



Bedfordshire

Fire and Rescue Service



**Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station
Plan 2020-21**

Introduction

This Station Action Plan outlines how Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station will contribute towards protecting our local communities, responding to emergencies and preventing fires and other incidents. The risks our communities face are set out in the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) which also details how we plan to ensure that your Fire and Rescue Service contributes, in a co-ordinated and meaningful way, towards keeping our communities safe. The document is available to view at www.bedsfire.gov.uk

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue service is committed to providing services that meet the differing needs of our diverse communities. This will ensure that all our communities are equally protected from the risk of fire and other incidents. Actions identified within this station plan contribute to this commitment and helps to ensure that the Service supports all communities”.

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has a simple key strategic service mission:

To provide outstanding fire and rescue services that help make Bedfordshire safer and we are committed to doing everything we can to achieve this within the resources we have available to us.

To deliver on this mission we will focus on the following Service aims:

- **PREVENTING** fires and other emergencies from happening
- **PROTECTING** people and property when fires happen
- **RESPONDING** to fires and other emergencies promptly & effectively
- **EMPOWERING** our people as we work together to make Bedfordshire safer
- **UTILISING** our assets & resources efficiently & effectively
- **MAXIMISING** use of data analytics and digital solutions to drive improvements

This Station Plan sets out how Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station will deliver on our strategic mission during 2020/21.

Our Community

Leighton Buzzard is divided into three wards with an estimated total population of 38,478.

Ward	Population	Average Age	Communities settled in the area	% who speak English	Other languages spoken
Leighton Buzzard North	The population is 14,234, approximately 51% are females	The average age of people is 41.	Communities who have settled in the area include those from Scotland, Wales, Ireland, South Africa, Northern Ireland, India, Hong Kong, Zimbabwe, and the United States.	97.0% of people living in the area speak English.	Top languages spoken are Polish, Italian, Spanish, French, Chinese, Tagalog/Filipino, German, Cantonese Chinese, and Romanian.
Leighton Buzzard South	The population is 11,450, approximately 50% are females	The average age of people is 35.	Communities who have settled in the area include those from Scotland, Wales, Ireland, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Northern Ireland, India, Philippines, and the United States.	96.6% of people living in the area speak English.	Top languages spoken are Italian, Polish, Chinese, Turkish, Tagalog/Filipino, Spanish, French, Cantonese, and Japanese.
Linslade	The population is 11,785, approximately 50% are females	The average age of people is 41.	Communities who have settled in the area include those from Scotland, Wales, Ireland, South Africa, India, Northern Ireland, United States, South America, and Zimbabwe.	97.5% of people living in the area speak English.	Top languages spoken are Polish, Italian, French, Bulgarian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Tagalog/Filipino.

Community Risk Profiling

Working with Experian, the UK's leading provider of consumer measurement and analytical services, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has utilised Customer Insight Profiling and identified the following 7 Risk Groups within Leighton Buzzard Station Ground:

Risk Group	Most at risk of:	Action:
Group 1 - Less affluent social renters with high fire risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High risk of accidental dwelling fires. • Cooking, electrical or • smoking related fires. 	Targeted safe and well visits. Use of Social Media.
Group 2 - High risk, elderly singles reliant on state support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High risk of accidental dwelling fires. • Cooking fires. 	Targeted safe and well visits and promoting Beds Fire Alert.
Group 3 - Transient young singles with high risk and few interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest risk of accidental dwelling fires. • Cooking and smoking related fires. 	Targeted safe and well visits. Use of Social Media. Student Safety Week.
Group 4 – Independent affluent seniors with low fire risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low fire risk. 	Local engagement through national campaign initiatives. Use of Social Media.
Group 5 – Young, urban, mixed ethnicity families with moderate fire risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate fire risk. 	Local engagement through national campaign initiatives. Use of Social Media.
Group 6 – Rural families and couples with moderate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate fire risk. • Chimney fires. • Road Traffic Collision 	Local engagement. Use of Social Media. Reduce RTC risk through targeted initiatives.
Group 7 – Affluent families in suburban locations with very low risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very low fire risk. • Electrical fires. • Road Traffic Collision 	Local engagement. Use of Social Media. Reduce RTC risk through targeted initiatives.

