



To: All Members of the Joint Fire & Police Collaboration Committee
(and any other Members who may wish to attend)



R. Groves
Acting Monitoring Officer

Tel: 0151 296 4000
Extn: 4230 Gemma Sung

Your ref:

Our ref GS/RG

Date: Date Not Specified

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **JOINT FIRE & POLICE COLLABORATION COMMITTEE** to be held at **11.00 am** on **MONDAY, 23RD AUGUST, 2021** in the Liverpool Suite - Fire Service Headquarters.

There are 8 socially distanced available seats in the Wirral Suite for the public to attend the meeting. These seats are available on a first come first serve basis, so please contact DemocraticServices@merseyfire.gov.uk with your details if you require one.

The meeting will be available to watch via YouTube on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/G12K3gvrFRo>

Yours faithfully,

PP – G. Sung

Acting Monitoring Officer

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MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
JOINT FIRE & POLICE COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

23 AUGUST 2021

AGENDA

Members

Les Byrom (Chair)
Brian Kenny
Lesley Rennie
James Roberts
Emily Spurrell PCC, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

1. Preliminary Matters

The Authority is requested to consider the identification of:

- a) declarations of interest by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the Agenda
- b) any additional items of business which the Chair has determined should be considered as matters of urgency; and
- c) items of business which may require the exclusion of the press and public during consideration thereof because of the possibility of the disclosure of exempt information.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 8)

The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 24th September 2019, are submitted for approval as a correct record and for signature by the Chair.

3. EMERGENCY SERVICES COLLABORATION - PROGRAMME UPDATE
(Pages 9 - 104)

To consider Report CFO/053/21 of the Chief Fire Officer, concerning the progress to date with the Emergency Services Collaboration Programme.

If any Members have queries, comments or require additional information relating to any item on the agenda please contact Committee Services and we will endeavour to provide the information you require for the meeting. Of course this does not affect the right of any Member to raise questions in the meeting itself but it may assist Members in their consideration of an item if additional information is available.

Refreshments

Any Members attending on Authority business straight from work or for long periods of time, and require a sandwich, please contact Democratic Services, prior to your arrival, for arrangements to be made.

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

24TH SEPTEMBER 2019

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Leslie T. Byrom CBE (Chair) Councillor James Roberts and DPCC Emily Spurrell

Also Present: N/A

Apologies of absence were received from: Councillors Lynne Thompson & Brian Kenny

1. Preliminary Matters

Members considered the identification of declarations of interest, any urgent additional items, and any business that may require the exclusion of the press and public.

Members Resolved that:

- a) There were no declarations of interest made by individual Members, in relation to any items of business on the Agenda.
- b) There were no additional items of business which the Chair determined should be considered as matters of urgency.
- c) There were no items of business requiring the exclusion of the press and public during consideration thereof, due to the possible disclosure of exempt information.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Joint Fire & Police Collaboration Committee, held on 21st February 2019, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

3. Verbal Update - Collaboration

Members were provided with a verbal update regarding collaboration between Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and Merseyside Police, following the Bluelight Programme Board held on 22nd July 2019.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer informed Members that he Co-Chairs the Bluelight Programme Board with Deputy Chief Constable – Serena Kennedy. He informed Members that the Board had met twice since the last meeting of this Committee, at which the various project leads have presented updates regarding their various work streams.

Members were informed that there has been some good progress made in several areas, with lots of work now being classed as “business as usual”, with a real joined up approach now being taken.

Members were advised that the work streams are split into 9 key areas; and were provided with a brief update in relation to each of those areas.

With regards to Legal Services, Members were informed that there are now 2 trainee solicitors, who are working across both organisations on a 6 month rotational basis, which is working very well.

In relation to Operational Planning Teams, Members were advised that work is underway to review joint contingency plans. They were informed that joint collaboration plans were not considered to be the best way forward, however there are joint plans in place via the Merseyside Resilience Forum. Members were advised that the teams are co-located and are working really well together, with a great deal of activity now business as usual.

With regards to Equality and Diversity, Members were informed that MFRA and Merseyside Police have held a joint inter-faith week; and have conducted joint work around recruitment and encouraging BAME individuals to apply for roles within the emergency services.

Regarding ICT, Members were advised that collaboration is fully embedded, with officers from each organisation, attending each other’s meetings. They were also advised that they are collaborating around skype and disaster recovery.

In relation to Estates, Members were informed that this is very much business as usual, with opportunities for collaboration being considered on an ongoing basis.

A further key area highlighted to Members, was around Training Delivery. Members were advised that progress has been quite slow in this area, but it has now gained momentum, with joint training opportunities now being considered in areas such as confined space, joint command; and driver training, as well as consideration being given to the provision of joint training facilities.

With regards to joint working within Strategy and Performance, Members were advised that there has been work undertaken around data protection and sharing sensitive data across organisations. They were also informed that the Corporate Communications Teams have facilitated joint media training, have made improvements around the sharing of information; and are providing reciprocal support.

Another key area highlighted, was around Health and Safety. Members were informed that work had progressed around joint training and awareness days. Also, consideration is currently being given to the potential for Merseyside Police to provide IOSH courses for MFRA.

Further areas of progress highlighted to Members, were around the drawing up and sign off of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) around Concern for Welfare, between MFRA and North West Ambulance Service.

Members were also informed of a MoU being developed between MFRA and Merseyside Police, around arson and fire investigation; and Merseyside Police accrediting our officers.

Members were assured that there is a great deal of genuine collaboration underway, with lots of activity now being business as usual; and frequent meetings taking place to keep under consideration, further opportunities for collaboration.

Members requested some further information around the accreditation for arson training.

Members were advised that MFRA do not have a duty to investigate arson, but Merseyside Police do. However, Merseyside Police do not have the required skills to investigate arson, so they call on MFRS to undertake these investigations.

Further questions were raised by Members regarding the provision of paramedic packs and trauma care training.

Members were advised that MFRA operational staff all receive First Person on Scene training, the aim of which is to enable them to provide emergency life care, which they often utilise at fire incidents and RTC's. Further information was provided to Members around the co-responding trial, which despite being successful, is tied up at the moment with national discussions. However, Members were advised that the provision for co-responding or Emergency Medical Response, is contained within the contracts of employment for all MFRA new recruits.

A question was also raised by Members around the potential impact of Brexit in relation to civil resilience around the Irish border. It was commented that Merseyside is one of the key border points and officers were asked if they are confident that plans in place are sufficient.

Members were reassured that a Brexit Committee has been established, which will be meeting frequently throughout the process to monitor such issues. They were also informed that additional funding has been provided to support this. From a Merseyside Police perspective, Members were advised that the Force Daily Summary, captures all relevant information.

Members Resolved that:

The content of the verbal update regarding collaboration progress, be noted.

Close

Date of next meeting: 23rd August 2021

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

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MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	JOINT FIRE AND POLICE COMMITTEE		
DATE:	23 RD AUGUST 2021	REPORT NO:	CFO/053/21
PRESENTING OFFICER	CFO GARRIGAN		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	DCFO SEARLE	REPORT AUTHOR:	AM PAUL MURPHY
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	RIA GROVES		
TITLE OF REPORT:	EMERGENCY SERVICES COLLABORATION - PROGRAMME UPDATE		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A:	FIRE AND POLICE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE	
	APPENDIX B:	LOCAL COLLABORATION OVERVIEW	

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of progress to date with the Emergency Services Collaboration Programme.

Recommendation

2. That Members;
 - a. Note the content of this report
 - b. Instruct the Programme Board(s) of any strategic considerations which need to be taken into account.

Introduction and Background

3. In September 2015, the Joint Fire and Police Collaboration Committee agreed to explore potential collaboration opportunities between Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) and Merseyside Police. One of the work streams established was the Corporate Services Review (CSR).
4. To explore collaborative opportunities a Blue Light Collaboration Board along with a Corporate Services Programme Board was established supported by a joint Collaboration Team.
5. The Blue Light Collaboration Board was established to identify operational opportunities whereas the Corporate Services Board was to develop and scrutinise organisational and functional opportunities outside of the operational environment.

6. In August 2016, Deloitte Consultants commenced work with both organisations to review each functional area and produce a report with recommendations and suitable operating models to deliver the Corporate Services functions. Deloitte were requested to identify options for change for each individual organisation and as a collaborative endeavour. Deloitte have recommended that a collaborative model would maximise and provide the greatest benefits for the two organisations.
7. A joint Chief Officer Group Meeting took place on 20th December 2016 to discuss the areas of the Deloitte report which should be taken forward for further consideration and development. It was agreed that further work should be undertaken to consider all of the Corporate Services functions as a collaborative approach between both organisations.
8. On 6th February 2017, at a Joint Chief Officer Group meeting it was agreed that the further work of the Corporate Services Programme Board would initially focus on the Resources (HR, Finance, Procurement, Payroll and Pensions) and ICT functions. Chief Officers considered this further work and decided that in the first instance each organisation will undertake their own individual programmes of work for the Resources and ICT functions. This work was to seek to maximise value for money and increase efficiency and effectiveness.
9. In June 2017, the Corporate Services Programme Board agreed to consider areas of collaborative work that could be undertaken in the other functional areas. This was initially to focus on smaller pieces of work to help develop relationships and understanding between the two organisations.
10. In February 2019, Corporate Services Board members were asked to consider the following options:
 - Option 1 - Progress to a full shared service model as outlined within the Deloitte Report.
 - Option 2 - Continue to progress collaboration within all functional areas, with clear Terms of Reference.
 - Option 3 - Continue to progress collaboration within certain areas such as Estates and ICT where collaboration has been successful.
 - Option 4 - Stop any specific project work but allow functions to carry on 'business as usual'.
11. It was agreed that Option 2 would be progressed. Each functional area was to review their current work and develop their objectives for the next 12 months. It was agreed that the joint functional Leads from both organisations would present at future Corporate Service Programme Boards starting from 18th April 2019.
12. In February 2019, the Joint Fire and Police Collaboration Committee was re-established further to the Police and Crime Commissioner ('PCC') for Merseyside, at such time, withdrawing as a voting member of the Authority. The first meeting took place on 21st February 2019. Discussions took place regarding the frequency and membership of the Joint Fire and Police Collaboration

Committee meetings. It was suggested that it would be more beneficial if the meetings took place bi-annually rather than quarterly with Deputy Chief Fire Officer Nick Searle and Deputy Chief Constable Serena Kennedy co-chairing and attending rather than Chief Officers. An update was provided of the ongoing exploration of collaboration at the subsequent meeting on the 24th September 2019

13. In July 2020, during the COVID pandemic Deputy Chief Officers discussed the future of the Corporate Services Programme Board. Both Deputy Chief Officers agreed that the current format, with functional leads in attendance was working well and should be continued but with a review of the objectives and the strategic direction for the Corporate Services Programme Board. Membership of the Corporate Services Board was extended to NWAS
14. In May 2021, Deputy Chief Constable Ian Critchley was appointed co-chair along with Deputy Chief Fire Officer Nick Searle who jointly requested a scoping of workstreams for future collaboration, this was presented and agreed at the Blue Light Collaboration Board in July 2021.
15. In July 2021 Functional Leads were asked to present their short, medium and long term objectives to the Corporate Services Board, the Board acknowledged the proposals and agreed for the work to continue to progress.
16. Further to the appointment of the new PCC for Merseyside (Emily Spurrell) in May 2021 and the PCC's appointment to the Authority at the AGM in June 2021 and in agreement the Chair of the Authority and the PCC a meeting of this committee was arranged in order for officers to update the committee on the progress made in relation to the duties placed on both Services and in order to inform any future considerations.
17. The Terms of Reference for the Joint Fire and Police Collaboration Committee, the minutes of the previous Joint Fire and Police Collaboration Committee dated 24th September 2019, along with a copy of the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service Local Collaboration Overview (which summarises collaborative opportunities and projects between Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and other partners) have been attached to this report or agenda.

Equality and Diversity Implications

18. Any identified deliverables emanating for the programme boards will be subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment throughout the development process and compliance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 will be maintained.

Staff Implications

19. It is recognised that there is the potential for significant impact, however this cannot be fully gauged until further analysis has taken place through opportunity assessments.

20. MFRS and Merseyside Police will enter into consultation with all relevant stakeholders and representative bodies.

Legal Implications

21. While areas of future collaboration continue to be explored any such proposals will require advice on the implications to the Authority from a legal viewpoint.
22. The Collaboration Programme Team will liaise closely with the Legal Teams in each organisation. The Legal Teams will monitor changes and progress of legislation and advise the Collaboration Team accordingly.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

23. Cost benefit analysis will be an integral part of all outcomes as part of the Collaboration Programme.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

24. Each project work stream will be delivered in line with recognised project methodology.
25. A risk register has been created which will be maintained by the Collaboration Programme Team.

Contribution to Our Mission: *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.*

Our Purpose: *Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.*

26. The communities of Merseyside will continue to benefit from the best possible protection from its' Blue Light Services and put the community at the heart of everything we do.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority

MFRS Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Article 14 – The Joint Fire & Police Collaboration Committee

14.1 Terms of Reference

- a) To act as a Strategic Board to oversee collaboration between Merseyside Police (MP) and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA).
- b) To consider reports on progress towards budget savings created by collaboration on operational issues.
- c) To consider reports on progress towards budget savings created by collaboration on shared premises wherever possible.
- d) To consider proposals created by an Officer led project group to share transactional support services and associated costs savings and timescales for this.
- e) To consider any other potential opportunities to make savings by shorter or longer term proposals.
- f) To make recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority about potential collaboration opportunities between MP and MFRA.
- g) To provide a template for future developments in legislation around collaboration

14.2 Membership

Five (5) voting Members.

