



Minutes

Community Safety

Date: 29 October 2021

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Birkenshaw

Present: Councillor M Pervaiz (in the chair), R, Downes (as substitute for C Burke), P Harrand, M Midgley, N Mohammed (as substitute for Councillor S Nazir), M Pollard, K Renshaw, F Shaheen (as substitute for Councillor Almas) and I Sanders

In Attendance: Councillor S Press (by remote means in observer capacity only)

Apologies: Councillors G Almas, C Burke, D Kirton and S Nazir

10 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 23 July 2021 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

11 Matters arising

None.

12 Urgent items

None.

13 Admission of the public

There were no items which required the exclusion of the public and press.

14 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest made in any matter under consideration at the meeting.

15 Service Delivery “Spotlight On” case studies

Members considered a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery which provided examples and updates on the following areas of work which were being undertaken to meet the needs of the communities of West Yorkshire in the delivery of prevention, protection and response activity;

- Calderdale Hoarding Panel
- Leeds Falls Response service – coming to a close
- Get started with survival
- Safe space (safe spot) - Bradford
- Wakefield Connecting Care hubs, and
- Kirklees Dairy Mill project

Members noted the reports and received them positively. Further information was provided particularly in respect of the Bradford Safe Space initiative

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

16 Quality of Service Surveys 2020 – 21

Members considered a report of the Chief Employment Services Officer which advised of the feedback received with regard to service delivery during 2020 – 21 in respect of the following;

- After the Incident (quality of service survey) – 99.5% satisfaction from both domestic properties and from commercial premises

It was reported that no questionnaires had been sent out for both the Safe and Well visits and School Fire Safety visits due to the effect of the pandemic during the year.

Members noted the overall very positive response. Further clarification was sought, and given, in respect of how the general public perceived and measured incident response time to domestic incidents.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

17 Performance against PMI targets 2021 – 22

Members received a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery which advised of performance against the 2021 – 22 performance outcome targets and focussed specifically on performance between 1 April and 27 September 2021.

Having disregarded 2020 – 21 statistics due to the COVID pandemic it was reported that there had been a slight increase in overall activity compared with the previous year but that the general trend since 2015 had revealed stable activity levels.

Members raised the following specific issues;

- Malicious False Alarms in the Bradford district
- Service policy for attendance at Unwanted Fire Signals

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

18 District Priorities – 6 monthly update

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Service Delivery and Deputy Chief Fire Officer which provided a 6-monthly update on the annual district priorities.

Members noted the report and sought reassurance regarding the mechanism for good practice identified in one district area being shared in other areas.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

19 Arson Convictions 2020 - 21

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery which detailed those arson convictions which had been made during the 2020 – 21 period in which the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Fire Investigation Team had provided expert witness statements.

Members were advised that the Fire Investigation Team was available 24/7 and were called automatically to serious fires, fire fatalities, locations of repeated fire incidence and / or where there were unusual circumstances involved.

The report detailed 21 cases (24 individuals) which had been brought, or were due, before the Crown Court. Fourteen cases were awaiting either trial date or trial outcome. It was reported that 5 of the individuals had received convictions totalling approximately 21 years and one individual had been detained without limit of time under the Mental Health Act 1983.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

20 Youth Interventions team – annual report

The Director of Service Delivery presented a report providing details of the progress of the Youth Interventions Team for the academic year 2019/20. The COVID19 pandemic has had a massive impact on both the Youth Intervention Trainers and the young people they work with. The team had to suspend some of their work but it is noted that they were one of only two fire and rescue services in the UK to deliver the Prince's Trust programme digitally. Resilience is a key element to all their programmes and the team's response to the challenges of the last 6 months is testament to their dynamic culture and passion for working with young people. The team is confident that it will make a full recovery from the challenges that the pandemic has presented and look forward to continuing to be a catalyst for change in the lives of young people.

Members requested clarification of the process for raising and managing referrals for young people who had displayed fire-setting behaviours in the context of the ongoing pandemic

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

Chair