



Minutes

Community Safety Committee

Date: 28 April 2023

Time: 10:30

Venue: FSHQ

Present: Cllr G Almas (in the chair), Cllrs R Ahmed, M S Fazal, P Harrand, D Kirton, M Midgley, M Pervaiz, M Pollard, K Renshaw and R Wood

In Attendance: Mr Ishaq Mahmood (Independent Person)

Apologies: None

29 Minutes of the last meeting held on 13 January 2023

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 13 January 2023 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

30 Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

31 Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

32 Admission of the public

There were no items requiring the exclusion of press and public.

33 Declarations of interest

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

34 Spotlight On Case Studies

Members considered a report of the 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.

- a) Bradford – Nitrous Oxide
- b) Calderdale – Stay Safe Stay Warm
- c) Kirklees – Huddersfield University Partnership
- d) Leeds – Cost of Living Crisis Support
- e) Wakefield – Tackling Water Safety

It was emphasised that the Spotlight Ons are just examples of initiatives going on across all Districts all the time. Members noted the Spotlight On reports and received them positively. The Chair gave thanks to the District Managers for their hard work within the local communities and thanked them for attending today's meeting. Members also passed on their thanks for the continued excellent collaborative work with partner agencies going on across all districts.

Members discussed the following points:

- a) Whether restrictions on the sale of Nitrous Oxide can be expediated by Trading Standards.
- b) The work of the Fire Investigation Team to establish whether the causes of fires across all districts are linked to the current cost of living crisis and that victims are signposted to the relevant service.
- c) The ongoing formal training taking place with Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS)
- d) The introduction of winter warm packs which will be updated in accordance with the change of seasons and the anonymity of accessing foodbanks and other cost of living support.
- e) The success of the recent National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Be Water Aware Week

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

35 Performance Against PMI Targets 2022/23

Members received a report of the Director of Service Delivery which advised of the performance against the performance outcome targets for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. Members were advised the final year-end figures may change very slightly following in depth audit and will be presented in full detail to the Full Authority Committee to be held on 29 June 2023.

Members requested clarification of the arson figures and discussed the recent multi agency work focused on tackling anti social behaviour in Leeds which has significantly reduced the figure, although it is still receiving a red rating. Members challenged the report author to explain the relationship of the hot weather to the huge increase in fires during the summer 2022 heatwave.

Members were advised that WYFRS must follow home office guidance on the classification of fires and that the new way of reporting Performance Management Figures via One View will provide greater clarity of the statistics in the future.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

36 Arson Convictions 2022/23

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Delivery which advised of the arson convictions for the year 2022 – 2023, where the Fire Investigation Team have provided expert witness statements to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

Members were advised that from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 the Fire Investigation Unit Officers (FIOs) had investigated the origin, cause and development of fire in 216 incidents and of these they had provided 76 expert witness statements for the use of West Yorkshire Police (WYP) and the CPS. The details of the 18 cases that had been processed through the judicial system were provided in the report.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

37 Grenfell Update

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer submitted a report to update members on the progress against the Grenfell Tower Phase 1 inquiry action plan. The report further outlined the areas covered by phase 2 of the inquiry.

The report noted that of the original 88 objectives included in the WYFRS Grenfell Action Plan which resulted from the Phase 1 inquiry, 78 have been completed and 10 local objectives remain ongoing. These have had good progress towards completion, having transitioned across to business as usual.

Members were advised that the Phase 2 hearings began on 27 January 2020 and ran through to 10 November 2022 and the report is expected to be released in late 2023. WYFRS will create an action plan to show how any necessary changes detailed in the report will be implemented and Members welcomed that staff views and opinions were sought in forming all action plans.

Following a challenge from a member regarding remediation, members were assured that WYFRS have residents' safety at the forefront and that there are strategies in place for all Higher Risk Residential Buildings (HRRBs) located within the Authority. The Service has been working closely with the responsible person for each building and there are plans to reinspect all appropriate buildings this year.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

38 Safeguarding Activity Update

The Director of Service Delivery submitted a report informing members of the safeguarding activity undertaken during the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.

Members were advised that during the period 243 cases have generated a cause for concern. 173 of these were identified as requiring safeguarding and were referred to their local authority safeguarding team, 61 were identified as vulnerable individuals, 3 were the identification of soft intelligence and 6 were uncategorised.

The report noted that following the process review undertaken in March 2021, seven changes were identified. Four of these have been completed but three are awaiting the finalisation of the updated Cause for Concern Form. This has been unavoidably delayed due to other organisational IT System Updates. Members requested that an update on this is brought to a future committee and were reassured that the Internal Auditors had given a positive assurance opinion.

Members requested clarification of the rare occasions where the requirement to gain consent to raise a concern would be overridden.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

39 Evaluation of Prevention Work

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Delivery which advised of the work being undertaken to evaluate the performance of our prevention initiatives, following the State of Fire and Rescue: The Annual Assessment of Fire and Rescue Services in England 2022 report.

To demonstrate how evaluation is being used to improve how WYFRS learn from the prevention work undertaken, three evaluation reports were presented to members:

- Freshers Fair
- Ukraine Refuge Project
- Bradford Bonfire Period

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

40 Risk Based Inspection Programme Update

The Director of Service Delivery submitted a report informing members of the Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP) and the activities planned for 2023 – 2024.

Members were asked to note that as the national guidance on the methodology which should be incorporated into RBIPs has not yet been released, this is an interim document, to be reviewed when the guidance is published.

Members requested clarification that the sample inspections noted in the programme were in addition to the ten percent included as pro-active inspections and if they were in person or via questionnaire.

A member challenge regarding the internal assurance processes was answered as both the competence of the Fire Protection Inspectors (FPIs) and the associated assurance processes received Substantial Assurance from Kirklees Audit in March 2023. Members requested, and were provided with, clarification of prohibition and enforcement notices.

RESOLVED

- a) That the report be noted
- b) That the Risk Based Inspection Programme be approved

Chair