

## **LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**

Meeting to be held on 21 February 2022

### **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 February 2022.

#### **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 – 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.

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 – Councillor Jean Rigby

During the Covid lockdowns, Home Fire Safety Checks were delivered using a modified approach which balanced covid risk against that presented by fire. A follow-up process is now underway with over half of these households having already been offered a full physical visit, including bespoke fire safety advice and inclusion of brief interventions linked to the person-centred framework. The Service knows from evidence how important it is to get over the threshold of the dwelling and believes it has balanced this with the risk presented by Covid.

The Service has delivered a number of sessions to care providers, housing providers and NHS teams during this reporting period. The care providers then cascade this training to their care workers. These sessions are vitally important as it gives them the knowledge and awareness that they need to be spotting vulnerable care users who would benefit from Fire Service intervention, potentially preventing a fire from happening and mitigating the risk to the occupant should one occur.

The Winter Safety campaign started on 1 December 2021 and will continue until 28 February 2022. Delivery of the campaign messages is a combination of digital and direct engagement with key partners with a focus on cooking during December and then heating during January and February. The campaign so far has received an excellent response from our partners and, with the support of Community Safety teams across the Service, over 12,000 Christmas cards and 8,000 Thermometer cards have been distributed to date. A full evaluation of the campaign will be undertaken after completion.

The Prevention Support Team have recently delivered tailored training to the Refugee Integration Team which is working across Lancashire, and they have been set up as preferred partners for any further referrals. This also feeds into work done in the different districts, for example Pennine area personnel have linked in with a local drop-in centre for refugees. As well as being able to share Fire Safety advice and signpost into wider local support networks, this is an opportunity to build relationships and trust with the Fire Service as an organisation.

#### Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Councillor Zamir Khan

The Service has recently interviewed for firefighter apprenticeships for population of the May and September 2022 recruitment courses, with 136 potential candidates being interviewed between the period 31 January to 11 February 2022 respectively. As previously reported prior to the recruitment campaign, the Service undertook positive action with a view to attracting applicants from underrepresented groups within the workforce. The positive action took a variety of different forms including Have A Go Days where interested potential applicants could come and meet operational firefighters, representatives from Human Resources and learn a little more about the job role. To attract more individuals from underrepresented groups, Have A Go Day sessions were undertaken within community venues. It was noted that some underrepresented groups had fallen out at the various stages of the recruitment process where the remaining total that had moved forward to interview being 91% males, females 8%, BME 4%. The Service acknowledged further work was needed to support more diverse groups applying for the Fire Service.

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.

Work is underway to ascertain how the Service could use equality, diversity and inclusion data to shape and influence Prevention and Protection deliverables and scope out any performance indicators that could be factored into local District Plans via Community Protection Managers.

A new Employee Voice Group for Neurodiversity has been created with the first meeting to take place in February 2022. Over 36 members of staff have noted an interest in being a part of the group whereby the objectives of the group are to explore the Recruitment and Selection process ensuring it factors in inclusivity, training materials and ICT accessibility options.

The EDI E-Learning Module has been updated to share case studies from existing members of staff.

## Health and Wellbeing – County Councillor Andrea Kay

We successfully launched a team of Wellbeing Support Dogs on 17 January 2022, to coincide with Brew Monday. The Wellbeing Support Dogs and their Handlers are available to be booked by any member of LFRS staff to support the positive promotion of health and wellbeing across the Service. Social media interest was fantastic, and the new capability was promoted on That's TV Lancashire, BBC Radio Lancashire, the Fire Fighters Charity and a number of online news sites.



To coincide with the launch of this new facility the Service has also signed up to be part of the Mental Health at Work Commitment. This is framework of six standards developed from best practice to creating a thriving health and wellbeing environment for staff. The Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Department have been involved in developing this Commitment and guidance in support charity MIND. Further information will be shared in future updates.

To highlight Energy Saving Week (17 January 2022) we have launched a competition. The competition is open to all staff and is asking for ideas about how the Service could save energy. An entry form has been promulgated in the Routine Bulletin and ideas are required to be submitted by 28 February 2022 to the SHE Department. All ideas will be considered and whilst it is acknowledged not all ideas will be feasible, feedback will be provided to entrants.

## Road Safety – County Councillor Ron Woollam

Wasted Lives is a package aimed at pre-drivers in Years 10 and 11. An updated package was relaunched as part of Road Safety week in November. All schools received a letter and information was sent out via the school's portal. This academic year, Wasted Lives has already been delivered to over 1000 students. The assembly format is proving to be the most popular as it allows schools to get the message to a greater number of students with minimum disruption to their timetables.

Road Sense (the Year 6 Education Package) delivery is progressing well. We have seen an increase in requests for virtual delivery with the emergence of the Omicron variant which the Service has been able to fulfil. The aim of LFRS is to deliver to all year 6s in Lancashire. From January each pupil will receive a Road Sense fact sheet which was purchased using the CFA champion budget. This will be a very welcome

addition as many teachers gave feedback that a handout would complement the session and assist with further learning.

Biker Down restarted in September and is fully booked until March 2022. LFRS is currently planning four courses for April 2022 to coincide with NFCC 'Motorcycle Action Month'. The first aid kits that were purchased using the CFA Road Safety Champion budget have now arrived and will have a big impact in being able to put into practice what is covered on the course if needed.

As part of their commitment to the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership, the Service is leading on the Children and Young Peoples working group. A comprehensive report on road traffic collisions throughout the county has 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. Initial findings show young people still make up a third of people killed and seriously injured in Lancashire, so the delivery of Road Sense and Wasted Lives remains a vital piece of education delivery.

### **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 2 if appropriate: N/A