



# Annual Report 2017/18



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## Joint Foreword by the Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive

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**Cllr Chris Lamb**  
Chair of the Fire and  
Rescue Authority

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Lamb'.



**James Courtney**  
Chief Fire Officer and  
Chief Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Courtney'.

Welcome to our fifth annual report, which covers the period April 2017 to March 2018.

It has been another busy period for the service, with significant progress made in a number of our priority areas. This has included providing realistic fire training opportunities to operational crews, expanding the delivery of our successful Princes Trust Team Programme and Achieving Respect and Confidence (ARC) Courses and implementing some important collaborative projects with South Yorkshire Police.

This report not only provides reassurance to our stakeholders that the service is delivering against its objectives and providing value for money, it also provides an opportunity for our workforce to reflect on the exceptional work they do for the communities we serve.



## Introduction

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This is the South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Annual Report for 2017/18. The report looks at our performance and achievements over the past year.

A copy of our Integrated Risk Management Plan - 2017 . 2020 and autumn 2017 Update, along with the Community Fire Risk Model can be found on our website at [Strategic Plans - South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue](#).

Details of how to obtain a copy of the Annual Report for 2017/18 in alternative formats can be found on page 15, at the end of the report.



## What we did in 2017/18



### April 2017

The fire and rescue authority approved our **2017-20 Integrated Risk Management Plan**.

Business fire safety officers **reminded care home owners about their obligations under fire safety laws** after a serious incident in Hertfordshire.

Our Princes Trust Team Programme **helped fifteen young people to complete the course**. We began recruiting again for the course, which offers unemployed 16 - 25 year olds, work experience, qualifications, practical skills, community projects and a residential week.

In support of Drowning Prevention Week, firefighters from Aston Park attended Underbank Reservoir to **demonstrate water rescue skills and techniques** to highlight the importance of water safety.

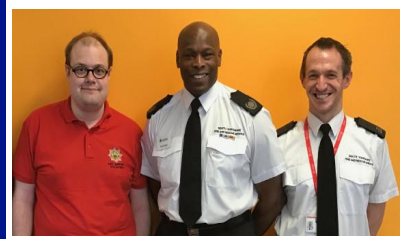


### May 2017

The service won an award in **recognition of contribution in supporting LGBT+ issues** in South Yorkshire. The employer of the year award recognised a company or employer, which provides an environment that is supportive and inclusive of all members of its workforce.

As part of our partnership with the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), **the service referred more than 50 people for life changing eyesight support**.

In support of Dementia Awareness Week, we called on residents in South Yorkshire to **check on older friends, relatives and neighbours who may suffer from memory loss**, in a bid to cut house fires.



### June 2017

A fire service volunteer gained vital life and social skills within the community and business safety department **thanks to a scheme, which helps people with autism**.

Following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower in London, we issued **reassurance for local people about our response arrangements for high-rise buildings**.

On the tenth anniversary of floods, which devastated the county, we announced **that specialist training, regular exercises and new equipment placed us in a better position to respond to incidents on this scale**.

Firefighters urged members of the **public not to swim in lakes and reservoirs as temperatures soared** across the county. We work closely with communities to educate them of the dangers surrounding open waters - a key part of their prevention work.





### July 2017

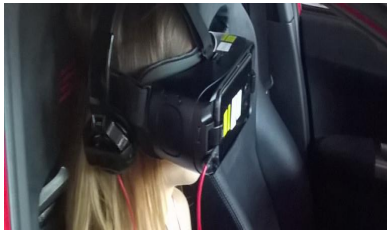
We **donated an Automated External Defibrillator** to a local parkrun.

We called on public bodies and health partners as part of the **'Fire Safe Together' campaign**, to do more to help prevent needless deaths, after revealing more than 50 people died in house fires in South Yorkshire since 2011.

Staff members celebrated a **double award win at the Cutlers' Company Police and Fire Service annual awards**. We picked up both the individual and group awards in recognition of exemplary service for the second year running.

Martin Blunden was appointed as the **new Deputy Chief Fire Officer** following an extensive recruitment process.

Staff from across the service **attended Sheffield Pride**, which started at Endcliffe Park.



### August 2017

Fire officers repeated calls for businesses to fit sprinklers, after the devices **saved a Rotherham supermarket** from suffering a serious blaze.

We funded ten virtual reality headsets in a bid to **curb road deaths in South Yorkshire**. The headsets have been coupled up with hard-hitting 360-degree videos to give road users a dramatic first-hand insight of what it is like to be at the centre of a devastating fatal collision.

