract. It is aimed at specific sectors such as landlords, construction companies, small businesses, education, health and homeowners.

The campaign was launched with a live sprinkler demonstration. Two containers were identically kitted out, apart from one had a sprinkler installed, the other didn't. An invited audience of business owners and educational staff joined members of the media to watch the speed at which a fire can take hold and how effectively a fitted sprinkler system can detect fire and prevent it from spreading.



Chester Zoo blaze

Fire crews from across Cheshire tackled a blaze in the Monsoon Forest Habitat, the UK's largest zoo building, at Chester Zoo in December. Due to the scale of the fire this was declared a major incident. The zoo was immediately evacuated and a cordon was put in place.

Crews - wearing breathing apparatus and using main jets - brought the fire under control and the blaze was extinguished with firefighters remaining at the scene overnight to dampen down.

Firefighters also helped the zoo keepers to move some of the animals away from the fire. They helped staff manually move some small reptiles such as turtles and tortoises, and helped staff to shut the gates behind the large mammals, such as gibbons and orangutans, after the zoo keepers had coaxed them into their outside habitats.

One person suffered minor smoke inhalation. The zoo confirmed that the critically endangered Sumatran orangutans and other mammals were all accounted for but sadly declared that a number of insects, frogs, fish and small birds died as a result of the fire.

Fire investigators determined the fire was caused by an electrical fault.

Area Manager Lee Shears said: "This was a large and complex operation involving more than 80 firefighters from Cheshire, Merseyside and North Wales Fire and Rescue Services. Firefighters and zoo staff worked closely together in an incredibly challenging situation to evacuate the building and rescue as many animals as possible. The professionalism and expertise of the staff at the zoo meant that many precious species were saved."

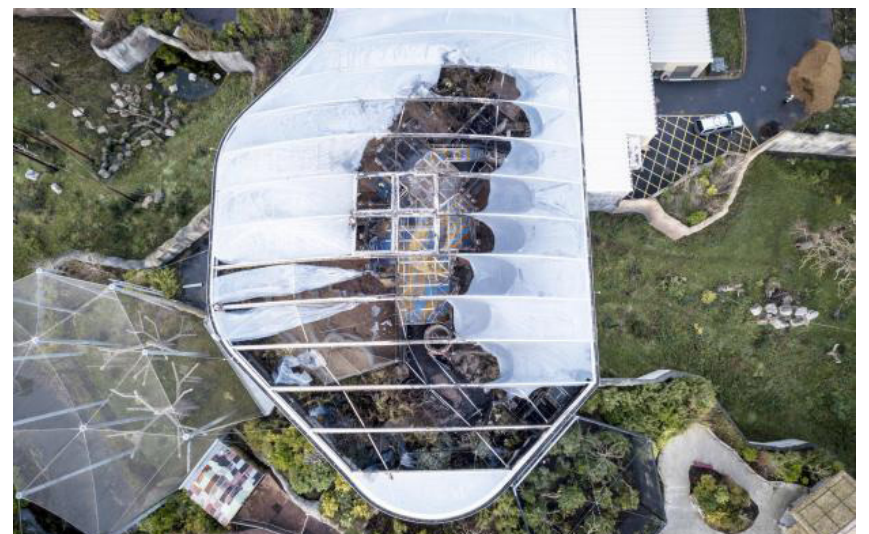


Photo courtesy of the Chester Standard/PA



For the latest news visit: www.cheshirefire.gov.uk



Saving lives

Collision casualty thanks Service medical director



A Warrington motorcyclist has thanked the doctor who performed emergency open heart surgery at the side of the road, saving his life and enabling him to walk his daughter down the aisle on her wedding day.

Motorcyclist John O'Brien was involved in a road traffic collision in October 2018 in Delamere. Firefighters, paramedics and police were first on the scene with a doctor from the NW Air Ambulance and a local CSI BASICS doctor, followed by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service Medical Director Dr Mark Forrest.