Four (4) Members of MFRA (comprising of the Chair of the Authority and the Vice-Chair of the Authority); plus the Police & Crime Commissioner for Merseyside.

One (1) Co-opted Member representing Merseyside Police (comprising of the Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner).

14.3 Quorum

Three (3) voting Members

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Local Collaboration Overview

Summary of collaborative opportunities and projects between Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and partner agencies

Operational Preparedness

VERSION 3.0 2021

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Introduction

Collaboration can be defined as the action of working with someone to produce something, a co-operative arrangement in which two or more parties work jointly towards a common goal, or an effective method of transferring knowledge for the purpose of advancement.

Historically, the emergency services have collaborated over many years to varying degrees, where there were clear benefits to be gained by the organisations themselves or the communities they served. This relationship of collaboration, particularly in respect of clear realised benefits, was made a statutory duty via the enactment of the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 places specific duties on emergency services; the duty to keep collaborative opportunities with one or more other emergency services which could enhance the efficiency or effectiveness of that service and those other services under consideration. The Act stipulates the services involved as Police, Fire and Rescue, and Ambulance Services; however, it does not preclude collaboration with other agencies and services.

This document summarises the historical and current collaborative work and partnerships undertaken by Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) on behalf of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority (MFRA). The structure of the document follows the main theme categories of Estate, Operations, and Support Services. Each element of collaboration is individually recorded and referenced to its 'parent' directorate of MFRS, which are:

- Community Fire Protection
- Prevention
- Operational Preparedness
- Operational Response
- People & Organisational Development
- Resources
- Strategy & Performance

Each example contains:

- a description of the collaborative work stream
- the list of partners or agencies engaged in the collaboration
- its operational status
- the benefits realised (or potentially realised)
- a primary contact for further information

MFRS is committed to undertake collaboration and by keeping all identified opportunities under review we ensure, we can realise the benefits of working together; improving services for the public, enhancing efficiency for this and other services.

The assessment of collaborative opportunities will be conducted on the basis that they;

- Provide for a more efficient service
- Provide for a more effective service

- Improve the safety of the public
- Are in the interests of economy

Where economies are identified that are likely to have a significantly adverse impact on the efficiency, effectiveness or safety of the public, they will remain under review.

In September 2015, MFRA and Merseyside Police & Crime Commissioner formally established a joint committee to oversee a programme of work to consider collaboration across all three emergency services. To support effective collaboration, a joint team consisting of fire, police and ambulance service personnel was established to facilitate the assessment of collaborative opportunities. Progress is reported to the Blue Light Collaboration Programme Board alternately chaired by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Head of Service for North West Ambulance Service and the Deputy Chief Constable. Some of the activities detailed in this report have been scrutinised and approved by this Board.

A real benefit of collaboration has been the opportunity for employees to share their expertise and improve understanding of the way teams operate in the different organisations. In addition, the sharing of best practice and learning from each other has allowed lasting relationships to flourish between the organisations.

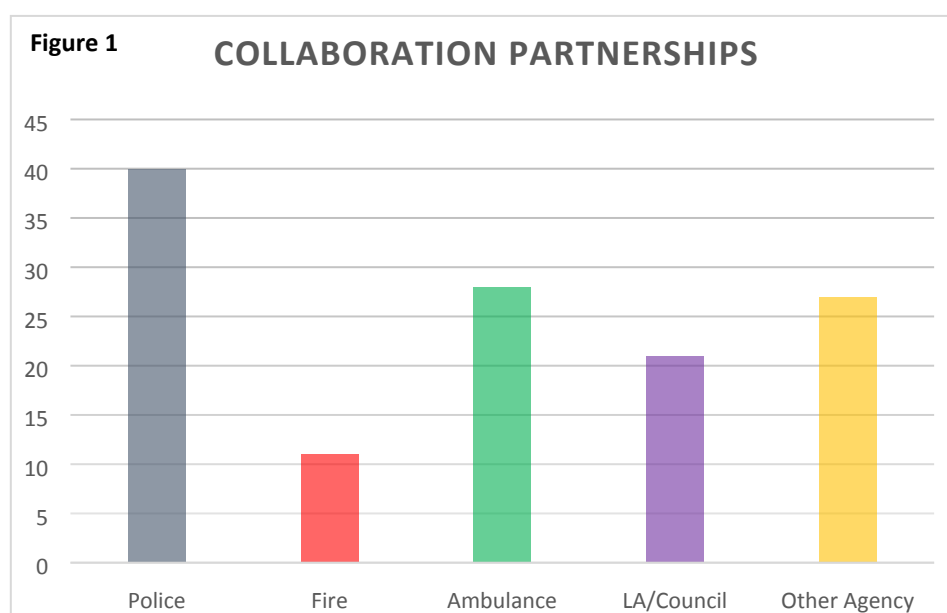
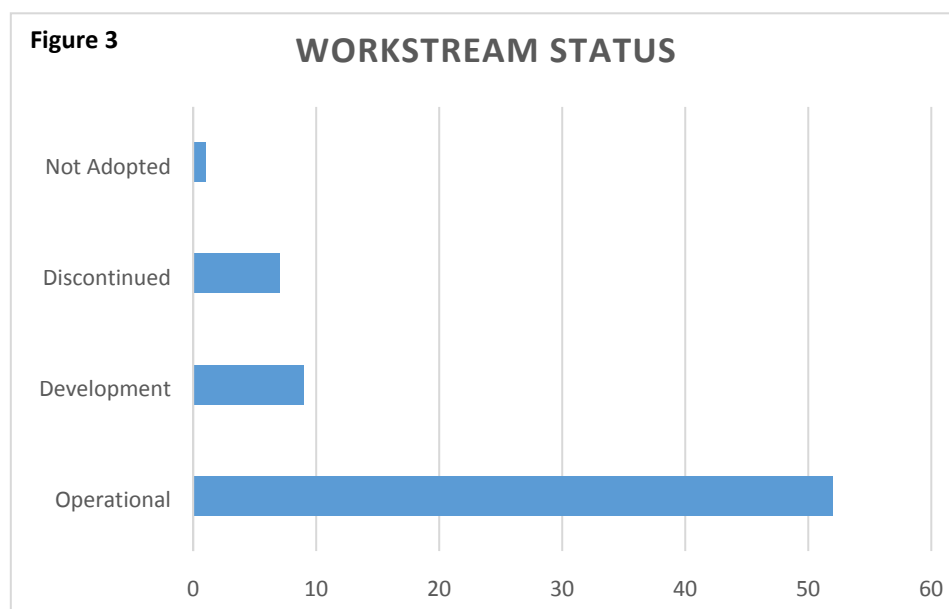
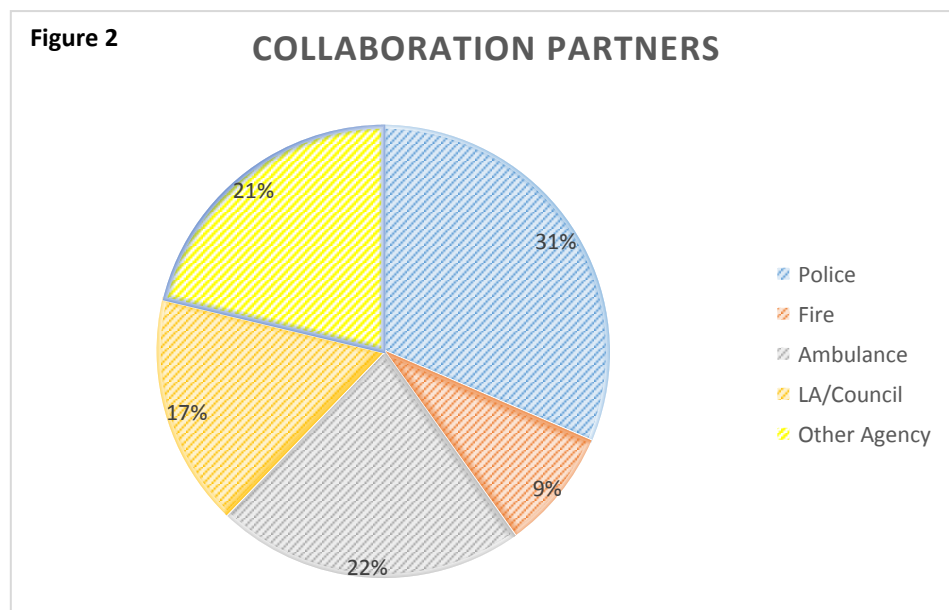


Figure 1. shows that MFRS currently collaborates with a range of other services and agencies. The data covers a range of areas where MFRS collaborates or is currently developing that opportunity. Figure 1 illustrates the number of collaborative projects by agency or service sector, whilst Figure 2 illustrates the proportion of collaborative projects MFRA engages in across those sectors.



This document is the responsibility of the Operational Preparedness directorate of MFRS, and is reviewed and updated by the Collaboration & Interoperability Team. It is a live document and, as such, will be maintained to reflect the current status of the projects referenced within. Each of the collaborative elements remain under the ownership of the ‘parent’ directorates that operate them.

SHARED ESTATE

ES001 Joint Command & Control Centre

Resources

Summary

The Joint Command and Control Centre (JCC) is built at the existing Fire & Rescue HQ, and brings police and fire control rooms together under one roof, enabling the emergency services to share facilities and technology in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness. In addition, the JCC premises also provides accommodation, which for the first time allows the co-location of MFRS, Merseyside Police, North West Ambulance Service operational planning teams, and Merseyside Resilience Forum, along with facilities that house purpose built strategic and tactical command suite facilities that service the communities of Merseyside. The colocation increases contact between the all personnel and enables already productive relationships to grow. It is jointly funded through capital investment from both MFRS and Merseyside Police and all running costs are apportioned.

The JCC also houses National Resilience Fire Control (NRFC). This provides the means for specialist and front line fire and rescue service resources to be centrally coordinated and mobilised in support of significant, serious or catastrophic incidents. As well as supporting requirements within the National Coordination and Advisory Framework (NCAF), the NRFC forms part of a tri-partite memorandum of understanding between the National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC) and the National Ambulance Coordination Centre (NACC).

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- North West Ambulance Service
- National Fire Chief's Council
- National Police Chief's Council
- Association of Ambulance Chief Executives

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The JCC has been operational since 2014

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working at command and control level
- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response
- Enables the services to share best practice and learn from each other
- Facilitates greater understanding of capabilities and builds trust
- Reduced estates costs for both organisations through colocation, whilst increasing estate utilisation
- Estimated savings of £345,000

-
- Enables the 3 national coordination centres to share information more readily and inform shared situational awareness
 - Enables proportionate coordinated response to national scale incidents
 - Provides readily identifiable points of contact for each of the blue light partner agencies at national level

Contact

Stewart Woods – Estates Manager

ES002 Croxteth Fire, Search & Rescue Station

Resources

Summary

Croxteth Community Fire Station accommodates both technical rescue units of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and North West Ambulance Service. The Search and Rescue Team (SRT) and Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) share some similar skill sets and are often called to work alongside each other in similar operational environments. The shared estates and assets facilitate closer dialogue between the services and improves efficiency and effectiveness. Savings are generated through the removal of duplication of property costs, sharing utilities, and enabled NWAS the possibility of sale or re-sale of existing sites and properties. The joint location affords both teams immediate access to the specialist training facilities on site which further enhance the joint response in accordance with JESIP principles. The colocation affords greater opportunity for contact between all personnel and enables already productive relationships to grow at the multi-agency level.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- The station has been in joint operation since March 2011

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working at the operational level
- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response
- Enables the services to share best practice and learn from each other
- Facilitates greater understanding of capabilities and builds trust
- Reduced estates costs for both organisations through colocation, whilst increasing estate utilisation

Contact

Stewart Woods – Estates Manager

ES003 Birkenhead Fire & Ambulance Station

Resources

Summary

The Birkenhead Fire & Ambulance Station sees Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) operational personnel working alongside North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) operational personnel. The shared estates and assets facilitate closer dialogue between the services and improves efficiency and effectiveness. Savings are generated through the removal of duplication of property costs, sharing utilities, enables NWAS the possibility of sale or re-sale of existing sites and properties, and provides MFRS with an income stream. The joint location affords both teams opportunities to enhance joint operational response in accordance with JESIP principles; the colocation affording greater opportunity for contact between all personnel and enhancing professional relationships at the multi-agency level.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- The station first began joint operation in September 2013

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working at the operational level
- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response
- Enables the services to share best practice and learn from each other
- Facilitates greater understanding of capabilities and builds trust
- Reduced estates costs for both organisations through colocation, whilst increasing estate utilisation

