

Report sponsor: Chief Fire Officer Gavin Tomlinson
Report author: Area Manager Clive Stanbrook

Incidents Involving Bariatric Rescues

Purpose

- 1.1 To highlight to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) the issues surrounding the significant increase in calls for bariatric rescues since 2016/17 to the present day.
- 1.2 To use this increase as the catalyst for definitive multi agency action to take place around bariatric incidents in Derby/ Derbyshire.

Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note and accept the increasing trend in bariatric incidents.
- 2.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve and support the establishment of a mechanism by which its partners can effectively work together to reduce the ongoing effect of bariatric incidents.

Reasons

- 3.1 The attendance at incidents involving bariatric patients is impacting on the capacity and resilience of Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service (DFRS) and other partner agencies who are involved.
- 3.2 If this trend is left unchallenged, it will reach a critical capacity and will be unmanageable within the medium-term future.

Supporting information

- 4.1 Since 2017/18 bariatric casualty incidents have increased by almost 150%.
- 4.2 This trend is ever increasing with the first quarter of 2022/23 displaying almost a 300% increase in comparison to the same period in 2017/18.
- 4.3 There is no statutory duty for the Fire and Rescue Service to assist with a bariatric patient in a non-emergency situation.
- 4.4 There is also the emerging risk of bariatric patients not being able to self-rescue from fire incidents.

- 4.5 There were 376 accidental dwelling fires in Derbyshire last year. The energy crisis may lead to increasingly dangerous ways that people try to cook and heat their homes which will exacerbate this further.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 DFRS regularly engages with other emergency services in the response to incidents involving bariatric patients.

Other options

- 6.1 DFRS have ensured that suitable resources are available for the attendance of incidents involving bariatric patients so that we can work with our partners.
- 6.2 If we were to accept this increase in demand, then other areas of Service would have to go unaddressed.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 This is placing a significant strain on the resource availability and finances of emergency service partners.

Legal implications

- 8.1 There is not currently a statutory duty for the Fire and Rescue Service to assist with a bariatric patient in a non-emergency situation, but multi-agency working is a core principle we will continue to work to.

Climate implications

- 9.1 None.

Other significant implications

- 10.1 None

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal		
Finance		
Service Director(s)		
Report sponsor	Gavin Tomlinson, Chief Fire Officer	
Other(s)	Alison Wynn, Assistant Director Public Health	31.08.2022

Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	None