Just prior to loading into the helicopter, John had a cardiac arrest and conventional resuscitation proved ineffective. Things were looking hopeless, as such traumatic cardiac arrests are commonly described as unsurvivable in medical circles. A team of firefighters and paramedics, led by Dr Forrest, took up positions to decompress John's chest. There was no response and the only option was to open John's chest and operate in the middle of the road.

Rarely seen outside of a hospital operating theatre. John's chest was completely cut open, exposing his heart and lungs, to allow treatment of his internal bleeding, lung injuries and to massage his heart back to life.

Incredibly, within a matter of minutes, his heart was beating strongly and the bleeding had been controlled. He was flown to the Major Trauma Centre in Liverpool for further life-saving surgery. This is a great demonstration of the standards of world leading emergency care now available in Cheshire.

Remarkably, John was able to walk his daughter Amy down the aisle on Saturday May 11 when she married her fiancé Jonathan Evans. He thanked everyone involved in his rescue at a poignant reunion at Northwich Fire Station.

Firefighters reunited with baby saved 24 years earlier

Following a serious house fire in Warrington 24 years ago, a crew of firefighters have never forgotten the lifeless one-year-old baby they plucked from her burning cot and carried from the flames to safety.

A reunion with the now 25-year-old and that crew was held at Warrington Fire Station. The baby was Jade Broderick and it was her first birthday when the fire happened just before 7.30am on Tuesday June 27 1995 at her former home in Southworth Avenue, Bewsey, Warrington.

According to reports at the time, Jade suffered 40 per cent burns to her hands, lower arms, left leg and back and was put on a life support machine on arrival at Alder Hey Hospital.

Jade has always been in the thoughts of the crew who remember her well and it was an emotional reunion for everyone, made even more touching as Jade introduced her baby son to the firefighters.



Saving lives

Zero deaths in accidental house fires in Cheshire

For the first time in its history the Service reported zero deaths in accidental house fires between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019.

This outstanding result is attributed to the commitment of all of the service's staff in working to keep the county's communities safe and to the residents of Cheshire themselves.

Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Mark Cashin said: "The service works really hard to keep people safe. Since we first commenced home fire safety visits nearly 20 years ago we have visited hundreds of thousands of householders to provide home fire safety advice, currently our firefighters and prevention staff complete over 40,000 visits per year.

"This success is also, however, about the effectiveness of our emergency response and credit must also go to our firefighters who, over the 12 month period, have effected numerous rescues from house fires across Cheshire. The whole service has played its part in this success."

This success realises the service's long held belief that it is much better to save lives by equipping people with the knowledge and skills they need to stop a fire from occurring in the first place than wait until disaster strikes and need to tackle a potential life threatening blaze.

CFO Cashin concluded "While we are delighted with this result it is essential we are not complacent and I hope that members of the public continue to think safety first and apply their knowledge to keeping themselves and their families safe."



Defibrillators save lives

Defibrillators, funded by Cheshire Fire Authority and installed outside all of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's 28 fire stations in 2017, have potentially saved four lives.

The defibrillators, which can be used by members of the public in the event of someone suffering a cardiac arrest, have been accessed a total of four times – in Crewe, Holmes Chapel, Tarporley and Nantwich.

Station Manager Steve McCormick who led the project said: "Four times over all of Cheshire in a year may not sound like much but they are a godsend when needed, and we are delighted they are in place in the community and potentially saving lives. They can only be accessed by members of the public if a person is suffering a cardiac arrest and NWS telephone operators are trained to instruct people with no experience, how to use them safely and effectively."

Fire engines across Cheshire already carry defibrillators which can be used at operational incidents and any events the fire engine attends.



Mother and baby rescued from house fire

In August 2018 the Service received a 999 call from a lady who was stuck upstairs in her house with her six-month-old baby after a fire had taken hold at the bottom of the stairs.

On route crews were informed that the woman was in the bathroom with smoke entering and she was shouting out of the rear window.

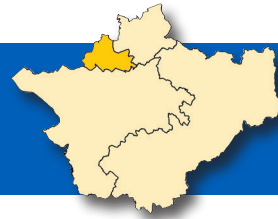
One fire crew rescued the mother and baby by scaling a seven metre ladder to a rear bedroom as the second crew, wearing breathing apparatus, successfully tackled the blaze, which had caused considerable damage, using hose reel jets. Firefighters were at the scene for 90 minutes.

