



POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE held in the Fire Authority Rooms, Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Nissan Way, Barmston Mere, Sunderland on MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2019 at 10.30 am

Present:

Councillor Forbes in the Chair.

Councillor Duggan.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Dodds, Pickard, Purvis and Samuels.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

4. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Performance Committee held on 8 July 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Quarter Two Performance Report 2019/2020

The Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive (Clerk to the Authority), the Strategic Finance Manager and the Personnel Advisor to the Authority submitted a joint report to provide the Committee with information relating to Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service's (TWFRS) performance for Quarter Two 2019/2020.

The Committee noted the incidents during the Bonfire Period between 1st and 6th November 2019, which were tabled for information.

The attention of Members was drawn to the following statistics within TWFRS, and they were asked to provide feedback on the new format of the report: -

- Unfortunately, there was one fatality (LI02) from all fires. This was as a result of an accidental dwelling fire (LI01).
- Injuries from all fires (LI05) had decreased by 40% (36). Injuries from accidental dwelling fires (LI03) had decreased by 52% (13) when compared to Q2 2018/19.
- There was an 8% (310) reduction in the number of fire calls attended (LI24).
- During Q2 2019/20, accidental dwelling fires (LI08) had decreased by 5% (12) compared to the same period last year.
- There had been a 6% (155) decrease in deliberate secondary fires (LI16).
- False alarms in non-domestic premises (LI22) had decreased by 14% (131) and false alarms in domestic premises had increased by 8% (108).
- 25% (203) automatic false alarms in non-domestic premises were to educational premises (LI22).

Members were advised that the proactive, targeted intervention and prevention work with communities and partners had helped to reduce the number of fires in the home and businesses.

Area Manager (AM) Phil Clark reported that it was difficult to analyse trends in deaths from fire due to the low numbers however explained that case conferences were held following a death from fire and a review undertaken to identify if anything could have been done better.

The Committee noted the ongoing targeted work and mitigation to reduce the number of smoking related incidents, including the Smoke Alarm Campaign.

In addition, it was noted that TRVs were located to areas based upon risk level and peak times for deliberate secondary fires across the region. Area Manager (AM) John Pratt referred to the attendance time by risk level which suggested that the deployment of resources was having a positive impact and that it would continue to be monitored.

The Chairman questioned whether there was a correlation between TWFRAs KPI targets and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) targets. AM Phil Clark advised that the Inspection Team focused on methodology and outcomes rather than targets.

Members were advised that Newcastle's ward boundaries had changed and the District Performance report had been aligned accordingly.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the Accidental Dwelling Fires in North Tyneside and noted that there had been a decrease, not increase, as stated in the report.

5. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the contents of the report be noted and endorsed; and
- (ii) further reports be received as appropriate.

Improvement and Assessment Plan

The Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive (Clerk to the Authority), the Strategic Finance Manager and the Personnel Advisor to the Authority submitted a joint report to provide Members with an update on the progress made against the Assessment and Improvement Plan (Appendix A).

Members were advised that good progress had been made against the Improvement Plan. Since November 2018 the highlights and key updates were as follows: -

- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) conducted an inspection of the Service between December 2018 and February 2019. There were three pillars of inspection focussing on effectiveness, efficiency and leadership. Fire and Rescue Services are judged in the following categories: outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate. TWFRS were categorised as 'good' across all pillars of inspection.
- Investors in People (IiP) conducted their 24 month review during April and May 2019, which confirmed that the Service continued to be recognised as an IiP Gold organisation.
- In July 2019, the Service achieved a Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Gold Achievement Award.
- In July 2019, the Service achieved a North East Better Health at Work Silver Award.
- To note that the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index staff feedback survey was live during October 2019, and asked staff about their thoughts on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) equality in the workplace.

- To note that the Services Employee Survey 2019, would be going live in November 2019, and analysis of outcomes would be shared with members.
- To note that in August 2018, the Services' Cyber Essentials accreditation was confirmed and TWFRAs are currently in the process of refining the submission for 2019 with a view to submitting in November 2019.

The Chairman commented that this was excellent activity and acknowledged the significance of the inspection programme.

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) further reports be received as appropriate.

(Signed) N FORBES
Chair