



**Cheshire**  
Fire Authority

# Annual Report

2020 - 2021

## Helping communities during the pandemic

**Since the outbreak of coronavirus, the Service has been working closely with local authorities and health partners to determine ways in which our skills, resources and vehicles could be best engaged in supporting the needs of the community.**

A Community Support Management team was formed as a direct route for statutory partners to request support during the Covid-19 pandemic. We were inundated with volunteer applicants wanting to help in any way they could. The applications came from CFRS staff, some of whose duties had been amended to support the community as part of their core working pattern, ex-fire personnel and Service volunteers.

Through the national resilience programme in the north west, we were asked to help fit and test specialist face masks for NHS colleagues, providing some 3,500 front line NWS staff with correctly fitted FFP3 masks. A station manager and 20 volunteers completed the work at Crewe Fire Station and Safety Central in Lymm.

Across the county staff and Service volunteers were hard at work in their local communities, picking up prescriptions and shopping for vulnerable people in their area, delivering PPE, signposting people to available support or visiting people at their home address in person where needed. Elsewhere across the county, school meals and educational packs were delivered to students studying from home.

Firefighters and staff are continuing to join NHS colleagues in administering thousands of Covid-19 vaccinations. The Service has provided more than 145 staff, trained by NHS colleagues, to administer vaccinations, as well as assist with other administrative and support duties. They are working vaccination shifts around existing workloads where possible and, in some cases, are volunteering their own time outside of working hours.

We continue to play our part in the vaccination rollout, with Safe and Well visits also forming part of the drive to ensure that the hard-to-reach members of our communities have the opportunity to get the jab. Firefighters and advocates have been prioritising those eligible for the vaccine, visiting them at home and advising on fire safety while ensuring the occupier knows how to book a vaccination and that there is help to get them to the site if needed.

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Alex Waller said: "We're all in this together and, as a Service, we offered our help to make sure that everyone can get a vaccine. I'm very proud of everybody who is playing their part in protecting our communities against this deadly virus – not just our firefighters and staff, but all the health workers and other volunteers too. It's been a fantastic show of team work and community spirit."

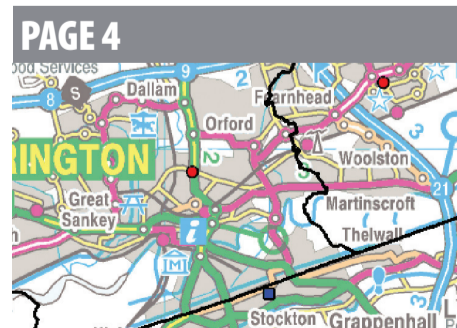
**To date, our staff have administered more than 86,000 vaccinations in Cheshire.**



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# Key modernisation milestone as station rebuild is completed

## A new fire station has been built in the heart of Chester.

The new building – which is Cheshire's first carbon neutral fire station – replaced the aging 1970s building on St Anne's Street, which was no longer fit for purpose.

It boasts four bays and modern training facilities such as a new training tower, breathing apparatus and road traffic collision training areas.

It's more cost-effective to run and maintain, has better accessibility, and houses improved community facilities, meaning that Chester's new fire station is serving the community in more ways than one.

Work had initially started on the new building in January 2020 and firefighters were based in a temporary building at the rear of the site while the construction took place.

It was completed in February 2021 and, although the Chester crews and staff began working in their new surroundings almost immediately, the official opening was unable to take place until August due to the Covid pandemic.

Cheshire Fire Authority Chair Councillor Bob Rudd., who performed the unveiling of the station, said: "I am delighted to see that the new building is now operational.

"The technology and tools used by our crews have changed so much over time and it's essential that we continually progress to ensure that our firefighters are provided with the facilities they need and deserve and have the best working environment we can give them".



The station is yet another example of how Cheshire Fire Authority is investing in firefighting and helping to keep our communities safe.



# Centre provides incredible training opportunities



## After four years in the planning and construction, the Service's new, state-of-the-art training centre in Winsford is up and running.

