

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on 13 September 2021

MEMBER CHAMPION ACTIVITY REPORT

Contact for further information:

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Table 1 Executive Summary and Recommendations

Executive Summary

This paper provides a report on the work of the Member Champions for the period up to June – August 2021 (Quarter 2).

Recommendation(s)

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 with a review of the roles in 2017.

The Authority appoints its Member Champions at its Annual Meeting in June, and the current Member Champions are:

- Community Safety – Councillor Jean Rigby
- Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion – Councillor Zamir Khan
- Health and Wellbeing – County Councillor Andrea Kay
- Road Safety – County Councillor Ron Woollam

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 June – August 2021.

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

1. Community Safety – Councillor Jean Rigby

Prevention teams continue to support the mass vaccination centres alongside their normal prevention activities which include Home Fire Safety Checks, Young Fire Setter referrals, recruitment for our Fire Cadet units, partnership engagement and supporting campaigns. Support for vaccination centres will be scaled down from 1 September, as we slowly hand back to the NHS.

Training sessions are being held throughout August for prevention teams and operational fire crews via MS Teams in readiness for delivering refreshed educational packages in schools again from the new academic year. The ChildSafe package used for pupils in Year 2, has been fully updated and developed in

consultation with local schools and staff. We have contacted all schools in Lancashire for feedback on the packages we delivered digitally during Covid to establish their preferred delivery approach from September.

Building on the success of the digital delivery of RoadSense earlier in the year, digital water safety assembly sessions have been provided. We delivered 29 sessions to 27 schools/different establishments (including home learners) and captured 9,764 learners with important messages about the dangers of open water such as the effects of cold-water shock, tides and strong currents and the use of the 'what3words' app to give an accurate location should help be needed.

Prevention teams have been pivotal in sharing the learning and prevention messages following the incidents involving composite fencing. They have done this by engaging with local communities and incorporating a risk review of the external elements of properties within the Home Fire Safety Check. This fits within a bigger piece of work pan Lancashire and feeding into the appropriate national groups to encourage wider awareness and influence changes in the way in which this material is retailed, regulated, and used.

Northern area supported an event designed to educate young people on the impact of moorland fires and how they can be prevented. The event was held over two days and involved 140 young people alongside Police, Gamekeepers and Ecologists. The Prevention Support Team continue to monitor Safeguarding referrals across the Service, providing feedback and increasing awareness of the importance of the process and the appropriate use of it.

Looking forwards, we are finalising our cooking campaign which will start at the end of August and will run into September which will also allow us to target students returning to university. The campaign is evidence-based and will primarily focus on distractions as this is a leading cause of accidental dwelling fires. Planning is also underway for this year's BrightSparx campaign which facilitates a coordinated response over the Bonfire night period.

2. Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion – Councillor Zamir Khan

Recruiting a Workforce which is Diverse

The Service has commenced its positive action aimed at attracting diverse candidates to its next wholtime firefighter apprenticeship course which is anticipated to commence in November 2021. "Have A Go Events" will be commencing in September 2021. Rather than deliver the events on fire stations, venues have been more selected to hopefully attract candidates who have not previously considered a career within the Service including Nelson and Colne Sports Centre, Audley Sports Centre, and Spirit of Sport in Blackburn. Information sessions are also being delivered to on-call units. The "Have A Go Events" are supported by a digital campaign targeting people who are underrepresented within the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service workforce.

Policy Changes

The Service has embraced some of the advantages of hybrid working and has developed a new Flexible Working Policy which will give some members of staff the

opportunity to continue to work flexibly from home. The new Maternity, Paternity and Adoption Policy has also been implemented, the new policy improves the arrangements for Grey and Green Book employees, so the same provisions apply to both groups of staff.

Engagement and embedding the Service Values/Core Code of Ethics

The Service has reviewed its employee consultation arrangements and is exploring new ways in which consultation can be undertaken with members of staff who are neurodiverse. A new group has been established to consider how the needs of this group of staff can be met.

Further to the Fire Standards Board establishing a new Core Code of Ethics (Core Code), briefing sessions for all members of staff will commence in September 2021. The Core Code sets out fire ethical principles, based on the seven principles of Public Life which provides a basis for promoting good behaviours and challenging inappropriate behaviour. One of the ethical principles is that the Service will continually recognise and promote the value of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion both within the Service and the wider communities in which we serve. Further, that we will stand against all forms of discrimination, create Equal Opportunities, promote equality, foster good relations, and celebrate difference. The ethical principles will now be embedded in the work of the Service.

3. Health and Wellbeing – County Councillor Andrea Kay

A newly developed Health, Safety and Wellbeing Plan is being implemented over the next 3 years. One of the priorities the Member Champion is engaged with is the introduction of Therapy Dogs into the Service to support staff following traumatic incidents and in support of general wellbeing.

Support to staff through the COVID-19 pandemic continues where staff are having difficulties in adapting and managing the changes to their home and work life.

In respect of Climate Change, the first electric cars have arrived in Service to commence a trial with Protection staff. These are in addition to the hybrid vehicles already in Service. The charging infrastructure is being built across the Service and this will allow for expansion to other functions and additional Electric/Hybrid Vehicles into the Fleet.

4. Road Safety – County Councillor Ron Woollam

The delivery of Road Safety activities has been limited due to the Service utilising time throughout the pandemic to update all our packages ready for our return to school delivery in September.

We have continued to deliver Wasted Lives (pre driver awareness session) to Prince's Trust Teams and were able to deliver 3 of the 5 sessions in person, utilising the updated PowerPoint. We now have a suite of 3 packages to offer schools in September:

1: In person full 1 hour session in the classroom;

- 2: In person 20 – 40-minute assembly session for full year groups (flexible timings to accommodate school timetables);
- 3: Virtual 1 hour session which can be delivered to a full year group in groups of 30 students.

To assist with the facilitation of these sessions we have put together and tested a virtual delivery pack which has received good feedback and enabled us to fully engage with the students and ensure they are involved with the activities. Wasted lives will be relaunched in its updated format in November where the theme is 'Road Safety Heroes.'

Road Sense (Year 6 Education Package) has been delivered to 5 schools who missed our main delivery, which ran from January to March. This enabled us to catch a further 125 students and brought the total student reach to 5,967. These sessions have all been delivered virtually by Microsoft Teams. Feedback from these sessions has been very positive and the updated package has been well received by pupils and teachers.

Looking forward we are planning to support 'Project Edward' which takes place during 13 – 17 September. The vision of the campaign is 'Every day without a road death.' We will support this by sharing highlighted posts on social media to support the reach across the county.

From the end of September, we will be offering our 'Biker Down,' course to members of the public. We have 6 dates set between September and December, with a plan for a further 6 January to April before the next biking season starts. The release of these dates is very timely as Motorcyclists accounted for 50% of fatalities on our roads last year. Biker Down is a free three-hour session which covers incident management, first aid and the science of being seen.

As part of our commitment to Lancashire Road Safety Partnership we are leading on the Children and Young Peoples working group. This group is looking at current road safety delivery across the county by all partners and identifying any gaps to tackle the issues identified in the killed and seriously injured statistics.

Business Risk

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 role 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 equality and diversity issues and assists in engaging Authority members in strategic objectives relating to equality and diversity.

HR Implications

Some Member and Officer time commitments.

Financial Implications

Activities are within budget.

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

Table 2 Details of any background papers

Paper:	
Date:	
Contact:	
Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate:	