

**Subject: Draft Integrated management Plan 2021-2024 - Consultation response**

Sirs,

Further to your publication of the draft plan, I should like to comment as follows as lead commissioner for the North West Ambulance Service in Merseyside and my capacity as UEC Senior Programme Director:

- Pages 32 / 33 – “Also, we will continue to work with North West Ambulance Service to develop an Integrated Demand Management Programme for times of high demand such as during the Covid 19 pandemic. This expands our previous IRMP action to enter into Emergency Medical Response alongside the Ambulance Service.” Can you please clarify this statement as I am unaware of any current ‘live’ operational arrangement with NWAS that provides for an MFRS Emergency Medical Response dispatch to a medical emergency, other than where your crews are at an incident and administer immediate aid to a casualty, pending NWAS arrival. I am aware of a small number of previous limited pilot arrangements involving a couple of your stations some time ago for a FRS response but understood that these had ceased. Details of your intentions would be appreciated so that we might consider this within the context of our planning with NWAS of future resource needs and the delivery model for emergency calls including the likes of Community First Responders and other partner agencies.
- Pages 48 / 49 – “Assist the ambulance service when it is facing a surge in demand, like that experienced through the pandemic (whilst maintaining response to fires/other emergencies)” and “Work with NWAS to integrate demand management plans including Emergency Medical Response”. Can you please clarify your intentions here as specific knowledge of what MFRS might be able to provide / deploy would greatly assist our joint planning with NWAS to determine paramedic and emergency ambulance resources, assets and resilience (particularly at times of extreme demand)
- Pages 64 / 65 – “MFRA remain committed to working with NWAS to support their response and during the Covid pandemic we have worked closely with our blue light partners assisting in food and prescription delivery driving ambulances and face fitting masks for NHS and care staff”. The contribution from MFRS in supporting medicines deliveries, vaccination centres and fit testing has been welcomed and much appreciated. However I should be grateful if you could clarify and expand upon the statement “driving ambulances” as I am not aware that fire service personnel have driven any emergency ambulances responding to 999 or other emergencies during the present pandemic.

Many thanks

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