

## Appendix A

SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE		
Title	Report from London Fire Brigade	
Key Decision	No	Appendix A, Item 4
Ward	All	
Contributors	John Newing - Borough Commander of Lewisham, London Fire Brigade	
Class	Part 1	Date: 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2020.

### **Purpose.**

To provide the Committee with an update on 2019 - 2020 performance of the London Fire Brigade within the Lewisham Borough

### **In year performance End Q3 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.**

In summary, performance targets for primary fires, dwelling fires and care home fires are being met, Community Fire Safety (CFS), Home Fire Safety visits (HFSV's) are being achieved as can be seen from the table below.

Automatic fire alarms (AFA's) and persons shut in lifts have been on the increase in 2019-20 The Area Fire Safety teams are working with responsible persons of the worst offending premises to look at ways to reduce these incidents.

Work has been done with Regulatory Fire Safety to reduce AFA's, the main offender is Lewisham Hospital where progress is being made to make them aware of their responsibility to ensure they have and appropriate fire safety response to AFA's, However this is slower than expected, January 2020 will see an increased focus on reducing the UwFS at the hospital and a series of meetings that may lead on to further escalated enforcement.

Lewisham Homes & LFB are now working together on reducing the number of PSIL calls to all of its premises, Since September 2019 we have identified clearer lines of reporting & additional measures for trend analysis, this in turn has reduced the number of invoices being raised but more so acknowledges the investment made by LH in all of their lift stock,

I have secured an office within Lewisham Homes every Tuesday afternoon to hold a drop in LFB surgery for LH & Lewisham Council to allow us greater interaction our Borough partners.

There is also a local liaison with borough housing providers to raise awareness and joint working to identify hotspots, defective lifts or ineffective housing providers lift release contractors. HA's provider representatives will be attending Lewisham Fire Station in early 2020 to receive input on their role at Silver Meetings during incidents. This is a project being run with Lewisham Emergency Planning department.

Arson incidents, although below target is an area I would still like to concentrate on and work is being done with the MPS to target borough hotspots which coincide with

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anti-social behaviour, crews have been using Visual Audits to assist in reducing calls to these areas.

January 2020 will see the first meeting with Simon Dobinson & the three LFB Borough Commanders. This piece of work will support the Metropolitan Police Tri Borough Working. More importantly will see an alignment in consistency across Borough boundaries as opposed to fire ground boundaries,

The new year will see a major improvement of collaborative working with all Blue light partner agencies. This will see Working across Royal Borough of Greenwich & Bexley Borough top align with the Metropolitan Police BCU.

Station staff in the Borough are on course to achieve our annual target that complements the geographical target which is falling short.

It is reassuring that 92% of these were for vulnerable people or in priority places (P1 postcodes). The reason for the two performance indicators (PI) is that station grounds do not reflect borough boundaries and other stations in other boroughs cover some areas of Lewisham. There is a need to measure the performance of stations, hence the PI for HFSV's carried out by station staff. There is continual liaison between stations and boroughs to ensure priority places in the borough covered by other stations are visited.

Non domestic fires in Regulatory Reform Order (RRO) properties is on the increase. These are properties such as Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO), commercial properties or shops with dwellings above that have a shared escape route. Work is ongoing between our Area Fire Safety Team and trading standards to identify rogue landlords or premises which do not have the required level of fire precautions. Work is taking place in early 2020 to create a joined up partnership working protocol between the Strategic Housing Team at Lewisham Council as part of their Borough Wide Licensing Consultation between the Lewisham LFB Team and the Area Fire safety Team.

Fire crews are also being used to undertake on the spot visits, particularly in shops with dwellings above to further identify premise contraventions. It is also planned that they are trained to undertake fire safety inspections of less complex RRO premises to reduce the load on our fire safety teams and increase the number of premises visited.

