

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Update to the Health Wellbeing and Environmental Scrutiny Committee Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

3rd June 2024



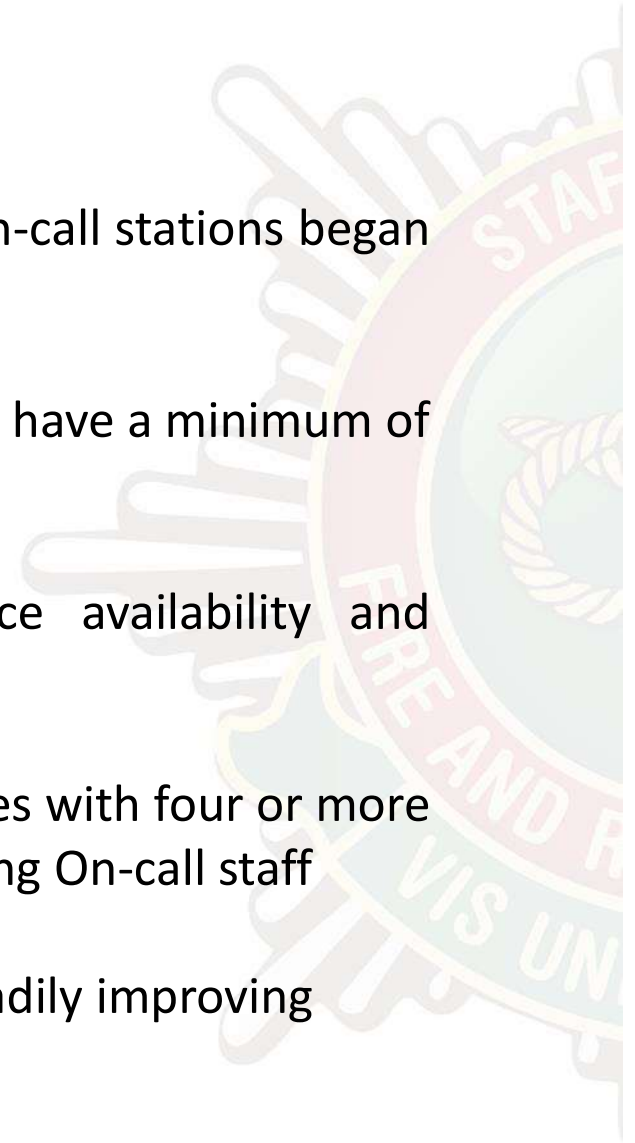
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Staffordshire
Fire and Rescue Service
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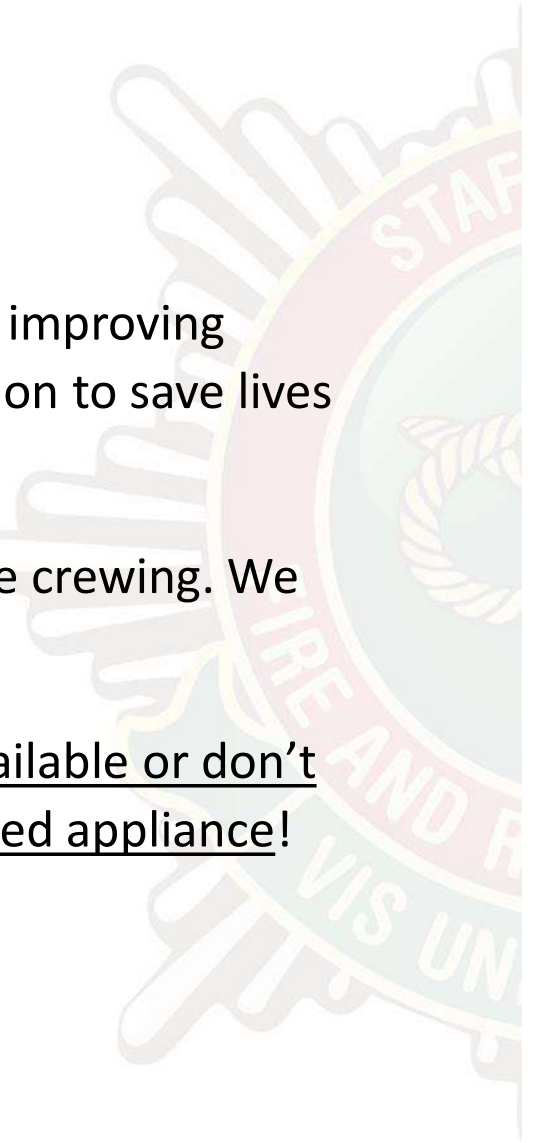
Introduction

