



OFFICIAL

# Primary Authority Scheme Update

## Community Safety Committee

---

Date: 25 January 2019

Agenda Item:

5

Submitted By: Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery

---

**Purpose** This report aims to provide an update on the work carried out by the Business Support Team within Fire Protection in relation to activity which incorporates Primary Authority Scheme partnerships.

**Recommendations** That Members of the Community Safety Committee note the contents of the report and agree that the reporting of updates to the scheme are done by exception rather than on a six-monthly basis.

**Summary** At the February 2014 Community Safety Committee Members approved the active participation in Primary Authority Partnerships through the development of a new Business Support Team. Since that time the team has gone from strength to strength with a significant amount of work being carried out to develop new partnerships. West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (WYFRA) are now one of the leading Fire Authorities in terms of active participation in the scheme having issued various pieces of assured advice to our partners.

---

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category: None

Contact Officer: Chris Kemp – Senior Fire Protection Manager

Background papers open to inspection: Previous updates to the Community Safety Committee

Annexes: Appendix 1 – List of current partnerships

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of Primary Authority Partnerships delivered through the Business Support Team (BST) which was introduced in Summer 2014 following approval by the Community Safety Committee and Executive Committee.
- 1.2 The Primary Authority Scheme (PAS) is a statutory scheme which came in to effect on 1 October 2008. Following amendments in 2017 it now allows for any business to form a legally recognised partnership with a single local authority in relation to regulatory compliance. This local authority is then known as its 'primary authority'.
- 1.3 Primary authorities play a valuable role in leading and shaping the regulation of businesses that partner with them. In doing so, they deliver benefits for the regulatory system as a whole, for the businesses they partner with, and for those that the regulations are designed to protect, consumers, workers and the environment.
- 1.4 As an Authority within a PAS partnership we are responsible for providing fire safety advice to our partners, that advice can then be adopted by the partner across all their sites in England and Wales, all other Fire and Rescue Authorities are statutory bound to accept this advice.
- 1.5 This provides the partner with a consistent approach enabling them to be confident in their safety arrangements. This is all achieved by issuing what is now known as "Primary Authority Advice" and potentially issuing inspection plans, however, inspection plans will only be utilised once a partnership is fully embedded.

## 2 Information

- 2.1 At the beginning of 2018 the staffing within the Business Support Team changed with Chris Smith taking the lead as Supervisor and Dawn Matthewman filling the role of Inspector. Chris has a wealth of fire safety knowledge having spent over 23 years working within fire protection. Dawn joined the team having become an inspecting officer with London Fire Brigade before spending 18 months working within our Enforcement Team and brings a fresh approach to the team.
- 2.2 The Enterprise Act 2016 included measures to extend and simplify Primary Authority, enabling all UK businesses to benefit from the scheme, including those who are not yet trading. From 1 October 2017 every UK business can access advice they can trust through PAS, the eligibility requirements for businesses to have premises in more than one Local Authority area has been removed allowing individual independent businesses the opportunity to form a statutory partnership with any local authority, providing them with assured advice and confidence in their processes.
- 2.3 Since it was introduced in 2009, Primary Authority has helped businesses avoid inconsistent and confusing red tape. This has been shown to increase business confidence and reduce operational costs, allowing enterprises to focus on expansion, to date there are over 16,000 partnerships with 189 different local authorities/fire authorities.
- 2.4 The scope of PAS was initially built on the principles of Lead Authority Partnerships (LAP's), these were similar partnerships between businesses and local authorities but originally focused on local partnerships (those where LA and business Head Offices were based).
- 2.5 As the introduction of PAS developed, government realised that in order for the scheme to be successful with businesses paying costs, they would need to enable free choice for the business to select the right local authority partner for their organisation. Therefore links to the LAP's scheme were severed and the ability to sign partnerships with any qualifying business / authority were introduced.

- 2.6 Fire Protection has developed a PAS Policy which details how we will determine if potential businesses are suitable for a partnership. This policy takes note of the importance of forging partnerships with businesses whose head office is located in West Yorkshire but does not exclude us from creating partnerships with businesses located elsewhere providing they meet the key principles of the scheme.
- 2.7 Within West Yorkshire, our first partnership was created with Asda Stores Limited. Asda is a grocery and general merchandise retailer operating out of 568 stores across the UK and employing approximately 175,000 staff. West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority (WYFRA) were the first fire authority to issue fire safety “assured advice” under the scheme and we have now extended the partnership to incorporate explosives licensing (fireworks).
- 2.8 We have issued various pieces of Primary Authority Advice to our partners which includes such things as
- Fire Safety Arrangements around their fire safety policy
  - Fire Watch – The procedures for dealing with fire alarm faults or downtime
  - Electro Magnetic Locks and Delayed Egress Devices
  - Fireworks Storage
  - Fire Warden / Fire Marshal – The training and procedures for Marshals/Wardens has been examined and assured.
  - Fires Exits at a specific locations
  - Development of advice around unmanned gymnasiums
  - Petrol Filling Station shops – Fire Safety Arrangements on Petrol Filling Stations has been examined and assured.
- 2.9 At present we currently have 21 partnerships which are detailed within Appendix 1. We are in the process of identifying which partners are proactive and are looking for a programme of work to be delivered throughout 2019 and those partners which are classed as dormant and only require the partnership to provide reactive work. Examples of reactive work would include responding to Enforcement Notices or inspections by other Fire & Rescue Services.
- 2.10 We are currently exploring opportunities whereby we can share partners with our regulatory counterparts within West Yorkshire. This could possibly involve the sharing of templates, processes and procedures for quality checking the advice we issue and potentially align our partners under one overarching West Yorkshire partnership. This is in the early stages of discussion however any progress made in this area will be reported on to this committee.