Contact

Stewart Woods – Estates Manager

ES004 Bootle & Netherton Fire & Ambulance Station

Resources

Summary

The Bootle & Netherton Fire & Ambulance Station sees Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) operational personnel working alongside North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) operational personnel. The shared estates and assets facilitate closer dialogue between the services and improves efficiency and effectiveness. Savings are generated through the removal of duplication of property costs, sharing utilities, enables NWAS the possibility of sale or re-sale of existing sites and properties, and provides MFRS with an income stream. The joint location affords both teams opportunities to enhance joint operational response in accordance with JESIP principles; the colocation affording greater opportunity for contact between all personnel and enhancing professional relationships at the multi-agency level.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- The station first began joint operation in February 2015

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working at the operational level
- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response
- Enables the services to share best practice and learn from each other
- Facilitates greater understanding of capabilities and builds trust
- Reduced estates costs for both organisations through colocation, whilst increasing estate utilisation

Contact

Stewart Woods – Estates Manager

ES005 Formby Fire & Ambulance Station

Resources

Summary

The Formby Fire & Ambulance Station sees Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) operational personnel working alongside North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) operational personnel. The shared estates and assets facilitate closer dialogue between the services and improves efficiency and effectiveness. Savings are generated through the removal of duplication of property costs, sharing utilities, enables NWAS the possibility of sale or re-sale of existing sites and properties, and provides MFRS with an income stream. The joint location affords both teams opportunities to enhance joint operational response in accordance with JESIP principles; the colocation affording greater opportunity for contact between all personnel and enhancing professional relationships at the multi-agency level.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

Operational ☒

Development ☐

Discontinued ☐

Not Adopted ☐

- The station first began joint operation in October 2012

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working at the operational level
- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response
- Enables the services to share best practice and learn from each other
- Facilitates greater understanding of capabilities and builds trust
- Reduced estates costs for both organisations through colocation, whilst increasing estate utilisation

Contact

Stewart Woods – Estates Manager

ES006 Newton Le Willows Fire & Ambulance Station

Resources

Summary

The Newton Le Willows Fire & Ambulance Station sees Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) operational personnel working alongside North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) operational personnel. The shared estates and assets facilitate closer dialogue between the services and improves efficiency and effectiveness. Savings are generated through the removal of duplication of property costs, sharing utilities, enables NWAS the possibility of sale or re-sale of existing sites and properties, and provides MFRS with an income stream. The joint location affords both teams opportunities to enhance joint operational response in accordance with JESIP principles; the colocation affording greater opportunity for contact between all personnel and enhancing professional relationships at the multi-agency level.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- The station first began joint operation in October 2012

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working at the operational level
- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response
- Enables the services to share best practice and learn from each other
- Facilitates greater understanding of capabilities and builds trust
- Reduced estates costs for both organisations through colocation, whilst increasing estate utilisation

Contact

Stewart Woods – Estates Manager

ES007 Prescott Fire & Police Station

Resources

Summary

The Prescott Fire & Police Station is a jointly funded fire and police station which enabled the closure of two fire stations and a very old, out-dated, police station. This site sees Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) operational personnel working alongside Merseyside Police (MP) operational personnel. The shared estates and assets facilitate closer dialogue between the services and improves efficiency and effectiveness. It provides both a capital receipt and reduction in running costs. It will also facilitate new and more efficient staffing models for both organisations. Savings are generated through the removal of duplication of property costs and sharing utilities. The joint location affords both teams opportunities to enhance joint operational response in accordance with JESIP principles; the colocation affording greater opportunity for contact between all personnel and enhancing professional relationships at the multi-agency level.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The station has been operational since January 2018

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working at the operational level
- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response
- Enables the services to share best practice and learn from each other
- Facilitates greater understanding of capabilities and builds trust
- Reduced estates costs for both organisations through colocation, whilst increasing estate utilisation

Contact

Stewart Woods – Estates Manager

ES008 Southport Fire, Ambulance & Rescue Station

Resources

Summary

The Southport Fire, Ambulance & Rescue Station sees Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) operational personnel working alongside North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) operational personnel and the operational personnel of Her Majesty's Coastguard Agency. The shared estates and assets facilitate closer dialogue between the services and improves efficiency and effectiveness. Savings are generated through the removal of duplication of property costs, sharing utilities, enables NWAS and HM Coastguard the possibility of sale or re-sale of existing sites and properties, and provides MFRS with an income stream. The station was designed by the PFI Project Team involving both MFRS and NWAS personnel, with the flexibility that allowed HM Coastguard to on-board later. The joint location affords all three teams the opportunity to enhance joint operational response in accordance with JESIP principles; the colocation affording greater opportunity for contact between all personnel and enhancing professional relationships at the multi-agency level.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- North West Ambulance Service
- HM Coastguard

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The station first began joint operation in August 2013

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working at the operational level
- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response
- Enables the services to share best practice and learn from each other
- Facilitates greater understanding of capabilities and builds trust
- Reduced estates costs for both organisations through colocation, whilst increasing estate utilisation
- A visible multi-agency hub for the community

Contact

Stewart Woods – Estates Manager

ES009 Training Venues & Facilities

Resources

Summary

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS), Merseyside Police and North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) have a range of training venues in different locations across the county and region. The three services are exploring opportunities to share training venues to maximise efficiency in estates and facilities costs, whilst enhancing effectiveness by developing joint training and exercising opportunities. MFRS are commencing a capital development project for a new Training and Development Centre along with an integrated hybrid fire station at a 12-acre site in Long Lane. The new site plan has been produced by MFRS and shared with Police and NWAS for consideration.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- North West Ambulance Service
- Merseyside Police

Status

Operational ☐ Development ☒ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- Meetings are ongoing at the Training and Estates level.

Benefits

- Access to varied specialist venues to enhance training opportunities.
- Increased opportunities for joint training
- Better understanding of each organisations ways of working and capabilities
- Embedding JESIP principles and interoperability between the organisations.
- Enhancing professional relationships.
- Improving communication and information sharing to enhance and improve service delivery.

Contact

Stewart Woods – Estates Manager

OPERATIONS

OP001 Safe & Well Visits

Prevention

Summary

Safe & Well Visits aim to adopt a more holistic approach to the well-established Home Fire Safety Check (HFSC) programme of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, supporting the consensus statement issued by NHS England and the National Fire Chiefs Council. Utilising the Service's unique ability to gain access to properties, where other agencies may have difficulties, MFRS supports some of the main health priorities for the region based upon extensive consultation with local health partners and designed to support public health's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). It supports Falls, Bowel Cancer Screening, Smoking Cessation, Alcohol Reduction and Blood Pressure awareness. Visits are conducted in domestic properties and whilst health questions are asked, home fire safety remains the key priority of the visit. The principle is based on the fact that people at risk of fire are those who do not engage with health or are at greater risk due to circumstance. Prevention advocates deliver, 10,000 plus visits per year as part of their daily activity, conducting up to 5 recognised health interventions per person in addition to the HFSC. The majority of health interventions have a clear onward referral to an appropriate support agency.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- NHS England
- Public Health England
- Clinical Commissioning Group and Local Authority commissioned services
- SP Energy Networks
- British Heart Foundation
- Liverpool John Moore's University
- Age UK

Status

- Operational ☐ Development ☒ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- Safe & Well visits began on 28th April 2017 in line with MRFS IRMP 2017-2020.
 - They have continued under the IRMP supplement 2019 - 2021 and will form an integral part of the Prevention Department strategic direction for the next IRMP (2021 - 2024).
 - The pilot was successfully evaluated by Mat Ashton, Director of Public Health (Liverpool) and delivered by Liverpool John Moore's University, showing a positive impact to our communities

New social prescribing partnerships have been created with SP Energy Networks and Age UK to address fuel poverty and social isolation issues

Benefits

- Delivery of recognised health interventions such as Brief Identification Advice (BIA)
- Tackles inequality through direct contact with ensuring suitable onward referrals
- Access and engagement with vulnerable people that has previously been difficult
- Identification of hazards and intervention reducing potential harm in the home

-
- Long term benefits of reduction on demand for NHS and Local Authorities services such as 999 calls for NWAS, hospital A&E admissions and social care requirements
 - Reduction of fuel poverty through partnership
 - Successful adaptation of risk-based approach to ensure delivery despite covid19 pandemic

Contact

Nick McCormack – Station Manager – Community Risk Management

OP002 Emergency Medical Response

Operational Response

Summary

The Merseyside EMR trial was part of a national trial being overseen by the NJC, with similar trials conducted in other parts of the country. Following agreement with North West Ambulance Service (NWS) the EMR trials operate at three locations involving Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) fire appliances responding with NWS to incidents in which a casualty has been subject to cardiac/respiratory arrest. EMR provides Basic Life Support through the early application Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automatic External Defibrillation (AED), which significantly increases survival rates. MFRS has equipped all its appliances and senior officers with AED equipment and firefighters are trained in enhanced first aid

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

Operational ☐ Development ☐ Discontinued ☒ Not Adopted ☐

- Trial period Mar 2016 - ongoing
- The national trial has now ceased

Benefits

- During the first year of the trial period across the three locations MFRS have attended 151 incidents, of which, MFRS have assisted in CPR on 66 occasions, and 26 occasions achieved return of spontaneous circulation
- Provides prompter response times and increases patients' chances of survival and subsequent quality of life
- Enhanced interoperability between the services, enhanced communication and understanding of other services, improving the effectiveness of the services

Contact

Dean Bolton – Group Manager – Service Delivery

OP003 Corrosive Acid Attacks

Operational Preparedness

Summary

The joint approach to dealing with incidents classified as Corrosive Acid Attacks was developed following national guidance from the National Fire Chiefs' Council, National Police Chiefs' Council and National CBRN Centre in relation to the increase in acid attacks and ensure that call handling policies, procedures and training is developed as a priority. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service are following these national protocols in terms of providing support to Merseyside Police for these type of incidents.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- Operational since July 2017

Benefits

- Improved efficiency and effectiveness amongst the services
- Developing trust and understanding
- Enhancing joint operational response in accordance with JESIP principles
- Cohesive appropriate response to enhance safety to the public and responders

Contact

Ged Sheridan – Group Manager – Operational Planning

OP004 Road Traffic Collision Training

Operational Preparedness

Summary

The Road Traffic Collision (RTC) training course was developed as a joint training course focussing on emergency services procedures when attending RTC and highlighting tactics to enhance knowledge, awareness and cohesion at incidents. The course is designed to generate awareness of procedures across different organisations, predominantly with a practical delivery program, and is supplemented by the production of a DVD that is aligned to the JESIP principles.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- Initial meetings have been had and looking to engage department leads for subject matter specific content
 - Joint DVD has been produced and is part of the embedded training for operational crews via Learnpro

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working at command and control and operator levels
- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response
- Enhances safety at incidents

Contact

Barry Moore – Group Manager - Training

OP005 Operational Planning

Operational Preparedness

Summary

The Operational Planning and Contingency Planning Teams work together to plan and exercise in realistic situations to ensure best provision of service. Colleagues across all blue light services work effectively and efficiently in this regard. Examples include the exercise plan and local exercise programme (CBRNe/MTFA) led by police, COMAH exercises led by FRS or other LRF exercises. The teams are located in the same building at the Joint Command & Control Centre, and are engaged in full co-location through sharing the same office space to better coordinate.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- NWAS
- Category 1 and Category 2 agencies

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The teams continue to work together on a range of planning requirements and are co-located within the JCC

Benefits

- Shared understanding of risk and planning
- Development of cross agency understandings in terms of resources and personnel
- More efficient working

Contact

Sean McGuinness – Station Manager – Contingency Planning

OP006 Merseyside Resilience Forum

Operational Preparedness

Summary

The Merseyside Resilience Forum (MRF) operates in response to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (CCA). The CCA and Regulations require responders to plan, prepare and communicate. The intention is for local responders to work to a common framework and form decisions in light of local circumstances and priorities. The MRF assesses the risk of emergencies occurring to inform contingency planning, develop emergency plans, develop business continuity arrangements, make arrangements to make information available to the public, share information with other local responders to enhance co-ordination, and co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency. It is also responsible for producing the Merseyside Community Risk Register.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ▪ Merseyside Police | ▪ MFRS |
| ▪ NWAS | ▪ Local Authorities |
| ▪ HM Coastguard | ▪ British Transport Police |
| ▪ NHS England | ▪ Network Rail |
| ▪ Public Health England | ▪ Merseytravel |
| ▪ Environment Agency | ▪ DCLG |
| ▪ United Utilities | ▪ Port Health Authority |
| ▪ Scottish Power Energy Network | ▪ Military |
| ▪ Liverpool John Lennon Airport | ▪ Met Office |
| ▪ Port of Liverpool Police | ▪ Health & Safety Executive |
| ▪ British Telecom | ▪ British Red Cross |
| ▪ Highways England | |

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The MRF was formed in 2005 and operated since

Benefits

- Facilitates improved collaboration and cooperation
- Facilitates joint assessment of risk/threats
- Facilitates multi-agency planning, increasing inter-organisational awareness
- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response
- Enables the organisations to share best practice and learn from each other
- Facilitates a shared platform for warning and informing the public

Contact

Ged Sheridan – Group Manager – Operational Planning

OP007 Merseyside Road Safety Partnership

Prevention

Summary

The Merseyside Road Safety Partnership directly involves all road users of all ages, whether on bike, on foot, or in a vehicle. The strategy targets the major road network within Merseyside. Using the wealth of knowledge and experience within the partnership, it aims to provide advice and support to all road users across Merseyside. MFRS refine and develop strategies to promote road safety and to encourage everyone to consider how they use the roads and how everyone can become safer. Recommendations and guidance are offered to urge everyone to share the roads and to foster an attitude of safety for all on our roads. Shared intelligence via the partnership improves efficiency and effectiveness of resources, and joint communications using extensive use of social media that is delivered via a partnership funded post.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Road Safety Partnership
- Merseyside Police
- Local Authorities
- Merseytravel
- Highways England
- NFCC National / Regional

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- There are a number of thematic groups within the MRSP, adult pedestrians, motorcycles, cycling, senior road users and business users

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working in high priority areas
- Facilitates greater coordination of multi-agency resources for total systems approach
- Facilitates better communication and awareness of community need
- Reduced duplication of public sector resource
- Joint funded post provides value for money

Contact

John Maddox – Watch Manager – Community Safety

OP008 Missing Persons

Operational Response

Summary

The Missing Persons Memorandum of Understanding details the joint approach to assisting Police in searching for vulnerable missing persons. Fire-fighters will support the police operation in the search for certain categories of missing persons. The predominant level of assistance is likely to be via assisting with search, through liaison with a Police Search Adviser (PolSA), and a briefing provided to personnel including vulnerable person's description, details, photograph, then identify and agree areas to be searched.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The protocol began operation in 2018 and all blue light agencies have signed the memorandum of understanding
 - The majority of requests from Police have taken the form of looking out for missing persons during routine activity.

