

REPORT TO COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE THEMATIC REPORT – NON FIRE EMERGENCIES

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

1.1 Consider and note the information provided in this report in relation to Non Fire Emergencies.

2 Introduction

2.1 A key priority within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeenshire is Responding to and Reducing Non-Fire Emergencies.

2.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the committee information on this priority both in relation to past performance and how we intend to deliver against this priority in the future.

2.3 A core part of SFRS's activity locally is responding to emergencies such as road traffic collisions (RTC's), co-response to medical emergencies and flooding, as examples. Firefighters are trained to a high standard and have at their disposal the most modern equipment for the rescue of persons in traumatic situations.

Working with our community safety partners in Aberdeenshire and across Scotland, SFRS has a significant role to play in responding to Non-Fire Emergencies and contributing towards reducing this type of incident, either directly through SFRS initiatives, or indirectly through partner intervention. Our key aim is to improve safety and reduce injury and/or harm.

2.4 All staff within the area are committed to working in partnership to reduce harm caused by Non Fire Emergencies. To help deliver against this priority we have a dedicated Community Safety Action Team who work with partners and our personnel based across our 24 Stations within Aberdeenshire to co-ordinate our activities to reduce the risk of Non-Fire Emergencies. The current structure of our Community Safety Action Team is;

1 x Group Manager (Shared role between Aberdeenshire, Moray and Highland Area)

