

<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>			
<b>MEETING OF THE:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>27 MARCH 2014</b>	<b>REPORT NO:</b>	<b>CFO/029/14</b>
<b>PRESENTING OFFICER</b>	<b>DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER PHIL GARRIGAN</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	<b>AREA MANAGER MYLES PLATT</b>	<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>MYLES PLATT</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	<b>DISTRICT MANAGEMENT TEAM, LINDA MITCHELL- FIRE SUPPORT NETWORK, KAREN METCALF - YOUTH ENGAGEMENT</b>		
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>EXTERNAL FUNDING FOR PREVENTION AND ROAD SAFETY</b>		

<b>APPENDICES:</b>	<b>APPENDIX A:</b>	<b>FIRE SUPPORT NETWORK FUNDING</b>
	<b>APPENDIX B:</b>	<b>YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES</b>

### **Purpose of Report**

1. To update Members on the current provision of external funding received by the Authority to deliver community safety related outcomes across each District of Merseyside

### **Recommendation**

2. That Members note the contents of this report and in particular the risk to the sustainability of that funding provision and the work being carried out to mitigate that risk.

### **Introduction and Background**

3. The Authority attracts external funding from a range of sources, predominantly from partners in each district of Merseyside and access to national funding streams through the central prevention and youth engagement functions.
4. The Fire Support Network (FSN), as a charitable trust, accesses a range of funding streams that enables it to deliver Fire and Rescue Authority and Local Authority related outcomes commissioned by these organisations, as detailed below.
5. This report sets out a range of funding streams that are currently accessed by the Authority to support its mission. Members will be well aware that every currently funded project is at risk as Local Authority and Community Safety budgets reduce, in particular those related to Children and Young People, Adult Social Care and Drug and Alcohol Services.

## **Fire Support Network (FSN)**

6. The FSN is a charitable trust whose Memorandum and Articles of Association provide for service delivery to the Authority, and the delivery of its IRMP outcomes which are commissioned by the Authority.
7. FSN currently receive £195k per year from the Authority to deliver a range of community safety related activities including bonfire removal, cage football and Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC's).

A percentage of the 195k paid to FSN is subsequently recovered as part of the cost recovery for the provision of smoke detectors to low risk members of the community.

8. FSN have secured a further £845k over the last 12 months from various funding streams which are detailed in **Appendix A**. Service's delivered via FSN include de-clutter from premises where hoarding has been identified, cage football, youth engagement programmes, emergency heating, sports programmes and sustainable warmth initiatives.

## **MFRA Youth Engagement Team**

9. The Authority delivers a range of award winning youth engagement programmes through 5 established post holders. who work with and manage a further 10 members of externally funded staff to deliver each programme.
10. One such programme is the 12 week full time Princes Trust course, aimed at changing lives for disengaged and vulnerable young people between the ages of 16 and 25. The Authority relies on funding drawn down from the skills funding agency via an accredited centre, usually a college, to deliver the programme.
11. As of March 2011 the Authority has drawn down £827k however funding remains challenging as in 2013 Hugh Baird College withdrew their funding at short notice placing staff at risk of redundancy fortunately the Authority was able to continue to deliver the Princes Trust programme through St. Helens College in 3 districts of the County.
12. The funding criterion for Princes Trust has changed over the last year and offers less per student and strict criteria over age, focusing on 16 to 18 year olds.
13. The Youth Engagement Team is piloting a new delivery method in partnership with Wirral Metropolitan College with the aim of reducing costs and sharing resources. If successful this may be expanded in the next financial year.
14. The Service also delivers the award winning Beacon Course on behalf of the Authority, the course runs for 1 day a week for 12 weeks. The course is aimed at 13 to 16 year olds who are at risk of exclusion from school. Since January

2011 the Authority has received over £170k of external funding to deliver the programme.

15. The Beacon Programme is arguably that which is most at risk due to withdrawn funding from Local Authorities and Community Safety Partnership's.
16. The Youth Engagement team are working with FSN and local colleges to explore alternative course delivery and access to national funding streams to secure a sustainable programme over a period of years.
17. The Youth Engagement team can produce and deliver bespoke courses over shorter periods of time to cover, for example, the school holidays. An example of this is the very successful LIFE programme which unfortunately again relies on Local Authority funding which has been reduced across the County.
18. Additional Information can be found in **Appendix B**.