### **3 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The rate at which we operate our cost recovery was determined using HM Treasury guidance formulas and set by the Finance Department.
- 3.2 In April 2017 the Chief Finance Officer requested a review of the financial costings to ensure the Authority were recovering all available costs through the scheme. This piece of work concluded in September 2017 with the following amendments:

New rates:

£68 per hour for the first 2 hours of any day

£42 per hour for any subsequent hour within that day.

- 3.4 It is written in to each individual signed agreement that rates will be subject to an annual review to take account of any increase in costs.

## **4 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The Partnership Agreements are a formal legal contract. The Government department responsible for facilitating the scheme, Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, has provided standard terms and conditions which help mitigate risks for participating authorities. The agreements the Authority enters into have been scrutinised and agreed by the Chief Legal and Governance Officer.
- 4.2 Under the scheme the Authority is liable to a business should we provide negligent advice, our liability however, only extends to the financial costs recovered by us for providing such advice.
- 4.3 Further guidance has been obtained from our insurers and Kirklees Council in May 2017 who confirmed that whilst not necessary, the public liability insurance we have taken out on an annual basis to cover these works can remain as an additional safeguard.

## **5 Human Resource and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1 At present there are no Human Resource implications.
- 5.2 All dealings with partners and prospective partners are carried out in line with policy and do not discriminate against any protected characteristic.
- 5.3 The work being achieved by the BST is proactively supporting and assisting businesses to comply with their legal duties under fire safety legislation. We understand the importance and benefit of including those areas of the community which historically have been difficult to reach. This report highlights the excellent work regulators can achieve through positive inclusion.

## **6 Health and Safety Implications**

- 6.1 There are no Health and Safety implications directly relevant to employees of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 6.2 The engagement of PAS and the introduction of a Business Support Team assists and encourages both local and national businesses to improve general fire precautions within their premises therefore providing a safer community.

## **7 Service Plan Links**

- 7.1 The Primary Authority Scheme supports the organisation's overarching ambition to make West Yorkshire safer by ensuring the authority's statutory fire protection duties are discharged efficiently and effectively. This is achieved by allowing our existing resources to be targeted at high risk premises which in turn will reduce the incidence of fire and the effects of fire should it occur.

## **8 Conclusions**

- 8.1 The Business Support Team is now well established and whilst initially the focus was on creating partnerships, the focus for 2019 is to consolidate the partnerships we have by setting out the work we will deliver for individual partnerships through the year.
- 8.2 Whilst we are not currently being active in seeking new partnerships we will continue to review any applications we receive in line with our Primary Authority Policy, specifically where:

- The business shows a desire to improve their fire safety
- The business seeks a consistent approach across various premises
- We will prioritise partnerships where the business head office is located in West Yorkshire, however, the main factors for determining a partnership are those principles set out in the scheme and highlighted above, providing a business demonstrates these to us and they have premises located within West Yorkshire then we will always consider supporting a partnership.

8.3 The introduction of Primary Authority supports the local economy by providing businesses with consistency and assurance in order to support economic growth. At the same time the business support function is able to provide the small to medium businesses of West Yorkshire the support they need in setting up and developing, this links in to the work that Fire Protection are carrying out with the Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership through the Better Business for All programme.

8.4 Now that the Primary Authority Scheme is embedded within the Fire Protection team and has been in place for almost 5 years it is recommended that updates to the Community Safety Committee are done by exception rather than on a 6-monthly basis.

## Appendix 1

### Current Primary Authority Partnerships

Asda Stores Ltd

Primark

WM Morrison Plc

Direct Line Group

The Bannatyne Group

Pure Gym

Gala

The Co-operative Bank

Yorkshire Bank

T S B

Lloyds Banking Group

Barclays

Yorkshire Building Society

Minster Care Group

Together Housing Group

Yorkshire Housing

Hanover Housing

Leeds Jewish Housing Association

British Red Cross

The Youth Hostel Association

Nationwide Caterers Association



OFFICIAL

# Spotlight On Case Studies

## Community Safety Committee

---

Date: 25 January 2019

Agenda Item:

6

Submitted By: Director of Service Delivery

---

<b>Purpose</b>	To provide Members with examples of how the service meets the needs of vulnerable members of the community in its service delivery functions of prevention, protection and response.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Members of Community Safety Committee note the contents of this report
<b>Summary</b>	The 'Spotlight On' case studies highlight examples of the excellent work that is being delivered across the communities of West Yorkshire

---

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category: None

Contact Officer: Chris Kirby – Area Manager Service Delivery

E: [Chris.kirby@westyorksfire.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.kirby@westyorksfire.gov.uk)

Background papers open to inspection: None

Annexes: Spotlight On – Case Studies

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) is committed to meeting the needs of West Yorkshire's diverse communities. Members are aware that we direct our resources particularly towards the most vulnerable groups and individuals who are most at risk because of their lifestyles, behaviours or the way their protected characteristics, such as race, or religion or belief, influence their day-to-day life.
- 1.2 The Spotlight On case studies allow the service to demonstrate to members of the Community Safety Committee how we often go above and beyond in order to provide an excellent service to the people of West Yorkshire and keep vulnerable people safe.

## **2 Information**

- 2.1 The cases attached to this report demonstrate how our staff are working across districts in order to reduce risk and deliver an excellent service targeting those most vulnerable.

## **3 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **4 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The Chief Legal & Governance Officer has considered this report and has no observations to make at the time of submission of this report but may provide legal advice at the committee meeting and/or respond to any requests by members for legal advice made at the meeting.

## **5 Human Resource and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1 The Spotlight On case studies illustrate how the service meets the needs of our communities with a focus on those who are more vulnerable.

## **6 Health and Safety Implications**

- 6.1 The activities described aim to improve the health and safety of target groups across the respective districts. All such initiatives will have a focus around our key service priorities

## **7 Service Plan Links**

- 7.1 The Spotlight On case studies attached provide examples of how we deliver against the following key service priorities:
- Deliver a proactive community safety programme
  - Deliver a professional and resilient emergency response service
  - Provide a safe, skilled workforce that meets the needs of a diverse community

## **8 Conclusions**

- 8.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the report and attached Spotlight On case studies.

# Spotlight on...

## Calderdale Roadshow

### What the need was and how we identified it:

Road safety is clearly a significant issue for local communities. Around 40% of respondents to the 2016-2021 Police and Crime Plan requested road safety to be a key priority. There is increasing public concern about inconsiderate parking and dangerous driving.

Local ward councillors and community leaders are receiving an increasing number of complaints about anti-social driving and inconsiderate parking. On 30th September 2016, the Calderdale Community Safety Partnership discussed this issue. The Partnership endorsed developing a strategy to coordinate road safety initiatives and the District Commander for West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service volunteered to lead on this work.

Calderdale's road safety strategy focusses on four main Priorities to make Calderdale's roads safer. These are:

- Educating "at risk" groups and individuals
- Engaging with local communities and "at risk" groups or individuals
- Enforcing legislation and applying a robust approach to dangerous and anti-social behaviour
- Engineering out road safety risk by making improvements to carriageways and transportation links

Another key element of the strategy is to communicate any initiatives with partners and local stakeholders. This includes sharing good news stories with local communities.

### What we did & the difference we made

WYFRS is a key partner in delivering initiatives that support the educating and engaging priorities. Examples of current initiatives involving WYFRS employees include; road safety awareness and patrols outside local schools, and speed checks and school parking enforcement.

The Safer Roads Partnership continues to support Operation Hawmill delivered by the Police and Calderdale MBC Council. This operation is targeting the "fatal four" offences of; speeding, using mobile devices while driving, not wearing seat belts, and driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. During the last year, this operation has resulted in seizure of 108 vehicles due to no insurance and/or tax, 38 drivers being stopped for using mobile devices, 79 drivers stopped for speeding, and 224 stopped for not wearing seat belts.

Following the same theme of the "fatal four", Queens Road Neighbourhood Centre hosted a Road Safety event at Calderdale College on 14<sup>th</sup> November. This was supported by the Fire Service, Police and Calderdale Council – the event reached and educated both younger and older children from the surrounding Community.

WYFRS's flag ship education initiative is our annual road safety "Roadshow" that takes place during National Road Safety Week. The target audience is local sixth form students who are effectively the next generation of drivers. The show presents hard-hitting messages about the consequences of speeding, using portable devices, not wearing seat belts, and driving while under the influence. This year's event at Halifax Victoria Theatre was once again a huge success with around 650 people attending.