Mum and baby were assessed by paramedics and, fortunately, had not sustained serious injury. The cause of the fire was found to involve an electrical cupboard on the ground floor of the property.

Speaking after the fire the lady said: "I can't believe a group of strangers made me feel so safe at a time that I felt so vulnerable. I can't explain the feeling of relief when the firefighters arrived, and the lady on the phone was incredible too."

Your Service wherever

Halton Unitary performance area profile



Fire Authority Members

We continue to focus on providing excellent emergency response services and high quality, innovative prevention activities, focused on reducing risks and keeping the community safe.

Last year in Halton we responded to 1,305 emergencies. Our prevention work took us into 5,309 homes, many schools, community groups and local businesses. We also delivered youth programmes and have vibrant fire cadet units operating on many of our stations. We worked with many partners to improve road safety.

There were 165 primary fires across Halton during 2018/19, 13 more than the previous year. These are more serious fires that cause harm to people or damage to property.

There were 57 deliberate primary fires (involving buildings and vehicles), 15 fewer than the previous year; while there were 228 deliberate secondary fires (generally small outdoor fires, not involving people or property) an increase of 16 over 2017/18.

Our intelligence-led approach to identifying 'hotspot' areas of high activity has become more sophisticated so problem areas will be highlighted and tackled with a range of arson reduction and youth engagement initiatives.

Compared to 2017/18, the number of accidental fires in the home increased by two, to 50 such incidents during 2018/19. 30 of these fires started in the kitchen, so this area continues to be a key focus of our campaigns.

Fortunately the majority of fires in the home were not serious, with 41 staying confined to the room where the fire started.

There were no deaths from accidental fires in the home, for the second year running. Injuries remain low but have increased slightly with one serious and 14 slight injuries last year.



Phil Harris Stef Nelson Rob Polhill

Key statistics	2016-17	17-18	18-19
Primary fires per 100,000 population	121.75	119.13	128.47
Fatalities from primary fires per 100,000 population	2.36	0.00	0.00
Injuries from primary fires per 100,000 population	2.36	8.62	11.68
Deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population	5.18	5.64	4.44
Deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population	13.82	16.62	17.75

Key contacts



Mike Clark Service Delivery Manager Lorraine Page Locality Safety Manager Liz Thompson Hub Administration Manager Mark Pollard Station Manager - Protection



■ Wholetime station
(Runcorn also has an on-call watch)

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2016 Ordnance Survey 1000240064

Your local station – For more information about your local fire station, please visit our website www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

Cheshire West & Chester Unitary performance area profile



Fire Authority Members

We continue to focus on providing excellent emergency response services and high quality, innovative prevention activities, focused on reducing risks and keeping the community safe.

Last year in Cheshire West and Chester we responded to 2,679 emergencies. Our prevention work took us into 14,703 homes, many schools, community groups and local businesses. We also delivered youth programmes and have vibrant fire cadet units operating on many of our stations. We worked with many partners to improve road safety.

There were 312 primary fires during 2018/19, 40 fewer when compared with the previous year. These are more serious fires that cause harm to people or damage to property.

Compared to 2017/18, deliberate primary fires (involving buildings and vehicles) decreased from 77 to 62 incidents; while the number of deliberate secondary fires (generally small outdoor fires, not involving people or property) reduced from 250 to 234.

Our intelligence-led approach to identifying 'hotspot' areas of high activity has become more sophisticated so problem areas will be highlighted and tackled with a range of arson reduction and youth engagement initiatives.

Accidental fires in the home have reduced from 132 in 2017/18, to 100 in 2018/19. 50 of these fires started in the kitchen so this area continues to be a key focus of our campaigns.

Fortunately the majority of fires in the home were not serious with 87 staying confined to the room where the fire started.

There were no deaths from accidental fires in the home during 2018/19. Injuries remain low and have decreased, with four serious and seven slight injuries last year.



