

# Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on 25 April 2022

## Member Champion Activity Report

Contact for further information:

DCFO Steve Healey – Tel No: 01772 866801

*Executive summary and recommendations*

### **Executive Summary**

This paper provides a report on the work of the Member Champions for the period up to April 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

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) personnel have been working to deliver the year 2 education package, Childsafe, across all educational establishments in Lancashire. This has been even more challenging this year as the Service have also set out to catch those pupils who were in year 2 last year and missed the session as the Covid pandemic prevented delivery. LFRS has delivered to over 30,000 pupils so far this academic year, including delivery of the year 6 Road Sense package.

LFRS has launched their Wildfire and Water Safety Campaigns, in collaboration with partners, as we approach the Easter holidays. The Wildfire campaign involves multi agency collaboration with landowners, community groups, Lancashire Constabulary, local authorities and others. Wildfires can be devastating to wildlife, the environment

and communities as well as resource intensive and costly when they do occur. By doing this joined up prevention work we can have the greatest impact. The Water Safety Campaign is again delivered in collaboration and involves media campaigns, delivery of bespoke education packages and engagement with communities.

Following feedback from Deafway, LFRS has been working to improve access into the Service for the deaf and hard of hearing community. LFRS has promoted an alternate way to contact the Service for a HFSC, built partnerships with services working in the community and are currently creating new media content which gives key fire safety messages in British sign language which will be promoted on the website and social media. For the media clips, LFRS has been working closely with the School of Sign Language Youth Group from Blackburn.

LFRS remain committed to the delivery of Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC) and this reporting period has seen an investment into valuable resources due to the CFA member champion budget. A physical HFSC is offered to the most vulnerable people who are known to be at high risk of both having a fire and a poor outcome should a fire occur. LFRS personnel can now support the advice given on a visit by supplying especially designed sticker reminders to those people living with dementia. The LFRS Prevention Support Team have also developed resources to identify levels of hoarding, to support personnel carrying out HFSCs.

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

Further to the establishment of a new Employee Voice Group for Neurodiversity, a draft policy has now been developed which sets out the Service's approach in terms of reviewing recruitment and selection arrangements, delivering training and the development of a Workplace Needs Assessment which will identify support for neurodivergent employees in the workplace.

#### Health and Wellbeing – County Councillor Andrea Kay

The Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) process is currently being reviewed to be relaunched in May 2022; to coincide with the fourth anniversary of its introduction into the Service. The review includes:

- sourcing appropriate training to ensure we have reliable and competent individuals to provide structured support to colleagues following traumatic events
- clarifying the timescales and structure of the TRiM process
- revising the Service Order and associated leaflets, presentations, posters etc.

The Wellbeing Support Dog capability continues to develop, and we have received several requests from other Fire and Rescue Services, to share our experience of establishing such a capability.

#### Climate Change and Environment

At the beginning of March, the Safety, Health and Environment Department and Service Delivery representatives supported Cllr Kay by attending a Climate Change / Environment session at Fleetwood Fire Station, to meet with local school children/young people. This was an opportunity for LFRS to share with the young people:

- how LFRS protect the environment in relation to the incidents we attend,
- what LFRS do to reduce the impact, as a Service, on the environment, and
- to listen the young people's ideas about what they feel could make a positive contribution to the climate change agenda.

Reusable cups are being trialled in the canteen at Service Training Centre (STC) to reduce the amount of waste created from disposable drinks cups. Staff will be encouraged to take a reusable cup and re-use this every time they get a hot/cold drink from the canteen/brew areas across the site. It is hoped, if successful at STC, this trial will be extended to Service Headquarters for meeting rooms.

### Road Safety – County Councillor Ron Woollam

Wasted Lives is a Road Safety package aimed at pre-drivers in Years 10 and 11. The updated packages have been well received and the assembly format is proving to be the most popular by far. We are continuing to run the virtual delivery as an option. To date over 2,500 students have participated in a Wasted Lives session run by Lancashire Fire and Rescue (LFRS) this year.

Road Sense is a Year 6 Road Safety Education Package delivered by LFRS. Delivery is progressing well and to date over 11,500 pupils have received the package. Feedback from teachers is very favourable, both towards the new version and delivery. We are still receiving some virtual delivery requests which are being delivered to individual schools to ensure the session is still fully interactive. The aim of LFRS is to deliver to all year 6s in Lancashire for this academic year.

Biker Down continues to be very popular and LFRS has planned 6 courses for April 2022 to coincide with National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) 'Motorcycle Action Month'. There will be increased campaign activity during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April as this is the main week of action. The NFCC theme during this week is to encourage motorcyclists to sign up for Biker Down, so more course dates will be released on social media to facilitate this. Since January, over 80 motorcyclists have attended a course and received a first aid kit that was purchased with the Road Safety Champion budget.

LFRS continues to work as a partner within the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) which is now chaired by the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner. LRSP has recently been independently reviewed (by the West Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership) with a view to making it even more effective. The significant contribution that LFRS makes to road safety education was recognised and will continue to contribute to making the partnership stronger.

### **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:

Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate: