

**AGENDA ITEM:**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2013</b>
<b>REPORT NO.</b>	<b>CFO/016/13</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	<b>CHIEF FIRE OFFICER</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>AREA MANAGER SEARLE</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	<b>WATCH MANAGER O'MAHONY</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>NORTH WEST FRA BREATHING APPARATUS PEER ASSESSMENT</b>

**THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT**

Purpose of Report

1. To ask Members to note the outcome of the North West Breathing Apparatus (BA) capability peer assessment of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) BA Department which was undertaken in December 2012.

Recommendation

2. That Members note the excellent results and the points of notable practice identified during the Merseyside FRA BA peer assessment.

Introduction & Background

3. In 2012 a BA peer assessment across the 5 North West FRA took place to establish how BA training is planned and implemented within each of the constituent FRA. Merseyside BA Department Instructors assessed Lancashire BA Department whilst Merseyside were assessed by staff from Cumbria FRA. The assessment took place in December 2012.

The assessment concentrated on the following 10 Key areas;

- i. Does the FRA have a Policy which covers Breathing Apparatus Training and is that Policy delivered?
- ii. Does the FRA have procedures in place which ensure that a consistent level of BA training and assessment of competence is maintained?
- iii. Does the FRA review BA training course quality and content?
- iv. Does the FRA ensure that BA initial/refresher training is only delivered by trainers who are deemed competent as BA Instructors?

- v. Has the FRA provided additional training to fulfil the particular requirements of its BA Instructors?
  - vi. Has the FRA subjected its BA Instructors to regular assessment, as per policy, in order to ensure competency within role and do the BA Instructors maintain a portfolio of evidence which enables them to demonstrate the maintenance of this competence?
  - vii. Has the FRA made effective arrangements to ensure the Health, Safety and Welfare of its BA Instructors where appropriate?
  - viii. Does the FRA broadly follow the guidance found in Home Office Technical Bulletin 1/97?
  - ix. Does the FRA broadly follow the guidance found in the Fire Service Circulars?
  - x. Has the FRA made a BA Training Exercise available for assessment?
4. Merseyside received an overall grade of excellent (the highest possible) against the benchmark that the Merseyside Training Strategies and Training Delivery Models were demonstrated to an excellent standard.

The review also recorded the following notable practises by the Merseyside FRA BA Department:

- Merseyside FRA demonstrated structured documents setting out the policy and training with a clear document control and review system
- Merseyside FRA demonstrated a wide range of documents covering BA procedures including new techniques such as dealing with cable entanglement
- Merseyside FRA has introduced new training for dealing specifically with cable entanglements
- Externally accredited instructors are used for all BA training courses
- An in house instructor course has been developed and externally approved. Station based instructors are able to deliver training to the required standard as part of on station training
- Guideline procedures are more robust and specific than outlined in TB 1/79

#### Equality & Diversity Implications

5. There are no Equality and Diversity implications contained within this report.

#### Staff Implications

6. There are no staffing implications contained within this report.

### Legal Implications

7. The legal implications are outlined in paragraph 9 below.

### Financial Implications & Value for Money

8. There are no Financial Implications contained within this report.

### Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

9. The BA Department ensures that all relevant Health and Safety legislation and guidance is taken into account when preparing and carrying out BA Training.

### Contribution to Our Mission – To Achieve; Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters”

10. The Peer assessment process contained a review of all Merseyside FRA BA related Policies, Standard Operating Procedures, Lesson Plans and Service Instructions. The excellent result demonstrated the BA Departments commitment to training and providing Safe Effective Firefighters.

### Glossary of Terms

BA – Breathing Apparatus

FRA – Fire and Rescue Authority

MFRA – Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority

TB – Technical Bulletin