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Five year data showing false alarm calls, fires and special services –

Date	SUMMARY			
Last 5 Years 30/12/2014 - 29/12/2019	False Alarm	Fire	Special Service	
	8,791 Incidents selected period	8,564 Incidents SPLY	0 All Deaths	0 All Injuries

Date	SUMMARY			
Last 5 Years 30/12/2014 - 29/12/2019	False Alarm	Fire	Special Service	
	3,112 Incidents selected period	3,158 Incidents SPLY	8 All Deaths	235 All Injuries

Date	SUMMARY			
Last 5 Years 30/12/2014 - 29/12/2019	False Alarm	Fire	Special Service	
	6,237 Incidents selected period	6,162 Incidents SPLY	22 All Deaths	477 All Injuries

### Community Fire Safety

My main area of prevention is the identification of vulnerable people who are more likely to be injured or die in a fire. The main initiative to reduce injury and death in fires is through education via HFSV with individuals and or carer's present.

CFS initiatives continue with the Station Commander at Forest Hill working with the Safe and Independent Living (SAIL) project and Lewisham Homes to obtain referrals for vulnerable people, Crossfire, Deptford Reach for the homeless and CQC to get HFSV referrals from GP's.

Additional work is now being looked at to identify Borough based groups that meet at local venues. This will be achieved via the "Well Being Map" designed by Tim Radley,

Following a presentation to the Safer Adults Board, we are also working with the Positive Aging Council, presenting to their forums to highlight elderly people in the borough who we can target HFSV's.

In addition to this and to complement Lewisham Councils commitment to both issues, as part of our borough training days all firefighters in the borough have received Dementia Friends and domestic violence awareness. This will help them identify cases at HFSV's and the correct procedures to follow and enable them to refer if need be as an adult safeguarding referral ensuring support is provided at the quickest opportunity from our Borough partners at SCAIT..

Looking forward, I feel there will greater benefit for LFB to deliver awareness training to key Borough caring groups. This will identify the early stages of Hoarding, & Neglect, further interaction from other Borough partner groups may assist in early identification of Modern Day Slavery.

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### Local Engagement

The summer of 2019 saw our Community Fire Stations at E21 Lewisham & E38 New Cross holding Open days for members of our community providing education and fun for all ages. The Borough also supported the Ff's Charity "Car Wash Days at Forest Hill Fire Station between all the events crews raised £787. New Cross crews also completed a cycling challenge raising an amazing £3035 also for the Ff's Charity. We are currently planning for our 2020 events which will be all of the above and more.

Work is continuing at New Cross Fire Station community facility. The Cadets and Outreach started using the facilities and have settled in well. Budget has been approved to fund a complete refurbishment of the CFS venue to create a South East Outreach hub, better facilities for the Cadets and a potential venue for LIFE in the coming years. . This work is due to start soon with a £250,000 investment over two financial years.