Cheshire Fire Authority and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service recognised the value in providing the very best training for our firefighters when they approved the plans for the £11m centre back in 2017.

Work on the site began in July 2019 and, despite the Covid-19 pandemic hindering progress during 2020, the contractors were able to hand the keys over in December.

It is arguably the best firefighter training centre in the country and immerses staff in real-life operational situations to make them better equipped and skilled to keep our communities in Cheshire safe.

It comprises zones specific to the training needs of a modern day firefighter, incorporating a fire house and breathing apparatus training building, petrochemical training rig, and a row of terraced houses and small commercial building.

It also boasts specialist rescue training areas including a road traffic collision area, an aeroplane crash site and a farm/stable building. It even has its own strip of motorway.

Each of these zones provides realistic and immersive scenarios which are designed to replicate what our firefighters might deal with in the course of their work.

The training centre will be given an official seal of approval in the autumn when it is formally opened by a member of the Royal Family.

# Rescue mission as Storm Christoph strikes

**Storm Christoph made its presence felt right across Cheshire towards the end of January 2021, giving the Service one of the busiest days it had ever experienced.**

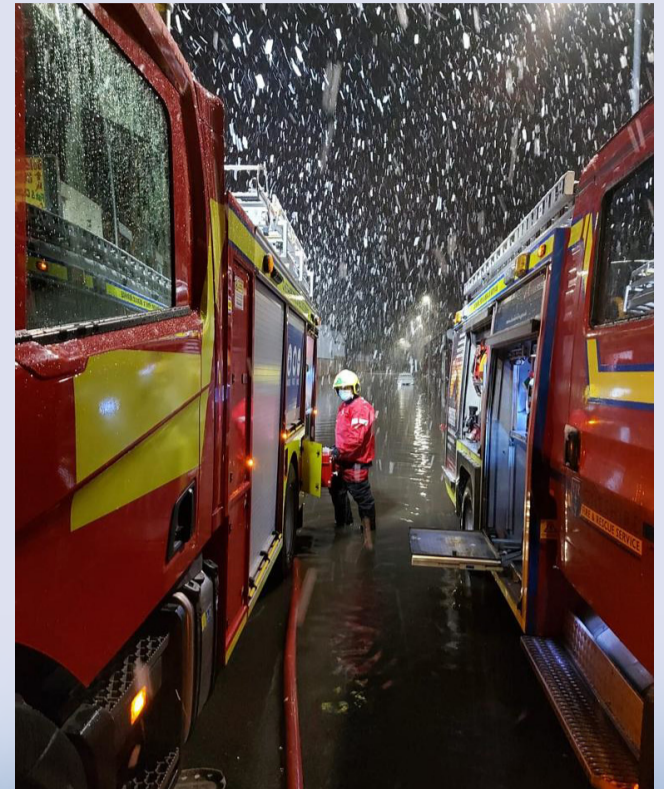
Crews were called out to 134 incidents between 7am on 20 and 7am on 21 January, the majority of which were attributed to Christoph.

Firefighters assisted with evacuating 35 people from narrow boats in Northwich Marina, crews assisted residents from two care homes who had to leave their accommodation and the Service boat and rafts were also used to help evacuate people from their homes.

Water pumps were used at many of the incidents, helping remove water from roads and properties and several people had to be rescued from cars that had got trapped in flood water.

A major incident was declared with all agencies and emergency services working together, and Cheshire firefighters worked alongside Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service supporting flood evacuations as part of a crossborder arrangement.

Across the week, the Service responded to more than 150 incidents in total.



# Chester hair salon owner sentenced following multiple fire regulation breaches

**The owner of a business in Chester city centre was ordered to pay more than £7,000 after putting lives at risk by failing to comply with fire regulations.**

Mehmet Zahir Adibelli, owner of Trinettes Hair Professionals (Chester), appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Monday 1 February 2021 after previously pleading guilty to nine breaches of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

At the sentencing hearing Judge Sanders stated that 'Adibelli had failed to set their mind towards Fire Safety and didn't appreciate that these significant risks could have resulted in serious injuries or death.' Judge Sanders ordered Adibelli to pay £2,250 fines (£250 for each breach), £5,000 costs and £190 victim's surcharge.

