

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on Monday 8 February 2021

**BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION**

Contact for further information:

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**Executive Summary**

This paper provides an update on the collaborative work being progressed by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

**Recommendation**

The Planning Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

**Information**

As reported at the last Planning Committee, the quarterly Blue Light Collaboration meetings have largely been placed on hold due to the ongoing support being provided by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and partners, to Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF) in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Whilst the tri-partite agreement (National Fire Chiefs Council, Employers and Fire Brigades Union) ceased mid-January, LFRS employees have continued the outstanding work in support of the wider Covid response.

As reported previously, this initially commenced with preparations for, or delivery of, the following:

- Face fitting for masks to be used by frontline NHS and clinical care staff working with C-19 patients;
- Mass casualty transportation (movement of bodies in support of Coroner functions);
- Vulnerable person contacts and visits (delivery of essential items);
- Delivery of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other medical supplies to NHS and care facilities;
- Lead agency for collating all PPE requirements through the Joint Intelligence and Planning Group.

The support provided by LFRS to the LRF strategy and multi-agency response has been reviewed on a regular basis and at this time there are no ongoing activities with regards to any of the tri-partite agreement related topics.

More recently however, we have become the first Fire and Rescue Service in the country to step up support to the national vaccination programme. Our staff have risen to the challenge admirably and by joining our 'volunteer list', made themselves available to provide logistical support to the delivery of vaccinations initially through 21 Primary Care Network establishments and subsequently through the Mass Vaccination sites at Blackburn, Blackpool and Lancaster.

To date, this commitment has seen 163 operational and support staff support the delivery of over 65,200 vaccinations whilst also delivering crucial home fire safety advice to some of Lancashire's most vulnerable individuals.

From mid-January our offer was increased further, and following provision of the appropriate training and guidance, we had the first firefighters in the country actively administering Covid-19 vaccines at Mass Vaccination Centres at Blackpool and Blackburn with over 400 delivered in the first week alone.

In terms of our continuing support to the LRF, we have an Emergency Planning Watch Manager and Station Manager embedded; their role is to lead the coordination of LFRS involvement across the various areas of work.

Within Service, we have established the provision of Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) into a number of fire stations, Service Headquarters and Service Training Centre, moving towards a planned Service wide roll out within the short term. This has proved invaluable in identifying asymptomatic members of staff, reducing risk of transmission within the workplace and supporting front line fire engine availability, whilst also providing much needed reassurance to members of staff and those they support within the home environment. To date, LFRS staff have taken up the offer of over 1889 LFT's across the Service (figures quoted as at 26/1/21).

All activity is collated within the collaboration log which will provide an overview of outcomes delivered and benefits realised, and will form a definitive evidence base for any future HMICFRS inspections.

The intention remains that the formal Blue Light Collaboration meetings will be restarted when capacity across the blue light partners permits, meantime cross-organisational dialogue and collaborative working remains ongoing across many areas of work.

### **Business Risk**

Low – risk assessments are documented in relation to LRF support activities.

### **Environmental Impact**

Low

### **Equality & Diversity Implications**

Low

### **HR Implications**

Low – staff undertaking modified duties in support of response to pandemic. Covered by existing terms and conditions of employment.

### **Financial Implications**

Medium – Additional costs incurred by LFRS with regards to Covid response related activities are charged to the Covid grant allocation. This includes resources such as PPE and also increased staff costs including the emergency planning staff on secondment to the LRF.

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**  
**List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact
Reason for inclusion in Part 2, if appropriate: N/A		