

Making Cheshire Safer

Integrated Risk
Management Plan
2011/12

Integrated Risk Management Plan 2011–12

Contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Our approach to risk assessment and analysis	3
3.	Projects and proposals for 2011/12	7
4.	Finance and performance	15



1

Introduction

Cheshire Fire Authority is the publicly accountable body responsible for ensuring local communities are protected by an effective fire and rescue service.

To help it do so while facing up to significant reductions in its budget, the Authority has developed a four year strategy – Planning for a Safer Cheshire – setting out the approach and the direction it intends to take.

That strategy makes it clear that the size of the savings which the Authority needs to achieve cannot be delivered overnight. Some of the more complex proposals will require extensive planning and take many months to develop and implement.

To enable the organisation to deliver these significant changes, annual action plans will be produced, setting out in more detail the projects and work scheduled for the following financial year. These publications will also satisfy the Fire Authority's statutory requirement to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan which reflects up to date risk information and outlines how resources will be used cost effectively to reduce the potential impact on local communities.

This is the first of the plans to be produced in support of the four year strategy and it outlines the proposals for 2011–12. It also includes details of how we assess and analyse the changing risks facing the communities of Cheshire so we can continue to position and use our prevention, protection and response services as effectively as possible.

This initial action plan has been deliberately developed with the intention of using the next financial year to prepare the way for the more wide-reaching projects scheduled for subsequent years.

Despite this, the work outlined later in this plan will ensure that savings totalling £1.9 million will be achieved in 2011–12 - most of it from support and back office services.

While the proposals will require the Service to work differently in the future, we are committed to maintaining the major improvements in fire safety we have achieved in Cheshire in recent years.

We welcome the comments and involvement of our staff, our partners and our communities in helping us to develop our Service over the next and future financial years.



David Topping
Fire Authority Chair

Paul Hancock
Chief Fire Officer



2

Our approach to risk assessment and analysis

Identifying key risks

The Fire Authority's key responsibility is to provide an efficient and effective fire and rescue service to protect the communities of Cheshire. To do that it is vital the organisation has a clear understanding of the regional, national and international factors which may limit the Authority's ability to deliver that local service.

Each year a comprehensive analysis of the external political, economic, social, technological, legislative and environmental (PESTLE) factors is developed to help with the Authority's forward planning. A copy of the latest full PESTLE analysis is available on our website – www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

In addition to scanning the external issues, the Service also uses a number of sophisticated tools and computer programmes to actively monitor and assess the changing risks facing local communities. This involves the use and analysis of data from incidents attended by the Service as well as assessments of the impact of some of its programmes to protect local residents and communities. See graph and map alongside.

Further data from key partners is also analysed and used to develop risk profiles which help the Service in ensuring its resources are positioned where they can have most impact.

The Service approach to assessing risk includes:

1. Identifying the principal risks to life, property and the environment which require an emergency response. These include:
 - Fires in homes, businesses, hospitals, schools etc.
 - Life threatening incidents in the community, including road traffic collisions and other incidents.
 - Major fires, floods, chemical risks and other incidents where the Service has a statutory responsibility under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

2. Assessing these various risks according to their significance so that proportionate response standards and strategies are developed to limit the impact on local communities.
3. Ensuring an appropriate balance between the cost of the Service's response resources against the risk to public safety
4. Ensuring emergency incidents are responded to safely and effectively by taking into account risks to firefighters, the environment and wider society when developing the Service's emergency response resources.
5. Projecting future trends as far as reasonably practicable and incorporating them into the risk assessment process.
6. Monitoring and reviewing outcomes and standards to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

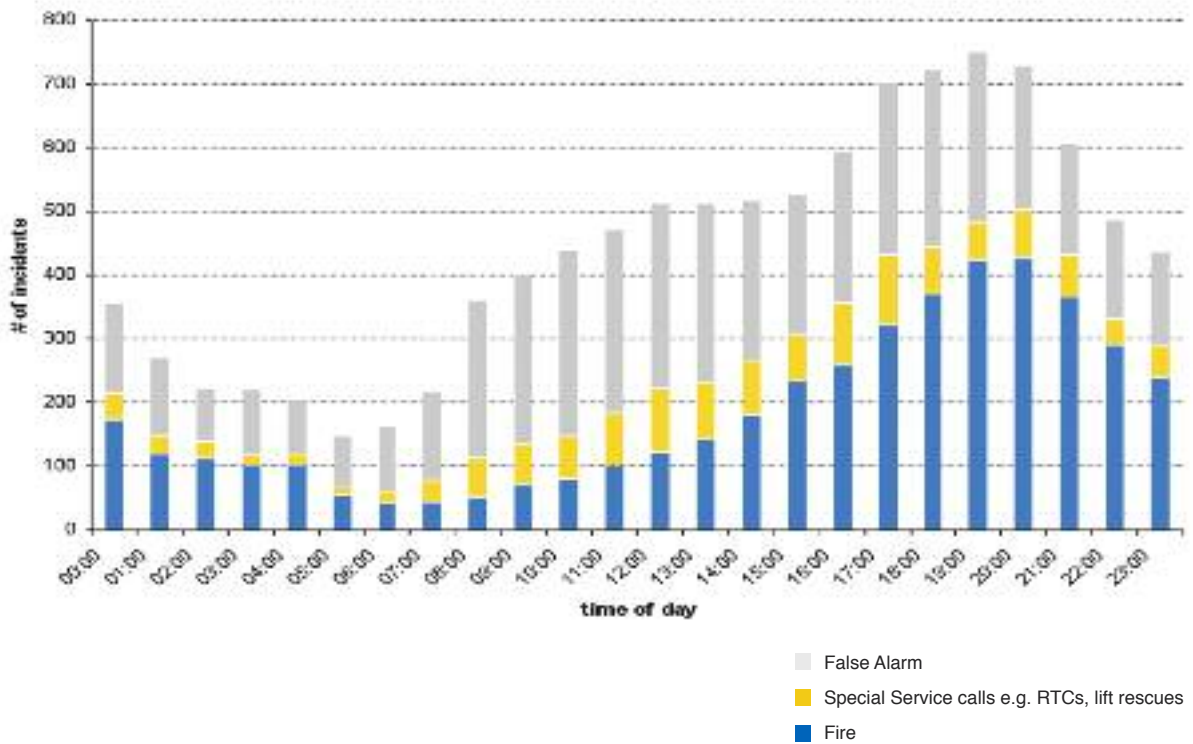
Cheshire first introduced its own set of local emergency response standards in 2003. These were recently revised following a major review co-ordinated by the person who devised the national Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) Model, which forms the basis of risk modelling nationally in the fire and rescue service.