The investigation into the business began

after firefighters were called out to a water leak at a coffee shop below the hair salon on Wednesday 19 June 2019. The firefighters needed to access the salon to investigate the source of the leak. After entering the two-storey salon on Chester Rows in Bridge Street crews discovered that it was being used as sleeping accommodation.

The Service's Protection team was informed and a fire safety inspection was conducted. During the inspection the team found a number of serious fire safety deficiencies, which were putting the lives of customers and staff at risk. These included the absence of fire detectors throughout the premises.

The team also found that the fire extinguishers in the salon had not been serviced since 2012 and no fire risk assessments had been conducted at the

premises to help reduce the chances of a fire occurring.

Following the sentencing, Station Manager Stewart Martindale said: "The safety of people visiting and sleeping in all premises such as this is of paramount importance.

"It was clear from the outset of our investigation that the owner had shown no regard for fire safety regulations and as a result they were putting the lives of their customers and staff at risk. Thankfully, following our inspection, we were able to take immediate action against the business and remedy the unacceptable safety flaws that we uncovered."

Anyone who has concerns about business fire safety should contact our Protection Department. More information can be [found here](#).



# Your Service wherever

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

## Cheshire East Unitary performance area profile



Last year in Cheshire East we responded to 2,634 emergencies and worked with many partners to improve road safety.

There were 304 primary fires during 2020/21; three fewer than the previous year. These are more serious fires that cause harm to people or damage to property. Compared to 2019/20, the number of deliberate primary fires (involving buildings and vehicles) decreased from 61 to 53, while deliberate secondary fires (generally small outdoor fires, not involving people or property) saw a significant decrease from 103 to 81. 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 increased by three compared to the previous year, to 114 in total during 2020/21. In total, 64 (56%) of these fires started in the kitchen and so this area continues to be a key focus of our campaigns. Fortunately the majority of accidental fires in the home were not serious, with 98 (86%) staying confined to the room where the fire started. Unfortunately, there were three deaths from accidental fires in the home during 2020/21. Injuries in accidental fires in the home remain low and have decreased from five in the previous year to three in 2020/21, with one injury recorded as serious. Injuries in primary fires have also reduced from 10 in the previous year to four in 2020/21.

Key statistics	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Primary fires per 100,000 population	97.17	79.92	78.62
Fatalities from primary fires per 100,000 population	0.26	0.78	0.78
Injuries from primary fires per 100,000 population	3.68	2.60	1.03
Deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population	1.71	1.59	1.37
Deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population	3.94	2.68	2.09
Deliberate fires per 10,000 population	5.65	4.27	3.47
Accidental Dwelling Fires per 100,000 population	34.14	28.89	29.48

### Key contacts

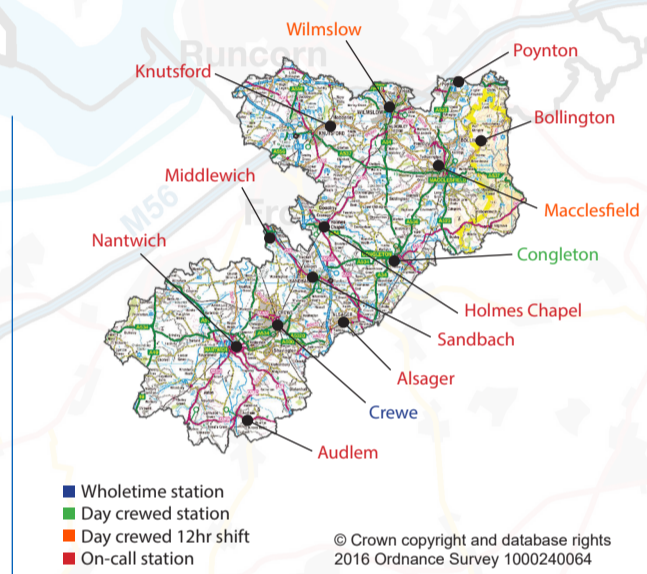


**Matt Barlow** Service Delivery Manager  
**Lorraine Page** Locality Safety Manager  
**Bev Hughes** Hub Administration Manager  
**Carl Rainbird** Protection Manager