Statistically, residents within groups 1 – 3 are most at risk regarding accidental dwelling fires. A targeted programme of Safe & Well visits will attempt to reduce this risk during 2020/21.

Customer insight has also identified that residents within groups 6 & 7 are most likely to own a car, van or motorcycle and drive over 12,500 miles per year. As a consequence members of these groups as well as young adults are statistically more at risk of being involved in a Road Traffic Collision.

Further evidence also shows that drivers who speed, drink drive, drive under the influence of drugs or drive whilst on mobile phones not only put themselves at greater risk but other road users also.

Leighton Buzzard Station will attempt to mitigate this risk in collaboration with the police as part of their national campaigns with regard the possible consequences of speeding and using a mobile phone whilst driving.

In addition, the Leighton Buzzard Station Ground contains a significant number of households classified as 'Rural families' and couples with moderate risk. While this groups overall risk is moderate it is at high risk of Chimney fires.

Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station will interact with all of the above groups by providing fire safety information and promote National safety campaigns via our social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter and BedsFireAlert.

- www.facebook.com/leightonbuzzardfirestation
- www.facebook.com/bedsfire
- www.twitter.com/bedsfire
- www.bedsfirealert.co.uk

Our Risks

The number of domestic dwellings in Leighton Buzzard is growing rapidly. The number of business related premises is also expanding. There are a large number of

structural buildings and premises that may present a significant risk should they become involved in fire. These premises are regularly inspected as part of a risk based inspection programme, with Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI) being collated and updated. This information is readily available to all crews responding to incidents involving these identified premises.

Our community also has a significant transport risk, specifically:

Road

- Major Trunk Roads, A5, A505, A4146
- Narrow rural roads

Rail

- West Coast Mainline

The number of casualties killed or seriously injured from RTC's within our community is rising. This could be due to a larger volume of traffic on our roads. Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station will attempt to educate our communities about the dangers associated with travelling by road. This will be done in collaboration with the police.

The Grand union Canal and River Ouzel which runs through the centre of Leighton Buzzard presents a significant local risk of drowning and hyperthermia. Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station will deliver education to our community on water safety.

The West Coast Mainline services from Glasgow to London and passes through Leighton Buzzard. This route is one of the busiest passenger and freight routes in Europe.

Fire Fighter Safety & Development

In order to ensure the ongoing Safety of our Fire Fighters, our crews will undertake courses and training exercises throughout the year. Classroom sessions and practical drills will be supplemented with the Services E-learning service which ensures continuing competency across a Fire Fighters skill set. The service appraisal system will be used to identify training and development needs. Fire

Fighter training will be monitored and reviewed through the services electronic personal development tracking tool.

Response

At Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station there is a **Day Crewing section supported by a Retained Duty (On-Call) Fire Fighter section**. Between them they crew two rescue pumps, one Incident Command Unit, one Welfare Unit and the Fire Operation Team.

Each section will carry out a minimum of two exercises per watch, specific to the stations skill set and Station ground risks profile. Details of these can be accessed on the Service Exercise Spreadsheet.

All relevant information on the planning and delivery of the exercise will be recorded on this spreadsheet. Each exercise will be subject to a review and evaluation to measure its success.

Cross-Border Exercising

Leighton Buzzard station ground shares a border with Buckinghamshire. One cross border response exercises involving the incident command unit will take place testing our procedures alongside Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service.

Fire Fighter Safety Development

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Protection

Business premises and public buildings, such as schools are highly important to our local community as they provide both local services and employment opportunities. The majority of businesses affected by a fire never fully recover as customers are lost to competitors.

