

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	19 JULY 2016	REPORT NO:	CFO/063/16
PRESENTING OFFICER	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	JAMES BERRY TEL: 4711	REPORT AUTHOR:	BEN RYDER
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TITLE OF REPORT:	PARTNERSHIPS & GOVERNANCE		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A: (PARTNERSHIPS & GOVERNANCE MODEL)
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Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members about developments to the partnership governance arrangements within the Community Risk Management (CRM) Directorate.

Recommendation

2. That Members approve the content of this report and acknowledge the work being undertaken to support the wider community safety and health and wellbeing agenda across the districts of Merseyside. A presentation will accompany this report.

Introduction and Background

3. In August 2015 the Authority approved a new management structure which resulted in the move from a district to functional delivery model (CFO/056/15).
4. This restructure, alongside the removal of the Deputy Chief Executive role resulted in savings of £0.499m. The restructure did however result in the loss of the District Manager position in each Local Authority area.
5. In order to offset the impact of the loss of the District Manager role, officers from within the Community Risk Management Directorate have been assigned a district partnership responsibility alongside their corporate functional lead responsibility.
6. This approach has been adopted to provide a structure which strengthens MFRA's influence within targeted partnership areas i.e. Community Safety and Health and Wellbeing, as well as providing each Local Authority area with a point of contact in the Service.

7. Key partnership areas have been identified including Community Safety Partnerships, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Safeguarding Adults and Children's Boards in order to maximise MFRA's influence and to support MFRS Service Delivery and outcomes in the Authorities priority areas.
8. The district based officers will act as a designated officer/Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for each Local Authority area and will have a responsibility to work with the station based Station Managers and Prevention teams to deliver against locally identified objectives (Local Performance Indicators).
9. The Officers will also be asked to contribute to areas contained within the Local Government Equalities Framework ('Knowing your communities', 'Sharing Information with Partners' and 'Involving your Communities'). This will support the Authority's self-assessment and peer review against this framework, which is planned for 2017.
10. As a precursor to the changes, a full stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted and a new partnerships and governance model developed (see appendix A).
11. The model establishes two priority areas for the Authority – Community Safety (Arson/Anti-Social Behaviour) and Health and Wellbeing (Home Safety and Safeguarding Vulnerable People), underpinned by effective partnership working and community engagement:
 - Community Safety Partnerships – These are statutory boards which focus on a wide range of community safety issues which MFRA directly or indirectly affects; e.g. the reduction of anti-social behaviour (secondary fires), protection of vulnerable people (e.g hate crime and domestic violence victims target hardening).
 - Health and Wellbeing Boards – 'Safe and Well' visits have been developed following a Fire, Health Summit held in July 2015, and they will form the basis of our preventative work moving forward. This approach will enable us to tackle broader health priorities whilst ensuring people remain safe in their homes. Health & Wellbeing boards are one of the key communication platforms for ensuring all stakeholders and relevant partners are correctly informed of the potential impact that our work can have in the community whilst at the same time keeping the Authority informed of the changing health environment, allowing us to ensure MFRA continues to add value in this area.
 - Safeguarding Boards – A third cross cutting partnership of statutory boards. MFRA are co-opted members of these Boards which protect vulnerable people from a number of risks that directly correlate to fire deaths and injuries e.g. mental ill health (eg dementia, hoarding), alcohol and substance misuse.

12. To facilitate this structure, the move of a Group Manager role from Strategy and Performance into Community Risk Management provides an approach to partnerships that is embedded in the department that directs the MFRA strategy for Prevention. (See appendix A).
13. In this way, the revised governance structure also ensures internal references are maintained within the Community Risk Management directorate for the priority work streams of Home Safety Strategy, Road Safety and Arson/ASB whilst providing a lead officer for each local authority area.
14. This model ensures that the Authority is able to provide the correct level of expertise and support within strategic, tactical and operational partnerships which aligns to Local Authority priorities and maximises outcomes within each of the local authority areas, whilst being closely linked to MFRA service delivery.
15. The model proposes that a cross directorate, Partnerships and Knowing your Communities meeting is created to capture, communicate and evidence the outcomes achieved, through this new approach. This will deliver significant evidence to demonstrate our excellence in the area of community risk management, partnerships and equality and diversity, as well as better equipping the Service to work with partners to delivery positive outcomes with reducing resources.

Equality and Diversity Implications

16. The introduction of the Partnerships and Knowing your Communities governance structure will enhance the support given to diverse/vulnerable communities. A future impact analysis will be produced when the structure is in place.

Staff Implications

17. Staff across a number of departments will be more aware of district priorities which will allow them to be more objective and outcomes focussed.

Legal Implications

18. This proposal will ensure that MFRA is able to provide expertise into safeguarding and Health and Wellbeing structures. Plus the officer(s) who attends safeguarding boards will have the correct level of influence to ensure that safeguarding messages are fed back to MFRA decision makers. This is in accordance with statutory guidance contained within Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2015) and Safeguarding Adults Guidance issued April 2016. This guidance is advisory to MFRA.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

19. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

20. The new governance structure addresses the risk of MFRA becoming detached from the partnership working structures across Merseyside.

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

21. The proposed governance and partnership arrangement will significantly contribute to our Mission through a more focussed partnership arrangement and improved business intelligence (community demographics)

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CFO/056/15
CFO/030/16

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

GM – Group Manager
SM – Station Manager
CRM – Community Risk Management
R&WS – Road & Water Safety
HSM – Home Safety Manager
DPM – District Prevention Manager
ASB – Antisocial Behaviour
E&D – Equality and Diversity
CO - Carbon Monoxide
TAG – Transport Advisory Group
MRSPG – Merseyside Road Safety Partnership Group
MRSOG – Merseyside Road Safety Group
LEP – Local Enterprise Partnership
MCSP – Merseyside Community Safety Partnership
PVPB – Protecting Vulnerable People Board
LSP – Local Strategic Partnership
LRF – Local Resilience Forum
CSP – Community Safety Partnership
H&WB – Health and Wellbeing Board