### Fire Authority Members



**Rachel Bailey** **Michael Beanland** **David Brown** **Marilyn Houston**  
**Nick Mannion** **Rob Moreton** **James Nicholas** **Jonathan Parry**



Your local station – For more information about your local fire station, please visit our website [www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk)

## Cheshire West and Chester Unitary performance area profile



Last year in Cheshire West and Chester we responded to 2,615 emergencies and worked with many partners to improve road safety.

There were 294 primary fires during 2020/21, which was a decrease of 26 when compared with the previous year. These are more serious fires that cause harm to people or damage to property. Compared to 2019/20, deliberate primary fires (involving buildings and vehicles) decreased from 70 to 44, while the number of deliberate secondary fires (generally small outdoor fires, not involving people or property) increased from 144 to 180. 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 increased from 109 in 2019/20, to 123 in 2020/21, with 57 (46%) of these fires starting in the kitchen and so this area continues to be a key focus of our campaigns. Fortunately the majority of accidental fires in the home were not serious with 110 (89%) staying confined to the room where the fire started. There were no deaths and seven injuries from accidental fires in the home during 2020/21. This is compared to three deaths and six injuries in 2019/20 respectively. Overall injuries in primary fires have reduced from 13 in the previous year to 12 in 2020/21.

Key statistics	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Primary fires per 100,000 population	91.63	93.28	85.51
Fatalities from primary fires per 100,000 population	0.00	0.87	0.00
Injuries from primary fires per 100,000 population	3.23	3.79	3.49
Deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population	1.82	2.04	1.28
Deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population	6.87	4.20	5.24
Deliberate fires per 10,000 population	8.69	6.24	6.51
Accidental Dwelling Fires per 100,000 population	29.37	31.77	35.77

### Key contacts

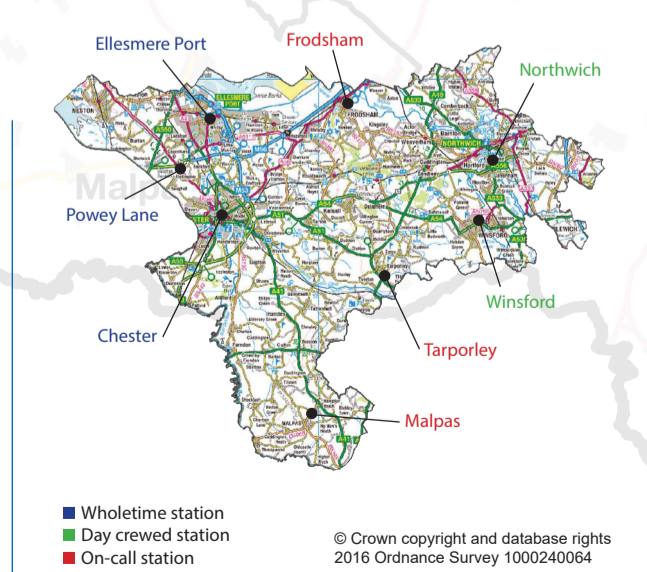


**Gareth Scott** Service Delivery Manager  
**Emma Coxon** Locality Safety Manager  
**Emma Mason** Hub Administration Manager  
**Ian Kay** Station Manager - Protection

### Fire Authority Members



**Razia Daniels** **Martyn Delaney** **Jill Houlbrook** **Gina Lewis**  
**Stuart Parker** **Bob Rudd** **Peter Wheeler** **Norman Wright**