West Yorkshire  
Fire & Rescue Service

# Spotlight on...

## Calderdale Roadshow

### Outcomes

Since the inception of the road safety strategy Calderdale has enjoyed considerable success in reducing the number of casualties, and incidents on its roads. This includes:

- The number of children killed or seriously injured reducing to their lowest number over recent years
- Pedestrian casualties falling to an all-time low level
- The number of pedal cyclist, seriously injured falling to their lowest level over recent years

The District recognises though that there is still work to do, particularly in reducing the number of motor cyclist deaths and injuries

### Keys to our success

Every year we conduct evaluation of the work we deliver on Road Safety, asking both young and older drivers and passengers for feedback on the information we share.

Below is an example of one of those responses:

*'I think the Roadshow is more valuable to student learning than anything we can offer and we use it as a discussion point throughout the rest of the year. Choices – I wish all Schools & Colleges chose to make all Year 12's attend. In fact, I actually wish it was a compulsory event that you cannot attain a driving license without attending!'*

Brighouse High



West Yorkshire  
Fire & Rescue Service

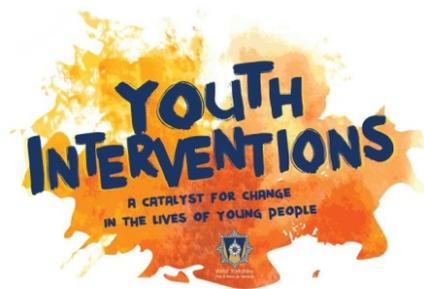
# Spotlight on...

## Targeted Intervention Days

### What the need was and how we identified it

A need was identified to offer a more engaging and meaningful intervention to young people who are actively involved in Anti Social Behaviour (ASB), criminality and road related incidents. Involvement in ASB and criminal activity is a key indicator of vulnerability for the young person and a dependency on blue light services.

We previously offered short 1 hour talks at agencies and Youth Offending Teams to small groups and felt they had little impact. These young people needed something more memorable, challenging and hands on which would fit within their capabilities and also compliment work they were doing with the other partners.



### What we did and the difference we made

We designed a range of Targeted Intervention Days (TIDs) which bring groups of up to 10 young people onto station for an intense 5 hour experience focusing on the theme that is a specific issue for them. They do thought provoking class based activities around the theme, then learn basic firefighter skills and take part in a challenging drill square scenario exploring the real life impact of the theme. The day is rounded up with class based activities discussing the impact of the issue on them, their community and the blue light services. At this point the Trainer explores what the young people think about peer influence and their choices and summarises the learning for the day.

TIDs cost £520 for the group. Some partners commission us directly for a session.

We applied for funding for 10 TIDS from the OPCC and 10 from WYFRS Safer Communities Fund with a specific focus on ASB around the bonfire period and RTC throughout the year.



WYFRS Youth Team @WYFRSYouth · 23 Oct 2018

Another brilliant #Crackers Targeted Intervention Day. Young people from @DeLacyAcademy learning about ASB and how it impacts our communities and the fire service, over the busy bonfire period. #teamworkmakesthedreamwork.



# Spotlight on...

## Targeted Intervention Days

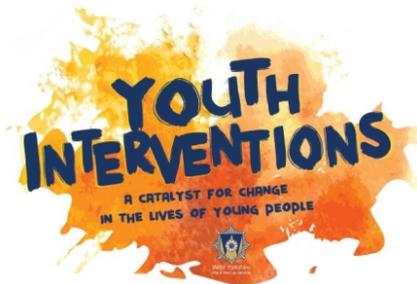
### Keys to our success:

- Securing advance funding so we could engage the exact young people required, not just those associated with a partner with funding.
- Using a team of specialised Youth Intervention Trainers alongside excellent Youth Instructors who were able to adapt to each group and theme
- Using a network of existing partners and internal connections to reach out across communities in all 5 districts
- Reacting to reports of antisocial behaviour and seeking out hot spots, often with the help of District prevention teams
- Designing an intense and engaging intervention experience within our Safe Working Practices for a distinctly challenging audience which resonated with the young people and the partners who attended with them.
- Avoiding a punitive approach, instead giving young people a thought provoking experience and opportunity make better, safer choices

### What next?

We already have plans moving forward to continue this intervention, seek further funding and enhance the range on offer. These include:

- Networking with groups who received Early Intervention Youth Funds
- 5 further TIDs funded by WYFRS Safer Communities
- Following an excellent evaluation report to PCC, we will apply for a further 10 for the next Grant Round
- Safe and Sound TID is to be added to Prince's Trust Achieve options
- Align Biker Light into TID format
- Work closely with Districts to target specific high risk areas
- Proactively seek new funding avenues



## FAST FURIOUS & FATAL

A session to look at road safety and the consequences of reckless driving, practically investigating what the aftermath of a crash is.



WYFRS Youth Team @WYFRSYouth · 17 Oct 2018

Great day with the young people from @B\_UpperHeaton today at Fairweather Green. We have learnt about what impact ASB over the Bonfire period has on our fire crew and communities. Fantastic team work and enthusiasm guys 🙌  
#SayNoToASB



## CRACKERS

Challenging young people to consider the effects of ASB and playing with fireworks and fires during the bonfire night period, or at other times of the year if an issue arises.

