

Annual Assurance Statement Members' Update

Standards and Governance
Committee

18 June 2015

Agenda

- What it is
- How we manage it
- When we update
- Show and tell

Purpose of Annual Assurance Statement

This statement covers governance, finance and Future Improvements and has an element of operational assurance.

(Please note the Annual Assurance statement is distinct from Operational Assurance which is formed from elements such as the Operational Self Assessment undertaken as part of the 3-yearly LGA Fire Peer Review.)

Annual Assurance Statement

- You can find it here
 - <http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/about-us/plan/improving-and-reviewing/>
- This is what it looks like:

about us

our plan

- what is Hampshire like
- **improving and reviewing**
- our focus for the future
- making life safer priorities
- making our service stronger
- financially running the fire service
- get a copy of our plan get more
- information/share your ideas with us
- previous years' plans

contact us

who we are

what we do

hampshire fire and rescue authority

[Home](#) > [about us](#) > [our plan](#) > [improving and reviewing](#)

Our plan: reviewing and improving our performance

Assurance Statement 2013-14

The Fire and Rescue National Framework requires Fire and rescue Authorities to provide an annual assurance on financial, governance, and operational matters.

To provide assurance, Authorities must publish an annual Statement of Assurance.

We believe in continual improvement and constantly look to develop what we do for the community as well as ensure that we provide value for money. To achieve this improvement we seek information from our community about their satisfaction and encourage feedback from staff, partner organisations, and other professionals.

We gather information from members of the public after incidents and undertake a range of audits and assessments, both internally and by external bodies. All of these are used to assist us to understand our strengths and weaknesses and inform our strategic assessment and Service plan.

Did you know

We work closely with South Central Ambulance Service and our [co-responder scheme](#) (giving emergency first aid) is growing constantly. We receive over 10,000 calls per year.

Assurance

To improve our services and ensure we are delivering the best service to the public we focus our attention on three key areas, Financial, Governance and Operational. These areas help strengthen our organisation and give us a solid platform to grow.

Financial

It is important that public money is well used and appropriately managed. We do this by using proper accounting practice within our own set of regulations. This means that when we plan our budget or require additional funds, there are protocols to give appropriate scrutiny on how public money is to be used and to ensure there is clear justification to do so.

- Proper and legal accounting practice
[Financial regulations](#)
- Public money is used economically, efficiently and effectively
Financial management strategy
[Statement of accounts](#)

Governance

As well as having financial regulations and a financial management strategy it is important for us to follow appropriate business practice. How we do this is detailed in our 'Annual governance statement', which can be found in our 'Statement of accounts'. In addition to this, we provide the public with open access on our activity and spending. This gives us greater accountability to the public.

Annual Assurance Statement

- It links into other key documents, e.g.
 - Statement of Accounts
 - Published spend
 - Service Plan

Questions?

- Is it statutory (why do we do it)
- Is there a better / different way of doing it?
- How frequently is it refreshed?