Benefits

- Improved quality of services for vulnerable persons
- Cost effective use of partnership resources
- Sustainable solutions for managing public safety and public service demands across Merseyside

Contact

Dean Bolton – Group Manager – Service Delivery

OP009 Multi-Agency Scene Assessment Team Training

Operational Preparedness

Summary

The training involves Police CBRN responders and MFRS DIM advisors training together to form a multi-agency scene assessment team (MASAT). The training ensures the systematic gathering of information and intelligence is available following a trigger incident. It establishes the presence of hazardous substances, identification of those substances and their associated risks, and the determination of the extent of hazardous areas. The joint approach through training significantly reduces the time taken to successfully resolve such an incident, thus mitigating social and economic impacts and assist in re-establishing or maintaining business continuity.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- Has been in place since 2016 with periodic refresher input also being provided

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working at command and control and operator levels
- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response

Contact

Sean McGuinness – Station Manager - Contingency Planning

OP010 Arson Reduction

Prevention

Summary

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service adopts a risk based approach towards deliberate fire setting, understanding the local intelligence picture using the Police's Threat, Harm and Risk Matrix (THR) . The aim is to be people, place and premise centric delivering community reassurance in the high demand wards across Merseyside. The approach is achieved through campaigns, Incident Investigation Team deployments and shared THR intelligence briefings. MFRS delivers this through collaboration with Merseyside Police, Local Authorities and Community Safety Partnership partners to set clear objectives to Prepare, Prevent, Protect and Pursue in our duties of arson reduction.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- Local Authorities
- Housing Providers
- Probation

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- The strategy went live in March 2017 with campaigns, IIT deployments and shared THR intelligence briefings

Benefits

- Effective communication pathways with partners in relation to deliberate fire setting
- MFRS receives regular intelligence updates relating to threat, harm and risk pan Merseyside
- Monthly multi-agency reassurance campaigns in high demand wards
- Shared intelligence ensuring target hardening is undertaken on the most vulnerable people
- Establishes clear methods of joint working with Merseyside Police to investigate Arson

Contact

Joe Cunliffe – Station Manager – Community Safety

OP011 Marauding Terrorist Attack Training

Operational Preparedness

Summary

Marauding Terrorist Attack (MTA) training is delivered in collaboration with Police Firearms teams and Ambulance Intervention Teams (AITs). The delivery covers the four key aspects of Command and Control, Casevac (casualty evacuation), Fire Hazards Management and culminates in a Consolidation Exercise. The training prepares responders for dealing with this type of incident and ensure a joined up, coordinated approach to such incidents.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- Trial course has been delivered however content needs to be revised
 - Updated content and revised program in planning

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working at command and control and operator levels
- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response
- Enhances safety at incidents

Contact

Tony Brown – Group Manager – Operational Resources

OP012 JESIP Commander & Control Supervisor Training

Operational Preparedness

Summary

The JESIP Commander training is part of the national Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme, and brings together commanders from Police, Fire, Ambulance and other Category 1 and 2 responders to undertake joint training as part of an annual programme. The training allows responders to get to know their colleagues, discuss procedures and capabilities to ensure effective joint working at scene. Control Room supervisors from Police, Fire, and Ambulance undertake separate joint training as part of their annual program. The course is produced and delivered jointly by the three blue light services over a three year cycle to ensure this training requirement is met by all responders.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- North West Ambulance Service
- Military
- Merseyside Resilience Forum
- Tunnels Police
- British Transport Police
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency
- Liverpool John Lennon Airport
- Public Health England
- Highways England

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- Joint training first delivered in 2014. A new cycle commences in 2021, the content is being developed in accordance with JESIP syllabus.

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working at command and control level
- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response
- Exceeds JESIP legacy requirements
- Annual training delivery reduces operational burden by spreading release of officers over 3 year cycle.

Contact

Barry Moore – Group Manager – Training

OP013 Safe Havens

Prevention

Summary

Following the death of 16-year-old Jimmy Mizen in 2008, a scheme for shops and public buildings in London to become "safe havens" for persons who are at risk was established. These venues are identified by external signage identifying a Safe Haven and has been extended outside of London. A Safe Haven is a location that is a place offering relative safety to an individual or group of people who feel vulnerable and immediate short term sanctuary is required. All Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Community Fire Stations are designated Safe Havens, and staff are provided with guidance on procedures to put in place for activation of the Safe haven process, which involves multi agency interaction. All Safe Havens are clearly marked with appropriate signage predominantly placed outside the premises.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- North West Ambulance Service
- British Red Cross

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- Safe Havens are operational on all MFRS fire stations

Benefits

- Reduce demand on services
- Reduced duplication of public sector intervention
- Wider awareness for colleagues around community issues
- Offering service to the community in order to reduce possible risk and threat to the community

Contact

Ian Mullen – Station Manager(IIT) – Community Safety

OP014 Public Order Exercising

Operational Preparedness

Summary

The Public Order Exercising programme is an annual training programme of public order events and scenarios hosted at the Police Training Unit. The exercises involve the three blue light services training in a realistic environment for a public order event and ensures the three services can respond collectively. It enables operational and tactical level officers to work collectively in responding to a variety of operational scenarios, involving a range of hazards and risks.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- Training scenarios are regularly reviewed and developed to reflect foreseeable risk.

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working at command and control and operator levels
- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response

Contact

Barry Moore – Group Manager – Training

OP015 Emergency Service Mobile Communications Programme

Strategy & Performance

Summary

The Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) and the resulting Emergency Services Network (ESN) will offer emergency services in England, Scotland and Wales an affordable and flexible method of communicating. Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service actively collaborates with a range of response partners and the Home Office in the development of the ESMCP and the ESN. The aim of this collaborative approach is to determine the functionality and define the requirements of the system, to achieve the delivery of an efficient, cost effective front line communication solution capable of meeting the demands and changing technological landscape. It is delivered through a range of cross regional meetings with all the various partners.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- North West Ambulance Service
- Local Resilience Forum
- North West Regional Planning board (Fire) and North West Regional Strategy Board

Status

- Operational ☐ Development ☒ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The North West will undertake a 12 month transition period beginning July 2018

Benefits

- Closer working with partner agencies on the key area of communications
- A more capable, flexible and affordable communications network
- Helps the emergency services work together and share information more effectively

Contact

Bill Elliott – ESMCP PM
Mark Jones – ESMCP Delivery Team

OP016 Fleet & Engineering

Operational Preparedness

Summary

Transport Department offers support and closer working with a number of companies, on a commercial basis. Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service Fleet Services offers maintenance and servicing to Essar Ltd and Urenco (Nuclear Fuels) for HGV, PCV and some light vehicles providing a secure and cost effective service to partners.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Essar Ltd
- Urenco Ltd

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- These partnerships have been developed over several years and will continue and be developed further as an operational driver or business case arises

Benefits

- Removal of barriers to closer working and equipment provision
- Contracted work allows MFRS to ensure 24/7 HGV specialist vehicle support

Contact

Dave Seasman – Transport Manager – Operational Equipment & Fleet

OP017 Hate Crime

Prevention

Summary

A hate crime is defined as any incident that constitutes a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hate; the incident may or may not constitute a criminal offence. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority respond to incidents where fire or products associated with fire, has been used or threatened against a person or a property. This aim is to offer advice and appropriate services in order to make the property or person more resistant to the potential of fire. This process is known as 'target hardening' and is conducted in partnership with other agencies that focus on community protection. Each property is target hardened based upon a number of factors which form the basis of a risk assessment. All properties are offered specific advice and guidance based upon the potential risks encountered. This is specific to each location, internal layout, external surroundings and lifestyles of the occupant/s, and the fitting of suitable equipment where necessary.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- Local Authority
- Anthony Walker Foundation
- Stop Hate UK

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The Hate Crime programme has been operating since 2011

Benefits

- Reduce demand on services
- Reduced duplication of public sector intervention
- Wider awareness for colleagues around community issues
- Offering service to the community in order to reduce possible risk and threat to the community

Contact

Joe Cunliffe – Station Manager – Community Safety

OP018 Early Help Hubs

Prevention

Summary

The Early Help Hubs in Knowsley and Wirral (also being developed in other boroughs) aimed to deliver a coordinated, efficient approach to addressing needs of the most vulnerable in the community by bringing together personnel from different agencies. Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service supports this through Community Risk Management, delivered via its District Prevention Managers that help to ensure efficient and effective referrals into the MFRS call centre, and also supported through its Arson Advocates through colocation where this is supported by a business case. This ensures shared intelligence is optimised to improve the deployment of prevention resources in order to become more efficient and effective in mitigating vulnerable people entering statutory services.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- Local Authorities

Status

Operational ☐ Development ☐ Discontinued ☒ Not Adopted ☐

Benefits

- Reduce demand on statutory services
- Facilitates greater communication and coordination of prevention activities.
- Reduced duplication of public sector intervention

Contact

Group Manager – Community Safety

OP019 Concern for Welfare; Gaining Entry

Operational Response

Summary

Concern for Welfare relates to calls to North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) where there is a concern for the welfare of a patient inside a premises to which access cannot be gained. Historically, NWAS contacted Merseyside Police (MP) for assistance, MP would then attend the scene and using their powers of entry force access to the premises, thus allowing NWAS to enter and access patients, invariably with damage caused to the property. A tri-service MOU has been signed and implemented to streamline the process, with MFRS responding directly to NWAS requests for assistance to gain entry. This agreement reduces demand on all control centres, police no longer attend these incidents and better outcomes for people in need of medical assistance have been assured.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- Memorandum Of Understanding was signed and implemented in March 2020

Benefits

- Provision of earlier access to the patient and assisting patient recovery
- Reducing damage to patients dwelling
- Reduction in demand on Police resources
- Reducing demand on control centre operators in all three services

Contact

Dean Bolton – Group Manager – Service Delivery

OP020 Fire and Rescue Regional Training Forum

Operational Preparedness

Summary

The North West Fire and Rescue Regional Training Forum is a body established to examine all ways of training delivery. It seeks to develop programs that could result in regional collaboration on training needs analysis for specialist officer skill sets, the pooling of resources and instructors in specific areas (e.g. Incident Command, Flood response), and the development of a regional exercise calendar to address local, regional and national requirements. If it is achievable within regional fire and rescue services there is the desire to evolve to other partners across the region.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service
- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service
- Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
- Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

Status

Operational ☐ Development ☒ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- NW Training and Operational Effectiveness Group and NW Training Manager's forum have work plans directly associated with discharging this work
- Regional exercise calendar proposal approved at North West Operational and Resilience Committee

Benefits

- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Enhances regional collaboration
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response
- Enhances safety at incidents
- Potential cost savings arising from requesting training courses on a regional footprint and/or delivering training utilising available regional resources

Contact

Barry Moore – Group Manager – Training

OP021 Engaging with Diverse Businesses

Community Risk Management - Protection

Summary

Engaging with Diverse Businesses draws together professionals in fire protection and diversity to take on the challenge of engaging with diverse business communities. This was in order to support and educate all sectors of the business community, irrespective of their ethnicity. The collaborative approach started with concerns within the Protection department in Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service due to the number of ethnic minority businesses that were coming to their attention in terms of enforcement and prosecution activity. The main delivery was through a seminar that presented an opportunity for delegates to listen to some eminent speakers who shared their valuable insights on engaging with diverse businesses, and just as importantly to learn and share from each other. The seminar and resulting analysis now sets the scene going forward in terms of outlining the commitments made during the event to enable all partners to work together in taking the agenda forward.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service
- Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service
- Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service
- West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Asian Fire Service Association

Status

- Operational ☐ Development ☐ Discontinued ☒ Not Adopted ☐
- The project began in 2015
 - Following the latest review, this activity has now been discontinued.