## ACTION STRIKE BACK

A challenging and provoking session for those involved with ASB.

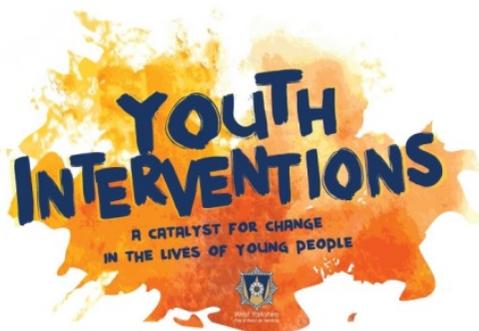
# Spotlight on...

## Targeted Intervention Days

### Partners Involved

All of our interventions are delivered in partnership with other organisations who work with young people who are identified as vulnerable or at risk for different reasons. The partner is responsible for identifying the young people, bringing them to station with their consent, supporting supervision and ensuring the learning is embedded in further work with the group.

In the process of arranging all the programmes with different partners, we reached through a variety of networks such as the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Safer Schools partnerships.



### Commissioning us directly:

Positive Futures – Leeds  
YOS – Leeds and Kirklees  
Signpost – Leeds

### Engaged through Funding Bids:

Oastlers School - Bradford  
Westminster Primary School - Bradford  
Priory Pru - Wakefield  
De Lacey Academy - Wakefield  
Safer Schools Partnership Beckfoot Upper Heaton Schools - Bradford  
Safer Schools Partnership - Bradford  
WYP Early Intervention - Calderdale  
Safer Kirklees - Kirklees  
Safer Schools Partnership- Leeds  
University Academy Keighley – Bradford  
Leeds YOS - Leeds  
Bradford YOT - Bradford  
Wakefield YOT - Wakefield  
Kirklees YOT - Hudds/Dews  
Safer Schools & Bradford District PRU-Bradford  
Buttershaw Youth Group - Bradford  
Keighley University school -Bradford

### Outcomes

Delivering the TIDs have been an excellent success in the last 18 months for a number of reasons:

- The 20 Funded TIDS engaged 175 young people on stations across the county.
- We have been able to engage some of the most challenging young people safely and directly on stations.
- An additional 104 young people have been on programmes commissioned directly
- The focus on ASB themed TIDS around the bonfire period increased awareness of attacks on Firefighters and built relations between young people and WYFRS
- We received national press coverage on Channel 4 news for our innovative approach to promoting an ambassador approach
- We have 9 more TIDs currently funded/commissioned
- All partners and young people engaged have given excellent feedback

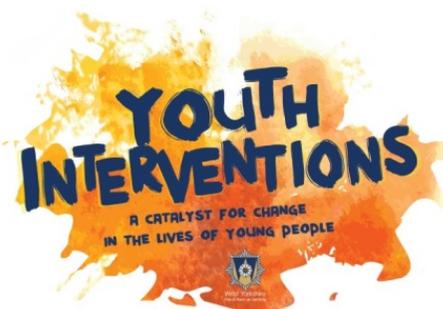


## Spotlight on... Targeted Intervention Days Feedback

*"Locally partners felt that these courses were a great success and have been in touch to ask for further courses, so are now looking for additional external funding for these." Dave Teggart DC Wakefield"*

*"I've had a look at the young people that attended the session 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2018. We can look at it as a 6 month period in terms of re-offending. All attendees on the cohort were male & in the age ranges of 15 to 18yrs. In terms of re-offending there has been no recorded crime incidents of those who attended the session. (100% success/ desistance over the last 6 months)" Martin Morray Wakefield YOT*

*".... what a fab day obviously the right people doing the right jobs. They captured the youths from the start and kept such a hard group busy, entertained and interested all through the day."*



*"Students from BRIDGE provision in school have never been taken to off-site provision before due to behavioural issues - Well - what a result!! Sam said it was fab and the students loved it!!"*

*"The young people that took part in the ASB intervention enjoyed looking at the impacts that ASB can cause to emergency services and how it can affect people that need their help. Young people enjoyed being a fire fighter for the day and taking on the roles and responsibility, young people are now aware of what the fire service have to deal with and now inform their friends and families on the dangers of ASB against emergency services. Young people also looked at the cost of emergency vehicles when they get damaged and the impact on their communities" Stephen – Buttershaw Youth Group*

*"All the young people had a good experience, were dealt with fantastically by the two trainers, and the training, which was specific to those with car crime related offences was focused - and I would imagine, would have had the desired effect of decreasing the likelihood of then becoming involved in further vehicle related offences." Rick Heddon Bradford YOT*

*"This was hands on learning at its best and a day that our students will never forget. The course was delivered brilliantly by Sim and his team. Thank you very much for the whole day."*



OFFICIAL

# Grenfell Tower - update

## Community Safety Committee

---

Date: 25 January 2019

Agenda Item:

7

Submitted By: DCFO/Director of Service Delivery

---

<b>Purpose</b>	To provide Members with a further update on various issues linked to the fire at Grenfell Tower, London on 14 June 2017
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Members note the content of this report
<b>Summary</b>	Recent months have seen the conclusion of the first phase of the Grenfell Tower Public Enquiry, chaired by Sir Martin Moore-Bick, and also the publication by Government of 'Building a Safer Future' – a document which responds to the issues raised in the Dame Judith Hackitt report into building regulations and fire safety.

