

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 7

MEETING: 14 DECEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE TRIAL

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Emergency Medical Response (EMR) trial which TWFRS is undertaking.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members have previously received a report (min 26/2015 refers) detailing how NJC Circulars 7/15 and 13/5 enable Fire and Rescue Services to apply to take part in Emergency Medical Response trials across England, in which Firefighters could respond to defined life threatening medical emergencies, under agreement through a memorandum of understanding with their local Ambulance Trust.
- 2.2 TWFRS officers have worked with colleagues from neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services, the Fire Brigades Union (FBU), North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) and ambulance unions, in order to establish how the trial will work in our Service area.
- 2.3 Following detailed submissions to the NJC TWFRS have received acknowledgement that a trial can be undertaken from January to June 2016.

3 EMR TRIAL IN TWFRS

- 3.1 Crews at Newcastle West (West Denton) Community Fire Station are to co-respond to defined emergency medical incidents under conditions agreed with NEAS. Firefighters will provide potentially life-saving medical interventions if they can reach a desperately ill patient before paramedics under the pilot.
- 3.2 Crews will remain focussed on dealing with fire and rescue incidents for the period of the trial, but will be mobilised to certain life threatening medical emergencies, if not already at an incident, and if they can arrive in time to keep a patient alive until Ambulance Service staff can take over.
- 3.3 Crews from West Denton are currently undergoing additional training with NEAS to increase their medical intervention skills and ensure they are able to deal with the medical emergencies they are likely to face during the trial.

- 3.4 Under the terms of the pilot, Firefighters who have had the appropriate training will respond to emergencies classified as 'Red Calls' by NEAS. These calls are typically for people who have suffered suspected heart attacks, cardiac arrest, strokes, or who have stopped breathing. The emergency medical calls will be sent from the NEAS control to TWRS Control. All EMR mobilisations will be made by our Control staff.
- 3.5 At the same time, Prevention and Education staff, as well as Firefighters will also deliver enhanced Home Safety Checks to include signposting residents to key healthcare services, where such a need exists.
- 3.6 Data will be consistently collected throughout the trial and a full evaluation will be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of Firefighters providing a level of Emergency Medical Response. This evaluation will be submitted to the NJC and will be combined with evidence from around the country to form a national picture.

4 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 A risk assessment for the trial is being completed and will be in place before the trial starts.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Preparation for the trial involving training of Crews and the purchase of essential equipment has so far incurred costs of around £15k. It is not expected that this amount will rise significantly.

6 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equality and fairness implications in respect of this report.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Authority is recommended to:
- a) Note the contents of this report
 - b) Support this area of work
 - c) Receive further reports as appropriate.
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

**Tyne and Wear Fire
and Rescue Authority**
Creating the Safest Community



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The under mentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

- NJC Circular 13/15
- NJC Circular 7/15

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