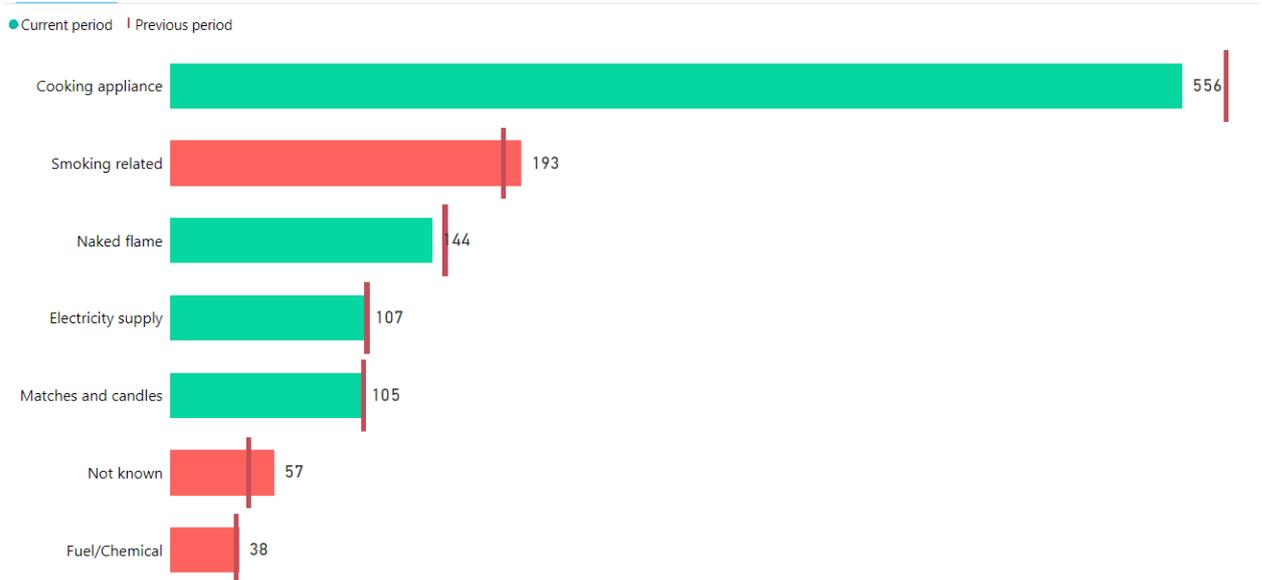
This project is part of the London Safety Plan and is continuing the theme of making our fire stations a hub within the community. It will have meeting and training rooms that Borough partners or community groups can use free of charge. For instance it was used as a venue to undertake flu vaccinations in December and will be again this year. Once the facility is up and running there will be a booking system for people to follow.

The Cadet team can only operate with funding from local partners. The Mayor of London has provided £1m to fund a central team which has the aim of establishing a Cadet group in every borough and is separate to funding to support local teams. We therefore still need local funding to continue the Cadets in Lewisham so if there is any funding streams or avenues to progress I would be very interested in discussing further.

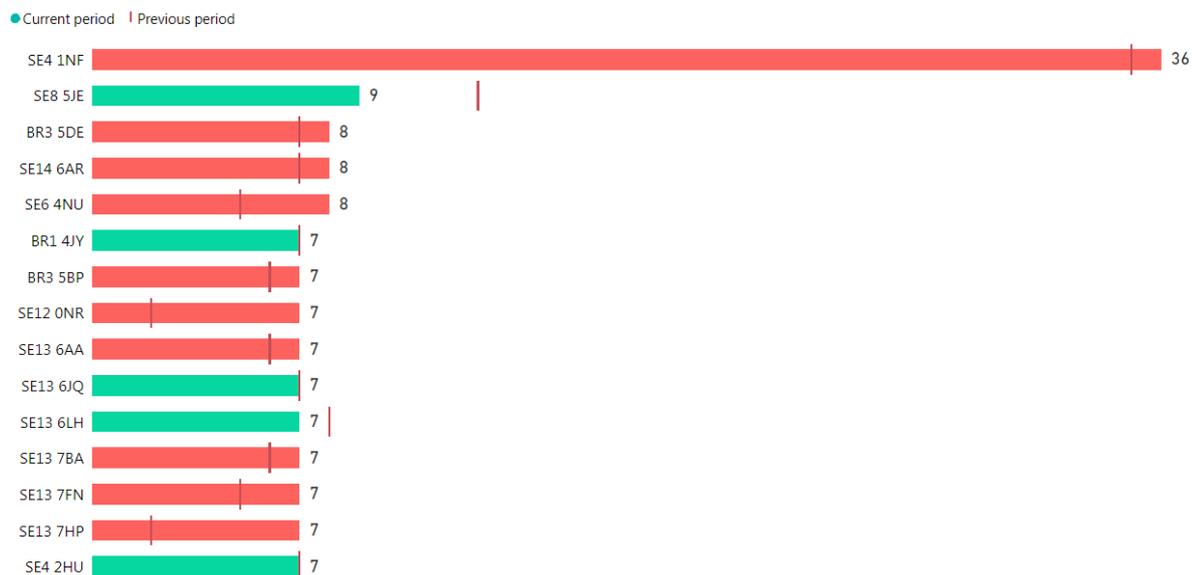


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Data showing the cause of fire over previous five years to 30/12/19.