Razia Daniels Martyn Delaney Gina Lewis Stuart Parker



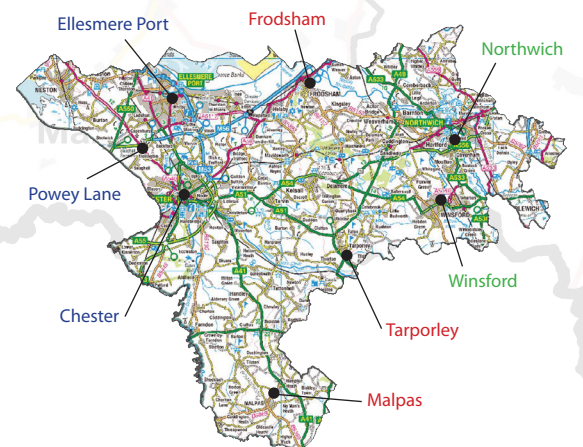
Bob Rudd Peter Wheeler Norman Wright

Key statistics	2016-17	17-18	18-19
Primary fires per 100,000 population	105.74	104.15	91.63
Fatalities from primary fires per 100,000 population	0.30	0.59	0.00
Injuries from primary fires per 100,000 population	5.36	5.92	3.23
Deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population	2.41	2.28	1.82
Deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population	9.14	7.40	6.87

Key contacts



Tony O'Dwyer Service Delivery Manager Emma Coxon Locality Safety Manager Emma Mason Hub Administration Manager Ian Kay Station Manager - Protection



■ Wholetime station
■ Day crewed station
■ On-call station

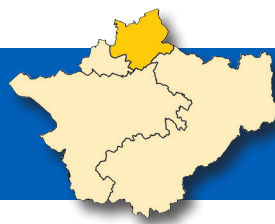
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Your local station – For more information about your local fire station, please visit our website www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

Note – The latest home office data release (Fire stats monitor report) shows a 17.3 per cent increase in deliberate secondary fires across England in the past 3 years [2016/17 – 54,066, 2018/19 – 63,427] with a 10.4 per cent decrease in deliberate primary fires (2016/17 – 22,065, 2018/19 – 19,766).

e you live 2018-19

Warrington Unitary performance area profile



We continue to focus on providing excellent emergency response services and high quality, innovative prevention activities, focused on reducing risks and keeping the community safe.

Last year in Warrington we responded to 1,705 emergencies. Our prevention work took us into 7,745 homes, many schools, community groups and local businesses. We also delivered youth programmes and have vibrant fire cadet units operating on many of our stations. We worked with many partners to improve road safety.

There was an increase of five primary fires (229 in total) when compared with the previous year. These are more serious fires that cause harm to people or damage to property.

Deliberate primary fires (involving buildings and vehicles) remained the same as the previous year (68). Deliberate secondary fires (generally small outdoor fires, not involving people or property) saw a decrease from 239 in 2017/18 to 219 incidents in 2018/19.

Our intelligence-led approach to identifying 'hotspot' areas of high activity has become more sophisticated so problem areas will be highlighted and tackled with a range of arson reduction and youth engagement initiatives.

There has been an increase of nine accidental fires in the home (83 in total), when compared with the previous year. 44 of these fires started in the kitchen so this area continues to be a key focus of our campaigns.

Fortunately the majority of fires in the home were not serious, with 73 staying confined to the room where the fire started.

There were no deaths from accidental fires in the home, for the second year running. Injuries remain low but have increased slightly with two serious and 15 slight injuries last year.

