



## **Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service**

### **Statement of Intent: Enhanced Collaboration**

The Police Force and Fire and Rescue Service are under a formal duty to collaborate to improve efficiency, effectiveness and deliver improved outcomes.

We both provide vital services and share the aim of protecting the public. We both face the continuing pressures presented by austerity, the subsequent need to spend less but achieve more and, crucially, to manage down demand on our services. The next few years may well see us needing to find further savings, but still to provide high quality services to the public, as they have a right to expect.

Unlike some areas of the country, we share coterminous boundaries, meaning that both the geographical area we cover and the communities we protect are the same. In addition, we are operating as part of an already excellent partnership working within local authority areas. So the prevailing conditions are strong for ever-closer working.

Working in partnership – and more formal collaboration – can bring great benefits:

- Better outcomes for the citizens who use our services;
- Increased resilience.
- Identified efficiencies

The common themes in our plans emerge through such priorities as prevention, vulnerability and early action in the Police and Crime Plan and the 5 priorities of Preventing, Protecting, Responding, Valuing and Delivering within the LFRS Risk Management Plan.

Therefore, we intend to enhance our collaboration in order to help us to meet the challenges of the future.

The public recognise the brand and role of Lancashire Constabulary and the brand and role of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service.

What we deliver as two blue light services is unique to each agency and is clear but what might be less clear is the huge opportunity we have to work collaboratively across a wider range of vulnerabilities

We will consider the potential for collaborative activity in all our areas of spend, paying particular attention to the following aims:

- (1) **IMPROVED OUTCOMES** – The collaboration maintains or improves the service we provide to local people and local communities.
- (2) **REDUCED DEMAND** – The collaboration should contribute towards our longer term strategic objective of decreasing risk in communities and reducing demand on services.
- (3) **BETTER VALUE FOR MONEY** – The collaboration produces quantifiable efficiencies, either on implementation or in the longer term.

Collaborative partnerships will be explored in all areas of responsibilities of the Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service, where there is potential for the above aims to be achieved.

A work programme will be drawn up and agreed to identify priority areas for collaboration. Areas to explore will include, but are not limited to:

- Sharing of knowledge and information
- Service delivery – including:
  - Prevention
  - Response
  - Demand management
  - Demand reduction
- Estate and asset integration
- Resilience and shared opportunities in support functions
- Training and development
- Threat, harm and risk assessment
- Public engagement and accountability
- Financial opportunities e.g. joint bids, shared contracts and procurement.

Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service acknowledge that there may be times when the two organisations make different levels of savings in order to gain the overall advantages of collaboration. However, overall a level of equity in where the benefits accrue is anticipated.

Governance arrangements will be established which provide a mechanism to drive forward efficient decision making and implementation, whilst ensuring all parties are properly represented.

Nothing in this agreement precludes the parties from collaborating with other agencies.

## **Signatories**

**Lancashire Deputy Chief Fire Officer**

**Lancashire Assistant Chief Constable**