

## **LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**

Meeting to be held on 29 April 2019

### **FIRE PROTECTION REPORTS**

Contact for further information:

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Justin Johnston – Tel. 01772 866801

#### **Executive Summary**

This report deals with prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson incidents within the period 1 February 2019 to 1 April 2019.

In addition, Fire Protection and Business Support Information is included in the report.

#### **Recommendation**

The Authority is asked to note and endorse the report.

### **FIRE SAFETY CONVICTIONS**

#### Prosecutions under the regulatory reform (fire safety) order 2005

- The owner of Mama Mia takeaway Lancaster was sentenced at Preston Crown Court on the 18/03/2019 for 8 offences of the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order (RRFSO).

The sentence outcome was 20 months imprisonment suspended for 2 years; 200 hours of unpaid community work and £10,000 costs awarded to LFRS.

- The owner and employer of staff at the Crown Hotel Burnley was sentenced at Preston Crown Court on the 28/03/2019 to:

1. 6 offences of the (RRFSO); as the owner
2. 1 offence of the (RRFSO); as the employer

The sentence outcome is not known at the time of writing this report. The sentence hearing is due at Burnley Crown Court on 17 April 2019.

- The owner of Derby Court Hotel in Preston has pleaded not guilty to 11 offences of the Fire Safety Order and will begin a full trial at Preston Crown Court week commencing the 20/05/2019;
- The prosecution case file for Plaza Beach Hotel Blackpool is completed and will be forwarded to LFRS Fire Safety Solicitor on the week commencing the 08/04/2019 for summonses to be issued.

There are a number of prosecution case files being prepared currently:

- A Multi Occupied Dwelling in Lancaster;
- Hotel in Blackpool;
- Multi Occupied Dwelling in Blackpool;
- Mixed Commercial premises in Blackburn.

## **FIRE PROTECTION & BUSINESS SUPPORT INFORMATION**

### Risk Based Inspection Programme

The Risk Based Inspection Programme has been modified to remove some shop premises that had been included in the initial scoring methodology and this has been changed to better reflect the risk but still keep a higher risk with shops with residential accommodation above. The system is working well and staff are using this as their go-to work stream.

### Business Support Website

On-going.

### Business Safety

The Business Safety Advisers have had a new spreadsheet created to better track and identify repeated cases of Unwanted Fire Signals and this is helping them to better target their activity in this area. We have had two new starters in January and our existing advisers have been mentoring them. They have made visits to premises operating as 'Escape Rooms'. They are starting on a project to look at fire safety in self-storage premises and will be targeting these premises over the next few months. Additionally, they are making use of the SHOUT networking group, that brings small and medium enterprise owners together and are using this as a way to sell the business advice provision.

### Primary Authority Scheme

LFRS now has 12 registered partnerships: Barchester Healthcare, Four Seasons Healthcare, Amber Taverns, Torus 62 Housing, Daniel Thwaites, Warwick Estates, EH Booths, Regenda Group, Progress Housing Group, PBSA Student Roost, St Catherine's Hospice and Inclusion Housing.

New agreements have now been formalised with Torus 62, Barchester, Four Seasons, Regenda, Amber taverns, Warwick Estates, EH Booths, Daniel Thwaites and Inclusion to include a new hourly rate of £75/hour which equates to £4,500 per annum. This will be rolled out to the other partners on their 12 month anniversary dates.

There have also been discussions with 3 other very interested companies: Coasts & Castles, Witherslack Group and Trafford Housing and 2 tentative companies; Amberstone and Homestead.

## **ARSON RISK REDUCTION**

### Arson Convictions

#### **R v William VAILL and Deborah ANDREWS. Tanhouse, Skelmersdale**

This incident involved a fire on the first floor landing of a block of flats where a deceased male was found. A fatal fire incident of suspicious origin was declared. Two people were arrested on the evening of the fire and charged with murder. One male and one female were found guilty of murder and arson.

David VAILL was sentenced to life imprisonment on two counts.  
Count 1 - 28 1/2 years minimum term for murder with Count 2 - 10 year's Arson with intent as to whether life endangered to run current and alongside Count 1.

Deborah ANDREWS was sentenced to life imprisonment on two counts.  
Count 1 - 28 years minimum term for murder with Count 2 - 10 year's Arson with intent as to whether life endangered to run current and alongside Count 1.

#### **R v Jordan SHAW. Jameson Street, Blackpool**

Persons were reported at a mid-terraced house fire incident involving kitchen units, clothing and settee seat cushions. Fire of suspicious origin was declared due to three origins of fire identified. One male was arrested the same day and charged with arson and remanded in custody. Following further court appearances a guilty plea to arson was given and he was remanded until sentencing.

On 25th March 2019 Mr Jordan SHAW was found guilty to arson - reckless as to whether life endangered. Mr SHAW received five years imprisonment and a restraining order.

### **Business Risk**

Moderate – Members need to be aware of prosecutions related to fire safety activity and/or arson within Lancashire in order to satisfy themselves that the required robust approach is being pursued.

### **Environmental Impact**

None

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

None

**HR Implications**

None

**Financial Implications**

None

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

**List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		