



**South Yorkshire
FIRE & RESCUE**

999 Together

An overview of emergency service collaboration opportunities developed by South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue with its local 999 partners, before and since the introduction of the Policing & Crime Act 2017

Making
**SOUTH
YORKSHIRE
SAFER &
STRONGER**

999 Together

Foreword

The Policing & Crime Act received Royal Assent on 31 January 2017. For the first time, the Act placed a new, statutory duty on all three emergency services to look at opportunities to work with one another better to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

However, whilst the Act led to a renewed emphasis on exploring opportunities for blue light collaboration locally, there are already many examples of where South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue is working closely with its 999 partners, saving money and providing a better service to the public.

As well as the positive joint work police, fire and ambulance staff carry out every single day when responding to emergency incidents, these examples include everything from training and community safety work, to shared teams, equipment and buildings.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue published a list of 30 ways it is collaborating with emergency services in January 2018 to coincide with the first anniversary of the Act- this document updates that list.

50 Ways We've Collaborated

Operational response

1. Firefighters gain entry at hundreds **'medical break-in'** incidents each year instead of the police. First piloted in Rotherham in 2014, the arrangement sees firefighters provide humanitarian assistance at emergencies where people are thought to be in need of urgent medical attention, but where ambulance service paramedics cannot reach them, for example when they are locked indoors. Firefighters will normally use specialist equipment to break into properties, allowing paramedics to quickly deliver help to patients. The work saved 5,420 hours of police time in the first three years.
2. The fire service and police work together on planning joint operations, such as **Operation Dark Nights** which saw the partners come together to jointly manage their response to incidents during the traditionally busy Halloween and Bonfire Night period. Combined silver command operations were run on the key dates.
3. The jointly run **Operation Shield** saw firefighters fitting crime prevention signage in hot spot areas. Meanwhile police identified properties at high risk of fire, so that Home Safety Checks could be carried out by fire service staff.

Training

4. The fire service's Training & Development Centre in Sheffield is used as an **assessment base for new police officer recruits**, plus police run **personal safety courses and fitness testing** sessions.
5. The police owned Robert Dyson House is made available for **fire service command training**, as well as other multi-agency exercises.
6. Dearne fire station has been used as a location to carry out police **taser training**. The station has a dedicated training building which is well suited to this type of activity.
7. **Joint Decision Making training** has been delivered by police to fire service middle managers, improving the way officers make dynamic decisions at operational incidents.
8. Fire service staff deliver **IOSH Managing Safely courses** to police staff, saving the potential costs of staff attending training delivered by an external provider.
9. **Manual handling training** for new firefighters is delivered by police health and safety staff during their induction week, saving the potential costs of staff attending training delivered by an external provider.
10. Fire service training instructors delivered a water rescue first responder course to six police '**water rescue champions**'. The course provided the officers with basic water rescue skills and awareness that they can use when they are first on scene to a water related emergency situation. This training has also now led to the fire service developing an e-learning water rescue training package for police staff.
11. Police staff provide **Emergency First Aid (EFA)** and **First Aid at Work (FAW)** courses to fire service staff, saving the potential costs of staff attending training delivered by an external provider.
12. Fire service managers now **observe police training exercises**, to improve their understanding of the police response to major emergencies, such as potential terrorism related incidents.
13. Fire service instructors have delivered minibus and LGV **driver training** to police staff. Police have also delivered advanced driver training to fire service staff.
14. Police have provided **conflict management training** to public facing fire service staff, improving the safety of staff across multiple departments.
15. Rotherham fire station's drill yard has been used as a venue for **PCSO cycling proficiency training**, reducing training costs.

Facilities

16. **Maltby fire and police station** went live in October 2017 and means the police and fire service can share running costs. It also improves services by making it easier for police and firefighters to share knowledge, skills and expertise when tackling common issues, like anti-social behaviour and road traffic collisions. In a similar way, it will help both organisations to reach the most vulnerable members of the community.
17. **Joint Head of Estates & Facilities Management** and Head of Joint Facilities Management have been appointed to oversee estates and facilities within the fire service and police, with employment costs shared between both organisations. They are working on delivering a business case for an improved collaborative approach.

HR and wellbeing

18. **Human resources policies**, like the police dress and appearance policy, have been shared with the fire service to help inform options for a review of staff uniform. Police and fire are also working together to alter policies for the cross management of staff who now work for both organisations.
19. Police staff contribute to fire service **promotion assessments** and practical incident scenarios, including supporting realistic incident simulations and assessments to test candidates' operational capability and decision making.
20. The fire service and police are sharing learning and policies in relation to supporting the **mental health and wellbeing** of their staff. Both are now signatories of the MIND Blue Light Pledge, which aims to support organisations with their work in this area. Fire service staff have also been given the opportunity to attend a police wellbeing conference.

Vehicle fleet services

21. A joint **Head of Vehicle Fleet Management** has been appointed, supporting the organisations' objective of integrating fleet services under a single management and support structure, and exploring opportunities for further collaboration.
22. Plans for a **joint vehicle workshops** facility are being developed for the fire service's existing workshops site in Eastwood, Rotherham. This would see police body shop technicians work at the redeveloped fire service facility.
23. A police trailer is now used as a vehicle for fire service **LGV driver training**.
24. The fire service carries out servicing of some specialist police vehicles, such as **CRBNE trailers**, which would be used if responding to suspected chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear and explosive incidents. Fire service mechanics have also repaired police horseboxes and police auto electricians have worked to repair fire appliances.