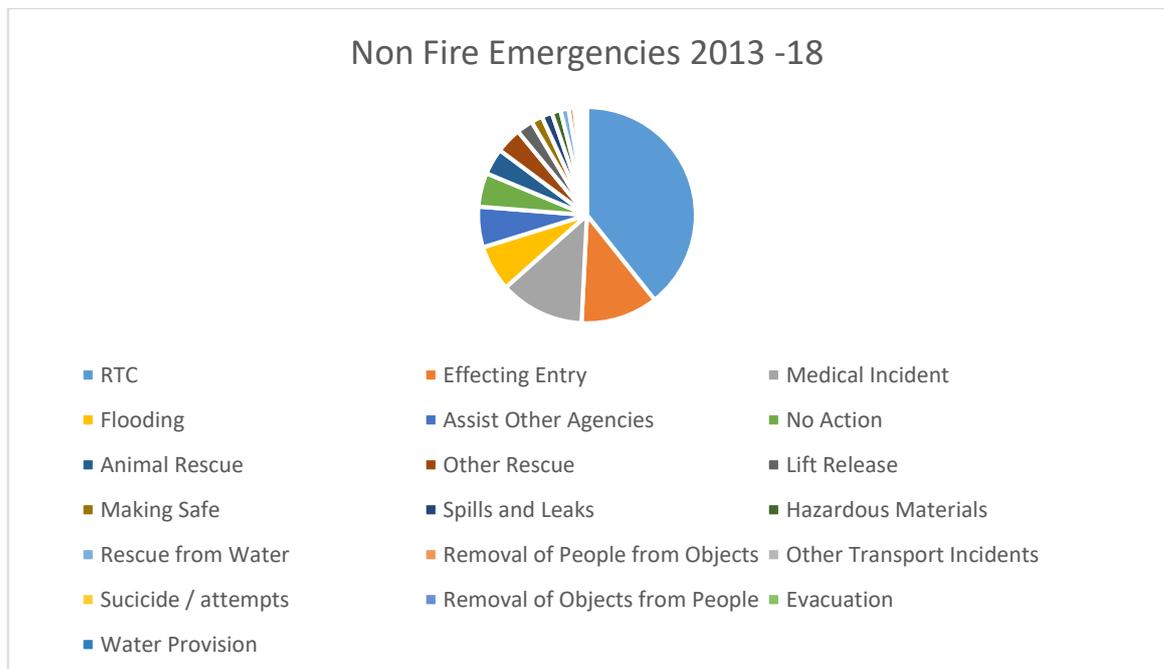
1 x Station Manager

1 x Local Authority Liaison Officer

1 x Assistant Local Authority Liaison Officer

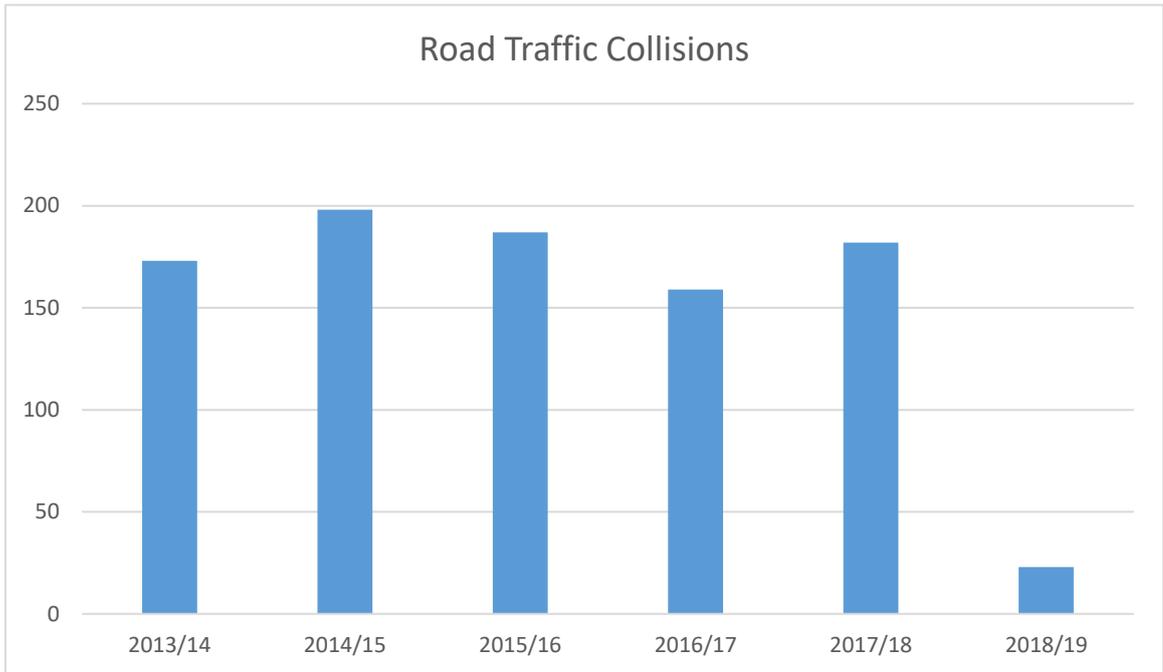
4 x Community Safety Advocates

- 2.5 In addition to our Community Safety Action Team we have also worked with Aberdeenshire Council and the Community Planning Partnership on an innovative approach to sharing a resource in the way of a Community Support & Safety Officer (CSSO). The area covered by the CSSO has been expanded to cover Marr, Kincardine and Mearns and Garioch, and the purpose of the role is to identify, engage and educate individuals and communities who are most vulnerable or at an increased risk of harm. To support service delivery in terms of improving safety within the area. Partnership working is a key element of the role and the CSSO has also supported thematic areas of work including road safety, water safety, working with children and young people and engaging with older persons.
- 2.6 The chart below shows the different types of Non-Fire Emergency that SFRS responded to between 2013–2018. As can be seen from the chart the highest number of calls for Non Fire Emergencies were from Road Traffic Collisions which equated to 39% of all calls in this category.