### **St. Helens District**

19. The District has previously received £20k per annum from a range of partner's to support the provision of 4 Neighbourhood Firefighters who deliver a range of activities including schools, communities and campaigns. This funding has now ceased and the District team are working hard with local schools, the Safer Communities Partnership to best use income received from rental of office space along with match funding to maintain the provision.
20. A one off grant has been received from the Safer Communities Partnership which is ring-fenced for the provision of equipment such as assistive technology to keep people safe in their homes.
21. The District team are currently working with Helena housing to secure funding to support Fire Cadets.
22. At this point the funding available to support campaigns such as "Operation Good Guy" for the bonfire period is unclear.

### **Sefton District**

23. The District team have secured funding to match fund two Beacon Courses for 2014. There is no commitment beyond then.
24. One off funding of £30k has been secured from the Community Safety Partnership to facilitate a bespoke version of the Beacon programme for 2014.
25. £5k has been secured from the Community Safety Partnership to support the "Safe Havens" signage for fire stations.

26. The Sefton team continue to work to secure limited funding from “Community First” panel to resource campaigns and events such as Beachsafe and Bonfire.

### **Knowsley District**

27. Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (KMBC) has, in recent years supported Beacon course provision and has committed £5k for 2014/15 via the Safer Knowsley Partnership.
28. Funding for 1 School Fire Liaison Officer is due to end in July 2014.
29. Bonfire planning includes commitment from the Safer Knowsley Partnership and Registered Social Landlords to provide resource and funding as per the local bonfire plan.
30. The Safer Knowsley Partnership continue to fund the secondment of prevention team member into their team engaging with young people to tackle gun and knife crime.
31. FSN has been successful in receiving funding for KMBC and Sport England to deliver activity engaging with young people.

### **Liverpool District**

32. Liverpool’s award winning Street Intervention Team funded by City Safe have had year on year reductions in grant, the latest being £32k for 2013/14. The Liverpool team are awaiting the outcome of funding allocation from City Safe in March 2014.
33. Funding for the School Fire Liaison officer for Parklands School in South Liverpool has not been allocated due to the potential closure of the school.
34. Small allocations of Neighbourhood funding has been received to support the Beacon Programme. The Liverpool team continue to work to access local funding through the neighbourhood structure.

### **Wirral District**

35. Historically Wirral’s Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has provided £30k for a seconded officer to work in the Community Safety Team. Use of that funding has been developed to facilitate the provision of a seconded officer from Wirral Borough Council who co-ordinates 3 Fire Community Safety Officers dealing with Anti-Social behaviour, Youth and the Intensive Family Intervention Programme. Funding for the provision for 2014/15 is unclear due to uncertainty of funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Community Safety Partnerships.
36. Wirral’s Road Safety Team funds the provision of a seconded MFRA officer. The £5k for that provision has not been confirmed for 2014/15.

37. Wirral NHS provides £5k per annum for the provision of a seconded officer and is currently evaluating the secondment prior to authorising future funding.
38. Wirral's Local Area Forums have previously supported the provision of Beacon Courses, Life courses and Fire Cadets. Wirral have made recent structural changes to Neighbourhood management. The criteria for local funding bidding is, as yet, unclear posing a risk to future funding.
39. FSN has been successful in securing funding to deliver a range of services in Wirral detailed in Appendix A.

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### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

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40. Equality Impact Assessments have been completed for specific projects such as Street Intervention Teams. Equality objectives and outcomes delivered through specific initiatives are captured in the Equality and Diversity action plan.

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### **Staff Implications**

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41. Staff employed via externally funded schemes are placed at risk within 3 months of the funding ending unless that funding has been formally secured.

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### **Legal Implications**

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42. Externally funded projects, secondments, and agreements are considered by the Authority's legal team and are subject to contracts and the external grant process.

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### **Financial Implications & Value for Money**

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43. Many programmes and partnerships rely on match funding and the use of reserves to maintain the provision. It is acknowledged that this is not sustainable hence working in partnership to review funding provision in each District and department. The Authority has agreed a reserves strategy which supports a pragmatic approach to managing risks around external funding.

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

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44. The Authority relies on external funding to contribute to the delivery of outcomes articulated in its Integrated Risk Management Plan. Withdrawal of that funding places delivery against those outcomes at risk.

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### **Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters***

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45. Each element of external funding contributes to Community Safety and as such the safety of our Firefighters.

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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N/A

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## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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<b>MFRA</b>	<b>Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority</b> is the physical and legal entity. When writing reports MFRA is the “object”.
<b>MFRS</b>	<b>Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service</b>
<b>FSN</b>	<b>Fire Support Network</b>
<b>NHS</b>	<b>National Health Service</b>
<b>CSP</b>	<b>Community Safety Partnership</b>
<b>KMBC</b>	<b>Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council</b>
<b>RSL</b>	<b>Registered Social Landlord</b>