

**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**Item No 10**

**FIRE AUTHORITY: 16 FEBRUARY 2015**

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**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**

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**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Authority's acceptance into the Mental Health Challenge and seeks nominations for a Member Champion.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Members are advised that 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 mental health strategy and improving mental health in their communities. The Challenge provides support and encourages local authorities to be proactive in this crucial area of health.
- 2.3 The Challenge was initially only open to councils and excluded Fire and Rescue Authorities. At the HR Committee on 13 October 2014 Members requested an approach be made to the Partnership to extend involvement to this Authority.

**3 PARTICIPATION AND MEMBER CHAMPION**

- 3.1 At the HR Committee on 2 February 2015, Members were advised that, after detailed discussions, the Partnership welcomed the Authority in becoming the first Fire and Rescue Authority to participate in the Challenge.
- 3.2 As a result, the Partnership have requested the Authority to nominate a mental health Member Champion, to support this valuable work and also work to encourage other Fire and Rescue Authorities to become involved in the Challenge.

#### **4 LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no legislative implications associated with this report.

#### **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no additional financial implications.

#### **6 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Participation in the Mental Health Challenge will assist the Authority's plans in further supporting equality and fairness within the workforce.

#### **7 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **8 RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 Members are recommended to:

- a) Nominate a Member Champion as detailed in section 3.2 of this report;
  - b) Receive further reports as appropriate.
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