3 Road Traffic Collisions

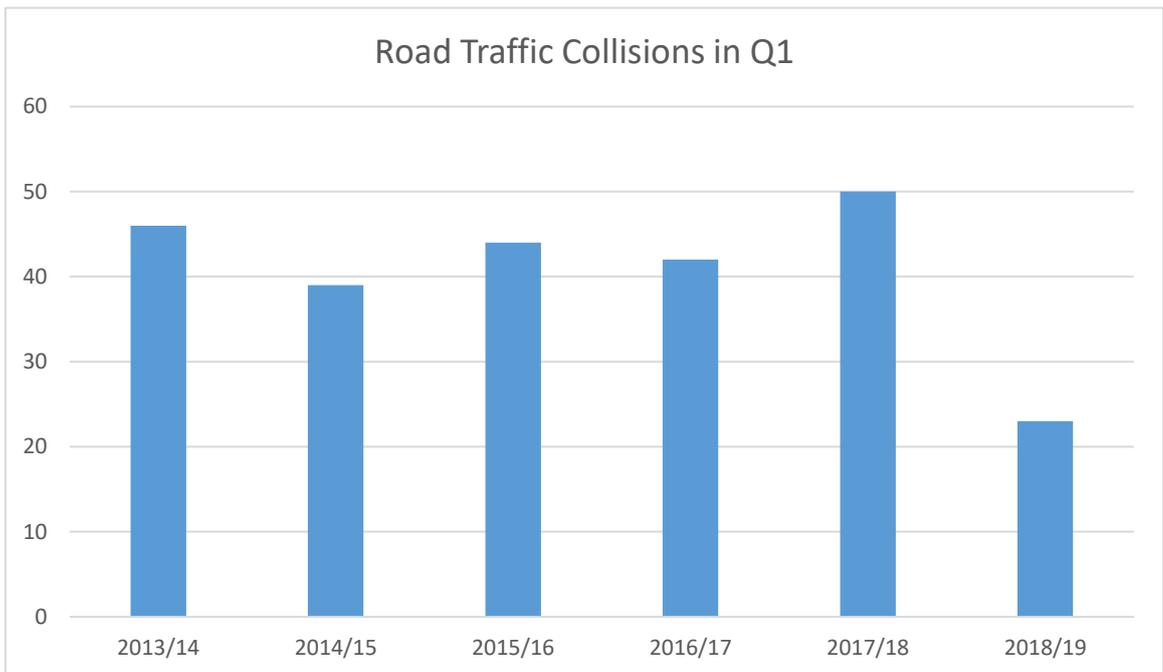
- 3.1 The reduction in the number and severity of Road Traffic Collisions is a key performance indicator for this priority and we will supply both quantitative and qualitative information on these indicators.
- 3.2 The chart below shows the number of Road Traffic Collisions that the SFRS have attended within Aberdeenshire from 1st April 2013 – 30th June 2018;



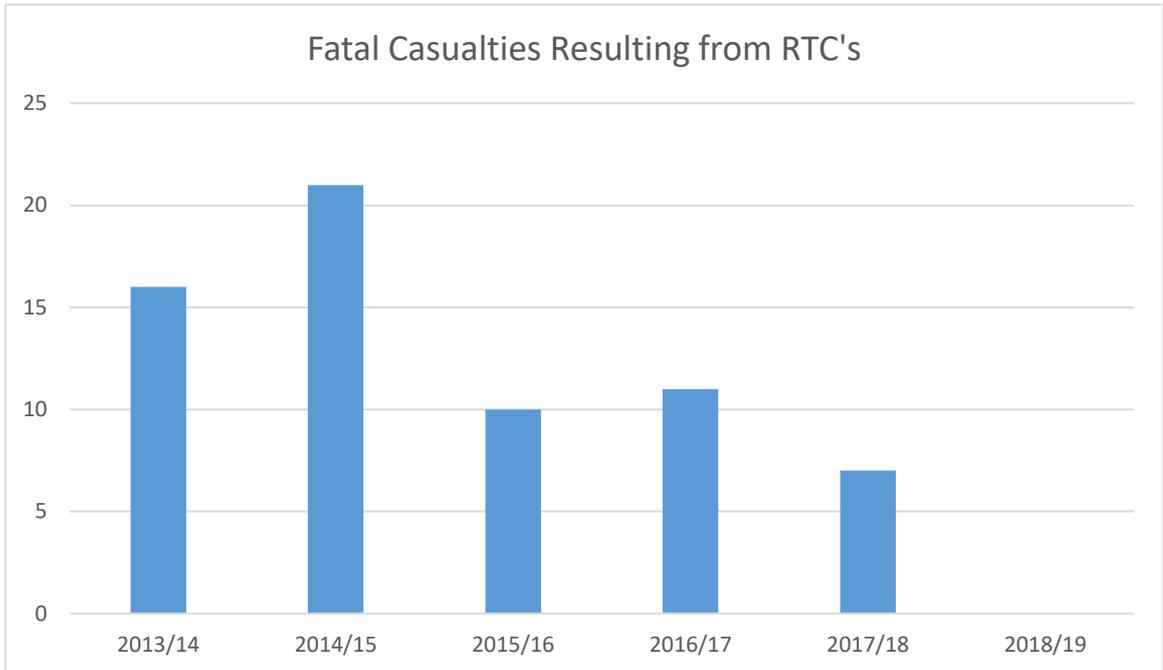
**Note 2018-19 figures are from 1st April – 30th June*

3.3 The chart above shows that the number of RTC's attended by the SFRS over the previous 5 years has remained fairly static.