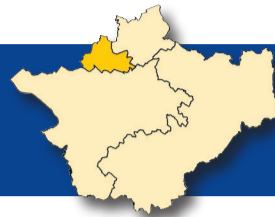


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# e you live 2020-21

## Halton

### Unitary performance area profile



**Last year in Halton we responded to 1,186 emergencies and worked with many partners to improve road safety.**

There were 118 primary fires across Halton during 2020/21, which was 15 fewer (-11%) than the previous year. These are more serious fires that cause harm to people or damage to property. There were 42 deliberate primary fires (involving buildings and vehicles), which was 15 less compared to 2019/20. There were 187 deliberate secondary fires (generally small outdoor fires, not involving people or property), a decrease of 14 compared to 2019/20. 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 2019/20, the number of accidental fires in the home increased by six, to 43 such incidents during 2020/21, with 22 (51%) of these fires starting 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 36 (84%) staying confined to the room where the fire started. There were no deaths from accidental fires in the home in 2020/21. Injuries from accidental fires in the home remain low and have decreased further from six in 2019/20 to five in 2020/21, with one of these injuries being classified as serious. Overall injuries in Primary Fires have also reduced from nine in 2019/20 to seven in 2020/21.

Key statistics	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Primary fires per 100,000 population	128.47	102.77	90.94
Fatalities from primary fires per 100,000 population	0.00	0.00	0.00
Injuries from primary fires per 100,000 population	11.68	6.95	5.39
Deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population	4.44	4.40	3.24
Deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population	17.75	15.53	14.41
Deliberate fires per 10,000 population	22.19	19.94	17.65
Accidental Dwelling Fires per 100,000 population	38.93	28.59	33.14

#### Key contacts



**Ant Jones**  
Service Delivery Manager



**Lorraine Page**  
Locality Safety Manager



**Liz Thompson**  
Hub Administration Manager



**Lee McGarity**  
Station Manager - Protection

#### Fire Authority Members



**Phil Harris**



**Stef Nelson**



**Rob Polhill**



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

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## Warrington

### Unitary performance area profile



**Last year in Warrington we responded to 1,533 emergencies and worked with many partners to improve road safety.**

There were 182 primary fires across Warrington during 2020/21, which was 10 fewer (-5%) than the previous year. These are more serious fires that cause harm to people or damage to property. Deliberate primary fires (involving buildings and vehicles) decreased from 65 in 2019/20 to 49 in 2020/21. Deliberate secondary fires (generally small outdoor fires, not involving people or property) also decreased from 227 in 2019/20 to 160 incidents in 2020/21. 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 2019/20, the number of accidental fires in the home increased by two, to 63 such incidents during 2020/21, with 29 (46%) of these fires starting 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 55 (87%) staying confined to the room where the fire started. There were no deaths from accidental fires in the home. Injuries from accidental fires in the home remain low with a small increase from three in 2019/20 to four in 2020/21. Overall injuries in primary fires saw a decrease from six in 2019/20 to five in 2020/21, with only one injury recorded as serious.

Key statistics	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Primary fires per 100,000 population	109.28	91.42	86.92
Fatalities from primary fires per 100,000 population	0.00	0.00	0.00
Injuries from primary fires per 100,000 population	8.11	2.86	2.39
Deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population	3.25	3.10	2.34
Deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population	10.45	10.81	7.64
Deliberate fires per 10,000 population	13.70	13.90	9.98
Accidental Dwelling Fires per 100,000 population	39.61	29.05	30.09

#### Key contacts



**Ant Jones**  
Service Delivery Manager



**Lorraine Page**  
Locality Safety Manager



**Liz Thompson**  
Hub Administration Manager



**Lee McGarity**  
Station Manager - Protection

#### Fire Authority Members



**Mike Biggin**



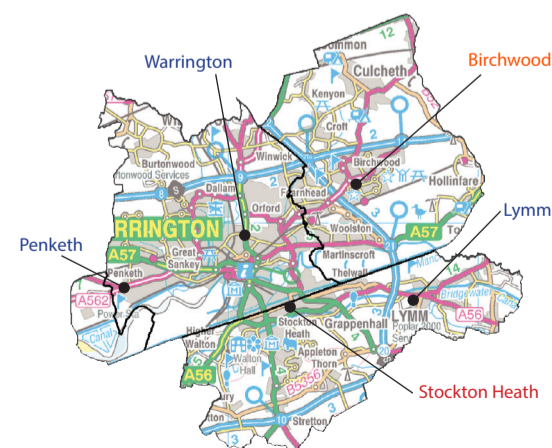
**Phil Easty**



**Brian Gallagher**



**Karen Mundry**



■ Wholetime station  
■ Day crewed station  
■ Day crewed 12hr shift  
■ On-call station