---

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category: None

Contact Officer: Dave Walton, Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery

E : [dave.walton@westyorksfire.gov.uk](mailto:dave.walton@westyorksfire.gov.uk)

T: 01274 655702

Background papers open to inspection: None

Annexes: None

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 On 14 June 2017 a fire occurred at Grenfell Tower, London which resulted in the loss of 72 lives.
- 1.2 Members were provided with an update on a number of consequential, and ongoing, items at the meeting of the Community Safety Committee on 20 July 2018. This report provides a further update on both the ongoing public inquiry and the Government response to the Dame Judith Hackitt report – ‘The Independent report of Building Regulations and Fire Safety’.

## 2 Information

- 2.1 The public inquiry first sat on 4 June 2018 and the first phase concluded on 12 December 2018.
- 2.2 The first phase was, in the main, focussed on establishing the events of the night of the fire. In the main this was established by witness testimony from London Fire Brigade personnel and the giving of evidence under a degree of questioning from the inquiry legal team. However the second part of the first phase also heard evidence from the Bereaved, Survivors and Residents (BSR) group. There was also evidence from Expert Witnesses.
- 2.3 The second phase of the inquiry will examine the ‘critical circumstances and decisions which enabled such a devastating event to occur’. This second phase will not sit before the end of 2019 as a consequence of the significant work that needs to be done in order to prepare the evidence which will be considered.
- 2.4 It remains unclear as to what, if any, recommendations will be made as a consequence of the first phase of the inquiry. In his closing statement for Phase 1 the inquiry Chair indicates that he will consult with a number of key participants as to the nature and content of any such recommendations, though in doing so he indicates a desire to publish interim information of some sort rather than wait until the end of both inquiry phases. Further information is promised at some stage in 2019, and a further report will be prepared for Members when appropriate.
- 2.5 On 18 December 2018, the Government published ‘Building a Safer Future – An Implementation Plan’. This document is the response to the Dame Judith Hackitt report – ‘Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety’ – it also details forthcoming consultation issues for 2019.
- 2.6 The full text of the 64 page report can be found [HERE](#) – a hard copy can be provided to Members upon request.
- 2.7 In short the Government makes the following commitments within the report:
- To create a stronger and more effective regulatory and accountability framework for buildings ‘in scope’.
  - To prevent people from flouting the system through tougher oversight and a stronger and more effective sanctions and enforcement regime
  - To facilitate better understanding of what is required to ensure that buildings are safe through clearer standards and guidance, as well as improving the rigour of the product labelling, testing and marketing process.
  - To ensure that residents are put at the heart of the new regulatory framework through better engagement between them and those managing their buildings.
  - To work with industry to drive culture change to increase responsibility for building safety
- 2.8 The report also announces the trial of a new regulatory framework through a Joint Regulators Group (drawing together the expertise of the HSE, Local Authority Building Control, the Fire and Rescue Services through the National Fire Chiefs’ Council (NFCC) and the Local Government Association) to ensure that rapid progress is made towards better building safety and to test and develop new approaches that will become enshrined in the new legislation.

- 2.9 Finally, in respect of the report, the Government has announced a full technical review of 'Approved Document B' – this being the Building Regulations Fire Safety guidance document. The review will consider emerging findings from the Grenfell Tower inquiry.
- 2.10 The full impact on West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service of the forthcoming changes in regulation and the regime that surrounds it are difficult to quantify at this stage. Work is ongoing to examine the way in which the service delivers its Fire Protection responsibilities in the context of a specialist team which has been reduced in size in previous years, some upskilling of operational officers and an increasing demand for our services.
- 2.11 Members will recognise that any significant amount of increased involvement of the FRS in new regulatory regimes will impact upon our ability to deliver current workloads and maintain the current level of service if existing resources are maintained at the current level.

### **3 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **4 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The Chief Legal & Governance Officer has considered this report and has no observations to make at the time of submission of this report but may provide legal advice at the committee meeting and/or respond to any requests by members for legal advice made at the meeting.

### **5 Human Resource and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1 There are possible implications for training, recruitment and retention when the impacts of changes in regulation have been fully assessed, although it is difficult to provide detail at this stage.. It is likely that specialists in this area could be in demand as every service responds to the findings of the report and so any changes to job requirements will need to be properly assessed to ensure that we continue to offer an attractive employment package.

