

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on Monday, 17 September 2018

MEMBER CHAMPION ACTIVITY REPORT

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This paper provides a report on the work of the Member Champions for the period up to September 2018.

Recommendation

The Authority is requested to note and endorse the report and acknowledge the work of the respective champions.

Information

The concept of Member Champions was introduced in December 2007. A review of the areas of focus for Member Champions was considered at the Authority meeting held in June 2017 where new areas of responsibility were discussed and agreed as follows: -

- Community Safety – CC Mark Perks
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Cllr Zamir Khan
- Health and Wellbeing – CC Tony Martin
- Road Safety – Cllr Fred Jackson

Reports relating to the activity of the Member Champions are provided on a regular basis to the Authority. This report relates to activity for the period up to September 2018.

During this period, all have undertaken their respective role in accordance with the defined terms of reference. Their activity to date is as follows:

Community Safety – County Councillor Mark Perks

As the Community Safety Champion I have been visiting various Community Safety teams based at fire stations across the county having discussions about their work and joining them on home visits to see how each team act on requests made to the service. They have covered a wide range of requests from partner organisations and charities such the Alzheimer's Society, Stroke Association, borough councils etc. I am impressed with the way these visits are undertaken by officers who take great pride and professionalism in their work in a very sensitive empathic approach. I thank them on behalf of the CFA and I look forward to continue visiting further stations in all the divisions

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Councillor Zamir Khan

Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service (LFRS) has joined the Stonewall Diversity Champions Programme. Members of staff have attended Lancaster Pride in May, Blackpool in June, and Manchester in August and are also due to attend Preston in September. A review of LFRS Human Resources policies has been completed to ensure compliance from an LGBT perspective and we are currently exploring options in relation to simple visual symbols which support the LGBT community.

Guidance and information for employees and line managers has been developed to support those applying to join the Service, or who currently work for LFRS who have dyslexia.

Health and Wellbeing – County Councillor Tony Martin

Suicide Prevention Day

On the 10th September I supported an event at the Service Training Centre for Suicide Prevention Day. The event was held to raise awareness of mental health issues and suicide which was attended by staff who support colleagues at work. The event included presentations from:

- MIND Matters who delivered a session on signs and symptoms and awareness of mental health issues; and
- PTSD999 who are a charity based in the UK that supports all members of the emergency services, both serving and retired, family and friends in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Contaminants at Fires

We have commenced a project looking at the effects of contaminants at fires on firefighter's health and how we can mitigate the risks. Early work has commenced at the Service Training Centre to reduce contamination at the design stage.

The design is to be amended to improve the workflow of managing dirty Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Breathing Apparatus (BA) sets to provide dedicated areas to separate clean PPE/BA from those used during training activities. Another benefit of these changes will be to eliminate the storage of BA sets and cylinders within the BA school classrooms, further reducing staff exposure to 'dirty' equipment.

Road Safety – Councillor Fred Jackson

Councillor Fred Jackson has continued to influence road safety within Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service by attending the Road Safe thematic group. He has also continued to support the delivery of Safe Drive Stay Alive by attending a performance.

Financial Implications

Activities are within budget.

Business Risk Implications

Whilst no formal obligation is placed on the Authority to have Champions, effective utilisation of such roles offers a number of benefits.

Environmental Impact

The Member Champion provides leadership on environmental issues and assists in engaging Authority members in strategic objectives relating to protecting the environment.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The Member Champion role provides leadership on E&D issues and assists in engaging Authority members in strategic objectives relating to equality and diversity.

Human Resource Implications

Some Member and Officer time commitments.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact DCFO Justin Johnston
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		