Key statistics	2016-17	17-18	18-19
Primary fires per 100,000 population	100.97	106.82	109.28
Fatalities from primary fires per 100,000 population	0.48	0.48	0.00
Injuries from primary fires per 100,000 population	4.79	3.34	8.11
Deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population	2.97	3.24	3.25
Deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population	10.77	11.40	10.45

Key contacts



Mike Clark Service Delivery Manager
Lorraine Page Locality Safety Manager
Liz Thompson Hub Administration Manager
Mark Pollard Station Manager - Protection

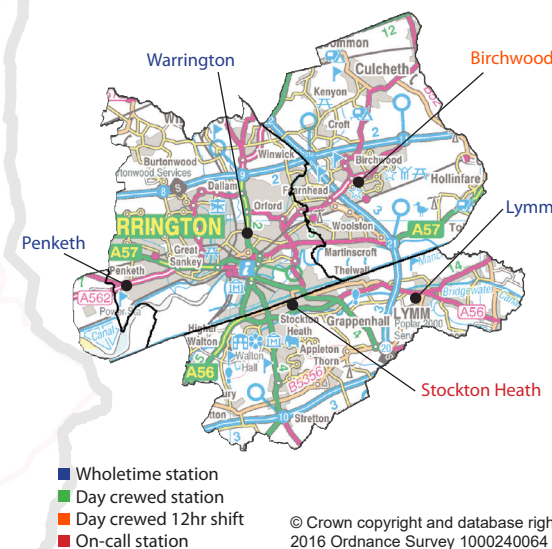
Fire Authority Members



Mike Biggin **Karen Mundry** **Terry O'Neill**



Morgan Tarr **Steve Wright**



Your local station – For more information about your local fire station, please visit our website www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

Cheshire East Unitary performance area profile



We continue to focus on providing excellent emergency response services and high quality, innovative prevention activities, focused on reducing risks and keeping the community safe.

Last year in Cheshire East we responded to 2,982 emergencies. Our prevention work took us into 14,651 homes, many schools, community groups and local businesses. We also delivered youth programmes and have vibrant fire cadet units operating on many of our stations. We worked with many partners to improve road safety.

There were 370 primary fires during 2018/19, six more than the previous year. These are more serious fires that cause harm to people or damage to property.

Compared to 2017/18, the number of deliberate primary fires (involving buildings and vehicles) decreased from 68 to 65, while deliberate secondary fires (generally small outdoor fires, not involving people or property) saw a significant decrease from 204 to 150.

Our intelligence-led approach to identifying 'hotspot' areas of high activity has become more sophisticated so problem areas will be highlighted and tackled with a range of arson reduction and youth engagement initiatives.

Accidental fires in the home have reduced by eight compared to the previous year, to 130 in total during 2018/19. 68 of these fires started in the kitchen so this area continues to be a key focus of our campaigns.

Fortunately the majority of fires in the home were not serious, with 118 staying confined to the room where the fire started.

There were no deaths from accidental fires in the home during 2018/19. Injuries remain low and have decreased, with one serious and 13 slight injuries last year.

Key statistics	2016-17	17-18	18-19
Primary fires per 100,000 population	105.75	96.08	97.17
Fatalities from primary fires per 100,000 population	0.80	0.26	0.26
Injuries from primary fires per 100,000 population	4.24	6.07	3.68
Deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population	2.07	1.79	1.68
Deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population	3.50	5.38	3.94

Key contacts



Matt Barlow Service Delivery Manager
Lorraine Page Locality Safety Manager
Bev Hughes Hub Administration Manager
Mark Abram Protection Manager

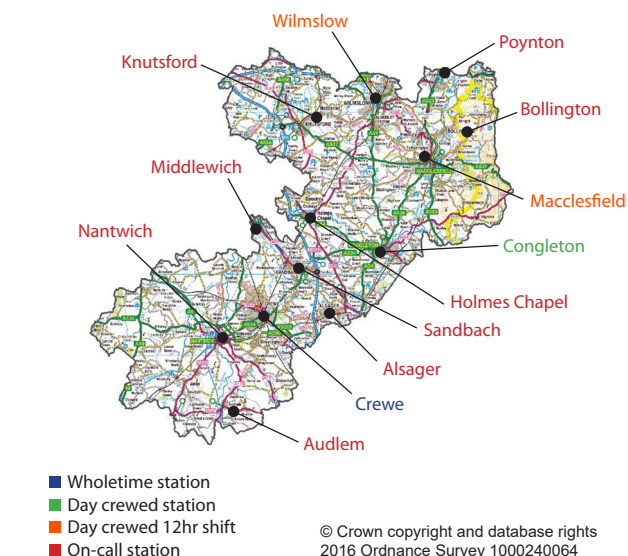
Fire Authority Members



Rachel Bailey **Michael Beanland** **David Brown** **David Edwardes**



Dorothy Flude **Nick Mannion** **James Nicholas** **Jonathan Parry**



Your local station – For more information about your local fire station, please visit our website www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