Data showing the postcode location of fire over previous five years to 30/12/19.



SE4 1NF is Wickham Road Forest Hill. This area five years ago had a spike in fires, more recently you can see it doesn't feature in the top ten postcodes –

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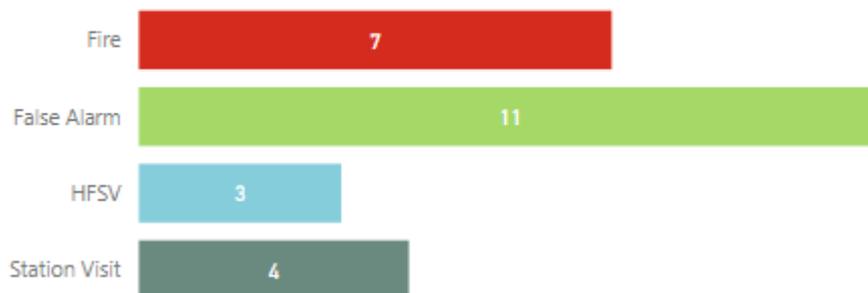


This highlights the positive work crews have done regarding education in that area.

An example of how we are targeting areas that have been identified more recently can be seen from the image below – for postcode SE13 7HP.

### Count of incidents / visits by type

Type ● Fire ● False Alarm ● HFSV ● Station Visit



Station Visit = Visual Audit; Outside Duty; 7(2)d Inspection; High Rise Premises Inspection

### Fires in High Rise Buildings.

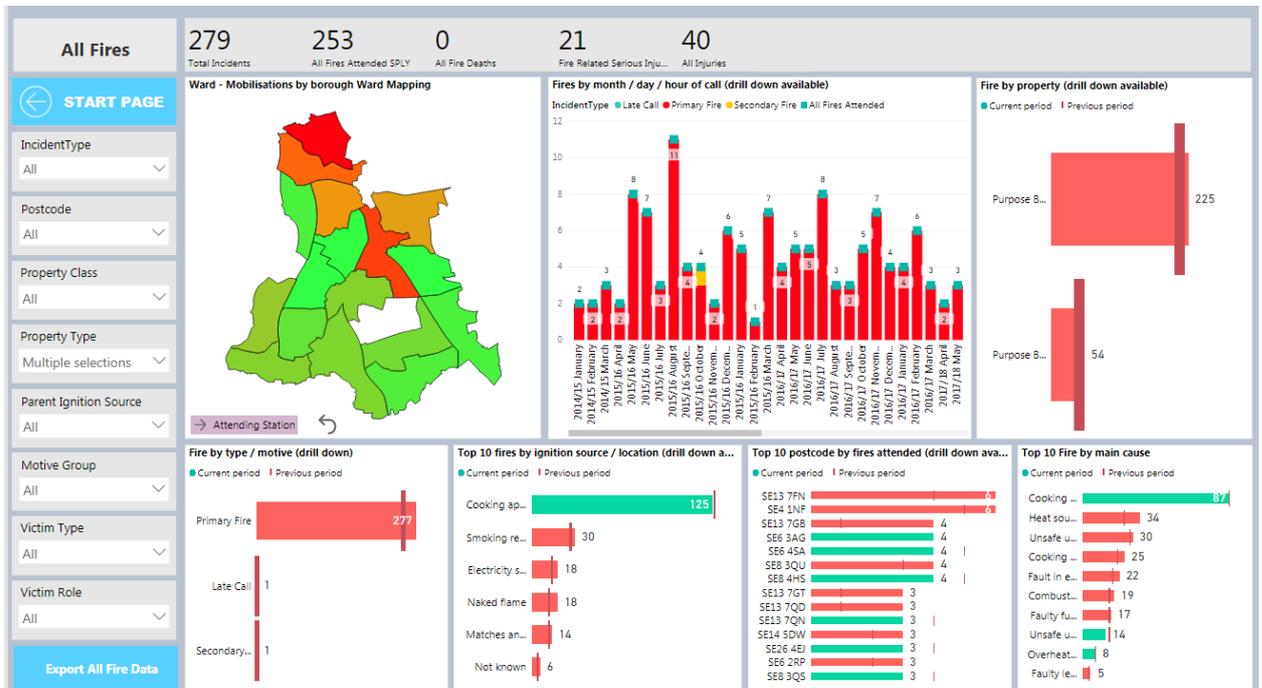
Work is continuing with regard to Premises Risk Assessments (PRA's) on every high rise residential building in the Lewisham Borough. Due to a technical recording issue we are not at 100%. We will continue to review every current and new premises in line with our guidance to ensure premises have current update information and E-PIP's running alongside these where required.