- The trial of mobilising Three Person Crews from on-call stations began on 1st June 2023, as a 6-month initiative
- This is different from our full-time firefighters who have a minimum of Four-Persons in their crew
- The trial's objective was to improve appliance availability and response times to emergencies
- The service still strives to crew all on-call appliances with four or more crew members and is actively recruiting and training On-call staff
- Overall on-call availability across the service is steadily improving



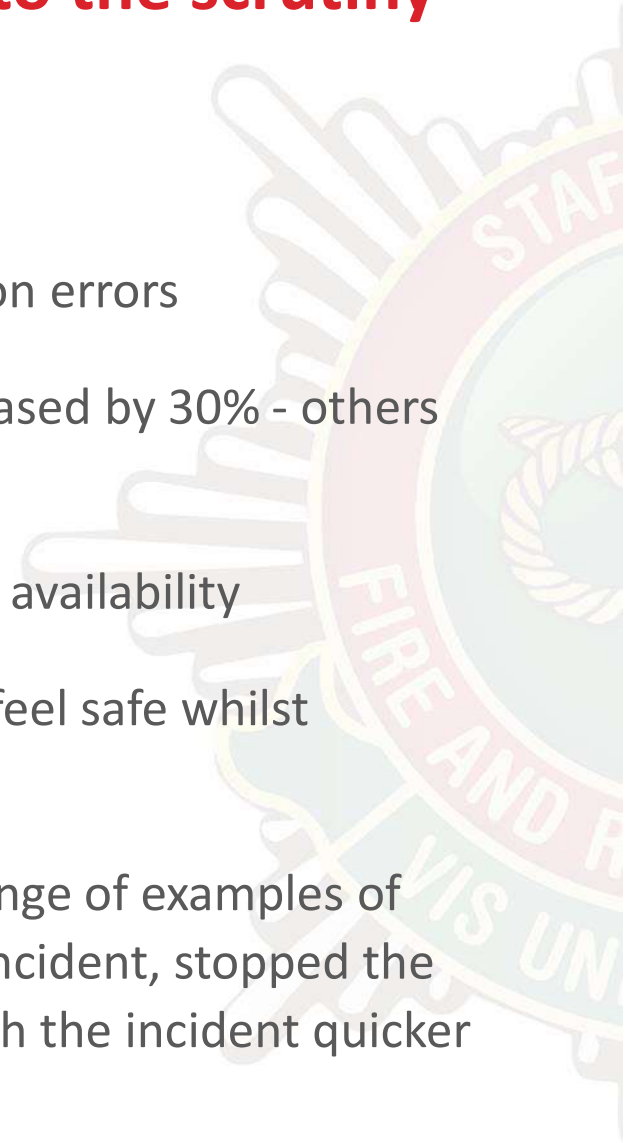
Context of the trial

- The trial is a change from traditional practices aimed at improving response times and allowing for a more rapid intervention to save lives and property at emergency incidents
- The service is not in any way shape or form reducing the crewing. We are using available resources in the most effective way
- It's a binary choice – use the crews of three who are available or don't use them at all and mobilise the next nearest fully crewed appliance!



On 7th September 2023 we reported to the scrutiny Committee the following:

- Attended 172 incidents as of 7th September 2023
- No safety concerns reported but some mobilisation errors
- Some stations availability for incidents have increased by 30% - others much less so because they have better crewing
- An average increase of 12.5% in On-call appliance availability
- Our crews tell us through the feedback that they feel safe whilst dealing with these incidents
- They also tell us what went well and we have a range of examples of how they have attended earlier to deal with the incident, stopped the need for other appliances attending and dealt with the incident quicker



