



Minutes

Community Safety Committee

Date: 29 April 2022

Time: 10:30

Venue: Function Room, FSHQ

Present: Councillors G Almas (in the chair) P Harrand, D Kirton, M Midgley, M Pollard, M Pervaiz, S Press, K Renshaw and I Sanders

In Attendance: None

Apologies: Councillor C Burke

1 Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 January 2022

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 January 2022 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2 Matters arising

None

3 Urgent items

None

4 Admission of the public

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

5 Declarations of interest

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

6 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 – Water Awareness Training
- b) Calderdale – Road Safety Road Show
- c) Kirklees – Slaithwaite Fire Station
- d) Leeds – Offload Leeds Rhinos Pilot
- e) Wakefield – Road Traffic Collisions Education Initiative
- f) Youth Interventions – SEN (Special Educational Needs) GRIT (Gaining Resilience in Teamwork) Programme

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.

Further information was provided in respect of the protocols for police attending a water related incident and the role out of the Water Awareness Training and Road Traffic Collisions programme to other Districts. In addition, further clarification was provided regarding the mental health provision for members of staff and the processes used to identify need.

It was emphasised that the Spotlight Ons are examples of initiatives going on across all Districts all the time.

7 Performance Against PMI Targets 2021 – 2022

Members received a report of the Director of Service Delivery which advised of performance against the 2021 – 22 performance outcome targets and focussed specifically on performance between 1 April 2021 and 24 March 2022. An updated report was provided to members in the meeting giving figures up to and including 29 April 2022. Members were advised the final year-end figures will be presented in full detail to the Full Authority Committee to be held on 30th June 2022.

These figures provided an exceptionally pleasing picture.

Members were assured that the none of the fatalities were directly related to vulnerable people who did not receive a safe and well visit due to the pandemic. It was also noted that due to the recent spike in attacks on Firefighters further investigations into the use of body worn cameras were being made.

8 Arson Convictions 2022

Members received a report of the Director of Service Delivery which advised of the arson convictions for the period 22 September 2021 to 31 January 2022, where the Fire Investigation Team had provided expert witness statements to the Crown Prosecution Service. Members were advised that the Fire Investigation Officers had investigated 60 incidents in the period, of which

they were required to provide West Yorkshire Police with expert witness statements for 18 cases. It was further confirmed that 13 of these cases are being progressed through the judicial system and an update for each case was provided in the report.

Members requested further information regarding collaborative working across regions and it was confirmed that whilst the service does not make any financial gains from the prosecutions there is a high level of learning.

It was confirmed that all FIOs receive intensive training and their detailed reports are widely recognised across the country as being expertly presented.

9 District Priorities Annual Update

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Service Delivery which provided an update from each District Commander on the year ending performance against their respective District Actions Plans for 2021/22.

Members welcomed the report and expressed their thanks for the hard the work done in all the Districts. Further information was provided regarding the policies in place to deal with the rare misuse of the “safe space” initiative and members were assured that the benefits far outweigh any negatives.

10 Safeguarding Annual Activity Report

The Director of Service Delivery presented a report providing details of the safeguarding activity undertaken during 2021 under WYFRS’ Safeguarding Procedure. Members were advised that in the period 178 cases have generated a Cause for Concern and that 87 people were referred to the Local Authority Safeguarding Team and a further 90 people were identified as vulnerable individuals who required additional support from WYFRS.

Members were provided details of the process review which was commissioned in March 2021 and were assured that a quality assurance process was in place and that the changes identified during the review process have been incorporated into the new e-learning module which was delivered in October 2021. Members were further advised that both the District Prevention Managers and the Central Prevention Managers had received a refresher training session in November 2021.

Members welcomed the report and requested clarification of the disparity of figures across the Districts. Members were assured there are good queue management systems in place to manage Safe and Well visits and that WYFRS risk modelling would take into account the expected increase in the use of wood burning stoves, candles etc due to the forthcoming rise in the cost of living.

Chair