Benefits

- Prosperity and growth of business community
- Confidence of diverse business community in dealing with regulation
- Engagement and building networks to help overcome difficult challenges

Contact

James Berry – Area Manager – Protection

OP022 Joint Capabilities Information

Operational Preparedness

Summary

The Joint Capabilities Awareness document is a joint catalogue of frontline, specialist services and equipment across Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Merseyside Police and North West Ambulance Service to enhance knowledge and understanding of each organisations capabilities in line with the JESIP principles. It is disseminated amongst operational and tactical commanders, as well as control room staff, to be used as an aide memoir locally of what services and equipment can be brought to the scene of an incident to support combined effect. The document is hosted on the MRF area within Resilience Direct. When purchasing specialist equipment and vehicles, each organisation can consider the opportunities for joint procurement for specialist vehicles and equipment and potentially avoid duplication of costs.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The document was first published in January 2017 and is updated annually

Benefits

- Enhanced knowledge and understanding of each services' operational capability
- Maximise operational efficiency and effectiveness
- Opportunity to share expertise and learning
- Best practice for meeting the requirements of Civil Contingencies Act.
- Sharing specialist skills e.g. to control contamination
- Best value / overall savings regarding staff and equipment
- Additional capacity and resilience
- Potential to share equipment and reduce costs e.g. initial outlay and servicing of equipment, recalibration and licensing
- Improved service delivery in response to incidents and community needs
- Joint funding opportunities
- Reduce duplication of effort

Contact

John Kellaway – Station Manager – Collaboration & Interoperability

OP023 Marine Response Firearms Training

Operational Preparedness

Summary

The Marine Rescue Unit (MRU) of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service train with Police Specialist Firearms Officers to train for possible deployment to a waterborne incident. Deployment on water brings a different set of risks, and is an area where MFRS has specialist personnel who can share their knowledge and experience in this area. Firearms officers are instructed by MRU staff in safe methods of boarding and disembarking from high speed craft whilst carrying operational equipment, as well as rescue techniques and sea survival practical exercises.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- Has been in place since 2016

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working at command and control and operator levels
- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response
- Enhances safety at incidents

Contact

Tony Brown – Group Manager – Operational Resources

OP024 Command Assessments

Operational Preparedness

Summary

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service has an existing program of command assessments in place (held every quarter) to address competency identification in prospective commanders. The intent of this collaborative work stream is to develop a multi-agency command assessment program across Police, Fire and Ambulance services to enable multi-agency commanders to be assessed as part of either promotion processes or re-validation requirements within service. This inclusion of Police and Ambulance as part of the program will enhance the realism of the scenario and ensure that prospective commanders are able to undertake joint agency working at incidents.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Police
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

- Operational ☐ Development ☒ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- Feasibility being explored and discussions with partners with a view to ascertaining if they can commit resources to such a program

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working at command and control level
- Facilitates greater coordination during an emergency
- Facilitates better communication and awareness during incident response
- Exceeds JESIP legacy requirements

Contact

Barry Moore – Group Manager – Training

OP025 Operational Equipment

Operational Preparedness

Summary

Merseyside Operational Equipment Team (OET) provide first aid and emergency responder equipment to front line crews that mirrors that of North West Ambulance Service (NWAS), which enables equipment swap rather than repatriating and cost to either organisation. This ensures common understanding of equipment terminology at scene. The OET also provide equipment on permanent loan to Merseyside Police officers, to allow them to train in Breathing Apparatus for response to specialist incidents. MFRS provide all servicing and maintenance for this, allowing closer working for specialist multi-agency teams such as Marauding Terrorism Firearms Attack, Detection Identification & Monitoring and Tactical Search. This is supported by a training regime delivered within this directorate.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- North West Ambulance Service
- Merseyside Police

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- These partnerships and working have been developed over several years and will continue and be developed further as an operational driver or business case arises

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working and shared knowledge
- Removal of barriers to closer working and equipment provision
- Opportunities for collaborative purchasing and R&D

Contact

Tony Brown – Group Manager – Operational Resources

OP026 NFCC NW Prevention Task Group

Prevention

Summary

The North West Prevention Task Group (PTG) is a collaborative group of Senior Prevention officers that meets quarterly to be a focal point within the region for professional advice on Fire and Rescue Service Prevention work streams such as: Children and young people, Vulnerability, Evaluation, Coordinating representation on relevant external stakeholder groups and committees, Fire, deaths and serious injury panels, Performance Benchmarking, Responses to formal consultations on Prevention issues, and Health & Wellbeing.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service
- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service
- Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
- Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service
- National Fire Chiefs Council

Status

- Operational ☐ Development ☐ Discontinued ☒ Not Adopted ☐
- The NW PTG has been operational for over 6 years
 - The NW PTG meets on a quarterly basis
 - The meetings are hosted by collaborative partners on a rotational basis across the region and the meetings are chaired by Area Manager Keen – Merseyside FRS

Benefits

- Sharing of best practice, knowledge and information between regional FRS's
- Coordination with NFCC Prevention Committees
- Increased effectiveness and efficiency through the principles of collaboration

Contact

Gary Oakford – Area Manager – Prevention

OP027 Safety of Sports Ground Advisory Group

Community Risk Management - Protection

Summary

Applications for safety certificates are made to the District Council across Merseyside in accordance with the Safety at Sports Grounds Regulations 1987. The District Council is required to consult the Chief Officer of Police and the Fire Authority about the terms and conditions to be included in the safety certificate. Designated Stadia and Regulated Stands are inspected prior to the start of each season or event and every six months thereafter. When the Licensing Authority are satisfied with the arrangements a licence will be issued for a period of one year or for any specific period they determine.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Local Authorities
- Merseyside Police
- Local Authority Licensing
- Health & safety Executive
- Football Licensing Authority
- Representative from the relevant sports grounds

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- The SAG meet regularly throughout the year

Benefits

- Ensures compliance with associated legislation
- Ensures health safety and wellbeing of relevant persons within sports grounds
- Promotes business and local economic growth through compliance with legislation

Contact

Ian Maxwell – Protection Compliance Manager

OP028 NFCC NW Protection Task Group

Community Risk Management - Protection

Summary

The NW Protection Task Group is a collaborative group of Protection Heads of Department that meets regularly to share best practice and work together to improve consistency and improve effectiveness within the region. A number of task and finish groups are initiated from the NW PTG which promotes collaboration and increases efficiency. Work streams include; Risk Based Strategy, standard letters and paragraphs, joint responses to national consultations, implementation of NFCC directives and Automatic Fire Alarm protocol.

Since the last review, this project has expanded by taking on the work involved within OP030 NFCC NW Heritage Group. This involves working with external partners to ensure Heritage Sites are compliant with the Fire Safety Order and the provision of fire safety advice as well as an education of the unique nature of Heritage Sites.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service
- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service
- Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
- Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service
- National Fire Chiefs Council
- National Trust
- English Heritage

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- The NW PTG has been operational for over 6 years
- The NW PTG meets on a quarterly basis
- The meetings are hosted by collaborative partners on a rotational basis across the region and the meetings are chaired by Area Manager Keen – Merseyside FRS

Benefits

- Sharing of best practice, knowledge and information between regional FRS's, partners and 'Responsible Persons' for heritage sites.
- Collaborative model in the NW is recognised an exemplar model for joint working
- Increased effectiveness and efficiency through the principles of collaboration
- Heritage Sites – Maintaining the sites for future generations and reducing fire risks

Contact

Chris Head – Group Manager – Community Risk Management - Protection

OP029 Northwest Protection Regional Training Group

Community Risk Management - Protection

Summary

The North West Protection Regional Training Group is a group established to deliver training on a Regional basis. It delivers accredited and non-accredited fire safety training courses through regional collaboration. Training needs analysis and staff appraisals identify suitable delegates within the Protection Department, whom require continual professional development within the national occupational standards for fire safety.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service
- Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
- Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service
- Skills for Justice

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- The Northwest Protection Training Group delivers Protection training at Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service Training Centre
- Protection training courses are accredited programmes and aligned to the awarding body Skills for Justice

Benefits

- Enhances regional collaboration through the delivery of training.
- Cost savings arising from regional training courses delivered at GMFRS approved SFJ Awards Approved Centre
- Protection staff obtain formal qualification

Contact

Phil Hart – Station Manager – Community Risk Management - Protection

OP030 NFCC Northwest Heritage Group

Community Risk Management - Protection

Summary

The NFCC Northwest Heritage Group built on the Heritprot Project which concluded on 31st December 2014. The HeritProt Project was a European Fire Safety project designed to share best practice in protected heritage buildings from fire and significant incidents. The NFCC Northwest Heritage Group now: Works with external partners who have a responsibility for heritage sites to ensure that they are compliant with the Fire Safety Order and to provide advice and assistance to reduce risk. Works with internal partners to provide operational intelligence in respect of the unique nature of Heritage Sites. Extend the work to heritage sites outside the Liverpool World Heritage Site. Contributes locally, regionally and nationally in working with other Fire and Rescue Services involvement with heritage sites.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service
- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service
- Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
- National Trust
- English Heritage

Status

- Operational ☐ Development ☐ Discontinued ☒ Not Adopted ☐
- The Heritprot project was a 3 year project which came to an end 31st December 2014
 - The NFCC Northwest Heritage Group meets on a quarterly basis
 - The meetings are hosted by collaborative partners and agencies on a rotational basis across the region
 - This portfolio has now moved under the NW Protection Working Group (OP028)

Benefits

- Sharing of best practice, knowledge and information between partners and 'Responsible Persons' for heritage sites
- Cost savings- by working jointly with partners to reduce fire risks within heritage sites
- Maintain the heritage sites for future generations

Contact

Chris Head – Group Manager – Community Risk Management - Protection

OP031 Liverpool City Region Better Business for All Partnership

Community Risk Management - Protection

Summary

The Liverpool City Region Better Business for All (BBFA) Partnership is a collaborative programme that aligns with the objectives of the Liverpool Strategic Economic Plan and Growth Hub. The intent of the Partnership is to develop and manage the local regulatory system in the Liverpool City Region in a way which better protects the public, the environment and supports business growth and reduces any unnecessary burden on business.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Wirral Borough Council Regulatory Services
- Liverpool City Council Regulatory Services
- Sefton Borough Council Regulatory Services
- Knowsley Borough Council Regulatory Services
- St Helens Borough Council Regulatory Services
- Halton Borough Council Regulatory Services
- Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership
- HM Government - Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Status

- Operational ☐ Development ☒ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The Partnership was established in 2017 but is still under development

Benefits

- The provision of support, guidance and monitoring of businesses to achieve regulatory compliance
- Increased engagement between businesses and Regulatory Services
- Reduction in the cost and burden of local regulation to the public and businesses
- Raising of public and business awareness of the positive contribution of regulation to public protection and business growth
- Partnership working between regulators, increasing capacity and efficiency whilst reducing the burden on businesses

Contact

Chris Head – Group Manager – Community Risk Management - Protection

OP032 Local Authorities Housing

Community Risk Management - Protection

Summary

Under current legislation both MF&RS and Local Authorities enforce compliance in High Rise Residential Buildings. This has the potential to lead to repetition of work, increased resource requirements for both organisations and inconsistent enforcement action for building owners. Following Grenfell Towers and the associated increased workloads for identification, remediation and potential enforcement of non-compliance of ACM and Non-ACM clad buildings both organisations will work closer together.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Liverpool City Council Housing Team (LCC)
- Sefton Council
- Wirral Council
- Knowsley Council
- St Helens Council
- Health & Safety Executive

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The Fire Safety Inspector will continue to liaise with the relevant council bodies throughout the duration of the Building Risk Review Programme which is expected to continue until May 2022.

