Agenda Item 5

Vale of Glamorgan Community Liaison Committee Update

April to October 2026 – Response Overview

Fire Stations - Barry - Penarth - Llantwit Major - Cowbridge

Purpose: Overview of emergency response activity across the Vale of Glamorgan, highlighting changes in incident demand and community risk compared with the same period last year.

Overview

Crews at Barry, Penarth, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge continue to provide an effective emergency response across the Vale of Glamorgan. Overall demand has remained broadly stable, with fewer deliberate fires, road traffic collisions and false alarms, but an increase in dwelling and non-residential fires. We will continue to use incident trends to focus prevention, protection and operational activity where it can have the greatest impact.

Overall demand and incident profile - RESPONSE SECTION | Q1 AND Q2 COMPARATIVE UPDATE

Crews attended 730 incidents in Q1 and Q2 of 2026/27, compared with 736 in the same period of 2025/26. Although the overall total changed little, the figures below show changes in the types of incidents attended.

Measure	Q1+Q2 2025/26	Q1+Q2 2026/27	Change
All incidents	736	730	▼ 1%
Dwelling fires	28	42	▲ 50%
Accidental dwelling fires	27	38	▲ 41%
Non-residential fires	9	14	▲ 56%
Deliberate fires	151	125	▼ 17%
Road traffic collisions	57	45	▼ 21%
Other special service calls	144	145	↔ 1%
False alarms	295	286	▼ 3%

What this means

The rise in dwelling and non-residential fires remains a concern despite stable overall demand. These increases will remain a focus for local prevention, protection and operational learning. Fewer deliberate fires, road traffic collisions and false alarms are positive developments, while partnership work, targeted engagement and deliberate-fire reduction activity will continue.

Vale of Glamorgan Community Liaison Committee Update

April to October 2026

Fire Stations - Barry - Penarth - Llantwit Major - Cowbridge

Purpose: Overview of prevention, protection and community activity delivered across the Vale of Glamorgan, beyond emergency response.

Headline activity

Activity	Completed	Planned target	Position
Home Fire Safety Checks	1,069	26/27 Target – 2000 HFSC	54% of the planned position
School visits	27 KS1/KS2 visits	Each school in the area to receive KS1, KS2 and SAVA activity annually	Visits continue through the academic year
Risk information visits	31 SSRI/IAP visits in Q1; 35 further visits recorded in October	All visits completed by scheduled date, with none overdue	Focused Weeks of Action supported progress
Community risk reduction	Vale stations contributed to 42 UA activities in Q1 and 72 in Q2	Risk-led, with local targets set by Station Commanders	Road, water, wildfire and deliberate-fire work delivered

Overview

Crews at Barry, Penarth, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge continue to make a broad contribution to safety and wellbeing across the Vale of Glamorgan. SWFRS frontline crews do not simply respond when something goes wrong. they are working throughout the Vale to prevent incidents, support vulnerable residents, educate young people, improve road and water safety and work alongside our partners to make communities safer and more resilient

1. Safer homes and support for vulnerable residents

Between April and the end of October, crews across the Vale of Glamorgan completed 1,069 Home Fire Safety Checks, achieving over half of the annual target of 2,000. Activity will continue throughout the remainder of the year, with a particular focus on reaching vulnerable and higher-risk residents. The four stations also managed all 0800 referrals, within the expected referral timeframe.

2. Education and engagement with young people

The detailed returns record 27 KS1 and KS2 school visits across the Vale between April and October. The planned approach is for schools in each station area to receive KS1, KS2 and SAVA activity during the academic year. Barry recorded further school activity in October, while other stations were arranging visits following the summer holiday period.

3. Road, water and community safety

Vale crews have supported a wide range of activity including road safety, water safety, wildfire prevention, deliberate-fire reduction, safety talks and community events. These activities are risk-led rather than driven by one fixed numerical target.

- Barry crews supported local schools, community events and businesses, including a coffee morning at David Davies House, a fire-safety campaign in Barry town centre and station visits, alongside partnership working with the Welsh Ambulance Service from the shared emergency services station
- Penarth crews supported road and water safety, deliberate-fire reduction and community events, including partnership work delivering water-safety education to children through the 'Just Jump' initiative
- Llantwit Major crews supported local schools and community events including the Llantwit 10K and community Duck Race, alongside partnership working with Police, Ambulance and Coastguard colleagues at the shared emergency services station.
- Cowbridge crews supported school and community engagement, road and water safety, and wildfire and deliberate-fire prevention, alongside community events including the station Open Day.

4. Keeping operational risk information up to date

Crews visit higher-risk buildings and sites so operational information is current and available in an emergency. The reports record 31 SSRI and IAP visits across Vale stations in Q1 and a further 35 SSRI, IAP and related risk visits in October. The planned standard is for all visits to be completed by their scheduled date with no overdue work.

5. Partnership, wellbeing and safeguarding

Home safety and community visits give crews opportunities to identify wider vulnerability, wellbeing or safeguarding concerns and to signpost residents to appropriate support. Work with schools, community organisations and partner agencies also helps the Service reach people who may not otherwise seek fire-safety advice.

Key message for Community Liaison Committee

The role of local crews extends well beyond responding to 999 calls. From April to October, Vale stations delivered more than one thousand home safety visits, school education, risk-information visits and a broad programme of road, water and community-safety activity. This work helps prevent emergencies, supports vulnerable residents and strengthens local resilience.

Community Risk Management Plan Consultation

Throughout November and December, we are on a mission to hear from as many people as possible about what they consider to be the biggest risks facing their communities and whether we are focusing on the right things to help keep people safe.

We are keen to hear from as wide a range of people as possible, and I would be grateful if you could help us share the consultation through your own networks and communication channels.

We recognise that many people engage with trusted local organisations more regularly than they do directly with public services. Your support in sharing the consultation will therefore help us reach a wider range of communities and give more people the opportunity to have their say.

We want to know:

- Have we identified the right risks?
- Are we focusing on the right priorities?
- Is there anything important we have missed?
- What matters most to your community?

How can people take part?

- **Watch the short explainer film**
- **Read the full draft plan**
- **Complete the consultation survey**
- **Visit our consultation hub**

The Consultation closes on Monday 21st December.