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# Focus on Performance 2020-21

## The Service's prevention agenda continues to have a positive impact on the number of residents who are killed or injured across our county.

Over the past decade accidental fires in the home have reduced by around 27%, with fire related injuries caused by accidental fires in the home reducing to an 11-year low.

In 2020/21, 86% of households where dwelling fires occurred had a working smoke alarm. In addition, deliberate fires, which often occur outdoors, have also reduced by 67% since 2010/11.

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

## Virtual classroom for The Prince's Trust Programme

### The lockdown restrictions during the pandemic meant that any Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service-led Prince's Trust Programmes couldn't initially go ahead as planned.

This was due to Government restrictions and team members and staff not being able to meet together in groups.

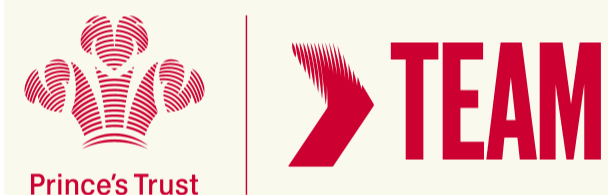
Following some careful planning by the Youth Engagement Team and some great suggestions from staff and young people, together they devised a plan for the programme to go virtual.

Team members used various devices available to them to communicate daily with the team leaders, so that everyone stayed safe, but in touch.

They were set daily tasks and objectives to enable them to complete the programme to the required standard, which enabled them to graduate at a virtual ceremony after 12 weeks.

Jason McTigue, the Service's Prince's Trust Team Programme Coordinator said: "It was more important than ever that we helped young people who were struggling during this time. Previously the groups would meet in their team rooms and go out into the community to do projects and fundraising as part of the programme, but when Covid struck and this wasn't possible, we turned to technology."

The Prince's Trust programme helps young people to build their confidence and skills and supports them into jobs, education and training and is suitable for anyone who is unemployed or has simply lost their way and doesn't know which path to follow to get on in life. Three in four young people supported by The Prince's Trust Programme move into work, education or training. Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service has helped over 3,000 young people to date.



## Apprentices help during pandemic

### The Service's 11 Firefighter and Community Safety Apprentices had to adapt quickly to new ways of working when their usual duties of delivering Safe and Well visits were paused during Covid-19.

The apprentices took on a variety of new roles, such as working alongside a network of partner agencies, offering support and sharing tasks to ensure that essential community services continued to operate throughout the pandemic.

They assisted in pharmacy and food deliveries within their local communities and carried out vital PPE deliveries. They made contact those who are shielding and vulnerable, and provided an important facemask fitting service to emergency service partners and health care professionals.



## Key Service Trends 2020/21

### Community Outcomes

343 accidental fires in the home were attended in 2020/21.

This is 27% less compared to 10 years ago.



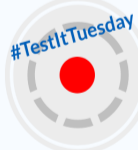
172 (50%) of these fires started in the kitchen.

Just under half of these (45%) had a main cause of cooking.

Kitchen fires have seen a decrease over recent years.

19 injuries were recorded in accidental fires in the home.

This is the lowest number recorded since 2009/10.



In 2020/21, 86% of households, where dwelling fires have occurred, have a working smoke alarm.

2370 fires were attended in 2020/21.

This is over 1800 fewer fires compared to 10 years ago



796 deliberate fires were attended in 2020/21.

This is 67% fewer deliberately ignited fires than 10 years ago.