Fire crews carried out a dramatic steam train themed training exercise to **test responses to an incident at heritage railway**.

Firefighters were given a unique chance to put their skills to the test at a **flame-filled live training exercise in Barnsley**. The realistic scenario involved a fire being set in one of the properties and firefighters entering the property to rescue casualties and put out the blaze.



### September 2017

Award winning staff members **generously donated a cash prize to a local animal charity**, after receiving the money at the Cutlers' Company Police and Fire Service annual awards

The biggest batch of South Yorkshire **firefighter recruits in eight years graduated** following 13 weeks of training.

We also received a major **national award for our 'chip pan' campaign**, which contributed to an 18 per cent drop in house fires in December 2016.

We called on families to **make a house fire escape plan**, after a major Sheffield-wide survey found that less than half of parents discuss with children how to get out safely in the event of a house fire. As part of this, we also posted a video we produced which highlighted how to make a family escape plan.





### October 2017

**The county's only joint fire and police station** went live. Crews began attending 999 calls from the station in Maltby after work was completed.

We **released video content as part of our firefighter recruitment drive** to highlight the varied role of a modern day firefighter.

A charity, which we have supported for years, officially launched. **HOPE Charity** helps people touched by trauma.

Central station were once again **victorious in the UK's Breathing Apparatus (BA) challenge**.

We worked with South Yorkshire Police on an **Operation Dark Nights' campaign**. This was delivered to primary school children in the run up to Bonfire Night.

Our Princes Trust Team Programme at Dearne fire station was **praised for the work they did in transforming Manvers Lake**, turning it in to one of the county's best-loved green spaces.



### November 2017

We unveiled **12 throwline stations at Lakeside, Doncaster** as part of our work with the **Doing it for Dylan** campaign. These stations provide quick access rescue capability for anyone who might find themselves in difficulties in the water.

Our officers **repeated annual safety calls** as thousands of people prepared to mark bonfire night.

It was agreed that five **housing schemes across the county were to be fitted with sprinklers** thanks to fire authority funding.

Firefighters from Adwick, Doncaster and Edlington were **praised for rescuing two dogs** from a smoke filled house.

Crews put their skills to the test in a **realistic live exercise, which simulated a tram train emergency** involving one of the new Citylink trams that hit the region's transport network last year.



### December 2017

We **appointed a new Assistant Chief Fire Officer**. Alex Johnson joined us from Derbyshire Fire & Rescue and beat off competition from a strong field.

Firefighters **donated old supplies to provide fun for animals at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park**. Hoses, ropes and equipment that were broken or out of date were ingeniously recycled to create a range of stimulating toys for the animal enclosures.

Our water rescue crews at Edlington and Aston Park carried out a **specialist training session alongside some clever canines**. The specialist training session was created to provide crews with an opportunity to further their knowledge and work with water rescue dogs.

We signed up to a charter pledging to **support employees with terminal illnesses**.

Our **Chief Fire Officer was awarded the Queen's Fire Service Medal**- the highest award of its kind a serving officer can receive.





### January 2018

After going operational in October, our **joint police and fire station in Maltby was formally opened** in front of dignitaries, staff and school children by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for South Yorkshire Andrew Coombe.

We continued to **recruit for on-call firefighters** for our six retained fire stations in South Yorkshire.

To mark a year since the Policing & Crime Act 2017 received Royal Assent, we **published details of dozens of areas of joint work** with the police and other emergency services. We unveiled 30 ways we have been working more closely with the region's 999 services, from training and community safety work, to shared teams, equipment and buildings.



### February 2018

A group of **young people in Rotherham celebrated 'passing out'** after completing five days on our Achieving Respect and Confidence (ARC) course.

We made positive changes to our Home Safety Checks service to become **even more targeted in the way we deliver our prevention work**. The changes mean that safety advice continues to be given to all. However, home visits by fire service staff are only offered free, to those most at risk of fire based upon some clearly defined risk criteria.

The Prince's Trust Team Programme at Dearne fire station received a **special visit from His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales**. The event was also attended by local dignitaries, and friends and family of the young people.

The Fire Authority awarded funding to sixteen charities and community groups across the county to **deliver work to reduce fires, traffic collisions and water deaths**.