HIGH RISE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS	Number of tall buildings	Buildings with PRA	% Buildings with PRA	Buildings with P1	Buildings with ePIP	Data Last Refreshed
	116	115	99.14%	80	109	30/12/2019 09:04:27

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The data below shows a clear trend with regard to cooking and smoking as the main cause of fires we attend in high rise premises. We are working hard with our Housing Association providers to help educate residents with regard to the dangers involved. Advice has also been given to the HA forum regarding the Total Recalls campaign.

Figures show high rise fire data for the past five years.



## Future Initiative's.

Overall within the residential fires are reducing, this has been achieved via intervention & education, this has now allowed for a greater focus on two key areas of concern within the Borough.

1. The increase use of Corrosive Substance attacks,
2. Road Safety:

### Corrosive Substance Attacks:

Since 2012 London has earned its self the reputation of the "Face Melting Capital" of the World.

Both LFB & Metropolitan Police data show a Steady increase over 6 year period, albeit the data demonstrates a higher number of attacks in East London, the data below shows how this is impacting on the Lewisham Borough.

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### London Borough of Lewisham

	2017	2018		2019				Grand Total	
	July	May	August	December	January	April	May		July
LEWISHAM	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	5	16
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>

### Lewisham Station Grounds

	2018		2019					Grand Total
	August	December	January	April	May	July	September	
<b>Lewisham</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>
Deptford					1			1
Forest Hill		1		2		2		5
Lewisham	1				1	2		4
New Cross	1	1	2				1	5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>

LFB Lewisham has been working closely with the Metropolitan Police BCU at Warspite road to train one hundred and twenty Street Duty & other frontline officers on how to deal with Corrosive Substance attacks as a first responder, Bexley Council front line staff have also received this training.

The Awareness training presentation was delivered to 15 key Stakeholders within Lewisham Council BRF meeting with a high percentage take up on the offer of training, this will commence early 2020.

We are currently in the process of re designing the presentation for Security Staff at Shopping Precincts & Football stadia.

Our aim is to train all frontline Metropolitan Police Officers pan London to the same standard, this will further rollout to LAS & LFB personel promoting consistency across all three Blue Light agencies.

### Road Safety

The LFB as a whole has attended 25,505 RTC incidents between 01.01.2014 to 18.12.2019 of those 870 occurred in the Lewisham Borough. You can see from the trend analysis below that although good work was achieved in 2017 there is a noticeable increase since 2018. This is an area we are focusing on with Safe Drive Stay Alive campaign that we are hoping to deliver to local colleges targeting the most likely age group for RTC's.

Special Service	Calendar Year						Grand Total
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
RTC	128	169	172	127	136	138	870

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Another area we are looking to reduce is cycle and motor bike incidents. We are looking at viable options such as running cycling proficiency tests at our community fire stations.

