

AVON FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING:	Avon Fire Authority
MEETING DATE:	Wednesday, 14 December 2022
REPORT OF:	Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive
SUBJECT:	Service Round-Up

1. **SUMMARY**

This report is to highlight the areas of good work across Avon Fire & Rescue Service (AF&RS), which has taken place across October and November 2022.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Avon Fire Authority is asked to note the report.

3. **BACKGROUND**

This report aims to give an overview of the work across Service Delivery, Service Delivery Support, Corporate Services and other proactive communications activity, project or teamwork.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

This report has no financial implications.

5. **KEY CONSIDERATIONS**

Business Fire Safety (BFS)

- 5.1 Following two high profile and significant fires involving high rise buildings, members of the BFS team have been engaging with the local authority to provide support and advice around implementation of national guidance and suitable control measures. Prevention and Protection staff have been actively engaging with residents at community meetings providing reassurance around alarm systems, stay put or simultaneous evacuation procedures, home fire

safety advice regarding charging of lithium batteries and external wall systems (cladding).

- 5.2 Applications are being received from the National Fire Chief's Council (NFCC) to backfill the nominated post to assist the new Building Safety Regulator and to be part of a multi-disciplined team that inspect high rise buildings throughout the South West. This post is Government funded as part of the Hackett review and recommendations.
- 5.3 Following a meeting and request from Councillor Evans, the Head of Private Housing for North Somerset, the team provided home fire safety advice in a short article, to be published in the Somerset Life magazine (an online subscription magazine).
- 5.4 In the lead up to Christmas, the BFS team will be interacting with business owners about how they manage extra stock and the need to train staff on fire safety at this busy time, as well as providing advice around temporary outdoor attractions and venues.

Vulnerable Adults

- 5.5 During October the Vulnerable Adults team conducted 8 fire safety talks / adult education inputs to various organisations. These included attending the Memory Café's, which is a space where those living with and caring for people with Dementia can go to meet up and socialise, we also attended the Making Space's meeting which is a local organisation that works with those who hoard and their families. The team have also been involved in attending; Home Instead Information Day, Making Space Volunteer Awayday, National Anti-Hate Awareness Week held at Cribbs Causeway, the Hong Kong Community Event (held at Concorde Museum) and a Brace Conference.
- 5.6 The team also responded quickly and appropriately to the need for community engagement sessions in the aftermath of the Twinnell House fire, providing support to Bristol City Council's engagement sessions, including a talk to concerned parents at a local primary school. The team continue to support local communities following the incidents by supporting community engagement events and continuing to offer home fire safety visits and advice.

Children and Young Persons (CYP)

- 5.7 The CYP team supported Bath Rotary's Firework Safety Poster competition; judging entries and hosting the winners at Bath fire station on Saturday 12 November.
- 5.8 Our Firesetter's Lead delivered sessions at the NFCC Firesetter Practitioner Development Day. Organised and facilitated by the Core Team this was a national CPD and networking event attended by around 90 Firesetter

practitioners from across the UK. The event hosted guest speakers discussing topics around the current challenges and concerns for children and young people and the work that we can do to support them. Attendees were also able to network, receive support on resources from the core team and complete workshops to help shape the future of Firesetter work nationally.

- 5.9 The team have engaged local subject matter experts in the field of Special Educational Needs provision to develop provision for children and young people with additional needs to ensure equity of access to safety messaging. The focus initially is on our Key Stage 1 package (children aged 5-7), with scope to work up through each of the department's packages to build a collection of accessible resources. Additional training in the delivery of these resources will be given to the CYP team members and cascaded where needed through our operational staff.

Black History Month

- 5.10 To mark Black History Month 2022, the Service have worked with award-winning contemporary digital illustrator, Parys Gardener, to produce a design installed onto the side of Bedminster's fire truck.
- 5.11 The artwork celebrates black history with a nod to the Windrush Generation, featuring colourful illustrations. It is designed to open a dialogue on the importance of representing your local community and celebrates what it means to be a firefighter today.
- 5.12 The truck wrapping, designed in collaboration with staff from across the Service and in particularly Bedminster fire station, is part of a wider scheme of work as the Service works to improve its representation of the community.

Save Safely Campaign

- 5.13 In response to the rising cost of living, the Service has launched a campaign to help residents who are looking to save money on energy bills, to do so safely. This includes issuing advice and providing safe energy saving tips for anyone looking for alternative and cost-effective ways to heat your home.
- 5.14 The campaign is in response to concerns for the safety of residents, who may resort to an increased reliance on portable heaters, electric blankets and open fires in the coming months – all of which come with a fire risk if not used correctly and carefully.

Community Check-in

- 5.15 On Monday 17 October, Chief Fire Officer Simon Shilton, Risk Reduction Manager Nikki Rice and Drone Lead, Watch Manager Sean Perry were live on Facebook giving local people an insight into the Service.

- 5.16 During the session, those who tuned in found out more about roles across the Service, given advice on how to stay safe and had the opportunity to ask questions of the presenters. This included finding out more about home fire safety visits as well as how we're using drone technology to keep our communities safe.

National Festival of Rescue

- 5.17 Across the weekend of Friday 30 September, AF&RS firefighters and officers took part in the United Kingdom Rescue Organisation (UKRO) National Festival of Rescue, this year hosted by West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service.
- 5.18 Hundreds of firefighters from across the UK and beyond competed in a bid to be crowned 'the best of the best' in a myriad of rescue skills: rope rescue, extrication, water rescue, trauma and Urban Search & Rescue (USAR).
- 5.19 During the event, our crews had the following successes: first place in the Helm, Water Rescue Challenge, second place in the USAR Challenge and third in the HGV Extrication Challenge. The Service's technical rope rescue team also took part in their first national challenge and took sixth place.

Avonmouth Fire Station

- 5.20 With work having begun in 2020, the two and half year long redevelopment of Avonmouth's new fire station has been completed.
- 5.21 Soon after work began, the redevelopment project faced a national lockdown, putting barriers in the way of progress. However, despite working with restrictions in place, Knights Brown alongside the Major Project Manager and our Property Services Team managed to keep the project going, resulting in the project's completion.
- 5.22 Now finished, the station will be formally opened by the Lord Lieutenant at an official opening ceremony in the New Year.

Remembrance truck wrapping

- 5.23 Staff from across the Service have worked together to come up with a new, striking poppy truck wrapping design to commemorate all those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.
- 5.24 The artwork features firefighters, soldiers, poppies, ships and planes flying overhead and has been placed on a Kingswood's fire engine, to visibly reflect all aspects of remembrance.

6. RISKS

This report has no operational, financial or reputational risks.

7. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has no legal or policy implications.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

This report has no background papers.

9. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Press releases and incident report of note October – November 2022.

10. REPORT CONTACT

Amber Foreman, Head of Corporate Communications , extension 390.