

## **LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**

Meeting to be held on 13 December 2021

### **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-November 2021 (Quarter 3).

#### **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 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 and Climate Change – 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**

As the new academic year started, LFRS crews and community safety staff started making bookings with all schools in Lancashire to deliver education packages – RoadSense to Year 6 and ChildSafe to both year 2 and 3 (the latter on hold from last year due to prioritisation of delivery to Year 6 during Covid restrictions). The digital options that were developed during Covid as an alternative delivery method were also offered however the majority of schools have requested a return to face-to-face delivery in line with general trends in society away from digital where possible.

The Fire Cadet units were welcomed back onto six Fire Stations across Lancashire after a successful recruitment period. The pandemic has really affected some young

people, so teams are mindful that youth offerings, like cadets and Prince's Trust, are more important than ever. Prince's Trust are also coming to the end of their first team programmes of the academic year across the nine locations that they operate from.

The BrightSparx campaign ran from mid-October and into early November. This involved a number of different departments within LFRS and also multi agency working with a range of partners. A virtual package, to educate around the dangers of fireworks, bonfires, and consequences of anti-social behaviour, was offered to schools with multiple dates and times available to allow as much flexibility as possible. This was delivered to 28 schools and 13,163 students with a further 14 schools and 4,563 students provided with face-to-face sessions. The night itself involved close working with Police, Ambulance and Local Authorities to deal with incidents in the most effective, efficient, and safe way. All activities, including the online virtual firework display, are being evaluated and included in the BrightSparx campaign plan to inform even more effective delivery next year.

Safeguarding remains an integral part of LFRS prevention activities and processes are in place to ensure that each referral is quality assured and followed up. Plans are currently being developed for awareness sessions to be provided to all front facing staff to reiterate good practice and procedures. LFRS are represented on the NFCC Safeguarding Group and chair the Regional Safeguarding Group. Two members of the Prevention Support team have recently attended a bespoke NFCC level 4 safeguarding course, which will build on the already strong position.

LFRS recognise the risk to all age groups but particularly young people by open water across the county and have launched a Water Safety thematic group to sit with our other thematic groups which are Start Safe, Age Safe, Live Safe, Road Safety and Community Mental Health.

Across Districts there has been a wide range of activities completed by both the Community Safety teams and the operational crews. One example is in Southern Area where the Community Safety Team have worked with a local high school and trained 621 dementia friends. This work has also inspired the school to run a dementia café, which will be supported by the team in conjunction with obtaining high risk Home Fire Safety Check referrals.

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

The Service is currently recruiting to firefighter apprenticeships. Prior to recruiting, the Service undertakes positive action with a view to attracting applicants from underrepresented groups within the workforce. The positive action takes a variety of different forms including Have A Go Days where interested potential applicants can come and meet operational firefighters, representatives from Human Resources and learn a little more about the job role. This year to attract a more diverse group of people, the events were delivered in community venues. We delivered 13 Have A Go sessions, the attendees were diverse including 17% women, 15% LGBT+ and 11% were from the Black Minority Ethnic Community the events were also supported by a positive action recruitment campaign, which further to advertisement resulted in 11% of applicants from women, 10.2% from applicants who declared themselves as being LGBT+, 10.8% from applicants who declare themselves as having a disability and 6.2%

from applicants who declare themselves as being from a Black Minority Ethnic Community.

To ensure that we fully consider the impact of our decision making and policy development on underrepresented groups we have relaunched our Equality Impact Assessment process supported by training. This has included training commissioned by the NFCC and commissioning our own training. The training commenced in July 2021 and to date 38 members of staff have completed. We have also established an Equality Impact Assessment Forum to review and scrutinise Equality Impact Assessments and a monitoring process ensuring that we take measures to address any negative impact. Our employee voice groups continue to support us in sharing their views in making LFRS an inclusive place to work and have been key in developing our approach to EDI including flexible working and changes to buildings.

### **3. Health and Wellbeing and Climate Change – County Councillor Andrea Kay**

On the 24 September 2021, the Service took part in the Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee morning with coffee mornings across the Service and a Bake-Off competition at Service Headquarters (SHQ). Staff baked sweet and savoury treats to raise awareness and money to support Macmillan Cancer Support, raising £157.50 at SHQ alone.

The library of Workplace Wellbeing Toolbox Talks has been expanded to support suicide prevention/awareness discussions. This is in response to wider wellbeing conversations with staff, to support staff with their own struggles as well as supporting an increase in attendance to attempted suicide incidents. Such work coincides with the launch of the Mind #BlueLightTogether website and supporting guidance, which LFRS have been involved in developing and continue to promote as just one of the support resources available to all staff.

Following a discussion at SHQ, a presentation was delivered to Resources Committee on the extent of the wellness measures available to employees.

With regards to Climate Change related events; battery recycling bins have been issued to all sites along with posters to be displayed and encourage staff to recycling used batteries. The environmental campaign for Q3 was **Unblocktober**, a month promotion in October to raise awareness to improve the health of drains, sewers, watercourses, and seas by providing posters for all sites to understand what should not be put down drains or toilets.

Over the next quarter we will be developing a draft Wellness and Environmental Events calendar to provide a wide range of support and awareness campaigns to engage with as many LFRS staff as possible.

### **4. Road Safety – County Councillor Ron Woollam**

Since the start of September LFRS' delivery of Road Safety activities has moved back to in-person delivery, still giving schools the option of virtual delivery if they wish.

Wasted Lives was relaunched utilising an updated format as part of Road Safety week. All schools received a letter and information was sent out via the 'moodle' portal. This academic year Wasted lives has already been delivered to 750 students from Year 10

and 11. Responding to feedback, the delivery is now a mix of classroom-based groups and 'assembly' format.

Road Sense (the Year 6 Education Package) delivery is progressing well. To date 31 sessions have been delivered to 972 pupils. Feedback from these sessions has been very positive, the updated package, which reflects intelligence on the main risks to young people in Lancashire, has been well received by pupils and teachers with many commenting they are pleased with the reintroduction of the fire safety reminders (first covered in Year 2) at the start of the session.

Biker Down is a free package lasting three hours which covers incident management, first aid and the science of being seen. Biker Down has restarted and is fully booked until March 2022. To date 46 attendees have attended the sessions. These are still running with slightly reduced numbers (a maximum of 12 students) to ensure appropriate Covid safety measures remain in place and this in turn allows for more time to be spent on the practical elements of the course. Due to the popularity of the course, two additional dates have been released in February and March 2022 as part of Road Safety week. First aid kits have been ordered which will be given out to attendees following completion of the course. These have been purchased using the CFA Road Safety Champion budget and will have a big impact in being able to put into practice what is covered on the course if needed.

As part of our commitment to Lancashire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP), LFRS 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 (KSI) statistics. A comprehensive report on RTCs throughout the county has just been received and the group is working on processing this to ensure all road safety education is still aligned to the risk in Lancashire for each road user type and age group.

Road Safety Week took place 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> November with a theme of 'Road Safety Heroes.' This theme was very fitting for LFRS staff as many of the staff are also involved in the delivery of road safety education. The week was utilised to celebrate the hard work of staff delivering Wasted Lives, Biker Down and Road Sense on social media. Key safety messages were also shared with our partners in LRSP to showcase road safety and the work of different partners.

### **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 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.

## **Human Resource Implications**

Some Member and Officer time commitments.

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

### **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact DCFO Steve Healey
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		