The response standards are as follows:

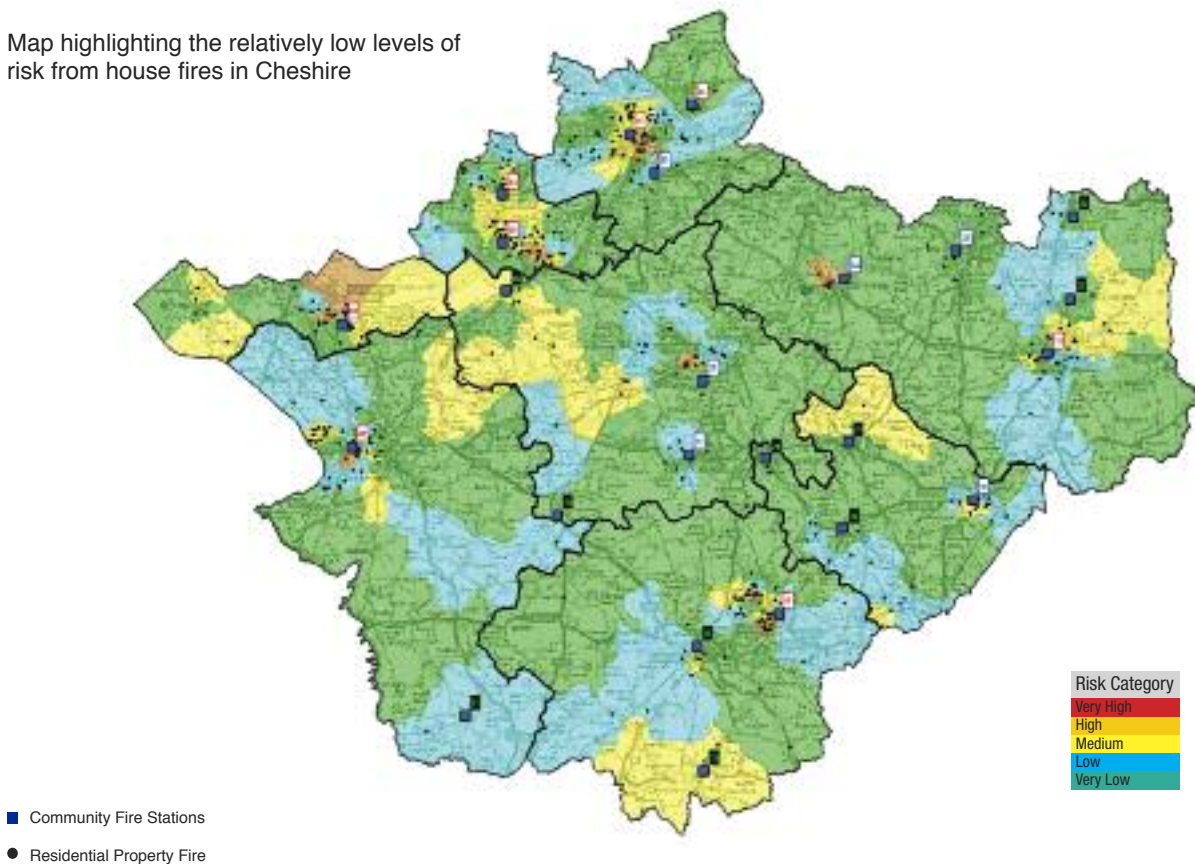
Risk Level	Response time
Very high	0 to 5 minutes
High	6 to 10 minutes
Medium	11 to 15 minutes
Low	16 to 20 minutes
Very low	within 21 minutes

The Service has also adopted a standard of a maximum 11 minute response to Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), while a further standard sees the Service aiming to ensure 25 appliances are mobilised within an hour of a major incident.

Graph highlighting activity levels by time of day



Map highlighting the relatively low levels of risk from house fires in Cheshire



Crown Copyright All rights reserved 'Cheshire Fire Service' LA100024064 2011

Home safety assessment targeting methodology

After completing its 60,000 Home Safety Assessments (HSAs) annual target in each of the last few years, the Service is now refining its approach to ensure it targets those most at risk. In 2011–12 HSAs will be targeted on three tiers:

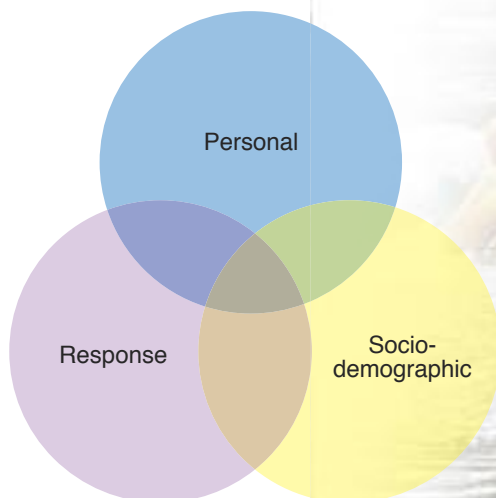
- Very high risk households through referrals from partnership agencies
- 20,000 targeted households based on risk
- lower risk households through an online Home Safety Direct (HSD) system on the Service’s website.

To help identify and prioritise the 20,000 targeted HSAs, the Service has devised a targeting methodology to focus on the most at risk households.

The concept centres on enriching the personal over-65’s data that the NHS shares with the Service by adding in:

- personal risk
- socio-demographic risk and
- emergency response risk.

Each of these indices is split into different risk groups and matched with the household data. The people with overall high risk scores in each of the categories can then be prioritised (see diagram).



Responding to national risk issues

While the focus of our IRMP is on addressing local risks to life, there are still requirements on the Service to help achieve national targets for reducing fire deaths and deliberate fires and to reduce the commercial, economic and social impact of fires and other emergencies.

In addition, the Service also has to ensure that it can contribute to major emergencies which cut across local boundaries, such as flooding and terrorist incidents. It also has to support the work of local resilience forums - bodies set up under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to co-ordinate the plans and activities of all emergency response services and public authorities.