The chart below shows a comparison of Q1 performance compared to the previous 5 years, we can see a significant reduction in the number of incidents attended;

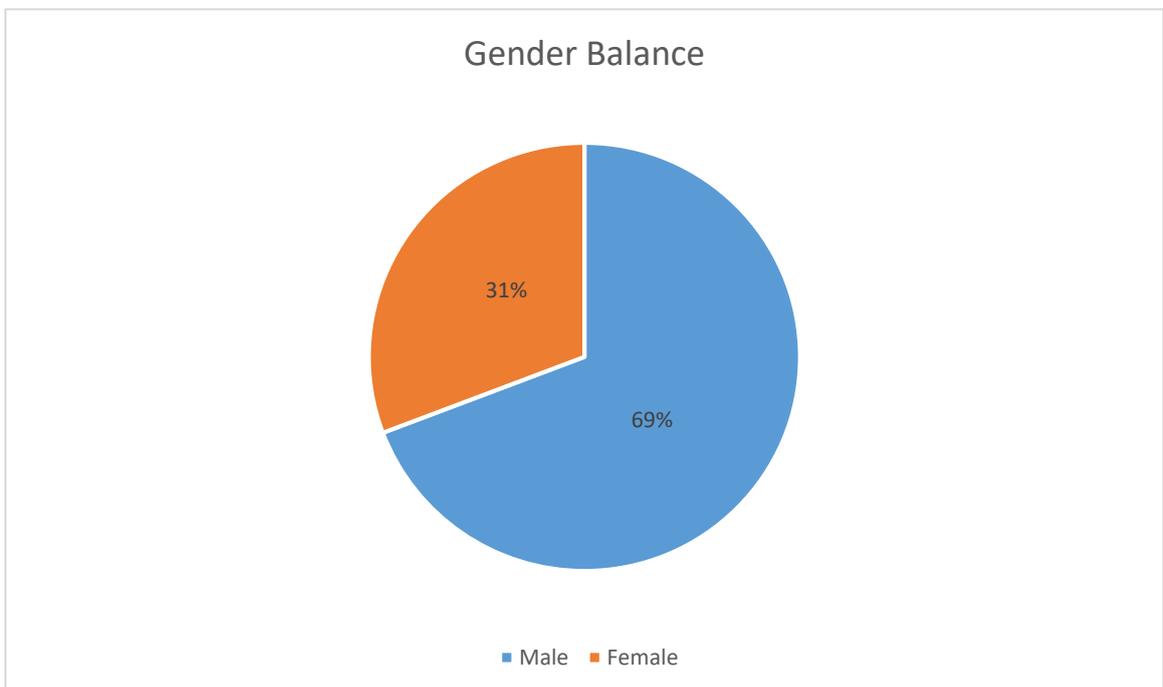


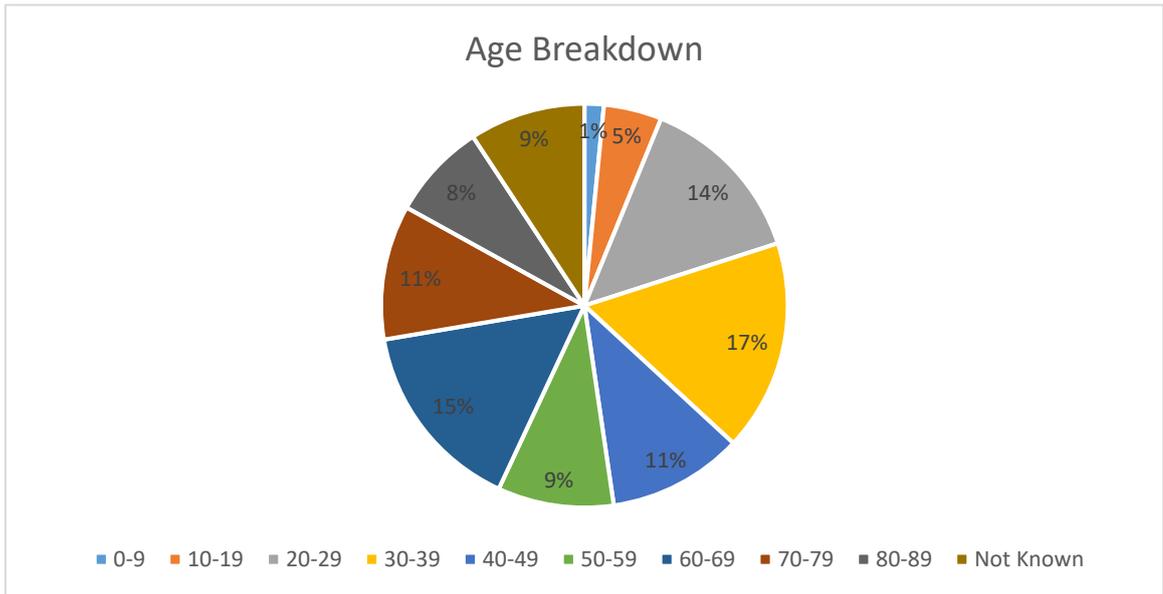
3.4 As well as the number of Road Traffic Collisions, another important indicator for this priority is the number and severity of casualties resulting from RTC's the chart below shows the number of fatal casualties resulting from RTC's attended by the SFRS over the previous five years.