The majority of these are smaller outdoor fires

### Covid 19 Activity

In 2020/21, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service personnel supported the community during the Coronavirus pandemic in some of the following ways:



29649 Vaccinations Given

\*Vaccinations given between 15th February 2021 - 4th April 2021



5064 Food Deliveries



95000 PPE Items Delivered



8180 Prescription Deliveries



1447 Welfare Calls



1374 Shielding Visits



234 Education Resource Packs Delivered

### Prevention and Protection

There were 453 False alarms attended caused by automatic systems in businesses and commercial premises in 2020/21.



This is a reduction of 60% over 5 years



Over 1400 fire safety audits in non domestic premises were completed last year



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

### Staff and Services



Sickness remains low with an average of 4.05 days per person



All essential firefighting training has been completed



Priority based budgeting continues to generate savings

# Service hosts annual Proud to Provide conference

**In November 2020 the Service brought together some of the UK's most inspirational and influential figures from the LGBT+ community for its second Proud to Provide conference.**

The event was held virtually due to pandemic restrictions, attracting more than 250 delegates joining remotely from across the UK. It was aimed at diversity and inclusion professionals, LGBT+ staff network leads and those involved in community engagement across the public sector.

The esteemed list of speakers included Stonewall co-founder Lord Michael Cashman, transgender Anglican priest Sarah Jones, Chief Executive of the Equality and Inclusion Partnership Junaid Hussain, Warrington North MP Charlotte Nichols and Body Positive Cheshire and North Wales' Sally Probert-Hill and Colin Avery. Writer, performer and director Clare Summerskill was MC for the conference.

Considerable work has been done to make sure that Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, currently featuring in Stonewall's Top 100 as the highest performing public sector organisation in the UK, is as LGBT+ inclusive as possible, not only through making sure that our workplace encourages people to be themselves, but also that we are welcoming to and inclusive of our LGBT+ communities.

Chief Fire Officer Mark Cashin said: "For us, Proud to Provide was about sharing some of our own knowledge with other public sector organisations, as well as the knowledge and experiences of some inspirational speakers from, or linked to, the LGBT community. I firmly believe that a diverse workforce makes us better able to understand the needs of our increasingly diverse communities."



## #ThinkOnCall

**Two companies who employ on-call firefighters have received Service recognition for their support.**

Middlewich Machinery employs On-call Firefighter Brendan Colls. He primarily works for owner Peter Hough and is allowed to leave his place of work when he receives an alert to an incident to be attended by the Middlewich fire engine.

Similarly, Howden's in Runcorn employs two On-call Firefighters - Brad Baig and Ricky Goff - for the Runcorn Fire Station on-call fire engine.

Area Manager Neil Griffiths, who heads up the Service's on-call firefighter recruitment, said: "On-call firefighters provide emergency cover to over 90 per cent of the UK. There are over 14,000 of them in England, protecting our small towns and rural communities.

"On-call firefighters need to live or work within five minutes of their local fire station, ready to respond to one of the many types of incidents we are called to.

"There are reciprocal benefits to the employers who employ on-call firefighters, thanks to the extensive training our operational staff receive. The training, which includes problem solving, risk assessment, team working and first aid and trauma care, adds value to a business at no extra cost to them.

"We are extremely grateful to all employers who have supported the on-call programme since it began, for their support of both CFRS and their local community."

Are you interested in becoming an on-call firefighter? For further details visit [www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk).

## Summary of accounts 2020-21



**Cheshire Fire Authority is the public body which manages Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service on behalf of local communities.**

From April 2020 to March 2021 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 (7), Labour (13) and Independent (3).

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](http://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.

### 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 2021. The 2020-21 Statement of Accounts include the Authority's 18% share of the cost of running of North West Fire Control Limited.