### **6 Health and Safety Implications**

- 6.1 None identified at this stage.

### **7 Organisational Dependencies**

- 7.1 Work is ongoing within the service to consider the future of the Premise Risk Database in its current form, and also the potential to access and update Operational Risk information via mobile devices. Any work to develop these areas has a consequential draw upon Fire Protection and Operational Resilience officers time. New work arising from the subject matter of this report would likely impact upon the same limited group of officers.

### **8 Service Plan Links**

- 8.1 This report, and the associated workstreams, support the service priority of delivering a proactive community safety programme.

### **9 Conclusions**

- 9.1 Whilst much work has already occurred post the Grenfell Tower incident it is clear that there remains a good deal more to do before the final recommendations and learning are shared and acted upon. The Service will continue to monitor, report and react accordingly. Members will be appraised of significant development as, and when, appropriate.



OFFICIAL

# Attacks on Firefighters Working Group Update

## Community Safety Committee

---

Date: 25 January 2019

Agenda Item:

8

Submitted By: Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery

---

<b>Purpose</b>	To provide an update to Members of the Community Safety Committee on the progress of a number of recommendations to improve the safety of our staff
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Members of the Community Safety Committee note the contents of this report
<b>Summary</b>	The Attacks on Firefighters Working Group was formed immediately following the January 2017 meeting of this committee. The group's purpose was to develop a set of recommendations and actions to identify effective means to prevent attacks on Firefighters from occurring, respond to attacks in the most effective way to ensure Firefighter safety when they do occur, and support effective action against the perpetrators. This paper informs the Committee of progress against all recommendations.

---

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category: None

Contact Officer: Chris Kirby – Area Manager Service Delivery

Chris.kirby@westyorksfire.gov.uk

Background papers open to inspection: None

Annexes: None

# 1 Introduction

1.1 The 'Attacks on Firefighters Working Group' was formed, on the instruction of the Community Safety Committee immediately following its meeting on 20 January 2017. This followed consideration of reports from officers in relation to the issues encountered by crews over the Bonfire Night period of 2016. The purpose of the group was to:

- Maximise Community engagement to prevent attacks happening in the first place
- When attacks do occur, introduce procedures and training which best ensures firefighter safety during the attack
- Adopt procedures, equipment and partnership working to maximise opportunities to bring the offender to justice when attacks occur.

1.2 The working group made seven recommendations to the meeting of this Committee on 30 June 2017. In brief, those recommendations were that :

1. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) be agreed between West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) and West Yorkshire Police (WYP) around attacks on Firefighters.
2. WYFRS make changes to Policy to ensure that attacks on staff are properly recorded and passed onto WYP in a way that maximises the chances of prosecuting the perpetrator of the attack.
3. District Commanders contact their West Yorkshire Police counterpart to ensure that local arrangements are in place to minimise attacks.
4. WYFRA authorise WYFRS senior management to consider a trial of the use of body worn cameras in particular station areas in West Yorkshire.
5. WYFRS to invest in threat assessment training delivered by WYP specialist staff, with the aim of equipping WYFRS operational staff with the skills to recognise the threat of violence from a member of the public and to defuse the situation where this threat becomes apparent.
6. Bradford and Leeds Districts to agree their 'Bonfire Plans' with WYP and their respective Councils by 30 September.
7. WYFRS and WYP agree a media strategy and policy for appropriately responding to attacks on firefighters and how and when they are reported in the media.

1.3 A task and finish group was formed with the responsibility of implementing the above recommendations.

## 2 Information

2.1 Progress against each recommendation is detailed below:

### 2.2 Recommendation 1 – Complete

The MOU was completed and signed by both WYP and WYFRS in December 2017. The MOU describes what action each service will take when such attacks occur so that relevant responsibilities and actions are clear and well understood within each service.

### 2.3 Recommendation 2 – Complete

Staff are encouraged to report all acts of violence using a standard attack report form. The forms are carried on all front line appliances and support service vehicles. The form was designed with support from WYP to ensure it captures as much detail as possible about the incident, including a description of the offender/s. All incidents must also be recorded on the Safety Event Reporting System. During any attack on our staff, Control should be informed who will consider if urgent attendance by the Police is necessary. If so, they will contact WYP and request urgent attendance. For non-urgent incidents, this will be reported via the non-

emergency 101 number and all incidents will be logged using a unique identifier. This will assist us to monitor incident trends and numbers.

After a member of staff have called Control to report the incident, the 1<sup>st</sup> Cal Group Manager will be contacted and will then make contact with the crew or member of staff who reported the incident to enquire about their welfare and get further details about the incident. If required, the 1<sup>st</sup> Call Group Manager may make contact with the WYP Duty Force Inspector to discuss the incident and agree the actions that WYP are taking / planning to take. They will also make contact with the respective District Commander or line manager for awareness.