### March 2018

We opened the **doors of our central headquarters in Sheffield to rough sleepers**, in a new partnership to help those on the streets during the cold weather. British Red Cross volunteers were on hand alongside Framework's Street Outreach Team and Sheffield City Council's Housing Solutions service helping people to access support.

We marked International Women's Day with a video **celebrating the role of women in the fire service**. Children of serving staff took centre stage in the super cute short film.

Officers repeated warnings about the **consequences of starting deliberate fires**, following the sentencing of a boy who set fire to a bus in Rotherham.

We backed a national campaign to get more people to test their smoke alarms. **Press to test**. Monthly is best to remind people that having **working smoke alarms could save their life** in the event of a fire in the home.





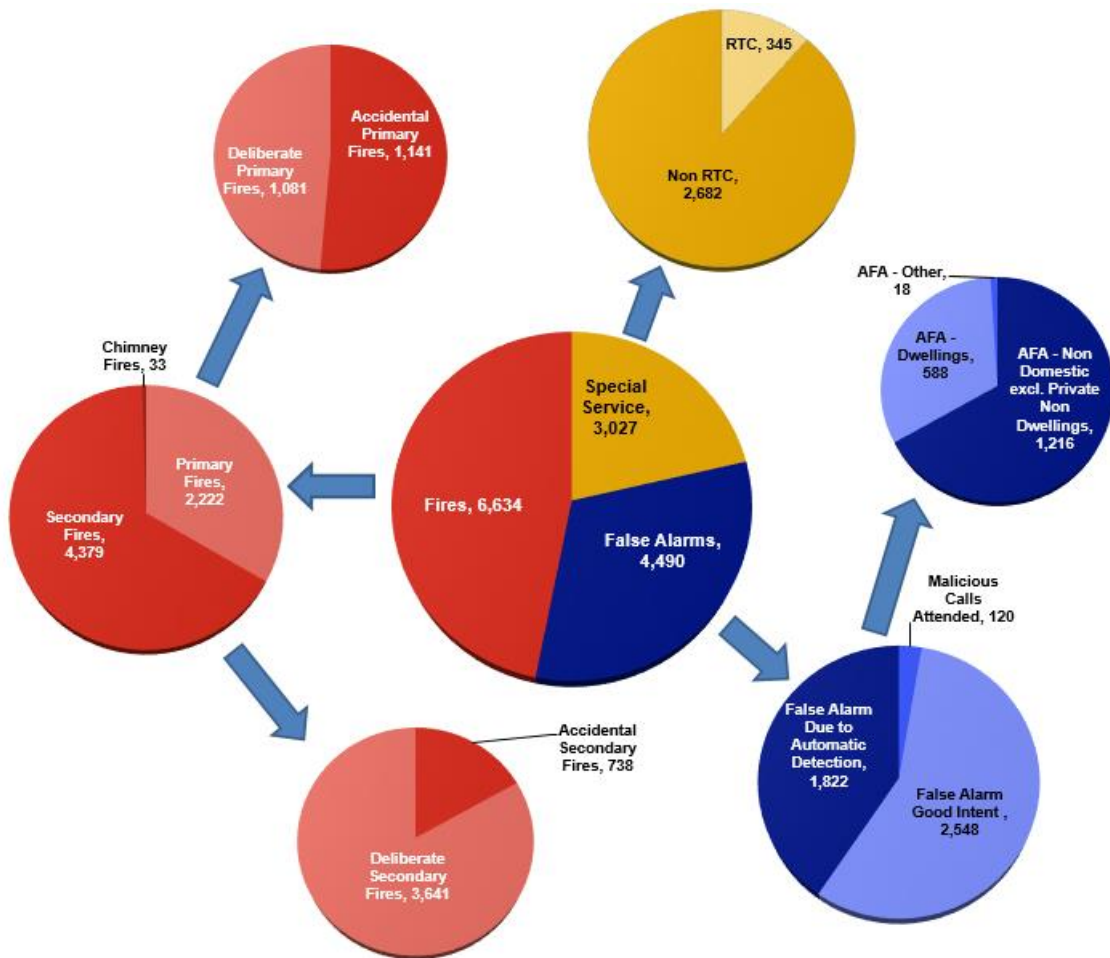
## Our Performance during 2017/18

Performance Indicators		2016/17 Performance	2017/18 Performance
Number of Primary Fires		2,271	2,222
Number of Accidental Dwelling Fires		561	601
Number of Fires in Non-domestic Premises		283	306
Number of Fire Deaths and Injuries	All Fire Deaths	8	6
	Accidental Dwelling Fire Deaths	7	5
	All Fire Injuries	90	77
	Accidental Dwelling Fire Injuries	60	38
Arson Incidents	Primary Arson Incidents	1,106	1,081
	Secondary Arson Incidents	2,975	3,641
False Alarms caused by Automatic Fire Detection - Non-Domestic Properties		1,230	1,216