Note – The latest home office data release (Fire stats monitor report) shows a 17.3 per cent increase in deliberate secondary fires across England in the past 3 years [2016/17 – 54,066, 2018/19 – 63,427] with a 10.4 per cent decrease in deliberate primary fires (2016/17 – 22,065, 2018/19 – 19,766).

Changing lives

Focus on Performance 2018-19

The Service continues to focus its fire prevention activity on those who are most vulnerable. Over the past three years fire crews and safety advocates have visited and carried out Home Safety Assessments (which became Safe and Well visits in February 2017) in over 124,000 homes.

The Service's prevention agenda continues to have positive impact on the numbers killed and injured. Over the past decade house fires have reduced by 20 per cent, however fire-related injuries have increased by 81 per cent compared to 10 years ago due to better validation and more accurate recording. In 2018/19, 88 per cent of households where dwelling fires occurred had a working smoke alarm.

In addition, deliberate fires, which often occur outdoors, have also reduced by 65 per cent since 2008/09 with conviction rates exceeding the national average.


The Service has also helped to change the lives of approximately 8500 young and often disadvantaged young people through its Prince's Trust and RESPECT courses since they began.

The following infographic highlights some of the key trends relating to different aspects of the organisation's performance over recent years.

Key Service Trends

Community Outcomes

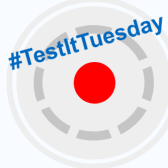
In the last decade, the number of accidental fires in the home have dropped by 20%...




... although 53% of these still start in the kitchen

Injuries caused by accidental fires in the home are up 81% compared to 10 years ago

*More injuries are being recorded due to better processes and validation



88% of households, where dwelling fires have occurred, have a working smoke alarm.

65% fewer deliberately ignited fires than 10 years ago



Over 2200 fewer fires were attended last year compared to 10 years ago

Prevention and Protection

In the past 3 years, over 124,000 Home Safety Assessments have been completed



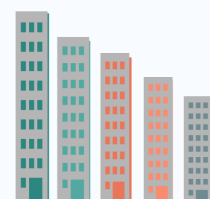
The Service continues to work with partners to share and analyse data and identify those who are most at risk.



Approximately 6,000 young people have completed Prince's Trust and approximately 2,500 have completed RESPECT courses since they began



False alarms attended caused by automatic systems in businesses and commercial premises reduced by 65% over 5 years



Nearly 1,700 business inspections and audits were completed last year

Conviction rate for deliberate fire activity exceeds the national average



Staff and Services



Sickness remains low with an average of 4.2 days per person

All essential firefighting training has been completed



Priority based budgeting continues to generate savings

Top 3 in Stonewall Top 100

The Service is moving closer to the top of LGBT charity Stonewall's prestigious Top 100 Employers list.

The Service has jumped another place from the 2018 fourth place to number three on the list and is the highest performing public sector organisation in the UK. The Service is also the best performing emergency service in the UK due to its efforts to engage lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) staff, volunteers and communities.

This is the seventh consecutive year the Service has featured in the Top 100, which assesses organisations ranging from local authorities to international investment banks against criteria including engagement with staff and communities, training and leadership. The Service entered the Top 100 in 2014 at number 25 and has increased its ranking year on year. It has also been the highest performing UK emergency service in 2016, 2017, 2018 and now 2019.



White Ribbon Award

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service has been accredited with White Ribbon Status as part of its pledge to protect vulnerable people in Cheshire.

White Ribbon accreditation means that the Service will be provided with specialist training and guidance to help it bring about genuine change.

This accreditation scheme recognises that public sector organisations, large and small, can achieve so much more than individuals can alone when it comes to tackling domestic violence.