Benefits

- Share information and reduce repetition of workload, embracing the findings and suggestions of the Hackett review
- Leads to safer buildings for residents and firefighters
- Local authorities gain the knowledge and experience of an experienced Fire Safety Inspector and MFRS have the opportunity to lay the foundations for Joint Competency Authority working recommended by Hackett ahead of future Building Regulations process and primary legislation changes
- MFRS represented at any joint site visits/meetings with building owners and LA housing enforcement officers to ensure interim measures and remedial works are completed as necessary
- Ensures a coordinated and consistent approach to enforcement in line with risk, assisting where appropriate in legal notices, appeals or tribunals

Contact

Jade McKane – Fire Safety Inspector – Community Risk Management - Protection

OP033 Sub Surface Railway Inspection Group

Community Risk Management - Protection

Summary

The Sub Surface Railway Regulations apply to the following five locations within Merseyside's underground stations: Liverpool Central, Liverpool Lime Street (underground only), Moorfields, Liverpool, James Street, Liverpool, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead. Due to the prescriptive nature of the regulations along with the significant hazards and risks associated with sub-surface railway systems, MFRS are unable to issue an exemption from any part of the Regulations. Therefore, following consultation between MFRS and Merseyrail, guidance has been produced on the actions to be followed in the event of any system or equipment that secures the provision of fire safety. MFRS are informed of any changes to the fire precautions within any of these 5 locations and as such additional control measures can be applied to maintain operational capability for a maximum of 24hrs. MFRS in conjunction with Merseyrail and Network Rail operate an audit process in accordance with our risk based strategy to ensure compliance with the RR(FS)O.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Network Rail & Merseyrail

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- Multi-agency Level 2 meetings held on quarterly basis
- Night time subsurface railway inspections held annually

Benefits

- Ensures compliance with Sub Surface Railways Regulation
- Ensures compliance with Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- Enables operational intelligence to be gathered and disseminated to operational personnel
- Ensures health, safety and wellbeing of relevant persons through the compliance with associated regulations and legislation
- Develops closer working relationship with external partners

Contact

Ian Maxwell – Protection Compliance Manager – Community Risk Manager

OP034 Explosive Licensing

Community Risk Management - Protection

Summary

An information sharing protocol in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been developed between the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and Merseyside Police. It is intended that during explosive licensing periods the lines of communication between both organisations will allow the Fire Service to process applications more efficiently and for the Police to be aware of any potential criminality or unsuitable candidates applying for licences.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- Local Authority Trading Standards

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- The MoU is reviewed on an annual basis and resigned accordingly allowing either organisation to change parameters, if required, to allow either organisation to meet statutory duties under various pieces of legislation
- The MoU has been resigned on four separate occasions

Benefits

- The sharing of information regarding explosive licensing allows the suitability of candidates to be examined by both organisations and the potential for criminality is therefore reduced
- Joint inspections by both organisations has resulted in the detection of crime

Contact

Phil Hart – Station Manager – Community Risk Management - Protection

OP035 Care Quality Commission

Community Risk Management – Protection

Summary

MF&RS and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) share information re: inspections and failings in individual Care Home establishments. This is done by e-mail or in conversation via telephone. In addition, MF&RS has held several training days for CQC inspectors making them aware of the audit process and guiding their staff in what to consider when completing their own inspections. The results of CQC Inspections in care premises are fed into the scoring mechanism within the Premises Risk Modelling which prioritises audits for MFRS Protection Officers.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire Service and Rescue Service
- The Care Quality Commission

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The initiative has been developed over the past four years

Benefits

- Enables both enforcing authorities to react to issues within the care home environment quickly
- Allows for greater depth of knowledge for CQC inspectors, in relation to fire hazards, when completing their inspections
- Intelligence provided from CQC Inspections enables are officers to target premises more effectively

Contact

Andy Alcock – Fire Safety Inspector – Community Risk Management

OP036 Collaboration Fleet Services

Operational Preparedness

Summary

Fleet Services are working in collaboration with Merseyside Police to provide shared market intelligence and horizon scanning in relation to fleet developments. Work continues to develop strategies to enhance business continuity and proposals for future fleet maintenance of potential LGV Police vehicles. MFRS can also access Police Vehicle buying frameworks to take advantage of further efficiencies.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police

Status

- Operational ☐ Development ☒ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- This collaborative venture is focussed on providing Electric vehicle fleet solutions and infrastructure.

Benefits

- Joint multi-agency working and shared knowledge
- Removal of barriers to closer working and equipment provision
- Opportunities for collaborative purchasing and R&D

Contact

Dave Seasman– Transport Manager – Operational Equipment & Fleet

OP037 Petrol Enforcement Liaison Group (PELG)

Community Risk Management

Summary

PELG are responsible for the development of the Petrol filling stations - Guidance on managing the risks of fire and explosion (The Red Guide), which is directed at those with a responsibility for the safe operation of facilities where petrol is stored and dispensed into vehicle fuel tanks, to enable them to comply with the relevant health and safety legislation; in particular their statutory duties under the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (DSEAR).

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| ▪ Petrol Retailers Association | ▪ UK Petroleum Industry Association |
| ▪ Health and Safety Executive | ▪ Energy Institute |
| ▪ Tank Storage Association | ▪ UK Fire and Rescue Services |
| ▪ The Petroleum Equipment Installers & Maintenance Federation | ▪ Environment Agency |
| ▪ Downstream Fuel Association | |

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- Inspection regime working group established – to create a standardised risk based inspection regime, which can be utilised by all Petroleum Enforcement Authorities (PEAs)
- Training for regulators working group established – to incorporate PEA officer competency and review and establish the necessary training materials and formats to inform PEA officers.
- Guidance for regulators and petrol operators to understand duties and relationships working group established – to carry out a gap analysis on existing guidance and areas to be covered and improve what is currently available for industry and regulators.

Benefits

- Enhanced national collaboration through the delivery of joint working on UK petroleum policy's and procedure.
- Cost saving arising from approved training and Continuous Professional Development accreditation.
- Improvements to joint interventions to deal with enforcements issues and compliance.

Contact

Phil Hart – Station Manager – Community Risk Management - Protection

OP038 National Resilience Assurance Team

Lead Authority National Resilience

Summary

MFRA are the designated lead authority for National Resilience. This is the collective term utilised to refer to a number of arrangements that exist to reduce the impact of risks identified within the National Security Risk Assessment (NSRA). Those arrangements include the provision of specialist people, vehicles and equipment dispersed around the country to deal with incidents including large scale building collapse, major transport incidents, terrorist attacks, major floods and wildfires.

Day to day management of National Resilience is done via the National Resilience Assurance Team (NRAT). This team looks after a designated area of specialist assets and equipment. The team provide 24/7 cover throughout the year in order to provide support, advice and expertise to an affected FRS. In order to get specialist assets from their host FRS, MFRA have responsibility for National Resilience Fire Control (NRFC) which resides in MFRA's Joint Command & Control Centre.

Additional elements of the lead authority responsibilities extend to the provision of National Resilience training which is a programme of national courses delivered across the country throughout the year. Finally, there is Long Term Capability Management (LTCM) which ensures equipment and vehicles are serviced and checked regularly and equipment is replaced/updated in accordance with manufacturer's timelines, statutory requirements and in keeping with technological advances and evolution.

Such responsibility requires engagement and collaboration with government departments, all UK FRS, specialist departments within blue light partner agencies and none government organisations (NGOs) and voluntary organisations. In doing so enables preparedness, mobilisation and response elements to be suitably coordinated across a variety of stakeholders to ensure national assets are fit for purpose and available to respond when required.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- | | |
|--|--|
| ▪ Home Office | ▪ UK Fire and Rescue Services |
| ▪ Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs | ▪ Environment Agency |
| ▪ Foreign & Commonwealth Development Office | ▪ Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure |
| ▪ Office for Security & Counter Terrorism | ▪ Police National Disaster Victim Identification |
| ▪ MoD Standing Joint Command | ▪ National Ambulance Resilience Unit |
| ▪ Defence CBRN Centre | ▪ National Police Chief's Council |
| ▪ National CBRN Centre | ▪ Devolved Administrations |
| ▪ Prime Contractor | ▪ Voluntary & Community Sector Emergency Partnership |

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- Assurance of national resilience assets conducted annually
- Training within the sector and with partners
- Informs national security risk planning
- Liaison with stakeholders via periodic meetings and similar fora

Benefits

- Ensures preparedness of specialist national assets
- Affords coordinated mobilisation and response in collaboration with relevant partner agencies
- Provides a readily available link between the sector and Home Office in the event of national scale incidents
- Lead authority model affords efficiency savings for Home Office
- Enables the services to share best practice and learn from each other
- Facilitates greater understanding of capabilities and builds trust
- Enhancing joint operational response in accordance with JESIP principles

Contact

Kevin Longshaw – Area Manager – NRAT – Lead Authority National Resilience

SUPPORT SERVICES

SS001 Firefighter Pension Administration

Resources

Summary

The Authority is the “Scheme Manager” for the various firefighter pension schemes and has a responsibility to administer the schemes in accordance with the relevant regulations and scheme guidelines. The Authority has a “discharge of function arrangement” with Lancashire County Council for the administration of FPS(s) on behalf of MFRA. As Lancashire also provide FPS administration for Lancashire Fire, Kent Fire and Cumbria Fire authorities they have developed a unique depth of knowledge and resources to deal with the FPS challenges. In addition the MFRA firefighters now receive a much enhanced service with regular pension workshops, online information and pension account access.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Lancashire County Council
- Kent, Lancashire and Cumbria Fire Authorities also use Lancashire County Council

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- The administration service has been operational since 2014

Benefits

- Cost savings –the SLA costs c£100k p.a. but to employ a specialist team (previously 4.5 FTE and a £100k p.a. SLA with Wirral MBC, plus 1 FTE looking after the retired firefighter pensioner’s payroll) and old SLA equated to +£250k p.a.
- Access to expertise – Lancashire County Council’s firefighter pension team are leaders in this field and provide a service that an internal service could not match

Contact

Ian Cummins – Treasurer

SS002 Procurement Service Level Agreement

Resources

Summary

The Procurement Service Level Agreement is a shared service approach for the provision of procurement services across two emergency services. The key features of the service include the management structure which has one Head of Procurement and one Deputy across both services. This structure is cost effective and also provides resilience across the organisations. In addition, the development, implementation and review of processes and procedures generally only occurs once – reducing duplication of effort for both services. Most documentation is harmonised which again reduces duplication and encourages collaboration. The agreement sets the framework for collaboration on specific procurement projects and helps to ensure that both authorities get value for money from their procurement activity. This Agreement discontinued on 1st February 2021, following appointment of Head of Procurement by Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service, consequently there was no need for a duplicate structure in each Authority.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service

Status

- Operational ☐ Development ☐ Discontinued ☒ Not Adopted ☐
- The Procurement SLA has been operational since 2005.

Benefits

- Increased resilience across the services
- Reductions in duplication
- Harmonised processes and procedures
- Reduced costs through economies of scale
- Estimated savings of £80,000 in direct staffing costs

Contact

Hywyn Pritchard – Head of Procurement

SS003 Mental Health First Aid

People & Organisational Development

Summary

Mental ill health conditions have emerged as the single most widespread cause of long term absence in the workplace. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service have recognised this and been proactive in the approach of educating staff around mental ill health by delivering Mental Health First Aid (MHFA). The service now has 8 employees trained to deliver MHFA; which teaches employees how to spot the signs and symptoms of mental ill health, make emergency intervention and signpost them to relevant agencies for professional help and support. Having trained over 23% of staff in MHFA, and currently rolling out MHFA Lite to all operational staff, the staff following the programmes have more confidence, knowledge and understanding in how to support someone with mental ill health. As a result, MFRS have been approached by other organisations requesting this training, such as Wirral Council, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue and North West Ambulance Service.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Sefton Council, Voluntary Services
- NHS
- Knowsley Council
- Knowsley Healthy Homes Teams
- Merseyside Police

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- Mental Health First Aid courses started running in 2009 with MFRS and Sefton Council, voluntary services and NHS
 - MFRS MHFA Instructors were introduced in 2011; who have been delivering this internally/ externally since

Benefits

- Improves mental health and wellbeing of staff
- Gives employees confidence and knowledge to support colleagues, family members and friends experiencing mental ill health
- Educates staff in signs/symptoms of mental ill health, so colleagues can spot symptoms in self/others and they can seek support earlier on before sickness absence occurs
- Delivers against the Merseyside Blue Light Mental Health Strategy
- Cost effective for Police/local councils (external trainers would be considerably more expensive)
- Ensures ongoing competencies of MFRS Instructors (who need to deliver 2 courses per year as per MHFA England Trainer Regulations)

Contact

Kelly Patterson – Snr Occupational Health & Wellbeing Officer – Occupational Health

SS004 Knowing Our Communities

Strategy & Performance

Summary

The Knowing Our Community project coordinates a cross-organisation approach to equality and diversity, understanding our diverse communities, and carrying out community engagement. It establishes 4 key areas to mutually benefit the organisations involved, but more so the communities they serve. The areas are: Sharing community demographics and data around the protected groups across Merseyside; Sharing engagement activities with diverse communities through the use of established police and fire community networks; Deliver joint diversity campaigns around faith and cultural events to keep the community safe; and Share diversity and cultural awareness resources, such as case studies and e learning materials to support colleagues working with diverse communities.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- The project is currently under review due to a change of staff within the project team from both MFRS and MerPol. In addition, a representative from NWAS will also be joining the project. The purpose, aims and objectives will be updated accordingly.

Benefits

- Improves the offer made to our diverse communities through shared information
- Enhances community safety, wellness and reduces risk of fire and harm
- Sharing of notable practice between partners
- Working jointly with partners to improve outcomes for diverse communities
- Sharing well established links to community leaders

Contact

Michelle Kirk – Equality and Diversity Manager

SS005 Internal Audit

Resources

Summary

The Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that it maintains an adequate and effective system of Internal Audit of its accounting records and control systems. (Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015). In order to fulfil these functions, the Authority has a Service Level Agreement with Liverpool City Council's Internal Audit Service. The Authority pays £36k p.a. for 112 days' audit service. If the Authority wished to carry out this function via an internal resource it would be significantly more expensive and the level of expertise would be reduced as different audit projects require a variety of skill sets and experiences.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Liverpool City Council

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The Authority has utilised the services of the City Council's Internal Audit Service since 1986

Benefits

- Cost savings – an internal audit team would cost in the region of +£80k (2 FTE)
- Greater expertise – Via the agreement MFRS has access to a large internal audit team with a variety of specialist knowledge

Contact

Ian Cummins – Treasurer

SS006 North West Regional Procurement Team

Resources

Summary

This well-established group meets regularly to identify and progress collaborative opportunities in procurement across the region. The agreed strategy of this team is to share resources through collaboration, improving purchasing power to obtain better products, services and cost savings; avoid duplication of effort within the region; and let regional contracts where it is appropriate in order to leverage spending power and influence in the marketplace. The group is led by MFRS. All participating authorities are able to utilise a number of framework agreements over recent years, notably those for personal protective equipment and operational equipment. The work plan continues to identify this type of opportunity and a lead procurement professional is allocated along with a lead technical officer to progress each project.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
- Cheshire Combined Authority
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- Other FRS's also utilise the resulting North West contracts where it is appropriate

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- The group has been operating for over 10 years
- During this time the strategy and work plans of the group have been reviewed and updated

Benefits

- Increased resilience across the services
- Reduction in duplication
- Harmonised processes and procedures
- Reduced costs through economies of scale
- Sharing of best practice including market intelligence

Contact

Hywyn Pritchard – Head of Procurement

SS007 Mental Health Awareness in the Public Sector

People & Organisational Development

Summary

Mental Health Awareness in the Public Sector (MHAPS) is an organisational stress management project that will work via a website. The website will be accessible via subscription and be split in to three categories; local authorities, blue light services and educational establishments. The purpose of the project will be for public sectors to be transparent about how they are managing stress and mental health and enable services to be able to compare themselves with other similar organisations. The project will require stress surveys to be conducted every 2 years with the ultimate aim being for everyone to have a consistent approach to supporting employees experiencing mental ill health and stress.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Knowsley Council
- Merseyside Police
- Mersey Travel
- Local Government Association
- Health & Safety Executive

Status

- Operational ☐ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☒
- The programme is due to go live before the end of financial year 2017/2018
 - Following the latest review, this activity was not adopted.