In 2011–12 the Service will be ensuring it has accounted for any changes identified in a revised risk register put forward by the Cheshire Local Resilience Forum. It will also support the development of any new arrangements to manage emergency planning across Cheshire in the future.





3

Projects and proposals





We have already indicated that this initial action plan is intended to prepare the way for the more wide-reaching projects the Authority will need to consider during the later stages of its four year strategy in subsequent years.

In recent years the Authority has worked hard to ensure value for money across all areas of its business and as well as making changes to operational procedures, it has also achieved efficiencies from its support and back office services. This has allowed investment to be made in key areas, with brief details of some of the projects completed during the last 12 months set out below.

Recent achievements

Virtual reality training suite - in June, 2010 the Service officially launched its new state-of-the-art incident command training suite at its Headquarters in Winsford. The major investment provides one of the most advanced virtual reality training facilities in Europe, while the project also saw new conference, meeting room and offices provided.

Investment in firefighter safety - there has been a near £1 million investment by the Authority over the last 12 months in buying the highest-rated protective clothing for all firefighters together with a complete replacement of all breathing apparatus sets.

New fire training centre - a new £150,000 Training and Community Education Centre has been unveiled at Macclesfield Community Fire Station. It allows firefighters to train in the use of breathing apparatus and search and rescue techniques as well as providing a special demonstration area where staff can give dramatic demonstrations of chip pan fires and how domestic sprinklers systems work.

Animal rescue - two new specialist Animal Rescue Units have gone live at Knutsford and Bollington stations. Not only are these helping to reduce the risk of injuries to animals when they are being rescued, but the equipment also boosts the safety of firefighters during difficult incidents.

New youth facilities - an exciting new community boxing gym has been opened at Warrington Community Fire Station. Using funds from the North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (NWIEP), the fully-equipped gym will be used during a variety of the Service's initiatives for young people, as well providing a new home to the Phoenix Amateur Boxing Club.

Road safety - the Cheshire Show was used by the Service to launch its 'Road Sense' campaign. The bright and lively campaign highlights six key safety issues: seatbelts, weather, speed, drink, distraction and risk.



Future proposals

This next section sets out the projects and proposals scheduled for 2011–12, set out under the Service's three headline aims:

- Protecting our communities and reducing local risks
- Responding promptly and effectively to emergencies
- Developing an excellent organisation accountable to our communities.

Developing the organisation

In 2011–12 a series of changes to budgets, management structures and administrative procedures in support areas will contribute a significant part of the £1.3 million in new savings which have been identified.

Key elements include:

- restructures in the finance and business safety departments to produce savings of around £180,000
- cuts to budgets in Property, Procurement and Communications to save nearly £240,000

- changes to the way in which training is accredited and mandatory legal requirements are provided to produce efficiencies of £53,000.

The Service regularly reviews its management and departmental structures, to make sure that they continue to be efficient and meet the needs of the organisation. In 2011–12, however, a three-year programme will be launched to carry out detailed departmental and service reviews across the whole organisation. These will focus on economy, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability and include an assessment of alternative options. *See proposal 1.*

The Authority will also look at opportunities to make savings in areas such as procurement by joining up with partners. While many of these opportunities will involve local partners such as police and probation, recent changes in Government policy mean that there is greater scope for collaboration with other fire and rescue services and local authorities, not just those in the North West.

The Authority will also actively explore opportunities to generate income by marketing some of its facilities and areas of expertise to other fire and rescue services and partners. In particular it is felt that the new virtual reality incident command training facilities at its Winsford Headquarters offer a number of opportunities.

Any decisions will depend on the Fire Authority being reassured that the changes will not compromise its future ability to provide an effective fire and rescue service to the local community.

The Service's established volunteer programme provides opportunities across many areas of the organisation. By March 2012 we are aiming to have achieved Investors in Volunteers accreditation - the recognised national quality standard.

Protecting local communities

Our business safety staff work with companies to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities following major changes to fire safety legislation in 2006. They also prosecute in cases where the laws have not been followed and lives put at risk. The department is being restructured to ensure it has the right mix of roles and skills to meet its responsibilities and to generate efficiencies without compromising services.

The development of a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) across the Cheshire and Warrington area will enable the Service to work more proactively with businesses and partners in developing a stronger and sustainable local economy. This may include proposals to join up and reduce the impact of business inspection programmes, with single visits checking a number of issues. *See proposal 2.*

Home Safety Assessments

Our Community Safety Advocates have played a key part in helping us to carry out over 60,000 Home Safety Assessments (HSAs) in each of the last few years. In the future, the Authority will conduct fewer HSAs. Those it does carry out, however, will be targeted at households most at risk, with a minimum of 20,000 completed per year.

Our groundbreaking data sharing arrangements with partners in health and local councils will be central to ensuring we target

the right people. We will, therefore, continue to develop those partnerships, while negotiating the fundamental changes in National Health Service structures.

As a result of doing fewer HSAs, we will require fewer general advocate posts and in 2011–12 we intend to remove three posts through natural wastage. *See proposal 3.*

Road safety

More people are killed and injured in road traffic collisions than in fires in Cheshire and while there has been an improvement in the figures recently, the levels remain unacceptably high.

Dedicated road safety work by the Service has seen positive improvements in driver behaviour and we have increased our capacity to support road safety partnership arrangements.

