



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

Westbury Area Board Report

13th April 2017

Dorset and Wiltshire Combination: One year on.

Ben Ansell, the CFO of Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service offered the following at the beginning of April 2017:

“1st April 2017 marked the first anniversary of the new Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service.

It is sometimes easy to forget just how far we've come in such a relatively short space of time.

Some of these times have been difficult, but I know we've continued to deliver high levels of service to the public and everybody, across all areas of the organisation has played an important part in making this happen.

I am extremely proud of our 'one team' approach, it is the only way we can continue to effectively support our communities, as well working closely with our partners. Being a bigger Service has enabled us to be a stronger partner to other agencies, including the police, our local authorities and health.

A number of schemes are being developed to work with our colleagues in the ambulance service, allowing us to better position ourselves to meet the needs of our communities.

Making financial savings was one of the key drivers for combination, and our savings have been significant, while still being able to invest in the things we need to support our work such as new appliances, prevention activities, new fire helmets, improved ICT and essential improvements to our estate.

Another key part of becoming a combined Service was consolidating our governance arrangements, and a huge amount of work has taken place to deliver this.

I know that there is still much to do to bring together our ways of working and embedding a new combined culture for the Service is not something that will happen overnight.

Indeed, we are now developing our new Community Safety Plan 2017-2021, which will set our direction and aspiration for service delivery across the Bournemouth, Poole, Swindon, Wiltshire and Dorset Areas.”

At primary school level, education advisors visit classes with structured lesson plans that focus on issues such as the work of the Fire & Rescue Service, the dangers of playing with matches, the importance of smoke alarms, having a fire plan, and dialling 999 in an emergency. Older children are also taught why you should never make hoax calls.



Home educated children can also be accommodated, but we try to approach these within groups for a more efficient use of our limited resources

We can also arrange visits to our fire stations or one of our safety centres. For more information or to make a booking for your school or pre-school, please visit our webpage; <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/school-visits/> or email enquiries@dwfire.org.uk

If you need a smoke alarm, some advice or are worried about what you would do in an emergency, contact us for a free Safe and Well visit; <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>

As summer inches closer we will start to promote various water safety messages. These include:

Key safety tips for staying safe near water

- Alcohol and swimming do not mix – stay out of the water if you've been drinking.
- Always watch your child while at the beach, lake or other natural bodies of water.
- Never let older children swim in unsupervised areas like quarries, canals or ponds.
- Don't swim near motor boats, jet skis or other power vehicles.
- Never interfere with lifesaving equipment – you might need it yourself.
- Learn to spot and keep away from dangerous water.
- Take safety advice – heed notices which warn you of the danger. See [**national water safety signs**](#) for guidance.
- Children should always visit open water sites with a grown-up.
- Swimming anywhere other than at purpose built and supervised swimming pools is highly dangerous and is not recommended, unless as part of an organised club.

See our website for more information.

Operational Activity

Between 21st January and 3rd April there were 46 incidents in the Westbury area.

Category	Call Sign	Incidents March	Incidents April
False Alarm	4/4P1	0	8
Fire	4/4P1	4	1
Other	4/4P1	3	2
Special Service	4/4P1	2	0
Total		9	11

Appliance availability

March

Appliance	Day	Night	Average
44P1	61.6	70.5	65.83

April

Appliance	Day	Night	Average
44P1	51.46	70.14	60.80

The “Difficult Hours” for On-Call cover tends to be 0700 to 1800hrs weekdays, and weekends from 1800hrs Friday until 1800 hours Sunday.

Significant Incidents

A road traffic collision where crews rescued a female from a 3 car collision using their hydraulic rescue equipment. Westbury were part of the crew that extinguished a fire in a block of flats using hose reels, breathing apparatus and positive pressure ventilation.

Want to become a firefighter?

Or know someone who does?

On-call Firefighters provide a part-time service around other commitments. They let us know when they are available and respond to emergency call outs.

To find out more about the role please visit the ‘Working for us’ pages of our website or drop into the station on a Monday evening for a chat. Or visit dwfire.org.uk for more information.

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