In order to protect these buildings and ensure the safety of building users, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service delivers a risk based inspection programme to ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 on those premises to which it applies.

Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station will complete 50 Fire Safety Inspections during 2020/21.

The Service will concentrate its Fire Safety resources on determining and reducing the levels of fire risk in the community by undertaking a series of fire safety audits and inspections of premises. This will focus primarily on those premises, workplaces and activities giving rise to the most serious risk to life, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion and age.

Fire safety audits will grade premises into one of five categories: very high, high, medium, low and very low risk. This audit process determines the future audit frequency, ranging from 1 year for very high / high risk to 5 years for low risk.

Fire Safety Inspection Officers (FSIO) will focus their audits on very high and high risk premises whilst Fire Crews will audit medium and low risk premises.

Other types of Inspections carried out by Fire Crews:

Follow-up inspections - These are carried out to check whether the required or requested works on premises have been completed.

Specific inspections - These may be generated to check on a specific item or items e.g. overstocked stock rooms, the purpose of all these inspections is to ascertain that the fire safety arrangements are being maintained and adequate.

Risk Activity inspections - These are carried out on a whole host of premises that are either:

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- Used extensively by large numbers of the public;
 - Where staffing capacities are below optimum levels;
 - Where activities vary from the norm.

The purpose of the inspection is to ascertain that the fire safety arrangements are adequate, that sufficient numbers of staff are present and those staff on duty are aware of the fire safety measures within the premises and of the fire routines and evacuation procedures.

Risk activity inspections may be undertaken:

- On routinely programmed premises such as nursing homes and care homes
- 'One off' events (including Scout, Guide camps and other types of sleeping and activity events involving children);
- Licensed premises whilst it is anticipated that occupancy levels are high e.g. Night Clubs, Outdoor concerts;
- Christmas inspections of retail premises where it is anticipated that stock levels in shops are high.
- Fact finding visits – Fire Crews may be asked to visit a specific location to establish the current occupants of premises e.g. a specific industrial estate. This provides the Service with up to date information on whether a new occupier requires auditing.

All inspections should be completed by the last day of the month in which they were allocated.

For further information on Business & Commercial Fire Safety please refer to our website www.bedsfire.gov.uk under Community/Business Safety, Business Fire Safety or follow the link:

<http://www.bedsfire.gov.uk/CommunitySafety/BusinessFireSafety/Pages/default.aspx>

Prevention

In order to reduce the risks identified above Fire Crews at Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station will undertake a range of Prevention Activities.

Activities	Period/Dates	Target Audience	Watch Allocated to:
Year 2 visits	Sept >	Year 2 pupils *	Day Crewing and On-Call
Safe and well visits	All Year	Risk Groups 1, 2 and 3	Day Crewing and On-Call
After incident response (Hot strike).	After Domestic fires	Risk Groups 1, 2 and 3	Day Crewing and On-Call
Open day	September	All	Day Crewing, On-Call and Cadet section.
Station visits (cubs, scouts, rainbows, brownies and guides)	All Year	Young people *	Day Crewing and On-Call
Facebook	All Year	All	On-Call
Child Safety / Safeguarding Children	All year	All	On- call

In addition each section will carry out 2 targeted prevention activities, some of which are in line with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), Fire Kills campaign calendar. Details of these can be accessed by following the link [Community Safety Event Planning](#). All relevant information on the planning and delivery of the event will be recorded on this spreadsheet. Following the event it will be subject to a review and evaluation to measure its success.