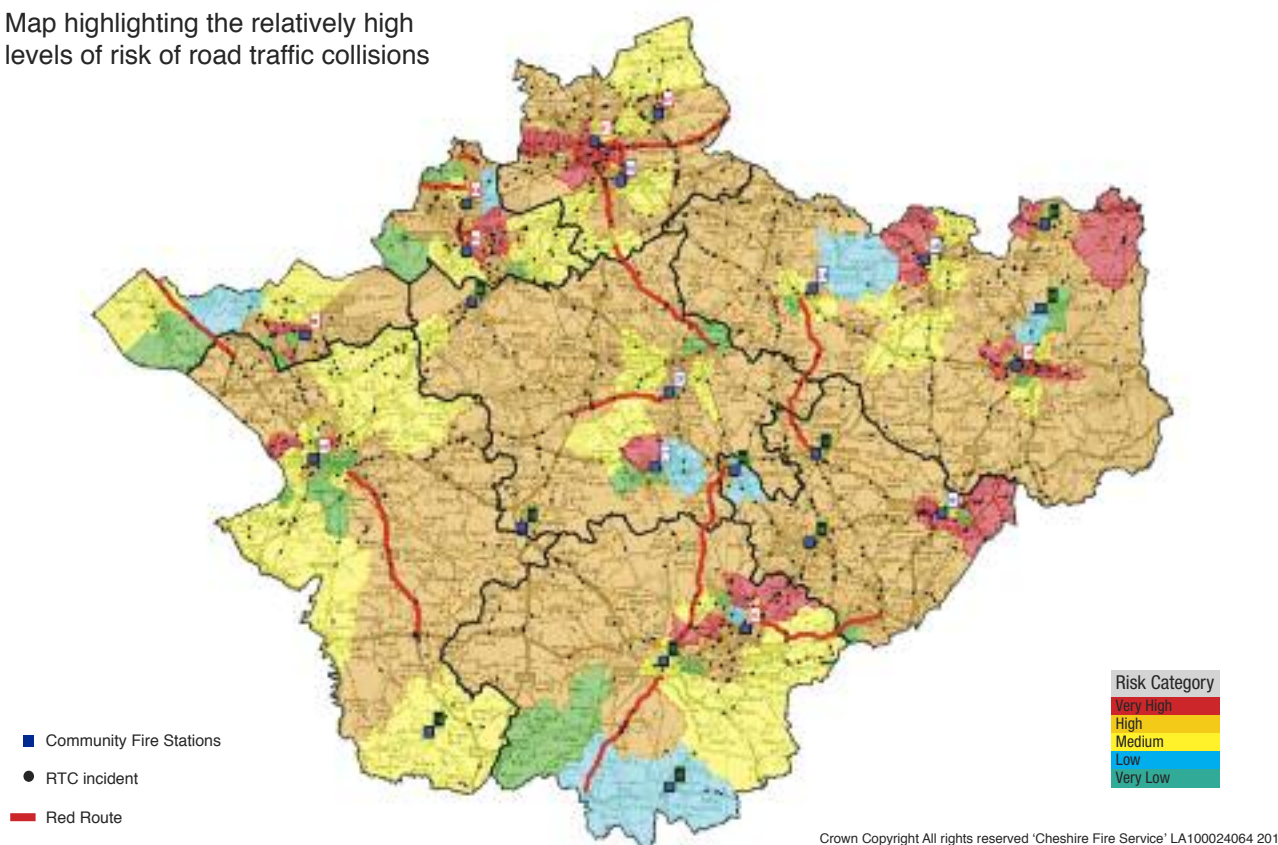
We believe that our strong brand and reputation means that we are ideally placed to take a lead on a range of road safety initiatives and reduce the numbers killed or seriously injured on the roads. The Authority will always ensure that it obtains appropriate funding if it delivers services on behalf of others. *See proposal 4.*



Responding to emergencies

In 2011–12 the Service will be reviewing the outcomes of a comprehensive study into the locations of its community fire stations and the positioning of its fleet of fire engines and special appliances. This will involve the use of computer modelling programmes to test the effectiveness of the current arrangements and to explore options which may provide a more effective use of resources in the future.

Map highlighting the relatively high levels of risk of road traffic collisions



Macclesfield Community Fire Station

Macclesfield Community Fire Station is a key location in the East of the Fire Authority area. It has recently seen a major investment in a new 'smoke house' which allows crews to train in using breathing apparatus sets without having to travel to Headquarters.

Analysis of fire calls and activity levels has identified, however, that it is appropriate to review the duty system which currently operates at Macclesfield. *See proposal 5.*

Halton and Warrington

Following local government reorganisation in Cheshire, the Authority created dedicated posts to oversee its frontline staff in each of the four council areas.

It has now reviewed the arrangements and believes that there is scope to combine the previous separate management arrangements for Halton and Warrington into one.

See proposal 6.

Regional Control Centres

At the time this draft action plan was published, negotiations were still continuing between the Government and key contractors on the future of the project to replace individual fire and rescue service control rooms with nine regional centres.

In the meantime, Cheshire Fire Authority remains committed to carrying out the preparation work expected of it in advance of the opening of the North West Regional Centre in Warrington.

It has, however, invested in updating the control and mobilising facilities at its Winsford headquarters. Should new or revised joint control centre project proposals be developed in 2011–12, the Authority will only support them if they deliver a more effective, efficient and resilient system than current arrangements.

Summary of key proposals

PROPOSAL 1 Service reviews

SUMMARY

In 2011–12, the Service intends to begin a three-year programme of detailed service reviews across the whole organisation. These will focus on economy, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability and include an assessment of alternative options.

The performance of specific areas within every department will be assessed and the quality and the costs compared with other fire and rescue services. Opportunities for alternative ways of providing the services will also be explored and the results reported to the Fire Authority. Areas identified for review in 2011–12 include community safety, corporate administration, ICT, health and safety, and learning and development.



PROPOSAL 2 Improving business safety

SUMMARY

The Community Fire Protection department works with businesses to ensure they are aware of their fire safety responsibilities but will also prosecute in cases where laws have not been followed and lives put at risk.

A restructure of the department during 2010-11 will ensure the department has the right mix of roles and skills to carry out its responsibilities efficiently without compromising the service to the business community. The Service will also meet with partners to explore opportunities to deliver a more joined-up business inspection programme, with single visits checking a number of issues.



PROPOSAL 3 Joint Community Safety Advocates

SUMMARY

The Service has now carried out Home Safety Assessments (HSAs) in nearly three-quarters of the properties across Cheshire, Halton and Warrington. It is therefore reducing its current annual target of 60,000 visits to 20,000 for 2011–12 and ensuring those are targeted at the people and areas most at risk.

As a result of doing fewer HSAs, fewer general advocate posts will be required and in 2011–12 three posts will be removed through natural wastage. The Service does intend, however, to create new specialist advocate roles to support specific sections of the community provided the costs can be shared with relevant key partners.



PROPOSAL 4 Improving road safety

SUMMARY

The Service has increased its own road safety and driver education programmes considerably over the last 18 months. It has also made a significant contribution to the Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership (CSRP) – the body which brings together a range of public agencies including the police, local councils and the Service.