Benefits

- Enable MFRS to benchmark against other organisations and see what is working well/not so well within MFRS
- Enable MRFS to identify and manage mental health and stress issues in the Service
- Provision to services of regional/national mapping of stress and mental ill health
- Provision to services of Stress Incident Rates and Stress Frequency Rates
- Sharing of best practice and contact for support
- Availability of free information leaflets, policy templates and support groups
- Facility to obtain free professional advice
- Annual conference to analyse benchmarking and discuss key areas for blue light services
- By leading the project on behalf of blue light services, MFRS will be given access to the site free of charge

Contact

Kelly Patterson – Snr Occupational Health and Wellbeing Officer – Occupational Health

SS008 Positive Action Practitioners Alliance

Strategy & Performance

Summary

The Positive Action Practitioners Alliance (PAPA) brings together positive action practitioners in North West emergency services to coordinate a cross-organisation, cross region approach to sharing notable practice, with a particular focus on developing modern recruitment practices in support of the Equality Act. The project includes sharing notable practice across multiple services, organising joint positive action events, joint training on positive action, sharing of contacts, resources and outcomes of positive action, and strategy and campaigns in respect of recruitment. The project directly assists the organisations involved in recruitment practice, but more directly the communities they serve who will benefit from a service workforce that reflect the communities themselves.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service
- Greater Manchester Police
- Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Cheshire Police
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The project has been in development since 2016

Benefits

- Improves the offer made to our diverse communities through shared information in relation to recruitment
- Sharing of notable practice between partners
- Working jointly with partners to improve outcomes for diverse communities
- Sharing well established links to community leaders

Contact

Liz Inman – Recruitment Manager

SS009 Treasury Management

Resources

Summary

The Authority is required to comply with (regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003) the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. It would not be economical for the Authority to employ specialist and consultants to manage its investments and provide technical advice and support in relation to Treasury Management activities. Therefore the Authority in reality operates in partnership with Liverpool City Council and formalises the arrangement via an SLA.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Liverpool City Council

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- Treasury Management is reviewed annually

Benefits

- Cost savings – the SLA costs c£22k p.a. but to employ a specialist and pay for investment brokers / consultants would equate to potentially something closer to c£75k plus
- Access to expertise – Liverpool City as a major player have access to more experts and have invested in developing an internal pool of experts

Contact

Ian Cummins – Treasurer

SS010 Heads of Legal Services Group

Resources

Summary

The group meets to discuss issues affecting all local government bodies. Key outputs of the group are Information and strategy sharing, areas of shared service, resilience for legal services, new legislation and issues affecting elected members. This group has enhanced meeting schedule in light of the COVID pandemic.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Police
- Mersey Travel
- District Councils Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton, St. Helens, Wirral and Halton

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- The group has been operating since 2010

Benefits

- Increased resilience across the services
- Reductions in duplication
- Harmonised processes and procedures
- Reduced costs through economies of scale
- Sharing of information

Contact

Ria Groves – Legal and Democratic Services

SS011 Mind Blue Light Programme

People & Organisational Development

Summary

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service have pledged to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination by signing the Mind Time to Change Blue Light Pledge. Under phase 1 of the Mind national project, MFRS were able to review current best practices in regards mental health and wellbeing. On completion of phase 1, legacy fund remained and local Mind charities were approached to bid for the funding; and with MFRS leading from the emergency services perspective, Wirral Mind were awarded £100,000 to continue the project on a local level with Merseyside Blue Light Services. The funding ultimately to develop the blue light network and support the mental health of Merseyside Blue Light staff.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- National Mind
- Wirral Mind
- Wirral CVS
- Merseyside Police
- North West Ambulance Service
- Royal National Lifeboat Institution
- Periscope Productions

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The MIND Blue Light programme started in 2015

Benefits

- Sharing best practice and knowledge with other Merseyside Blue Light services; all working to the same goal
- Enforced organisational commitment, with the services agreeing to a joint mental health strategy
- Challenge/reducing stigma and discrimination across all Blue Light services in relation to mental health
- Share services and give support to each other
- Access to free training, promotions and independent, professional support and guidance

Contact

Kelly Patterson – Snr Occupational Health and Wellbeing Officer – Occupational Health

SS012 Communications and Engagement Officers

Strategy & Performance

Summary

The Communications and Engagement Officers are the result of a funded partnership arrangement between Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority's (MFRA) Strategy & Performance and Community Risk Management functions, and the Merseyside Road Safety Partnership (MRSP). This jointly funded venture provides a communications and engagement service via 1.5 full time equivalent posts providing support to MRSP and MFRA, ensuring resilience to communications and marketing requirements that address shared road safety requirements. The posts are embedded into the MFRS Corporate Communications department ensuring integration, efficient liaison, a consistency of approach and professional expertise. The service level agreement (SLA) and accompanying work plan detail the MRSP requirements and objectives and co-ordination is via the MFRA Road Safety lead based in the Community Risk Management function. The work plan is dynamic to take account of the nature of the work, responding to local requirements and ensuring that shared objectives can be met effectively.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Road Safety Partnership

Status

- Operational ☐ Development ☐ Discontinued ☒ Not Adopted ☐
- The posts, SLA and work plan were developed and became operational in July 2017
 - This project was discontinued due to Merseyside Road Safety Partnership withdrawing funding

Benefits

- Provision of communications and engagement resources available to both parties
- Integration of communications posts, enhancing liaison, and providing a consistent approach on shared objectives
- Cost effective solution by shared posts

Contact

Andrew Highton – Communications Manager

SS013 Merseyside Finance Technical Group

Resources

Summary

Fire and Local Authority financial reporting, administration and funding face similar challenges. Within the Merseyside region the local authorities, Merseyside Waste, MFRS, and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have formed a Technical Group who meet and discuss a joint response to Government consultation papers (100% business rates, funding cut backs - consultation on grant formula changes etc.), technical accounting challenges (move from UK GAAP to IFRS, new Accounting & Audit Regulations). The Group also prepare papers for consideration by the Merseyside Treasurer's Group that then may feed up into the Merseyside Chief Executive's Group.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Liverpool City Council
- Halton Metropolitan Borough Council
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
- St Helen's Metropolitan Borough Council
- Merseyside Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- The group is operational

Benefits

- Cost savings – avoids MFRS engaging with consultants on technical issues and spreads the work amongst a greater pool of technical experts therefore reducing the impact and ensuring a consistent view on new challenges
- Provides a “stronger” voice when responding to Government consultation documents
- Reduces the risk of new challenges being missed
- Improves the network between finance professionals within the region

Contact

Ian Cummins – Treasurer

SS014 National Group of Fire Lawyers

Resources

Summary

The group meets to discuss governance issues and to plan how governance will work for Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRA) in relation to Metro Mayors and/or PCC. The group is an offshoot of FRA solicitors on the Fire Lawyers Network. MFRA is the lead for the group through MFRS.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- All Fire & Rescue Authorities

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The FLN now utilises task and finish groups to deliver specific work in relation to the scope of the group and to feedback to the main group.
 - This group has become fully operational since last update

Benefits

- The FLN meets four times a year to share best practice and to access training together which saves on CPD costs for each FRA
- The offshoot group has developed into a structure which constitutes task and finish teams as the demand requires.

Contact

Ria Groves – Legal and Democratic Services

SS015 Merseyside HR Directors Group

People & Organisational Development

Summary

The Merseyside HR Directors Group brings together the senior directors, facilitated by North West Employers (NWE), to look at the strategic direction of all areas of Human Resources, both within the Merseyside boundaries, but also through NWE coordinating with other similar groups in the North West. It involves collaborative work and strategic horizon scanning on areas such as Pay (the implications of both National awards, and local pay levels within the area), ICT Systems (a group has been established to look at the Northgate system owned by a number of authorities, and shared Faulting process), Succession planning strategies, Recruitment (mechanisms and skill shortage issues), Job Evaluation, Terms and Conditions of Service (policies, professional critique on local options), and a Regional Professional network to share information, opinion and plan future collaborative work issues.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Liverpool City Council
- St Helens Council
- Knowsley Council
- Sefton Council
- Wirral Council

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The group is operational but development is still underway

Benefits

- Ensures consistency, supports strategic growth and development
- Delivers high quality best practice policy and procedures, with scope to save money
- Allows shared best practice as opposed to singular development issues
- Informs authorities early of regional issues and potential industrial relations challenges
- Allows broader work and knowledge share with the Association of Manchester Authorities

Contact

Nick Mernock – Director of People & Organisational Development

SS016 Merseyside Regional OH Group

People & Organisational Development

Summary

The group comprises Occupational Health, Health & Safety, HR managers, and clinicians working within the Liverpool City Region public sector. The aim of the group is to share best practice and where possible to collaborate to develop and implement consistency of approach to occupational health and fitness services across all the Local Authorities that comprise the Occupational Health Group. The Merseyside FRS Occupational Health Manager is the Chair of the group.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside FRS
- Halton Council
- Knowsley Council
- Liverpool City Council
- Sefton Council
- St. Helens Council
- Wirral Council
- Merseyside Police
- Merseytravel

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The group first met in March 2017

Benefits

- Provides opportunity for Occupational Health and related professionals to discuss common interests regarding work within Local Authorities
- Effective communication between members, forming links with other allied and professional groups, sharing best practice and professional peer support
- Exploration of opportunities for joint procurement between Services or shared procurement of services and utilisation of frameworks
- Sharing and collaboration on health promotions
- Where practicable, sharing and delivery of joint training initiatives including sharing venues and costs
- Development of initiatives that support national Occupational Health strategies
- Informs senior leaders, within Authorities, of professional views in relation to occupational health issues

Contact

Paul Blanchard-Flett - Occupational Health Manager - Occupational Health

SS017 Safety Campaigns Communications

Strategy & Performance

Summary

Corporate Communications Safety Campaigns engage with partners to establish effective, targeted, joint messages across multiple platforms such as social media, print media such as leaflets and posters, Press & media Releases, Launch photo calls, web content and video content. Messages are agreed and signed off by each partner; if MFRS is not the lead organisation the service requests sign off by the lead if outputting messages. Examples of the type of campaigns that are developed are: Operation Banger (Bonfire period), Water Safety Week, Student Safety, Road Safety, Seasonal campaigns (e.g. Christmas), Rural Safety, the development and promotion of the Water Safety Forum (MFRS chair this and developed the logo). With each of the campaigns, structured meetings are held with partners to agree the most effective and appropriate approach to maximise results, including data analysis and behavioural insight, targeting specific groups and pooling resources to enable wider paid media/social media advertising coverage. Where resources allow, opportunities for development of video content for social media will be considered with partners. National campaigns such as Water Safety Week are informed by NFCC/Home Office (Fire Kills) briefing packs which often contain pre-prepared social media schedules, press release templates etc. and act as a base to which we add more localised information via local events arranged with colleagues from RLSS/MCGA etc. dispersing each other's social media content etc. Much of MFRS Comms. work was picked up by the NFCC and pushed out to all FRS as examples of best practice (e.g. Lockdown fire safety leaflet) and effective partnership comms has been crucial during the pandemic, often via the Local Resilience Forum- most obviously in support of health messaging and Fire Service support in the community, but also in other less expected areas such as a rise in risks from controlled burning (i.e. in gardens) during lockdown. The pandemic has strengthened further existing strong partnership working and enabled and encouraged greater collaboration than ever before.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ▪ Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service | ▪ Natural England |
| ▪ Merseyside Police | ▪ RNLI |
| ▪ NHS Trusts | ▪ MCGA |
| ▪ Clinical Commissioning Groups | ▪ RLSS |
| ▪ Hospitals | ▪ CFOA/NFCC |
| ▪ 5 Borough Councils | ▪ Schools/Colleges/Universities |
| ▪ National Trust | ▪ Merseyside Resilience Forum |
| | ▪ Merseyside Water Safety Forum |

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- These projects are all currently operational