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- Because of the volume of boats that travel through the Leighton Buzzard section of the Grand Union Canal, Leighton Buzzard crews will be encouraging local boat owners to learn more about fire and carbon monoxide (CO) risks and make vital safety checks to stay safe.
 - We have identified that the risk of having a chimney fire is greater in Leighton Buzzard than the national average. Because of this, during Chimney Safety Week, we will aim to reduce instances of chimney fires through raising awareness of safe chimney use, including the importance of ensuring that chimneys are swept regularly, are clean and appropriate quality fuel is used.
 - Leighton Buzzard is growing rapidly as is the number of business related premises. Leighton Buzzard crews aim to make businesses aware of the support and help available to ensure businesses and responsible persons are complying with the law and making their companies, staff and visitors as safe as they can be from the risks of fire.
 - The number of casualties killed or seriously injured from Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's) within our community is rising due to a larger volume of traffic on our roads. Our Fire Cadet unit will take part in road safety week by promoting life-saving messages during the week.

Home Safe & Well Visits

We will make people safer by educating them in their home by delivering a programme of Safe and Well visits. Acting on referrals from partner agencies, after incident response and identified areas at risk, Stopplesey Community Fire Station will deliver a minimum of **500** Safe & Well visits to vulnerable households in the community. In particular, risk groups 1, 2 and 3.

A Safe & Well visit will include following elements:

- Identifying and advising of the potential risks within the home;
- Advising householders what to do in order to reduce or prevent these risks;
- Putting together an escape plan in case a fire does break out and ensuring the householder has working smoke alarms. The Safe & Well visit can include installing a smoke alarm(s) where appropriate.

The Safe & Well visit may also include:

- Crime Prevention Advice;
- Falls Risk Assessment;

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- Smoking Cessation;
 - Alcohol Audit; and,
 - Safeguarding referral.

The elements that will be included in each individual Safe and Well visit will be determined by risks present in the household and the agreement of the occupier to engage in each element of the visit.

Safeguarding referrals can also be made by the crews following a visit as Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service will work and collaborate with partner agencies to implement and maintain robust arrangements for safeguarding the vulnerable within our community through effective protection plans which minimise risks of harm.

A Community Fire Safety Operational Risk Information exchange form may also be completed if significant risks to the operational crews are identified.

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Fire Cadets

Fire Cadets is a free, nationally recognised programme offering young people, between the ages of 13 and 18 the opportunity to gain a unique insight into Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Through a structured yearly course, Cadets will gain the confidence to interact with their community and become local safety and prevention ambassadors and are able to play a supportive role at station open days, campaign initiatives and charity events. The programme also encourages the development of teamwork, problem solving and communication skills through a range of Fire and Rescue Service led activities.

Cadets are given opportunity to take advantage of various nationally recognised qualifications including the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Fire Cadets meet on Thursday evenings from 19:00 – 21:00 during school term time at Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station.

Schools

Children can be especially at risk in a fire situation. Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service run a county wide education programme for Year 2 students that educates them about fire safety in the home. Crews from Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station will support this programme by completing Year 2 visits during the year.

Recruitment

Recruitment is major part of the work that all employees of BFRS will promote. It is important to engage with the community at every chance and communicate how Bedfordshire FRS is the choice employer. Stations with a Retain Duty System section will plan and run specific engagement activities, ensuring they target the cover times that they require. During these activities we will advise the community on support staff roles such as Information Technology, Procurement and finance. BFRS support apprenticeships and have actively been involved in the continued drive to utilise alternative educational programmes

Further information on recruitment can be found at www.bedsfire.gov.uk

Station Open Day

Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station will be responsible for organising the Station Open Day during September 2020. The theme of the open day will be youth engagement Fire Safety targeting our younger demographic.

Period/Dates	Theme	Key Activities:
September 2020	Youth Engagement	Carbon monoxide detectors
		Have a go firefighter experience
	Target Audience	Fire Cadets activity
	12-24 years old	Recruitment
		Housekeeping / accidental fires

**Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station
Duncombe Drive
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 1RT**

Visit our website for fire and home safety advice: www.bedsfire.gov.uk

Follow us on Twitter [@bedsfire](https://twitter.com/bedsfire) or Facebook at Leighton Buzzard Community Station

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Southfields Road, Kempston, MK42 7NR

01234 845000

bedfadmin@bedsfire.com