#### 2.4 **Recommendation 3 – On going and Business as Usual**

All District Command teams have good links with their WYP counterparts and will work on joint prevention initiatives in the run up to the Bonfire Period. The Area Manager for Service Delivery and the WYP Assistant Chief Constable are to convene a meeting with all WYFRS and WYP District Commanders in January 2018 and attacks on staff will be part of the agenda.

#### 2.5 **Recommendation 4 – Removed from this project**

The Executive Committee of the Fire and Rescue Authority have taken a particular interest in this recommendation. As a consequence it will be removed from the wider project. Officers will continue to review the possible uses of Body Worn Video in other aspects of service delivery and operational learning.

#### 2.6 **Recommendation 5 – On going and Business as Usual** – Following on from trials of a threat assessment training course in November 2017, further operational crews and dedicated prevention staff have received conflict management training from WYP in 2018. The training has consisted of basic techniques for de-escalating conflict situations and was delivered at FSHQ to the following teams:

- 240 operational fire-fighters across the stations that are most likely to encounter attacks on our staff
- 31 dedicated fire prevention staff
- 24 dedicated fire protection staff
- 4 Fire Investigation Officers
- 13 Flexi Duty Officers

Feedback from the staff who attended has been positive and we are looking into how this training can be rolled out further and include all operational staff and those who lone work.

#### 2.7 **Recommendation 6 – Embedded and Business as Usual**

The Bonfire planning process has now been embedded into business as usual for the Service Delivery Operational Resilience Team. The plans are developed in consultation with staff and key partners and learning from each year will inform the plan for the following year. There has been significant improvements in the community engagement element of the bonfire plans with many community groups becoming more involved in activity to support WYFRS and WYP in their efforts to reduce antisocial behaviour and attacks on emergency services. The Fire Authority were presented with a detailed report on the Bonfire Plan 2018 at the meeting in December 2018.

#### 2.7 **Recommendation 7 – Embedded and Business as Usual**

WYFRS has supported the Protect the Protectors Bill as it passed through parliament and received Royal Assent in September. We joined with West Yorkshire Police, Yorkshire Ambulance Service and the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner to welcome the move and released a joint press release to the media. This can be seen on our website here:

In September 2018, 3 members of staff took part in filming for a BBC documentary describing the experiences of emergency service workers who come under attack. The programme will feature on morning breakfast national TV in Spring 2019 with the title 'Payback time from frontline crime' and will include some of the footage taken from our Silent Witness cameras.

The More Than a Uniform campaign will continue to support the Bonfire Communication plan and we will use Social Media and traditional press to reiterate the zero tolerance approach and call for greater respect and understanding from the public in relation to the work of fire-fighters within communities. The campaign was shortlisted in the Chartered Institute of PR Awards in the low budget campaign category.

Corporate Communications working with one of our female Watch Managers who has faced aggression and disrespectful behaviour to create a short film about her experiences and this will support the prevention messages.

A new video was produced featuring Fire Service staff publicising the campaign's message that firefighters are not just authority figures – they are loved ones; sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters. This was delivered across our social media platforms including @WYFRS Twitter and Facebook, our external WYFRS website and YouTube. The video was picked up by national media and featured on Sky News and ITV News alongside a piece of footage which showed a fireworks attack on firefighters in Fairweather Green.

The Corporate Communications team also worked with Channel 4 news to highlight attacks on firefighters. The Channel 4 home affairs team spent three nights on shift with crews at Fairweather Green and Odsal fire stations. The theme of their piece was the increased community engagement that the Fire Service has supported, including its youth intervention work, and the efforts of the police, community leaders and council partners in supporting the Fire Service.

The support from the Corporate Communications team within the Control room over the bonfire period is now part of the plan and will continue in future years.

### **3 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications that specifically arise as a result of this report. If recommendation 4 is progressed then specific details of the financial implications relating to this will be presented to members of the Fire and Rescue Authority in due course.

### **4 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The Chief Legal & Governance Officer has considered this report and has no observations to make at the time of submission of this report but may provide legal advice at the committee meeting and/or respond to any requests by members for legal advice made at the meeting.

### **5 Human Resource and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1 The work of the Fire-fighter safety project team supports our HR policies and core values.

### **6 Health and Safety Implications**

- 6.1 The efforts made by the Fire-fighter Safety project team are all in line with ensuring that we can prioritise and maintain the safety of our staff. It is clear within Health and Safety legislation that we should be doing everything that is reasonably practicable to ensure the health, safety and welfare at work of all our staff.

## **7 Service Plan Links**

7.1 This project supports the following service priority:

- Provide a safe, skilled workforce that serves the need of a diverse community

## **8 Conclusions**

8.1 There has been significant progress across the recommendations that came from the initial task and finish group. It is now proposed that this work stream falls within Business as Usual for the respective teams involved and no further update will be delivered to the Community Safety Committee unless specifically requested.