The Service strongly believes there is scope to further improve the co-ordination of road safety across its area and reduce the numbers killed or seriously injured on the roads. It is also confident that its strong brand and reputation mean it is ideally placed to take a lead on a range of road safety initiatives in the future.



PROPOSAL 5 Macclesfield Community Fire Station – new duty system

SUMMARY

Macclesfield Community Fire Station is one of the Service's wholetime stations which means that firefighters work 9 hour day and 15 hour night shifts to provide round the clock cover. There are two main fire engines at the station and a hydraulic platform. The second fire engine is staffed by “on-call” firefighters – formerly known as retained firefighters - who live or work within five minutes of the station and are alerted via a pager.

In the last few years the numbers of fires and emergencies attended by crews from Macclesfield and other areas has continued to reduce. The Service's programme of Home Safety Assessment (HSA) visits, which give householders vital safety advice and provide free smoke alarms, is a key factor in this. To date 10,500 HSAs have been carried out in Macclesfield – nearly half of all homes in the area.

The Authority now believes it can bring in a new duty system which will provide local communities with the same 24/7 emergency response service but at much less cost.

The proposal is based around the Service's day-crewing shift system, where firefighters are on duty during the day but respond via a pager in the evening from their homes alongside the station. Under our Macclesfield proposal, however, on duty firefighters would be provided with purpose-built accommodation on the station so they can respond to incidents just as quickly as they currently do.

This system – referred to as “day crewing plus” - needs fewer staff, who receive a substantial pay rise to compensate them for the extra commitment needed. The current wholetime system at Macclesfield has four watches with eight personnel on each. Under day crewing plus there would be one watch of sixteen staff, with a minimum of six on duty at any one time.

There is a one-off cost of around £450,000 to build the accommodation but the annual savings are around £350,000.

Staff who are not selected or who don't want to go on the new system will be provided with posts on other stations – there will be no compulsory redundancies.



PROPOSAL 6 Joint management in Halton and Warrington

SUMMARY

The Service currently has a dedicated manager for each of the four council areas which make up the Fire Authority. These managers oversee the performance of frontline staff and are responsible for developing and maintaining the Service's links with local partners.

Following a review of the arrangements, the Service is proposing in 2011–12 to make one manager responsible for both Halton and Warrington. The changes will not affect frontline services and improved administrative support will ensure that the Service's support for partnerships will also remain unchanged.

A temporary change which saw a similar joint management of the Service's community safety teams in Halton and Warrington proved effective and is to be made permanent.

The proposals will provide savings and greater flexibility while preserving the separate political identities of both areas.





4 Finance and performance



Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service Financial Plan 2010–11 to 2014–15

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Base Budget pre additions and savings					
Additions:	42,066	43,415	43,702	44,693	44,221
Revenue Growth	1,300	485	500	500	500
Capital Financing Charges	97	0	0	0	0
Inflation (3 yr pay freeze 2010-11 through to 2012-13 and 1.25% 2013-14 and 2014-15. Non-pay 4% in 2011-12, then 3% in 2012-13 and 2% through to 2014-15)	707	387	318	657	657
Allocation of add'l Council Tax (second homes)	46	39	39	39	39
Council Tax Grant		-626			
Efficiencies and savings	-801	-1,904	-600	-1,000	-1,250
Trsf to pump priming reserve		907	134	932	-403
Repayment of loans		1,000	600	-1,600	
Revised Total Budget Requirement	43,415	43,702	44,693	44,221	43,764
Base Funding b\ fwd					
Council Tax	24,074	24,852	25,029	25,654	26,296
RSG\NNDR	18,035	18,621	18,669	19,039	17,924
Total Base Funding	42,109	43,473	43,698	44,694	44,221
Add Increases\ (Decreases) in Funding:					
Council Tax (assumes no inc in 2011-12 and 2.5% in 2012-13 and thereafter).	720	181	626	641	657
RSG\NNDR (based on provisonal settlement and 5.5% reductions in 2013-14 and 2014-15)	586	48	370	-1,114	-1,114
Total movement in funding	1,306	229	996	-472	-456
Total Available Funding	43,415	43,702	44,694	44,221	43,765
ANNUAL REQ'D (SAVINGS) / GROWTH	0	(0)	0	(0)	0

To help it plan for the future, the Authority produces a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which looks up to four years ahead. This strategic financial overview makes a number of informed assumptions about pay and inflation levels as well as anticipating future income from both Government grants and the Council Tax precept set by the Authority.

The latest MTFP is published on the following page and has been based on a number of assumptions, including:

- No increase in the Authority's Council Tax precept
- A pay freeze for staff
- Appropriate allowances for inflation
- Total savings of £1.9 million in 2011–12.

The Fire Authority believes the overall approach set out in its four year strategy will enable this and future annual action plans to be developed in line with its objectives of continuing to protect the public while aiming to avoid compulsory redundancies.

Performance management

A range of national and local targets are used to monitor progress and performance across the organisation.

Strategic monitoring is carried out by the Fire Authority, while internal corporate and unitary council performance groups scrutinise performance and trends at a very detailed level.

The Service has a Corporate Intelligence Unit to ensure risk, planning and performance data is collated, quality assured, interpreted and reported effectively. This ongoing monitoring ensures the Service can respond quickly to changes and make best use of its resources.

Set out below are headline targets for 2011–12 so partners and local communities can judge the effectiveness of the Service in a number of key areas. Information about the Service's recent performance is set out on the following pages.