The Annual Corporate Performance Report for 2017/18 contains the final outturn figures for the full suite of 2017/18 Performance Indicators. This can be found at [Agenda for Fire & Rescue Authority on Monday 25th June 2018, 10.30 am - South Yorkshire Fire Authority](#)



## Breakdown of Incidents Attended during 2017/18



### Key

- Primary Fire -** Includes all fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures, or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fires attended by five or more appliances
- Secondary Fire -** A fire incident that did not occur at a primary location, was not a chimney fire in an occupied building, did not involve casualties (otherwise categorised as a Primary incident) and was attended by four or fewer appliances
- RTC -** Road Traffic Collision
- AFA -** Automatic Fire Alarm



## Headline Projects during 2017/18

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### Multi Agency Response

Following recent terrorist attacks in Europe and the UK, we have accessed Home Office funding to equip and train a team of operational staff capable of responding to deal with the peripheral impact of a terrorist attack. The team went live in May 2018.

### Operational Resourcing Team

An Operational Resourcing team went live in January 2018, in support of our Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) commitment to have five firefighters on the first available fire engine as often as is practically possible.

### Emergency Services Collaboration

Significant progress has been made in our collaborative work with South Yorkshire Police. Highlights during 2017/18 included the opening of Maltby fire and police station, the development of plans for a joint Community Safety Department and progress in the recruitment of joint heads of department for Estates and Facilities Management and Fleet.

### Home Safety Checks review

We changed our Home Safety Checks service in March so that safety advice continues to be given to all, but home visits by fire service staff are only offered free to those most at risk of fire based upon some clearly defined risk criteria. The changes were made as part of efforts to become even more targeted in the way we deliver our prevention work.

### Safe and Well visits

We have been progressing work to deliver safe and well visits in parts of Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster. These visits will mean fire service staff deliver a wider range of information to people aged 65 and over, including advice around crime prevention, healthy aging and falls avoidance, as well as traditional fire safety tips. The implementation of these projects have been delayed whilst Information Sharing Agreements are developed.

### BA Support Vehicle

A BA support vehicle was delivered within timescales and to budget in March 2018. The vehicle provides Breathing Apparatus support on the incident ground.