6 of those RTCS involved bicycles and 59 were due to motorcycles:

	Calendar Year						
Special Service	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Grand Total
RTC	10	16	12	9	6	12	65
Bicycle	1		3	1	1		6
Motorcycle	9	16	9	8	5	12	59

## Grenfell Report.

Statement on the publication of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report

London Fire Commissioner, Dany Cotton said: "On behalf of London Fire Brigade I want to express our deepest sorrow at not being able to save all those who died in the Grenfell Tower fire. The suffering of the bereaved, survivors and community will never be forgotten by any of us in the Brigade. "The Inquiry's report details from the start that fire spread to the top of the building within 20 minutes. It was an unprecedented residential building fire, precipitated by significant failings of the building's fire safety measures which created impossible conditions that residents and the emergency services must never be placed in again. "We will now carefully and fully consider all of Sir Martin Moore-Bick's Phase 1 report and take every action we can to improve public safety. Many of the recommendations are welcome and will need to be fully understood not only by London Fire Brigade, but by government, every fire and rescue service and every residential building owner and manager across the country.

"The report is focused on our response and it is right for our actions to be fully examined by the Inquiry. We welcome the Chairman's recognition of the courage, commitment and bravery of firefighters on the night, but we are disappointed at some of the criticism of individual staff members who were placed in completely unprecedented circumstances and faced the most unimaginable conditions while trying to save the lives of others. On the evacuation of Grenfell Tower we note the Chairman states he has received no expert evidence to guide him on reaching his conclusion and that a qualitative judgement on the Brigade's approach might be better reserved for Phase 2. "We are also disappointed that measures we have been calling for are not in the recommendations, including the wider use of sprinklers in both new and existing buildings "We have made, and will continue to review and make changes to our policies, our training and our equipment. We are lobbying for major building regulation change and urgent research into 'buildings that fail' on fire safety, which leaves the national 'stay put' strategy no longer viable. We will never give up until all of the changes we are calling for to protect residents have been made.

"We have and will continue to fully assist the Grenfell Tower Inquiry to understand what happened in order to learn and prevent such a tragedy ever happening again."

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### HMICFRS inspection.

Andy Roe, who was appointed as the new London Fire Commissioner and will take up his post from 1 January, said:

“We welcome our first report by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and accept their recommendations. I recognise that what’s been highlighted in the report isn’t good enough and as the new Commissioner I am committed to making the necessary improvements when I take on the position in January.

“We are already delivering some of the key improvements they have highlighted and doing everything we can to provide the best possible service to the people of London and keep them safe.

“Training our staff is a priority and we are heavily investing to make sure our firefighters have the right skills to carry out their roles effectively. We have introduced new courses, additional exercises, annual assessments for our Incident Commanders and refresher training for all of our Control staff and drivers. We are also planning a new high tech training centre in Croydon, which will include a new Real Fire Training Venue.”