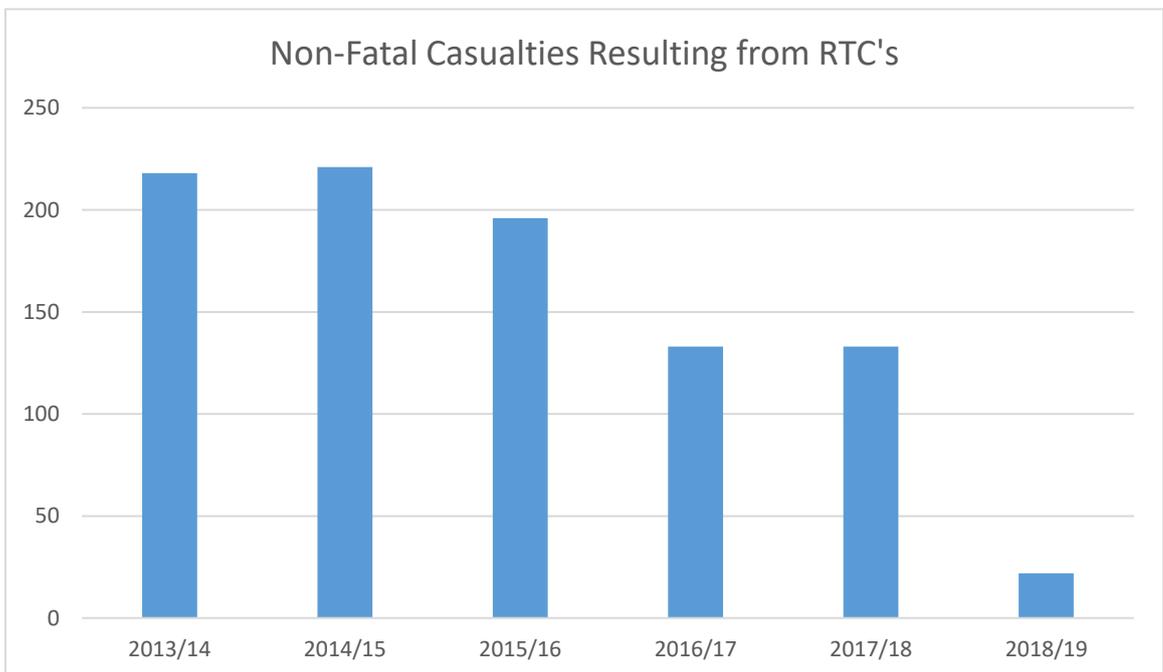
*Note 2018-19 figures are from 1st April – 30th June