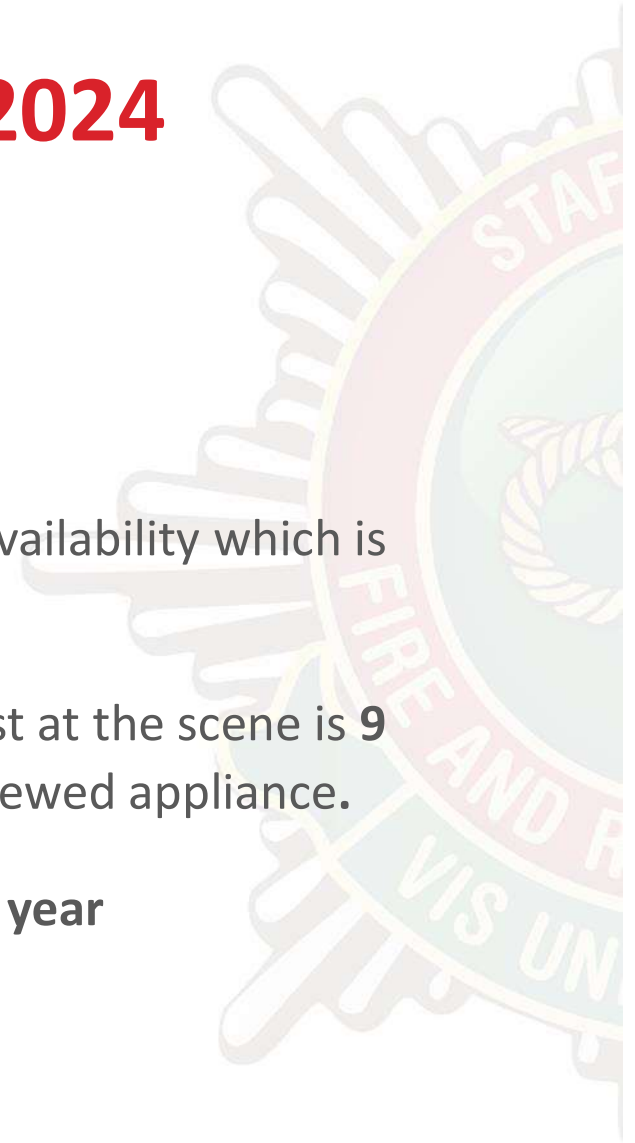
Developments of the trial

- Feedback was received from circa 100 On-call staff during Three Person Crewing focus groups conducted during November 2023 at Leek, Newcastle, Lichfield and Codsall Fire Stations.
- We have received positive feedback from crews regarding feeling safe and achieving quicker response times at incidents. The overwhelming response from the crews was a recognition that the Three-person crewing trial enhances public safety.
- In December, the Service Delivery Board voted to extend the trial for a further 12 months so that it gets a more rigorous test involving more of our on-call teams.



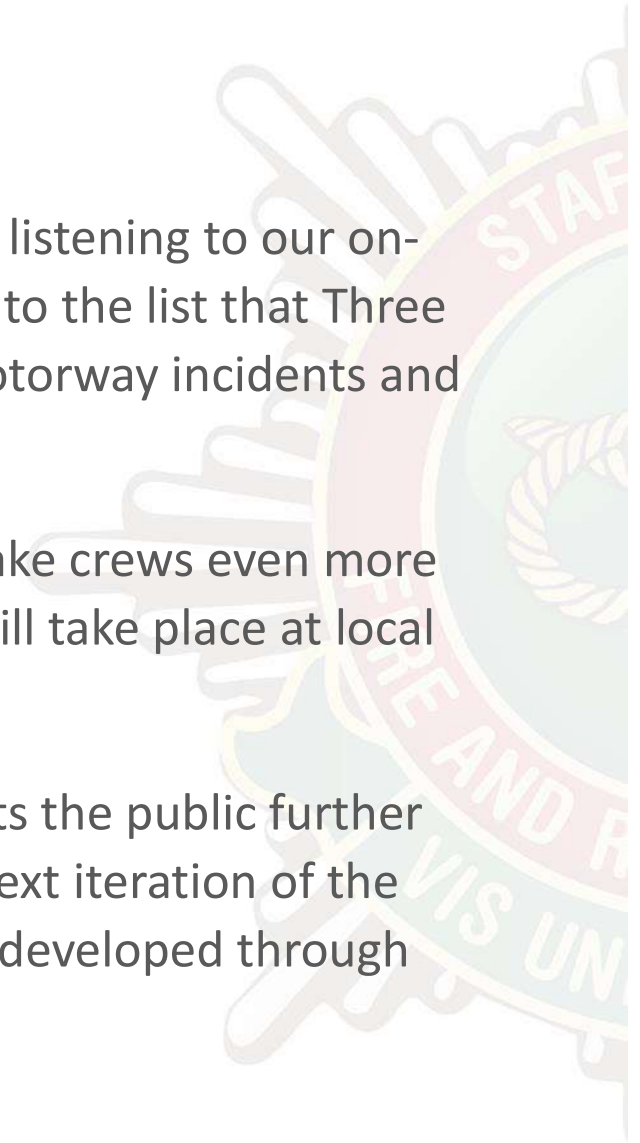
Performance as of 28th May 2024

- Attended 437 emergency incidents
- No safety concerns identified
- An average increase of 11% in On-call appliance availability which is variable across each on-call team.
- On average a Three-person crew which arrives first at the scene is **9 minutes 45 seconds quicker** than the next fully crewed appliance.
- Increased headcount of **23 On-Call firefighters** in year



Next Steps

- Further work continues which comes as a result of listening to our on-call crews around adding additional incident types to the list that Three Person Crews be allowed to respond to such as Motorway incidents and prison incidents as a Multi pump attendance.
- Additional equipment will be provided to assist make crews even more effective at incidents and more training sessions will take place at local levels.
- The Service has agreed that it will ensure it consults the public further on the issue of how it crews its appliances in the next iteration of the Community Risk Management Plan which is being developed through the summer period of 2024.



Thank you