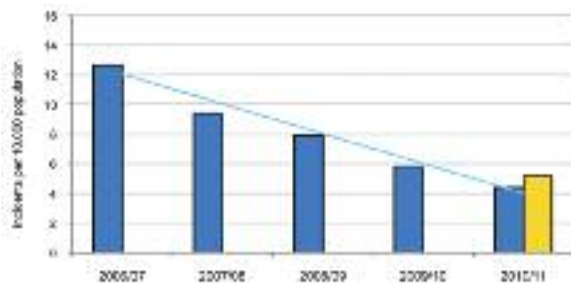
Headline targets for 2011–12

- Achieve the Cheshire standards of emergency response overall on 92% of occasions
- Reduce the number of accidental house fires by 5% compared to the previous 12 months
- Reduce the number of injuries in accidental house fires by 10% over the next 4 years compared to 2009–10
- Deliver 20,000 Home Safety Assessments to high risk households
- Reduce the numbers of false alarms from automatic systems by 5% compared to the previous three year average
- Reduce the numbers of deliberate small fires by 10% compared to the previous three year average
- Reduce the numbers of fires within business premises by 10% over the next three years
- Reduce the incidence of staff sickness to 5.5 days lost per person per year

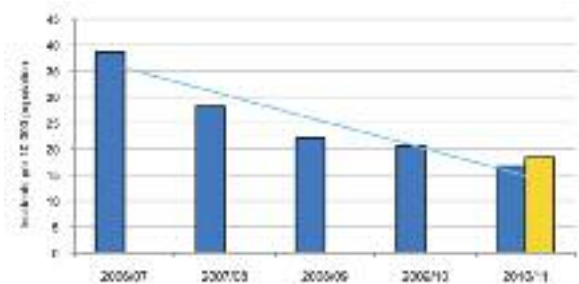
Summary Performance 2010–11

This section provides information on Cheshire Fire Authority’s performance against a range of indicators which allow us to monitor progress continually in key areas such as service delivery. Although the Department for Communities and Local Government no longer require us to submit data against National Indicators, the measures below are based on those criteria and reflect the Service’s performance and direction of travel over the last five years. The data for 2010–11 is shown as at 31st January 2011 alongside the target for the end of this financial year - in all cases a downward trend reflects good performance. A full Annual Report with final year end performance figures will be produced in October 2011.

Deliberate Primary Fires per 10,000 population



Deliberate Secondary Fires per 10,000 population



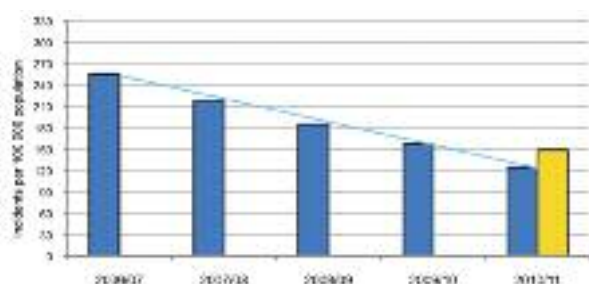
Key: ■ Actual ■ Target — Trend

Over the last five years, deliberate primary fires have fallen by 58% and deliberate secondary fires by 48%. Ongoing efforts during the final quarter of the year, through the use of On the Street Teams and other targeted initiatives, should ensure that we meet this year’s targets by the end of March.

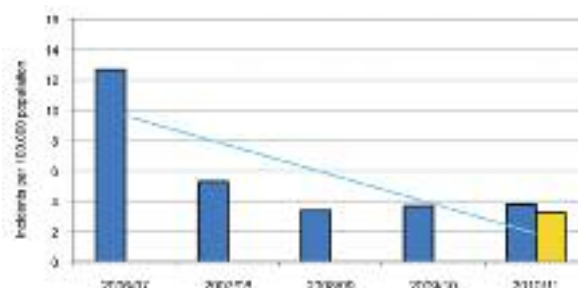


Primary fires (fires involving property, non-derelict vehicles, casualties and incidents attended by five or more appliances) have decreased by 41% over the last 5 years. This figure includes accidental dwelling fires which have decreased by 23% since 2006–07. Whilst deaths in primary fires have increased this year compared to last year, the numbers still remain very small. All fatal incidents are analysed in detail and any contributing factors used to refine our risk analysis for the future. Injuries have also seen a slight increase this year but compared to our position five years ago, these still remain low. Our continued programme of Home Safety Assessments (HSAs) and successful partnership working have enabled us to target some of the higher risk people living in Cheshire. This targeting is to be refined further for the coming year and we aim to deliver 20,000 HSAs in 2011–12 to high priority households.

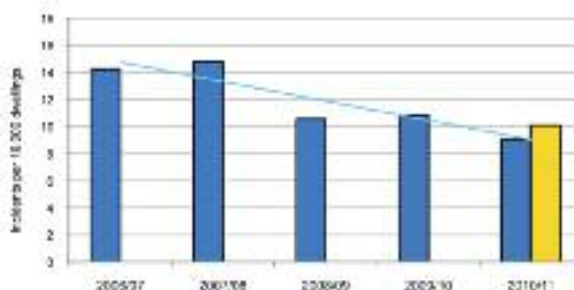
Primary Fires per 100,000 population



Injuries in Primary Fires per 100,000 population

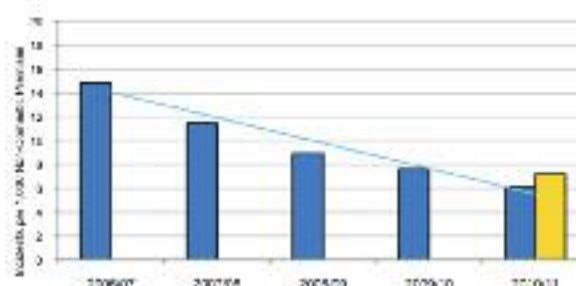


Accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 dwellings



Fires in non-domestic properties continue to fall and since 2006–07, there has been a reduction of 50%. The Community Fire Protection department has worked closely with businesses to ensure that they are aware of their fire safety responsibilities. In the coming year, the Service will work with partner agencies to consider opportunities for delivering a joint business inspection programme, with single visits checking a wider range of issues.

Fires in Non-Domestic premises per 1,000 Non-Domestic premises



Key: ■ Actual ■ Target — Trend



Unitary Performance Area Profiles

Cheshire East



Cheshire East has a population of 362,700 and an area of 116,638 hectares, making it the third largest unitary council in the North West. Approximately 40% of the population live in rural areas and the remainder in the two major towns of Crewe and Macclesfield and smaller towns of Wilmslow, Congleton, Sandbach, Poynton, Nantwich, Middlewich, Knutsford and Alsager.

The area has excellent national and international communications by rail from Crewe Junction on the renewed West Coast line, by road on the M6 and M56 and by air from Manchester Airport on its northern edge. There are 14,890 VAT registered businesses in Cheshire East, 40 grade 1 listed and 119 grade 2* listed buildings, giving it a rich and valuable historic heritage.