25. Agreements are in place which mean police and fire officers can **share pool vehicles** during times of especially high operational demand.
26. The organisations are working together to put **better systems** in place- like Tranman fleet management software- to monitor fuel and vehicle maintenance.

Communication and campaigns

27. The fire service communication team has used the police in-house **graphic designer** to develop resources to support public safety campaigns, saving money compared to using an external supplier.
28. The teams share each other's **campaigns** information using their public and staff communication channels- for example, information has been shared around high priority fire safety campaigns or police appeals relating to high risk missing people.

Data and evaluation

29. Fire and police data teams have worked together to produce data and **evaluation** of the joint community safety team and vehicle fleet departments, helping to reduce the reporting time for managers in those teams.
30. Fire service data analysts are using **Power BI** software to develop live dashboards for all collaborative areas of work. They have also spent time sharing best practice in using the software with their police counterparts.
31. Fire and police data teams are working to **share non-personal data** around fires, particularly arson, thereby improving mutual understanding of each organisation's operational demand.
32. The police **Benefits Realisation** Team have shared insight and best practice with fire staff around measuring the impact of projects and programmes.
33. The fire service has signed up as a police **CONNECT Partner**- a platform offers a solution for police and partner agencies to utilise one central system to effectively manage cases including but not limited to, antisocial behaviour, early intervention, protecting vulnerable people and organised crime gang management

Community safety

34. Police and fire service community safety teams have been brought together to form a **Joint Community Safety Department**. The fire service's prevention work has led to big reductions in house fires during the last 15 years, and it is hoped similar techniques can be applied to crime prevention and other priority areas.
35. The **Lifewise Centre** is an interactive safety centre in Hellaby, Rotherham which has been jointly run by the police and fire services since 2011 to deliver education packages to more than 20,000 local people every year, including nearly every Year 6 pupil in South Yorkshire.

36. **Princes Trust Team Programme** is jointly delivered by the fire service and police and has helped to improve the life chances of more than 200 young people since it started in 2016. The 13 week programme includes work experience, a community project and a residential week and is overseen by staff from both the police and fire services.
37. **Safe & Well visits** are now being carried out across the county. The visits see fire service staff deliver crime prevention advice on behalf of the police, as well as information on healthy aging, stopping falls and preventing fires.
38. Four new **Neighbourhood Fire Community Safety Officers** have been appointed using fire service reserve funding to work collaboratively with partners and assist in delivering fire safety and crime prevention advice to communities. The officers will spend time co-located in the neighbourhood hubs, addressing local issues and reducing demand.
39. The organisation's work together on **seasonal arson prevention work**. This has included joint delivery of the 'Equinox' schools education package, which was developed by the joint department to provide young people with key safety messages relating to anti-social behaviour during the lighter, summer nights.

Other 999 collaboration

40. South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue is leading a regional group of fire service colleagues to explore the potential of **collaborative procurement of personal protective equipment** (PPE) for firefighters. It is hoped that working together to buy common pieces of PPE will help them work more closely together and save the tax payer money.
41. The fire service works with its Yorkshire & Humberside colleagues to provide a regional **Fire Investigation** capability, meaning that specialist officers may be called upon to investigate serious incidents, including fatal fires, involving any of the region's four fire and rescue services.
42. A new **control and mobilising** system was jointly procured as part of a project with West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue. The new system gives both fire services increased resilience and improved business continuity measures.
43. For many years the fire service has allowed Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) to use Aston Park and Edlington fire stations as **ambulance stand-by points**, meaning paramedics can use the stations' office and welfare facilities when not attending 999 calls.
44. A regional specification has been developed for a new **rescue jacket**, which is worn by firefighters. Four fire services working together instead of one creates economies of scale due to greater buying power. It also ensures firefighters will all be dressed similarly at cross border incidents.

45. **Multi agency training exercises** take place between the police, Yorkshire Ambulance Service and neighbouring fire and rescue services, promoting opportunities for joint operational learning and interoperability- particularly around scenarios involving response to potential terrorist attacks.
46. An arrangement with West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, means South Yorkshire can access their neighbour's **drone capability** at operational incidents. Drones can help incident commanders by giving them better information about large scale and multi-sector incidents.
47. Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue have provided a **road traffic collision online learning** package to our firefighters, saving staff time.
48. A **women's mentoring** and coaching programme has been jointly developed between fire and rescue services across Yorkshire and Humber. The scheme seeks to help women in the fire service reach their full potential.
49. **Exercise Critical Care** helped to support the development of student paramedics from Sheffield Hallam University. It was a collaboration between the university, fire and ambulance services and involved four days of realistic training scenarios at Dearne fire station.
50. South and West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue saved the taxpayer thousands of pounds by working together to buy new rescue equipment to deal with road traffic collisions. A contract of nearly £1.25 million was awarded to Weber Rescue UK for the supply of new battery powered cutting equipment. The **joint procurement of cutting equipment** has saved both services time and money and will also make training and maintenance more efficient in the future.