3.5 The charts below show the gender balance of fatalities resulting from RTC's and the age breakdown;



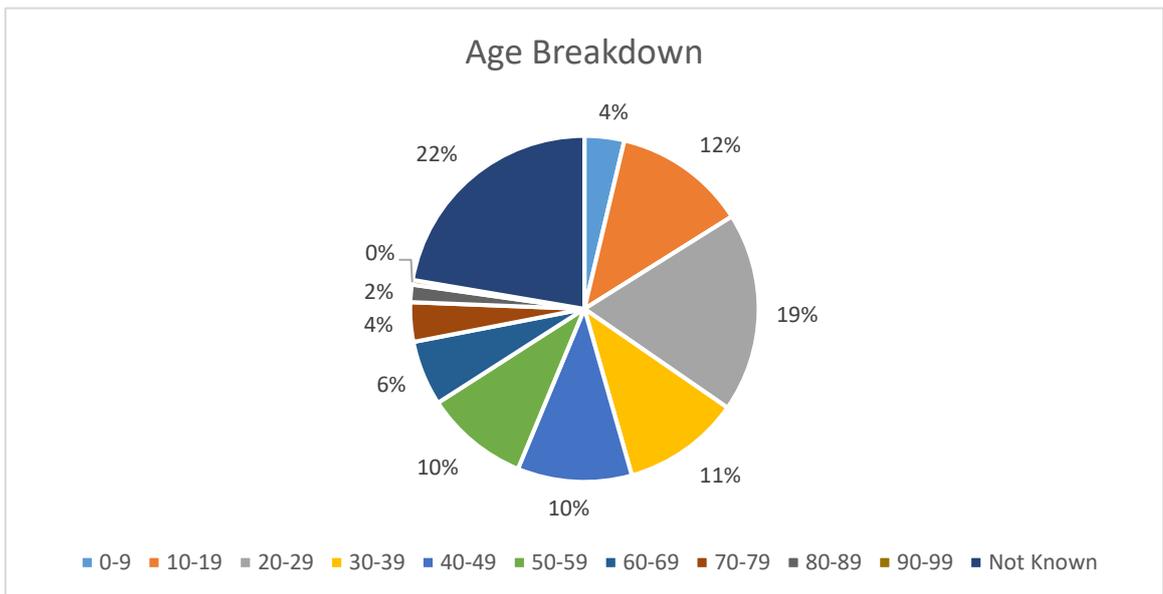
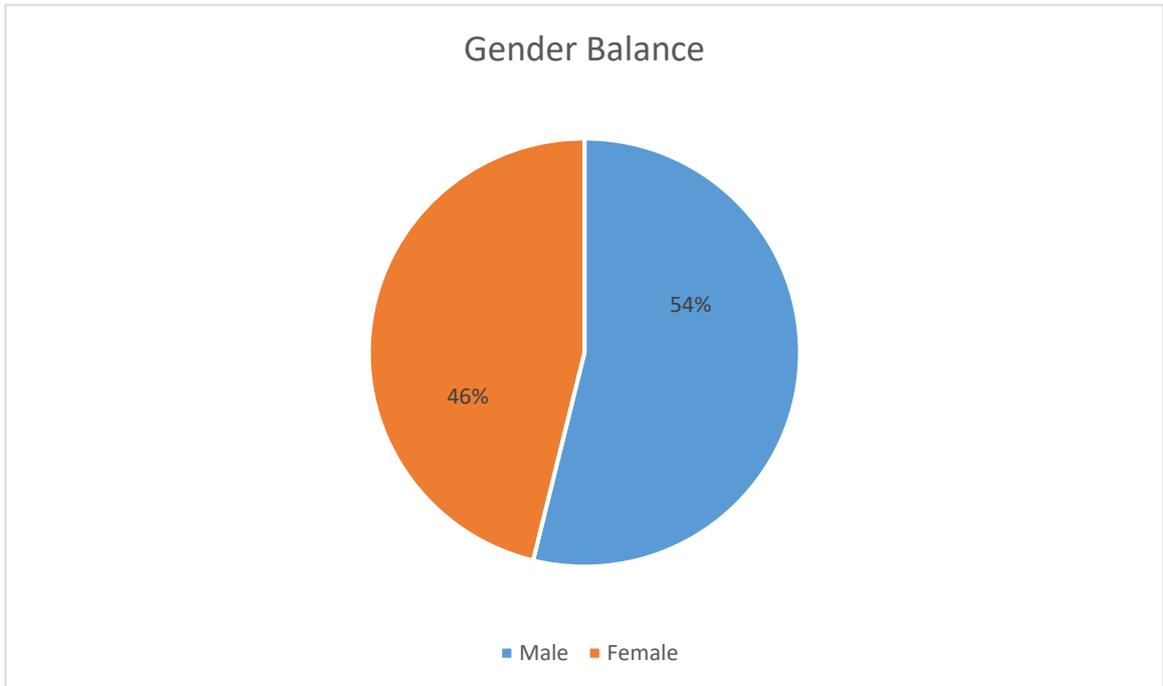


3.6 The chart below shows the number of non-fatal casualties resulting from RTC's;



*Note 2018-19 figures are from 1st April – 30th June

3.7 The charts below show the gender balance and age breakdown of non-fatal casualties from RTC's;



3.8 Our preventative work for Road Traffic Collisions centres around Safe Drive Stay Alive, Crash Live Events and our Work with North East Scotland Road Casualty Reduction Group.