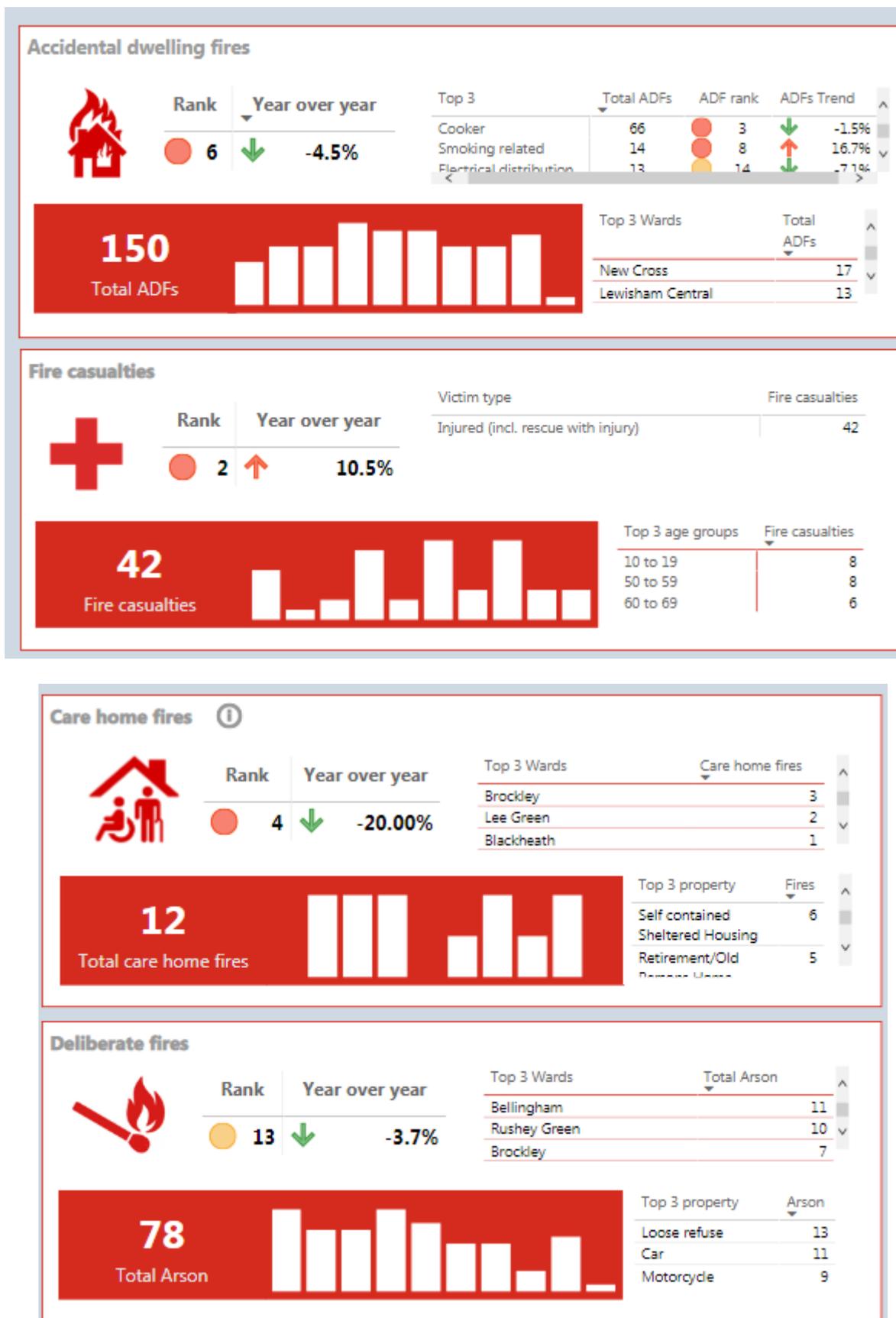
“We learn from every incident we attend and have introduced a range of new procedures and equipment, especially since the Grenfell Tower fire. These include fire escape hoods, drones and new technology in our Control centres.

All of our staff are dedicated to keeping Londoners safe and they are out in the community every day saving lives. We are committed to improving how we do things and to providing the best service we can to the people of London.”

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### Community Safety Risks Performance Over View 2019/2020 (Q3).

#### Appendix 1. Fire Data:



#### Appendix 2 – Special Service Data :

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### RTCs



Rank	Year over year
● 17	↓ -5.9%

Top 5 vehicles	RTCs	RTC rank	Year over year
Car	60	● 13	↑ 3.4%
Multiple Vehicles	29	● 21	↓ -23.7%

## 112

Total RTCs



Top 3 Wards	Total RTCs
Brockley	13
Downham	11

### Casualties



Rank	Year over year
● 15	↓ -12.8%

Special service type	Deaths	Injury
Road traffic collision - Make scene safe	0	19
Road traffic collision - Medical assistance provided only	1	9
Effecting entry/exit - To medical	0	7

## 75

Casualties



Top 3 Wards	Casualties
Rushey Green	11
Brockley	10
Forest Hill	7

### Person under train



Rank	Year over year
● 22	↓ -100.0%

SpecialServiceType	Person under train

## 0

Person under train

Top 3 Wards	Person under train

### CO incidents



Rank	Year over year
● 5	↓ -24.2%

StopCodeDescription	Total CO
Special Service	
Class 2: Gases	12
Advice Only	7
Evacuation (no fire)	2

## 25

CO incidents



Top 3 wards	Total CO
BELLINGHAM	3
CATFORD SOUTH	3
EVELYN	5

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