The Service works with partners to identify risks and offer safety measures to victims of domestic violence, but becoming accredited means it can effectively marshal resources to challenge domestic abuse and make a real difference.

Protecting lives

Firefighter apprentices ensure Nepalese education



Following two years of fundraising to enable the youngest children in a Nepalese village access to an education, 11 firefighter apprentices headed out to Nepal in March.

The group raised £30,000 to fund the building of a facility to educate younger children in a remote village in Nepal. Working with the charity Classrooms in the Clouds, each apprentice was set a personal target of raising £2,700, forming part of their development programme as Firefighter and Community Safety Apprentices.

All money raised has gone towards the building of the much needed Early Years Centre in Kharikhola, a remote village in north eastern Nepal. The Centre is built to earthquake resistant standard and provides specialist early years learning resources, enabling the youngest children in the village access to education.

National award for tyre safety checks

The Service, in partnership with Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Highways England and Protyre, won an award in the Emergency Services category at the national Tyresafe awards.

The award was given for the checks carried out on people's tyres at the numerous charity car washes the Service hosts for the Fire Fighters Charity every year.

While members of the public are queuing to get their cars washed, staff from Highways England carry out checks on their tyres using state-of-the-art sigma vision tyre scanners. The motorists can then be given the all-clear, or given advice to change their tyres.

Station Manager Andy Gray said: "We are delighted to receive the award. Hundreds of people support our charity car washes every year and, by working with our partners, we are making sure that people are driving out of our fire stations with a clean and safe car."



Summary of accounts 2018-19



Cheshire Fire Authority is the public body which manages Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service on behalf of local communities. From April 2018 to March 2019 it was made up of 23 elected Members, with eight appointed by Cheshire West and Chester, eight by Cheshire East, three by Halton Borough and four by Warrington Borough. The political composition of the Authority at that time comprised Conservative (8), Labour (12), Independent (2) and Liberal Democrat (1).

The Authority is a separate legal body and has the power to set council tax and agree its own policies and procedures without needing the approval of these local councils. Its meetings are open to the public and are usually held at the Service's Sadler Road site in Winsford. Full details are on the website –www.cheshirefire.gov.uk.

Its key duties include approving the annual budget; setting its council tax level and agreeing the numbers of staff and levels of equipment necessary to provide an effective service and approving the organisation's key policies, plans and strategies.

It is also responsible for ensuring its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, that public money is properly accounted for and how it aims for

continuous improvement. To demonstrate this it produces an Annual Governance Statement to accompany the Statement of Accounts. From 2013-14 the Authority has included this as part of its annual Statement of Assurance. Both the Annual Accounts and the Statement of Assurance are available on the Authority's website.

Accounts

The Fire Authority's accounts show how it uses its resources to deliver a fire and rescue service across Cheshire. The summary accounts provide an overview of where the funds come from, how they are used and the financial position as at 31 March 2019. The 2018-19 Statement of Accounts include the Authority's 25 per cent share of the cost of running of North West Fire Control Limited.

Summary Revenue Account

The 2018-19 Fire Authority net revenue budget and expenditure was £42m. The Authority has a general reserve of £2m at 31 March 2019, which is roughly five per cent of the budget, the remainder of the 2017-18 general reserve balance and any underspends reported in the year for 2018-19 has been transferred to support capital expenditure.

The Authority also holds earmarked reserves to meet specific needs in line with its Reserves Strategy. The Authority is developing a range of options to ensure that it can operate efficiently and effectively and provide value for money.

Summary Balance Sheet

The Summary Balance Sheet shows the 2018-19 end of year position and the most obvious point to note is the net liability of £495m. In other words, assets of £107m, current liabilities of £9k but long term liabilities of £593m. Most of the liabilities relate to expected future pension costs of £592m, compared to £564m in 2017-18. All local authorities are required to recognise this liability in their balance sheet even though it is not an immediate call on their resources, but instead is paid out over the life of existing and future pensioners. At present, all deficits on the Firefighters Pension Scheme are funded by government through a specific top up grant.