Staff throughout the area are committed to working with partners to continue making progress in reducing Road Traffic Collisions and injuries associated with these.

The area has just invested in virtual reality headsets and scenarios to simulate what it's like to be involved in a RTC. We are currently working with

Banff and Buchan College to deliver Road Safety awareness sessions to students and will also extend this into local businesses and schools throughout Aberdeenshire.

4 Medical Incidents

- 4.1 The second most common type of Non-Fire Emergencies the SFRS are called to deal with in the area are Medical Incidents, between 2013 – 2018 we have attended 298 of this type of calls.
- 4.2 The majority of this type of incidents are in relation to our First Responder Stations that operate from Maud (Buchan) and Braemar (Marr) stations.
- 4.3 As outlined in our transformation consultation the service are looking to expand our response to Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest calls, where we can potentially respond quicker than the Scottish Ambulance Service.

5 Effecting Entry

- 5.1 The third most common type of Non-Fire Emergency the SFRS are called to deal with in the area is effecting entry between 2013 – 2018 we have attended 272 of this type of calls.
- 5.2 The highest proportion of these calls 198 were calls to assist other Emergency Services (Ambulance and Police) with the remainder of calls coming from members of the public.

6 Flooding and Water Rescue

- 6.1 Between 2013–2018 the SFRS responded to 162 calls to Flooding and 29 calls to Water Rescue Incidents.
- 6.2 All operational personnel are trained to level 1 water rescue which allows them to operate safely from the bankside during water rescue incidents.
- 6.3 Within Aberdeenshire personnel at 6 Stations, Fraserburgh, Ballater, Stonehaven, Ellon, Turriff and Huntly have been trained to Flood First Responder. This provides them with the skills for flood response, these skills have been well tested within Aberdeenshire during the serious flooding most recently during Storm Frank.
- 6.4 We are supported with our Water Rescue Capability through level 3 & 4 teams based in Elgin and Aberdeen. These teams are trained to operate in swift water and can deploy a rigid inflatable boat to assist in carrying out rescues.
- 6.5 We promote water safety through our thematic action plans, this has involved carrying out demonstrations utilising our Level 2, 3 & 4 teams and providing educational inputs through the Community Safety and Support Officer to local schools.

7 Moving Forward

- 7.1 We will continue to promote road safety through a partnership approach within Aberdeenshire. Key areas of work in relation to this are Safe Drive Stay Alive, Crash Live Events, Working with Local Schools, Colleges and Community Safety Groups to deliver local interventions.
- 7.2 As part of Service Transformation, we will work with the Scottish Ambulance Service to improve the response to Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest calls.
- 7.3 We will train personnel at Inverurie and Banchory up to Flood First Responder Level to enhance our Flood capability.
- 7.4 We will work with the Scottish Flood Forum to provide advice and guidance to communities that have been identified as being at an increased risk of flooding.
- 7.5 We will promote the 'Go Safe Scotland' online educational resource throughout schools in Aberdeenshire. This interactive resource has been designed to be teacher led and has a variety of activities and lesson plans included. The topics covered are Fire, Water, Home, Outdoor, Emergency, Road, Rail, Cyber and Personal Safety.

8. Scheme of Governance

- 8.1 The Committee is able to consider/comment on this item in terms of Section D.1.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to matters concerning the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service.
- 8.2 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

9 Implications and Risk

- 9.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because this report refers principally to advice to members on the performance of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service for the relevant periods. There will be no differential impact, as a result of the report, on people with protected characteristics.
- 9.2 There are no specific staffing or financial implications arising from this report.
- 9.3 There are no Risks directly identified in respect of this matter in terms of the Corporate and Directorate Risk Registers as the Committee is monitoring the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as required under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 however links to the Corporate Risk of [Working with Other Organisations](#).

9.4 There is no Town Centre Impact associated with this report.

Ritchie Johnson
Director of Business Services

Report presented by LSO Ian Findlay
6th September 2018