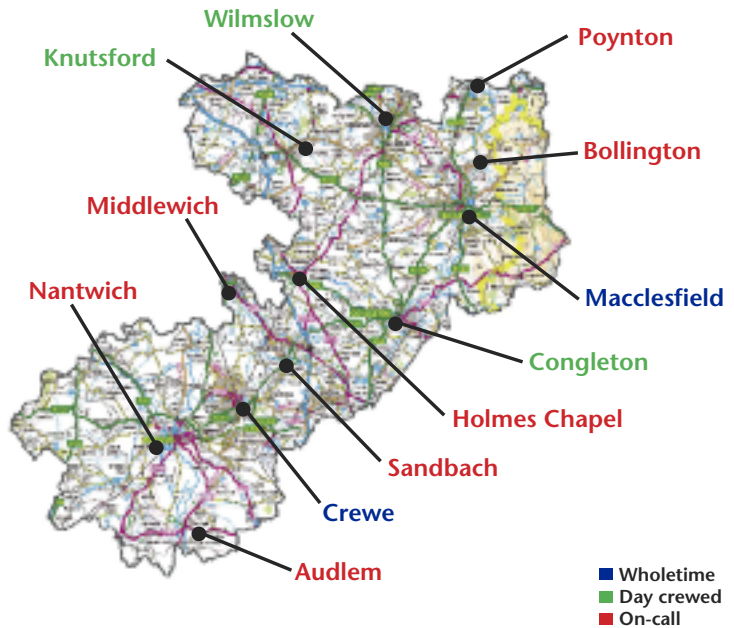
While the north area of Cheshire East is one of the most prosperous parts of the country with low unemployment, a thriving economy and well-educated workforce, it does have a few small pockets of deprivation. In the south of the unitary area, 10 of the most deprived areas are within Crewe.

Cheshire East has an higher than average older population, with 17.5% of residents aged over 65 compared to 15.9% nationally. The issue is most significant in Nantwich and Knutsford, while Crewe and Middlewich have a higher than average proportion of children and young people.

Accidental fires in the home continue to be a key issue with a projected 142 occurring in 2010–11, however, the Home Safety Assessment campaign has helped ensure significant reductions with around 12% fewer incidents than in 2008–9.

There are projected to be 400 arson incidents in the area in 2010–11. These cause significant damage and cost to the local economy as well as affecting people’s quality of life. Again, reduction campaigns have been hugely successful with 34% fewer incidents since 2008–9 but levels are still high in isolated pockets - as is anti-social behaviour - so continued efforts are needed.

Over 260 people were killed or seriously injured on the roads in 2009 so ongoing work with partners will be key to ensuring future reductions.



Crown Copyright. All rights reserved CFRS LA100024064 2011

National Indicator	08/09	09/10	10/11*
Primary Fires per 100,000 pop	171.49	144.75	110.28
Deliberate Primary Fires per 10,000 pop	5.60	4.58	3.20
Deliberate Secondary Fires per 10,000 pop	11.08	10.09	7.83
Accidental Dwelling fires per 10,000 dwellings	10.15	9.65	8.95
Fires in Non Domestic Properties per 1,000 non domestic properties	7.90	7.74	5.97
Home Safety Assessments Completed	21,873	16,545	14,673

*Year to date as at 31/01/2011

Cheshire West & Chester



Cheshire West and Chester (CW&C) covers an area of 350 square miles and has a population of 326,600 of which 57,500 are over 65 years of age. This older population is set to grow by 9% over the next 10 years.

CW&C holds a complex mixture of risks, with a significant transport network comprising motorway, mainline railway and the shipping canal all over flown by the approach to three airports. There are major chemical, oil and nuclear risks as well as international manufacturing companies servicing the car industry. Chester has become a banking capital for the north of England and the City is a significant national heritage site. The retail centre at Ellesmere Port (Cheshire Oaks) and Chester Zoo are both national attractions, with thousands of visitors each year.

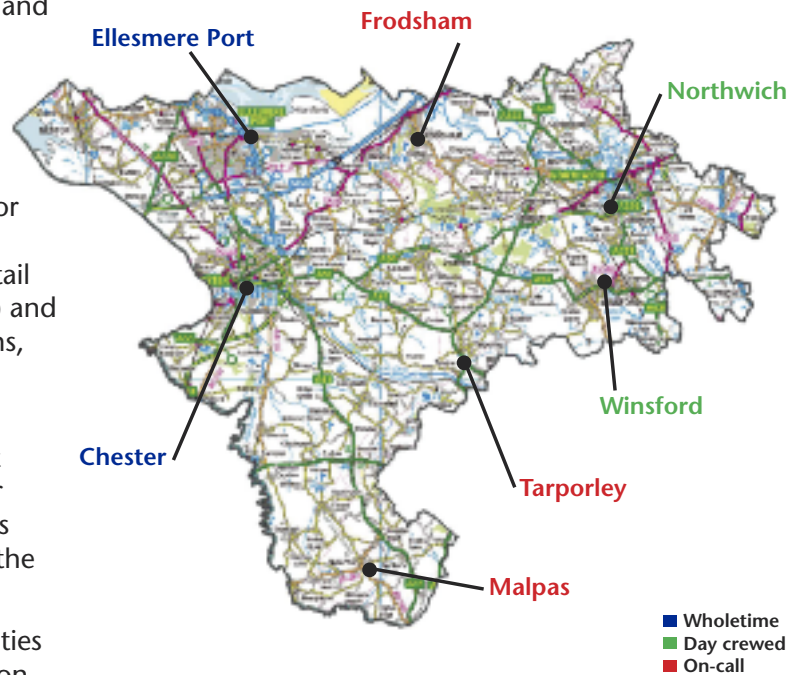
CW&C also has several Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and this conflict between industry and nature means our pre-planning for responding to incidents has to take into account the impact on the environment.

Flooding is a major risk to our communities with the Sealand Estuary, Dee Valley, Elton, Ince marshes, Weaver Valley and areas around Northwich all built on flood plains. The Service has developed plans and resources to ensure it can meet its responsibilities and work effectively with key partners.

CW&C has the lowest Accidental Dwelling Fire rate in the Fire Authority area with 8.44 fires per 10,000 dwellings. As part of its work to reduce the risk, the Service has completed over 50,000 Home Safety Assessments across CW&C.

Cheshire West also has wards high on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) which are given high priority by the Service for fire safety and prevention work.