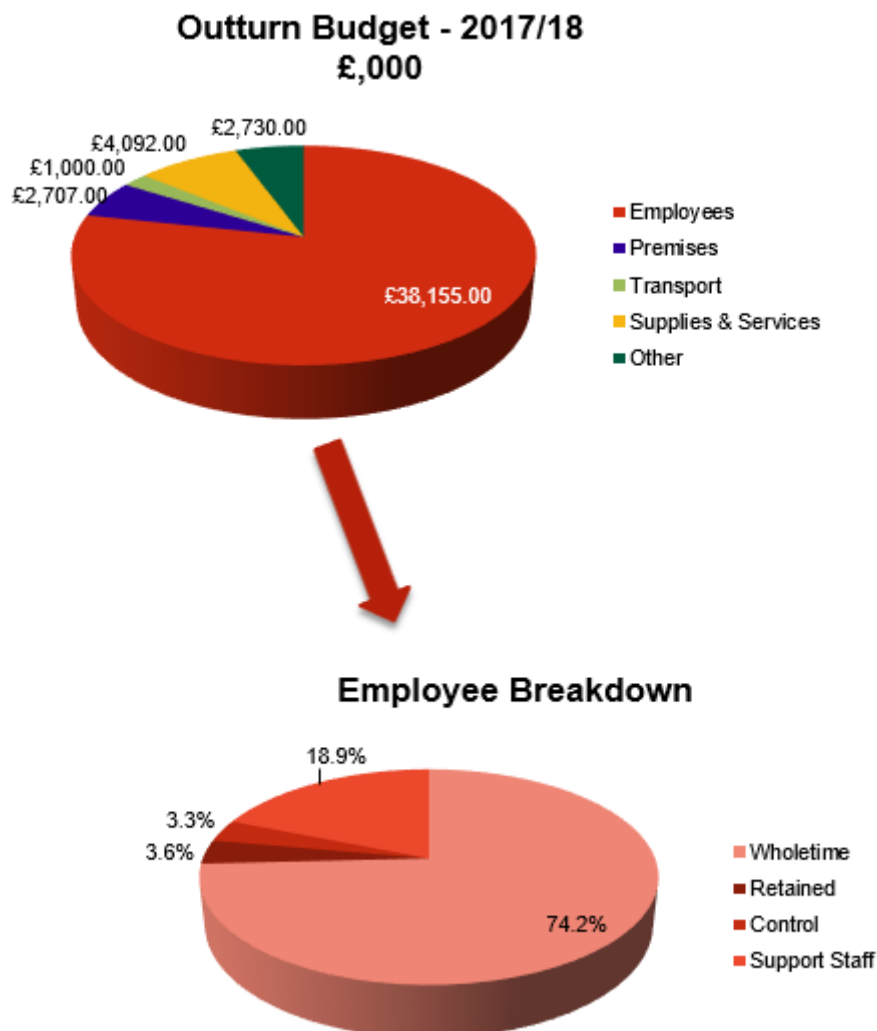


## Annual Statement of Accounts 2017/18

### Budget Outturn for 2017/18

The 2017/18 operating budget that was approved by the Authority was £48,684m. Actual expenditure for the 2017/18 financial year was £47.822m, resulting in an under-spend against budget of £0.861m. There was also an additional £1.505m of expenditure funded from Reserves in the year.

The total for each of the five budgetary areas is shown in the diagram below. The budget for employees is 78% of the total expenditure. This is further broken down into each of the four categories of staff.



## Capital Programme 2017/18

<b>Project Areas</b>	<b>Actual Spend £,000</b>
Property	£1,774
Transport	£475
ICT & Communications	£606
Operational Equipment	£263
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,118</b>

The table shows what we spent in each of the four project areas of the Capital Programme during 2017/18.





## Contact us

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### Tell us what you think

We welcome feedback from the public, in relation to this Annual Report or any other issue to do with South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue.

Any comments can be directed to the Customer Care Manager by calling 0114 253 2209 or e-mailing [customercare@syfire.gov.uk](mailto:customercare@syfire.gov.uk). Alternatively, write to this Freepost address:

FREEPOST RRXC-YJUE-YCLE  
South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue  
Sheffield  
S1 3FG

### Become a Volunteer

The traditional image of the fire and rescue service is of firefighters tackling incidents, but the work we do goes much wider than this.

A large part of our role is to work alongside local communities to help make homes safer, educate children and vulnerable people about common hazards and do what we can to prevent emergency incidents happening in the first place.

We have established a volunteer programme to support us in this work, and to play a valuable supporting role to our existing community safety teams and in helping to deliver safety messages at our Lifewise Centre in Rotherham. In return, volunteers will gain valuable experience and skills, improving their capabilities and assisting their applications for future, paid employment.

For more information, please email [volunteers@syfire.gov.uk](mailto:volunteers@syfire.gov.uk) or visit the Careers section of our website.

### Find Out More

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue's website provides more information on our services to the community, our people and resources latest incidents and news, and much more.

[www.syfire.gov.uk](http://www.syfire.gov.uk).

To sign up for our free e-newsletter or make comments about the website, be involved in our public consultation work, call 0114 253 2353 or email: [press@syfire.gov.uk](mailto:press@syfire.gov.uk)

Follow us on Twitter [www.twitter.com/syfr](https://www.twitter.com/syfr).

For general enquiries and comments call 0114 272 7202 or email: [comments@syfire.gov.uk](mailto:comments@syfire.gov.uk)

For Complaints and Compliments call 0114 253 2209 or e-mail: [customercare@syfire.gov.uk](mailto:customercare@syfire.gov.uk)



## Access to Information

If you would like more detail on what we do and how we deliver our Services, you can make a request under the Freedom of Information Scheme. For more information about the scheme see the [contact us](#) section of our website. If you would like to request information please contact us at:

The Freedom of Information Coordinator,  
South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue,  
197 Eyre Street,  
SHEFFIELD,  
S1 3FG.

Or by email to [foi@syfire.gov.uk](mailto:foi@syfire.gov.uk)



## Alternative Formats

To request a copy of this publication in a different format (eg. large print), or for more information about South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, please e-mail [customercare@syfire.gov.uk](mailto:customercare@syfire.gov.uk) or telephone: 0114 253 2209.

### Arabic

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### Pashto

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### Urdu

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