

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

20TH SEPTEMBER 2019

LSCSB UPDATE: LEICESTERSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Background

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview to the Board on the work that is currently being undertaken by Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS).

Notable developments and challenges:

Past Year

2. Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service has a dedicated Community Safety department within the organisation. The department focuses on two main areas of Protection and Prevention. The Protection element allows for community and business engagement. A number of Fire Safety Audits are completed each year at premises which are deemed as high risk. The Prevention element engages with a wide community audience across Leicester Leicestershire and Rutland. Prevention also benefits from a team of 12 dedicated Community Educators.
3. Across Protection and Prevention particular emphasis is placed on the delivery of:
 - Home Fire Safety Checks;
 - Schools Programme;
 - Fatal Four/ Biker Down;
 - Youth Engagement;
 - Virtual Reality;
 - Vulnerable Person Reporting;
 - Fire Safety Audits.
4. During 2018/2019 Protection and Prevention was able to achieve:
 - 6746 Home Safety Checks;
 - 1068 Community Events;

- 4790 Smoke alarms fitted;
 - 19093 People engaged at Road Safety Events;
 - 444 Fire Safety Audits;
 - 550 Fire Safety Concerns;
 - 421 Requests for Fire Safety Advice;
 - Resulted in 20 Prohibition Notices.
5. Progress continues to be made around business engagement in relation to Fire Safety Audits. The purpose is to reassure business owners that LFRS is available to offer advice and guidance rather than being thought of as an enforcement authority. LFRS host the Better Business for All monthly meeting at Service HQ. This allows for advice to be given to regulatory partners and businesses to reduce administrative burden and promote growth. A number of case studies have also been shared with Leicester Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership highlighting good practice.

Coming Year

6. During December 2018 LFRS was inspected by the Home Office Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS). The full report was received in June 2019. The inspection focused on three specific areas of the organisation: effectiveness, efficiency and people. In total the inspection covered 11 areas of the organisation. The report concluded that 4 areas were 'Good' and 7 areas 'required improvement'.
7. A deadline was set by HMICFRS to produce an action plan for the areas of the organisation that 'require improvement'. The 7 areas that 'require improvement' gave an overall total of 24 action plans. The action plans have been produced with an achievable timeframe. All of which has been shared with HMICFRS. HMICFRS will re-visit the organisation later this year to assess the progress of the action plans, whilst ensuring the organisation remains focused on the areas previously deemed as 'good'.
8. The inspection process has allowed the organisation to re-evaluate departments and specific areas to ensure that it is able to achieve the desired outcome of the action plan. The work involved to date and subsequent work streams to achieve the action plans will be significant to the organisation particularly as it was acknowledged by HMICFRS that LFRS had a 26% reduction in workforce over the last 5 years. The areas of the organisation during the inspection process which were identified as 'good' or singled out as being a positive for the organisation were predominately

around community safety which reflects well on the work being achieved by that department.

9. The purpose of LFRS is 'Safer People Safer Places' in both our communities and workplaces. The Corporate and Integrated Risk management Plan 2020-2024 (IRMP) 'Our Plan' sets out how this will be achieved over the next 3 years. The 2020-2024 plan has now been finalised. The service will now commence a period of consultation detailing the proposals within the IRMP. The consultation will run for 12 weeks from 3rd September to 25th November 2019. The plan sets out what we want to achieve over the next three years. It combines our corporate plan and IRMP containing our planning priorities and objectives. With consideration being given to how we will respond to key risks and challenges facing our local communities and the organisation itself. The plan is then supported by five corporate strategies Safer Communities, Response, Finance and Resources, People and Governance. With the delivery of the plan and the five strategies being facilitated by department plans and district level plans within the organisation. The delivery of the plan over the next three years will achieve the purpose of the organisation in 'Safer People Safer Places' by preventing incidents from happening, limit the impact when they do happen and respond in the right way at the right time when we're needed. In order to measure success we use indicators to monitor the performance of the service. With targets being set within these indicators to measure our own annual performance as well as benchmark against other fire and rescue services.

Key issues for partnership working or affecting partners

10. Partnership and collaborative working remains key to the successful delivery of community safety activity. An increase in a multi-agency approach would be of benefit to all at community events and increase community engagement. Current partnership referrals have a positive impact for members of the community.
11. If Board members are aware of community events or community groups that would benefit from interaction with LFRS they are asked to contact the Community Safety Department which is based at Service HQ Birstall.

Issues in local areas

12. LFRS proactively seek to engage with all members of the community and community groups. At a recent 'Meet the Chief' event over 50 community leaders attended an event at HQ to gain a better understanding of the community safety work undertaken by LFRS.
13. LFRS attend regular Community Safety Partnership (CSP's) and Joint Action Group Meetings (JAG) which allow for a multi –agency awareness and proactive approach to any local issues that are highlighted. Inclusion also allows for any known future issues arising to be discussed.
14. A direct request for community safety events would be welcome from Board members.

Recommendations for the Board

15. The Board note the content of the report
16. Through Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) and Joint Action Groups (JAG's) the Board encourage continued engagement with LFRS to promote a multi-agency approach to community safety initiatives.

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