Benefits

- Improves the offer made to our diverse communities through shared information
- Enhances community safety, wellness and reduces risk of fire and harm
- Sharing of notable practice between partners
- Working jointly with partners to improve outcomes for communities
- Sharing well established links to community leaders
- Reduces repetition of work across agencies, reduces cost by pooling resources, or extends reach by maximising financial resources

Contact

Andrew Highton – Communications Manager

SS018 Fire Service Organisational Development Policy

People & Organisational Development

Summary

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority, through its People & Organisational Development directorate, has undertaken a range of collaborative approaches across key policy areas with other Fire Services. The areas are Discipline (completing independent disciplinary investigations, and chairing discipline hearings and appeals due to internal staff being compromised within the process), Recruitment & interviews (designing assessment centres, occupational testing, provided support on interview panels and sharing positive action strategies), Job Evaluation (designing local conventions, providing support, and provided training to staff in computerised evaluation), Policy Development (shared work on a policies and provided professional critique), and creating a Regional Professional Network to share information, opinion and plan future collaborative work issues.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service
- Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
- Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service

Status

- Operational ☐ Development ☒ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- Operational but development is still underway

Benefits

- Ensures consistency and supports industrial relations
- Delivers high quality policy and procedures, and provides economic scale savings
- Joint job evaluation training reduced costs (cost from host company was £1,200 per day, requiring approximately 1 months' work)
- Reduced discipline costs (cost of the discipline had it been done using independent legal advice is at least £800 per day)

Contact

Nick Mernock – Director of People & Organisational Development

SS019 NFCC Northern and Metropolitan OH Group

People & Organisational Development

Summary

The group comprises Occupational Health, HR managers and clinicians. The aim of the group is to share best practice and, where possible, to collaborate to develop and implement consistency of approach to occupational health and fitness services across all the Fire and Rescue Services (FRS). It delivers a collaborative approach to training in Occupational Health matters, and allows sharing of fitness personnel across services. CFOA established regional groups in 2002 across a range of areas. The North West Group has welcomed other Services and they have joined as the other regional groups have ceased to exist. The Merseyside FRS Occupational Health Manager is the Chair of the group. A Fitness Advisors Sub Group was established to share best practice and collaborate.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ▪ Merseyside FRS | ▪ Tyne and Wear FRS |
| ▪ Cumbria FRS | ▪ Durham and Darlington FRS |
| ▪ Greater Manchester FRS | ▪ North Yorkshire FRS |
| ▪ Isle of Man FRS | ▪ West Yorkshire FRS |
| ▪ Lancashire FRS | ▪ South Yorkshire FRS |
| ▪ Cheshire FRS | ▪ West Midlands FRS |
| ▪ Northern Ireland FRS | ▪ Shropshire FRS |
| ▪ London Fire Brigade | ▪ Firefit Steering Group |
| ▪ North Wales FRS | |

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The group started to meet in 2002
 - In May 2014 a Fitness Advisors Sub Group was established

Benefits

- Provides opportunity for Occupational Health and related professionals to discuss common interests regarding work within Fire and Rescue Services
- Effective communication, forming links and professional peer support
- Sharing of guidance on hearing standards, fitness training and eyesight
- Exploration of opportunities for joint procurement between Services or shared procurement of services within the Group
- Sharing and collaboration on Health Promotions, such as Men's Health and Women's Health booklets, and the production of Health posters
- Sharing and delivery of training initiatives including sharing venues and costs
- Shares best practice and collaboration in the area of fitness, and has led to sharing/secondment of fitness personnel between services
- Develops initiatives which support national Occupational Health strategies

Contact

Paul Blanchard-Flett - Occupational Health Manager - Occupational Health

SS020 Health & Safety Group

Operational Response

Summary

The H&S departments between Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and Merseyside Police have been in regular contact for a number of years and all personnel are accustomed to working with each other. The team leads across the two services regularly meet, discussing a range of matters, such as inspection of the JCC and SHQ in general. Health & Safety managers from both services collaborate on health and safety management aspects, such as procedural inspections and collaborative delivery of training for staff, for example; evacuation chair training. Both organisations use the same management software (OSHENS) and joint learning is undertaken, as well as continuing to explore potential joint licensing in future contract renewals. Regular meetings are programmed between both department leads to share knowledge and practices to improve delivery of service.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- The above system has been ongoing over a number of years
- Merseyside Police have only recently procured the OSHENS software so this element of shared information has only recently been initiated, however, a notable increase in its use, specifically the recording of accident injury/near miss has been seen.

Benefits

- Shared information
- Support to each department especially if accident or injury occurs in a shared environment
- Joint reduction of risk

Contact

Craig Whitfield – Group Manager – Operational Assurance and Health & Safety

SS021 Information Sharing Agreement

Strategy and Performance

Summary

The joint Information Sharing Agreement is an enabling piece of collaboration, drawn up between Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Merseyside Police and North West Ambulance Service (NWAS). As an overarching element it provides the foundation upon which many other areas of collaboration can operate, by each agency agreeing to the format and method of sharing information. The Information Sharing Agreement provides a framework for all collaboration and partnership activity and enables new activities to be added without the need to develop separate agreements in future. In 2020 it was recognised that the agreement could be improved and this work is underway.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police
- North West Ambulance Service

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- An agreement has been operating since January 2018 but this is under review.

Benefits

- Improved efficiency and effectiveness through streamlined processes and reduced duplication
- Improved communication and information sharing in real time to enhance and improve service delivery
- Easy format for operational and non-operational staff to understand their powers and legislative basis for sharing information for different situations

Contact

Deb Appleton - Director of Strategy and Performance

SS022 Princes Trust

Prevention

Summary

The Prince's Trust Team Programmes are run predominately in areas of low socio-economic status for young adults aged between 16-25 years old, who are classed as NEET. Programmes are funded from contracts secured through colleges and consist of four main elements (residential; community projects; work placement and presentation) but is also flexible enough to give scope for a relevant topics and issues, such as fire awareness, gun and knife crime or equality and diversity. A secondment agreement has been established between MFRS & Merseyside Police for a serving police officer to work alongside a MFRS Prince's Trust Team Leader to facilitate the Prince's Trust programme. Coverage includes the Merseyside area where delivery is carried out at Huyton, Toxteth, Bootle, Kirkby and Bromborough Community Fire Stations.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ▪ Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service | ▪ Avarto |
| ▪ Merseyside Police | ▪ Fujitsu |
| ▪ JCP | ▪ BarclayCard |
| ▪ Connexions | ▪ Autism Together |
| ▪ Local Authorities | ▪ Asylum Link |
| ▪ Housing Providers | ▪ Mayoral Dept. |
| ▪ Probation/YOT | ▪ Army Reserves |
| ▪ Prince's Trust (Locally/Nationally) | ▪ Family Intervention Services |
| ▪ Fire Fit Hub/The Hive | ▪ Bouygues |
| ▪ MerseyTravel | ▪ JM Coaching |

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- Princes Trust has been operating in MFRS since 2002
 - Additional partnerships exist with Colleges (Wirral Met/St. Helens/Knowsley), Maritime Museum, So 2 Speak, Wates Construction and Talent Match

Benefits

- Developed confidence and self-esteem/attainment of accredited qualifications/job ready-employability skills improved (Inc. work placements)
- Youth leave with developed Life skills and improved knowledge of their Community
- Community projects –positive Youth Ambassadors for MFRS
- Positive engagement with youths on the verge of deliberate fire setting / ASB
- Accessible to a diverse range of young adults, e.g. NEET; Young Offenders; refugees / asylum seekers; socially isolated; BME; and disability
- Established partnerships with flexibility to cater courses to current youth issues

Contact

Karen Metcalf – Senior User – Prevention

SS023 Joint Trainee Solicitors

Resources

Summary

2 trainee solicitors are being recruited who will do their post graduate training contract across MFRA and Merseyside Police. They will be employed by MFRA and seconded to Merseyside Police on 6 monthly rotations across both organisations and will qualify as solicitors if successful, in two years' time with experience of both. Since the qualification of the two trainee solicitors the provision of this scheme is being reviewed by the teams in Fire and Police to consider possible future collaboration.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority
- Merseyside Police

Status

- Operational ☐ Development ☒ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- Recruitment is taking place during November 2018 and it is hoped that two trainee solicitors will be in post by 1st January 2019
 - Two solicitors have qualified as of January 2021.

Benefits

- Greater awareness of legal aspects across two blue light agencies

Contact

Ria Groves – Legal and Democratic Services

SS024 Connected Procurement and Commissioning Group

Resources

Summary

The goal is to share best practice and environment scanning within procurement across the public sector, and it does have more commercial emphasis. The priorities for the group are more effective commissioning and tackling policy outcomes relevant to the public sector. Events are scheduled to support CPD within the group and sector. We represent the Fire and Rescue Service on this group.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Procurement and commissioning local public service colleagues in the North West, Yorkshire, Humberside and West Midlands.
- Policy leads, programme leads and subject matter experts in sector
- Local Government Association Procurement National Advisory Group and other relevant task and finish groups
- Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation
- Crown Commercial Service
- Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government
- NHS England

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- We joined the group in 2020, but it has been operating successfully for a number of years.

Benefits

- Enhanced environment scanning
- Wider procurement perspectives
- Commercial insight
- Supports CPD
- Access to sector specific peers and advice

Contact

Hywyn Pritchard – Head of Procurement

SS025 Cheshire and Merseyside NO More Suicide Partnership Board

Prevention

Summary

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service are represented at board level at the Cheshire and Merseyside No more suicide Partnership Board. This is a regional group commissioned by Local Authority Public Health to produce and deliver a local Suicide Reduction Action Plan with the strategic aim to reduce suicide numbers within the nine local authority areas of Cheshire and Merseyside.

The Network was established in 2008 to seek greater coordination of responses to and understanding patterns of suicide and to ensure suicide reduction activity does not get overlooked or slip off the agenda during the reshaping of the public sector.

<https://no-more.co.uk/>

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Wirral CHAMPS network
- Directors of Public Health
- Public Health England
- National Health England
- Merseyside Police
- North West Ambulance Service
- Merseycare
- Local Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Zero Suicide Alliance
- SOBS suicide charity

Status

- Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐
- The network is well established, meeting quarterly and influencing national and regional policy setting.

Benefits

- The Network has facilitated joint working and is regarded as a national example of good practice.
- The network enables real time monitoring of suicide and assists public health in identifying suicide prevention strategies
- MFRS are regarded as a good employer in terms of suicide and MH awareness in the workforce and regarded as a key partner in this regard.
- Safer, stronger communities

Contact

Mark Thomas – Group Manager - Prevention

SS026 Liverpool Samaritans

Prevention

Summary

MFRS staff have indicated through PO feedback, that they are given a greater awareness of how to deal with a person who is suicidal or in crisis when they attend an incident PRIOR to the other emergency services attendance (Police/NWAS). This will involve training and awareness of operational staff at the scene of a crisis prior to the arrival of other emergency responders.

Liverpool Samaritans are a partner of the Service and are delivering awareness raising training regarding this. This is NOT formal training and this is NOT intended to replace the role of Police and Ambulance, simply offering the tools of how to have a conversation with someone who is 'on the edge'. CISM will come into play to support those who are involved in this activity. In return for training opportunities, MFRS have liveried 4 fire appliances with Samaritans details to enhance visibility in our communities.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Liverpool Samaritans
- Samaritans

Status

Operational ☒

Development ☐

Discontinued ☐

Not Adopted ☐

Project in scoping phase with support of Liverpool Samaritans who will be training delivery partners on roll out.

Benefits

- Sharing best practice and knowledge between MFRS and Liverpool Samaritans
- Challenging stigma and discrimination internally and in our communities in relation to suicide and crisis through high visibility
- Share services and give support to other blue light partners at incidents
- Access free training, promotions and independent, professional support and guidance

Contact

Mark Thomas – Group Manager – Prevention

SS027 Health & Safety Covid -19 Response

Operational Response

Summary

In addition to the already established collaboration detailed in SSO20, further collaboration specific to the Covid-19 pandemic response has been undertaken by MFRS and MERPOL's H&S departments. Regular meetings take place however under circumstances seen a shift to remote or virtual interaction using 'Microsoft Teams' / conference call etc. The purpose of the meetings related to ensuring shared learning and a collaborative and consistent approach in responding to the Pandemic. This has seen the production of joint risk assessments and the sharing of others; a consistent approach in adopting Covid-19 control measures i.e. wearing of the same IIR type2 face masks when moving around the building. The leads from both organisations continue to liaise regularly.

Collaboration Partners/Agencies

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Merseyside Police

Status

Operational ☒ Development ☐ Discontinued ☐ Not Adopted ☐

- The above has commenced and continued during the Covid-19 global Pandemic.
- MFRS H&S team produced an extensive Risk Assessment for 'Occupying SHQ/JCC during a Pandemic' which was shared with Merpol and formed the basis for them to operate under too. This later led to the joint production of a further robust Risk Assessment for the safe use of the SHQ/JCC gym when national guidelines allowed it to be open. This was on the basis that both sets of staff regularly use it and is branded and endorsed by both organisations.

Benefits

- A joint 'Covid secure' workplace including JCC/SHQ
- Safe access to facilities such as the JCC/SHQ gym when open
- Joint reduction in risk
- Blue light consistency in the approach to H&S of staff i.e. wearing of face masks (when/where/type).

Contact

Craig Whitfield – Group Manager – Operational Assurance and Health & Safety

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