The road network creates significant risk to those who travel through Cheshire West, with 197 people killed or seriously injured in 2009. Six stretches of major 'A' roads with historically high accident rates have been identified as 'Red Routes' and our planning will ensure the Service is proactive in the reduction of serious accidents on these roads.



Crown Copyright. All rights reserved CFRS LA100024064 2011

National Indicator	08/09	09/10	10/11*
Primary Fires per 100,000 pop	178.51	169.32	120.94
Deliberate Primary Fires per 10,000 pop	7.81	6.43	4.07
Deliberate Secondary Fires per 10,000	21.59	20.70	17.02
Accidental Dwelling fires per 10,000 dwellings	10.32	12.00	8.44
Fires in Non Domestic Properties per 1,000 non domestic properties	9.39	7.40	5.78
Home Safety Assessments Completed	19,374	18,456	19,417

*Year to date as at 31/01/2011

Halton



Halton is a largely urban area of 118,700 people with two large towns, Runcorn and Widnes on either side of the River Mersey, 10 miles upstream from Liverpool. The Runcorn Widnes Bridge links the two towns which share a common heritage. Widnes is regarded as the birthplace of the chemical industry and its development spread to Runcorn in the 19th century.

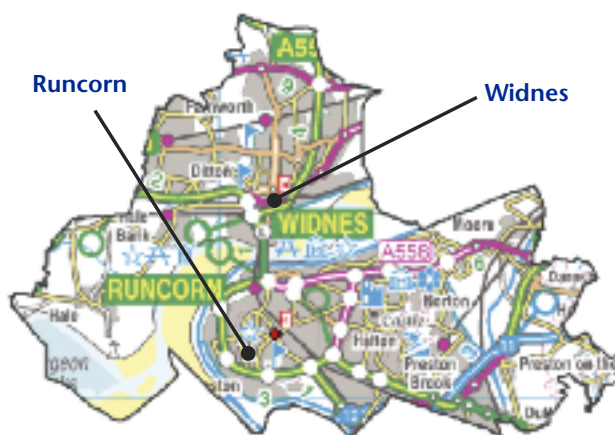
At the end of the 1960s Runcorn was designated as a new town with new road networks and shopping centres built to serve the influx of residents from the centre of Liverpool, many of whom were housed in new social housing. Fewer jobs were available than expected and globalisation saw a rapid contraction of the chemical industry resulting in a massive rise in unemployment. The recent economic crisis has further added to the borough’s pressures as worklessness continues to grow.

Halton has inherited a number of physical, environmental and social problems as a result of its past. The Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2007 ranked the area as the 30th most deprived nationally. Evidence shows the gap in prosperity between the richest and poorest neighbourhoods is widening and local partners are attempting to ‘close the gap’ through locality working in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

The population of Halton was in decline for over a decade, but has recently started to increase, with more young people than the national and regional averages. 16.7% of Halton’s residents consider themselves to be disabled, while just under half of Halton’s 65 plus population live with limiting long term illness.

Total recorded crime and incidents such as burglary and car crime have been reduced in recent years. Fear of crime, however, still remains the most pressing problem for many people in Halton.

While the borough still has the highest proportion of arson incidents within the Service’s area, numbers continue to fall during 2010–11 with a projected 19% reduction compared to the previous year. Over the last three years work by the Service and partners has been particularly successful in cutting the number of deliberate vehicle fires.



- Wholetime
- Day crewed
- On-call

Crown Copyright. All rights reserved CFRS LA100024064 2011

National Indicator	08/09	09/10	10/11*
Primary Fires per 100,000 pop	262.85	190.40	152.49
Deliberate Primary Fires per 10,000 pop	15.50	9.77	7.08
Deliberate Secondary Fires per 10,000 pop	60.83	49.37	41.03
Accidental Dwelling fires per 10,000 dwellings	11.72	11.53	8.93
Fires in Non Domestic Properties per 1,000 non domestic properties	11.49	7.86	7.86
Home Safety Assessments Completed	11,054	13,753	11,016

*Year to date as at 31/01/2011

Warrington



The borough of Warrington covers 176 square kilometres and has a population of 197,800. It lies at the centre of the North West of England’s communications network, with the M6, M56 and M62 motorways all intersecting within the borough.

Two significant waterways serve the main urban area, the River Mersey and the Manchester Ship Canal. The role as a crossing point of both river and canal is an essential part of the town’s character.

The presence of these motorways, rail routes and waterways means that the Service has to ensure local firefighters have the specialist skills and equipment to respond when there are incidents involving these risks.

Warrington has historically enjoyed high levels of employment, growth and prosperity driven principally by a strong manufacturing base and its key strategic location in the region. Recently a shift from manufacturing to a service-based economy has resulted in financial services being the largest sector providing employment in Warrington (27%) followed by distribution (23%).

Residents are less likely to be unemployed than the national average and if they are out of work they are more likely to find a job within 6 months. Current estimates highlight that Warrington has a slightly younger population than national and regional averages and a smaller proportion of over 65s.

Over the past year there has been a very slight increase in the number of deliberate primary fires attended in the Warrington area. Increased vigilance by crews completing arson routes and liaison with the Police has, however, already started to see this fall back.

Refuse fires are one of Warrington’s arson issues with a lot of the incidents occurring within the central area and around 35% of these have involved wheelie bins. Again, significant results have been achieved by working with the police, with surveillance operations resulting in suspects being detained.

In the future, further joint working in relation to the prevalence of arson in Warrington will involve the Service, the police, the local Community Safety Partnership and Golden Gates Housing. This partnership activity will be enhanced by the sharing of data on specific individuals.



Crown Copyright. All rights reserved CFRS LA100024064 2011

National Indicator	08/09	09/10	10/11*
Primary Fires per 100,000 pop	173.41	140.04	142.06
Deliberate Primary Fires per 10,000 pop	7.58	4.50	5.31
Deliberate Secondary Fires per 10,000 pop	19.57	22.19	17.49
Accidental Dwelling fires per 10,000 dwellings	10.18	10.29	10.18
Fires in Non Domestic Properties per 1,000 non domestic properties	8.05	7.21	6.04
Home Safety Assessments Completed	11,743	13,971	11,724

*Year to date as at 31/01/2011



Home Safety

“

Smoke was thick and floor to ceiling, without the smoke alarms it would have been a different story

”



**Life
Saving**