Summary Revenue Account 2018-19	£'000	£'000
Firefighting and Rescue Operations	21,670	
Protection and Prevention	3,451	
Premises, Fleet and other Corporate Support Costs	10,189	
Actuarial pension cost - McCloud Judgement	22,610	
Net Cost of Service		57,920
North West Fire Control - Cost of service		81
Other income, expenditure and adjustments		- 15,814
Amount to be met by Govt Grant and Local Taxation		42,187
Revenue Support Grant and Local Taxation	- 14,452	
Council Tax	- 27,735	
Net General Fund (Surplus)/Deficit		-
Balance on General Fund brought forward	- 8,281	
Net movement on general reserves	5,995	
Balance on General Fund Carried Forward		- 2,286

Summary Balance Sheet 2018-19	£'000	£'000
Long Term Assets	73,403	
Current Assets	33,267	
Long Term Liabilities	- 592,776	
Current Liabilities	- 8,640	
Total Assets less Total Liabilities		- 494,746
Financed by:		
Unusable reserves	525,973	
Earmarked Reserves	- 28,941	
General Reserve	- 2,286	
TOTAL NET WORTH		494,746

Notice is hereby given that the audit of the Authority's accounts for the year ending 31-03-2019 is complete. Any local government elector may inspect, copy or request a copy of the statement of accounts and the auditor's report, which are available at Clemonds Hey, Oakmere Road, Winsford CW7 2UA, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, or on our website at www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

Wendy Bebbington, Head of Finance, 01606 868700

Safety Central receives royal seal of approval



The Service was delighted to welcome Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal to Cheshire in September 2018, to officially open its state-of-the-art safety and lifeskills education centre Safety Central.

Before unveiling a commemorative plaque, the Princess met volunteers, staff and dignitaries, watched a group of schoolchildren take part in activities and observed firefighters in training at the neighbouring Lymm Fire Station.

Her visit was the highlight of a successful first full year for Safety Central, which welcomed almost 7,000 people from across Cheshire. The purpose-built facility, the first of its kind in the county, is a realistic indoor village that uses world-class special effects and scenery to simulate hazards and teach visitors hands-on ways of staying safe and well.

The centre has been open to schools and youth groups since July 2017, but this year launched its SaferTogether programme aimed at adult community and social groups. It is already proving popular with Women's Institutes, Rotary Clubs and residents' associations.

To find out more about Safety Central's programmes, book a visit or to learn about its volunteer ranger programme, visit www.safetycentral.org.uk

Performance at the end of March 2019

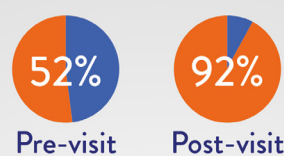
Since April 1st 2018 we have welcomed a total of **6,929** visitors including:

- 3,335** pupils and **401** adults from **76** mainstream schools
- 432** young people and **133** adults from **24** non-mainstream schools and colleges
- 934** people and **205** helpers from **68** community groups
- 1,500** stakeholders attending training or meetings

"Absolutely fantastic facility. The children really engaged and the site is exceptionally well run and welcoming."



25 volunteers are currently active and **5** more have applied or are in training. A total of **3,957** volunteer hours have been logged this year.

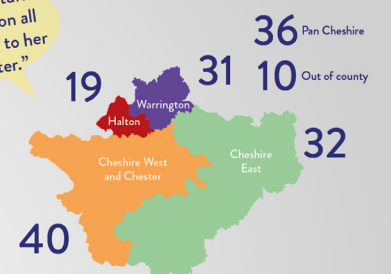


Average improvement of **76%** in test of key lifeskills subject knowledge

"Absolutely fantastic."



"Very good, Ruby returned home and passed on all safety information to her brother and sister."



168 schools and groups in total

"I would recommend this to all schools and families. The experiences felt so real and this gave the children strong messages, advice and support."



Visitor experience

100% of 110 teachers rated their visit as 'very good' or 'excellent' and **100%** would visit again.

93% of 1,045 pupils and students gave their visit **4 or 5** out of 5.

