

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 9

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 2 FEBRUARY 2015

SUBJECT: THE MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGE

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, THE CLERK TO THE
AUTHORITY, THE FINANCE OFFICER AND THE PERSONNEL ADVISOR TO THE
AUTHORITY**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members regarding the Authority's potential involvement in the Mental Health Challenge and seek nominations for a Member Champion to support this work.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members may recall the Mental Health Challenge was set up by Centre for Mental Health, Mental Health Foundation, Mind, Rethink Mental Illness, Royal College of Psychiatrists and 'YoungMinds'. The Challenge is funded by the Department of Health through the Mental Health Strategic Partnership.
- 2.2 Local authorities have a key role in implementing the resultant mental health strategy and improving mental health in their communities. The Challenge provides support and encourages local authorities to take a proactive approach to this crucial issue within their communities.
- 2.3 As the Challenge was only open to councils to take part and excluded Fire and Rescue Authorities, members had requested that an approach was made to the Partnership to consider extending involvement to include Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority. Subsequently, Officers held a series of exploratory discussions with the Partnership regarding this request.

3 PARTICIPATION AND MEMBER CHAMPION

- 3.1 The Partnership considered the request and has agreed to the Authority becoming the first Fire and Rescue Authority to be a part of the Challenge.



- 3.2 As a result of this request the Partnership have also suggested that the Authority may wish to encourage other Fire and Rescue Authorities to become involved in the Challenge.
- 3.3 Furthermore, members will recall at the meeting held on 13 October 2014 it was also agreed in principle that a mental health member champion be considered to support the valuable work the Service provides. As the approval to take part has now been confirmed members may wish to consider the proposal set out in paragraph 4.1 of this report.
- 4 PROPOSAL**
- 4.1 Members are requested to nominate a mental health member champion to support the valuable work the Service provides in this regard.
- 5 LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**
- 5.1 There are no legislative implications associated with this report as it complies with current employment law and good practice.
- 6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**
- 6.1 There are no additional financial implications.
- 7 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**
- 7.1 There are no equality and fairness implications in respect of this report.
- 8 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**
- 8.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report.
- 9 RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 9.1 Members are recommended to:
- a) Approve the proposal detailed in section 4.1 of this report;
 - b) Receive further reports as appropriate.
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