

Leicestershire & Rutland
Safer Communities Strategy
Board



Making Leicestershire & Rutland Safer

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

26th MARCH 2026

LRSCSB UPDATE: LEICESTERSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview to the Board on the work that is currently being undertaken by Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS).

Background

2. LFRS has a dedicated Community Safety department within the organisation. The department focuses on two main areas of Protection (buildings) and Prevention (people).
3. The Protection element allows for community and business engagement. This is a statutory duty of fire and rescue services and LFRS is the local enforcement agency of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This applies to commercial premises and buildings where members of the public may gather. It does not apply to single private domestic dwellings.
4. The Prevention element engages with a wide community audience across Leicester Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) and uses a blended approach of resolute Community Educators and operational firefighters. This includes entering people's homes and providing them with specific advice or equipment relative to their needs; referred to as a Home Safety Check (HSC).

Proposals/Options

5. The Board is asked to consider the report and provide comment regarding the issues raised within the section 'Key issues for partnership working....'

Notable developments and challenges:

Past Year

6. Fire Protection activity continues to be delivered through a Risk-Based Inspection Programme (RBIP) focused on higher-risk premises. Between April and December 2025, LFRS completed 737 targeted fire safety audits under the

RBIP, towards the annual target of 1,040. In addition, 114 officer-generated audits were undertaken following concerns raised by members of the public, operational crews, partner agencies, and post-fire activity, ensuring emerging risks were addressed outside of planned inspection activity.

7. During this period, 137 audits resulted in unsatisfactory outcomes, leading to the issue of 61 Enforcement Notices and 73 Action Plans. A total of 132 follow-up inspections were completed to monitor progress and secure compliance. This represents an increase on previous years, reflecting both a rise in unsatisfactory outcomes and an increase in appropriate referrals from partner agencies.
8. Where an immediate risk to life was identified, prohibition action was taken. 11 Prohibition Notices were issued during the reporting period, including action taken in higher-risk premises. These cases required multi-agency coordination to manage the impact on occupants and ensure appropriate safeguarding and alternative arrangements were put in place.
9. Fire Protection teams have worked closely with District Councils in relation to premises used for homelessness and emergency accommodation. Inspections have been conducted across all identified premises to provide assurance on fire safety standards and support safe occupation.
10. Joint working with local authority partners has continued to develop. Joint training has been delivered with licensing teams, contributing to improved awareness of fire safety requirements and an increase in appropriate concern referrals. LFRS has also undertaken joint inspections with Trading Standards and Immigration, where fire safety deficiencies have been identified alongside wider regulatory issues.
11. LFRS continues to use prosecution where serious or sustained non-compliance is identified. During the reporting period, one prosecution was successfully concluded, with two further cases currently progressing through the court process and one additional prosecution initiated.
12. From April 2025 the Service completed a total of 7,903 Home Safety Checks (HSCs). Of these, 1,193 high-risk HSCs were delivered by Community Educators comprising 976 successful initial visits, 159 follow up visits and 58 Vulnerable Person Home Safety Checks. Operational crews completed the remaining HSC as part of their local targets.
13. The Community Safety Facebook page remained the main channel for promoting key safety campaigns in Q3, achieving notable public engagement—particularly for Electrical Safety and Christmas safety messages. Regular radio and television interviews ensure key safety messages are shared everywhere.
14. In quarter 3, Community Safety visited 47 primary schools and delivered presentations to 4,573 children. The schools programme for the 2025/26 academic year is focused on areas with higher rates of accidental and deliberate fire incidents, as well as greater deprivation. Community Safety is actively promoting the Staywise learning resource to schools not receiving in-person

visits this year.

15. LFRS continue to support the city centre-based Warning Zone by providing an employee to the children's safety centre. With 10–11-year-old young person's attending across LLR they receive fire, road, online, rai, water safety as well as a range of other immersive activities.
16. LFRS HQ hosted the launch of our new virtual reality film, 5 in 5, created in partnership with Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. Designed for young and new drivers, the film educates viewers about the hazards and risks they face.
17. Road safety expert Liz Box spoke at the event, highlighting that while fear-based interventions can attract attention, they do not always result in safer behaviour and may sometimes encourage risky actions, particularly among young males who are most at risk on the roads. The film is now integrated into our road safety programmes for schools and colleges and will also feature at community events and open days across the County.
18. Three LFRS Fire Cadets spoke eloquently and passionately to 150 Fire Sector professionals at the NFCC Fire Prevention Conference held in November. They represented all UK Fire Cadets by putting forward the views of children and young people that will shape NFCC policy.
19. LFRS fire investigators help the Police with arson cases. In 2025, two people were sent to prison for arson—one for 12 months and one for five years. Both cases came from joint work with the Police and Crime Scene Investigators, involving Field Interrogation. It is important to note that these cases can take years to conclude, and updates are only provided once sentencing happens.

Key issues for partnership working or affecting partners

20. Assistive technology provision varies across local authority areas. Within Leicestershire County, there are recognised challenges in the provision of assistive technology for individuals with hearing impairments, particularly hard-of-hearing equipment and silent alerters. By contrast, Leicester City and Rutland have established funding arrangements with charitable partners, including Action Deafness and Amplius, enabling broader access to devices such as silent alerters, amplified doorbells, and phone and TV equipment for vulnerable residents.
21. Fire service provision supports but cannot substitute for commissioned services. In Leicestershire County, LFRS can provide deaf smoke alarms (DSAs) to eligible residents; however, this offer is criteria-based and capacity-limited and cannot meet county-wide demand in isolation. Where a silent alerter is clinically or practically more appropriate than a DSA, LFRS has no mechanism to provide this equipment, and referral pathways remain limited.
22. A coordinated approach would help reduce unequal risk for residents. The absence of commissioned assistive technology pathways in the County means

residents experience a different level of protection compared with those living in City and Rutland areas. This presents an opportunity for local authorities and partners to collectively consider how existing good practice could be adapted or scaled, ensuring a more consistent safeguarding offer and reducing avoidable risk for vulnerable residents across all communities.

23. Housing and Accommodation Pressures. With the phasing out hotel-type accommodation for asylum seekers, there is an anticipated increase in referrals and complexity in managing vulnerable individuals. This could require stronger partnerships with charities and local authorities to address risks, language barriers, and onward placement.
24. Emerging legislative requirements and building safety reform continue to shape Fire Protection activity. Residential Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (RPEEPS) requirements and the acceleration of external wall cladding remediation both require close coordination between building owners, managing agents, local authorities and LFRS to ensure risks are appropriately managed while longer-term solutions are delivered.
25. There has been an increase in the use of houses and Houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) to meet housing demand, including for the accommodation of asylum seekers. Under existing Memoranda of Understanding, local authority licensing teams take the lead role for HMOs, with LFRS providing fire safety input and enforcement where required.
26. The data currently being provided by private companies and managing agents to LFRS does not have any vulnerability evaluation or risk prioritisation added. Therefore, evaluating priorities is not possible and the volume is significant. LFRS has reached out to the relevant group who meet quarterly; other partners present may be able to assist.
27. An increasing number of these premises are now being managed privately as part of immigration accommodation contracts. Given the growth in numbers, the capacity of managing agents to maintain effective fire safety controls, and the potential vulnerability of occupants, a coordinated and consistent approach between local authorities, managing agents and LFRS is essential to ensure risks are identified, managed, and reduced effectively.

Recommendations for the Board

28. It is recommended that the board:

- Note the content of the report
- Consider how the themes impact their areas of activity and where closer partnership working opportunities can be explored.

Officer to contact

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