### Summary Revenue Account

The 2020-21 Fire Authority net revenue budget and expenditure was £45m. The Authority has a general reserve of £2m at 31 March 2021, which is roughly five per cent of the budget, any underspends reported in the year for 2020-21 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 2020-21 end of year position and the most obvious point to note is the net liability of £495m. In other words, assets of £122m, current liabilities of £11m but long term liabilities of £607m. Most of the liabilities relate to expected future pension costs of £602m, compared to £522m in 2019-20. 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 2020-21	£'000	£'000
Firefighting and Rescue Operations	26,802	
Protection and Prevention	3,650	
Premises, Fleet and other Corporate Support Costs	10,465	
<b>Net Cost of Service</b>		<b>40,917</b>
<b>North West Fire Control - Cost of service</b>		<b>50</b>
Other income, expenditure and adjustments		<b>6,119</b>
<b>Amount to be met by Govt Grant and Local Taxation</b>		<b>47,086</b>
Revenue Support Grant and Local Taxation	-16,945	
Council Tax	-30,141	
<b>Net General Fund (Surplus)/Deficit</b>		<b>-</b>
Balance on General Fund brought forward	-2,288	
Net movement on general reserves	-2	
<b>Balance on General Fund Carried Forward</b>		<b>- 2,290</b>

Summary Balance Sheet 2020-21	£'000	£'000
Long Term Assets	99,871	
Current Assets	22,488	
Long Term Liabilities	-607,228	
Current Liabilities	-10,612	
<b>Total Assets less Total Liabilities</b>		<b>-495,481</b>
<b>Financed by:</b>		
Unusable reserves	518,241	
Earmarked Reserves	-20,470	
General Reserve	-2,290	
<b>TOTAL NET WORTH</b>		<b>495,481</b>

The audit of the Authority's accounts for the year ending 31-03-2021 will not be completed before the end of September 2021. A draft copy of the statement of accounts are available on our website at [www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk).

Wendy Bebbington, Head of Finance, 01606 868700

# Royal Commendation for Bravery for Warrington water rescue duo



**Two firefighters from Warrington Fire Station have been honoured with a Queen's Commendation for Bravery after putting their own lives at risk to rescue a woman from the River Mersey.**

Firefighters Nigel Quarmby and Colin Burgess were recognised in May this year after the rescue in September 2018. The woman fell into the fast flowing river and, despite the obvious risk to life, Nigel and Colin entered the water to get closer to her. Secured to the



waterside by lines, Colin had to use himself as a tether for Nigel to wade into the water to reach the casualty after she was swept away. Their quick thinking and brave tactics in the most difficult of circumstances saved her life.

Their commendation was awarded following approval from the George Cross Committee. A gallantry award recognises those who have put their lives in danger to save the life of someone else.

# Firefighters commended for lifesaving actions

**Firefighters from Runcorn, Frodsham and Ellesmere Port Fire Stations have all received Chief Fire Officer commendations following their lifesaving actions at two separate incidents.**

The crews from Runcorn and Frodsham saved the life of a Runcorn woman who was found unconscious in a house fire. Their swift and heroic action in getting her out of the blazing property and performing vital CPR and oxygen therapy meant the casualty subsequently recovered from the extensive injuries caused by the blaze.

In a separate incident, firefighters at Ellesmere Port Fire Station leapt into action when a quick-thinking taxi driver raced onto the station forecourt with a stab victim in his cab. The team gave trauma care to the patient, while providing calming support to the driver and victim's partner.



# Birthday Honour for Chief Fire Officer

**Chief Fire Officer Mark Cashin was awarded the Queen's Fire Service Medal after almost 31 years in fire and rescue.**

He was recognised in the 2020 Birthday Honours list for the profound contribution he has made to fire prevention, keeping people healthy and safe from fire.

Commenting on his award, Mark said: "I am humbled and honoured to have been awarded the Queen's Fire Service Medal. I firmly believe that the prevention activity the Service undertakes makes a huge difference to people's safety; in some cases life changing or life saving.

"While I am delighted to have received the QFSM, there is no better satisfaction than knowing that the success of our work is because of the fantastic efforts of all staff right across Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service."

Mark became Chief Fire Officer in 2018 having previously held the post of Deputy Chief Fire Officer since 2007. Before that he worked in Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.